

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

MARCH 2026

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Minister's Musings: Our Sanctuary as a Living Space

BY REV. MICHAEL LEUCHTENBERGER

Our sanctuary is the heart of our congregation. It is where we gather on Sunday mornings to sing, reflect, mourn, celebrate, and remind one another of who we are and of the values that inspire the way we live our lives. It holds our joys and our sorrows with equal grace. And for most of the week, it sits quietly.

What if this sacred space could do more?

What if we imagine the sanctuary as a multi-use space, no less sacred, yet more alive, more adaptable to the evolving aspirations of our times? Here are some of the ideas I have heard discussed:

- Host the Coffee House open mic in the sanctuary with small tables up front, comfortable seating all around, and candles to enhance the atmosphere, taking advantage of the sound system and lighting options we have in place.
- Have a space that accommodates worship and other gatherings that benefit from a circular formation, such as earth centered spirituality rituals, dances, and youth group worship and games.
- Adjust the setup in ways that might appeal to young adults and others not currently drawn to the sanctuary. Invite people to drink coffee or have nibbles, seated at tables, perhaps even a couch or two.
- Open space to practice yoga, meditation, ecstatic dance, or walk the labyrinth.
- Meet for Taize services by singing and sitting in concentric circles with candles in the center.

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Sunday Worship is at 10 am

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

3/1/2026 “The Attention Economy” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

We live in an attention economy - a system designed not simply to inform us, but to capture us. Algorithms compete for our focus. Notifications interrupt our thoughts. Outrage and anxiety are rewarded because they keep us engaged. None of that is accidental. The emotional and spiritual costs are real. When attention is trained primarily on what is loud, alarming, or divisive, it quietly reshapes our inner world. The question before us is not whether we will be influenced - but who or what we will allow to shape us.

3/8/2026 “A Village Centered in Love” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

A village teaches its values through what it pays attention to. In a congregation centered in love, we pay attention to how we are with one another, not just what we believe. We notice: Who is speaking - and who is not. Who is new - and who might feel invisible. Who is carrying grief quietly. Who keeps showing up, even when it's hard. We pay attention not to keep score, but to keep connection alive. Love-centered villages are not perfect. They are attentive. They slow down enough to repair harm, to clarify intention, to choose curiosity over assumption. Because what we overlook quietly erodes trust - but what we tend with care becomes resilient.

3/15/2026 “Stop Lookin' at Your Phone” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

Our phones are remarkable tools. They connect us across distance, offer information in seconds, and carry voices we love. And still - there is a quiet cost to carrying the world in our pockets. Individually, something surprising happens when the constant pull of the phone loosens. Communally, the transformation is even more profound. Let's talk about it. Let's experience it. Leave your phones at home or check your device at the door - youth group style. Instead bring your 'change jars' to support our youth heading to Alabama. Closest guess of total change collected wins a prize!

3/22/2026 “It Takes a Village” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

What do we mean when we say “it takes a village...”? What do we picture when we imagine the kind of village we want to be a part of? And what is still missing from such a village here in our own UU village community? Today's service kicks off a series of reflections on our April theme of “Creating a Village / Embracing Possibilities.” Come to dream. Come to be challenged.

3/29/2026 “The Wolf You Feed” Rev. Jim Curley

Which wolf are you feeding? Inside each of us are forces of fear and forces of love - and what we pay attention to grows stronger. In a world designed to capture and monetize our focus, our attention is not neutral; it is spiritual power. Social media and world affairs can capture our hearts and minds. We become what we consistently notice, rehearse, search for, and nurture. We'll explore how paying attention feeds our wolves and thus shapes our hearts, our community and village, and our capacity to live with love at the center.



Our Sanctuary as a Living Space

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Have available a second large space to use when Fellowship Hall is busy with other activities such as Family Promise, WindowDresser Builds, the Yard Sale, Family Covenant Group, The Welcome Table, etc.
- Install air-conditioning (the ducts are in place already) so we have a sizable hall that's comfortable to use or rent in the summer.
- Welcome musical and theatrical events that take advantage of the sanctuary's fabulous acoustics, the available technology, and its great ambience.
- Create flexible seating for community grief circles, choir rehearsals, or the drum circle.
- Be a gathering place for social justice rallies or other outreach activities.

Multi-use does not mean losing reverence. It means extending it.

A well-used sanctuary is a space where our commitments to inclusion, generosity, learning, justice, and joy are visible not only in words, but in the physical environment that welcomes all of us.

So how can you imagine our sanctuary to be even more alive, more relevant, more multi-purpose? What would need to change? Come join me and the Operations Leadership Team for our "Sanctuary as a Living Space" conversation on Sunday, March 22nd after the service.

With curiosity and affection,

Michael





A Village with Love at the Center

A Stewardship Reflection

In the beloved television neighborhood of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, Fred Rogers often reminded us that what makes a neighborhood special is not the buildings, the sidewalks, or even the trolley—it is the people. It is the way we care for one another.

As Unitarian Universalists, we might say something similar: what makes a congregation thrive is not simply the roof over our heads, the programs on the calendar, or the inspirational worship services. It is that we are building a village with love at the center.

Our living tradition affirms eight guiding values — love being the power that holds them all together. Love calls us into:

- Interdependence – recognizing that we belong to one another and to the web of life.
- Pluralism – honoring the many voices, cultures, and faith paths that enrich our village.
- Justice – building systems that are fair and compassionate.
- Transformation – staying open to growth, even when it stretches us.
- Generosity – giving freely of our time, talents, and resources.
- Equity – ensuring that every person has what they need to flourish.
- Accountability – caring for our commitments and for one another.
- Love – the spiritual force that animates all the others.

When we pledge our funds to our congregation, we are not simply paying bills. We are sustaining and growing a village.

Your pledge helps:

- Keep our doors open as a sanctuary of welcome.
- Support worship that nurtures the spirit and challenges the mind.
- Fund religious exploration for children and youth so they grow up knowing they are cherished and capable.
- Sustain justice work that reaches beyond our walls into the wider community.
- Provide pastoral care when life is fragile or overwhelming.
- Offer competitive compensation for our staff.

Stewardship is not fundraising — it is love made visible.



A Village with Love at the Center

(continued from previous page)

In a world that often centers profit, fear, or division, we are choosing something different. We are choosing to center love. And centering love requires intention, commitment, and shared responsibility.

A village does not thrive by accident. It thrives because its people show up—for potlucks and protests, for choir rehearsals and committee meetings, for memorial services and child dedications, for grounds work and building maintenance, for auctions and dances, for yoga and community lunches, for Taizé and drum circles, for weekly worship and even bouncy-house events.

It thrives because its people invest not only their hearts, but also their resources.

Each pledge — large or small — is a declaration:

- **This village matters.**
- **Love matters.**
- **We belong to one another.**

As you consider your pledge this year, we invite you to reflect prayerfully and thoughtfully. What does it mean to you to be part of a faith community where love is not sentimental, but courageous? Not abstract, but embodied?

What would it mean to give in a way that reflects your gratitude for this growing village and your hope for its future?

Together, we are not just sustaining a congregation. We are building something countercultural and sacred: a village with love at the center.

Thank you for the many ways you already give—your presence, your compassion, your commitment—and for the financial support that makes our shared ministry possible.

With gratitude and love,

Your Stewardship Team:

**Jim Curley, Lorraine Ellis, Mary Ober,
Lea Smith, Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**



Growing Music Ministry



BY HEATHER MACONAGHY
MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR

I am excited to be expanding my scope in music ministry at Concord UU with this new role, Music Ministry Coordinator! Continuing with my same musical contributions as ever, the plan going forward is also to layer in ever more musical collaboration from fellow congregants.

Our aim in this is that we will be able to see and experience a wide diversity of voices in our shared worship.

That diversity, and our shared music-making, must begin with relationships.

Many people are so kind to approach me after a service and comment on how the music speaks to them. Thank you, deeply and warmly, for your encouragement, those interactions are the fuel for the engine; and keep 'em coming!

...here comes my 'ask'...

When we speak:

- Can you please make sure I know your name? There is one of me and about 200 of you... there's some likelihood that even if we speak regularly I still have not connected your face to your name!
- Also, please, include something about your musical experience in our conversation. What about your experience of music in a liturgical setting? Music is so universal, I would make the case that we are all musicians of a sort in our way...
 - Might something you enjoy listening to connect with our shared worship experience, and I don't know about it from my experience yet?
 - Do you sing or play an instrument?
 - Are you interested in expanding your ability or experience in music, with the aim of one day contributing to our shared worship on Sunday morning?
 - Why aren't you in choir yet? <wink>

You can expect that if you bring something my way, you may see it mirrored back to you somehow in an upcoming service, with an invitation to participate, or with my sharing something of what you've suggested, in the event that you are not ready or able to share it yourself.

Let's talk about it, can we?



Why My Heart Is Here

BY JEFF ABBE



People sometimes ask me why I come to this UU church. The answer is simple: the connections we build together make us stronger as a whole. In this world that often feels rushed and disconnected, this community has shown me what it means to truly belong.

One of the biggest reasons is that this is where some of my best friends are. It's a caring community that respects everyone's individuality—with many different interest groups. There really is something for everyone here. Serving as a greeter has helped me come to know so many of the people who walk through our doors, and I've watched newcomers discover our community like a present they didn't even know they'd be getting: a place where they can fully be themselves.

There's also a humanist in me that calls me to be my better self. This community helps ground us in the natural world and emphasizes the worth and dignity of all human beings, whether through public service or peacefully demonstrating our beliefs. These shared values draw us together and give our connections a deeper meaning.

The countless variety of programs available to all members and friends of this congregation is what creates so many opportunities to connect. Whether it's a yoga class, raking leaves, setting up for community luncheons, building maintenance, or groundskeeping here at our beautiful church campus, there's a way for everyone to contribute and belong. I've discovered something transformative about working alongside one another in these activities. These shared experiences reveal love in action. The people you work with become the people you care about. We're stronger together, and I'm grateful for every hand that reaches out to help with our shared results.

Then there's the ripple effect of small acts—a text message checking in, someone remembering one of your joys or sorrows. I am grateful for those quiet acts of kindness that remind us we are seen, known, and loved and not alone.

This is why my heart is here: because connection isn't just something we talk about. It's something we live out together, one meaningful moment at a time.

*“Why My Heart Is Here”
A monthly column organized by the
Congregant Engagement Team: Susan Casey,
Renee West, Jeff Abbe, Lorraine Ellis, Krista
Robichaud, and Lea Smith*





Family Engagement Photo Wall

Do you ever recognize a face but struggle to remember the name? Or maybe you've heard names but haven't yet connected them with the right faces? The Congregant Engagement Team invites you to help us change that by contributing to a Family Engagement Wall, which will be located in the hallway outside of the classrooms. Please bring in a printed photo - no larger than 4x6 - of yourself and your family. UUs recognize and value families of all choices and structures, including people and pets. Please include a label with everyone's names. For example: My name is Krista Robichaud, and my two children are Frankie Didado (left) and Gavin Robichaud (right).



Kindly submit your printed photos to our Family Engagement Coordinator, Dory LeCount, or send digital photos to dory@concorduu.org with [Name] Family Photo in the subject line. Please contact the CET Co-Chair, Krista Robichaud, via Breeze, with any questions.

CONCORD UU'S ANNUAL MUD-SEASON PARTY

SOCK HOP!

FRIDAY MARCH 6 7-9PM

IT'S FAMILY FRIENDLY!

DISC JOCKEY
MICHAEL LEUCHTENBERGER

LOCATION
FELLOWSHIP HALL

SEND SONG REQUESTS TO:
[KRISTASCHNECK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kristaschneck@gmail.com)

VOLUNTEERS AND SNACKS NEEDED!
PLEASE EMAIL [YOLANDOR@ICLOUD.COM](mailto:yolandor@icloud.com)

Sock Hop!

Friday, March 6 | 7 to 9pm

Join us for a Far-Out and Family-Friendly Sock Hop! We're for each other like a-whop ba-ba lu-bop and whop bam boom! The theme of our upcoming Mud Season Dance Party is 50s/60s and the movie Grease; think poodle skirts, capris, pegged jeans, pompadours, and bobby socks. No pressure if you don't have the garb, we'll think you're peachy-keen anyways!

Please send your song requests to Krista at kristaschneck@gmail.com, and if you can help with setup (either on Thursday or Friday) and breakdown, or if you can bring some groovy grub, please let Renee know by emailing yolandor@icloud.com.

Hopelessly devoted to you,
Susan, Krista, Jenn, and Renee



Octagon Dinners are Back!

Hurry! The deadline is February 28, but if you don't see this in time and miss the deadline by a couple of days, we'll still take you for the March 14 dinner.

Are you looking to make connections with more people in our UU church? Do you enjoy having conversations over a shared meal at the home of a friend? Are you new and looking to get to know more people at our church?

Octagon Dinners will take place on March 14 and May 16. Names of those who want to attend are chosen randomly to join in a group of eight people for dinner. For the next meal, all names will go back in a hat and are again chosen randomly for the second dinner, so you can meet some more new people. The number of "octagons" depends on how many groups of eight people sign up to participate.

Meals are potluck. Host chooses what they will make, and will coordinate with others about contributions.

Host chooses the time of the dinner.

Conversation starters will be offered, but the group is free to decide how the conversation goes.

You can sign up with a buddy; let us know if you'd like us to put you together at a dinner.

Dates are set up for March 14 and May 16. However, once the groups are set up, that group is free to change the date of their dinner.

Deadlines to sign up are February 28 for the March 14 dinner, May 2 for the May 16 dinner.

Upon request, the church will try to offer two hours of childcare. Parents/guardians would drop their kids off at the church and then enjoy dinner at the host's home. Childcare sign up is included in the dinner sign up form.

Questions? Contact Betsey Neville (betsey2003@tds.net) or Ann West (annjwest@gmail.com)

Sign up at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/octagondinner2026

Please consider signing up to host! Your house doesn't have to be perfect. I can't fit more than 6 people at my table. But our group squished into my living room and ate with plates on our laps and had a great time. -Ann





The Teaching Garden

BY LEAH POWERS

The Teaching Garden is a collaborative, hands-on ministry of our congregation that began in Spring 2025. As we prepare for the 2026 growing season, we are excited to begin again — this time by planting seeds together in more ways than one.

We will kick off the season with:

‘Pancakes, Play & Planting Peace’ Seed Starting Event

Saturday March 14, 2026 from 9am-11am

Children and families are invited to gather for food, fun, and fellowship while starting the seeds that will become our annual garden. Together, we’ll plant vegetables, herbs, and flowers — nurturing both the soil and our shared sense of community.

Throughout the spring, children and families will be invited to return for follow-up gatherings to care for the young seedlings as they grow. In early summer, we will transplant them into the garden beds at the front of the church, where they will flourish in the sun and serve as a visible symbol of our shared effort.

Congregants are warmly invited to join the Teaching Garden during Second Hour throughout the growing season. Activities may include:

**Weeding and tending beds | Planting additional flowers, vegetables, and herbs | Maintenance and watering
Exploring organic pest control methods | Learning and sharing gardening knowledge**

The Teaching Garden is meant to be a truly collaborative space — where congregants and leaders learn from one another. Gardeners of all experience levels are welcome, whether you have decades of knowledge or are planting your very first seed. Together, we will explore how to grow food and flowers using organic practices, grounded in our Unitarian Universalist values of stewardship, interconnection, and community care. If the season is fruitful, our hope is to share some of the harvest with the congregation during a community luncheon — celebrating the abundance we’ve grown together.

Come plant, learn, and grow with us. Reach out to Leah Powers or Bianca Rivera-Berry if you are interested in participating.



Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace

Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 9 am to 11 am

You will hear the squeals of laughter as children explore the power of their bodies, running in circles around fellowship hall, before collapsing in a pile of giggles to build castles out of leggos and create never ending stories with their friends. “Pancakes are ready!” a volunteer shouts, as someone else makes a second pot of coffee. Before long everyone is fed, caffeinated, and happy. It’s time for the service project to start! This month we will work together to plant seeds for the Teaching Garden. Trays are filled with soil, and the soil is filled with seeds of all kinds! What will we grow?? Adults and children inhale the scent of dirt and dream dreams of a fruitful spring. Together we plant the seeds of peace.

On the second Saturday of each month, all are invited to come together to join in fellowship for a pancake breakfast and a special service project. Bring your children, your grandchildren, your nibblings, and your friends. You are welcome here.

Mystery Match - A Village Blooming Sign ups begin March 22nd

BY DORY LECOUNT
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

A letter exchanged is a new friend made!

For 6 weeks this spring mystery pen-pals from our congregation will exchange secret notes, learning clues about one another and sharing bits and pieces of themselves while trying not to give too much away! Will you be able to guess who your pen-pal is before the big reveal!?

Helped along by weekly prompts to get you started, you and your match will get to know each other throughout the spring. Different than in the past, this spring’s Mystery Match is open to congregants of all ages...the opportunities for pairings, and new relationships to bloom is endless!

Want to join in the fun? Sign ups begin after service on March 22nd, and go through the 29th. Weekly letter exchanges begin April 5th, and culminate with the Mystery Match Reveal Party on Saturday, May 9th. Contact Dory with questions.





Childcare Special Event A Youth Group Fundraiser

Sunday, March 22, 2026 | 1 pm to 5 pm

Drop your children off at church on Sunday, March 22nd, for some well deserved play time for yourself!!

From 1-5 pm our Youth Group have volunteered to play with and care for your children so that you can go and have a little fun yourself, knowing your children are in good hands.

Thank you, Youth Group!

In return, we have the chance to support the youth in their upcoming trip to Alabama this April. There is a suggested donation of \$10/child for this special childcare event. All donations go directly to the Youth Group.

[Use this link](#) to register your children for childcare.

[Use this link](#) if you do not have children to register, but would like to donate to support the Youth Group's trip to Alabama this April.

(If you are reading a paper version, you can email office@concorduu.org to get the links.)

Skills for Challenging Conversations

Saturday, March 7 | 1:30 to 3:30 pm

This Braver Angels inspired workshop, led by Joel Berman, is open to all congregants, and specifically geared towards those of us going to Alabama (youth and adults). Participants will have an opportunity to learn and practice effective listening and speaking skills when facing controversial issues in their lives.

We will practice how to disagree with others without demonizing, dismissing, or stereotyping large segments of our nation's population or members of our community. We will affirm the importance of building relationships, and learn to take a "LAPP" (Listen, Acknowledge, Pivot, and (give your) Perspective). Extend a special invitation to neighbors/friends/family who voted "red" to join us. The workshop is designed to be safe for "blue" and "red" perspectives and benefits from diversity of viewpoints. [Click here to register.](#)



Dungeons & Dragons

SUBMITTED BY SABRINA STANWOOD

D&D 101

March 22 | 11:45am to 12:45pm

Have you ever been interested in Dungeons and Dragons but didn't know where to start? Come join us for D&D 101. In this 1-hour session you'll get:

- An overview of what D&D is and how it's played
- Guidance for building a character

After you attend D&D 101, you'll be added to our players group, and invited to play in a future adventure. Due to the time needed to familiarize yourself with a new character and for the Dungeon Master to prepare, we ask that new players wait until the next scheduled adventure session to play.

D&D One-Shot Adventure

March 22 | 1 pm to 4 pm

One Shot Adventure for those who are already in our players group. If you are in our players group and need childcare, use [this link](#) to sign up for childcare. If you aren't already in our players group, attend D&D 101 so you can join in next time!

Laughter Yoga

SUBMITTED BY BETSY KENNEDY

Spring is coming! Come join the rejoicing laughter of hope at 5 pm on March 3 and 17 (first and third Tuesdays). Come learn about the power of laughter and how this great exercise can be a bigger part of your life. No mats or experience needed. You are amazing!

Thinking ahead, let me, Betsy K, know if you are interested in participating in Laughter Yoga over the summer. I certainly don't stop!





March will be the Senior Singles Group's One-Year Anniversary!

BY MARTHA MAE EMERSON

What a beautiful trip it's been! Sharing so many good times, discovering so many wonderful new relationships, building bonds of caring and support, creating a community based on love and acceptance among UUs who are 55+ and single. Together we have created something that did not exist a year ago and I can't imagine what life would be like without it!

SSG's February activities were a wonderful flurry of fun events! From x-country skiing and snowshoeing on a glorious winter day to a movie matinee at a member's house to flower arranging at another member's house to our second Poetry and Pie event. We filled long winter days with good spirits and the best of company. Thank you to all SSG'ers for making it happen!!

If you are single and 55+, please join us at one of our meetings or activities and decide if the SSG is right for you. To become a member and receive regular communications about our activities, contact Becky at the UU office (becky@concorduu.org) and request your name be added to our Google Group email list. If you have questions about the Senior Singles Group, Becky can connect you with one of our members to chat about our group.

March SSG Events

Watch for the March 1 SSG Biweekly Update for info about our 1 Year Anniversary Celebration!

Stay Active Group, every Wednesday

When: Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25

March suggested activities include enjoying a last chance at outdoor winter fun with x-country skiing and snowshoeing, a visit to the Currier Museum to see their Arts in Bloom exhibit, lunch at Johnson's Dairy Bar (renowned for excellent seafood), a visit to a member's sauna and hot tub (ooo la la!) For specific times and places please check our Bi-Weekly Update.

SSG Monthly Social Hour, 2nd Friday each month

When: Friday, March 13, @ 1:30 pm

Where: Abenaki Room, UU Church

SSG Monthly Meeting, 4th Sunday each month

When: Sunday, March 22, @ 1:30 pm

Where: Abenaki Room, UU Church

This meeting will mark our one-year anniversary!

DOOR PRIZE EVERY TIME!





Living Into Unbroken Wholeness: The Journey from Small Self to Expansive Being

A One-day Meditation Retreat with Dharma Teacher John Bell

A Spirit Week Offering at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, NH

Saturday, April 18, 9am-4 pm

An invitation from our teacher for this retreat, John Bell:

We are whole and unbroken. But we forget this. Or rather, the awareness of our miraculous being gets narrowed, obscured or repressed by a steady stream of hurtful messages or unwholesome experiences from a damaged world. Even if we can't articulate it, most of us carry an inner sense we are more loving, more generous, more courageous, more creative, more intelligent, more powerful than we can usually show. And most of us long for deeper connections with each other, the natural world, "the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible," and the fabric of the Great Mystery of life itself.

If any of this resonates with you, please come join us as we explore questions like: Where is home? Where do I belong? What if I embraced myself with unconditional love? What is unbroken wholeness? How can I more deeply touch the ground of being? What do I need to let go of in order to be free? And how is the planetary meta crisis a crisis in our relationships in all dimensions?

The retreat includes silence, guided meditations, poetry, singing, and small group sharing.

Retreat details:

This daylong retreat is offered in-person and online on Saturday, April 18, as part of our annual Spirit Week. For in-person participants, lunch will be offered, with vegan and gluten-free options.

Registration and Requested Payment: A \$25 registration fee is requested for this retreat; this supports our church's ability to offer this event. You can register here:

<https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/livingintounbrokenwholeness>

If there is a financial barrier around this fee, please register by contacting the church at office@concorduu.org. All participants are welcome, regardless of ability to pay.

During the retreat, you will have the opportunity to offer a donation to our teacher, John Bell, in support of his teaching.

About John Bell

John Bell is an ordained Buddhist Dharma Teacher in the Plum Village tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. He has been facilitating the Mountain Bell Sangha in the Boston area since 1997, and offers retreats around the country.





Church Directory

2026



Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

274 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301

(603) 224-0291

www.concorduu.org

office@concorduu.org

printed February 2026

Printed Directories are Ready

An updated Church Directory of Members and Friends is ready! To protect everyone's data, staff will hand it out to Members and Friends in person, or we can mail it to you if you're unable to get to the church. Stop into the office during office hours, Tuesday to Friday 9am to 2pm, or on Sunday mornings to pick it up. To have it mailed, send an email request to office@concorduu.org.

The Directory is only printed once per year, so we encourage you to use the electronic directory ("Breeze") for the most up-to-date info. Request Breeze access by emailing breeze@concorduu.org.

Sanctuary Boston Field Trip

Join Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger on a field trip to experience worship with Sanctuary Boston on Wednesday, March 4th. The service starts at 6:30 pm at First Parish Cambridge (3 Church Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge MA 02138). We will meet up in our Concord UU parking lot at 4pm and then carpool based on who is around. Or we will meet you at First Parish directly, if you prefer.



Sanctuary Boston is a multi-generational community that centers the leadership and experience of young adults. The music ranges from hand drums and hymns, to progressive praise music and spirituals, Taylor Swift and Katy Perry, Taize chants and folk songs. The service includes a short personal reflection from a community member on a topic that matters and making meaning of the ups and downs of our spiritual journeys.

Board of Trustees Highlights | February Meeting

SUBMITTED BY ANNE MEYERS, BOARD SECRETARY

- The Board continued our policy monitoring with a verbal approach
- We continued to dive deep into the results of the most recent Ends survey
- We discussed the book we've been reading together, Governance and Ministry by Dan Hotchkiss

Celebrate the Full Moon Tuesday, March 3 at 7 pm

Come to the Earth Centered Spirituality Group's full moon esbat to honor the Sugar Moon and a lunar eclipse. Though we won't be able to see the "blood moon," we can still harness the energy of the eclipse - clearing away what no longer serves you, breaking negative habits and revealing hidden truths - as a cosmic reset. The Sugar Moon marks the time when we begin the transition from winter to spring, the sap is beginning to flow in the trees, and here in NH, sugaring season begins! As the ground begins to thaw, we prepare for renewal and for the growing season. This moon represents a period of awakening.

What is beginning to bud? What do we see in Nature beginning to awaken? What is awakening within ourselves? What seeds shall we plant in our gardens? Our spiritual selves?

We'll take a look at what's happening celestially, do some meditation work on what we want to clear away, reveal, and manifest. Feel free to bring something to charge with the full moon energy.





Sign-Making Party for the No Kings Protest

BY BETSY DOLLIVER

Where: Kent Thomas Room, UU Concord

When: Thursday, March 26th, 5:30–6:45 p.m.

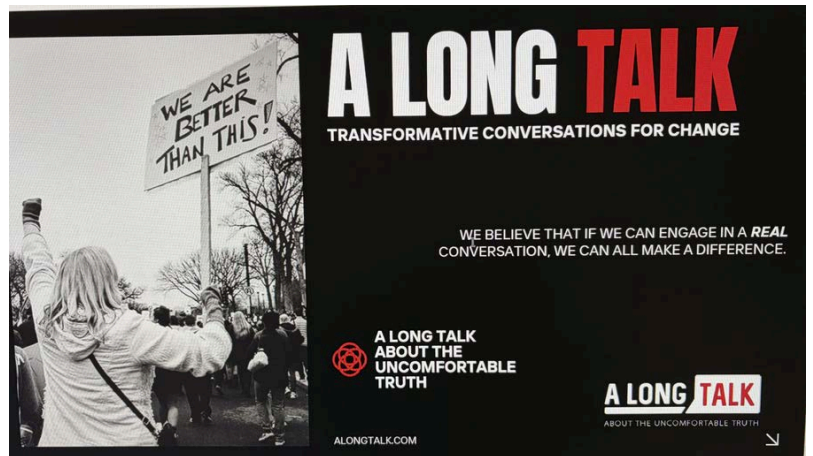
Get ready to create, connect, and get energized! **Join us for a lively and creative sign-making event as we prepare for the March 28th No Kings protest.** We'll have plenty of supplies on hand —poster board, markers, paint, art tape, and more—plus snacks to keep the creative energy flowing. Feel free to bring any additional materials you'd like to use or share.

This is a great chance to channel our values into action, get excited for the protest, and build community together at UU Concord.

Please let Becky Dolliver know if you're planning to attend. (You can look here up in Breeze or email office@concorduu.org to have your message passed along.)

Invitation to A Long Talk

Led by UU Action NH, a New Hampshire team has formed to bring A Long Talk ([LINK](#)) to New Hampshire. The Manchester NAACP, Seacoast NAACP, New Hampshire Council of Churches, New Hampshire Library Association have joined with UU Action NH to make this event happen at Wesley United Methodist Church in Concord on April 11.



A Long Talk was developed by two black fathers, Kyle Williams and Kamal Carter, in the wake of George Floyd's murder in May 2020, during a moment of national reckoning. There was a collective and international outcry, but a notable gap existed between intention and action. People wanted to help but didn't know where to start. A Long Talk provides a space for conversations that people are afraid to have. A Long Talk provides an activation experience designed to empower participants with knowledge and skills to interrupt problematic thinking and behaviors.

For more information and to sign up, contact lea@concorduu.org who will forward you the email invitation from UU Action NH.



How Communities Can Respond to DHS/ICE

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Location: Online

UU Action NH will present a Zoom meeting with Christine Wellington, who currently collaborates on advocacy issues with the New Hampshire Immigrant Rights Network. Christine will talk about what towns/communities can do at this time to deal with the Department of Homeland Security and its current actions. She will also speak about community opposition campaigns and advocacy connections. For more information and to sign up, contact lea@concorduu.org who will forward you the email invitation from UU Action NH.

Office Staff Need Your Help!

SUBMITTED BY LEA SMITH, DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

Your office staff (Becky Bosse and me) really want to help you, and we have a request. Please give us three workdays* to complete simple requests, and longer for more complex tasks. Increasingly people expect us to give them answers or turnaround a task within hours - sometimes when it's our day off! Please, we are asking you to plan ahead - talk to us about what you need in advance so we have time to help you the way we want to.

In this digital age, we all have become accustomed to immediate responses to emails and texts. Everyone is busy, busy, BUSY! So we know it's hard for you to plan ahead when you are barely keeping up yourself. It's well documented that being constantly on alert and running behind creates a chronic sense of "fight or flight" which isn't healthy for anyone. We are renewing our commitment to practice mindfulness, patience, and healthy boundaries in our work. Are you willing to practice this with us?

On Sundays, our job is to help the worship team (Becky & Lea) and to create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors (Lea.) Please save your church 'business topic conversation' for weekdays.

Normal workdays and primary administrative roles:

Lea: Monday - Thursday (*publications, finance*)

Becky: Tuesday - Friday (*calendar/building use, office and building equipment/supplies*)

Please be mindful - if you email us Friday afternoon with a request for Sunday, we do not have time to get it ready. It is a privilege to help you - thank you!



Security Cameras in Use

The church maintains six security cameras throughout the building, which are subject to a strict privacy policy that prohibits us from viewing the footage except in the case of a suspected crime. The cameras do not record audio. In addition, the Emerson School maintains cameras in the “Emerson Alley” which are controlled by Emerson staff and board, and are not subject to our church policy. If you have questions about this, please ask Lea or Becky in the office.

Child Protection Policy

The UU Church of Concord, NH has a policy to create the safest possible environment for our children while they are involved in church programs. We require that all volunteers who work regularly with children have been involved at the congregation for at least 6 months, have a background check, and provide references. We require that there are always at least two caregivers present when children are being supervised for a church activity, one of whom must be at least 18 years old. We want every child who comes through our doors to have an experience of feeling cared for, valued, and safe, and we take seriously our responsibility as adults to adhere to these policies. For more details, please read our online [**Child Protection Policy**](#) or ask in the church office for a paper copy.

Policy for Including Sex Offenders in our Church Community

The UU Church of Concord, NH has a policy regarding people who have been accused or convicted of sexual offenses. As Unitarian Universalists we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We believe in the healing power of involvement in a spiritual home. As a faith-based community, we can provide support, compassion, and vigilance to maximize safety when individuals who have sexually offended participate in the life of our church community. We require anyone who meets the criteria of the policy to contact Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger. For details, please read our online [**Policy for Safely Including Sex Offenders in Our Church Community**](#), or ask in the church office for a paper copy.



March Special Events

Mar 1 | Sun | Auction @ 11:30am
Children's Auction @ 11:30am
Circle 18 Info Session @ 2pm

Mar 3 | Tue | ECSG Full Moon Ritual @ 7pm

Mar 4 | Wed | UU Art Talks from Home @ 10am on Zoom
Sanctuary Boston Field Trip @ 4pm

Mar 6 | Fri | Mud Season Sock Hop Dance Party @ 7pm

Mar 7 | Sat | Skills for Challenging Conversations Workshop @ 1:30pm

Mar 8 | Sun | 2026-2027 Stewardship Campaign Kickoff

Mar 11 | Wed | UU Art Talks from Home - Lunch and Tour at the Currier Museum of Art
Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Orientation @ 6pm

Mar 12 | Thu | ECSG Poetic Eddas Reading Group @ 6pm

Mar 14 | Sat | Pancakes, Play and Planting Peace @ 9am
Octagon Dinners @ 5pm (Off Church Grounds)

Mar 15 | Sun | Change for Change Youth Group Fundraiser

Mar 18 | Wed | Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction 8 week Training starts @ 6pm

Mar 22 | Sun | Our Sanctuary as a Living Space Conversation @ 11:45am
D & D 101 @ 11:45am
D & D One Shot Adventure @ 1pm
Childcare offered by the Youth Group 1 - 5pm

Mar 22 and 29 | Sun | Mystery Match Signups





Recurring Events

Special Worship Services

Taize at Concord UU - every 1st Sunday @ 7pm, October through April

UU Worship at Havenwood - every 4th Thursday @ 1pm, September through May **(cancelled for March)**

Earth Centered Spirituality Rituals - on or near solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days

Faith Exploration Events

Sermon Dialogue - 1st, 4th & 5th Sundays @ 11:45am

Second Hour Adult Programs - 2nd and 3rd Sundays @ 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 @ 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 **(cancelled on March 24)**

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 (contact organizers before attending)

Neurospicy Humans Group - 3rd Saturdays @ 6pm

Musical Events

Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays, from 7 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 @ 3pm

Healing & Helping Events

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

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

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





Parish Notes Deadline

April issue: March 22
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 | Susi Nord
Secretary | Anne Meyers
Arthoen Wolf
Jim Curley
Larry Davis

Staff

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

Dir. of Membership & Administration
Lea Smith
603-916-0513 (cell) | lea@concorduu.org

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

Music Ministry Coordinator
Heather Maconaghy | heather@concorduu.org

Family Engagement Coordinator
Dory LeCount | dory@concorduu.org

Young Explorers Guide & Youth Group Assistant
Amir Robertson

Childcare Providers
Bayshay Bruss & Riley Carr

A/V Assistant | Gavin Robichaud

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CONCORD
274 PLEASANT STREET
CONCORD, NH 03301-2551

OFFICE@CONCORDUU.ORG
WWW.CONCORDUU.ORG
603-224-0291

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

