

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the
Unitarian
Universalist
Church
of Concord



JUNE 2025

In this issue...

Spring Picnic
PAGE 03

Kids & Families
PAGES 04-05

Lunch from Venezuela
PAGE 06

Contemplative Practice Group
Potluck & Meeting
PAGE 07

Circle of Life: Pat Dahme
PAGE 08

Ecological Land Management
PAGE 09

...and more!

Why My Heart Is Here

BY BETSY KENNEDY

Sincerity.

Let me explain. When I got my first job out of grad school, it was through an agency. My work was spread out over several towns. I rarely went to the main office, but every paycheck had the boss's signature and a sticky note saying "Thanks for your great work". I had no doubt that she had little real knowledge of what I did, but I loved my work, so laughed at her comment.

I help out where and when I can at UU of Concord. I don't feel pressured. Sincerely. When someone sends me an email, a text, or tells me in person that they appreciate what I did, I believe them. When you know someone is being sincere, it really means something.

One event for which I have often helped is the Tuesday evening Welcome Table. Rev Leuchtenberger sincerely opens the doors to all, with no need to call ahead or sign up, to sit down and have a vegan dinner made by him, with the sincere understanding that you are under no obligation to help and you can leave when you need to. Sincerely. I particularly love the story telling. A question is presented and the microphone is passed around. There is no expectation to say anything if you don't want to, but the set up makes it so when/if you talk, everyone listens. Sincerely. You are heard.

When I am in an environment based in sincerity, I feel safe. I feel unafraid to be me (especially at the great dances!) I feel grateful. I make mistakes, but everyone else accepts that I am human, so we work it out. Why can't the rest of the world be like this?

It's not a game. It's living life more fully. Sincerely.





Sunday Worship is at 10 am

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

6/1/2025 "Hope Lingers On - A Music Sunday" Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

Music Sunday will trace the musical journey of our choir this year, acknowledging the emotional ups and downs we have experienced as a community, singing about the centrality of love as we follow the way of the heart, embracing faith and hope as life calls us on.

6/8/2025 "Flower Communion Sunday: Now I Walk in Beauty"

Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

As we celebrate our annual Flower Communion service, may we remember the Navajo prayer that there is beauty before us, behind us, above us, and below us - provided we choose to notice. Please bring a flower if you can - though we'll have plenty of extras. The sermon will be the story of the remarkable contributions of our 2025 volunteer awards recipients. Right after the service, we will take our annual All-Church Photo, followed by our Spring Picnic!



6/15/2025 "You Are Here" Rick Mitchell

The teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh

6/22/2025 "Revisiting Siddhartha" Barbara Keshen

In my freshman year in college, reading Siddhartha was a transformative experience. I reread it this year, 58 years later. How did it hold up? What did I learn about my 18 year-old-self? What did I learn about my present 76-year-old self? How does this relate to being UU?

6/29/2025 "Meet the Moment" Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk, UUA General Assembly Service (Recording from June 22, 2025)

Embrace the electrifying spirit of the year's largest UU gathering, where we come together in unity for an awe-inspiring Sunday worship celebration like no other! It's a vibrant, communal worship experience that promises to uplift your soul and ignite your passion. Don't miss out on this extraordinary gathering of hearts and minds!



Gather in Thanks at Concord UU's Spring Picnic!

SUBMITTED BY RENEE WEST, PICNIC COORDINATOR

June 8th is our last service of the official church year, and as we gather in spirit during the service, let us also gather in good cheer afterwards at our Family Potluck Picnic. That “potluck” means that we need your super sides and delicious desserts to go along with the grilled goodies (including vegan options) and fixings. The “family” part means that it’s fun for all ages, and fun activities for the kiddos are planned! Suggested donations are \$6-9 per adult with children eating free.

In addition to your presence and your offerings, we also need your help in setting up and cleaning up. Please let us know you’re coming and how you can help by filling out this form: uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/picnic. If you have any questions, please email me either by finding my contact details in Breeze or emailing office@concorduu.org.

See you there!

Making our Picnic Accessible for All

To help people of all abilities and ages enjoy the picnic, we're offering these options:

- Indoor seating for those who want to avoid the sun or prefer not to navigate the yard outside
- Encouragement to cut in line if standing too long is hard for anyone (if you're in line and see someone who might benefit from taking cuts, please invite them to do so!)



TO ENSURE AMPLE FOOD FOR ALL, BRING A BIG SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE!



Summer Passport Program | June, July, and August

Children and Families are invited to join together this summer in a series of events and activities that will inspire community, intergenerational connection, and UU fun and learning. Kids and adults will collect stamps for each event they attend and activity completed. At the end of the summer we will count up your total stamps, and the person with the most stamps collected gets celebrated as our Top UU Summer Traveler with their name and picture displayed inside the church!!

Some June events to look out for include: The all Church Spring Picnic on June 8th, Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace on June 14th, The 2nd Session of Summer Smoothies on June 15th, and a Family Meetup for a Summer Solstice Party (more details to come)!

You can pick up your Passport anytime this summer from the Armenia White Room. Contact Dory for more information, dory@concorduu.org.

Scenes from our Village Camp-In on May 30!





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

For the fall, we'd like to bring in three new staff people for our Sunday morning children's programs:

- Young Explorer Guide, 5 hours per week to collaborate with Dory to plan and implement the program for 5-13 year olds
- Two Children's Program Assistants, 2 to 3 hours on Sunday mornings, to work in the Rainbow Room nursery or with the Young Explorer group, as needed

For more information, reach out to our Family Engagement Coordinator, Dory LeCount, dory@concorduu.org.



Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace

Saturday, June 14 | 9am to 11am

The fun is continuing through the Summer!

Bring your children or grandchildren and join us on the 2nd Saturday of each month as we come together for a pancake breakfast and a service project for our community. In June, we will be putting together "UU goodie bags" with trinkets to help us bring church into our homes and communities. We will explore the opportunities for connection over the summer and make a plan to stay connected and support our church year round! We look forward to serving, eating, and playing with you!

Summer Smoothies

Sunday, June 15 | 10:15 to 11:30 am

Children 5-13 are invited to explore different religions and cultures while making and tasting smoothie flavors from around the world. In June's session we are traveling to Tonga and Egypt to learn about the religions of the people in these countries and taste the flavors of the culture. This is the 2nd session in a 4 month series occurring each month on the 3rd Sunday this summer. Bring your Passports!



The Future of the Pews in Storage

After listening to the congregation, the Operations Leadership Team recognizes that the four pews currently stored in Fellowship Hall and the Chapel, cannot remain in those locations. Anyone interested in figuring out where they could be stored or used instead, please develop a workable plan and share with the church office (office@concorduu.org.) The deadline for relocation or repurposing of the pews is August 31, 2025.

Thank you to UU Friends of Refugees Circle 17

Circle 17 has been working with Maria, Argenis and their two girls since they arrived in the US on January 16. They hosted a special Community Luncheon on May 18. Maria and Argenis led a kitchen crew in preparing delicious Venezuelan arepas, grilled patties of corn dough which were filled with meat or beans.





UU Contemplative Practices Program

End-of-Year Meeting and Potluck

This is an invitation to join the Contemplative Practice Group (CPG) of Concord UU church for our end-of-year wrap up, planning meeting, and general celebration. We'll be meeting at the church at 6 pm on Tuesday, June 10 and will start with a pot luck dinner and then move into a meeting. All are welcome—those who have been part of the planning and offering of this year's programs, those who have participated in an event, and anyone who is curious and interested in getting involved.

Here's what's on the Agenda:

- Potluck dinner at 6 pm. Please be advised, the kitchen may not be available but we will have plug-ins in Fellowship Hall for crockpots, etc.
- Review of the programs we've offered this past year: check-ins from coordinators of various activities
- Planning programs for next year, including one-day retreat next fall, longer retreat/Spirit Week in April 2026, Second Hour programs and/or series
- Brainstorming about anything new and/or different we'd like to do in the 2025-2026 church year

The CPG prides itself on only having 2 meetings a year: the spring wrap-up and planning meeting, and a fall gathering, so please don't miss this opportunity to gather, to connect, to bring your observations, suggestions and questions. If you have any questions now or anything you'd like to add to the agenda, just reply to Sharon Arey (you can find her in Breeze, or email office@concorduu.org and your message will be forwarded.) RSVPs appreciated so we can make sure to meet in a space that will accommodate all who wish to join in.

Bring your ideas, suggestions, talents you are willing to share and join us for great food and fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on June 10th!



Circle of Life: Pat Dahme

With sadness we share that our beloved congregant Pat Dahme passed away on May 26, 2025 in the presence of her husband Brian (Kugel) and daughter Kelley, with son Phil nearby. She joined the church in 1991 and, among other things, was active in our choir.

A Community Grief Circle will be held on Thursday, June 5 at 6 pm in our sanctuary. This is a time for us to be together, grieve together, and share stories as we acknowledge this loss to our faith community. Anyone from outside our Concord UU family is welcome to join as well.

A Memorial Service is being planned for Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 2 pm in our sanctuary, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall. The choir will be singing. Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger will officiate.

New Stove is Coming!

A brand new, energy efficient, and much safer stove and ovens are coming! Installation will begin on June 9. To build in a buffer for any delays, please plan on the kitchen being unavailable from June 9 to 30.

If you made a pledge or matching gift for the stove, we would be grateful to receive your donation soon. You can pay online at concorduu.org/targeted-appeal/ or mail a check with "Capital Reserve Fund" in the memo line. Thank you to all who have made this happen, including the Stove Team, the donors, and especially to Bob Gabrielli as project manager.

ELM Workdays

We'd love your help at one or both of the scheduled Ecological Land Management (ELM) work days in June. There are jobs for all abilities such as removing invasive plants, labeling plants, moving wood chips. Learn while you work!

Come for a bit or stay the entire time.

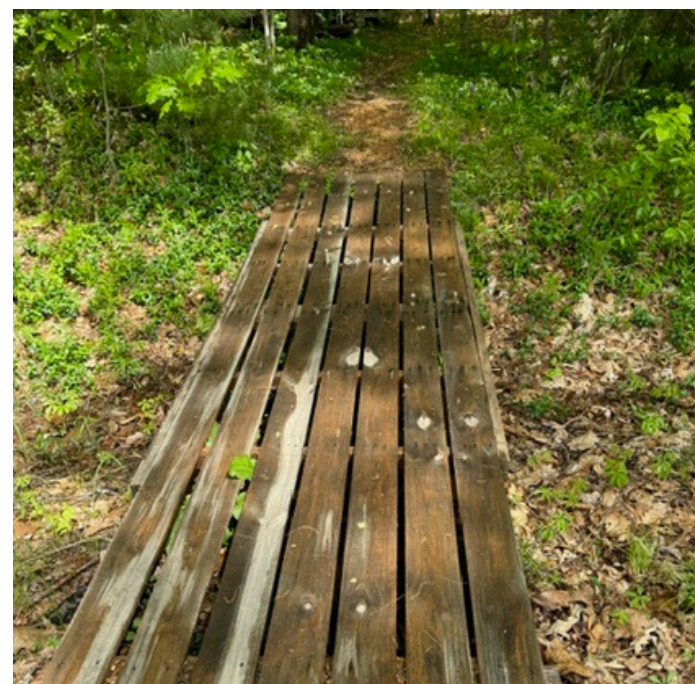
- 2nd Thursday 10am to noon (may start earlier if it's hot).
- 4th Sunday June 22, 11:45

To sign up for the ELM email list, contact Laurel Horne (look her up in Breeze or through office@concorduu.org.)

Compost Kudos!

The Ecological Land Management (ELM) group is trialing a system for the UU kitchen compostables. So far so good! We plan to eventually use the finished compost on site as a soil amendment. Thanks to those who have signed up to haul the bucket to and from the kitchen and clean it out: Rob Blakeney, Bob Holleman, Fran Philippe, Nancy Wills, Nancy Wood. Please let Laurel or Dana know if you'd like to help with this once/week task; we are happy to provide you with training. Thanks to Dana for donating a new compost bin and to Andy for turning the compost. Thanks to Dana, Laurel, and Nancy Wood for preparing the bin site. Many thanks to Jeff Abbe for building and reinforcing the bridge for site access and repairing bin holes with hardware cloth.

For families who may be interested in feeding their home food waste scraps to pigs and other farm animals, contact James Meinecke at Lewis Farm in Concord; a thorough list of accepted items is on their website.





Blue Moon Music House: a home for diverse music and art

There will be no coffeehouse in June. Check out our webpage in mid June for the July theme and to sign up. See you in July!
concorduu.org/blue-moon

June Special Events

- June 1 Sun | Music Sunday
Annual Meeting @ 11:30 am
- June 8 Sun | Flower Communion Service @ 10 am
Spring Picnic @ 11:15 am
- June 10 Tue | Contemplative Practice Group Annual Potluck and Meeting @ 6 pm
Art & Magic: Full Moon Mandalas (Earth Centered Spirituality Group) @ 7 pm
- June 12 Thu | ELM Grounds Work Day @ 10 am
- June 15 Sun | Beginning of Summer Services
Summer Smoothies Session 2 (5-12yr olds) @ 10 am
- June 18-22 Wed-Sun | General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (Baltimore)
- June 22 Sun | ELM Grounds Work Day @ 11:45 am
Earth Centered Spirituality Group Midsummer/Litha Ritual @ 3pm in the Grove
- June 28 Sat | Poetic Edda Reading Group (Earth Centered Spirituality Group) @ 1pm
- June 30-July 13 | Office Closed for Vacation

Many of our recurring events go on hiatus for the summer. Check the website calendar at www.concorduu.org/calendar for the latest schedules.



Church “Closed” June 30 to July 13

As we did last summer, we will be “closed” for two weeks in July. There will be no worship services on July 6 and 13. The office will be closed from June 30 to July 13.

Church groups may still meet during this period (if you have a keycard) but you won't be able to schedule any new events while we are closed, so please plan ahead. Thank you for your patience during this two-week closure that will allow the staff some needed R&R.



Staff

Senior Minister & Choir Director
Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger
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Dir. of Membership & Administration
Lea Smith
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Becky Bosse
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Family Engagement Coordinator
Dory LeCount | dory@concorduu.org

Accompanist | Heather Maconaghy
heather@concorduu.org

Sexton | Russell Perseveres

Custodian | Agnes Sesay

Childcare Providers | Bayshay Bruss & Maria Ruelas

Audiovisual Assistant | Gavin Robichaud

Parish Notes Deadline

July/August issue: June 22
Submit to parishnotes@concorduu.org by 2pm
on the day of the deadline.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

