

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

July/August 2026

LOVE



Our Shared Values

excerpted from www.uua.org

Unitarian Universalism draws from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. We covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. The values we share include all the following, which we hold as inseparable and deeply interconnected:

- Interdependence: We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.
- Pluralism: We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.
- Justice: We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.
- Transformation: We adapt to the changing world.
- Generosity: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
- Equity: We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.



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...and more

Summer Worship is at 10 am

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

No worship services on July 5 and 12.

7/19/2026 “In Love and at Play in the Water” Margaret Fletcher

Water connects all life. It provides a way to cleanse your soul and to celebrate life. In this service, we'll experience water as meditation, as story, as healing, and as a call to protect the drops, the clouds, our rivers, and our oceans.

7/26/2026 “Compassion as a Key Indicator of Spiritual Health” Aletheia Smith

Discussion of Matthew 9:9-9:13 in which Jesus, among other things, reminds the religious elite of his day of Hosea 6:6 – “I desire compassion not a sacrifice”. This will answer the question , “who is really sick in this story?” Plot twist, it’s not who most people think it is!

8/2/2026 “The Interwoven Journey: How Hospice Teaches Us to Live” Rev. Evelyn Eddy

Caring for someone we love who is dying is one of the hardest things we ever do. If we listen closely, with open hearts, we go forward living lives that are deeper and richer.

8/9/2026 “UU Action NH's View of Shared Knowledge and Social Action” Anne Grossi

As Rebecca Murray states: "Justice requires shared knowledge." Education and sharing what you learn is powerful. Shared knowledge is a tool that can connect people on social justice issues and help them decide on the actions to take in their community.

8/16/2026 “Uplifted by Mountains” Betsy Black

Through art, music and personal reflection, come visit the (White) Mountains. Perhaps an evocative memory or future fancy will strike you. We'll explore how the mountains invite us to visit, marvel, and carry their mystery and wisdom with us.

Betsy is an avid lifelong hiker, volunteer for the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Concord UU member.



PHOTO CREDIT: Information from the Website
'White Mountain Art & Artists' authored by
John J. Henderson, Roger E. Belson,
and Benjamin Clark.
Visit their Website at
www.whitemountainart.com

8/23/2026 “What Would Spirit Have Me Do?” Rev. Bevan C. Tulk

We live in a world overflowing with voices. The news, advertisements, political leanings, family expectations, personal ambitions, and social pressure all speaking at once. How do we live deep into our spiritual journey, growing and moving into a life of transformation? How can we begin, drawn toward awe and beauty, choosing simplicity and generosity, freely living a life, our authentic life, from our True Nature, filled with love and compassion? It can only start from where we are, not from our past or our future, just right here, right now.

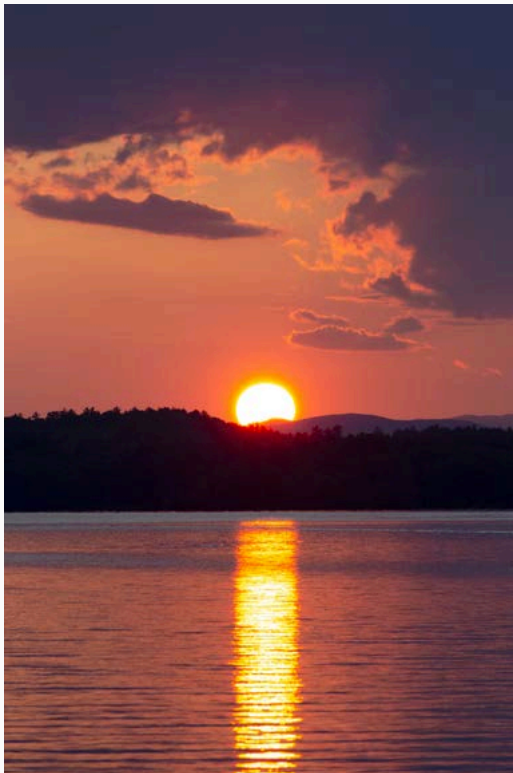
8/30/2026 “The Awkward Space” Jonathan and Beeler Lile-Sexton

The village metaphor is great. It gives a brilliant picture of a thriving community. But it often leaves folx out.

9/6/2026 “The Communities That Carry Us” Joe Cicirelli

Reflecting on how a young family's experience of unexpected (union) job loss (lockout during negotiations) revealed the power of family, friends, and community to sustain us through times of upheaval and change. Through stories of resilience and the power of labor solidarity, the service will explore how the values of mutual care, human dignity, and interdependence connect the labor movement with the values at the heart of Unitarian Universalism.

Most of our summer worship services are led by members of our congregation. Each is followed by an informal social time with cold drinks, often outside.



SUMMER FAMILY FUN

We hope you'll join us for a summer of fun, fellowship, service, and adventure!

Intergenerational Afternoon at Beech Hill Farm Wednesday, July 15 | 2 pm

Join the Senior Singles for an afternoon of ice cream and animal viewing at Beech Hill Farm. Families are invited to enjoy a sweet treat and spend time with members of our congregation.

Hike & Swim at Daisy Beach Saturday, July 18 | 2 pm

Meet at the Runnells Road Trailhead for a family hike followed by swimming at Daisy Beach. The official trailhead and parking area are located near 110 Runnells Road, Concord, NH (look for the trail kiosk). Follow the trail signs to the sandy beach.

Splashfest at Concord UU Sunday, July 26 at 11:45

Get ready to get wet! Join us for an afternoon of water-filled fun with Duck, Duck, Splash, water balloons, games, and more.

Splash & Play at White Park Sunday, August 2 | 12 pm

Check out the new playground at White Park, and bring your bathing suits and towels if you're up for the splash pad! (Concord residents can sign in up to four non-residents for the splash pad.)

Service Project After Worship Sunday, August 9 | 11:45 am

Help us organize donations from our toiletry drive for the Coalition to End Homelessness. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to serve our community together.

Please start collecting sunscreen, bug spray, cotton socks, travel-size deodorant, shampoo, body wash, and Band-Aids for warm-weather bags.

You may begin bringing items to the church on July 19. A donation box will be located by the coat rack.

Living Water Nature Program Sunday, August 30 11:45 am to 1:15pm

Join us for a special nature program led by Living Water. We will meet after the service at the Birch Street Community Gardens, just a three-minute drive from the UU. We will spend time catching and observing butterflies!

Registration and a program fee are required. Please email Kristen Curren by looking her up in Breeze or using office@concorduu.org to register. Payment is \$10 per child and may be made via Venmo to Kristen or with cash after registration.

Introducing our new Family Engagement Coordinator: Amelia Borgus

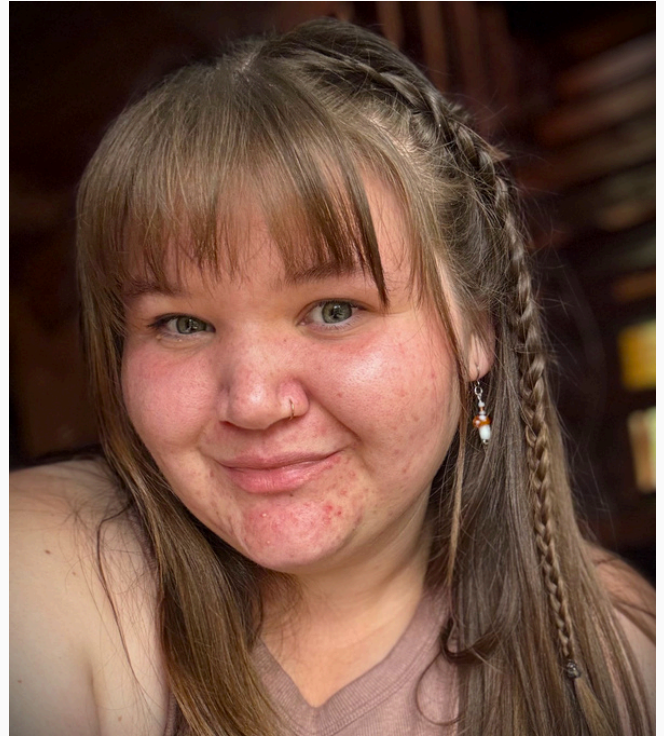
SUBMITTED BY
REV. MICHAEL LEUCHTENBERGER

I am excited to share with you that Amelia Borgus has accepted our offer to be our next Family Engagement Coordinator.

Amelia grew up deeply engaged in a church environment and has a degree in Childhood Education. She taught at a Jewish Day School in Rochester, NY and at the Exeter Job Corps Academy. She has been a public history performer since she was 14 including her current work as an actress with the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.

Amelia lives in Cambridge, MA, but will be relocating to NH as she begins her work with us. The plan is for her to start the week of August 25th.

I look forward to this new chapter in our congregational village and trust you will welcome Amelia with your customary kindness and curiosity.



Habla Espanol?

Spanish Conversations continue on the third Sundays at 11:30 after church service on July 19 and August 16. Please join us if you want to hear and speak Spanish. The July topic will be sports! Beginners are welcome.

--- Dania Jones, Nancy Wood, Susi Nord

UU the Vote!

The **Love in Action (LIA) Committee** is leading our congregation's engagement in **UU the Vote**, a Unitarian Universalist initiative focused on strengthening democracy, protecting voting rights, and advancing social justice.

UU the Vote brings together UU congregations nationwide to:

- Encourage civic participation and voter engagement
- Support fair and accessible voting practices
- Advocate for policies aligned with UU values of justice, equity, and inclusion

Through LIA, our church will offer a variety of ways to get involved this summer and fall, including:

- Sharing **important voting information**
- Hosting **education and discussion opportunities**
- Supporting **get-out-the-vote activities** ahead of the November election

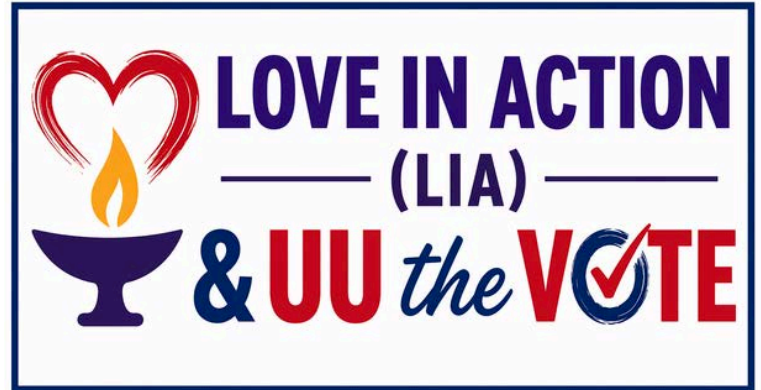
Special Worship Service – August 9

Join us for a service centered on **UU the Vote**, featuring a sermon from **Anne Grossi of UU Action NH**. Anne's message will connect our UU values with the importance of civic engagement and highlight meaningful ways we can take action together.

You'll also begin to see UU the Vote presence in our church through things like an information table and events—making it easy to learn, connect, and get involved.

This work reflects our commitment to living our values beyond our walls—showing up for democracy, for justice, and for one another.

Watch for upcoming announcements on how you can get involved.



Interdependence

Caring for the Interdependent Web: Ecological Land Management and Grounds Team Updates

Many thanks to those of you who filled out the Grounds interest survey insert in the May 31 Order of Service. If you did not fill out a survey and would like to be added to the list, please select your area(s) of interest and let Becky in the church office know which number(s) are of interest to you.

1. Garden & Landscape Maintenance
2. Lawn Maintenance
3. Equipment & Tools Maintenance
4. Irrigation
5. Hardscape Upkeep (stonewalls, pavement, signage)
6. Volunteer Management

For the summer, the following is our Grounds/ELM Work Schedule. There is lots to be done and we really appreciate your help!

Wednesdays:

- July 1, 8-10 AM *** join us at the end of this work session for a walk in the woods behind the church with Matthias Nevins, the forester working on the Grounds & Forest Visionary Plan.***
- August 5, 8-10 AM
- September 9, 8-10 AM
- October 7, 9-11 AM *Note later start time

4th Sundays through August (prior to the church service to avoid intense heat and sun):

- June 28, 8:30-10 AM
- July 26, 8:30-10 AM
- August 23, 8:30- 10 AM *** we will evaluate date and time for Sept and Oct Sunday work days after the August 23 work day - share your input and stay tuned.*

We appreciate your help to make the grounds look lovely and the land we steward more ecologically healthy and biodiverse.

Contact any of us with questions, concerns or ideas:

Laurel Horne, Andy Duncan, Dana Sansom, Fran Philippe, Nancy Wood

Interdependence

Pollinator Festival!

SUBMITTED BY LAUREL HORNE

Saturday, August 1, 10 AM -12:30 PM
(rain date Sun Aug 2)

Join us for a fun, free, family-friendly celebration of native plants and pollinators!

Rollins Park, 33 Bow St, Concord.

Parade at 11 AM! Wear a pollinator costume, and/or make a sign to hold.

Learn about native plants and pollinators from friendly experts and collect ideas on how to support pollinators in your yard and community.

Fun activities for children including bubbles, pollinator and nature crafts!

If you'd like to help out the day of or be involved in planning the Festival, please contact Laurel Horne (Breeze or church office).

This is not a church-sponsored event, but our church's Ecological Land Management group will have a table about invasive species at the Festival.



Interdependence

St Paul's School Students help out at Concord UU

SUBMITTED BY FRAN PHILIPPE

Many thanks to the St Paul's seniors who came to help with grounds projects once again, to complete their community service obligation for graduation. They were amazing!! What they accomplished in 2.5 hours:

- weeded, and pulled up pine tree seedlings from under the solar panels - all done in 25 minutes!!! The photo at right is them saying "ta dah!"
- weeded the shrubs in front of the solar panels
- in the Memorial Garden, cleaned up branches, cleaned the paths and around the columbarium.
- cut back the oak "bushes" on the left bank along the parking lot
- cut back the growth around the garage
- filled the pew information folders for Lea

Thanks, also, to Bob Lyon for helping to supervise them.



Lots Happening with the Senior Singles Group!

The UU Senior Singles Group (SSG) is a fun-loving group of single UUs aged 55+ who enjoy sharing interests, a wide variety of activities, and good company. If you are looking for a group of interesting, fun companions, check out SSG!

There are unique needs that are a part of being older and single. Our intention is to build a network of connection that helps to support well being as we age. We offer many ways to stay active, socially, physically, and mentally. Members are an active part of planning and organizing all that we do. Sometimes people ask if we are a dating group, and the answer is no.

If you would like more information contact Becky at the UU office (becky@concorduu.org). She will then connect you with one of our members to chat about our group and answer any questions you may have.

Once you are a member you will receive the SSG Bi-Weekly Update on the first and third Sundays of each month. Here you will find information about our weekly Stay Active Wednesday activities (a new activity each week), as well as reminders of the monthly reoccurring meetings.

SSG JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR

Stay Active Wednesdays, every Wednesday 4 times a month

When: July 1, 8, 15, 22. August 5, 12, 19, 26. Final activity selection for July will be set at the June 28th Monthly Meeting and sent out in the Bi-Weekly Update. New ideas are always welcome!

Fifth Wednesdays occur in some months. These are “free” activity days when members can connect with each other and arrange activities.

SSG Monthly Social Hour

2nd Friday each month at 1:30

When: July 10 and August 14, 1:30

Where: TBA in SSG Bi-Weekly Update

SSG Monthly Meeting

4th Sunday every month at 1:30

When: July 26 and August 23 at 1:30

Where: TBA in SSG Bi-Weekly Update
DOOR PRIZE EVERY TIME!



Pluralism

Financial Evaluation Report Available

SUBMITTED BY SUSI NORD,
BOARD CHAIR

At the Annual Meeting, there was interest in reading the final report from the Inter-congregational Financial Evaluation that was conducted over the current church year. We are happy to share it for your review upon request. We found the comments from our friends in Burlington to be helpful and we have implemented some of their suggestions already. There are a few we decided not to move forward on, and Lea and the operations team are working on several others. Please feel free to direct any requests or questions to Susi Nord, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees Highlights from June meeting

SUBMITTED BY ANNE MEYERS

- We discussed the annual meeting, considered the feedback received, and are excited about the path forward.
- We acknowledge with gratitude the work of the outgoing chair Craig Whitson, and Board member Jim Curley.
- We elected new board officers and planned the fall Board retreat.

Governance Resources

At www.concorduu.org/about-us/governance you can find:

- Church bylaws
- Governance Policies
- Board Minutes (after they have been approved the following month)

Annual Meeting Summary

The Annual Meeting was held on June 7, 2026. The draft minutes are available by request to Lea Smith, lea@concorduu.org. Below is a summary of the motions that passed.

ARTICLE 1 To receive a Board of Trustees presentation with no vote to be taken. Craig Whitson shared a "State of the Mission" address. Craig paid tribute to Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger by presenting him with the Widening the Circle Award. He thanked him for his visionary ministry and 16 years of service.

ARTICLE 2 To receive and accept the minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 3 To adopt an operating budget for 2026-27. The proposed budget with a bottom line of \$586,844 passed.

ARTICLE 4 To adopt a capital budget for 2026-27. The proposed capital budget of \$36,300 included three projects: repair to west door hardware; roof repairs; and air conditioning for the Kent/Thomas Room and Library. A motion passed to change the capital budget proposal from "A/C for Kent/Thomas Room and Library" to "A/C for most appropriate rooms." With this amendment, the proposed capital budget of \$36,300 passed.

ARTICLE 5: To amend Articles V and VI of the Bylaws. After much discussion, the motion passed by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

ARTICLE 6: To amend Article VIII Section 2 of the Bylaws. After much discussion, the motion passed by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

ARTICLE 7: To receive and accept the Slate of Candidates. This slate was elected:

- Board Members (four year term): Anne Meyers (re-elect for two years); Beeler Lile-Sexton; Steve Elger; Anna Morrison
- Custodian of Investments (one year term): Jack Wakelin (re-elect)
- Financial Secretaries (one year term): Lorraine Ellis (re-elect) and Ann West (re-elect)
- Moderator (one year term): John Tobin
- Clerk (one year term): Ann Hoey (re-elect)
- Member of Investment Committee (four year term): Alice DonnaSelva (re-elect)

ARTICLE 8: To receive and accept the Annual Reports published in the Annual Meeting Prep Packet. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 9 To act upon such additional business as may appropriately be brought before the meeting. There was a motion to transfer \$6,316 from the Audit Fund into the Operating Reserve Fund. The motion passed.



equity

Blue Moon Music House a home for diverse music and art Tuesday July 14 at 7pm

Join us for Campfire Songs and Stories, hopefully outside. We will be taking August off this Summer and see you back in September.

This is a welcoming and supportive community so try a new tune, a new instrument, or a new song or poem you are working on.

Laughter Yoga

The laughter never stops, but it does have a day off from time to time! I will mostly be around this summer and would love to continue group Laughter Yoga. I am asking that anyone interested in therapeutic laughing to send me an email so I can compile a list of laughers. We can then coordinate amongst ourselves on dates and places. We could even meet outside somewhere! That is how Laughter Yoga started: people gathering in a park and laughing with the founder Dr Madan Kataria. I've even done Laughter Yoga in a pool! I will then post this information on the UU Concord Connects Facebook page to let others know. HA HA HA! No joke!

– Betsy K (Grandma Ha Ha)

(look Betsy up in Breeze or email office@concorduu.org for her contact info.)

2026 UU Softball Schedule

	Visitor	Home	Field
6/22/2026	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Unitarian Universalist	NH State Hospital
6/29/2026	Unitarian Universalist	St Paul's Episcopal	NH State Hospital
7/6/2026	Unitarian Universalist	Grace Capital	NH State Hospital
7/13/2026	Concordia Lutheran	Unitarian Universalist	NH State Hospital
7/20/2026	CenterPoint Church	Unitarian Universalist	NH State Hospital
7/27/2026	Boscawen Congregational	Unitarian Universalist	NH State Hospital
8/3/2026	Unitarian Universalist	Hope Church of Henniker	NH State Hospital
8/10/2026	Unitarian Universalist	Countryside Community	Maple Street School
8/17/2026	Unitarian Universalist	Concordia Lutheran	NH State Hospital
8/24/2026	St. Paul's Episcopal	Unitarian Universalist	NH State Hospital



Generosity

Some of our programs are on hiatus for the summer. Our regular church year resumes on September 13 with our Water Communion and Fall Picnic.

Summer Break June 29 to July 12

There will be no worship services on July 5 and 12. The church office will be closed from June 29 to July 12.



Please finish up your pledge payments!

Your timely pledge fulfillment will help us end the year with a balanced budget!

You can make an online payment at concorduu.org/make-a-pledge-payment or mail a check to be received by July 26. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Generosity

July Events

Office is Closed until July 12

July 1 Wed ELM Grounds Work Day @ 8am

July 2 Thu Poetic Eddas Reading Group - ECSG @ 6pm

July 3 Fri Games & Chocolates @ 6:30pm

July 14 Tue Blue Moon Music House @ 7pm

Dark/New Moon - Earth Centered Spirituality Group (ECSG) @ 7pm

July 15 Wed Summer Fun for Families with the Senior Singles Group at Beech Hill Farm @ 2pm

July 18 Sat Summer Fun for Families - Hike & Swim at Daisy Beach @ 2pm

July 19 - August 9 Toiletry Drive for Concord Coalition to End Homelessness

July 26 Sun ELM Grounds Work Day @ 8:30am

Summer Fun for Families - Splashfest at UU @ 11:45am

August Events

Aug 1 Sat Lughnasagh - ECSG @ 3pm

Aug 2 Sun Summer Fun for Families - Splash & Play at White Park @ 12pm

Aug 5 Wed ELM Grounds Work Day @ 8am

Aug 7 Fri Games & Chocolates @ 6:30pm

Aug 8 Sat Pancakes, Play & Planting Peace @ 9am

Aug 9 Sun UU Action NH Service @ 10am

Summer Fun for Families

Service Project After Worship @ 11:45am

Aug 23 Sun ELM Grounds Work Day @ 8:30am

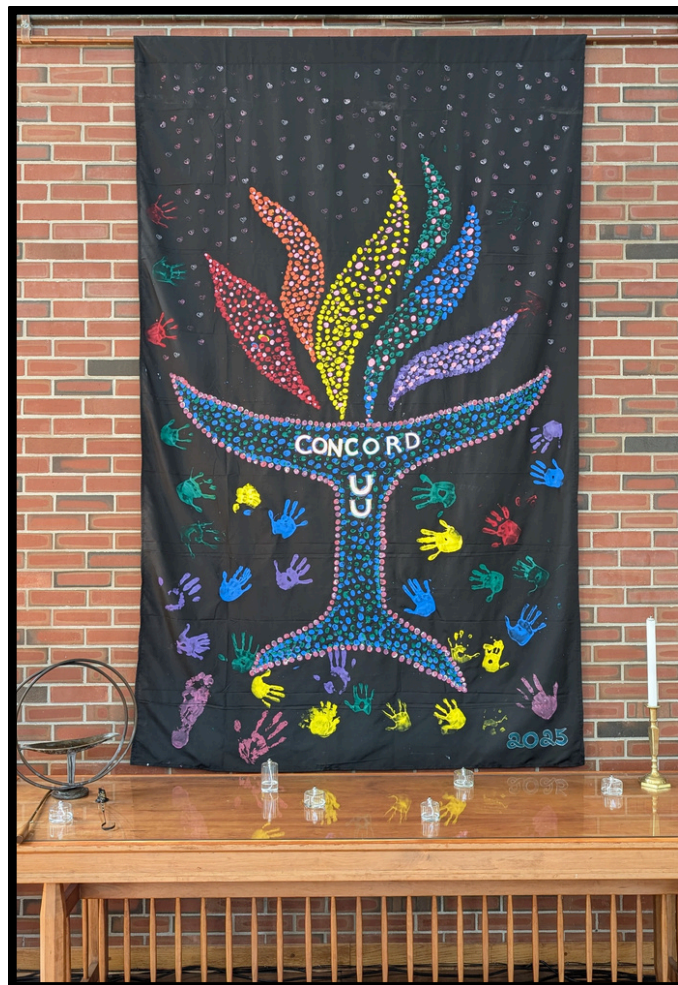
Aug 30 Sun Summer Fun for Families - Living Water Nature Program at the Birch Street Community Gardens @ 11:45am

Colored, bold items may be of special interest to families with kids!

Senior Singles: Check out the events on page 16.

See our our online calendar at

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



LOVE

Do you know someone who loves working and playing with kids?

We are accepting applications for a **Sunday Morning Childcare Assistant**.
\$13 per hour for two to three hours every Sunday morning, starting in September.
Additional hours may be offered for special events.

To apply, please send to Lea Smith, lea@concorduu.org:

- a letter of interest describing your childcare experience
- names and phone numbers for two non-family references who can speak to your suitability for this position





LOVE

Parish Notes Deadline

Sept issue: August 16
Submit to parishnotes@concorduu.org by 2pm
on the day of the deadline.

Officers

Custodian of Investments | Jack Wakelin
Financial Secretaries | Lorraine Ellis, Ann West
Moderator | John Tobin
Clerk | Ann Hoey

Board of Trustees

Chair | Susi Nord
Vice-Chair | Arthoen Wolf
Secretary | Beeler Lile-Sexton
Bank Signatory | Stephen Elgert
Larry Davis
Anna Morrison
Anne Meyers

Staff

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

Dir. of Finance & Operations
Lea Smith
603-224-0291 ext 3#
lea@concorduu.org

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

Music Ministry Coordinator
Heather Maconaghy heather@concorduu.org

Young Explorers Guide/Summer Services Host
Amir Robertson

Childcare Providers
Bayshay Bruss & Riley Carr

Facility Manager/Custodian
Joe Bonavita

A/V Assistant | Gavin Robichaud

We do not publish the personal contact information of our church leaders in this newsletter to protect them from scammers. You may look them up in our printed directory or in the Breeze electronic directory. You may also email office@concorduu.org and your message will be forwarded to the correct person. If you are a Member or Friend who would like a Breeze account, email breeze@concorduu.org.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

