



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, NH

Spectacles

April 2022

From Our Minister



Dear Ones,
It's an earth song,—
And I've been waiting long for an earth song.
It's a spring song,—
And I've been waiting long for a spring song.
 Strong as the shoots of a new plant
 Strong as the bursting of new buds
 Strong as the coming of the first child from its
mother's womb.
It's an earth song,
A body song,
A spring song,
I have been waiting long for this spring song.
 ~Langston Hughes

The seasons turn to spring, or should I say to mud? The sap rises, and we turn it into sweetness. We change, we grow, we emerge. April showers come, we expect, harbingers of May flowers and of rainbows.

What has been hibernating in you? What has been buried deep within the ground? What radical (literally, proceeding from the root) aspect is emerging from your deepest sense of self? Have we, are we, cultivating a space, a community, an ecosystem that encourages thriving, welcomes diversity, celebrates the wholeness of its members and its visitors? What does that even look like?

Many years ago, this congregation became a Welcoming Congregation, committed to welcoming and supporting the needs and concerns of LGBTQ+ people. You have long hung a rainbow flag within your sanctuary, and spoken words of welcome on Sunday mornings. But welcome is an ongoing commitment, a shifting emergence, an active practice. We just hung a Progress Pride flag outside the building, a public marker of this commitment. A flag is a signifier, but more important than the flag is what it signifies. How do we express welcome, especially to people who have experienced oppression around their gender and sexuality? How do we work to make our congregation and the wider society a safe space for LGBTQ+ folks? I was heartened to join with Mary Ahlgren and many friends of the congregation at the Capitol the other week, showing support for and celebration of queer and trans kids. Not only is this a powerful way to incarnate our values, demonstrating support for those whose inherent worth and dignity is tragically being debated. But as your queer minister, this also matters to me on a personal

level. I feel more safe, more supported, and more celebrated in a community that proudly waves its welcome, that recognizes vulnerability but does not succumb to fear, that works to make itself and its wider community more affirming of sexual and gender diversity. And what a difference it makes that you do this *not* because of who I am, but because of who you are and who you want to be.

Coming out, as a queer person as well as an ally, as a congregation that embraces and supports people of all genders and sexualities, is not all rainbows and unicorns and butterflies. There is struggle and conflict and turmoil within and without. There is fear and hesitancy, a wish for things to be easier, a desire to not be different, a want to preserve peace even at the cost of suppressing one's own soul. And there is a deepening in conviction and a growing sensitivity to the struggles of queer people that develop as one starts to recognize the ways we have all internalized homophobia and transphobia, no matter how progressive and welcoming we try to be. There is a recognition that one's own soul matters. And then, past cycles of freeze and thaw, through mud and muck and mess, if we keep going and allow ourselves to be transformed, we emerge into ourselves, souls shining radiantly, moving proudly into the fullness and vibrancy of our own becoming, bursting forth into a spring song.

May we sing this song together, in beautiful and imperfect harmony,

Rev. Ariel

Upcoming UUCF Services

April 3rd, 10am ~ "What is Sacred Music Anyway? (Hymn Slam!)" Pam LaCroix & Libby Danahy

April 10th, 10am ~ "The Spiritual Path of Generosity or The Sermon on the Amount." Let's celebrate the gifts received from the UU Congregation of Franklin with song, with gratitude, and a dash of humor. Let's also consider what gifts we have that we can offer back to the community. Rev. Linda Goodman
Musician ~ Robin Charles

April 17th, 10am ~ "Roll Away the Stone"
Rev. Ariel Aaronson-Eves
Musician ~ Robin Charles

April 24th, 10am ~ Joint **ZOOM** service with UU Society of Laconia ~ More info to come

Upcoming Parish Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 5th at 6:00pm via Zoom (PC meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month). If you would like to attend, please email Lisa, morningglorywest@yahoo.com, for the Zoom link.

Parish Committee Members:

Howard Amsden, Chair

Lisa West, Clerk

Cindy Clarenbach, Treasurer

Emily Burr, Book Keeper

Erin Metcalf





TWIN RIVERS
INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

The Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry is collecting canned fruit for the month of April. Cans may be placed on the Food Pantry collection table located in the sanctuary. As an alternative you can send a check to:
Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry
2 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235
Attention: Daisy Blaisdell

Thank You!

Dear UUCF Members,
In going back over our log of incoming donations from February, I find that I neglected to send along a thank-you note for the wonderful donation of items for our "Warming Shelf" received on February 8 -- we miss the actual tree but space did not permit that set-up this year! As always, your items provided very lovely and welcomed warm items for our shoppers, and we did appreciate your thoughtful contributions.

The Pantry will welcome excess garden produce this summer, and if anyone might consider it – just planting a few extra things for the Pantry right from the start! We are hoping to increase our inventory offerings of fresh produce, and we would be truly grateful to your gardeners!

Thank you, *Daisy Blaisdell*

Note: Please do not leave fresh produce at the church. Take it directly over to the food pantry when it is open on Tuesdays from 9-11, Wednesdays from 5-7 and Thursdays from 9-11.

unitarian universalist

ACTION NH

Join us for an afternoon of worship, education and relationship building as we strive to unleash the power of faith communities into the climate justice movement in New Hampshire and Beyond. This hybrid event will be held at UU Concord and online over Zoom.

NH Interfaith Climate Justice Conference



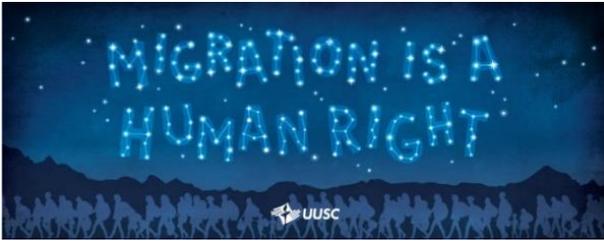
Sunday, April 24
2:30-6:30PM
Hybrid event: in person
at UU Concord, online
over Zoom

Keynote Speaker:
**Rev. Mariama
White-Hammond**

<https://uuactionnh.salsalabs.org/NHInterfaithClimateJusticeConference/index.html>



Hannaford helps in April and so can you! During the month of April, Franklin Bread and Roses Kitchen will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford store located at 952 Central Street, Franklin.



UUCF voted to be a Level 2 Sanctuary Church in support of Manchester UU, which is a Level 1 Sanctuary Church. Below is their Sanctuary/Asylum April Update, 2022.

Four days ago, under sunny skies and temperatures close to 60 degrees, I was hopeful that we were finally finished with winter. I am writing this newsletter today, March 28, a day where the wind chill factor makes it feel like 10 degrees. I know that Chris and Jon are looking forward to warmer weather. This is Ben's second winter, so he might be a bit more at home with the cold and the snow.

April is a time for new beginnings, weather wise, garden wise, and spirit wise. For many religions, this is a holy time. Here are a few holidays in April: April 2 – Ramadan; April 15 – Passover; April 17 – Easter; April 23 – Earth Day; April 24 – Pascha (Orthodox Easter).

While you celebrate your religious tradition this month, please think of and pray for the people of Ukraine. There are millions who are now refugees. I am grateful that we are helping Ben, Jon, and Chris on their journeys from war and oppression, through refugee status to asylum seekers and finally, full citizens. I am proud that we all are helping them adjust to a new life here in New Hampshire, and watch them begin to build a more stable, loving time in their lives.

Thank you to all our donors who have helped us offer a safe place for our guests who seek shelter while they wade through our asylum legal system to gain work papers, residency, and citizenship.

Here are some of the ways you can continue to support our Sanctuary/Asylum network: We accept **Market Basket gift cards** and checks to help support Chris as his case slowly works through the courts. Gift cards must be bought in-store, but then can be mailed to UU Manchester c/o Asylum Committee at UU Manchester, 669 Union St. Manchester NH 03104. Or, the cards can be dropped off at church during our new church administrator's hours, M-F, 8am-12 noon. Her name is Amy. **Checks** can be sent to the above address. Designate Asylum in the memo line and if your donation is for general support, specific support for legal fees, or specifically for food. We are a 501(C)3 organization, so your donations are tax-deductible. If you have any questions, contact our new church administrator, Amy (603-625-6854) or Liz Alcauskas (703-447-5701). **Credit card** donations can be made by going to uumanchester.org. 1. click on "Give" OR 2. Click on "Please Donate today" in the yellow ribbon on top of the page. In either case, the Planned Giving page will appear. 3. Scroll down to Donate and click on the DONATE button. 4. Be sure to find the "write a note" section and designate your donation is for the Asylum Fund. If you have any questions, call Liz at 703-447-7701. Thank you for your anticipated donation.



New link to updated Directory: It will bring you into the folder containing the directory. Double click on the filename Directory Update 2022.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19ctaNjZXqhb1afpmqfjN5vlx05mfsVSg?usp=sharing>



Erin Metcalf ~ 13th
 Lily Johnson ~ 25th
 Stephanie Van Horn ~ 26th



HOME REMEDIES

Do you have a “home remedy” you’d like to share? Pat’s home remedy: “When I feel a scratchy throat coming on or when I can’t clear the back of my throat, I mix 3 tablespoons of honey and 3 tablespoons of lemon juice in a tall glass of hot water and sip on it all day. It seems to clear up the throat.”



Pledges may be mailed to
 UUCF PO Box 562
 Franklin, NH 0323



The History of Arbor Day

Arbor Day is a holiday dedicated to trees that is celebrated in many countries around the world. Trees are a vital part of the world’s ecosystem. This observance serves as a way to both honor the humble and mighty tree and to help replenish the world’s supply by planting them.

The dates of Arbor Day festivities are often in the spring but vary worldwide according to many factors, including when the local conditions are ideal for tree planting. In the U.S., Arbor Day is celebrated annually on the last Friday of April.

The first known tree holiday goes back hundreds of years. It took place in Spain in the village of Mondonedo in 1594. The first Arbor Day in the U.S. was held in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on April 10, 1872. The event was organized by newspaperman Julius Sterling Morton.

Birdsey Grant Northrop of Kent, Connecticut, is credited with popularizing the concept of arbor festivities throughout the U.S. and worldwide. The educator, preacher, farmer, city planner, lecturer, writer, and diplomat came to be known internationally as the “Father of Arbor Day.” Northrop traveled the world extolling the importance of protecting nature and planting trees. Activityconnection.com

Ways to Celebrate Arbor Day

Plant a Tree ~ Visit

<https://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/plantingatree> for tree planting pointers

Go For a Walk ~ How many trees can you identify?

Check out <https://www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/>

Write a Tree Haiku ~

<https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Haiku-Poem>

The NH State Tree ~ Go to

<https://www.nh.gov/almanac/tree.htm> to learn about

the White Birch and learn how to draw one at

<http://www.yedraw.com/how-to-draw-birch-tree.htm>

What Tree Did You Fall From? ~ For fun go to

<http://www.wowzone.com/whattree.htm> Find your

birthday and corresponding tree. Then see the meaning behind it.

Do you have news to share? Kindly email your submissions for UUCF's Spectacles to hope@metrocast.net by the 27th of each month.



We have a Facebook Page!

<https://www.facebook.com/UUCFranklinNH/> Like Us! Then invite all your friends to Like Us, too!

Support UUCF through AmazonSmile



<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0355278>

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Franklin NH 03235
(603) 934-2141
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I Spy

As I walk
We play
I spy
Something red

On brown bare branches

Among green pointy pines

In gray tangled brush

Between silver new buds

I spy
Something red

The cardinal

He calls to me
Then wings himself
Against blue morning sky

As I walk
We play
I spy
Something red

~ Cindy Clarenbach