



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, NH Spectacles JUNE 2022

## From Our Minister



The onset of June marks the completion of nine months since I started serving this small and mighty congregation, an invitation to reflect on what has gestated in this time. We started out meeting in the sanctuary, then moved back to Zoom, before returning to the building. We've fumbled through livestreaming, trying to remain connected as people's comfort around gathering in person has shifted. We hoped for a paved parking lot and driveway, neither of which have yet happened, but at least we can access the back door with ease. We had a popular table at Choose Franklin Community Day, offering free tie-dye alongside our values of expansive love. Many of us read and discussed the book *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions to the Climate Crisis*, and shared some of the wisdom we learned with the wider congregation. St. Lucia didn't make an appearance this year, in larger part

due to COVID concerns, but Santa Claus did. We watched children grow, and offered each other thanks.

We started hanging the Progress Pride Flag outside the meetinghouse on Sunday mornings, as the Parish Committee, thinking about the future of this congregation, sought to make the welcome that we proclaim and promise publicly known. In the context of increased homophobic and transphobic legislation, the discussion of which sends the message to queer people that we are inherently wrong and troublesome, a public expression of support, especially on a house of worship, is a necessary balm. Unfortunately, this decision to hang the flag, like any change to a system, brought unexpected resistance and conflict. There are those among us who felt afraid, in perhaps new and unfamiliar ways, or maybe ways that brought up old trauma and vulnerabilities, and sought to keep their distance. There are those among us who felt disheartened with surprise that anyone might have an issue with hanging the rainbow flag outside, their relationship with the congregation troubled as well.

This is where we find ourselves, and we must grapple with it. The safety committee has been working hard on practical things like fire extinguisher placement and security, but the real question is figuring out who you want to be as a congregation, and how. To be alive is to be at risk, increasingly so it seems. And yet we send our children to school, travel in cars, and

breathe the same air as others, with fears in our bones and prayers in our pockets and hope in our hearts. Can we respond to this reality with relevancy and innovation, with courage and with concern, with pragmatism and pride? The future of the congregation depends on it. Is this congregation a social club of liberal people, insular but kind, caring but informal? Or is this something more, a force of love and hope in the community, guided by fierce vulnerability, proud allyship, and practical caretaking?

It's a scary world we live in that demands action for justice and safe spaces from which to dream our way into new realities. May the summer offer plentiful opportunities for recreation, restoration, and reimagination. May we emerge more committed, more connected, and more courageous.

With love & gratitude,

Rev. Ariel

### Upcoming UUCF Sunday Services

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am** ~ Jennifer Whitten  
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

**June 12<sup>th</sup>, 10am** ~ *Flower Communion Sunday*  
Rev. Ariel Aaronson-Eves  
Please bring a flower stem from your garden or neighborhood to contribute.  
Musician ~ Paul Hubert



**\*UUCF Annual Meeting\***  
following the June 12<sup>th</sup> service at  
11:15am.



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.



### **PFLAG-NH Event at UUCF Thursday, June 2, 2022 6pm to 7:30pm**

PFLAG-NH President, Erica Allen and PFLAG-NH support group facilitator and State Board Member, Dr. Margaret Almeida will speak about coping with societal messages and expectations that are in conflict with gender identity, as well as, the meaning of the Progress Pride Flag colors, its history, and its impact when flown.



## Upcoming Parish Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 7th 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](mailto: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



**UUCF Annual Picnic** will be held on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11:00am. Many **THANKS** to Paul & Debbie who will host it again at their home, 171 Webster Avenue in Franklin. Please bring a dish to share, a beverage of your choice, and a folding chair.



UUCF's Tie-Dye event at Franklin Community Day was a terrific success! Fifty-five shirts were dyed. And fun had by all! Many thanks to Erin for spear-heading the effort and Lisa for her tie-dye mastery! Thank you to all who volunteered their time and energy towards the event!

**Thanks to Lisa**, the shirts that were not used at Community Day have been tie-dyed and are available for purchase: children \$5, adult \$10.



This month the Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry is collecting cold cereals that contain fruit.

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

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!

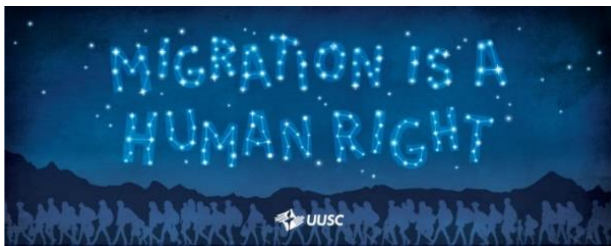
**Note:** Please do not leave fresh produce at the church. Take it directly to the food pantry when it is open on Tuesdays from 9-11, Wednesdays from 5-7 and Thursdays from 9-11.





Many **THANKS** to all who helped with the May 28<sup>th</sup> UUCF yard sale! Over \$400.00 was raised.

A **BIG THANK YOU** also goes out to Dawn Shimberg, Director of the Tilton/Northfield Youth Assistance Program, and Jeff and Nicoli, who helped bring totes up from the basement Friday afternoon. If you'd like to learn more about the Youth Assistance Program, go to: <http://www.yapnh.org/>



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

#### Sanctuary/Asylum Newsletter June 2022

This month's newsletter is the committee's annual report to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester. It is a review of the work we all have done over the past year.

Sanctuary/Asylum Committee Annual Report  
2021-2022 Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30)  
The names of our Guests have been changed to maintain their privacy.

**July 2021.** Ben has relocated from Greenfield to Manchester. ICE removed Jon's electronic ankle bracelet and NH Immigrant & Refugee Support Network procured for him a photo ID. For entertainment, we went to a baseball game

at Fisher Cats Stadium. Our Faithify campaign reached the goal of \$5,000.

**August 2021.** The church Board of Directors requested that we return Rev. Patrick to his office and move Chris into the former meeting room, Room 7. (The Infant/toddler room turned into a meeting room to replace Room 7). Edna, Marge, Suzanne, and Happy drive Chris to Market Basket for groceries. The Meal Train sign-up was discontinued, as Chris now cooks for himself. Phoebe has written thank you notes to all the Faithify donors. Ben is visiting his family in Uganda.

**September 2021.** GSOP led the Solidarity Walk for Immigrant Justice from Manchester to the Stafford Court House of Corrections. Paul, Jon, and Chris participated in the walk.

**October 2021.** Fun trip to The Flume Gorge in Franconia Notch, NH, with Paul, John, Chris, and Liz. Jon's official duplicate birth certificate finally arrived. He can now proceed with his asylum application.

**November 2021.** Chris, Suzanne and Edna attended the Memorial Service for Thamba Mbungu, 20 years old, an asylee from the Congo. The service was at Derryfield Park, where Thamba's body was found. Chris knew him and played soccer with him at local pick-up games. To offset the increasing cost of food, Happy is now taking Chris to the FIT Food Pantry on Lake St. before their Market Basket shopping.

**December 2021.** Chris spent Christmas with his brother and family in Louisville, Kentucky. Jon's application for a Green Card was submitted.

**January/February 2022.** Quiet months with lots of cold weather.

**March 2022.** More fun and entertainment: Paul and Chris traveled to Boston Gardens to see the Celtics beat the Grizzlies, 120 – 107. Exhilarating game! Presently, our church is classified "Religious" for zoning purposes. We have been asked by the Manchester Fire Department to upgrade to the "Religious/Resident" classification. Several

meetings have been held to explore the changes needed. Participants have included Sarah Jane Knoy (Executive Director of GSOP), Eva Castillo (NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees), Mayor Craig, Jim and Liz Alcauskas, Web Anderson, Curt Smith, Deputy Chief MFD Ryan Cashin, and Fire Inspector MFD Peter Lennon. In compliance with Mr. Lennon and to begin the process, we have engaged an architect to assess the conditions in the church and to recommend any physical changes needed to accommodate a resident.

**April 2022.** It's finally warming up after a long, cold winter. Phoebe has stepped down as our Donation Thank You person, and Jackie has joined us to take over that task. Suzanne has stepped off the committee but remains involved by taking Chris grocery shopping and other things as they crop up. John continues to tutor Chris several times a week. They also spend time shoveling snow, doing yard work, sharing meals, or arranging trips to our local baseball games. Paul continues to drive up weekly from Nashua to take Chris out to lunch. He also has scheduled several fun outings. Edna, Happy, Marge, and Suzanne chauffeur Chris to the grocery store and other places he might need to go. I continue to write minutes and send out updates to our sponsors.

**May and June 2022.** Chris passed his written driver's test. Ben is applying for the UNH Master's Program for Community Development Policy and Practice. Jon has been invited to visit a new Cuban refugee out of state to help him settle in. Chris will spend some of his ESOL summer break in Kentucky with his brother and family.

**Thank you from all of us on the Committee to all of you for what you do to support our Sanctuary/Asylum Program.**

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](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.

**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/19ctaNjZXqhb1afpmqfjN5vIx05mfsVSg?usp=sharing>



Freya Chapple ~ 14<sup>th</sup>  
Louise Proctor ~ 19<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Theberge ~ 20<sup>th</sup>

## June is LGBTQ Pride Month

Visit the links below to find the history of LGBTQ Pride Month and other resources.

<https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/>

<https://www.glaad.org/>

In celebration of LGBTQ Month, make a Rainbow Hexagon Shelf and/or a Spiral Straw Mobile. Directions for both are attached in the email.



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



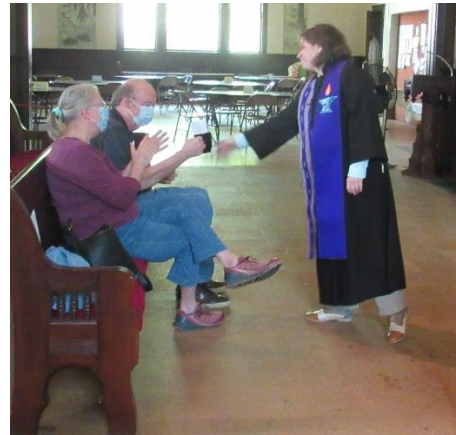
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0355278>

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Franklin NH 03235  
(603) 934-2141  
[uucfranklin-nh.org](http://uucfranklin-nh.org)

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.

A few pictures from our past two services:

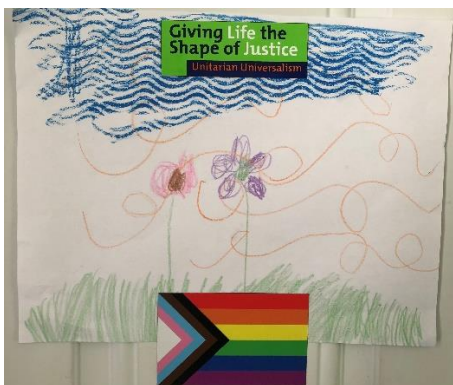
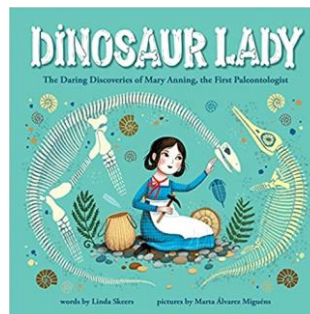
### *Volunteer Appreciation Sunday*



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## Lighting Candles for Dinosaurs Service



**Thank you, Freya, for your beautiful art work!**

## For Dragonflies [and Dinosaurs]

by Gail Forsyth and children of the North Parish of North Andover, MA (adapted)

For dragonflies, butterflies,  
 Caterpillars on leaves,  
 Lizards, wild turkeys, and tigers and deer,  
 We give thanks!  
 For sunset and seashells  
 And starfish and sand,  
 Octopus, jellyfish, and hammerhead shark,  
 We give thanks!  
 For horses and kittens,  
 Small bunnies and dogs,  
 For babies and dinosaurs,  
 And knowing we are loved,  
 We give thanks!