

# PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord



## Children's Village is BACK!

With families returning or joining us since the pandemic has calmed, we are delighted to announce the return of the Children's Village, for children ages 5-12ish. The Village opens after children are sung out following the Time for All Ages in worship, roughly 10:20, and gives kids a chance to engage in more active community building with their peers. Kids have an opportunity to build their own structures with a variety of materials, from sticks and silicone connectors to cardboard boxes to Legos. Adult leaders help them think through cooperation, resource sharing, and what it takes to create a community where each person feels valued and important.

If you are interested in helping out in the Children's Village, this is an amazing way to live into our commitment to sharing UU values and wisdom across generations. Please contact Rev. Lyn Marshall at [lyn@concorduu.org](mailto:lyn@concorduu.org) or (603) 568-8084 to learn more or to volunteer. Try it once or make it a regular practice of serving our younger congregants as they grow and learn.

## Second Hour Learning, Service, & Practice for Kids!

We recently completed a survey of our participating families in an effort to learn how we can best meet the needs of our children, youth, and families in a post-pandemic world. We are excited that many of those surveyed still want to be involved in Sunday morning worship and faith development programs.

After a detailed analysis of the data, we will be offering two Second Hour programs for children on the same second & third Sundays that we have adult Second Hour programming:

### World of Wonder Ages 4-6 years

This program aims to deepen children's appreciation for and understanding of the interconnected web of life. It is founded on the premise that direct experience in nature is essential to children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development.

### Circle of Trees Ages 7-13+ years

The Circle of Trees is likewise a nature-based program designed for multigenerational use. Its goals include helping participants to slow down, go deeper, and truly experience a connection to trees and all of earth. The program incorporates movement, story learning, meditation, and taking action.

We need volunteers who are excited about getting children outside and connected with nature to assist with these groups, and if you have special knowledge of the natural world, we might like to have you as a featured guest to help our learning. Please contact Rev. Lyn Marshall, [lyn@concorduu.org](mailto:lyn@concorduu.org), if you are interested or would like to know more.

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...and so much more!

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

## Sunday Worship is at 10 am

IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAM AT [WWW.CONCORDUU.ORG/LIVE](http://WWW.CONCORDUU.ORG/LIVE)

### **10/1/2023 “Repentance & Repair” Rev. Lyn Marshall**

When we inherit a difficult history - as individuals and as communities - how do we hold that inheritance? I learned rather late in life that the Mayflower ancestors I was so proud of for their courage as early settlers of Massachusetts were also involved in the expansion of Plymouth into surrounding areas, pushing indigenous people off their traditional lands. How can I, many generations later, hold that history in a nuanced and accountable way? In the United States, our history of genocide and slavery continues to haunt us. What is a nation to do?

### **10/8/2023 “Hallelujah for Imperfect Leaders” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

Each Sunday we “embrace the beauty within each of us, yet acknowledge the imperfections that make us human.” UNLESS, it seems, you are a celebrity leader, dead or alive. Those leaders we expect to be first-rate and beyond reproach, flawless and infallible, honorable and admirable in all aspects of their public and private lives. What would it mean to welcome, treasure and respect the outstanding gifts of our leaders (whether cultural, spiritual, or political) despite the imperfections that crack the pedestals upon which we have placed them? The Ancient Greeks knew better. Even their highest gods were deeply flawed - to be adored and abhorred, admired and detested all at once.

### **10/15/2023 “An Earth for Our Children's Children” Green Sanctuary Steering Committee**

The Earth is arguably the most important member of our church community. We know she is in great need of our love and attention and have risen to the call to care and advocate for her many times in our history. Can we allow our hearts to be broken open now, our spirits to be awakened and our hands and minds to come alive in this time of her great need? Come join us as we explore how we can transform our congregation, mitigate the harm being done to our Earth and help our community build its resilience and ability to adapt to the changing climate. We will touch on all the ways we have been stewarding our Earth home, and ponder how we can amplify and expand those efforts by rejoining the Green Sanctuary initiative. Following the service, please join us for an Earth Action Forum where we re-imagine our response to the climate crisis and identify projects that people are moved to join and lead in this church year.

### **10/22/2023 “Choosing Your Heritage” Rev. Lyn Marshall**

Each of us holds a multitude of identities. We are male, female, transgender, agender... we are Italian and/or Irish and/or Chinese... we are native English speakers, native German speakers, native Spanish speakers... we are Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, pagan, atheist... We have families of origin, families we helped create, families we have chosen. To what extent are we defined by our heritage, and to what extent can we choose it? Who decides what and who we “are”?

### **10/29/2023 “Throughlines of Our Faith” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

With no creeds or official dogma what are the throughlines that have held steady in our evolution as the liberal, justice seeking faith we are? What aspirations, visions, and struggles connect us to the Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists of the past 200 years and the movements they helped to shape within our congregations and in the culture at large? Where does this throughline of our heritage point to as we imagine a future for our church and our faith?

# GIFTS OF WELCOME

## New on Sundays: Lei Greeters

To make sure visitors and newcomers don't fall through the hospitality cracks after we finish singing our unison benediction, we are adding a new role, "Lei Greeters," whose job is to look for folks who are new or looking lost after worship and offer a friendly face, a listening ear, and helpful host. While we certainly encourage everyone to think of hospitality as a core function of being a member of a community, we will have a roster of church leaders serving as dedicated welcomers during the after-church time.



## Stay home if you're sick

Please offer others a gift by staying home to watch the livestream if you have symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID. There's nothing heroic about showing up when you're sick. We'll miss you!

We are mask-friendly, and N95 masks are available at the church for those who choose to wear them. However, there is no plan to require masks at this time. We may reconsider if COVID is declared to be a public health emergency again.

## Assistance for the Hearing Impaired

We are adding captions to the screen both in the Sanctuary and for the livestream.

Spoken words such as the sermon will appear as live captions using a Google tool that translates speech to text in real time.



## UU Ground Hog Day October 22 after worship

Join other UU "Grounds Hogs" as we "invade" our campus to make a difference. Ours will be a positive one - PROMISED!!

And - save November 12th for our all-church fall clean-up. Rain date, Nov.19

## October 29 is EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY!

At social time (11:15 am) on October 29, we will be having a birthday party for YOU - and you, and you... EVERYBODY gets a birthday party! Costumes are good, cupcakes are guaranteed. Meet other congregants who share your birth month, perhaps meet a birthday twin, and get to know someone new!

## Seeking Help in Planning our Thanksgiving Celebration

SUBMITTED BY RENEE WEST

The days are cooler, the nights are longer, and farmers are bringing in their second harvest. What might these things mean for Concord UU as we move into fall? Possibly you guessed it (the title may have given it away): Thanksgiving!

We will once again hold our Thanksgiving as we did pre-pandemic, with us gathering in the church to celebrate and give thanks for all the good things we share. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 18 th at 6:30, with a social time starting at 5:30. I am excited to help organize this celebration, but really need a few stellar folks to assist in planning for this big event. If you would be interested in helping to bring this beloved occasion back to our congregation, please let me know as soon as possible by emailing me at [yolandor@icloud.com](mailto:yolandor@icloud.com).





## Family Promise Host Week Begins October 8

Our local Family Promise agency supports low income families and families experiencing homelessness achieve sustainable independence through a community based response. We are involved with the emergency shelter component by being one of 13 local interfaith congregations who provide 4 weeks of emergency shelter in our church throughout the year.

We need volunteers to fill a variety of roles during the upcoming weeks of the church year. We need evening and overnight hosts, and people to make dinner. If you are curious about his innovative program, have questions or already know you'd like to volunteer, please contact Pam Mosca at [moscapam4@gmail.com](mailto:moscapam4@gmail.com) or 603-731-8786.

## Please lock the door!

If you are at the church for an evening or Saturday event, before you leave please:

- check that all exterior doors are locked (even if others are in the building.)
- close and lock all windows.
- turn off air purifiers, fans, and lights.

Thanks for helping to keep our building secure and minimize wasted electricity. If all our congregants take responsibility for this, the building can be accessible for a wide variety of events when staff are not present.

## The Gift of Heritage - Your Photos Wanted!

Our theme for the month of October is "The Gift of Heritage." Please send your pictures (photos you took or perhaps inherited) illustrating the theme to [diary@concorduu.org](mailto:diary@concorduu.org) to include in our pre- and post-worship slide show. Use your imagination! If you like, a brief caption may be included.

Did you know....?

- Our congregation was founded in 1827 as the Second Congregational Society (Unitarian) as it split from First Congregational Church. The congregation continued meeting at the First Congregational Church building for two years.
- The cornerstone for our current building was laid in 1959, and the building was completed in 1960.
- We changed our name to Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord in 2012.





## Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta: Ruddigore "The Witch's Curse"

Sept 29 at 7 pm (open dress rehearsal)

Sept 30 at 7 pm

Oct 1 at 3 pm

more info and tickets at  
[www.concorduu.org/ruddigore](http://www.concorduu.org/ruddigore)



## Contemplative Practices Second Hour Offerings (2nd and 3rd Sundays)

Oct. 8 & 15, Nov. 12 & 19, Dec., 10 & 17, 2023

Study and practice sessions focused on Buddhism for Beginners by Jack Kornfield

Leader: Marjorie Moulton (assisted by others)

## Green Sanctuary Day Long Retreat: Saturday Nov. 11

Leaders: Margaret Fletcher and Lee Leppanen

All are invited to take time to meditate and connect deeply with ourselves and our one home, the Earth. Through contemplative practices, reflection, and dialogue we will wonder together about sacred responsibility, practical limits and our extraordinary capabilities in the face of the climate crisis.

## Samhain Ritual to Honor our Ancestors Saturday Nov. 4 at 7 pm

The Earth Centered Spirituality Group at Concord UU is a diverse group of people who are interested in pagan, neo-pagan, polytheistic, earth-centered or nature-based religions. We celebrate 8 seasonal festivals, consisting of the year's chief solar events (solstices and equinoxes) and the midpoints between them. Weather permitting, most rituals happen in our lovely Grove, a clearing in the woods behind the church, often with a fire.



## October Special Events

**Sun Oct. 1: Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta: Ruddigore - Final Performance @ 3 pm**

**Oct. 8-15: Family Promise Host Week**

**Sun Oct. 22: Grounds Work Day @ 11:15 am**

**Sun Oct. 22: Parish Notes articles due by 2pm to [parishnotes@concorduu.org](mailto:parishnotes@concorduu.org)**

**Fri Oct. 27: Youth Group Overnight**

**Sun Oct. 29: Everybody's Birthday Social Hour @ 11:15 am**

## October Service Opportunities in the Community

**Wed Oct. 4 Walk a Mile in Their Shoes (for the Crisis Center of Central NH) @ 3:30 pm**

All our welcome to join Marianne Fleischman's team, Stilettos on the Side of Love, to create your own team, or register as an individual. For more info or to sign up, go to [secure.qgiv.com/event/wam2023](https://secure.qgiv.com/event/wam2023)

**Sat Oct. 14 CROP Hunger Walk (for Church World Service) 12 pm to 3 pm**

For more info, go to [events.crophungerwalk.org/2023](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023)

## Board of Trustees Highlights

submitted by Jim Schlosser, Board Secretary

At the Board meeting on September 13, the Board:

- Reflected on Covenant of Right Relations
- Reviewed retreat agenda and planning
- Reviewed FY22-23 Financial Performance
- Approved Jim Schlosser as Board representative to the Nominating Committee
- Reviewed key Operations Updates including
  - Tuesday Welcome Table was successful coming out of last church year.
  - Successful Auction (>\$11,000)
  - Creation of permanent plaques for Volunteer Leaders
  - Circulation of a Family Engagement Survey and family program planning

Minutes of Board meetings are posted at [concorduu.org/about-us/governance/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes](https://concorduu.org/about-us/governance/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes) after they are approved.



## A Summer Trip to the “Parliament of the World’s Religions” submitted by Suzanne Rude, Concord UU Member

The Parliament of the World’s Religions is a non-profit organization, which was incorporated in 1988 to carry out a legacy that dates back to the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago, when the first convening of the World’s Parliament of Religions was held. This first convening was especially notable for its inclusion of eastern faith traditions.

The Parliament of the World’s Religion’s overall mission is to cultivate harmony among the world’s religious and spiritual communities in order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world. They have six areas of special interest: [Climate Action](#); [Global Ethics](#); [Indigenous Peoples](#); [Next Generation](#); [Peace & Justice](#) and [Women’s Dignity](#).



### WHERE IS THE PARLIAMENT HELD?

Since the 1893 World’s Parliament of Religions, which was held in Chicago, modern Parliament convenings have been held all over the world: in Chicago (1993), in Cape Town (1999), in Barcelona (2004), in Melbourne (2009), in Salt Lake City (2015), in Toronto (2018) and virtually (2021). This year’s Parliament was held again in Chicago on the shores of Lake Michigan in August.

### WHO ATTENDED THE 2023 PARLIAMENT?

This summer’s convening had over 7,000 attendees, representing more than 95 countries and over 210 faith traditions. This was the 9th global convening of the Parliament of the World’s Religions, and was the first that I have personally attended. There was a large contingent of perhaps 75-100 folks from my seminary, One Spirit Interfaith. The United Religions Initiative, through which the Greater Concord Interfaith Council is a cooperation circle, also had a significant presence. Both these groups had speakers and exhibits in the exhibit hall. I met a few UUs, although there were likely more than a few in attendance! Overall, I was awestruck at the cultural and religious diversity of the attendees.



# Parliament of the World Religions

continued from previous page, by Suzanne Rude

## WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE LIKE AT THE PARLIAMENT?

First, it is really hard to convey how enormous this event was. I have attended many conferences during my working career, but I have never been to one that had a much going on throughout each day given the plenary sessions, lectures and conversational breakout rooms. There were Dances of Universal Peace, tai chi, drum circles, indigenous blessings, and musical performances going on in all the open areas. There was an entire huge ballroom of exhibits, including a quilt display of George Floyd's last words and displays from many interfaith groups. There were at least two movie theaters. In one theater, I attended a showing of the recent movie "Till," about the death of Emmett Till and the civil rights work of his mother, with the movie's producer in attendance. I especially admired the speakers at the plenary sessions of the Women's Assembly and the Global Ethic, as well as the Climate Repentance Ceremony. I thought that the Parliament was doing very important interfaith work.

## WHAT WAS AN ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL INTERFAITH EVENT AVAILABLE TO ALL PARLIAMENT ATTENDEES?

There were hundreds of Sikh volunteers who shared lunchtime Langars, a Sikh faith tradition of providing free community meals. Langars always are such amazing events and always seem impossible to make happen with such large groups, but the Sikhs make them work!

## WERE THERE ANY OPTIONAL PARLIAMENT EVENTS IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED?

Tuesday evening of the Parliament I went on a "Sacred Spaces Interfaith Trolley Tour," which was co-sponsored by the Chicago Theological Seminary. Two trolleys with about 60 Parliament attendees when to four Chicago faith sites: a Muslim community center, a Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints church, a reform Jewish synagogue and an Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. On the trolley, I visited with UUs from Massachusetts and Oregon. It was a great tour with some memorable highlights including having the Ebenezer Church choir stay late to sing us some gospel music; and at the synagogue, seeing a Taiwanese university group who were just mesmerized by seeing a Torah scroll up close.

## HOW WAS THE CITY OF CHICAGO AS A HOST CITY?

I really liked Chicago. I had only been to the city before as a stopover on the leg of an airline trip. Since I went out by train, I got to see the historic Union Station. I also visited the amazing Art Institute of Chicago and the dinosaur-filled Field Museum of Natural History. The city skyline was beautiful and the residents I encountered were friendly and helpful. It was interesting to me that there were many buildings and parks still remaining from the 1893 World's Fair, which supported the very first Parliament. I would definitely visit again.



# 2023-24 Recurring Monthly Events

## Special Worship Services

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

UU Worship at Havenwood - every 4th Thursday @ 1pm

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

## Faith Development Events

Sermon Dialogue - 1st Sundays at 11:45 am

Second Hour Adult Programs - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 11:30 am

Children's Village ages 4-12 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays during worship

World of Wonder ages 4-6 - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 11:30 am

Circle of Trees ages 7-13 - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 11:30 am

## Social, Family, & Fellowship Events

Youth Group - most Fridays @ 7pm

Community Lunch - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 12:30 pm

Tuesday's Welcome Table - Tuesdays @ 6pm, October 3 through June 4

Games and Chocolate - 1st Fridays @ 6:30pm

Art & Appetizers - 2nd Fridays @ 6pm

Pancakes, Play & Planting Peace - 1st Saturdays @ 9am, October through May

Family Covenant Group - 3rd Fridays @ 6pm (please contact organizers before attending)

Movie Nights - several times per year, usually on Saturdays @ 6pm

Softball Team - May through August, Games are Mondays @ 6pm, Mid-June through August

Wild and Precious UU Book Group - 4th Tuesdays @ 5pm (please contact organizers before attending)

## Musical Events

Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays, 7pm to 8:30pm

Choir Warm Up - Sundays when choir is singing @ 9am

Drum Circle - 3rd Sundays @ 7pm, October through April

## Contemplative Events

Daily Silent Morning Meditation - Daily @ 7am Zoom Only

Mindfulness Practice Group - 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 6pm

Mindful Yoga - 1st and 3rd Mondays @ 6pm

Contemplative Knitting Circle - 2nd Saturdays @ 10:30am

Walking the Labyrinth - 2nd Sundays @ 7pm, starting Nov 12

## Outreach Events

Friendly Kitchen prep and serve day - 1st Wednesdays @ 3pm

## Healing & Helping Events

Caring for Aging Loved Ones Support Group - 4th Sundays @ 7pm

\* Renaissance New England Transgender Group - 2nd Saturdays @ 4pm every other month  
(please contact organizers before attending)

\* public support groups that meet at the church but are not church programs.



## Parish Notes Deadline

Nov. issue: October 22  
Submit to [parishnotes@concorduu.org](mailto:parishnotes@concorduu.org) by 2pm  
on the day of the deadline.

*Do you create art, poetry, or prose that says something about our church or your faith? Send it to [parishnotes@concorduu.org](mailto:parishnotes@concorduu.org).*

## Officers

Treasurer | Karen Mayo  
Custodian of Investments | Jack Wakelin  
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Clerk | Sara McNeil

## Board of Trustees

Chair | Kelly Mahony  
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one vacancy

## Many thanks and good bye to Robert Baker

After two years on our staff, our Director of Facilities and Technology, Robert Baker, is moving on. He has accepted a position at Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul, MN - allowing him to return to his native soil. His last day with us will be Sunday, October 1, 2023. Robert was hired as Sexton in the fall of 2021 to assure the cleanliness and maintenance of our building. When it became apparent he had the skills and experience to also maintain our expanding “digital campus,” he was promoted to Director of Facilities and Technology. In this capacity he has improved our in-house audiovisual capabilities and the livestream experience beyond our walls. Robert’s expertise and cheerful can-do attitude will be greatly missed.

## Staff

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

***All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.***



Unitarian Universalism