



Including Sex Offenders in Church

REV. LYN MARSHALL

As Unitarian Universalists we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We believe in the healing power of involvement in a spiritual home. As a faith-based community, we can provide support, compassion, and vigilance to maximize safety when individuals who have sexually offended participate in the life of our church community.

This is a difficult statement for many of us, especially those among us who have suffered sexual abuse. We want to protect ourselves and our children from the harm of sexual abuse. The statistics are heartbreaking; it happens far too often. Why would we let known sex offenders participate in the life of our congregation, where we want to feel safe?

I encourage everyone to read the policy on including sex offenders that the Operations Leadership Team has adopted. We have layers of protection for including sex offenders as safely as possible by limiting their contact with vulnerable people (especially children,) having contact with their treatment team to assess their risk of reoffending, and determining what boundaries are necessary to ensure that they don't have the opportunity to reoffend while at church.

And the truth is, our policy will not, and cannot, prevent the presence of offenders who have not been caught, or who do not self-report. This is why we have a child safety policy that requires two caregivers to be present with children while they are participating in church activities, to ensure that children and adults alike are protected. This is why all of us need to be ready to be active bystanders if a situation seems uncomfortable or unsafe. *(continued on page 4)*

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Sunday Worship is at 10 am

IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAM AT WWW.CONCORDUU.ORG/LIVE

1/7/2024 “I Believe in Love” Rev. Lyn Marshall

Our theme for January is “The Gift of Liberating Love.” At a time when there seems to be so much hate in the world, how do we continue to believe in love? What good does it do? Why is the Unitarian Universalist Association rewriting the bylaw that spelled out our seven principles - which have guided us since the 1980s - to put love firmly in the center of all that we value? How might this change how we think and act as a people of faith?

1/14/2024 “Love Your Enemies” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

On Nov 17, 1957, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous “Love Your Enemies” sermon. We will listen to parts of the sermon and reflect on the timeless relevance of what MLK shared that Sunday, and why he claims we must start with a look at ourselves if we want to understand the hate we perceive around us. St. Aquinas saw love as “willing the good of another.” Can we embrace that for all? Can “love (for all) be the spirit of this church?” What does it take to love our enemies in the spirit of MLK?

1/21/2024 “Mustard Seeds of Love” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

“Radiate boundless love towards the entire world,” the Buddha is quoted. A worthy goal, yet potentially overwhelming and vague in its application and scope. Jesus taught that “faith the size of a mustard seed could move mountains” (Matthew 17:20-21). Perhaps, then, mustard seeds of love, is all we need to reach the larger world as we radiate our love. What then are these mustard seeds of love in our personal and public lives? And why do these seeds seem to depend on the love we feel for ourselves?

1/28/2024 “How Not to Give Up” Rev. Mwibutsa (Fulgence) Ndagijimana

Rev. Mwibutsa (formerly Fulgence) founded the Unitarian Church of Bujumbura in 2001. He was involved in building peace and serving the community at large through social-justice projects. Despite being kidnapped and escaping death many times, he was released thanks to strong pressure from the UU global family. He continued to serve half of the Unitarian Church who had become refugees and the Unitarians who courageously stayed in Burundi. Beyond the trauma and with no resentment thanks to the values of Ubuntu Philosophy and UUism which, for Mwibutsa, are worth dying for, he believes that “giving up” is out of the question. He will share his experience, what he has learned, and why he is convinced his ministry is only getting started! (See Rev. Mwibutsa’s bio on the next page.)



Upcoming Pulpit Guest Rev. Mwibutsa Ndagijimana

Rev. Mwibutsa Ndagijimana came to Canada in 2016 after escaping Burundi. Rev. Mwibutsa was serving a Unitarian Congregation in Bujumbura when, in 2015, the congregation was attacked with grenades and bullets. A month later, he was kidnapped, tortured and jailed and was lucky to be released only after a strong pressure on the government by Unitarian Universalists from around the world. When he left Burundi, many of the congregation members also fled Burundi and gathered in Rwanda. Rev. Mwibutsa stayed in Rwanda for three months organizing emergency help for the refugees.



While in Canada, he continued to gather support for refugees, a circle that has now grown beyond the initial church members and friends to include many others who had to flee their homeland. To facilitate the work in Rwanda, “Flaming Chalice International” was set up to support education and small business projects as well as emergency situations. [Flaming Chalice International](#) is a Canadian charity and also registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit in the USA. He sees his ministry as that of providing hope when hope is hard to find.

Rev. Mwibutsa also serves “La Communauté Sans Frontières Unitarienne Universaliste”, a global online Community en Français. Rev. Mwibutsa has recently moved from Saskatoon to Ottawa where he lives with his family; Thérèse and Well Brown.

Contemplative Knitting

Saturday, January 13 | 10 am to noon

Are you trying to get a holiday project finished? Would you like to learn to knit or crochet? Do you enjoy chatting while working on a fiber project? If this sounds like you, please join us for our Contemplative Knitting Circle on second Saturdays each month, 10:00 am - noon. We share a reading, chat, and spend some of the time working together quietly. It's informal, fun, and we'd love to see YOU join the circle!



Including Sex Offenders in Church

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

By having a policy that outlines how (and whether) sex offenders can participate in our congregation, we live into our values and offer a healing place for those who are ready to take responsibility for their actions and transform their lives. Please know that when we cannot meet the criteria for a sex offender to participate with appropriate supervision, or if they do not adhere to the agreement we make with them, we will take the necessary steps to prevent them from being on our campus.

If you have concerns about the policy, or if you need pastoral support around issues of sexual abuse, please contact one of our ministers. The issues are complex, and we are here to listen and support you.

Policies to Help Protect Children and Adults

The UU Church of Concord has a policy to create the safest possible environment for our children while they are involved in church programs. We require that all volunteers who work regularly with children have been involved at the congregation for at least 6 months, have a background check, and provide references. We require that there are always at least two caregivers present when children are being supervised for a church activity, one of whom must be at least 18 years old.

We want every child who comes through our doors to have an experience of feeling cared for, valued, and safe, and we take seriously our responsibility as adults to adhere to these policies.

We also have a policy regarding people who have been accused or convicted of sexual offenses. We require anyone who meets the criteria of the policy to contact Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger.

Click the following links for the text of the [Child Protection Policy](#) and the [Policy for Safely Including Sex Offenders in Our Church Community](#). If you are reading a paper copy of Parish Notes, you can find links to the policies on the Congregant Resources section of our website at concorduu.org/member-resources.



Contemplative Start to the New Year

MEDITATION RETREAT
SATURDAY JAN. 6, 9 AM TO 3 PM

Join us for our annual Self-Guided Silent Meditation Retreat on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Come for the whole day or any part of this free offering. We will have a hybrid retreat in person in the chapel and via Zoom. Please register by emailing betsy.black333@gmail.com. In the memo line, say Registration for Jan. 6. Be sure to indicate if you need a Zoom link.

Offered by the Contemplative Practices Group.
Questions? Contact betsy.black333@gmail.com

Reverence for All Life Retreat

WITH RAE HOUSEMAN
SATURDAY FEB. 24, 9 AM TO 5 PM

Reverence for all of Life: What does it mean to have reverence for all of life? What parts of life, or parts ourselves, do we feel don't deserve reverence? It's natural to encounter difficulties within ourselves and in our lives as we explore a spiritual path and move toward awakening. Can we learn to open to these aspects of our experience more? Let's explore this together!

For more information, contact Doris:
dandmhamp38@gmail.com

Register at
uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/ReverenceforAllOfLifeMindfulnessRetreat





Cultivating a Friendly Mind 2.0*

A CONTEMPLATIVE SECOND HOUR SERIES STARTING JAN 21

SUBMITTED BY JEANNE ANN WHITTINGTON

When you make a mistake or fall short of your own expectations, what's the tone of voice of your inner dialogue? Have you ever noticed that you aren't always your own best friend? Have you ever felt that you are at the mercy of moods, judgements and reactions, and this gets in the way of how you treat others? Do you believe that you have a choice about the attitude you bring to yourself and others?

We can indeed train our minds to be more friendly, more compassionate, more truly joyful for the success and happiness of others, and more balanced in the midst of life's ups and downs. We're born with a capacity and need for open-heartedness and warmth, so it's really a matter of working with the mind so our natural capacities can flower. Not only does this make our lives happier for ourselves and more beneficial for others, but it also opens the door to a world of creative self-expression and courageous exploration, which becomes possible when we know that we will hold ourselves with kindness regardless of the outcome of our experiments.

Starting on Sunday, January 21 and running through May, the Contemplative Practice Group's Second Hour offering will be a course, Cultivating a Friendly Mind 2.0. Over a series of 9 sessions, we'll take a deep dive together into the Brahma Viharas, a group of meditation practices from the Buddhist tradition. We'll practice together, share our experiences from home practice and our observations of how cultivating beneficial mind states affects our daily lives. The course will be taught by Jeanne Ann Whittington, with a lot of support from other members of the Contemplative Practice Group.

The sessions will be progressive, so the greatest benefit will come from attending all the sessions and doing a daily practice in the time in between. We'll be providing written and recorded materials to help guide your practice. It will also be fine for folks who aren't able to participate in all the sessions to drop in as often as they like. All are welcome and encouraged to join in, as you are able. It's not necessary to register to attend, but if you know you will want to participate and would like to receive the course materials after each session, please sign up at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/Spring2024CPG2ndhour

*The 2.0 designation refers to a class I used to teach at Concord's Center for Health Promotion. This class is an expansion and re-conceptualization of that course, so for anyone in our congregation who participated in one of those groups, I encourage you to come encounter these practices again in a different format.



New Year's Day Games & Chocolate

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 | 1:00 PM

It has become a delightful tradition to gather at church for a special New Year's Day edition of Games & Chocolate. Start the new year off having fun with old friends and making new ones. Bring something chocolate to share, a favorite board game, or just come!



Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 | 9:00-11:00 AM

Families are invited to come for a pancake breakfast, games, and a community service project. It would be helpful if you RSVP to Lyn Marshall, lyn@concorduu.org, so we know how much pancake batter to prep!

NEW for Emerging/Young Adults & Parents Thereof

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 | 6:00-9:00 PM

Parents of emerging/young adults (18-25 ish, but you can decide!) are forming a new covenant group that will meet on the third Saturday of each month.

Concurrently, emerging adults (whether their parents are in the covenant group or not) are invited to gather to explore creating a Young Adult group for connection & fun.

In the tradition of our Family Covenant Group, both parents and emerging adults are invited to gather for a light supper at 6:00 pm, followed by separate meetings for each group from 7:00-9:00 pm.



Fire & Ice | An Imbolc Family Formal Saturday, Feb 3 at 7 pm

Join us in a magical evening celebrating the midpoint of winter at our family formal fundraiser! Imbolc, a time of cold and darkness, calls for us to find warmth in the heart of our community. Imbolc reminds us that even in the darkest of times, the flame of hope burns on. The Earth Centered Spirituality Group and Concord UU invite you to break through the icy starkness of winter and kindle the flames of togetherness in a night of connection, community, and celebration.

Our family-friendly event is a multigenerational gathering to honor the changing of the seasons through ritual, camaraderie, and festive fun. Feel fancy in your best formal attire, indulge in an array of delicious appetizers and treats (Note: No sit-down meal will be provided), and dance the night away! By attending this event, you're not only celebrating Imbolc, but also supporting us in our mission to bring connection, inspiration, and warmth in service to our community.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, children free, and are sold online only at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/FireandIceImbolcFamilyFormal

In the bleak and cold winter,
We gather ourselves in
To light the fire
to warm our spirits,
To kindle the flame
of love and hope.

REV. DR. CYNTHIA LANDRUM

FIRE AND ICE

An Imbolc Family Formal

*Saturday, Feb 3 at 7pm
UU Church of Concord
Adults \$20, children free*

Board of Trustees Highlights from December Meeting

SUBMITTED BY JIM SCHLOSSER, BOARD SECRETARY

- Reviewed financial performance highlights.
- Reviewed and accepted policy monitoring report for Policy 4.3 Monitoring Report - Financial Planning & Budgeting 2022-23
- Discussed findings and learning from UU heritage research
- Discussed reflections on Earth meditation and listening sessions.
- Heard Operations Report, of note:
 - Food ministry is alive and thriving in multiple ways
 - New Aging Together program with 25-30 participants
 - Very successful Green Sanctuary Climate Change Forum.
 - Michael's sermon on "The Power of Touch" was uploaded to our YouTube channel and has now been viewed over 125 times within three weeks.

Aging Together: Blessings & Challenges Along the Journey

Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, 11 am-1:00 pm

From the day we are born, we are aging. From Source to Mystery, where are you on this lifelong journey? In the "second half of life"? Newly retired? Grieving the death of a beloved family member? Celebrating a milestone birthday? In your Third Chapter? Recovering from a recent illness/trauma? Seeking inner peace?

Let's gather in a circle to share stories from our years of life experience, harvest wisdom from one another, explore ways to live more fully our UU values & transmit a legacy to future generations. Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer and Linda Williams will facilitate.

You are invited to come HOME to your true self in a UU community of healing & wholeness. To register, please go to uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/8e81ba

Leaders Symposium | Sunday Jan. 7 at 11:45 am

If you lead (or help with) a church committee, team, or group, or would consider leading in the future, please attend our Leaders Symposium on Jan 7 at 11:45 am.

- "Behind the scenes" building tour
- how to fund your group's activities
- and more!

If you'd like your group to be funded in the next church year, please be there. All are welcome. A light lunch will be provided.



Exploring Membership Group starts Jan. 24

If you'd like to learn more about UUism and the UU Church of Concord, join our next Exploring Membership Group. It includes four sessions of two hours each, Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm on January 24, January 31, March 27, and April 3.

Signups for the group will open soon. To be notified when the signups are ready, send an email to membership@concorduu.org.

Why become a member of the UU Church?

Formal membership is a public commitment indicating that this community is important to you and your spiritual development. It means you acknowledge your willingness to help others in their lives and spiritual and intellectual growth, and acceptance of a diversity of lifestyles and beliefs without judgment.

How do I become a member?

Membership becomes formal upon signing the membership book. Most prospective members require some time before making that commitment, attending Sunday services for at least a few months and going through a new-member program called "Exploring Membership." Except for extenuating circumstances, which may be discussed with Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger, you must attend all four sessions in order to become a member.

The groups provide a chance to examine your history and spiritual journey that brought you to the UU Church and to hear the stories of others in the group. You will also learn about Unitarian Universalism in general and the way that it is expressed in our particular congregation, as well as the rights, benefits, and responsibilities of membership. During the spaces between sessions you'll be encouraged to explore the opportunities available to you at church, get to know us better, and settle more comfortably into church life.

Caregivers Support Group Sunday, January 28, 7:00-8:00 pm

Are you caring for a parent, a spouse, a friend who is ill or disabled? Caregiving is a labor of love that can become overwhelming at times. How do we support our loved one's autonomy as they need more care? How do we make time to meet our own needs? Where can we find, or where have we found, resources that make our lives as caregivers easier?

Whether you are providing direct, constant hands-on care or are supporting a loved one at a distance, our Caregivers Support Group is a place where we offer deep listening, share resources, and support one another in this challenging, important work.

We meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at 7pm, in person or on Zoom. To receive the link, please register at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/de28aa

Meet our Newest Members

Ken Pfitzenmayer

I grew up in Summit New Jersey and attended a Congregational church until I was in third grade. At the beginning of fourth grade my parents, who are regular church goers, decided to try the Unitarian Church. I attended the Unitarian Church from 4th grade to the present as regularly as I am able. For a period of 8 years I did not attend the Unitarian Church at all as I agreed, so my wife could get married in the Catholic Church, to raise my three children Catholic.

I enjoy attending church services but did not fully attending the Catholic Services. I did not feel that the rituals and preaching associated with this faith had anything to do with my life and cast a wistful eye back at the Unitarian faith, hoping to get back to the church. When I felt that the attention to religion from both my life and children was waning, I found that I was able to return to the Unitarians and have attended as much as possible.

In June 2024 I will retire from teaching. For 40 years I have taught students who have a variety of educational handicaps. I have a Masters in the area of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders and Learning Disabilities and am ready to start a new chapter in my life. I will have to have income to supplement my pension and I am already thinking of what I can do. During the summer I work as a dealer in a card room so that is a possibility, but I am exploring many different options. In my free time I like to spend time with my family, read and watch soccer. I enjoy singing and for a few years I sang with the choir.



Dana Sansom



I grew up in southeastern, New York then moved to Duxbury Mass. I went to college at UNH. I fell in love with the state and the school and I never left. I taught at UNH Durham for 35 years at the Thompson School in the Horticultural Technology Department. I've been retired for 5 years (as of 2023), and have enjoyed it immensely.

My daughter, her husband and my two grandchildren live in Massachusetts as do my brother and sisters. I was drawn to the UU church because I was looking for a community that I felt at home in, that was involved in causes that I believe in. I'm very interested helping with the grounds and teaching people the principles of ecological /sustainable landscaping . I'm also interested in helping the homeless and in the climate change initiative.

A quirky thing about me is that over the course of my career I taught 6 different plant Identification courses and I am a lover of plant systematics and botanical nomenclature.

Meet our Newest Members

Karen Thomas

Lives in Belmont NH, from Nashua NH.

3 adult children who all live in NH.

Interests: Boating, beach, reading.

Former Hospice nurse now working in Medical Records at Granite VNA in Laconia.

I'm a dog lover, having always had a dog. Our current dog is Belle, a 2 year old lab-mix rescue from the south. She was born blind. We are currently learning how to love and support Belle and make her safe in her world.

We moved from Nashua to Belmont during the pandemic. We were with UU Nashua for about 9 years and were looking for a congregation closer to our new home. UU Concord "feels" right. I've already joined the choir even though I have absolutely NO experience and am loving it!



Adrianna Wheelock



I grew up in Pennsylvania and moved to New Hampshire at 11 years old. My wife and I moved to Concord in 2019 and began attending services intermittently shortly thereafter. In 2020 we welcomed our son, Raven, and it became more important to us to find a spiritual home for ourselves and for him. We are excited to get more involved at church and to get to know everyone!

I am a social worker and have spent the majority of my career so far in community mental health. In 2022 I transitioned to a role in primary care and currently provide short-term therapy to primary care patients.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and our three cats. For relaxation, I love to read and do word puzzles. I am hoping to get more involved with social justice projects at church.

Sharon Arey

I grew up in Gilman Iron Works, retired from Air Force and then worked in a small factory making car parts as a shift supervisor. I have volunteered for many years at the VA hospital .

Likes and hobbies: cooking, reading, writing, baking.

I am also a trained counselor for people with sexual trauma and substance abuse.



Meet our Newest Members



Mary (Elm) Sheys

I grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis and moved to West Newbury, MA my father's hometown, when I was a teenager. I have four children: two adult daughters, Hanna and Carly and two teenagers: Finn and Lucy. I am a writer who loves to sing and paint. I am a special educator with dual degrees from Lesley University. I once had my own business as a baby whisperer. My children and I have attended the other UU churches previously and we are drawn to the UU Church of Concord by the friendship and community that are here. I currently (2023) run the Wild & Precious Book Club and teach in the World of Wonder children's program at church.

In addition to the six new members featured in this issue, we have five more new members that joined in December. Sara Butcher, Noah Leuchtenberger, Donna Moore, Craig Thomas, and Dot Young may be featured in a future issue.

Youth Group Presents! A Youth Culture Seminar Saturday, January 20, 2024, 6:00-7:30 pm

Join the Youth Group for an informative exchange in which we will talk about teen culture today. What DO we do on our phones? What is fashionable? How do we use social media? And we will answer your questions.

Tickets are \$15 and all proceeds will help defray the cost of our learning service trip to Costa Rica in February. Light refreshments will be offered. (Additional donations are always welcome too!) Join us for a fun evening of intergenerational learning & connection.

Boys and Girls Club Shopping Spree Is BACK!

SUBMITTED BY PEG HERBERT

For a number of years (maybe 15?) our church hosted a Christmas shopping spree for the children at the Boys and Girls Club in Concord. We provided gifts that could be chosen for moms and dads as well as siblings. Covid put an end to it...but then this year, thanks to Pam Mosca, it was resurrected on a smaller scale. We would like to continue this tradition next year, and so are asking you to do two things. One is to hit up the after Christmas sales for gift bags of all sizes and tissue paper and gift wrap.

The second thing is to begin saving items that might make good gifts...they can be new or gently used items. Items should be clean and still in good condition and not too large. We don't do clothing other than things like socks and gloves and hats. More information will be forthcoming in the fall.



Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction 8-week course

Open to:
church members, friends and
interested others

Teacher: Margaret Fletcher

Location: All class meetings will
happen online via Zoom

Required Orientation Class:
Monday, January 22, 2024, 6-8 pm

Dates:
Mondays, Jan. 29 – March 18 6-8pm
All-Day Session Saturday, March 9,
9am-4:30pm

Cost: By donation

Contact Info: Margaret at
margaret@margaretwpfletcher.com

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction is Back at Church!

Mindfulness invites each of us into an intimate, clear and wise relationship with the moments of our lives. When we practice attending to life in a moment-by-moment way, with curiosity and good-hearted interest, what we discover can inform and transform us. We can move beyond the known and the habitual, release what no longer benefits us and step into life with freshness and newfound freedom.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) is an intensive 8-week program that teaches participants how to consciously and systematically apply mindfulness, in order to connect with what is genuine, true and healing within each of us. In this evidence-based program devised by Jon Kabat-Zinn at UMass Medical School, participants engage to improve their ability to face difficulties, to manage the challenges of life, and to be with and enjoy all that life has to offer. MBSR training provides a proven means for helping people to reduce symptoms and discomfort associated with physical and emotional pain and to improve a person's ability to comfortably be with stressors and pain that cannot be eliminated. Participants often discover new ways of coping and responding to life's difficulties, both in one's own life as well as the interconnected web of life of which we are all a part.

Practices of gentle yoga and meditation will be used to cultivate a sustained, awake way of being, during both formal practice as well as the ordinary moments in everyday life. Practicing in a group of people dedicated to waking up to life holds potential far beyond going it alone. Benefits can include reduction of stress, fatigue, anxiety and physical or psychological pain, and can include an increased sense of aliveness, joy, connection and well-being. Risks can include time pressure related to engaging in home practice, being challenged and facing the unknown, and experiencing an increased awareness of difficult emotions.

This course will be taught by Margaret Fletcher. For more information and to register, please visit here:

uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/MBSR8weekonlinecourse



UU Art Talks from Home

LED BY ROGER BALLOU

Held over Zoom during winter, Roger Ballou, a Concord UU member, will facilitate a series of explorations of great artists whose works hang at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. Roger will use Zoom to show photos of the artist, brief biographical information, and some examples from the artist's oeuvre. He will then show the artist's specific painting that hangs at the Currier for our "in depth" examination. We will share our individual reactions to the work on display at the Currier, discuss together how the work and the artist strike us, etc.

Wednesday mornings, 10 to 11 am

January 10 – John Constable

January 24 – Claude Monet

February 7 – Joan Mitchell

February 21 – Lyonel Feininger

March 6 – Jacob van Ruisdael

March 20 – Lunch and Tour at the Currier.

(Following lunch, we'll walk the galleries together to view the paintings we discussed.)

Once registered, you can attend one session, all sessions, or any that you choose.

WINTER DISCUSSIONS
ABOUT GREAT ARTISTS
(VIA ZOOM)

FROM YOUR KITCHEN OR LIVING
ROOM, SOME WARM CULTURE
ON A COLD WINTER MORNING.
WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 AM

REGISTER BY JANUARY 9 AT
[UUCONCORDNH.BREEZECHMS.COM/
FORM/UUARTTALKSFROMHOME.](https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/uuarttalksfromhome)





Manchester UU Offers Sanctuary to Asylum Seeker

In 2017, the UU Church of Manchester voted to become a "Level 1" facility for individuals facing possible immediate deportation. Several faith groups signed on as "Level 2" supporters. Through its administration of the grant process of the Lewis Downing Trust, the UU Church of Concord provided over \$5000 for this effort. UUCM reconfigured a bathroom to accommodate a standing shower stall, and already had a small kitchenette with a microwave and toaster oven for cooking. Due to change in ICE procedures, no one applied to the Sanctuary Program initially, so they expanded to include people seeking asylum with their applications already being worked on by an attorney. They have had two qualifying guests, and both have now moved on in their lives.

This month they have welcomed another asylum seeker. He is a Syrian refugee who has applied for asylum. Through his TPS designation, he has work papers. He can begin looking for work as soon as he is settled. He has recently been living in his car and is looking forward to a stable housing situation so he can concentrate on his goal of finding work.

Welcome Baskets (for people transitioning out of homelessness)

SUBMITTED BY FRAN PHILIPPE

Through the years, our church has supported the homeless in Concord in many ways, such as cooking at the Friendly Kitchen, volunteering at the winter shelter, singing carols with the homeless, and making sizable donations to the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, of which Michael was chair. Now we have the privilege of supporting them as they become housed, by filling a Welcome Basket.

Thank you to those who have provided needed items to these individuals as they enter their new apartments. There are still some items left on the sign-up easel in the parlor for others to provide. Many thanks!



Community Drum Circle | Third Sundays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Whether you have never touched a hand drum before, or you've been drumming for years, you are warmly invited to join our monthly Community Drum Circle on Sunday, January 21, 2023 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Experience the joy of finding communal rhythm, and seeing how it shifts as each member of the circle begins to add a new layer of sound. Bring a friend if you're feeling shy! Led by Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger.

Upcoming Special Events

Mon Jan. 1: New Year's Day Games and Chocolate @ 1 pm

Sat Jan. 6: Day Long Self-Led Meditation Retreat 9 am to 3 pm

Sun Jan. 7: Leaders Symposium @ 11:45 am

Sun Jan. 7: Our Whole Lives begins @ 4 pm

Sun Jan. 7 & 14: Mystery Match Sign-up

Wed Jan. 10: UU Art Talks from Home series begins @ 10 am Zoom Only
(January 10th to March 20th, every other Wed)

Sun Jan. 21 & 28: Mystery Match Notes

Mon Jan 22: Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction 8-week Online Course begins
@ 6 pm Zoom Only

Wed Jan. 24 & 31: Exploring Membership Classes @ 6 pm

Sat Feb. 3: Fire & Ice: An Imbolc Family Formal @ 7 pm

Sun Feb. 4: Mystery Match Party



Recurring Events

Special Worship Services

Taize at Concord UU - every 1st Sunday @ 7pm, October through April

UU Worship at Havenwood - every 4th Thursday @ 1pm

Earth Centered Spirituality Rituals - on or near solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days

Faith Development Events

Second Hour Adult Programs - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 11:30am

Children's Village ages 5-12 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays during worship

World of Wonder ages 4-6 - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 11:30am

Circle of Trees ages 7-13 - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 11:30am

Aging Together: Blessings and Challenges Along the Journey - 2nd Fridays @ 11 am

Social, Family, & Fellowship Events

Youth Group - most Fridays @ 7pm

Community Lunch - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 pm

Tuesday's Welcome Table - Tuesdays @ 6pm, October 3 through June 4 (cancelled for Dec 26)

Games and Chocolate - 1st Fridays @ 6:30pm

Art & Appetizers - 2nd Fridays @ 6pm

Pancakes, Play & Planting Peace - 1st Saturdays @ 9am, October through May

Family Covenant Group - 3rd Fridays @ 6pm (contact organizers before attending)

Parents of Emerging Adults Covenant Group - 3rd Saturdays @ 6pm (contact organizers before attending)

Wild and Precious UU Book Group - 4th Tuesdays @ 5pm (cancelled for Dec)

Musical Events

Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays, 7pm to 8:30pm (cancelled for Dec 28)

Choir Warm Up - Sundays when choir is singing @ 9am

Drum Circle - 3rd Sundays @ 7pm, October through April

Contemplative Events

Daily Silent Morning Meditation - Daily @ 7am Zoom Only

Mindfulness Practice Group - 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 6pm (cancelled for Dec 25)

Mindful Yoga - 1st and 3rd Mondays @ 6pm

Contemplative Knitting Circle - 2nd Saturdays @ 10am

Walking the Labyrinth - 1st Sunday 6-9pm (before and after Taize Service)

Outreach Events

Friendly Kitchen prep and serve day - 1st Wednesdays @ 3pm

Healing & Helping Events

Caregivers Support Group - 4th Sundays @ 7pm

*Renaissance Transgender Group - 2nd Sat @ 4pm Nov, Jan, Mar & May (contact organizers before attending)

*PFLAG Support Group - 3rd Sundays at 3pm

*not a church group but open to all



Parish Notes Deadline

February issue: January 21
Submit to parishnotes@concorduu.org by 2pm
on the day of the deadline.

Officers

Treasurer | Karen Mayo
Custodian of Investments | Jack Wakelin
Assistant Treasurers | Lorraine Ellis, Ann West
Moderator | Barbara Keshen
Clerk | Sara McNeil

Board of Trustees

Chair | Kelly Mahony
Vice-Chair | Craig Whitson
Secretary | Jim Schlosser
Roger Ballou
Jim Curley
one vacancy

Staff

Senior Minister
Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger
603-715-7557 (cell) | michael@concorduu.org

Minister of Lifespan Faith Development
Rev. Lyn Marshall
603-568-8084 (cell) | lyn@concorduu.org

Dir. of Membership & Administration
Lea Smith
603-224-0291 ext 4# | lea@concorduu.org

Office Administrator
Becky Bosse
603-224-0291 ext 1# | becky@concorduu.org

Accompanist | Calvin Herst
calvin@concorduu.org

Sexton | Justin Small
justin@concorduu.org

Custodian | Agnes Sesay

Childcare Provider | Patrick Yehle

Audiovisual Assistant | Clay Donachie

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

