



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, NH Spectacles JANUARY 2023

From Our Minister



Remember that collective sigh of relief we felt at the end of 2020? But then 2021 happened, and 2022, and even as we get more and more used to wearing masks and COVID messing up our plans, I stopped expecting a better year. So how do I, we, turn and face 2023, a year that does not promise peace or an end to the pandemic *or* climate change, or a fulfillment of our wildest dreams?

With hope. With active hope. With vision and commitment. True, there is so much in the world that we cannot control, but there is also so much that we can. To just let life happen to us because we are overwhelmed is irresponsible use of the powers granted to us in being human. But making change, enacting vision, is also something that we cannot do alone. We need to collaborate, communicate, support each other, and give birth to the kinds

of new ideas that only arise in connection with others.

This is my hope for UUCF in the new year — that we will lean into new ways of collaborating in this shared ministry, ways that support the wider community of Franklin, the congregation as a whole, and the individuals who comprise it. That we will inspire and support each other with new initiatives and old projects, activities that feel generative and exciting and help us feel new energy for engagement. That we will identify what hasn't been working so well, what is zapping us of strength and resources, and find ourselves able to name and move away from old patterns that are no longer serving us. That we may support each other in tending to the dreams of our hearts.

I don't know what all we need to commit to such resolutions, but I do have a few things planned to start us off.

On Sunday, **January 8**, after the service, we will be having an all-congregation workshop and meeting from **11:30-1** with UUA staff Rev. Erica Baron. This will be held at the meetinghouse, unless there is inclement weather, in which case we will all meet over Zoom. Erica has worked with many congregations in similar situations to us, with declining memberships and expensive buildings and still a lot of life and love. The question the Parish Committee asked Erica to help us explore is this: *What is our direction as a*

congregation that is shrinking and has a heavy financial burden? The only true answer is one that arises organically out of the congregation, so your presence and participation are greatly encouraged. Erica will offer us some guidance in helping find our way.

Another thing I have planned, for later in the year, is a four-session discussion series around the UUA's Common Read for this year, *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*. Although the five congregations featured in this book are considerably larger than ours and exist among different demographics, there is still a lot for us to learn - not just from their successes but from the challenges and dynamics that made things difficult. The book is currently on backorder, awaiting another printing, though if you like ebooks you can get started with the Kindle edition. The congregation will be ordering a number of the books directly from the UUA to resell to those of you who are interested. If you'd like to learn more, check out this 25-minute panel discussion with the authors: <https://vimeo.com/781975414>. More info to come after the books arrive.

Finally, I am looking forward to attending a webinar, sponsored by the UUA, on "[Singing for Liberation](#)." So that we might sing together, I invite you to join me at the meetinghouse on Tuesday, January 10, at 12:45 pm. If you are interested but unable to join, the webinar recording will be posted on the UUA website in February.

There is more in store, I am sure. I am really looking forward to what this year brings.

Love,
Rev. Ariel

Upcoming UUCF Sunday Services

January 1st NO Service

January 8th, 10am ~ Rev. Ariel Aaronson-Eves
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

**Congregational workshop with UUA staff
Rev. Erica Baron, to help imagine our future.
Sunday, January 8th after the service.**

January 15th, 10am ~ Lisa West
Musician ~ Robin Charles

Bread and Soup Sunday



January 22nd, 10am ~ Rev. Linda Goodman
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

January 29th, 10am ~ TBD
Musician ~ Robin Charles

The **Music and Worship Committee** is looking for people who would like to volunteer to do a lay led service. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday. If you have questions, please reach out to Howard. 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.

Upcoming Parish Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 10th 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

We Are Not Alone

Kim Donovan, Parish Committee Chair

Recently, members from the UU Congregation of Andover, Massachusetts requested to meet with some members of the parish committee to discuss how “similarly sized UU ... are tackling the challenges that face your congregation regarding declining numbers and energy. Or, if those are not your challenges, what you are facing and how you are dealing with it. And if your congregation is not facing any current challenges, we would love to know how you

have managed that.” What followed was a sharing of both frustrations and creative ideas about finding new ways to be together as a congregation.

What struck me most was the request itself. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover is a stone’s throw from a number of other UU congregations, both larger and smaller. And we are all struggling. It’s a strange camaraderie, one that does not let us off the hook for tending to the health and future of our congregation, but the possibilities of sharing experiences and wisdom as we do so are heartening.

With that in mind, I hope to see everyone at the January 8th workshop about congregation future planning. UUA’s Erica Barron will help facilitate it with Ariel. Like the meeting with the Andover, MA congregation, Erica can help us broaden and refresh our perspectives—and help us understand that we are not alone in this process. See you there!

Thank You!

A big **THANK YOU** to Susan Haines and everyone who assisted and contributed in any way to help make the Holiday Craft Fair and Cookie Walk a success! \$444.00 was raised!



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



The **Holiday Gift Tree** will be up in the Sanctuary until February 5th. Please hang your homemade and bought hats, scarves, mittens, socks and other warming gifts on or under the tree. These gifts will be donated to the Twin Rivers Food Pantry who will then give them to folks in need.

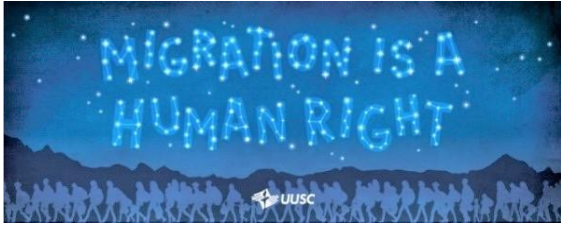
Santa came to UUCF and delivered presents after our December 18th service! Following his visit, a delicious pot luck meal was shared in the Fellowship Hall!



The Twin Rivers Food Pantry is collecting hot cereal with fruits and nuts and hot cocoa mix for the month of January. Items may be placed on the Food Pantry collection table located in the sanctuary.



Mission: Amplifying Unitarian Universalist voices and values in the public square throughout New Hampshire and beyond.
<https://www.uuactionnh.org/>



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

News from **December**:

Sanctuary/Asylum Newsletter
Sanctuary Coalition of Southern NH
December 2022

For many of us,
this is a season of hope and promise,
for world peace and prayers
for those in need.

What hopes and promises
keep you working
for the betterment of our community?
What are your dreams?
Can we do more?

We would like to hear from you.

Thank you for all you have done this past year for our Sanctuary/Asylum program. It has been a busy year for Ben and Chris, as it seems to have been for us all. I hope to have news from them both for my January update.

Happy Holidays from all of us on the S/A Committee:

John Angelo, Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester
Liz Alcauskas, Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester
Happy Beale, St. Matthews Episcopal Church of Goffstown
Lois Cote, Manchester
Suzanne Chretien, Manchester

Paul Introcaso, Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua
Curt Smith, Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester
Jackie Spenard, Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester

~ Liz Alcauskas, Sanctuary/Asylum Committee,
Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester

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. 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 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>



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!
<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>

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin
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(603) 934-2141
uucfranklin-nh.org

UUCF Mission: We are a liberal religious congregation that provides a welcoming sanctuary to all. We support the spiritual growth of our members and the needs of the local community as we seek to make a better world.

“In community, I find nourishment, rootedness, and reminders to look up: look up and see the beauty that is all around; look up and see that we are not alone in the struggle.”

Cambell, Sr. Simone, Hunger for Hope



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

