

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord



Ministry for Children & Families

Family Meet and Greet Breakfast Sunday, January 5 at 9 am

Did you know we have 45 families in our community with children 12 and under!? Let's all get together! Join us on Sunday, January 5th at 9am for a family breakfast before service begins. Meet new families and make new friends while enjoying a delicious breakfast, and learn from each other what would make church a special place for you and your kids. After breakfast we will take a group photo! See you then!

Pancakes, Play and Planting Peace Saturday, January 11 at 9 am

We invite you to participate in a delightful pancake breakfast, complete with games, music, and a community service project that promises enjoyment for individuals of all ages. Please note that this event has moved from the first Saturday of the month to the second Saturday. Whether you bring your children, grandchildren, or simply join us for the fun, come experience the joy of eating, playing, and collaborating to make a positive impact in our world. This month, our service project will focus on the theme of books and storytelling! We will create puppets and bring a captivating story to life through puppet performances. Additionally, we will host a book exchange, so please consider bringing one or two books that you are willing to part with in exchange for some new reading material.



FAMILY MINISTRY PROGRAMS ARE LED BY SOSA MACHABA AND DORY LECOUNT, OUR YOUNG EXPLORER GUIDES.

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AND SO MUCH MORE!

Sunday Worship is at 10 am

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

1/5/2025 “Ballads, Fables & Myths” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

“Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten” (G.K. Chesterton). We dive into our January theme of “story” by listening to tales of adventure and anguish, vulnerability and virtue, joy, jeopardy, longing, and love as expressed by the bards of old and the songwriters of our own time. If the wisdom captured in the ballads of Suzanne Vega, Bob Dylan, Harry Chapin, the Scorpions, Carry Newcomer, Paul Simon or others have spoken to you, let Michael know. If particular fables or myths and their archetypal stories have left their mark in your soul, please point them out. And come hear the choir sing Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah.”

1/12/2025 “Owning & Shaping Your Story” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

The narratives we adopt to make sense of life’s vagaries and whims frame how we see ourselves and the world. Whoever creates the narrative has tremendous influence on how we feel and what seems possible - at the personal level and for groups and peoples. Claiming the power to tell our own stories can transform our regard and love of self and others. Owning our narrative means there can be more than one story. Shaping those stories opens the door to a different future as we let go of the constraints false stories often impose.

1/19/2025 “All for One & One for All: Stories of Universalism” Matt Meyer

Universalism means that no one is saved until we’re all saved. Interdependence means grounding ourselves in love and working together for justice. Join us for a celebration of community solutions to collective problems, and the power we each have to face the crises of our time while healing ourselves and others.

Matt is a musician and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston. During Second Hour he will lead a workshop on “Drumming & Spirituality.”

1/26/2025 “Stories that Bind Us Together” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

For 198 years, our congregation has evolved and morphed into the community we are today. What are (some of) the stories that have brought us together, held us together, and will likely bind us together in the years to come? And how are they related to the stories that bind us together as a larger culture during this time of division? The service will be followed by a narrated tour of our campus, highlighting the many stories trying to speak to us - in the words of hymn #318 - of “who we are and what in us is true,” offering the foundation of “building for tomorrow a nobler world than we have known today.”



Welcome to our newest UU Antonio Ellis Rivera-Berry

With joy we announce that the Rivera-Berry family (Bianca, Mike, Reina, and Lorenzo) welcomed a new baby, Antonio Ellis Rivera-Berry, on December 20, 2024 at 5:37 pm. Antonio was 7 lbs 10 oz, and is reported to be "a very relaxed, happy baby."

Drumming and Spirituality Workshop Sunday, January 19, 2025 2nd Hour (11:30 am to 12:30 pm)

Join renowned UU musician and worship leader, Matt Meyer, for a 60 minute workshop on Drumming and Spirituality. This 2nd Hour activity will offer a chance for people of all skill levels to participate in hands-on rhythm-making. "We'll tour instruments from around the world and experience the connection of community music-making through different activities, stories, and discussions. We'll also look at how rhythm and music intersect with Unitarian Universalist values." Bring your own drum if you have one- for those who don't, enough will be provided.

Matt is a musician and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.



New Year's Day Games & Chocolate

Wednesday, January 1 at 1 pm

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!

New to our Church?

SPECIAL Newcomers Corner on January 5 after worship

We've had a huge number of visitors this fall - about double the usual amount! We're excited to bring you all together so you can chat with other newcomers and with our membership staff and volunteers. Meet Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger, Director of Membership Lea Smith, Exploring Membership Coordinator Lorraine Ellis, and folks from our Membership Team and Greeters group. After worship, grab a cup of coffee, then head to the Parlor. We'll end this by 11:45 so you can try out the Covenant Group for All if you wish (see below.)

Covenant Group for All | Sun Jan 5 at 11:45 am

If you'd like to try out a Covenant Group without commitment - or you're already in a Covenant Group and would like an extra opportunity, join us on January 5.

Covenant groups are groups of ten to twelve people who meet monthly for a check-in and facilitated discussion of a topic of interest. These groups allow our members and friends to develop deeper relationships with people and to form circles of care for mutual celebration and support in times of struggle. Regular monthly participation allows members to develop trust, mutual respect, and deep connection while supporting your own spiritual discernment.

Many of our groups explore the monthly worship theme in their meetings. Participants are encouraged to make this a high-priority commitment of at least one year. Meetings last between 90 minutes and two hours. You may join in person and/or on Zoom.

Each group develops its own covenant, or set of promises, that they make to one another. Many groups designate one person as the regular facilitator and some share that responsibility among their members. Groups are encouraged to work together on at least one service project each year.

Monthly Covenant Group topics:

- January: Story
- February: Inclusion
- March: Trust
- April: Joy
- May: Imagination
- June: Freedom



Covenant Group Open Enrollment will continue through Jan 19, 2025. To join a Covenant Group, register at uconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/covenantgroupregistration



FELLOWSHIP

Are you thinking about joining Concord UU as a member?

Our next Exploring Membership Group starts in January. In this 4-session class you will learn about Unitarian Universalism in general, the ways it is expressed in our congregation, and the rights and responsibilities of membership. You'll also examine your own spiritual path, where it has led, and where it's leading to.

The dates are all on Wednesday evenings, from 6-8 pm: January 22, January 29, March 26, and April 2. You'll need to attend all 4 sessions in order to become a member. If at the end of the class you decide that membership is right for you, the joining ceremony will be on April 6.

Register here: uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/exploring-membership-winter-2025.

Child care is available. Please indicate your interest on the registration form. For more info, reach out to Lorraine Ellis, Exploring Membership Coordinator, wyndwoman@wyndyhill.net | 603-731-3064

Octagon Dinners

Are you looking to make connections with more people in our UU church? Do you enjoy having conversations over a shared meal at the home of a friend? Would you like to expand your network of UU friends and acquaintances? Then sign up to join the Octagon Dinners!

Dinners take place three times: January, March, and May. Names of those who want to attend will be chosen randomly to form a group of eight people for dinner. For the next meal, all names will go back in a hat and are again chosen randomly for the second dinner, etc. The number of "octagons" depends on how many groups of eight people sign up to participate. In this way, you'll perhaps meet new people at each dinner! You don't have to sign up to host in order to participate.

Details:

- Dates are January 11, March 8, and May 10. However, once the groups are set up, that group is free to change the date of their dinner.
- Deadlines to sign up are January 2, February 22, and April 22.
- Meals are potluck.
- Host gets to choose what they will make, and will coordinate with others about contributions.
- Host sets the time of the dinner.
- Conversation starters will be offered, but the group is free to decide how the conversation goes.
- Upon request, the church will try to offer two hours of childcare. Parents/guardians would drop their kids off at the church and then enjoy dinner at the host's home. Please sign up well ahead of the deadline so we can meet this need.

Questions? Contact Betsey Neville (betsey2003@tds.net) or Ann West (annjwest@gmail.com)
Ready to join? Sign up at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/octagondinner



FELLOWSHIP

UU Coffeehouse: Live Music on Tuesdays Jan 14 and Feb 11 at 7pm

We are excited to continue to bring music to Concord UU in 2025. The UU Coffeehouse (still to be named) needs helpers to set up tables, chairs, stage, and signs the night before events from 5 to 7 pm. The day of the event (6 to 7 pm) we need helpers to set up the tea and snack table, turn on candles, welcome guests, etc. After the show we need some helpers to break down tables and chairs, and wash and put away dishes, 9-10:30-ish). You don't have to commit every month. If you'd like to help out, please sign up at <https://forms.gle/b1XSfqp5WGPSf85F8>

Life Passages

Andy Duncan and Laurel Horne announce with joy the marriage of their son **Alexander Duncan to Hannah Flaherty (now Duncan)** on December 27, 2024.

Long-time member **Lorna Landry** has moved to Austin, TX to be near her daughters.

Lea Smith is proud to share that her daughter, **Marin Smith**, joined the Board of the [Reproductive Freedom Fund of NH](#).

Life Passages is a new column to share milestones in the lives of our members. We'll still share births and deaths through the Circle of Life, but this new column encourages members to share a greater variety of milestones such as graduations, retirements, or the birth of a grandchild. Submit your news to parishnotes@concorduu.org.

Connection and Comfort in Community: Solace Circles Return Jan. 3rd

SUBMITTED BY RENEE WEST

Are you, like me, feeling a lot of trepidation about the incoming administration and other events on the world stage? Are you worried about how you, your loved ones, and vulnerable communities might be impacted by the changing political landscape? If you'd like to work through these feelings with others in our beloved community through meditation, song, and sharing, please join us on the first Friday of each month from 6 to 7 pm in the Parlor for our Solace Circle, led by Pastoral Care Associate Jim Curley. No registration is needed, but if you have any questions, please email Renee at yolandor@icloud.com.





Welcome to Project Wayfinder: Charting a Course for Our Future

Project Wayfinder is the culmination of the re-visioning of our foundational Ends Policies that has been ongoing the past two church years. Ends are the visionary policies that guide Michael and, in turn, our operations teams to create, continue, and sustain our Church ministries and programs. The Board of Trustees has been listening deeply to you, our congregants, and others: community partners, voices from the interconnected web of life on Earth, as well as representatives for our UU heritage and values. Four key themes have emerged that we are currently in the process of integrating into our Ends Policies:

We are called to be a **THRIVING CONGREGATION**
with **FOCUSED MINISTRIES** living into a
CULTURE OF BELONGING in
HARMONY WITH THE EARTH.

Your Voice, Our Future

To ensure these themes resonate, we are inviting a randomly selected group of 15-20 congregants and representatives from our other “moral owners” to join us in a special meeting on February 1st. Those who agree to participate will have an opportunity to represent the congregation as the Board completes the Project Wayfinder discernment process. Your insights will be invaluable as we finalize the language and vision for our congregation's future.

Join Us on This Journey

We believe that by working together, we can create a brighter future for our congregation and our impact on the larger community. Thank you in advance for your support and participation in Project Wayfinder.

Your Board of Trustees:

Craig Whitson, Jim Curley, Anne Meyers, Larry Davis, Susi Nord, and Arthoen Wolf



CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

Join Together to Start the New Year in Meditation:

Our Annual Self-Directed Meditation Retreat Saturday Jan. 4 | 9 am to 4 pm

Why: *"In the midst of movement and chaos, keep stillness inside of you."* -Anonymous
The new year offers a symbolic fresh start. Meditation together enables us to support ourselves and each other.

What: Self-guided meditation with the option of one session of guided movement, and some readings. We may also have the labyrinth in place for walking meditation, TBD.

How: If you've never meditated before, just let us know and we can arrange brief instructions for you.

Lunch: Bring your own. There will be tea available all day. Feel free to bring a dessert to share (only if you are so inclined).

When: Sat., January 4, from 9 am to 4 pm. Come for the whole day or part of it.

Where: The Parlor at the UU Church of Concord (with a Zoom option).

Who: You! All are welcome from our church community or the larger community.

Registration: Use this link to register:

<https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/2025newyearsselfdirectedretreat>

Cost: This offering is free; a donation to the church is welcome. Please specify "Contemplative Practice Group."

Questions: Contact Betsy Black. Email betsy.black333@gmail.com or call 603.715.7442.

--Offered by the Contemplative Practices Group



The Labyrinth

SUBMITTED BY JUDI ABBE

The labyrinth, an ancient and mysterious spiritual tool, has been known to humans for over four thousand years. The most famous design is that at Notre Dame de Chartres outside of Paris, built of marble and limestone into the floor of the cathedral. Our church labyrinth is made of cloth, and is laid out in Fellowship Hall on the first Sunday of each month, available the hour before and after Taize.

In recent years the labyrinth is becoming more well known as a practice tool for meditation and spiritual growth. Unlike a maze, which has an entry and an exit point, with intersecting paths and dead ends, and presents a riddle to be solved along the way, the labyrinth has a single meandering path begins at the edge and leads to the center. The walker then exits along the very same path. There are interesting theories about sacred geometry and lost knowledge associated with the labyrinth that add to its mystery and power.

The process of walking the labyrinth is thought to quiet the mind and release energy in the body, a walking meditation. One can simply walk the path with open awareness, allowing for whatever is called for to arise. At the center is an opportunity to reflect, receive, pray, and rest in awareness. The path out provides for release, taking what we have found out into the world with us. Another approach to the walk is to focus on a question that we may have been asking ourselves, one beyond a yes or no response. Also, the use of a mantra, repeating a word or phrase to ourselves over and over, adds to the experience. Some find bringing a prayer to the path is powerful, to ask for spiritual guidance.

Before walking any labyrinth, it is best to quiet the active mind. Here are a few suggestions for walking our church cloth labyrinth.

1. Please walk only in stocking feet.
2. Clear your mind. Surrender to the journey with an open heart and mind.
3. Allow your body to find its own pace. How you walk and your tempo are unique to you.
4. It is common to pass other walkers or to be passed by others due to our natural differences in walking speed.
5. Please remain quiet as a courtesy to the other walkers.
6. You may wish to think of the walk as a three-fold path: Releasing of concerns and worries on the journey in, Centering prayer or meditation, and Empowerment of new commitments on the journey out.
7. The single path between the painted lines runs both ways. Those entering may meet those on their journey out. Gently make room for others as you pass.

Please bring your curiosity, questions, attention and intention; bring your **self** for a walk on the labyrinth.



CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

Practice for your Life, Practice for the World

Join **Margaret Fletcher** for this Sunday **Second Hour contemplative practice series, January 12 thru March 9:**

For meditation practice to feel successful, it must do three things: provide stability, embrace what's challenging, and promote ongoing growth, appreciation and liberation in life. In this series, we'll aim to establish a meditation practice for a real lifetime, filled with awareness of the joy, confusion and difficulty in these particular times. We'll give equal measure of love and attention to what's personal, to our communities and to our shared, deserving world. Emphasis will be placed on brief, accessible methods for maintaining wakeful presence, engaged curiosity and wise relationship, both in formal meditation practice and throughout our days.

This class will be offered in a hybrid format: both in person and live-online. You may attend one or all of the sessions. Each session can stand alone, will include a series recap, and will build on earlier sessions. This class is open to all, both UU congregants and community members. This five-session class will be offered during the Second Hour time slot from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on the second and third Sundays of January and February and the second Sunday in March.

Pre-registration is not required.

Session 1 (January 12): Start Right Where You Are: Establishing the home of foundational awareness: the body, our community and this good Earth.

Session 2 (January 19): Resourcing Yourself for Resilience: Building confidence, appreciation and joy in meditation.

Session 3 (February 9): Meditation for Challenging Times: How to practice with pain, confusion and difficult thoughts and emotions.

Session 4 (February 16): Sustainability in Practice and Life: The power of immersive/expansive awareness.

Session 5 (March 9): Practice for a Lifetime: Bringing steadiness, resourcefulness, strength and sustainability together in practice; going forward in peace and power.

This class will be taught by UU Church member Margaret Fletcher, co-founder of East Coast Mindfulness, a certified Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction teacher and teacher-trainer for almost 20 years.

EARTH-CENTERED SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Fire & Ice: An Imbolc Family Formal Saturday February 1, 2025 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.

Please purchase tickets at this link, or scan the QR code below.

<https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/2025FireandIceImbolcFamilyFormal>



SCAN THIS QR
CODE TO BUY
TICKETS.





Support UU Kids and their Families!

A quick and fun way to fund some of our church operations is with our targeted giving appeals, which happen three times per year. It's an opportunity for us to highlight a specific project or ministry, and an opportunity for you to make a one-time gift to support it. Our January goal is to raise \$2,000 to support our **Children's Ministry**, such as the **Young Explorers program** and **Rainbow Room childcare**.

The Young Explorers program launched this fall. Under the energetic and creative leadership of Dory LeCount and Sosa Machaba, our kids (ages 5 to 13) are growing as UUs while having fun three Sunday mornings per month. About 30 children are registered or attending, and the word is out so the program is growing!

Dory and Sosa also lead Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace on the second Saturday of each month. This is a chance for our families to come together for breakfast, play, and a child-friendly service project. Being in the company of other families allows parents, guardians, and grandparents to support each other while experiencing the joys and challenges of raising kids as UUs.

In the Rainbow Room, Patrick Yehle and Bayshay Bruss provide loving and consistent childcare to the youngest UUs, up to age 4. About a dozen babies and toddlers have spent time in the Rainbow Room nursery so far this church year.

Years ago, our children's programs were largely run by volunteers. As times have changed, we've found that most congregants want to attend the worship service rather than lead children's programs on Sundays, but they still care deeply about the children and want to see them thrive in our congregation. Paying staff to lead these programs has been a wonderful solution. Your generous donations will support our staff as they provide consistency, creativity, and care for kids of all ages, along with support for young families in our congregation.

Make your donation at concorduu.org/targeted-appeal or send in a check with "targeted appeal" in the memo line. You can also drop your check in the box near the Parlor.

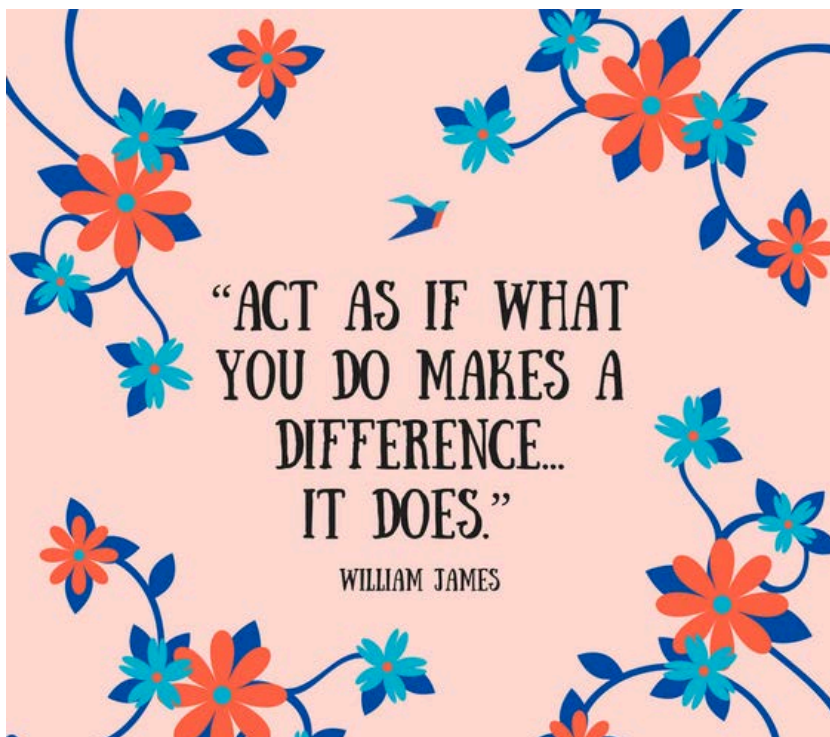
Family Promise: Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness

We, the UU church, support Family Promise of Greater Concord's VISION: A nation in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future.

Our church building continues to be a host site for families in the Family Promise program but it is our volunteers who make it a warm, welcoming place. A GIANT THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our December host week for families experiencing homelessness. The children had fun (thank you game and card players, block builders, and a very special drawing teacher). Families were grateful for delicious meals and compassionate hearted folk.

Did you know we need to fill 41 ROLES EVERY WEEK WE HOST? Roles such as hosting, buying snacks and breakfast items, making meals and bringing them to church. There is much effort that our volunteers extend but this is what we've heard: "It is satisfying to know that I can do something to be helpful to others."

Our next week is JANUARY 19-26. If you'd like to learn about volunteer opportunities for this important program, please contact Pam Mosca at moscapam4@gmail.com.



Aging Together: Elder Circles of Healing & Wholeness

Submitted by Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer

Monthly gatherings on Second Fridays in 2025
January 10 and February 14 | 11 am to 1 pm

Circle conversations in the parlor followed by a light lunch

Let's gather in Circle to share stories from our years of life experience, dwell in questions essential to life, harvest wisdom from our ancestors, and explore ways to live more fully our UU values.

“Youth is a gift of Nature, but Age is a work of Art.”

Since the day we were born we are aging! From Source to Mystery, we dwell in essential questions.

Where did we come from?

What are we?

Where are we going?

Why do you/I get up in the morning?

Does my life matter?

How then shall we live these coming years?

You may ask, ***Who are elders?*** We are generally folks in the second half of life. There are different generations of elders at Concord UU, yearning for authentic community time. We are seeking communal programs & practices that offer: (1) grieving & healing circles to navigate the losses in our lives, (2) empowering connections & personal relevancy to make a difference and tackle social injustices in our culture, and (3) inner contemplation to discover anew our spiritual nature and become our true selves.

Our Circles of Healing and Wholeness are always open!

You are invited to come HOME to your true self in a monthly Unitarian Universalist community of healing & wholeness.

Please RSVP:

Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer to receive
Aging Together agenda & resources
phoertdoerfer@metrocast.net

Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger with your
questions & transportation needs
michael@concorduu.org





Creating a Listening Community: Restorative Circles Facilitation Training

Restorative Circles are a community based conflict resolution process. Come explore how we listen, what gets in the way of understanding one another and how reflective listening builds community, strengthens relationships and creates peace. Anyone who has experienced conflict in their lives is invited to join us: Church leaders, parents, young people ages 14+, people with interest in social justice and creating peace in our community are all welcome.

Invite a friend to join you. Having others to practice with between sessions expands your learning. Attendees will join us from co-housing communities, Extinction Rebellion in Oceania and UU communities across the states.

The training begins on zoom January 14, 2025 and meets weekly on Tuesday evenings through February 18th.

Registration link: <https://mailchi.mp/3e72f24bc0bd/janfeb2025>

For more information please contact Sarah-Elizabeth Anderson by text 603-365-0852 or email restorative.circle.sea@gmail.com.

NOTE: this training is NOT a church-sponsored event, but we practice Restorative Circles within our church and encourage all to learn the practice.

Stories of our Building: A Tour for Leaders, Newcomers, and Everyone Else Sunday Jan 26 at 11:45 am

When was this church building built and why does it look the way it does?

How do you get to the church basement? What's in it?

Who was Kent Thomas and why did we name a classroom after him? (Hint: this is a trick question!)

Learn the answers to these questions, and more, as long-time church member Lorraine Ellis shares some Concord UU stories through a tour of our historic building.





UU Art Talks from Home

Registration remains open for this winter's series UU Art Talks from Home, facilitated by church member Roger Ballou. Join with fellow UU art lovers to explore the life and works of major artists whose work is part of the Currier collection.

Wednesday mornings, 10 to 11 am, on Zoom

January 8 | Albert Bierstadt: The Mountains of New Hampshire and the Mountains of the West

January 22 | Willard Metcalf: Capturing the Winter Landscape, Cornish, New Hampshire

February 5 | Edward Hopper: Painting the American Scene

February 19 | Edith Halpert and the Downtown Gallery

March 5 | Sol LeWitt: Color, Pattern, and Shape (On the Wall)

March 12 | Lunch and Tour at the Currier

To register for UU Art Talks from Home, go to:

uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/UUArtTalksfromHome2025

70s Dance Party Sat. Jan 18

Pull out your Retro 70's attire and get ready to Boogie to your fave music of the decade featuring disco, funk, rock, outlaw-country and soul. The UU Fellowship Hall will be transformed into your disco night club! We invite attendees to bring a potluck snack or dessert to share - in your classic Tupperware if you have it, of course!

For questions please reach out to Jenn Star or Krista Robichaud.

Walking in Fear: Meditation with Rae Houseman Sat Feb 8 | 9 am to 4 pm

Located at the Friends Meeting House | 11 Oxbow Pond Rd | Canterbury, NH 03224

\$30 (Scholarships available). There will be an opportunity to provide a gift of dana to the teacher. Register at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/2025RaeHousemanRetreat

In this daylong retreat, we will take time to explore the practice of walking with our fear and opening to the unknown, together in community. Rae Houseman, meditation teacher, mindfulness mentor, and trauma therapist, will lead us in a day of exploring questions together through lessons and meditations.



Upcoming Special Events

- Jan 1-19 | Covenant Group Open Enrollment
- Jan 1 | Wed | New Year's Day Games and Chocolate @ 1 pm
- Jan 4 | Sat | New Year's Self-Directed Retreat 9 am to 4 pm
- Jan 5 | Sun | Family Meet & Greet Breakfast @ 9 am
 - Special Newcomers Corner @ 11:15 am
 - Covenant Group for All @ 11:45 am
- Jan 8 | Wed | UU Art Talks from Home @ 10 am on Zoom
 - Office is Closed for Staff Luncheon 12 to 1:30 pm
- Jan 11 | Sat | Octagon Dinners at host homes
- Jan 14 | Tues | Coffeehouse @ 7 pm
- Jan 18 | Sat | 70s Dance Party - time TBA
- Jan 19-26 | Family Promise Host Week
- Jan 20 | Office is Closed for Holiday
- Jan 22 | Wed | UU Art Talks from Home @ 10 am on Zoom
 - Exploring Membership Class #1 @ 6 pm
- Jan 26 | Sun | Stories of our Building:
 - A Tour for Leaders, Newcomers, and Everyone Else @ 11:45 am
- Jan 29 | Wed | Exploring Membership Class #2 @ 6 pm
- Feb 1 | Sat | Fire & Ice: An Imbolc Family Formal @ 7 pm (Snow Date Feb. 8th)

New dates for our Goods and Services Auction

Our Annual **Live Auction** will be held on **April 6 at 11:30 am**. The **Silent Auction** will run from March 23 to April 6. Start thinking about what you'd like to donate!



AUCTION DINNER DONATED BY THE ASHFORD-SOULES

2024-25 Recurring Events

Special Worship Services

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

UU Worship at Havenwood - every 4th Thursday @ 1 pm, September through May

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

Faith Exploration Events

Sermon Dialogue - 1st Sundays at 11:45 am

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

Young Explorers Program - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays at 10 am

Elder Circles of Healing & Wholeness- 2nd Fridays @ 11 am, October through May

Covenant Groups - monthly small group ministry (contact Becky Bosse to join)

Contemplative Events

Daily Silent Morning Meditation - Daily @ 7 am Zoom Only

Thursday Morning Meditation Group - Thursdays @ 7 am Zoom Only non-church link

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

Mindfulness Practice Group - 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 6 pm

Walking the Labyrinth - 1st Sundays starting @ 6 pm before and after Taize Service, October through April

Social, Family, & Fellowship Events

Youth Group - 2nd and 3rd Fridays @ 7 pm

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

Tuesday's Welcome Table - Tuesdays @ 6 pm

Games and Chocolate - 1st Fridays @ 6:30 pm (changed to Jan 1 at 1 pm this month)

Art & Appetizers - 2nd Fridays @ 6 pm

Pancakes, Play & Planting Peace - 2nd Saturdays @ 9 am

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

Neurospicy Humans Covenant Group - 3rd Saturdays @ 6 pm (contact organizers before attending)

Knitting Circle - 2nd Saturdays @ 10 am

Musical Events

Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays, 7 pm to 8:30 pm

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

Drum Circle - 3rd Sundays @ 7 pm

Outreach Events

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

Healing & Helping Events

* PFLAG Support Group - 3rd Sundays @ 3 pm

* Renaissance New England Transgender Group - 2nd Saturdays @ 4 pm in September, November, January, March & May (contact organizers before attending)

* public support groups that meet at the church but are not church programs.



Parish Notes Deadline

Feb. issue: January 19

Submit to parishnotes@concorduu.org by 2 pm on the day of the deadline.

Do you create art, poetry, or prose that says something about our church or your faith? Send it to parishnotes@concorduu.org.

Officers

Treasurer | Vacant

Custodian of Investments | Jack Wakelin
Assistant Treasurers | Lorraine Ellis, Ann West

Moderator | Barbara Keshen
Clerk | Sara McNeil

Board of Trustees

Chair | Craig Whitson
Vice-Chair | Jim Curley
Secretary | Anne Meyers
Arthoen Wolf
Susi Nord
Larry Davis

Staff

Senior Minister & Choir Director

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

Dir. of Membership & Administration

Lea Smith
603-224-0291 ext 3# | lea@concorduu.org

Church Administrator

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

Accompanist | Vacant

Young Explorers Guides

Sosa Machaba | sosa@concorduu.org
Dory LeCount | dory@concorduu.org

Childcare Providers

Patrick Yehle & Bayshay Bruss

Custodian | Agnes Sesay

Sexton | Miguel Andrada

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All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.



Unitarian Universalism