



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, NH

Spectacles

September 2022

From Our Minister



A few weeks ago, I went swimming with a friend in the Connecticut River between New Hampshire and Vermont. I haven't spent much time in Vermont, but when there I reflected on how some of my ancestors had. At least one line of my ancestry had moved between southwest New Hampshire and northeast Vermont. They knew this river, had crossed it more times than I, had swum, I am sure, between its banks. I shivered, not from the refreshing cool of the water, but from the sense that this landscape knew me, better than I knew it. Some of the older trees may have shared breath with my forebears; the rocks, shaped by the erosion of water and time, may have once borne witness to their travails. But the water itself, I realized as I immersed myself in it, this water and I were meeting as though for the first time.

Now I am sure someone could probably figure out the statistics of whether a particular molecule of water and a particular molecule of what was once and is now me or my ancestors had ever met before, and my guess is that the chances are not that slim. But the thing is, the river, old as it is, is constantly flowing, moving, changing over. The Connecticut River today is the same river that was there when my ancestors crossed, the same river that was there before Europeans set foot on this continent, and yet it is also completely and utterly different.

In this way, a river is like a congregation, maintaining its identity over time, even as its boundaries shift and its mass is ceaselessly transforming. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin is not the same as it was when it was founded, as it was one hundred years ago, or forty years ago, or twenty years ago, or two years ago, or even two months ago. And yet, it is the same congregation. More than just carrying forward the building and the trust fund, we are bearers of pieces of culture, tradition, mission, identity, and legacy left by our predecessors. While also being uniquely ourselves. Always changing. The people who have been here the longest are not the same people they were when they joined, nor are the newest members. We transform, through our relationships with each other and independently.

We come back after the summer recess, the same and different, tributaries into a common stream. On Sunday, September 11, we will join together the waters we have collected over the summer, to mark symbolically the reunion of our lives into this community. I am excited to be continuing through the rapids with you.

May we flow together with common purpose on this great journey.

Love,
Rev. Ariel



Rev. Ariel is back in the office and looking forward to the year ahead. Office hours will continue to be on Wednesdays. Please reach out to schedule a time to meet, over the phone, on Zoom, or in person. 201-741-6362 or aaronsoneves@uuma.org

Upcoming UUCF Sunday Services

September 11th, 10am ~ Rev. Ariel Aaronson-Eves ~ Water Communion Service
Musician ~ Libby Danahy

September 18th, 10am ~ Cindy Clarenbach ~ Autumn Equinox Service
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

September 25th, 10am ~ TBA
Musician ~ Robin Charles

The **Music and Worship Committee** is looking for folks who would like to volunteer to do a lay led service. It was such a great success last year and we are hoping to continue doing it this year. Reverend Ariel will be preaching the second Sunday of every month. Please let Howard know if you are interested. 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.



Parish Committee will be hosting Coffee Hour after the service on **September 11th**.

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.



Upcoming Parish Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 13th 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 for the Zoom link.

2022-23 Parish Committee Members:

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



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.



Dear Members of the Congregation:

Now more than ever, our neighbors need our help! Food insecurity and hunger are very real issues for far too many households, and no one should have to choose between paying bills and putting food on the table. A year ago, the Pantry eliminated the requirement for residency in one of eight communities and ended the policy of limiting access to one visit per month. These changes are making a positive difference in the lives of many people, but the magnitude of need continues increase.

September is **Hunger Action Month**, a month when the *Feeding America* nationwide network of food banks and their member agencies unite to urge folks to take action against hunger in their communities.

To make a difference in your community, would you consider taking a special financial offering on one specific Sunday during September to support the Pantry's weekly purchase of farm-fresh milk? We are now serving over 100 households each week! Your funds WILL make a difference!

Sincerely,
Daisy Blaisdell
Twin Rivers Food Pantry Board of Directors





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. 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/19ctaNjZXqhb1afpmqfjN5vIx05mfsVSg?usp=sharing>



Vince Ribas ~ 3rd
Mary Ahlgren ~ 14th



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 by the 27th of each month.

