



Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Franklin, NH
Spectacles
APRIL 2023

From Our Minister



I've been struggling more than usual to write this month's newsletter. There is so much going on, my mind doesn't know where to land. Do I write to you about the fear-inducing graffiti found in Mill City Park recently? Or the latest mass shooting? Or the dangerous legislations being debated and too frequently passed across the nation, limiting health care access for pregnant and transgender people? Or simply the fact that we live in a world where it seems easier to legislate people's bodies than to regulate guns?

The fear pervades our city, our state, our nation, our world. As I sit with my own words, my stomach churns in discomfort. And so, I turn my attention outside, to that world of consistent changing change, of patterns that fluctuate even as they repeat, to the freeze and thaw

cycles that mark the beginning of spring, to the questions that this time of year asks of me, again and again and again, no matter what is going on in the world. What seeds – literal or metaphorical - can I plant and water in this month? What do I want to see bloom and grow?

As tempting as it is to fall into the metaphor that our pain, if tended right, will nourish what is to come, sometimes pain is just pain and tears are just tears and rain is just rain. When the psalmist cries, "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy," (Psalm 126:5, NRSV) it is in the context of a *plea* to God. That transformation is not an easy one, cannot simply be willed or wished to happen. It depends upon processes both natural and spiritual, upon community and connection and presence, and sometimes still doesn't happen. And yet, just as we can't will transformation, we can't stop it either.

And so, I close with a poem, which I learned this last weekend in the context of a verse set to [song](#) from *Sonnets to Orpheus*, Part One, IV, by Rainer Maria Rilke, translated by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy:

You who let yourselves feel: enter the breathing that is more than your own.

Let it brush your cheeks
as it divides and rejoins behind you.

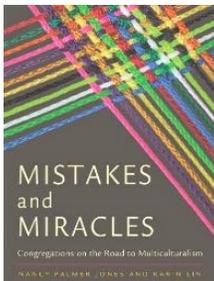
Blessed ones, whole ones,
you where the heart begins:
You are the bow that shoots the arrows
and you are the target.

Fear not the pain. Let its weight fall back
into the earth;
for heavy are the mountains, heavy the
seas.

The trees you planted in childhood have
grown too heavy. You cannot bring them
along.
Give yourselves to the air, to what you
cannot hold.

Be gentle. Be kind. May you know you are
loved.

Love,
Rev. Ariel



Mistakes & Miracles Book Discussion

The four sessions will be held on Tuesday afternoons, 4-5:30, on the following dates: April 4 & 18, May 2 & 16. The first two sessions in April will be on Zoom; the May sessions will be in person. If you haven't made it through the book yet, please be sure to skim through some of the case study chapters at the very least. We

will be entering into discussion considering the following questions:

- Where did you recognize yourself, our faith community, or our Unitarian Universalist movement in the book?
- What in the book made you curious to learn more?
- What felt challenging? Affirming?

Upcoming UUCF Sunday Services

April 2nd, 10am ~ Howard Amsden
Life Stories ~ Musician ~ Paul Hubert

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

April 16th, 10am ~ Kim Donovan & Gail Morrison ~ Musician ~ Libby Danahy
Bread and Soup Sunday



April 23rd, 10am ~ Cindy Clarenbach
Intergenerational Earth Day Service
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

April 30th, 10am ~ Rev. Emily Burr
Musician ~ Robin Charles





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, April 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 for the Zoom link.

2022-23 Parish Committee Members

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



The first monthly forum of the **Anti-Hate Group of Franklin, NH** (formally known as Citizens Task Force Against Hate), will be held on **Wednesday, April 19 at 6:00pm at UUCF**. These meetings will have a period devoted to sharing concerns and offering possible resources, and an education portion, focusing each month on a different aspect of intolerance and hate, facilitated by various individuals. Some initial topics include “steps to de-escalate conflict”, “how to be an ally”, “definitions of Hate Crimes as determined by Federal and State”, etc.

"The Motto, Mission Statement and Objectives of the “Citizens Task Force Against Hate” are all still valid:

Motto: “Franklin Welcomes All”

Mission Statement: To promote inclusion and acceptance; to educate regarding intolerance; and to provide resources to victims of hate

Objectives:

1. Create safe spaces for those experiencing hate
2. Inventory community resources and prepare glossary of terms
3. Determine appropriate actions
4. Offer educational opportunities around diversity and inclusion
5. Commit to self-reflection



Come join in a fun evening of games at **UUCF!**

Friday, April 14th at 6:00PM
Bring your favorite game and a favorite snack!





UUCF has a Facebook Page!

UUCF has a Facebook Page that is posted to at least once a week to announce the upcoming Sunday service and often more than once a week with other pertinent posts. If you have a Facebook account, please check out our Facebook Page often, like our posts, and share them. Liking UUCF posts and sharing our posts will allow for more exposure to those who might not know about us.

<https://www.facebook.com/UUCFranklinNH/>



The Parish Committee asks that folks leave parking spaces open out front for those who need easier accessibility into the Meetinghouse and for new guests. If you are able, please park in the back of the building or in the parking spaces to the right of the building. Thank you.



The Twin Rivers Food Pantry will continue to accept donations of **plain macaroni and low sodium green beans** during the month of April. Please place donations on the collection table in the sanctuary.

Twin Rivers Food Pantry collects empty aluminum cans. They can be placed under the food collection table in the sanctuary.

Monetary donations may be sent to:
Twin Rivers Food Pantry
2 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235
Attention: Daisy Blaisdell

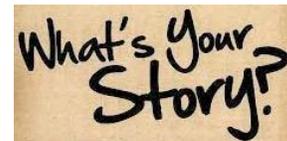
"Feed the Need!" Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, April 29th, 10:00am to 2:00pm
Franklin Middle School Gym, 200 Sanborn St.
The Craft Fair will support the Twin Rivers Food Pantry's initiative to provide supplemental weekend food bags for children in area schools!

<https://twinriversfoodpantry.org/events> or
craftfair.twinrivers@gmail.com for more info



Valerie Perkins, Denise Steadman, Debbie Steadman, and Pam LaCroix pack food bags at the Twin Rivers Food Pantry.



We want to learn more about our members and friends!

Please submit a short story about yourself so we can all get to know you better. Send it to Cindy at hope@metrocast.net by the 27th of the month.





UPDATE: The hearing for SB 272 has been RESCHEDULED to Tuesday, April 18th.

Join us to hold signs in front of the State House at 9 AM, then sign in to testify against SB 272 in Representatives Hall in the State House at 10 AM!

The state house has scheduled another hearing on SB 272, the other so-called "parental bill of rights" that passed the Senate. This is now the last anti-LGBTQ bill standing, and it will take a lot to defeat it in the House. Now that the bill has gone from the Senate to the House, the whole process (public hearing, committee recommendation, full house vote) starts all over again. For more information go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/603Equality>



Mission: Amplifying Unitarian Universalist voices and values in the public square throughout New Hampshire and beyond.

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

Equity and Justice in a Changing Climate

Join fellow Unitarian Universalists and guests from around the state on Saturday, April 29th at 8:30am at the UU of Concord, 274 Pleasant Street. The day will include:

Morning worship, a plenary discussion, congregation showcase, keynote speaker, fellowship, food, and more. Featuring: Catherine Corkery, Director NH Sierra Club

Arnold Mikolo, Manchester Conservation Law Foundation, NAACP -- Air Quality differences between neighborhoods based on social and economic status

Wayne Morrison, President of North Country Alliance for Balanced Change -- landfill contamination

Paul & Denise Pouliot of the Cowasuck Band of the Abenaki-Penacook Tribe

Representative Wendy Thomas, Merrimack Water Warrior -- PFAS in well, drinking water
Congregation Showcase, A discussion of social justice work in congregations led by
Laconia Congregations Green Sanctuary
Manchester Congregations Sanctuary
Plymouth Congregations reproductive health rights

The election of UU Action NH officers and introduction of new Executive Director Mo Baxley.

Continental breakfast and light refreshments, lunch and fellowship.

For tickets:

https://uuactionnh.salsalabs.org/Annualmeeting2023/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3_PMbLPKPFHPi4hAf7_46VApnR_QXCv0gjiPwLLWEGOWGK8kshXLT7jMTs



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

Sanctuary/Asylum Newsletter
Sanctuary Coalition of Southern NH
MARCH 2023

Hope is in the air. Despite the snowstorm we've just had, winter is waning. Have you seen the birds stopping for a little while along their way north of here or south of here? Have you heard the first spring sounds of the birds beginning to stake out their local territories to raise their next

generation? They are singing out their hope for warmer weather, for food, for mates, and a safe place to raise their offspring.

We too have hope. For a long time, Ben has been hoping that his wife and children would be approved for asylum here with him. As I wrote in February's newsletter, they have been approved and now have the interview process prior to receiving their visas. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and we hope that light will shine brightly, and bring them here soon.

Meanwhile, Ben is studying diligently. When he began the Master's Program at UNH Carsey School of Public Policy, he wasn't sure that he could keep up with his younger classmates whose primary language is English. Nevertheless, he had faith and hope that he could succeed. And succeed he has! He has earned all A's, and he has grown in confidence. I am in awe of his ability and determination. English is not his first language, nor his second or third language. Those are French and Lingala. He also speaks Swahili and at least two local Congolese dialects. Ben's hope has brought him a long way.

Chris is still visiting in Kentucky caring for his brother's five children while their parents are dealing with serious medical conditions. We know that surgery needs to be scheduled and we hope it will be soon. Chris has had to put his own plans on hold. We hope that he will be able to return here soon. We miss him.

So, here's hoping that March will be kind to us. Soon it will be spring!

*"I'll bring you hope, when hope is hard to find,
and I'll bring a song of love, a rose in the
wintertime."*

We continuously need donations. We accept **Checks** sent to the U.U. Church of Manchester, 669 Union St. Manchester NH 03104. Designate "Asylum Fund" in the memo line. 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. 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 703-447-5701. Thank you for your anticipated donation. We are a 501(C)3 organization, so your donations are tax-deductible.

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



Erin Metcalf ~ 13th
Lily Johnson ~ 25th
Stephanie Van Horn ~ 26th

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/19ctaNiZXqhb1afpmqfiN5vix05mfsVSq?usp=sharing>



Pledges may be mailed to
UUCF
PO Box 562
Franklin, NH 03235

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.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin
PO Box 562
206 Central St.
Franklin, NH 03235
(603) 934-2141
uucfranklin-nh.org

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

