



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, NH

Spectacles

March 2022

From Our Minister



Dear Ones,
I never imagined being a minister in a time of war.

Granted, our military has been embroiled in conflicts for most if not all of my life. But there is something different about this moment, arising amidst the overwhelm and exhaustion of two years of coronavirus pandemic. The fear and anxiety of the world, right now, as we watch what is happening in Ukraine without really understanding why. This kind of territorial aggression seems like a remnant of a bygone age, except clearly it is not.

Two years ago, I was planning to visit a different landscape torn apart by military occupation and resistance, another place where the dreams of local sovereignty are ignored by superpowers who believe they can shape the world by drawing new maps and then

using their military power to enforce those new boundaries. The cancellation of my anticipated pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine in March 2020 was the first direct impact of the pandemic on my life. We had been monitoring the situation to determine if we would feel safe traveling, but when the borders to Palestine were closed because of coronavirus, our decision was made for us.

That trip was supposed to be the capstone of my final seminary class. I was disappointed that the trip didn't happen, but grateful for the container that class offered for the remainder of the semester to process this new time we had entered, this time of pandemic. In lieu of traveling to the "Holy Land" in the Middle East, I thought about pandemic as pilgrimage. My final project was a collage/map/meditation/tour through the Holy Land and Holy Time that is *now*, sacred both despite and because it is so terrifying and disorienting.

Nearly two years later, it is clear that many things have changed. We have moved on from that early phase, but we are still on the journey through this unknown terrain. And so, I share this [video tour of my Illustrated Holy Land Map](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJFD0FnflNo); may it help guide you through these ever-trying times.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJFD0FnflNo>

Take good care, dear ones. May our love for each other give us the strength to navigate this challenging world with courage and compassion.

~Rev. Ariel

Upcoming Services

March 6th, 10am, Zoom ~ “Safe Space” ~ Rev. Ariel Aaronson-Eves ~ Musician ~ Robin Charles

March 13th, 10am, Zoom ~ Rev. Tet Gallardo ~ Musician ~ Paul Hubert

March 20th, 10am, Zoom ~ Jennifer Whitten Musician ~ Robin Charles

March 27th, 10am, Possible in-person service ~ Lily Johnson ~ Musician ~ Libby Danahy

Upcoming Parish Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 1st 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

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>



Reaching Cindy by email: The best email to quickly reach Cindy is her personal one, hope@metrocast.net which is checked several times a day.

The admin.uucfranklin@gmail.com email from which the Zoom link, Order of Service, News & Notes, and Newsletter are sent from is not checked as frequently.



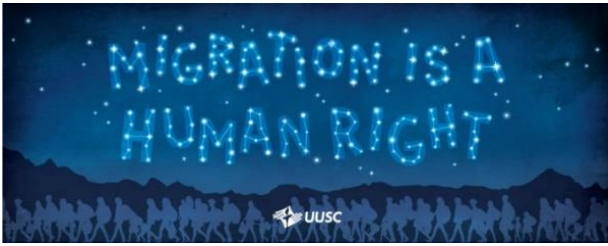
While our services will be held via Zoom through most of March, food donations (of your choice) can be left in the sanctuary or can be delayed until our services resume at the church.

As an alternative you can send a check to:
Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry
2 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235
Attention: Daisy Blaisdell



UUActionNH Faithify Fundraising Campaign
UUANH seeks to build a statewide network of progressive faith organizations to broaden the conversation around climate change. Your contribution will help the continued building of bridges in the climate action community. Please consider donating even a small amount to help fight climate change at the link below.

<https://www.faithify.org/campaign/23/the-uu-way>



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 February Update, 2022.

I wanted to do something different this month, and I requested from our asylum guests to submit a short poem in whatever language they choose. I also asked the committee to submit favorite short poems. Ben sent me the following Langston Hughes poem, titled "Dreams":

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Chris wrote the following:

For many years I tried so hard to live a life...a normal life but I can't escape this dark shadow that's always creeping up beside me for many years I tried to hide fighting my battles quietly inside afraid to say something and open up. About this dark shadow that's taking over my life. Fearful of being judged and misunderstood I thought hiding it is for the best Thought this dark shadow won't give me a rest. Many nights I cried myself to sleep. Asking why me.... why it had to be me?
But I can't seem to find an answer, hope to see my answer soon because I just happened to be an innocent sufferer of this dark shadow that never leaves me Even when I beg and plead.... I remember when I came into the world my father told me to keep my eyes and ears wide open. And to be kind. Love one another. Take care of each other. Tell the truth. Always do your best. Listen to the big

people and the little people. Explore new paths and have fun. Know that you are loved like crazy. Give thanks for all your blessings. About all else, love and you will do wonderful things in this world.

Liz Alcauskas, a committee member, submitted the following poem, "Cultivo Una Rosa Blanca", by José Martín

Cultivo una rosa blanca
en junio como enero
para el amigo sincero
que me da su mano franca.

Y para el cruel que me arranca
el corazón con que vivo,
cardo ni ortiga cultivo;
cultivo la rosa blanca.

Do you sometimes feel that what we are doing is not important? Here's what our friend Nancy at the Immigrant Solidarity Network expressed to us concerning our contribution to Jon's Green Card Application:

"He wants to be sure that everyone at UU Manchester knows how grateful he is for this support. When he heard about the fee required for the application (the total fee was \$1,125), it kept him up all night trying to figure out how he would pay it. I told him that we would work with the other immigrant advocacy groups in NH and that together we'd be able to swing it. I think he is amazed. Even though I've seen this happen many times now it NEVER ceases to amaze me. It's a glimpse into what the "beloved community" MLK always talked about would actually be like!"

We on the Sanctuary/Asylum Committee at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester thank you all for your work, your support, and your donations.

Here are some 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 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-12noon. 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-deductable. If you have any questions, contact Amy (603-625-6854) or Liz Alcauskas (703-447-5701). **Credit card** donations can be made by going to uumanchester.org. Click on "Give" OR 2. Click on "Please doate 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 DONATE button. 4. Be sure to find the "write a note" section and designate your donation for the Asylum Fund. Thank you for your anticipated donation.

If donating money isn't your thing, you might consider helping out in one of the following ways: driving Chris to Market Basket (gift card provided); visit our committee meetings or join as a member (alternate Mondays 4pm zoom Feb 7 and 21); tutoring tasks such as preparing a resume, looking for available jobs and practice filling out job applications, determining a budget; conversational sessions to practice speaking English, maybe even practice job interviewing, practice reading ads for apartments. Email us at sanctuary@uumanchester.org if you are interested or want more information, or call me at 703-447-5701 Liz Alcauskas.



City Year AmeriCorps

Information: City Year members serve as tutors and role models in high-poverty schools and receive a powerful leadership development program with an equity focus. The members get a \$800+ bi-weekly stipend and a \$6,000+ education grant when they graduate, among other benefits. They're hiring now for the 2022-

23 school year. Use [this link](#) to have info emailed to you. And here's [an overview](#) of the program. You can also talk with Community Engagement Manager, Chris Potter, by scheduling 30 minutes with him [here](#).



Stan Robinson ~ 14th
Rob Jacques ~ 18th
Kwesi Addo-yeboah ~ 28th



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



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



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

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin
PO Box 562
206 Central St.
Franklin NH 03235
(603) 934-2141
uucfranklin-nh.org