

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord



Ministry for Children & Families

Family Meet and Greet Breakfast Sunday, January 4 at 9 am

It's time for our second annual Meet and Greet Breakfast for Families! Come together before service to gather with one another and see new and familiar faces! This year, the theme of the gathering is "What Do You Need?"

After breakfast and conversation, we will take a group photo before heading to the sanctuary for the worship service!



Pancakes, Play and Planting Peace Saturday, January 10 at 9 am

Join us on the 2nd Saturday of the month for a Pancake Breakfast and a service project! This year, each month we are learning about a different way our congregation serves the community. After a breakfast of delicious pancakes cooked by our dedicated volunteers, the young and the young at heart will participate in a service project to bring our learning full circle. Bring your children and grandchildren, or just bring yourself. All are welcome!

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AND SO MUCH MORE!

Sunday Worship is at 10 am

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

1/4/2026 “From Resolutions to Habits” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

Unfulfilled resolutions often fail because they live only in our ideals, not in our daily lives. Resolutions ask us to leap; habits invite us to step. A resolution says, “I will be different,” while a habit quietly asks, “What is the smallest faithful action I can repeat?” Transformation happens not through dramatic promises but through modest practices that fit the contours of real life. When aspirations are translated into habits, change stops being a distant goal and becomes a lived experience—something we practice rather than proclaim.

1/11/2026 “Listening as Resistance” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

Daryl Davis is known for a practice that defies easy moral categories: he listens to people who have embraced ideologies rooted in hate. Not to excuse those beliefs. Not to endorse them. But to understand the human story beneath them. Over decades, this practice has contributed to dozens of people leaving white supremacist movements—sometimes literally handing Davis the robes or symbols of hate they once wore. Listening in this way is not about surrendering values. It is about grounding them. It takes courage to remain present when fear, anger, or revulsion would be easier. It takes faith to believe that connection can loosen the grip of hatred more effectively than humiliation ever could.

1/18/2026 “Your Line of Resistance” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

In every struggle for social justice, we eventually face a deeply personal and communal question: Where do I draw my line of resistance? Some of us are called to march in the streets. Some to organize quietly behind the scenes. Some to disrupt unjust systems through civil disobedience. Some to work patiently within institutions. Some to listen, accompany, and heal. None of these lines are accidental. They are shaped by temperament, experience, risk, privilege, trauma, vocation, and faith. Discernment begins when we stop asking, “What is the most heroic thing to do?” and instead ask, “What is the most faithful thing I can do—and sustain?” And what might MLK Jr. have to say about the topic?

1/25/2026 “Art as Resistance” Rev. Suzanne Rude

One of the greatest assets of our species is the ability to create art that communicates the yearnings of the human spirit. These creations can take many forms with a multitude of avenues available, especially with an aim of producing art that promotes social justice and strives for lasting cultural shifts. Art as documentation: When Miné Okubo is placed in a Japanese internment camp in the western U.S. during WWII where no cameras are allowed, she creates illustrations of her daily life that become the famous 1946 graphic novel “Citizen 13660.” Art as collaboration: In 2013, Brazilian muralists Osgemeos and street artist Banksy create two mirrored anti-fascist depictions that become known as the Chelsea Collaborations. Art as revelation: Harriet Tubman keeps her hymnal nearby as it represents to her a connection between her faith and freedom, since it contains hymns used as coded signal songs along the Underground Railroad. Art as envisioning: Where can art as resistance lead our own human spirit?



Why My Heart Is Here

SUBMITTED BY DOUG WECKSTEIN, CONCORD UU MEMBER SINCE 2006

Are you religious? How often have I asked or been asked that question. I grew up attending Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, sharing Seders with extended family, attending Hebrew school and becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Rabbi Harold Kushner framed description of an individual's religiosity as being serious or not. I was not a serious Jew. Prior to marrying Tara, we struggled to develop a plan for how to approach religion. Tara was raised by serious Catholics. Neither of us rejected our religious backgrounds or our faith. The idea that my children would be raised Catholic produced significant discomfort. I believe Tara felt the same about raising her children in the Jewish Faith. The other's religion seemed foreign to us. I feared having any distance between my kids or my wife.

We married without a roadmap for religion in our lives. We searched, as many Unitarian Universalists do, attending Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Unitarian Universalist services. UU services resonated with us. When we moved to Manchester, our children were 2 1/2. We enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere of the church and the minister's words. When we moved to Concord, we attended services at our church and finally felt at home. We loved the community, making new friends, and were very happy to bring our children to a place where they would be surrounded by compassionate, supportive leaders and congregants. The UU Church appeared to us a place where our children would learn values which were dearly held by us.

When our triplets were approximately 10 years old, we became involved in a UU organized circle of friends of refugees. The experience of working with other wonderful individuals and families in support of an incredible family, recently arrived from Africa, was a powerful experience. Working with this family was one of the most fulfilling, humbling and informative experiences of my life and was a great hands-on activity with other children for my triplets. Over the next few years, my children were taught about several other faiths, visiting other churches through the Neighboring Faiths program at the church. Tara was very involved as a religious education teacher. It was fascinating for me to learn from her and the kids about Quakers, Baptists, Congregational Christians, Bahai faith and others.

I was able to share the fun and wonder of working with other UUs at The Friendly Kitchen. I witnessed the UU Church of Concord icon, Fran Philippe, in action, feeling connection to other volunteers and those who we served.

The exposure that my family had to diversity of faith, lifestyle and lived experience, all through our church, has contributed to how we think about religion and other individuals in the world. After the kids left home, we stopped attending services regularly, however, we always stayed connected at some level.

This year, I have been fortunate to join another UUFOR circle, supporting a new family recently arrived from Venezuela. I have met several new colleagues and reconnected with old friends, reliving the wonder and joy of helping and befriending another family from a distant land. While reconnecting with the church, I've discovered the vibrant atmosphere that exists here. The opportunities to find fulfillment working with others seem endless. Michael's gentle manner, moving words, warmth, enthusiasm, and selflessness have been alluring. It is good to be back.

Covenant Group for All | Sun Jan 4 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 4. This will be a chance to experience a Covenant Group (not an informational discussion about Covenant Groups.)

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. 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.

January: Practicing Resistance
February: Embodying Resilience
March: Paying Attention
April: Embracing Possibility
May: Awakening Curiosity
June: Flourishing Together



Covenant Group Open Enrollment will continue through Jan 18, 2026. You will be placed in a Covenant Group by February 15. **To join a Covenant Group, sign up at uconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/covenantgroupregistration**

Are you thinking about joining Concord UU as a member?

By Lorraine Ellis

This past spring we added 17 new members to the congregation, and in December, 15 more. Is it time for you to join them?

Our next Exploring Membership Group starts in January, and registration is open now. This group will meet at 6pm on Wednesday evenings, on the following dates: January 21, February 4, March 25, April 1. Each session is 2 hours long, except for the second, which will probably go an extra 15-20 minutes.

For those who choose to join, the New Member Covenanting Ceremony will take place on April 12, 2026 during the Sunday morning service.

In this group you'll reflect on or learn about:

- your own spiritual journey and values
- Unitarian Universalism in general
- the history and values of Concord UU
- opportunities to be involved in congregational life
- the rights and responsibilities of membership
- the meaning of membership for you

You'll also meet fellow explorers, experience the diversity of beliefs in our congregation, and find your own spot within it all.

If you are ready to explore, please sign up here: uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/exploring-membership-winter-2026.

Child care is available. Please sign up by Jan 11 if you need child care, so that we can be sure to be ready to receive your child(ren).

Concord UU Investment Committee Updates

By Karen Mayo

The Investment Committee has a new Chair, ME! After years of dedicated service, Rob Fleischman has stepped off the committee, and as the next most senior member, I have been elected as the chair. Our committee, now consisting of Chris Soule, Alice DonnaSelva, Rik Yeames, Jack Wakelin and I, is responsible for overseeing the actions of our professional money managers, and setting investment policy. We oversee what used to be called the "endowment", but is now referred to as our "Investments". We typically meet only once or twice a year, and complete other necessary tasks through emails. We oversee all invested funds, including the general investments, as well as the Unitarian Benevolent Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund and the Reynolds Refugee Fund.

If you have any questions or concerns about how we operate, what we are invested in, or anything else in this Investments space, please reach out to me in person or find me in Breeze!

And, next time you see Rob, give him a BIG THANKS for his years of keeping our investments safe and growing.

Who Do I Contact For....? Find Out on February 1

We have dozens of groups, programs, and opportunities here at Concord UU. How do you know who to talk to about something that interests you? On February 1, stay for a few minutes after the service to gather in small groups around the Sanctuary with members of the Congregant Engagement Team. They will help you make connections between your individual interests and our church programs and projects.

And in the meantime, check out our online [Who Do I Contact For](#) list!

Laughter Yoga

Submitted by Betsy Kennedy



It is with great joy and laughter that I, Grandma Ha Ha (aka Betsy K), announce the continuation of Laughter Yoga at UU of Concord! Come be a part of a world peace movement, started in India in 1995. Laughter also has so much serious medical research showing its health benefits. Come laugh and learn! No mats or experience needed. We are laughing together every first and third Tuesday at 5 pm in the chapel. For January, that's the 6th and 20th. Laugh long and prosper!



CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

Opening to Possibilities: Expect the Unexpected

Saturday, January 3, 2026 | 9am to Noon
Optional lunch and discussion to follow

Experience a variety of contemplative practices at our free New Year retreat.

Plants have been on planet Earth long before we humans. They offer us food, clothing, medicine and beauty through the seasons. One can think of them as our wise elders, plant allies. Plants can also offer spiritual medicine, affecting our consciousness, even shifting our beliefs. Come journey with a common plant and see what you discover.

Long before words ever existed, humans communicated through rhythm, expression, and motion. Within this mysterious process, chaos finds order. Repetitive, deliberate strokes weave intricate patterns that seem to manifest from the ether, a visual mantra for the mind. The conscious self steps back, allowing a deeper awareness to surface. Time loses its linear grip, dissolving into the meditative rhythm of each stroke.

Ever hear a song and have it bring up memories and feelings from long ago? Ever stood by a waterfall and felt the air changing? Ever actually "felt" music? Science has proven that sound and frequencies can affect the mind and body on a cellular level. Want to experience this for yourself? Come, experience singing bowls and feel what all the hype is about. These frequencies can impact feelings, mood, pain levels and also facilitate healing.

You are invited to a gentle journey, one that will awaken hidden wisdom and light up your soul for the new year.

Sign up at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/NewYearRetreat2026



GREEN SANCTUARY

Green Sanctuary, for you, for our Earth

Here in the Green Sanctuary group, we're keeping our sleeves rolled up and our shoulders to the wheel to caretake our biggest supporter: our one precious Earth. Many thanks to all of you who have helped remove invasive plants from our land, or bought a native perennial, who have helped build a window insert, brought in your recyclable plastic bags, joined a local environmental cause or contacted a legislator.

All of our Green Sanctuary offerings happen through the focus and good energy of people like you. We would LOVE to invite you into any of our project teams. Here's what's happening:

- Single-Use Plastics: awareness, reduction and recycling plastic bags/film with TREX
- Ecological Land Management: developing a Grounds and Forest Visionary Plan, coming out of the successful targeted appeal this fall
- Green Legislation Advocacy: researching ways to focus our 2026 efforts to help our NH legislature make the best choices for the state's health and sustainability
- Land Acknowledgement Exploration group: considering next steps for honoring the land and her traditional stewards past and present, based on input from this fall's sharing circles
- WindowDressers: starting back up soon to gear up for our Fall 2026 build of low-cost/no-cost insulating window inserts
- Green Building: managing our once per-decade audit to identify and act on best opportunities to make our church building energy efficient
- NEW IDEAS that you are passionate about? We can help you gather friends and get something started!

Of special note is a **Second Hour Sunday session coming up on January 18: Joyful Resilience, the Ultimate Act of Rebellion**. This time will feature playful ways to cultivate joy and build our resiliency muscles through movement, somatic awareness, music, and mindful art activities. Joy and resilience are key factors in expressing our purpose and resolve in the face of Earth's current challenges. Please join us for this engaging session!

Please reach out to us at greensteering@concorduu.org if you have questions, ideas you'd like to work on, or a group you'd like to join. That might include joining the Green Sanctuary Steering Group. All are so very welcome!

From your Green Sanctuary Steering Group
Margaret Fletcher, Andy Duncan, Sue Posluszny, and Sarah Keniston



GREEN SANCTUARY

Grounds & Forest Visionary Plan to proceed!

The Ecological Land Management (ELM) steering committee is thrilled to announce that the November targeted appeal goal for the UU Concord Grounds and Forest Visionary Plan was met! Thank you so much to the many donors and supporters of this initiative to provide funding to hire a professional ecological forester to improve the health of the 18+ acres of land we steward for current and future generations of humans and other living beings. In addition, native plantings will be added to the church grounds to benefit pollinators and improve habitat biodiversity.

Next steps: the ELM Steering Committee will be focused on the process of developing the Visionary Plan throughout the winter months and offering opportunities for congregational input with assistance from the Green Sanctuary group. Your input will be an important part of a successful plan which will be a model of the UUA's 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

We are also making progress pursuing a small grant from the USDA's National Resources Conservation Service to offset additional costs of this plan. We hope to hear positive results about this grant in July.

We look forward to your participation in the process.

With appreciation,
The ELM Steering Committee:
Andy Duncan, Dana Sansom,
Fran Philippe, Laurel Horne,
Nancy Wills, and Nancy Wood



EARTH-CENTERED SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Fire & Ice: An Imbolc Family Formal Saturday, January 31 at 6:30 pm

Join us on January 31st for 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 online:
uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/2026FireandIceImbolc

Making Merry in the New Year with Senior Singles Group

Submitted by Martha Mae Emerson

We decided that SSSG (Senior Singles Social Group) is a mouthful and we've shortened it to Senior Singles Group - SSG!

December was filled with festive activities, the Holiday Yankee Swap Party, and exploring our creative side with holiday crafts and snow women sculpting. We welcome the new year with fun, good cheer, & with much HOPE for the world & wishes for joy and health to all.

SSG JANUARY CALENDAR

Weekly Stay Active Group, every Wednesday, time and location varies

Suggested activities include: Red River movie matinee or movie at someone's home, brunch at a new breakfast place in Pembroke, start a Book Club, pop up walks as weather allows. We have discovered some new places which, if we get enough snow, have potential for snowshoeing, cross country skiing, sledding, building snow people. And we're hoping to show up as avid fans at one of SSG member Anne Burnett's tennis league competitions.

SSG Monthly Social Hour, 2nd Friday every month
January 9 at 1:30 pm in the Abenaki Room

SSG Monthly Meeting, 4th Sunday every month
January 25 at 1:30 in the Abenaki Room

Details and special events are included in our SSG Bi-Weekly Update sent out every other Sunday night. To become a member and receive regular communications about our activities, email office@concorduu.org to request your name be added to our Google Group email list.

Please join us at one of our meetings or activities and decide if the SSG is right for you. All single UUs aged 55+ are welcome. If you are shy about jumping in both feet at once, ask the UU office staff (office@concorduu.org) to put you in contact with one of our members to answer questions and chat about our group.



Helping Homeless Families through Family Promise



Through our affiliation with Family Promise of Greater Concord our church hosted 3 families experiencing homelessness; one week in October and one week December. We are one of 13 churches in the community who are part of the Family Promise emergency shelter program with support services.

One mother said, **"I never knew volunteers do this; when I am back on my feet, I am going to volunteer."**

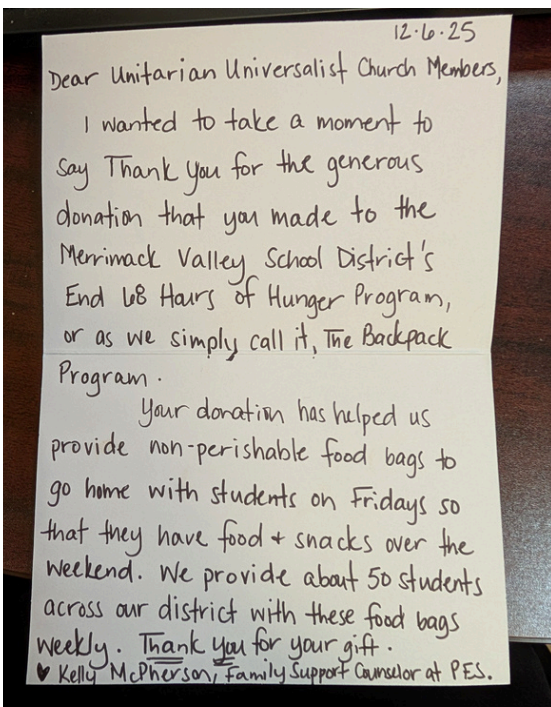
Our next host week is January 18-25, 2026.
Please contact Pam Mosca to learn more.
moscapam4@gmail.com



Unitarian Benevolent Fund Disburses \$3,641 to help the Concord Community

The UU Church of Concord is pleased to administer the Unitarian Benevolent Fund, which was established in 2022 as an unrestricted, Board-designated fund to provide support to "the poor and indigent women and children in the Concord community and those UUCC members who are housebound due to age, illness or disability." The UBF recently made grants of \$728.20 each to these organizations:

- Backpack Program (see thank you note at left)
- Equality Health Center
- Family Promise
- Reproductive Freedom Fund
- Concord Human Svcs Teen Xmas Fund



Join the newest UU Friends of Refugee Circle



Submitted by
Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

We are starting to form a new Refugee Circle (Circle 18). Anyone interested in being a part of the circle is invited (and encouraged) to attend an info session on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 11 am.

If you are not able to attend but are still interested, please let me know.

Being a part of several refugee circles has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time here in Concord, deepening my understanding of other cultures, creating strong bonds with others in the circle, and having fun while doing something meaningful.



Helping Communities in Eastern Uganda

Submitted by Mary Ober

For two Sundays in December, African textiles bloomed in the hallway, in the form of cotton African-print napkins and aprons sewn on manual machines by women in the village of Budhumbuli.

On December 14th, sales at Concord UU raised \$500 to enroll 100 Kumwalo village children in school! Those children were enrolled in a special gathering on the 19th. During enrollment, 25 children were found to need their vaccinations (\$20 each), so that \$500 became the goal at the sale on December 21st. Additional funds from the two sales covered one child's broken leg treatment (\$195), one year of safe transport to school for a high school girl (\$179), and funding for one Kumwalo mother's small business (\$75).

Revy first learned of Kumwalo village last spring. They had an urgent need to be rid of an overwhelming infestation of bedbugs: Approximately 1,000 Kumwalo residents in over one hundred families, bitten nightly by ¼" long bedbugs, effectively isolating them from jobs and education. Since the bedbug eradication (August), focus has turned to education (200 children now enrolled), then to economic sustainability (including a new fish farming project and future small initiatives by the mothers).

As the founder of Revy Foundation, I want to extend my gratitude for all of the generous donations and purchases! For more information: revyfoundation.org.

Editor's note: While the Revy Foundation is not a church-sponsored program, the church is pleased to offer our Members the opportunity to share their initiatives that align with the church's mission and vision. Thank you to Mary for this valuable work!

*Mary has inspired us to think about offering the opportunity for several **non-profit** organizations to sell their **artisan wares** over a series of Sundays next holiday season. We need a volunteer to line up a few vendors and coordinate this effort. If you are interested in organizing it, please reach out to Lea Smith, lea@concorduu.org.*

The Art of Avoiding Grief

BY ERIN FAITH PAGE-BROWN

I have learned
the quiet art of avoiding grief—
how to tuck it under my tongue
like a dissolving pill,
bitter
but hidden.

How to nod through conversations,
hold my breath through the moments
that try to crack me open,
and pretend the tremor in my chest
is just another passing thought.

I know what's coming—
the slow unraveling,
the loss approaching like a storm
I can smell before I see.
Reality humming low
in the background of every day,
a truth I acknowledge
but don't dare look in the eye.

So I move.
I keep moving.

I go to work.
I buy groceries.
I sweep the floor,
fold laundry,
tie shoes,
sign school papers,
say I'm fine
because the world doesn't pause
for my heartache.
Because if I sit too long
the sadness catches me
and I forget how to breathe.

I decorate for Christmas—
string lights across a window,
hang stockings like anchors,
wrap hope in paper and tape
and try to believe
that joy is still allowed
in a season that feels
too bright
for what's happening beneath my ribs.

And yet—
there are moments
when I make myself stop.
When I force my body
to sit in the darkness
I spend all day outrunning.
I let the grief spill
in slow, careful drops,
like I'm proving to myself
that I can survive the dripping.

Because I know this:
denial doesn't save me,
and pretending won't protect me.
The loss will come—
but so will the strength
to bear it.

And somewhere inside this ache,
beneath the fear,
under the layers of busy days
and practiced smiles,
a small voice whispers:

Even this will not end you.
Even this will shape you,
not shatter you.

And when the grief finally arrives,
when it sits beside me
and refuses to move—
I will not look away.
I will let myself break
and also let myself heal.

Because hope isn't loud,
and it isn't easy—
but it's here.
A soft, steady truth
waiting beneath the pain:

I can hold this hurt
and still move toward the light.
I can lose
and still remain.

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Erin Faith Page-Brown is the daughter of our church member, Heidi Page (both in the photo above with their family.) Thank you to Erin and Heidi for sharing this poem with us.

Do you have a poem or art about faith, hope, or healing to share? Send it to parishnotes@concorduu.org.



OWL begins this month!

If you know of a 7th, 8th or 9th grader who would benefit from open, honest, progressive, and factual information about sex, identity, relationship, media literacy, consent, and more, please tell them about the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program!

This year's upcoming cohort will begin on Sunday, January 4th, 2026 and run each Sunday for 13 sessions, with breaks for Easter Sunday and school vacation weeks.

Registration is still open! Register at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/2026owlregistration and share with your friends! We're happy to have you!

Notes from the Board of Trustees

Submitted by Anne Meyers, Board Secretary

November meeting:

- The financial review of Concord by Burlington is complete and the review of Burlington by Concord is happening on November 24th and 25th!
- The Board elected to dialogue with the Burlington Board primarily on matters of governance.
- First week of November—regular service in-person church attendance broke the record—171!

December meeting:

- This year's UU Thanksgiving was a huge success, a lovely evening— tables, chairs everywhere! Incredible food and fellowship!
- The Board is continuing our monitoring reports to meet fiduciary commitments.
- Lea reported to the Board that our financial position is healthy!



2nd Tuesdays

7-9:00 pm

FREE or
\$5 (if you can)

All Ages
All Levels
All Welcome

Supportive
Arts Community



image above shows a microphone with these words:
Blue Moon Music House
a home for diverse music and art
2nd Tuesdays | 7-9 pm
Free or \$5 (if you can)

All Ages | All Levels | All Welcome

Supportive Arts Community

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Tessa McLeod Browne

I'm 55 years old and from New Braunfels, Texas. I work in IT as an Applications Administrator, and in my free time I enjoy going on hikes, doing yoga, making art, and harassing my (adult) kids! I have a wonderful husband named Josh and a beloved wolf-dog named Ozzy. I am also an amateur landscaper for my own yard (I have only thrown out my back once.)

Jenn Prospere

My husband Rob and I started attending church last November with our two boys, Ben age 5 and Will age 2. We live in Concord with our dog and two cats.

I teach English as a second language to students in kindergarten through second grade, so I am very connected to the local refugee community! I love being outside with my boys, cooking, reading and very rare painting and creating. I also speak fluent Danish after several years living in Denmark.

Cheryl Morgan

I am originally from northern New York and grew up on Lake Champlain. We moved to Concord 11 years ago from Maine after my husband and I both retired.

My husband Larry and I have 2 sons one in California and the other in Tennessee and 2 grandsons ages 5 and 6. I love to read, train my dogs, ride my bike, be outside.

I am a retired teacher and taught for 33 years. My specialty was teaching reading. My favorite grade was first as I loved to teach beginning reading. When I retired I was the Title One Coordinator.

I have trained and competed in herding, rally and obedience competitions with my Shelties who have earned many titles.

What drew me to our church was the feeling of community and inclusion. I also was looking for something very different from the Catholic church I grew up in. I already feel connected to many people and have participated in a lot of activities along with attending Sunday services. My involvement will evolve over time.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Aletheia Smith

Aletheia (uh LAY thee uh) can be tough to pronounce; so Theia is fine (like 'theater' without the 'ter').

I am thrilled to finally find Concord UU, a place full of people whose faith is lived out in compassionate service to others; people who are kind, compassionate and accepting of diversity. People who are not afraid to be themselves. A place where I can reignite my spiritual life.



My personal journey is complex and much better shared in person. I have been incredibly privileged in life especially with the incredible people I have known, know and will know. Please pull me aside and we can talk sometime.

Here are some highlights:

- I'm currently married with three sons (30, 26, and 17).
- I've lived in CT, NH, AZ, VT and MA.
- I should have been a librarian. I collect and love old books. But, I have had the following vocations: Architect (M.Arch, B.S.D, lic NH, AZ), Chaplain/Interim Pastor (M.Div), Fire Fighter/EMT, COO for a non-profit, CEO for another non-profit, Project Manager, Artist.

Things I love include: people, old books, sewing vintage clothing, theater, singing, writing, poetry, listening, making art...laughing and learning.

I hope we have an opportunity to talk sometime!



Tom Ketteridge

I was born and raised on Long Island, and joined the Army right after high school. I served as a Medic, spending half of my 3 year tour in North Carolina and half in West Germany. I then earned a degree in Biology from Stony Brook University in 1978. I moved to New England in 1980, and lived in the Upper Valley of NH and VT before moving to Dunbarton with my wife Darlene in 2015.

I worked in the pharmaceutical and bio-tech fields before studying business and accounting, earning an MBA from Rivier University in 1985, and the CPA designation in 1992. I worked for a publicly-traded insurance holding company in Hanover before leading a social service non-profit in White River Junction, VT for 9 years starting in 2000. Before retiring in 2015, I worked as a contract CFO and tax preparer.

Darlene and I started attending UU of Concord in November 2024. I inherited my father's love of classical music, and since retiring has had more time to devote to his musical interests. I enjoy attempting to solve the various NY Times puzzles each day, and am a longtime devotee of Jeopardy!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Sabrina Stanwood

I have been coming since 2022, enjoy Family Covenant Group, Lifespan Faith Exploration and the Earth Centered Spirituality Group. I enjoy good conversations, food and fun!



Darlene Hadlock Ketteridge



I was born in Hanover, NH, and raised in White River Junction, VT. My immediate family includes my husband, Tom, my son, Shayne, and my grandson, Tyler. I'm from a family of five children, with me being the youngest, and I have only one living brother.

I have many interests and hobbies. I love my flower gardens and designing our landscape. My father and I had researched family genealogy, which I have continued since his death. And I love reading and writing.

I was certified as a Recreation Therapist, and I worked with the elderly in nursing homes and helped patients with dementia. I then worked for Home Depot as their cross-merchandiser, which I loved.

I don't talk much about my writings. Before my writer's block, I was writing for Fan Fiction sites. D-Grayman is my focus with two main characters, Kanda and Allen.

I'm asked what drew me to this church. My husband's interest in going since his sister is a member in New York. I was cautious and not sure what I thought about it for the long term. During my time here, I have enjoyed the people, have made a few friends, plus Michael's sermons I find are soul-searching. Becoming involved with the church activities is new for me. I'm shy and self-conscious in large groups. But if I know the friends I've made, there isn't going to be a problem getting involved.

Patty Pinski

I grew up in Winchester, MA, in a family of six: Mom, Dad and three siblings. We regularly attended and were baptized at the First Baptist Church of Arlington, where us kids went to Sunday School. I enrolled in nutrition at U. Maine at Orono, followed by a dietetic internship in Birmingham, AL. I've worked as a dietitian at multiple hospitals and nursing homes in the past. After earning my MS at U. Mass at Amherst, Dennis and I married and moved to Bow, NH. Elliot Hospital has employed me since 1993, and I'm looking forward to retirement soon! We have two adult children, Allison and Ben. I'm happy to have found the wonderful community at UU Church in Concord and am thrilled to be a new member.





Our 2026 Raffle: Dinner for Two, Anywhere in the World

Includes airfare, two night's accomodation, and a \$250 Visa Card for dinner. Or choose a cash alternative of \$3500. Early-bird prize of \$200 will be drawn on January 11, 2025. Grand Prize will be drawn on January 18, 2025.

To buy tickets and read the complete terms and conditions, go to concorduu.betterworld.org/giveaways/dinner-two-anywhere-world

Please help us raise funds for our ministries by sharing the link on your social media!



Upcoming Special Events

Jan 1 to 18 | Covenant Group Open Enrollment

Jan 1 | Thu | New Year's Day Games and Chocolate @ 1 pm

Jan 3 | Sat | New Year's Retreat - Opening to Possibilities: Expect the Unexpected
9 am to 12 pm followed by luncheon 12 to 1 pm

Jan 4 | Sun | Family Meet & Greet Breakfast @ 9 am

Covenant Group for All @ 11:45 am

OWL - Our Whole Lives Program begins @ 4 pm

Jan 7 | Wed | UU Art Talks from Home @ 10 am on Zoom

Jan 9 | Fri | Youth Group Overnight @ 7 pm

Jan 14 | Wed | Poetic Eddas Reading Group @ 6 pm

Jan 18 | Sun | Raffle Drawing

Jan 18 to 25 | Family Promise Host Week

Jan 21 | Wed | UU Art Talks from Home @ 10 am on Zoom

Exploring Membership Class #1 @ 6 pm

Jan 25 | Sun | Pathways to Leadership @ 11:45 am

Jan 31 | Sat | Fire & Ice: An Imbolc Family Formal @ 6:30 pm (Snow Date Feb. 7th)

Pathways to Leadership

Sunday, January 25 at 11:45 am

Led by Betsy Black

A vital church starts with good leadership, and everyone can be a leader. The Operations Leadership Team (OLT) invites church leaders, aspiring leaders, and anyone who wants to improve their leadership skills to a workshop with facilitator Betsy Black.

The OLT hopes this workshop will be the start of something bigger - an opportunity for us all to grow both as spiritual and practical leaders. You'll have an opportunity to share what leadership topics you'd like to see in the future.

2025-26 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, 4th & 5th Sundays at 11:45am

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

Young Explorers Program - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays @ 10am, September 14 through May

Youth Group - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Fridays @ 7pm (new youth contact Michael before attending)

Elder Circles of Healing & Wholeness - 2nd Fridays @ 10:30am, October through May

Covenant Groups - monthly small group ministry open enrollment in January

Power of Myth Viewing and Discussion - 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30pm, October through March

Contemplative Events

Daily Silent Morning Meditation - Daily @ 7am Zoom Only

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

UU Yoga - 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays @ 6:30pm, Sept through May

Mindfulness Practice Group - 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 6:30pm, Sept through May

Social, Family, & Fellowship Events

Community Lunch - 2nd and 3rd Sundays @ 12:30pm, September through May

Tuesday's Welcome Table - Tuesdays @ 6pm

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

Art & Appetizers - 2nd Fridays @ 6pm

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

Knitting Group - 2nd Saturdays @ 10am

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

Neurospicy Humans Group - 3rd Saturdays @ 6pm

Musical Events

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

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

Drum Circle - 3rd Sundays @ 7pm

Blue Moon Music House - 2nd Tuesdays @ 7pm

Outreach Events

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

Healing & Helping Events

American Sign Language Practice Group - Sundays at 8:30 am

Support Group for People with Parkinson's and their Care Partners - 1st Tuesdays @ 10am

Laughter Yoga - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 5pm



Parish Notes Deadline

Feb. issue: January 18

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

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Senior Minister & Choir Director

Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

603-715-7557 (cell)

michael@concorduu.org

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Lea Smith

603-916-0513 (cell) | lea@concorduu.org

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Becky Bosse

603-224-0291 ext 1#

becky@concorduu.org

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Heather Maconaghy

heather@concorduu.org

Family Engagement Coordinator

Dory LeCount | dory@concorduu.org

Young Explorers Guides

Beth Draper & Amir Robertson

Childcare Providers

Bayshay Bruss & Riley Carr

Custodian | Melissa Bennett

Sexton | Russell Lilley

A/V Assistant | Gavin Robichaud

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



Unitarian Universalism