

JULY/AUGUST 2023

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

UU Values, Principles, and Article II

At the end of June UUs from across the nation gather for fellowship, faith development, and the annual business meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association at our General Assembly (GA). This year our church is represented by **Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**, **Rev. Lyn Marshall**, and church members **Dan Frye** and **Jim Curley**.

The delegates are voting on whether to continue discussion on revision of Article II of the UUA's bylaws. Article II includes several foundational statements about our faith, and currently includes the [7 Principles](#), which we hold as strong values and moral guides. In 2020, an Article II Study Commission was formed by the UUA Board. An excerpt from their charge includes: *"to review Article II of the UUA Bylaws, and propose any revisions that will enable our UUA, our member congregations, and our covenanted communities to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice."*

The Study Commission has proposed a new Article II, a radical change that articulates our values in a new way. You can read the proposal and their full report at:
www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf.

The proposed revision will NOT be adopted at this GA. If the proposal receives preliminary approval, it will be further discussed in the coming year, with a final vote set for GA 2024.

The image to the right is one piece of the proposed Article II: a visual expression of our shared values.

This summary of the status of the Article II revision process was written by Lea Smith.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday Worship is at 10 am

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

7/2/2023 2023 UUA General Assembly Sunday Worship (recorded) Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti serves as Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is a co-editor of "Conversations with the Sacred: A Collection of Prayers" (2020) and the 2018-2019 UUA common read, "Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment." He has served extensively in Unitarian Universalist leadership, including as a member of the UUSC Board of Trustees; the UUA Board of Trustees; President of DRUUMM (our UU people of color organization, Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries); Commissioner on the UUA Commission on Appraisal; Secretary of the Board of Starr King School for the Ministry; and as an author and advocate of the 2007 General Assembly resolution confronting gender identity-related discrimination. He brings to the ministry his multicultural experience serving as a U.S. diplomat during the Clinton administration.

7/9/2023 "Why I Am a Member of the NAACP" Barbara Keshen

Our essential nature as human beings is fully explored and revealed in the book of Genesis. Spoiler alert - it isn't pretty - and it underscores our need as a species to move beyond our natural inclinations and find commonality with and compassion for our fellow humans, a message promoted by the NAACP.

7/16/2023 "Songs Of Life (& Death)!" Wholly Rollers

Each Roller will pick a personal favorite song, or two, and explain what that song means to them and what being a Roller means to them. There will be "preaching" and "food for thought" - but it will be delivered Roller style! There may also be a surprise guest vocalist - or two!

7/23/2023 "Tool Time" Rev. Jim Curley

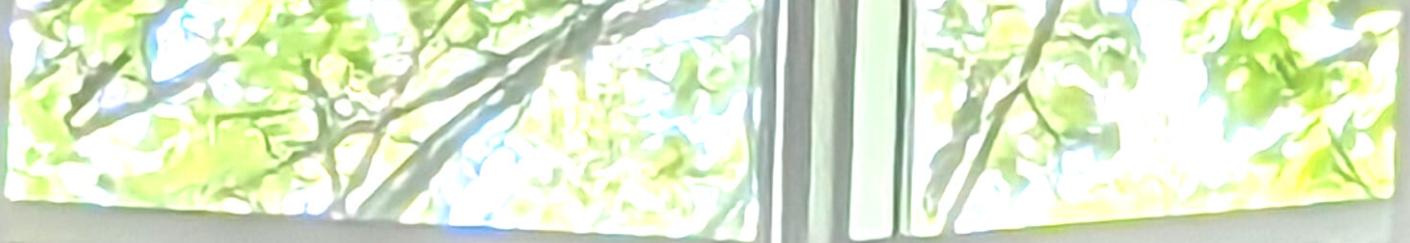
Just as we need to have the right tools in our household toolbox, we need the right tools in our church toolbox - let's talk.

7/30/2023 "Solar Eclipses - A Spiritual Perspective" Rik Yeames

Where will you be on Monday April 8th, 2024? Since Solar Eclipses predate humanity, they have impacted us throughout the ages. Come explore with me a sight that last occurred in NH on Oct 2nd, 1959 and will not be seen again in NH until May 1st, 2079.

8/6/2023 "How Our Humanity is Saved through Empathy" Renee West

How can we find real meaning in an apparently meaningless world, one in which bewildered apes whiz around on a rock in space? How can one find the good without a God? What can we do to save our individual and collective humanity in a too-often inhumane world? I believe the answer to these questions is found through empathy, and this Sunday we'll explore how empathy can heal and make us whole.



In the pulpit later in the summer:

8/13/2023 Rev. Lyn Marshall

8/20/2023 Rev. Lyn Marshall

8/27/2023 Kay Read

9/3/2023 Rev. Denise Tracy

Watch your eBulletin for the sermon topics. They will also be posted on our website at concorduu.org/worship/upcoming-services/



Photo of Janet Kibbee with her dog Maddie being blessed by Rev. Lyn Marshall on June 18 photo by Kits Tunney

NEW! Wild and Precious Book Club

A brand new UU Book Club is starting on June 27. This group will meet from 5-6pm year round on the fourth Tuesday of each month, usually in the church library.

Our first book is ***The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma*** by Bessel Van der Kolk, MD.

The Wild and Precious Book Club features its own Facebook group at for reading resources, handouts and other pieces from the workbook.

To join, contact church member Mary Sheys or drop her a text at 603.275.9622. Although the group plans to meet in person, we will arrange for online accessibility upon request.

Some of our programs are on hiatus for the summer. Our regular church year resumes on September 10 with our Water Communion and Fall Picnic.

Coming next church year:

- *Drum Circles*
- *Walk the Labyrinth*

Details to come in the September Parish Notes.

Thank you to Bobbie Herron for the photos of the Sanctuary windows in this issue. They have been altered for publication.



What's in a nametag?

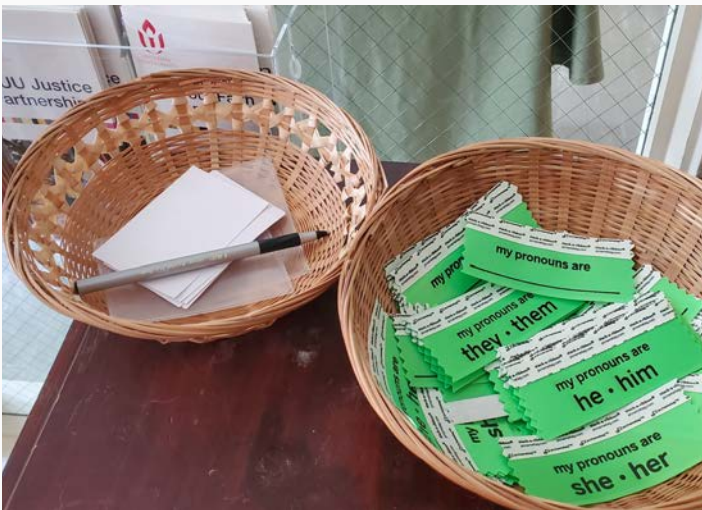
BY LEA SMITH,
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

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.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Bob Holleman

I am retired and live with my wife in Concord. I am originally from Long Island, NY and have lived in California and Oregon. Most of my career was spent working in the computer field.

I am drawn to the UU church because of all the opportunities to serve and the community here. I have been volunteering at the Friendly Kitchen for years and have recently worked alongside the UU members there as well as the Family Promise program, helping Afghan refugees, and have worked at the homeless shelter in Concord.

I love to ride my bike, go to the YMCA, garden, cook and read. I feel fortunate to be part of such a community.



Arthoen Wolf



Cynthia Davis



Alli Wheelock

I grew up in the Monadnock region, in Keene, NH where my parents and brothers still live. After high school, I moved to Bar Harbor, ME where I earned my degree in Human Ecology at College of the Atlantic. Soon after graduation, I met my wife, Adrianna. After spending several years in Manchester, NH we purchased a house in Concord. In the height of the pandemic, we welcomed our son, Raven, who has brought us so much joy. Before he was born, Adrianna and I decided we would like to raise him UU so that he could grow up in a community of loving and justice-minded people. Currently I am home with Raven full-time, where we enjoy hugging trees at the park, and hanging out with our three cats. Although I am happy to spend hours at the sandbox, my passion is illustration, watercolor, and writing poetry.



EVENTS IN JULY & AUGUST

Special Events

Grounds Workdays

Sundays, July 23 and August 27 after worship

Earth Centered Spirituality Group Lughnasa Ritual

Saturday, July 29 at 7pm (Rain Date July 30)

Concord Light Opera Co Ruddigore Auditions

Tuesday, August 8 at 7pm

The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism: An Action Plan

Tuesday, August 29

Seminar 10am to 4pm and Lecture at 6:30pm

Ongoing Events

Silent Morning Meditation (Zoom) | Daily @ 7 am

Meditation (hybrid) | 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 6pm

Games & Chocolate (in person) | 1st Fridays @ 6:30pm

Contemplative Knitting Circle (in person) | 2nd Saturdays at 10:30am

Insight Meditation Sangha | DISCONTINUED

Wild & Precious UU Book Club (in person) | 4th Tuesdays at 5pm

Caring for Aging Loved Ones (hybrid) | 4th Sundays @ 7pm

Concord UU Softball games (in person) | Mondays at 6pm through August 21st (see page 7)

- **Summer office hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 1pm. The office will be closed for 4th of July.**
- **See our our online calendar at www.concorduu.org/calendar for the the most up-to-date listing of events.**

NEW!

Fall Picnic Food-Prep Shindig

Saturday, September 9, 9:30-11:30 am

In a new effort to ensure that we have plenty of food for all at our Fall Picnic on September 10, we are inviting people to gather at church for a Picnic Food-Prep shindig. Let's build community and have fun while we provide for each other's lunch. Gather at church on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 9:30 am for two hours of picnic food prep under the capable direction of Michael Leuchtenberger. Watch your eBulletin in August for more information!

Concord Light Opera Company

announces their last production:

Gilbert & Sullivan's

Ruddigore*

"The Witch's Curse"



This final production is a fundraiser for Concord UU Church.

Openings: Cast, Crew, Marketing, Costuming, Hospitality and others.

For audition music or other information please contact:

Linda Ashford

(603) 496-1594 or lindalashford@comcast.net

**PLEASE plan to attend opening auditions:
August 8 – 7:00 PM at UU Church Concord
Production dates: September 28 to October 1, 2023**

- If you liked G&S; Pirates, HMS Pinafore, Gondoliers or Mikado you will love this one too!!

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.

- 6/19 Our field (state hospital) vs Boscawen Congregational
- 6/26 Our field (state hospital) vs Emmanuel Church
- 7/3 Our field (state hospital) vs Concordia Lutheran
- 7/10 Our field (state hospital) vs Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 7/17 Our field (state hospital) vs Trinity Baptist
- 7/24 Our field (state hospital) vs St. Paul's Episcopalian
- 7/31 CenterPoint Field vs CenterPoint Church
- 8/7 Our field (state hospital) vs Concordia Lutheran
- 8/14 Our field (state hospital) vs Countryside Community
- 8/21 Bug Field vs Boscawen Congregational



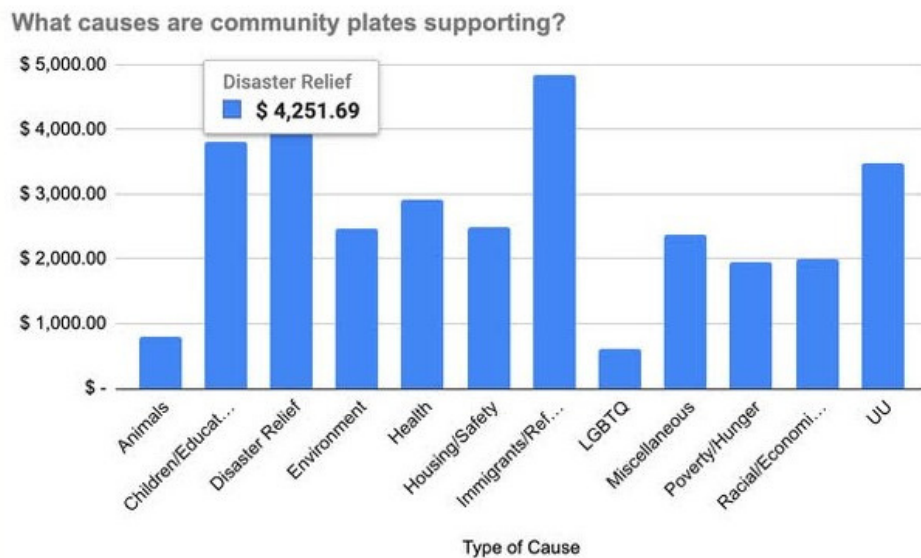
Blast from the past: 2018 softball team

Community Plate Update

Thank you for your generosity that allowed us to share much needed funds to support these programs that are in keeping with the Seven Principles of the UUA.

- 4/2/2023 Outreach Offerings for Family Promise | 590.91
- 4/9/2023 Friends of Forgotten Children | 541.35
- 4/16/2023 Society for the Protection of NH Forests | 667.37
- 4/23/2023 Mayhew Program | 582.52
- 4/30/2023 Circle Program | 510.22

We have a new committee member, Faith Miller Lakowicz, who loves doing spreadsheets! The chart below is for the church year 2021-2022. It's interesting to have a new method for analyzing Community Plate collections. We will have new data for 2022-2023 in a few months.



JUSTICE NOTES

Once we start to
act, hope is
everywhere.

So instead of
looking for hope,
look for action.

Then, and only
then, hope will
come.

GRETA THUNBERG
CLIMATE ACTIVIST

An Invitation to try Plastic Free July (or Less Plastic July)

FROM AN EMAIL FROM SUSAN FULLER,
CHAIR OF NH INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT
I'm composing this letter as an invitation to try living Plastic Free for the month of July. Plastic Free July which began in Australia in 2011 is now an award winning campaign to reduce single use plastic, one of the most influential environmental campaigns in the world.

If you've been thinking about reducing your plastic consumption but need more encouragement or if you've never given a thought to reducing your plastic consumption, I urge you to watch a short video to help motivate you to start. Check out movies available at myplasticfreelife.com/films-and-videos-about-plastic-pollution-plastic-free-living/. If you want gut-wrenching, watch Albatross; for something more light-hearted, try Baglt.

This website is a great resource for ideas on how to live plastic free. Or you can search out a copy of the book, *Plastic Free* by Beth Terry for a fuller description of the problems that plastic is wreaking on our environment (including contributing to climate change) and ways we can reduce or eliminate our use of plastics.

I'd be thrilled to hear from you about ways you are reducing your single use plastic consumption waste in your home and/or in your faith community. If you're so moved (inspired, feeling proud,) and want to share, please email me at susan.fuller@nhipl.org about what you are doing. I will include some of your responses in our next newsletter.

Blessings,
Susan Fuller, Chair, NH Interfaith Power and Light

The 7 Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism

Join NH Council of Churches, and their ministry partners at the Episcopal Diocese of NH and the NH Conference of the UCC for their summer keynote event with the Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward. In a time of rising hate activity, and white supremacy across our state and region, we have a sacred responsibility to engage deeply in the work of confronting White Christian Nationalism.

Hosted by the UU Church of Concord, the event will include a free daylong seminar and evening lecture revolving around Heyward's new book titled *The 7 Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism: A Call to Action*. Join us for this thought-provoking seminar from 10am-4pm, followed by a stimulating lecture at 6:30pm. Don't miss out on this exceptional opportunity to expand your knowledge and engage in meaningful discussions.

Space is limited for both events, so ensure your spot today. There is no cost, but registration is required.

Details here: nhchurches.org/registration-is-now-live-for-summer-keynote-with-rev-dr-carter-heyward/

The only theology worth doing is that which inspires and transforms lives, that which empowers us to participate in creating, liberating, and blessing the world.

REV. DR. CARTER HEYWARD

SAVE THE DATE
with Carter Heyward

Tuesday, August 29th
@Unitarian Universalist Church
Concord, NH

10am-4pm Seminar
6:30pm Lecture

REGISTRATION
COMING SOON

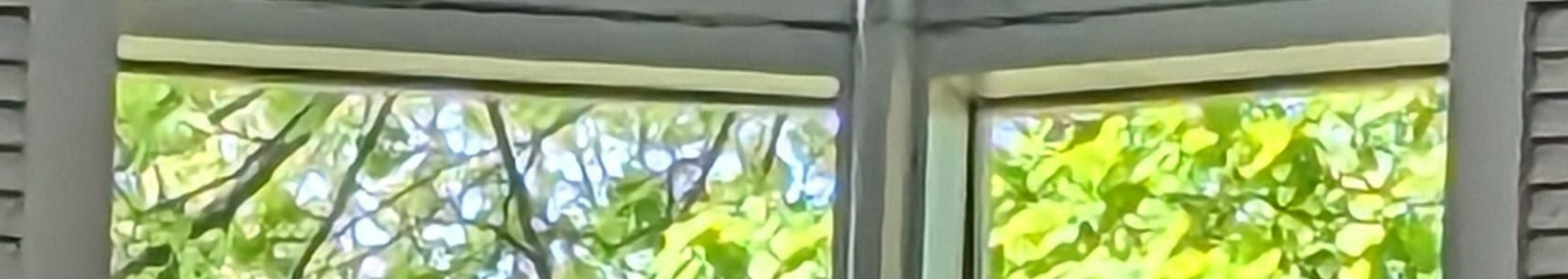
SPONSORED BY THE
New Hampshire Council of Churches
& NH Ministry Partners

A Free Daylong Seminar
& Evening Lecture

The 7 Deadly Sins of
**WHITE
CHRISTIAN
NATIONALISM**
A CALL TO ACTION

CARTER HEYWARD

Our Justice Notes section highlights activities in our congregation or the wider community that address diversity, equity, justice, or inclusion.



Building Maintenance Committee Update

SUBMITTED BY NANCY WOOD

We in the BMC wish to thank you all for supporting the capital budget and our accessibility projects. Phase one, improved access via the Emerson entrance, will be completed sometime in July. Chris Soule, Chris Graham and Franz Vail recently installed the window in the Emerson door. Electronic opening will follow. Phase two, the design for a ramp into the sanctuary, will start probably in August. Other current projects include replacing rotting boards on the storage garage and painting in the stairway to the basement.

We are always open to new members and volunteer labor. You don't have to commit and join the committee, just give us a hand with a particular project. For information, contact FranzVailEngineer@gmail.com or 603.520.9156.

Grounds Work Days

SUBMITTED BY FRAN PHILIPPE

To continue to be able to get our regular grounds work done, a Grounds Green Team will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, June 25, July 23 and August 27 beginning directly after the service. Keeping our sizable church grounds neat and clean needs a sizable effort. Please put these dates on your calendar as a reminder now.

Thank you in advance, and see you on June 25th for our first work day.



Parish Notes Deadline

Sept issue: August 20
Submit to parishnotes@concorduu.org by 2pm
on the day of the deadline.

Officers

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

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Vice-Chair | Craig Whitson
Secretary | Jim Schlosser
Sally Hirsh-Dickinson
Roger Ballou
Jim Curley

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Minister of Lifespan Faith Development
Rev. Lyn Marshall
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Office Administrator
Becky Bosse
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Accompanist | Calvin Herst
calvin@concorduu.org

Custodian | Agnes Sesay

Childcare Provider | CJ Martin



Church member Bobbie Herron sent this photo of the sketch she made during our June 4, 2023 Music Service.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Unitarian Universalists covenant
to affirm & promote

Respect *for the*
interdependent
web *of all*
existence
of which
we are a part.



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