



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, NH

# Spectacles

## OCTOBER 2022

## From Our Minister



These are chalice lighting words, by Albert Schweitzer, found in the back of our hymnal:

*At times our own light goes out and is  
rekindled by a spark from another  
person. Each of us has cause to think  
with deep gratitude of those who have  
lighted the flame within us.*

I thought of these words the other night, as I sat beside the small bonfire I had made in my backyard. I am blessed with a firepit out behind my apartment, flanked by a couple of stacks of wood. But this was the first time I had actually made use of it.

I expected the wood to be a little damp with all the rain we have finally been having, but it had been a couple sunny days so I was hopeful it had dried out enough. What I hadn't considered was how long the wood might have been sitting

there, exposed, waiting to be used. After building a foundation of newspaper, cardboard, and delicate wooden berry boxes that I had collected over my frequent farmers market trips, I laid out a few handfuls of damp twigs. Then I went seeking bigger pieces of wood.

The first few logs I went for were not just damp but spongy. I realized, quickly, that most of this wood had been sitting for *years* out in the rain and snow. What had looked like a promising pile of fuel was in fact a decomposing mound, its energy turning not to flame but to soil.

I scavenged around. There were some hunks of newer, drier, thinner wood - carpentry debris, it appeared - somewhat protected by a large piece of plywood. I added some of those to the unlit fire, along with some small logs that were damp but still firm to the touch, hopeful that the burning paper would dry them enough to catch. It did.

I lit the fire and it burned. Vibrantly. Steadily. Securely. As it burned, I added more wood, including some that was rather wet or rather rotten. As I sat and watched the fire, I thought about the damp, rotten wood, how it still was able to burn, to give off heat and light, to shine. Its potential was still there, it just needed extra support, the flame and heat of others, in order to spark. Are we not like that too?

I know sometimes I feel pretty rotten, and like maybe I have nothing left to give. And it is true

that isolated, alone, I can't change that. But when I am nourished and fueled and supported, when others share their light and warmth with me, then I find that I too can burn, I too have something to share.

As we move into a new season of change, a new year in the Jewish calendar, may we surround ourselves with those sources of light that help our own inner light to shine brightly.

Love, Ariel

P.S. And when we really can't burn, we can still be like nurse logs, supporting new life in our ecosystems. There is so much that can feed on and grow from our decomposition, our slow descent into the dark. Even when we don't shine, we still give.

### **Upcoming UUCF Sunday Services**

**October 2nd, 10am** ~ *Giving Sanctuary ~ Finding Salvation* ~ Cindy Clarenbach  
Musician ~ Libby Danahy

**October 9th, 10am** ~ Rev. Ariel Aaronson-Eves  
Musician ~ Robin Charles

**October 16th, 10am** ~ Rev. Linda Goodman  
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

**October 25th, 10am** ~ TBD  
Musician ~ Libby Danahy

**October 30th, 10am** ~ Rev. Gary Shapiro  
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

The **Music and Worship Committee** is looking for people who would like to volunteer to do a lay led service. Please let Howard know if you are interested. [howardsmsden@yahoo.com](mailto:howardsmsden@yahoo.com)  
(603) 465-7709

We ask that you consider  
the health of others.

Face masks are highly  
**ENCOURAGED**  
and much  
**APPRECIATED**

inside the building.

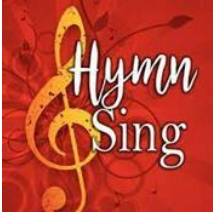


We ask that people sit at the tables **spaced apart** in the Fellowship Hall

Face masks are **REQUIRED** when at the communal food table during **Coffee Hour**.

**Sign-up sheets** for **Coffee Hour** and **Flowers** for the sanctuary are located in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up.





**Return of Hymn Sing!** Join Libby on **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm** in the UUCF Sanctuary. Please let Libby know if you plan on attending. [rdan@metrocast.net](mailto:rdan@metrocast.net)



**Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**, after the service we will be building scarecrows to display on the UUCF lawn. Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for any materials you may be able to contribute

### **Upcoming Parish Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, October 11th at 5:30pm via Zoom (PC meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month). If you would like to attend, please contact Erin, [em41385@gmail.com](mailto:em41385@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

### **2022-23 Parish Committee Members**

Kim Donovan, Chair  
Erin Metcalf, Clerk  
Cindy Clarenbach, Treasurer  
Lisa West  
Gail Morrison

### **Displaying Our Values**

Kim Donovan, Parish Committee

At the September Parish Committee meeting, the committee discussed flying the Progress Pride Flag. We agreed to display it more permanently by affixing the pole to the holder on the building. The reasoning behind

this is twofold. By displaying the flag regularly, our values as a congregation are more clearly announced. The other, more practical, concern is to try to discourage vandalism of the flag and pole.

It was pointed out during our discussion that there are other ways to show our inclusive values, including banners and other signage. We can explore these in the future. Meanwhile, displaying the flag is in keeping with the resolution just passed by the city of Franklin, and connects us to our community more strongly.



We are in need of a lead person for **Santa Lucia** (12/10/22). Please contact one of the Parish Committee members if you are interested.



UUCF is looking for a nurturing, enthusiastic person to provide childcare during our Sunday services for approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours starting in September. \$25 per Sunday. Please contact Erin at [em41385@gmail.com](mailto:em41385@gmail.com).



TWIN RIVERS  
INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

September was *Hunger Action Month* and thanks to your generosity, UUCF collected \$139.00 to be donated to the Twin Rivers Food Pantry Milk Fund!

unitarian universalist

**ACTION NH**

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

“Join us for a gathering of UU's from across the Granite State to learn worship and plan our collective future.”

Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 9am to 2pm,  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord,  
274 Pleasant Street.

<https://www.uuactionnh.org/events>



UUCF voted to be a Level 2 Sanctuary Church in support of Manchester UU, which is a Level 1 Sanctuary Church.

Here are some of the ways you can continue to support the 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 church administrator, Amy (603-625-6854) or Liz Alcauskas (703-447-5701).

**Credit card** donations can be made by going to [uumanchester.org](http://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.

**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>



Libby ~ 10<sup>th</sup>

Beth ~ 16<sup>th</sup>

Kaela ~ 18<sup>th</sup>

Colleen ~ 31<sup>st</sup>





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!

Support UUCF through AmazonSmile



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

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