

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Church of Concord

Engagement Fair: Nourishing Connections October 4 after the worship service

October 4 is Bring-a-Friend Sunday! You and your friends will get to meet the many groups that support nourishing connections within our church community and beyond. These groups offer many kinds of connections: social, spiritual, service, connections with the greater community of Concord, connections to our environment, to nature and our planet, to name a few. The groups play an important role in building a community that includes the many interests, values and needs of our congregants. Come explore and discover new connections that will fill your church experience with deeper meaning and purpose.

If you have ever thought, "My friend would love our church", now is the time to invite them! Over 40 church groups will be represented. Whether you are a newcomer or longtimer, you are sure to find a new way to connect and nourish your spirit.

Children's Classrooms Open House

Come see what Young Explorers is all about! Before you head out to the Engagement Fair, check out the space where our young friends are learning! Amelia will be in the classroom if you have any questions about the program. Then head outside and join in with our Young Explorers during an activity to build community!



Chain of Connections

Each of us is a link in the chain of connections that make our church community strong. Come add to our colorful church wide chain by making a link with your name on it and attaching it to the chain. All ages invited!

Senior Singles offer a Raffle!

Prize: TWO \$50 Gift Certificates for Gibsons Book Store (great selection of adult and children's books, toys, games, and more.) Enter to win at Senior Singles Group table. Drawing at 12:15. You do not have to be present to win.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Songs for the Spirit
PAGE 03

Tree Honoring
PAGE 04

Dan Frye's Ordination
PAGE 05

Children's Programs
PAGE 06-07

Contemplative Practice
PAGE 08-09

Community Plate
PAGE 10-11

Food & Fellowship
PAGE 12

Blue Moon Music
PAGE 14-15

Imaginary Journeys
PAGE 16

...and so much more!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday Worship is at 10 am

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

10/4/2026 “Show Up” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

Belonging asks more of us than simply being present—it takes courage to “show up,” to share something of who we really are, and to allow ourselves to be seen as whole and imperfect people. When we risk vulnerability and discover that we are still cherished, we can move from observing community to participating in it, bringing our gifts, questions, struggles, and hopes into the circle. Together, we explore how the courage to be known — and to truly know one another — can transform a gathering of people into a community of belonging.

10/11/2026 “Becoming Kin” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

What is our Land Acknowledgement all about? On this day before Indigenous Peoples Day, the Land Acknowledgment and Kin Exploration (L.A.K.E.) group will speak to the ideal of living into the words that we hear at every Sunday service: “...to honor the land and the people (the Abenaki) who have stewarded it for generations.” Hear a traditional Abenaki story and get thinking about what being in kinship might look like.

10/18/2026 “ProVoice & Proud” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

What does it mean to be “ProVoice”? Inspired by the courage of LGBTQ+ people who have claimed the right to say, “This is who I am,” we’ll explore the courage it takes for all of us to speak our values, listen deeply to the voices of others, and participate in the life of our communities. As election season approaches, we’ll reflect on voting not only as an expression of our values, but as an act of gratitude for those who struggled to ensure that more of us could have a voice—and a reminder that democracy, like community, depends upon our willingness to show up.

10/25/26 “With Humility and Heart” Rev. Sara Hayman

Michael’s friend and colleague invites us to contemplate & delight in the mystery and magic of living our lives in ways that honor “the wisdom of the Maternal Heart,” something she is coming to claim, know, strengthen in her own life and ministry; an experience of a deeply relational love present in all of us; a Source and Sustenance of Creation alive and accessible in this and every moment and strengthened always through our loving actions.

Rev. Sara Hayman is from Maine and lives in Bucksport with her partner, also a Sarah, and their scruffy dog, Mino. Like Michael, Sara is a Meadville Lombard Theological School graduate. For the past 16 years she has served our UU Church of Ellsworth, ME. Before becoming a parish minister, Sara served as Hospice Chaplain for a rural home health agency in Downeast Maine.

Engagement Fair Food for Thought

Before you attend the Engagement Fair on October 4, think about...

- I find meaning in....
- I have fun and want more of...
- I love to...
- I have time for...
- I have _____ gifts/skills to share.

Our theme for
October is
Courage.

Celebration of the Life of Richard Blood

Saturday, October 3 at 2pm

Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger will officiate at a memorial service for Richard Blood, a beloved Member of our congregation, who passed away on Friday, May 22, 2026, at the age of 91.

The Caring Network will host a reception in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Richard joined the church 46 years ago, in 1980. He served our congregation in many roles over the years: as Pastoral Care Associate, Board Member, Treasurer, and Usher. He participated in a Covenant Group and the Elder Circle. [Click here for Richard's obituary.](#)



Songs for the Spirit: Singing Our Way Toward Connection

Saturday, October 3 at 5pm

Submitted by Elm Tree Sheys

There is something powerful about singing together. Long before we had sermons, social media, or even written language, people gathered in community and used their voices—to celebrate, to grieve, to protest, to pray, and to remind one another that we are not alone. Beginning in October, Songs for the Spirit will offer a monthly space to do just that.

This will be a small, informal gathering centered around songs and chants of peace, justice, hope, resistance, healing, and connection. We'll draw from many sources and traditions, including contemporary songwriters and movement music, as well as simple chants and songs that are easy to learn and sing together.

This is not a choir, and you do not need to consider yourself a singer. There will be no performances, rehearsals, auditions, or expectation that anyone get the notes “right.” Come with the voice you have.

In a time when so much in the world can leave us feeling overwhelmed or disconnected, singing together can be a way of returning to ourselves and to one another—of making room for grief and joy, courage and tenderness, and remembering the kind of world we want to help create.

Come sing with us, October 3 at 5pm in the Chapel. Acoustic instruments are welcome.



Mystery Match Swapping Begins October 4

The first letter exchange will be October 4th! Leave the letter to your match in the folder that corresponds to the number you received in your email. The folders are located in the parlor. If you forgot your number, ask Amelia Borgus. Remember to take the note left for you!

Each week a Mystery Match Prompt will be shared in the ebulletin, and also in person on Sundays. Use the prompts to guide your note writing! The following Sundays are when notes should be in folders: Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 18, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 8

Tree Honoring: October 11 at 11:30

Submitted by Susan Posluszny for the Ecological Land Management and Green Sanctuary Teams

Calling all **nature lovers, artists and those who simply love beauty**...We will gather to celebrate the wonder of trees and create some land art together! For adults and families with children, ALL ages welcome.

Location: The Grove (Meet at the back parking lot trailhead)

Trees are all around us and yet we rarely take the time to intentionally take them in and consider how valuable they are to our planet and our lives. Join us as we mindfully, and playfully, reconnect with these wondrous living creatures through a guided mindful walk on Church property and nearby trails. This session will culminate with participants, of all ages, celebrating trees by creating land art on church grounds.

TREES ARE
POEMS THAT
THE EARTH
WRITES
UPON THE
SKY.

– KHALIL GIBRAN





Spiritual Hospitality | Sunday October 11 during Second Hour in the Parlor

Submitted by Aletheia Smith, member of the Congregant Engagement Team

We are pleased to announce a Spiritual Hospitality and Welcoming Workshop for everyone!

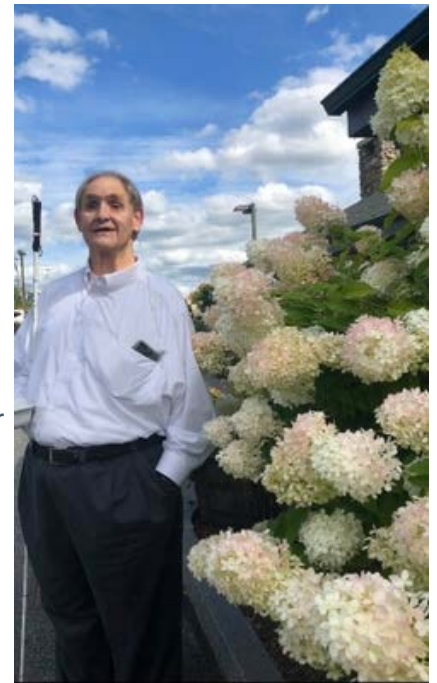
Are you curious about what 'Spiritual Hospitality' means? Fantastic! If you're curious, you are approximately 72.93% of the way to understanding what Spiritual Hospitality and Welcoming is all about! Please join us!

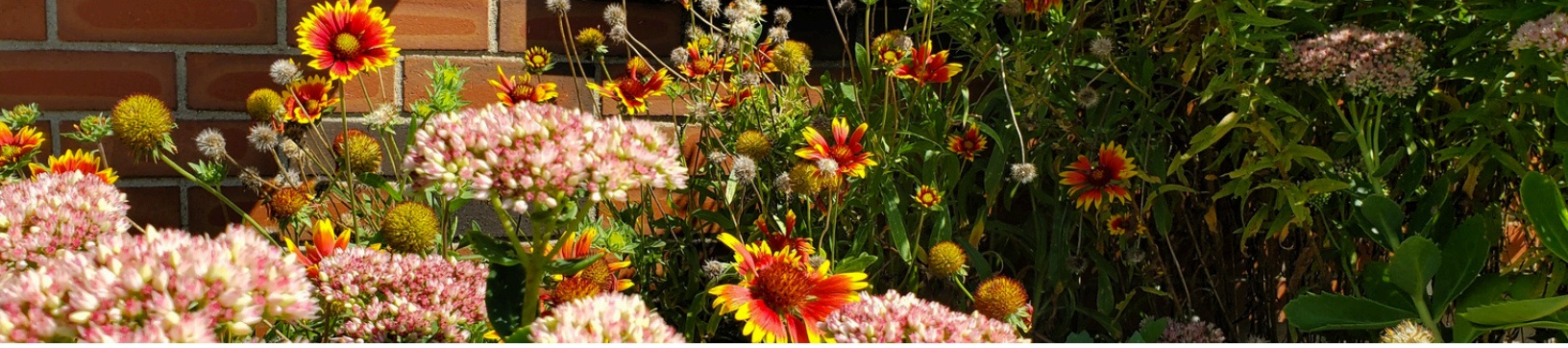
Ordination of Daniel Frye: Saturday, October 31 at 3pm

Submitted by Renee West

Please join us at church to celebrate the ordination of Dan Frye, member, minister, friend. This event will be filled with guest speakers, music, and a special gift made by crafty UUs. A light meal and baked goods will be served after the event. Please RSVP to dan-frye-ordination@gmail.com. If you are unable to join us in person, please join us online at www.concorduu.org/live.

I'd love to hear from you if you can help donate a baked good for the meal after the service or offer a spare room to an out-of-town visitor. We are asking that, where possible, that Concord UU attendees park in Concord Orthopaedic and/or carpool so that the parking lot closer to the Sanctuary is available for visitors.





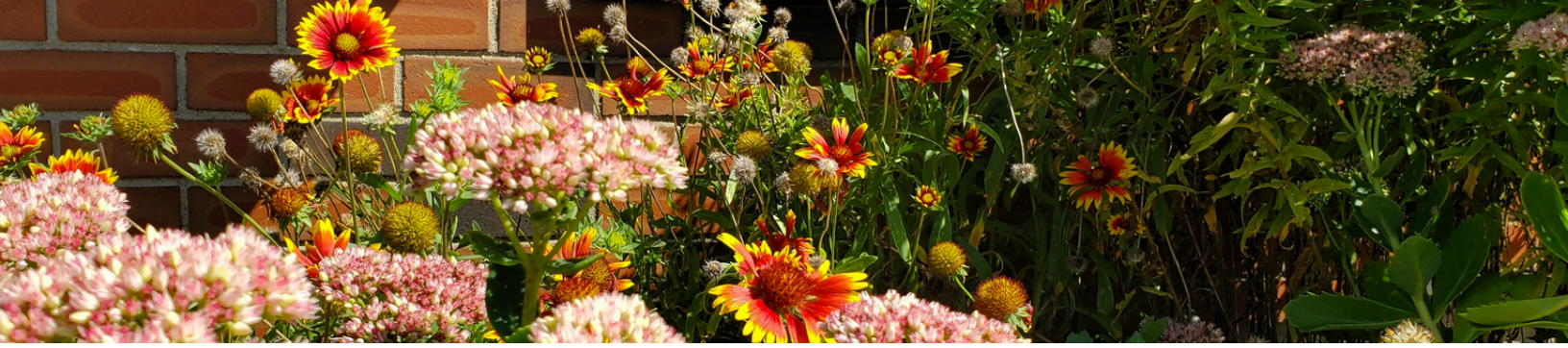
Pancakes, Play, & Planting Peace Saturday, Oct 10 | 9-11 am

Bring your children or grandchildren and join us for a pancake breakfast and a service project on the Second Saturday of each month! Adults and children will gather as UUs to explore what it means to be of service. Each month, after eating pancakes made by dedicated volunteers, we will participate in a service project to benefit the wider community. Children and adults will practice what it looks like to give to others, and explore the various ways we can share our resources.



Dinner & Volunteer Workshop for Children's Programs Wednesday October 21 @ 5:30pm

Creating a safe and fun environment for our children at church is a job for all of us. Join Lea and Amelia on Wednesday, October 21st from 5:30-7:30pm for our yearly safety training combined with a volunteer workshop where anyone and everyone who works with children in our building will have the opportunity to learn the basics of creating a safe, fun, and healthy environment for our kids. If you do not currently assist with any of our children's programs, but think you may want to in the future, this event is for you too! Contact Amelia to sign up, amelia@concorduu.org



Looking for someone who loves to work and play with kids!

Concord UU is seeking a creative, organized, and reliable team member to serve as Program Lead for our Sunday morning Young Explorers Program for children 5-12 years old. Our ideal candidate has experience guiding children in a school or camp setting, OR at least two years of college level training in early childhood or school age education, OR equivalent lived experience.

- 5 hours per week, with 3.5 hours on Sundays and 1.5 hours of flexible planning time
- \$125 per week

To have clear boundaries around the proper role and relationships of a staff member to the congregation, it is our practice to hire staff who are not and have not been members or regular participants at the UU Church of Concord. Please spread this opportunity among your friends and family!

Board of Trustees: Highlights from Sept. 12 meeting

submitted by Beeler Lile-Sexton, Board Secretary

- The board used the initial meeting to ground themselves in their tasks as a board and create an orientation plan for the church year ahead.
- The board also received a year end financial review for the 2025-2026 church year from Lea Smith.

Minutes of Board meetings are posted at concorduu.org/about-us/governance/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes after they are approved.



The Board gathered for a retreat in August.

Left to right: Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger; Board Chair Susi Nord; Vice Chair Arthoen Wolf; Anna Morrison; Anne Meyers; Secretary Beeler Lile-Sexton; Bank Signatory Steve Elgert. (Missing from the photo is Larry Davis.)



Our UU Contemplative Practice Group: A Look Back and a Look Ahead

Submitted by Judi Abbe

My journal entry of January 29, 2014 tells me that a small group of folks gathered to explore the concept of infusing mindfulness more widely in our UU church community. Margaret Fletcher posed two questions. First, she asked, "What do you want, what do you really really want, and when you drop down and around that, what do you really really really want?"

What Margaret wanted at the time was to have a weekend retreat at our church, from Friday evening through to our Sunday service, with a sleep at home feature. With a dedicated team, the retreat happened annually for ten years. In time it evolved into our Spirit Week experience, and the many contemplative practice offerings we have today. From daily morning meditation, weekly Monday Mindfulness offerings including UU-yoga, meditation and a book study, Taize, Second Hour programs and much more. You can find a complete list of offerings on our web site under the Learning tab: concorduu.org/lifespan-faith-development/contemplative-practices/

Coming up soon is a day- long retreat with Lama Elizabeth Monson entitled 'Finding Resilience and Ease in Reconnection' on October 17th here at our church. (See page 9.)

Margaret's second question was "What do you have to give?" This was a tougher question for me, an introvert who would rather not be noticed. Yet I found ways to offer what I could. Often it is simply showing up with interest and attention, choosing to be present. This year, along with Susan Casey, I will serve as the contact person for the Contemplative Practice Group. Please bring your own questions forward, and join us in the many contemplative practice opportunities offered at this, our beloved community.

To protect our congregants from scams, we do not publish personal contact info in this newsletter. You can look them up in the print church directory, in the Breeze online directory, or email office@concorduu.org to get their contact info. If you would like a Breeze account to look people up, email breeze@concorduu.org.



Contemplative Practices Group Presents a Meditation Retreat | October 17

Submitted by Betsy Black

Spinning Threads of Light: Finding Resilience and Ease in Reconnection

Teacher: Lama Liz Monson

Saturday, October 17 | 9 am to 4 pm

UU Church of Concord Sanctuary (and on-line)

Retreat Focus: Amid accelerating ecological, political, and humanitarian crises, humanity faces not only environmental collapse but also a profound crisis of identity. Modern culture, stranded in the logic of separation, has forgotten its place within the living earth. The forests, rivers, and animals that once spoke to us as kin have become "resources," and the human mind has come to experience itself as an observer rather than a participant in life's unfolding. Beneath this forgetting lies a deeper remembering: an intuition that consciousness and nature are not two, and that the wisdom and healing we seek is already alive in the world around us.

Today, we need new ways of being, healing, and practicing – ways that do not arise from the same paradigms used for hundreds of years. How do we harness our innate ability to remember who we really are and to learn why we are really here? How do we learn to listen, beyond thought, to our innate wholeness? To the living world that is always offering itself as our teacher? And how can this recognition of wholeness offer us a place of refuge, support, and resilience from which to become present with love and compassion in this struggling world? If these questions resonate with you, please join Lama Liz Monson for this daylong retreat at the Concord UU Church on October 17, from 9am to 4 pm.



Retreat leader Lama Elizabeth Monson is the Spiritual Co-Director and Guiding Teacher for Natural Dharma Fellowship. She has practiced Tibetan Buddhism in the Kagyu and Nyingma lineages for almost forty years and taught for the last twenty. Liz holds a PhD in Religious Studies, focusing on Tibetan Buddhism and Ethics, from Harvard University. Currently, Liz writes, guides meditation retreats, and develops curricula for people interested in reconnecting with the natural world and responding to contemporary social and spiritual issues as a path for liberation. She is exploring the potential of combining Buddhist meditation with indigenous plant medicines and psychedelics as portals for accessing and resting in the natural state. Liz lives with her husband in Grantham, NH and spends as much time as possible hiking and reconnecting with the natural world.

To register, go to uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/spinningthreadsoflight

Questions? Contact retreat manager Betsy Black, email address available on Breeze or via office@concorduu.org.



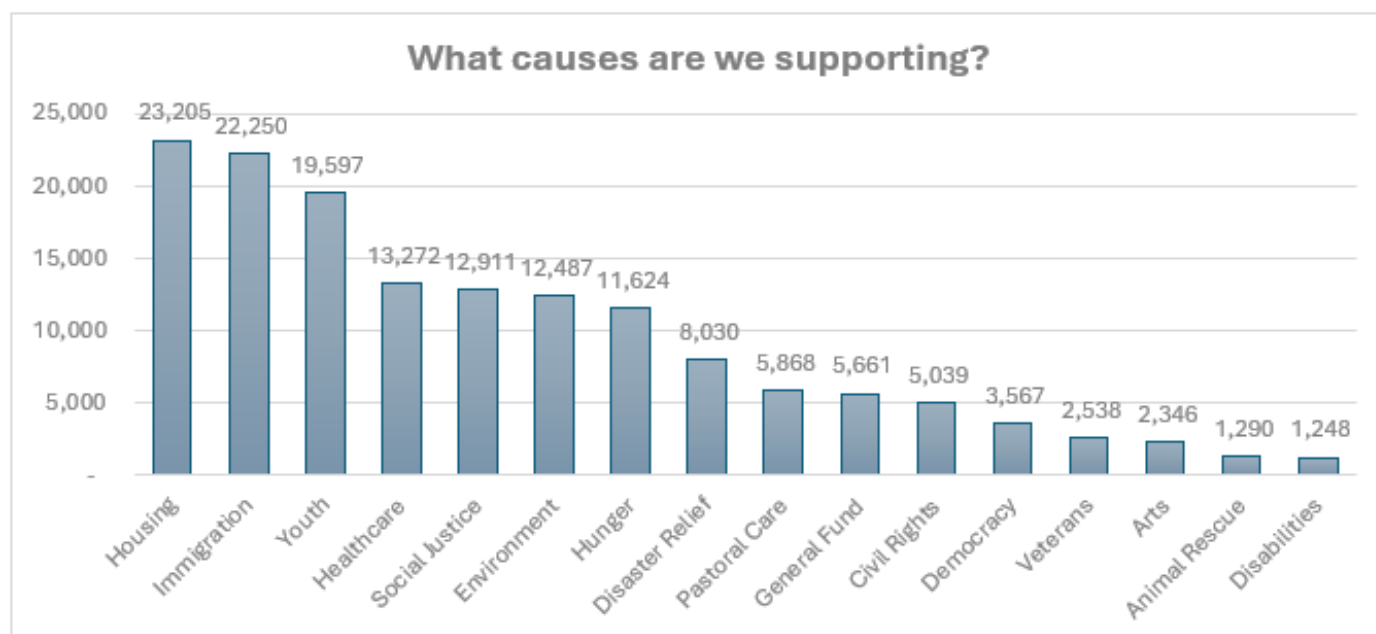
News from the Community Plate Committee

Submitted by Cathy Menard, Community Plate Committee Chair

Every Sunday we pass the plate and then give away the donations to worthy nonprofit organizations. This practice began in 2007 with the idea of **creating a culture of gratitude**. Generous contributions from the congregation are what drives this work. Our church is an important contributor to nonprofits in our community, enabling them to continue providing a range of critical services. You may be surprised to learn that **community plate donations for the last four years were \$150,934 in total**.

The chart below shows you the causes we are supporting together. There are some interesting results in the data. We know that the church has three Outreach areas of focus: to address homelessness, to support Immigrants, and to nurture the environment. The Community Plate Team keeps this in mind when considering requests for funding. We seem to be succeeding in the areas of housing and immigration.

Regarding environmental giving, a few factors come into play. Clearly our church is enthusiastic in its support for youth programs. Sometimes other requests come along that get unusual support as well. This is true for Healthcare giving (the cause was Medical Aid in Dying) and for Social Justice donations, which include UU Action NH. These are the primary reasons that environmental giving lands in sixth place for the last four years.





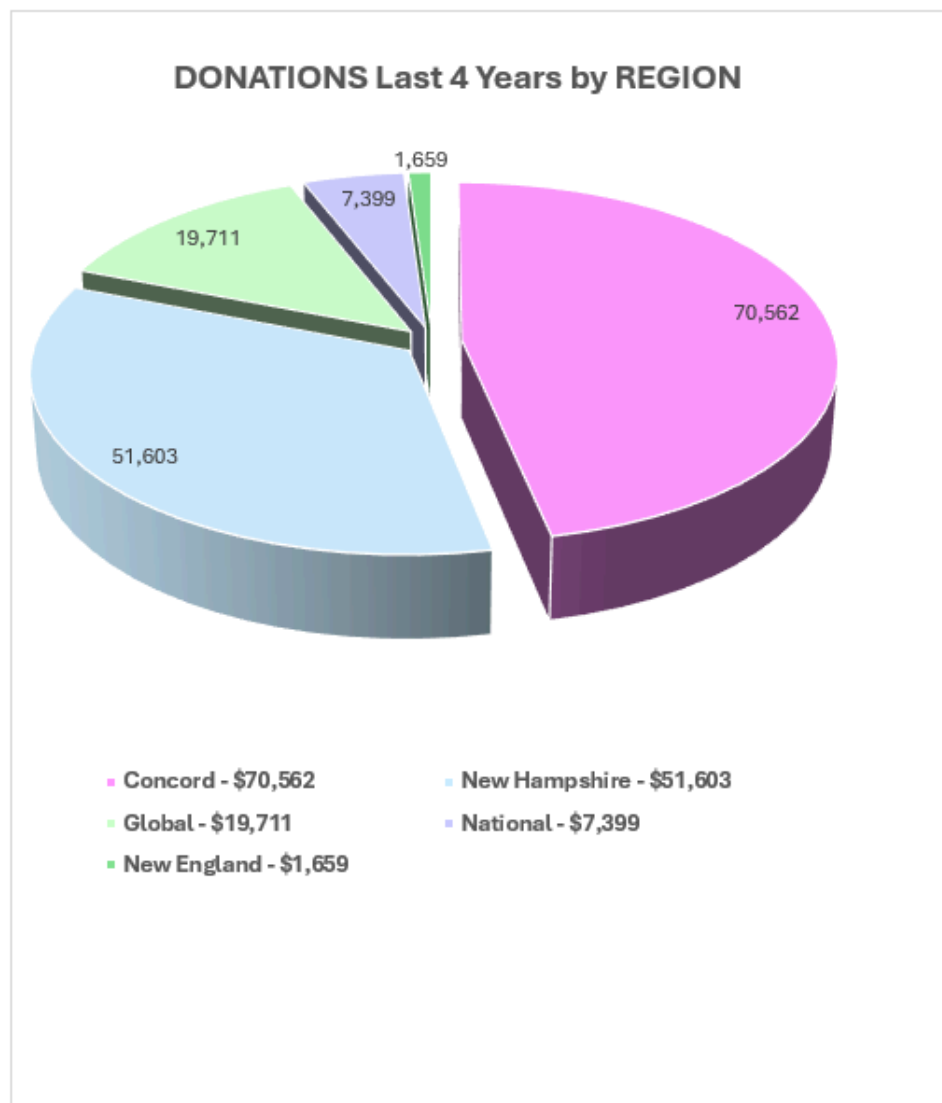
News from the Community Plate Committee

(continued from the previous page)

The pie chart to the right illustrates the regions where we are having the most impact. Nonprofits serving the Concord area or serving New Hampshire statewide make up 81% of community plate recipients over the last four years.

Many thanks to the ongoing team of **Beeler Lile-Sexton, Charles Hillen, Jason Mahon, Larry Davis and Cathy Menard**. We are delighted to welcome **Anne Zinkin, Donna Dana and Aletheia Smith** to the group. They bring experience with nonprofits, writing talent and lots of positive energy!

If you know and love a local nonprofit that you would like to propose for a community plate, please let us know! To apply, contact Cathy Menard via email by looking her up in Breeze of using office@concorduu.org.





Food and Fellowship

A Targeted Appeal for October

A quick and fun way to fund some of our church operations is with our targeted giving appeals, which will happen twice this year. It's an opportunity for us to highlight a specific project or ministry, and an opportunity for you to make a one-time gift to support it. Our October goal is to raise \$2,000 to **support our many opportunities for Food and Fellowship**.

Enjoying a meal together allows people to get to know one another in a way we can't when we are in worship together. When we break bread together, we nourish both our bodies and our spirits. We chat about our lives, our joys, our sorrows, and our hopes for the future.

Our **Community Luncheons** happen on the second and third Sundays of each month from September through May. Attendance at the luncheons has been breaking records with more than 80 people attending. Small groups of church members volunteer to cook the meals, and we don't expect them to pay for it out of their own pocket! Yet we still want it to be a free or "pay it forward" lunch.

Tuesday's Welcome Table is a free vegan dinner every Tuesday at 6pm from September through May. Michael Leuchtenberger usually is the head cook, and this year Dania Jones will be the head cook once a month. These laid-back dinners are a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, connect with old friends, or just have a night off from cooking. People of all ages are welcome!

On Christmas Eve, we have a **free community dinner in between our two Christmas Eve services**. It started many years ago for people who didn't have family nearby to be with. It has grown to include anyone who wants to be there! Concord UU is truly a warm and wonderful place to be on Christmas Eve.

These are just a few examples of the ways that **food brings us together in community**. If you enjoy these **delicious opportunities to socialize with other church members**, or **you want to ensure free meals for everyone**, please consider a donation. Make your donation at concorduu.org/targeted-appeal or send in a check with "targeted appeal" in the memo line.





Could you Serve as Our Next Financial Secretary?

Submitted by Ann West

We're looking for someone to serve as our next volunteer Financial Secretary. If you're organized, have a good eye for detail, and can balance a checkbook, this could be a great fit.

The time commitment is about 2 - 3 hours per week. You'll stop by the church about once a week to pick up contributions (less often during the summer). The work can be done at the church office or from home at your convenience if you have a computer and printer. This is important behind-the-scenes work that helps keep our church running smoothly and supports all that we do together. Training will be provided, so you won't be expected to figure it out on your own. Since this is an elected position, you would need to be a church Member.

If you'd like to learn more or think this might be a good fit for you, please speak with Lea in the church office, lea@concorduu.org.

Your Hands Are Hospitality

Submitted by Irene Hanslin and Renee West

Each Sunday after the worship service, we gather in Fellowship Hall to enjoy either Social Time or Community Luncheons, opportunities to gather with others and build and sustain the bonds of our Beloved Community. Your hands making the coffee, filling the pitchers, setting the tables, creating a salad, are hospitality made tangible, turning welcome into sustenance. Those of us who coordinate these events are looking for your hands and your help, and would love to have you join us in the fun conversations and shared joy of providing these offerings to our congregation. If you'd like to help out, please reach out to us (Irene for Community Luncheons, Renee for Social Time) via our contact details in Breeze or send an email to the church office. (Phone/text is best for Irene.)

Volunteers
don't get paid,
not because
they're
worthless, but
because
they're
priceless.

— Sherry Anderson



Blue Moon Music House Begins New Season

submitted by Heidi Page

Our September kick off was phenomenal with some of our regular fantastic talent and some new folks who joined us and wowed us on new levels. This is our third year bringing music, readings, and performances to you and the public and we are so excited for what is to come.

Once again we are making the 2nd Tuesday 7-9pm after the Welcome Dinner our selective night to entertain you all. We know some in our congregation who can not drive in the evenings but would love to attend both events. If you would like a ride or can provide one, please let us know through the office and we will try to coordinate.

None of this would happen without the many talents and hours of dedication from our team of volunteers, helpers and you the audience who come out for some inexpensive entertainment and connections. We ask that you contribute at least \$5 at the door to the UU Church to keep the music plugged in and the heat on for our event. If you are unable to donate please still come and warm your heart because we all need this outlet. Thank you.

Online readers: check out this [Video of A Random Band](#) (some random members formerly known as The Wholly Rollers).



Next Music House is October 13

Costumes Encouraged | Welcome Dinner Returns!

submitted by Heidi Page

Thank you for sharing your music/poetry with others. It is your choice of music this month. 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. No theme this month.

You only need to bring your instrument and plug in. We provide a sound board, amps, speakers, mics, keyboards, and music stands. Our experienced tech folks will help you with what you might need. You are welcome to warm up in our Parlor before the show. We average around 50 people in the audience per show. We must limit sign-ups to 12 people (2 songs each) so that we can end on time. We will let you know where you are in the order when you arrive. We will also let you know if we go over 12 sign-ups for backups. We shut off sign ups when we get to 14.

You are invited to join us from 6-6:45 pm for our Welcome Dinner, a low packaging, vegan dinner and conversation in Fellowship Hall before Blue Moon begins. If you cannot attend dinner, but you arrive before the show begins, you are welcome to join the conversation in Fellowship Hall, or to hang out in the Parlor to tune up.

We want to support you and your music. We will provide a small table for you to share flyers of your upcoming events, business cards, and CDs you'd like to sell. You will be responsible for providing a QR code for payment via Venmo or another method.

Performers please sign up at <https://forms.gle/wVGp8ikehBsKbd5Q8>

Volunteers please sign up at <https://forms.gle/FhwgVvikdxXhbTyU8>



Imaginary Journeys/Guided Imagery for Adults

October 25 | Second Hour at 11:30 am | in the Sanctuary

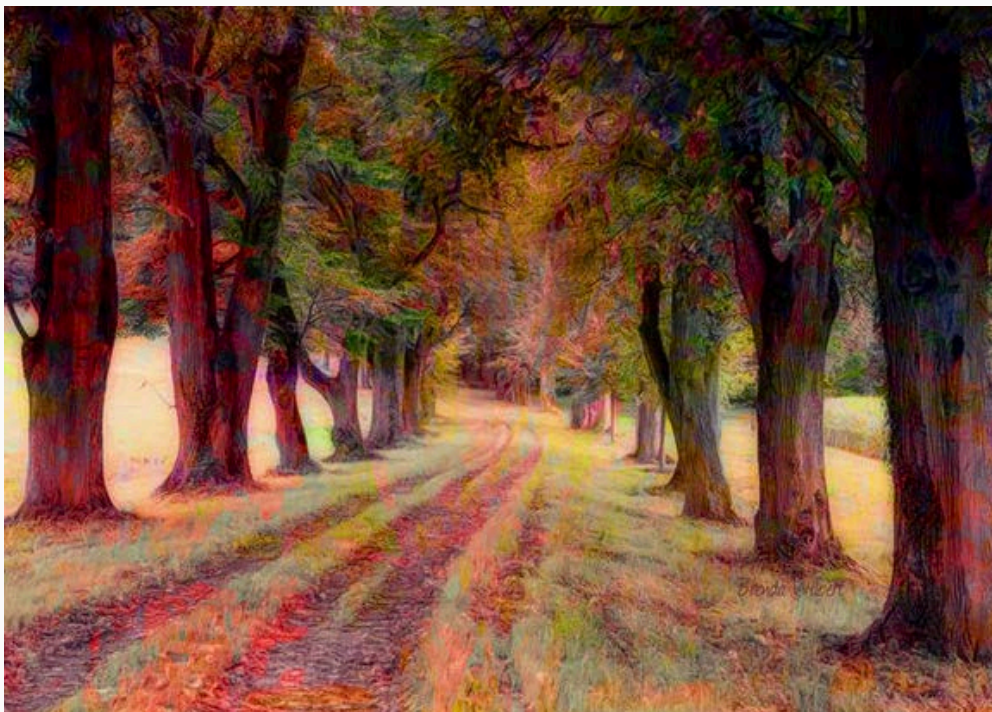
Presenters Brenda Wilbert and Peggy Cain

Guided Imagery is a relaxation technique that uses imagination and memories to create calming scenes incorporating positive words and images. It facilitates a reduction in stress promoting a state of well-being. Participants will experience a guided imagery and begin creating one of their own. They will also learn how to use guided imagery often referred to as Imaginary Journeys with children.

Brenda Wilbert is an artist, poet, expressive arts facilitator and former psychiatric nurse practitioner and marriage and family therapist. She incorporated guided imagery in her mental health practice.

Peggy Cain is a retired elementary school teacher who used imaginary journeys with her students and their parents. She self-published an imaginary journey resource book for teachers. Peggy is currently a Reiki volunteer at Concord Hospital.

Please bring paper and a pen.



The Path Taken by Brenda Wilbert



Ha ha ha, ho ho ho
And a couple of tra-la-las
That's how we laugh the day away
In the Merry Old Land of UUz!

submitted by Betsy Kennedy

Come to Laughter Yoga on Tuesday October 6 and 20. Bring your Emerald City glasses on the 20th! I am continuing with the same schedule, first and third Tuesdays at 5 in the chapel. But wait! There's more!! I am now retired, so I am open to suggestions for another day/time.

Come learn how to incorporate more healing laughter and breathing exercises to your day. Sneak peek for October 6: the laughter will be in Japanese!!

HO HO HA HA HA! Very good!! Very good! YAY!

Qualified Charitable Distributions are a Win-Win!

If you are 70½ or older, you can turn your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) into a powerful gift for the UU Church of Concord.

Through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), you can transfer funds directly from your IRA to the church. This satisfies your RMD obligation without adding to your taxable income.

- Lower your taxes: Skip counting the distribution as taxable income.
- Support our mission: Help us in our goal to transform ourselves and transform the world.
- Make it direct: Instruct your IRA custodian to send the check straight to us.

Contact your financial advisor or IRA custodian to set up your transfer. Make sure they include your name and “pledge” (or other donation purpose) in the remittance. Thank you for your generosity!

“Because we are now using the Qualified Charitable Distribution, we were able to increase our pledge 20% by not paying taxes on the pledge!”

– Christy Dolat Bartlett



Spanish Conversation Group 3rd Sundays at 11:30

Did you have some Spanish classes or speaking experience in the past? Would you like to hear and speak it again? A small group of UUs gets together on the 3rd Sundays during Second Hour to practice their Spanish skills. October's conversation will be about "culture clashes." All are welcome.

All Church Fall Grounds Cleanup November 1 after worship

There are jobs BIG and small - for all ages. Pizza afterward, to reward a good job done!

Everybody's Birthday Social Time with Trivia | Sunday November 1

Please join us to wish you, and everyone else, a Happy Birthday! Fellowship Hall will be set up with 12 tables, each representing one month of the year. You will be invited to sit with others who share the same birthday month as you to mingle and enjoy decorating and eating cupcakes together. Bring your favorite cake toppings to share! If you would like to donate cupcakes please contact Amelia at amelia@concorduu.org

For an extra special birthday treat, this year each table will get to compete in our 2nd annual Trivia Competition. Celebrate your birthday and test your knowledge with new friends. We will have prizes for the first and last place teams!





Thanksgiving Feast Saturday, November 21

Submitted by Elm Tree Sheys and
Renee West

Please join us for our annual Thanksgiving gathering amongst chosen family, Saturday, November 21. Social hour begins at 5:30 PM, followed by a sit-down dinner at 6:30. Tickets will be on sale in-person

after the worship service starting November 1st. You can also sign up to attend or help out at uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/Thanksgiving2026.



Delicious roast turkey and gravy will be provided. We will be asking folks to sign up to bring your choice of traditional Thanksgiving side dishes and desserts.

We are excited to see who will join us this year for a warm evening of music, enriching conversation, laughter, and all the goodness this festive season can bring! Please see Elm or Renee with any questions; you can find their information in Breeze or email office@concorduu.org with "Thanksgiving Questions" in the subject line.

Fire Evacuation Plans

- There are no loud horns in the sanctuary (this is standard in large places of assembly to prevent panic.) Instead, **strobe lights will illuminate**, signaling the need to announce an evacuation. You may faintly hear the alarm from other parts of the building.
- The minister and ushers will direct people to the exits. **Use the exterior doors (behind you)** to the parking area. Do not exit towards the interior of the building!
- Move away from the building and **proceed to the back parking lot immediately** so you are not in the way of emergency vehicles.
- **Parents should NOT go to classrooms to collect their children.** You will meet up with your children in the parking lot.
- Those with mobility impairments should be able to exit using the Sanctuary ramp. Anyone who needs assistance to exit should wait under the stairs. Staff and/or emergency personnel will assist them.
- A Fire drill will be held annually to ensure that congregants are familiar with proper fire evacuation procedures.



October Special Events

Bold, colored events are perfect for families and kids!

Oct 3 | Sat | Celebration of Life for Richard Blood @ 2 pm
Songs for the Spirit @ 5 pm

Oct 4 | Sun | **Mystery Match Swapping Begins**
Bring-a-Friend Sunday
Engagement Fair: Nurturing Connections after worship
Children's Classrooms Open House after worship

Oct 4 to 11 | Family Promise Host Week

Oct 7 | Wed | ELM Grounds Workday @ 9am

Oct 10 | Sat | CROP Hunger Walk (for Church World Service) @ 9am

Oct 11 | Sun | Spiritual Hospitality and Welcoming Workshop @ 11:30 am
Tree Honoring @ 11:30 am (Rain Date Oct 18)

Oct 17 | Sat | Meditation Retreat: Spinning Threads of Life with Lama Liz Monson 9 am to 4 pm

Oct 18 | Sun | Road Race Warning | Westbound Pleasant St closed 8am to 11am
parking lot accessible through Concord Ortho

Oct 21 | Wed | **Dinner & Volunteer Workshop for Children's Programs @ 5:30 pm**

Oct 22 | Thu | Choir Open House - Sing & Social @ 7 pm

Oct 22 to 27 | WindowDressers Build

Oct 25 | Sun | Guided Imagery Journey - an Senior Singles Group offering @ 11:45 am
Love-in-Action Meeting @ 11:45 am
Greeter Training @ 11:45 am
ELM Grounds Workday @ 11:45 am

Oct 31 | Sat | Ordination of Dan Frye @ 3 pm

Nov 1 | Sun **Haunted House @ 10:15 am**
Everybody's Birthday Social Time with Trivia @ 11:15 am
All-Church Fall Grounds Clean-up (Rain Date Nov 8)
Samhain - Earth Centered Spirituality Group @ 7 pm

2026-27 Recurring Events

Concord UU offers many opportunities for connection beyond Sunday mornings. Check out some of the activities below. **Bold, colored events are perfect for families and kids!**

Special Worship Services

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

UU Worship at Havenwood - every 4th Thursday @ 1pm, Sept through May (not in Nov or Dec)

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

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

Mindfulness Practice Group - 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 6:30pm

Food, Fellowship, & Faith Events

Tuesday's Welcome Table - Tuesdays @ 6pm

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

Art & Appetizers - 2nd Fridays @ 6pm

Pancakes, Play & Planting Peace - 2nd Saturdays @ 9am

Knitting Group - 1st Saturdays @ 10am

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

Youth Group - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Fridays @ 7pm (please 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)

Senior Singles Group weekly and monthly events - see their biweekly email schedule

Musical Events

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

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

Drum Circle - 3rd Sundays @ 2pm

Blue Moon Music House - 2nd Tuesdays @ 7pm

Songs for the Spirit - 1st Saturdays @ 5pm

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 @ 5 pm

Budget Report for the Fiscal Year that ended July 31, 2026

submitted by Lea Smith, Director of Finance & Operations

Operating Budget

Our operating budget was a spectacular success, with generous giving and successful fundraisers enabling us to do all we planned, and even more to help achieve our mission and vision. This is particularly notable in light of the financial struggles we hear from many other congregations. Our operating budget ended the year with an operating surplus of \$26,205. We had budgeted for a shortfall of about \$11,860, which would have been covered by the Operating Reserve Fund (ORF). No withdrawal from the ORF was needed.

Income exceeded budget in nearly every major area:

- 2025-26 **pledge income exceeded the budget by \$7,963** due mostly to new Members and Pledging Friends. The number of pledges increased from 214 to 239. Thank you to our Stewardship Team of Jim Curley, Lorraine Ellis, Michael Lecutenberger, and most of all thank you to YOU, our generous donors!
- **Non-pledge donations exceeded the budget by \$6,450**, largely due to newcomers and online attendees. Thank you!
- Net income for **fundraisers exceeded budget by \$14,156** due to exceptionally successful Raffle (thank you, Lorraine Ellis and Michael Leuchtenberger!), Auction (thank you again, Lorraine and Michael!), Costa Rica Trip (thank you, Michael!), and Plant & Yard Sale (thank you, Betsy Kennedy and Jim Downie!)
- We **exceeded our goal for rental income by \$6,438**, mostly due to unexpected concert rentals and non-member memorials. Church Administrator Becky Bosse generously adapted her usual work schedule to provide building coverage on Saturdays or evenings, so we did not have to pay extra staff. Thank you, Becky!
- **External trust income exceeded budget by \$11,321**, presumably due to good market conditions.

While we did experience significant overages in health insurance and in building expenses, those overages were more than covered by the excess income. Most of the surplus (\$26,000) will be moved to the Operating Reserve Fund to offset any future operating shortfalls.

Capital Budget

We budgeted for three capital projects, and all were completed under budget.

1. Sanctuary projector replacement: spent \$5,587 of \$7,000 budgeted.
2. Church-wide mesh wifi system: spent \$1,574 of \$4,000 budgeted.
3. Energy audit update: spent \$2,400 of \$3,000 budgeted.

The total of \$9,561 came from the Capital Reserve Fund. Money that was budgeted to come from the Capital Reserve Fund, that was not needed, remains in the Capital Reserve Fund. The Capital Reserve Fund balance was \$12,828 on July 31, 2026.

For access to the complete set of 2025-26 financial reports, reach out to Lea Smith, lea@concorduu.org.



Parish Notes Deadline

Nov. issue: October 18

Submit to 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.

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 | Steve Elgert
Larry Davis
Anna Morrison
Anne Meyers

Staff gathered for a mini retreat on Sept. 2 to prepare for the new church year!

Left to right:
Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger, Joe Bonavita,
Amelia Borgus, Heather Maconaghy,
Lea Smith, Becky Bosse

Staff

Senior Minister & Choir Director

Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger
603-715-7557 (cell) michael@concorduu.org

Director of Finance and 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

Family Engagement Coordinator

Amelia Borgus | amelia@concorduu.org

Custodian/Facility Manager | Joe Bonavita

Rainbow Room Lead | Bayshay Bruss

Children's Program Assistants

Riley Carr & Chloe Testa



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Unitarian Universalism