

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

July/August 2024

LOVE



UU Delegates Approve New Statement of Values

At the General Assembly of the UUA on June 19-23, the delegates overwhelmingly approved a new statement of values and beliefs for Unitarian Universalism, by a vote of 2,025 to 499, with 21 abstaining.

“This is a historic moment for Unitarian Universalism, as we move our living tradition forward to focus on shared values that will help promote liberation, radical inclusion, and communal care both within our church and across society,” said UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt.

The new values are Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation, centered around Love, as shown in the “flower” image below.



The Seven Principles are no longer part of the UUA bylaws, but many UUs and congregations will continue to hold them as part of their faith.

Thank you to our six lay delegates and two ministerial delegates for representing our congregation at General Assembly: Craig Whitson, Jim Curley, Dan Frye, Dariel Thompson, Deb Bruss, Suzanne Rude, Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger and Rev. Lyn Marshall. For more information on this historic vote, visit www.uuworld.org/articles/uaa-article-ii-passes-general-assembly-result-unitarian-universalism-bylaws-vote-values-statement

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Sunday Worship is at 10 am

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

7/7/2024 no service

7/14/2024 no service

7/21/24 "Listening to Trees" Betsy Black

An apple, oak, aspen. A birch, maple, spruce. Just saying their names can evoke a sense of wonder and appreciation for all the trees in our lives. They contribute so much to making earth a livable planet, to our sense of awe, to our appreciation of beauty, and to a wisdom that is in their limbs, roots, trunks and leaves. Come explore the majestic and magical world of trees. To prepare, think of a specific tree (or species) that particularly speaks to you...

7/28/2024 "Interfaith Ministry: What's That?!" Rev. Jim Curley

What's an Interfaith Minister? I'll discuss my pathway to becoming an Interfaith Minister and how it fits so well with the UU faith; we'll explore some of the seminary topics; and we'll review (and experience) my home Spiritual Practice - audience participation is invited.

8/4/2024 "I Was Wrong" Barbara Keshen

Why is it so hard to see when we are wrong? When we do see that we were wrong, why is it so hard to acknowledge it? What can we learn about ourselves when we do acknowledge that we were wrong?

8/11/2024 "Sharing Power" Martin Toe

8/18/2024 title to be announced, Rev. Bevan Tulk

8/25/2024 "For and From the Heart - a Meditation on Heartening our Heart" Sue Roman

The heart figures prominently in the spirituality of many religious traditions - how do we, as Unitarian Universalists, make time to nurture and comfort our hearts?

9/1/2024 "Wait, I'm a Longshore Worker Now?" Susi Nord

What happens when organizers organize themselves? How can it be so hard and complicated? And what does being in a union even mean anymore? Come celebrate workers, Labor Day, and solidarity with a proud new member of ILWU Local 5.

Summer Outing to the Flume with UU Friends of Refugees

BY KATH BUTCHER

At the start of the heatwave on Tuesday, June 18th, UU Friends of Refugees (UUFOR) took 15 new American students from Concord to the Flume Gorge in Lincoln, NH. This adventure was supported by a grant from the NH Environmental Educators (the grant was approved specifically for this trip), UUFOR (donations from UU Community Plates) and a private donation from Nancy Jo Chabot, a member of Temple Beth Jacob. Volunteer David Canfield helped to recruit and organize students. Volunteers Fran Philippe, Deb Cooper, Cheryl Bourassa and Kath Butcher recruited and organized students, as well as drove and walked the Flume with the students.

When we arrived at the Flume, we shared a picnic lunch prior to hiking in. All of the students, with the exception of two teens, had never seen the White Mountains and all were very excited about the beautiful scenery. There was opportunity for learning about the local geological wonder of The Flume, and an opportunity to have a great outing together. Except for the drivers, all slept on the drive home to Concord. A successful outing!



Generosity

Some of our programs are on hiatus for the summer. Our regular church year resumes on September 8 with our Water Communion and Fall Picnic.

Summer Break July 1 to 14

There will be no worship services on July 7 and 14. The church office will be closed from July 1 to 14.



Please finish up your pledge payments!

As June comes to a close, we've completed 92% of our fiscal year (which ends July 31), but we have over 45 households that have paid much less than 92% of their pledge. It would be greatly appreciated if you could make every effort to catch up as soon as possible. Your timely pledge fulfillment will make the difference between whether we need to make a withdrawal from our Operating Reserve Fund, or not.

You can make an online payment at concorduu.org/make-a-pledge-payment or mail a check to be received by July 28. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Interdependence

Staff Openings

Spread the word about our staff openings among your friends and through your social media. Word of mouth is the best way to let great candidates know about the fun and inclusive work environment we offer! For more info about any of these openings, go to concorduu.org/about-us/job-openings. All our positions offer fair wages that meet the UUA standards for justice and equity!

Accompanist

Average 8.5 hours per week

The Accompanist provides keyboard accompaniment for the choir and congregational singing during Sunday worship services and offers or arranges for additional music that deepens the experience of the worship theme and helps provide an organic bridge between worship elements.

Sexton

16 hours per week, to include Saturdays, Sundays, and one weekday/evening

The Sexton is responsible for maintaining the building and grounds in a condition suitable for use by the congregation for worship, faith development, fellowship, denominational meetings, and rental of space to members and non-members.

Childcare Helper

2-3 hours on Sundays, starting at 9:45 am

The Childcare Helper provides loving care to children ranging from infancy to age 12, in an environment that is warm and welcoming to the diverse families of our congregation.

Summer Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care this summer, reach out to one of our “primary points of contact” among the Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs):

July 2024

Rev. Jim Curley & Judi Abbe

August 2024

Ann West & Janet Kelley-Vail

The primary points of contact will reach out to the Pastoral Care Associates group for additional support depending on the situation.

For Memorial Services

Rev. Jim Curley is prepared to talk with the family and help them discern whether to have him officiate the service, wait until Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger returns, or engage another minister.

Contact info for any of these PCAs is in the Breeze online directory, or reach out to the church office, office@concorduu.org.

Each of us,
imperfect and
vulnerable
bodyspirits that
we are,
is connected to
a vast web of
love which holds
us and will not
let us go.

REV. MEG RILEY

Coming in the Fall: Young Explorers Program for Kids

We are delighted to welcome our new Young Explorer Guides, **Sosa Machaba** and **Jana Flynn-Padick**, who will plan and implement children's programs that will:

- engage children with their whole hearts, minds, and spirits;
- support children & families in exploring our Unitarian Universalist values and being of service in the world; and
- help children and families create and experience authentic connection with one another, with the wider congregation, and with the natural world.

The Young Explorers program will launch on September 15. It will occur on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays of each month, including a Children's Village during the worship service plus fun faith exploration after the service while parents/guardians participate in adult programs.

Our Church Administrator, Becky Bosse, will serve as the registrar and support staff for the Young Explorers program. Watch for the sign-up opportunity coming soon.

If you'd like to volunteer with Young Explorers or in our Rainbow Room nursery, email Becky at becky@concorduu.org.

Community Plate Update

Thank you for your generosity that allowed us to share much needed funds to support these programs.

- 2/4/2024 Youth Group trip \$955.70
- 2/11/2024 Crisis Center of Central NH \$2,355.03
- 2/18/2024 Outreach Offerings: Concord Coalition to End Homelessness \$743.75
- 2/25/2024 Black Heritage Trail NH \$678.03
- 3/3/2024 World Central Kitchen \$609.31
- 3/10/2024 NH School Funding Fairness Project \$700.28
- 3/17/2024 Outreach Offerings: Concord Coalition to End Homelessness \$811.62
- 3/24/2024 Freedom to Read Foundation \$346.65
- 3/31/2024 Sycamore Community Garden \$825.06
- 4/7/2024 Project STORY \$688.53
- 4/14/25 Outreach Offerings: UU Action NH \$708.59
- 4/21/2024 Native Plant Trust \$753.75
- 4/28/2024 Friends Program \$489.65
- 5/5/2024 Many Hopes \$649.65
- 5/12/2024 Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children \$660.06
- 5/19/2024 Boys & Girls Club of Central NH \$573.41
- 5/26/2024 Action Against Hunger \$586.40



Left: A gardener at Sycamore Community Gardens, which offers plots for organic gardening to low income and refugee families. For more info, go to www.sycamorecommunitygarden.org/who-we-are

Cheer for the Purple of UU Softball Team

Our church softball team plays on Mondays at 6pm. They would love to have you come cheer them on! Our "home field" is at the state hospital on Pleasant Street.

July 1 | Our Field (State Hospital) | Immac Heart of Mary

July 8 | Our Field (State Hospital) | Grace Capital

July 15 | Ineson Field | Weare Christian

July 22 | Our Field (State Hospital) | Trinity Baptist

July 29 | Our Field (State Hospital) | St. Paul's Episcopal

August 5 | Our Field (State Hospital) | Bosc Congregational

August 12 | Maple Street School | Countryside Comm

August 19 | Reed Field | Trinity Baptist

Quick Green Tip

*brought to you monthly by the UU
Plastics Team*

Like an easy way to reduce your use of plastics?
RIGHT NOW, stop drinking plastic bottles of water, (or at least avoid them when you can). When in doubt, say "no thanks," and use a reusable container. You'll save money, avoid adding plastic to the waste stream, and decrease your consumption of microplastics (found in plastic bottles).

Quotable Quotation:

"Movements succeed when they become aspirational. We're not going to succeed in shaming people into taking slightly better steps. We have to make it cool to not fly, cool to do a local (cycling) event and not go to some exotic location, and cool to use a T-shirt that is 10 years old and a bike that is 15 years old... We need to make it cool to be sustainable."

--Activist and cyclist champion and adventurer Emma Pooley

P.S. Eager to do more? When shopping for clothes, read labels and consider nonplastic (more eco-friendly) fabrics such as cotton, wool, bamboo, modal, hemp, linen, tencel, silk, canvas. Options exist.

Climate Up Close at the UU Congregation of Franklin

Saturday, August 3, 10:00am to 11:30am

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin
206 Central Street, Franklin, NH 603-934-2141

FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC

Climate Up Close is a group of climate scientists committed to making the essentials of climate science accessible to a broad audience. The participating scientists equip people to reach their own judgements about climate science by seeing the evidence for themselves and putting their questions directly to the climate scientists. Climate Up Close is nonpartisan and policy neutral. Light refreshments and an opportunity to speak further with the scientists will follow the one-hour presentation.



What's in a nametag?

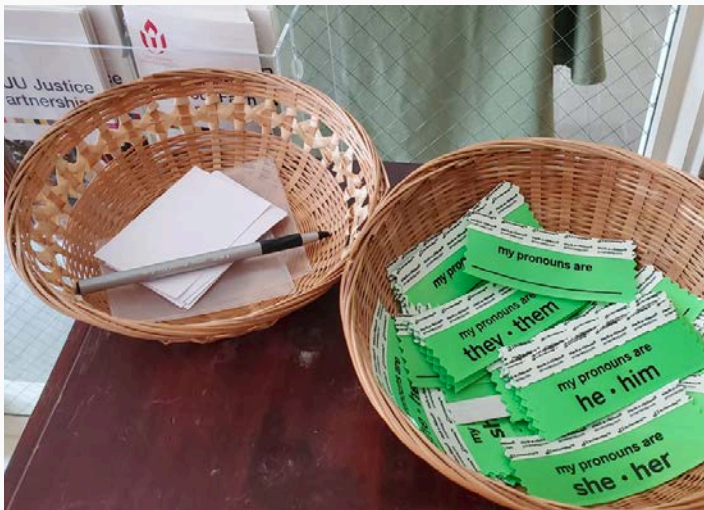
BY LEA SMITH,
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

1. The first two lines are your name, of course!
2. The year you joined as a Member. If you haven't signed the membership book yet, you won't have a year listed.
3. The pronouns you use, if you let us know what they are before your nametag was made. If you would like to have pronouns added, you can add a green pronouns ribbon, located near the Visitor's Table. Or you can ask Lea Smith for a new nametag (lea@concorduu.org).

Why add pronouns? And why not?

Knowing and using a person's correct pronouns affirms their gender identity and shows respect for their inherent worth and dignity. Even if you think everyone will know your pronouns based on your outward appearance, including them on your nametag can signal inclusion to others for whom it might not be as clear-cut.

Some people choose not to include their pronouns on their nametag because their identity is more complex than can be stated in a couple words, or because they prefer not to be labeled. We respect this choice too.



As a Welcoming Congregation recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association, we have pledged to:

- honor the lives of all people and equally affirm displays of caring and affection without regard for sexual orientation.
- celebrate diversity by using inclusive language and content in worship.
- incorporate an understanding of the experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons throughout all of our programs, including religious education.
- affirm and celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues and history.
- affirm marriage equality and conduct same-sex weddings.
- advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, promoting justice, freedom, and equality in the larger society. We speak out when the rights and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are at stake.

We recognize that there's always something more to learn, and remain open to deepening our understanding about the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people.

July Events

July 1 - 14: Office is closed for Summer Break
July 5 Fri: Games & Chocolates @ 6:30 pm
July 7 Sun: No Worship Service
July 13 Sat: Contemplative Knitting Circle @ 10 am
July 14 Sun: No Worship Service
July 21 Sun:
Green/ELM Team Work Day @ 11:30 am
*PFLAG @ 3 pm
Drum Circle @ 7 pm

August Events

Aug 2 Fri: Games & Chocolates @ 6:30 pm
Aug 10 Sat: Contemplative Knitting Circle @ 10 am
Aug 18 Sun:
Green/ELM Team Work Day @ 11:30 am
Linda Mai Memorial Service @ 2 pm
*PFLAG @ 3 pm
Drum Circle @ 7 pm

Aug 25 Sun: Parish Notes Deadline for September Issue @ 2 pm

*Support group that meets at the UU and/or on Zoom; not affiliated with the church, but open to anyone interested in attending.

See our our online calendar at www.concorduu.org/calendar for the the most up-to-date listing of events.

Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting

June 12, 2024

- The Ministerial Contract was approved for signature by the Board
- We hired two young explorer guides for the fall
- The annual Spring picnic was a successful community event
- The auction, plant sale, and ebike raffle fundraisers were either on target or beyond



Our church grounds are a sanctuary for monarch butterflies. We grow plenty of milkweed, which is their only host plant. Monarchs lay their eggs on the milkweed. The baby caterpillars grow and feed on the milkweed before turning into butterflies. The adult butterflies then migrate to Mexico starting in September.

To learn more about monarchs in NH, go to blog.nhstateparks.org/monarch-migration-from-the-white-mountains-to-mexico



Parish Notes Deadline

Sept issue: August 25
Submit to parishnotes@concorduu.org by 2pm
on the day of the deadline.

Officers

Treasurer | Vacant
Custodian of Investments | Jack Wakelin
Assistant Treasurers | Lorraine Ellis, Ann West
Moderator | Barbara Keshen
Clerk | Ann Hoey

Board of Trustees

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

Staff

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

Accompanist | Vacant

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

Young Explorer Guides (starting Sept. 1)
Sosa Machaba & Jana Flynn-Padick

Childcare Providers | Patrick Yehle & Maria Ruelas

Sexton | Vacant

Custodian | Agnes Sesay

*Love is the power that holds us together
and is at the center of our shared values.*

*We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our
shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.*

-- part of the Values and Covenant in the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association,
adopted in June 2024

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

