



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, NH

Spectacles

January 2022

From Our Minister



Dear Ones,
The year turns and still we are lost in the clouds of coronavirus. I remember, early in the pandemic, reading a headline in the New York Times that predicted that we would be in this for a year and a half, maybe even two. It felt like over-the-top doomsday predictions at the time. *Of course*, we would figure out a way to get this situation under control before that! And yet, here we are. We have come a *long* way from March 2020, when testing was exceptionally difficult to come by, we weren't sure whether we should or shouldn't wear masks, and we were washing our groceries. But the pandemic rages on, with breakthrough infections and the contagiousity of the omicron variant making us both more anxious and more vulnerable.

I wish I had something hopeful or promising to offer you at the beginning of this year. The truth is, I'm overwhelmed, I'm scared. I was sick with

anxiety for nearly half of my retreat mid-December, being in close contact with people from all over the continent, many of whom with much more sensitive immune systems than mine, terrified that our moments of sacred connection could possibly kill us or our loved ones. Things *will* change, I know that much, but for now what I can offer is this:

When you are scared and confused,
I am with you.

When you are anxious and uncertain,
I am with you.

When you are overwhelmed and angry,
I am with you.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need someone to talk to, or have ideas on how we can navigate this as a community.

I do have some good news to offer. Starting later this month, I hope to launch a ten-week book study of [*All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*](#), edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson. The book is a beautiful anthology of pieces - essays and poetry - written by climate leaders from around the world. The sessions will be guided by the facilitated [Circles](#) model that the editors have developed. They will invite us to go deeper into the material as we slowly make our way through the rich, provocative, and inspiring book, and imagine and perhaps even implement changes and actions in our own community and congregation to be a part of the solution. If you are interested in participating,

please fill out this [scheduling survey](#) that will help me pick a time and day for us to meet.

These are particularly challenging times, that call upon our deepest resources. May we nurture and care for ourselves and our community in this season of dark and rest. May we lean in towards the growing light, finding truth, courage, and solutions for the many crises of our time. May we find new sources of happiness in this new year.

~Rev. Ariel

Upcoming Services

January 2nd, 10am ~ Rev. Jennifer Whitten, "*Wanderers, Worshipers, Leavers of Messages*" ~ Musician, Libby Danahy

January 9th, 10am ~ Rev. Ariel Aaronson-Eves, "*The Tragedy of the Commons.*" Most of us have probably been taught that the tragedy of the commons is the result of the over-extraction or over-use of resources that results from our inherent self-interest. It is a problematic and controversial theory. The *real* tragedy of the commons, Rev. Ariel suggests, is the belief that we (and our livestock) are primarily consumers rather than contributors. Rev. Ariel will share insights from ecology and holistic grazing management to explore what we bring to our communities, even as we are benefiting from them.

Musician ~ Paul Hubert

January 16th, 10am ~ Rev. Linda Goodman ~ Musician ~ Robin Charles

January 23rd, 10am ~ Rev. Gary Shapiro ~ Musician ~ Libby Danahy

January 30th, 10am ~ Cindy Clarenbach, "*Clapping Yoga ~ Because Laughter Yoga is Not a Covid Friendly Activity in Group Settings.*" **OR** "*Is it OK to Clap in Church?!*" ~ Musician ~ Paul Hubert

The Parish Committee respectfully asks that all congregants two years and older wear a mask and maintain social distancing during services.

Upcoming Parish Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 4th 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



We ask that people sit four at a table in the Fellowship Hall and to please **wear a mask until you are seated & eating.**

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



Our **Bread and Soup Sunday** is January 16th. Please bring bread, soup, or other goodie to share during Coffee Hour.

To help make our Meetinghouse a healthier place to be together, the Parish Committee would like to purchase **air purifiers**. Through special collections that were held on the 12th and 19th, \$794 was raised. Another \$600 was donated by Bread & Roses giving us a total of \$1,394. This is fantastic! (Our goal is \$2,000.) Thank you for your generosity!

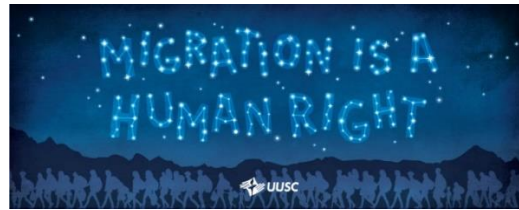


Attention All Knitters!

The **Holiday Gift Tree** will be set up in the Sanctuary until February 6th. Please hang your donated homemade or bought hats, scarves, mittens, and socks on the tree. These donations will be delivered to the Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry on February 8, 2022. The tree is kept up at the food pantry until all the donated items are gone. Many thanks to each of you for your continued support of this warm and fuzzy community program. ~ Pat Sleeper



For the month of January, the Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned meat. All donated foods are gladly accepted and given to those in need in our communities.



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 December Update.

There are many Holidays and Holy Days celebrated this month. Here are just a few:

<u>Christmas</u> Joyeux Noël Feliz Navidad Krismasi Njema	<u>Zarathosht Day</u> . Siku ya Zarathosht . Journé Zarathosht . Zarathosht Tag	<u>Hanukkah</u> Joyeux Hanoukka Furaha Hanukah חנוכה שמח
<u>Bodi Day</u> Journé bodi Día del Bodi Siku ya Bodi	<u>KWANZAA</u> . KWANZAA . KWANZAA . KWANZAA	<u>Winter Solstice</u> . Solsticio de invierno . Majira ya baridi Solstice . Solstice d'hiver

All of us on the Sanctuary/Asylum Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester thank you all for your generous and continued support. We wish you all a blessed season of Holy Days and Holidays.

Curt Smith UUManchester, John Angelo UUManchester, Paul Introcaso UUNashua, Phoebe Stone UU Manchester, Happy Beale St. Matthew's Goffstown, Edna White UU Manchester, Kathi Corrigan UU Manchester, Liz Alcauskas UU Manchester.

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 Manchetser, 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. 1. 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.



- Olivia Addo Yeboah ~ 3rd
- Lisa West ~ 5th
- Pat Sleeper ~ 11th
- Deb Steadman ~ 20th
- Coral Theberge ~ 20th
- Joel Anderson ~ 28th
- Kim Donovan ~ 28th
- Susan Haines ~ 29th



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



We have a Facebook Page! Find Us @UUCFranklinNH. Like Us! Then invite all your friends to Like Us, too!

Support UUCF through AmazonSmile



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

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