



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, NH

Spectacles

FEBRUARY 2023

From Our Minister



Every time the Parish Committee gets to that part of our meeting agenda where we cover the reports from the congregational committees, we end up talking about how the committees aren't meeting and how the only information we have is often from conversations we happened to be a part of, rather than what was officially reported.

Last year, I was more proactive in getting committees to meet - at least Music & Worship and Caring - and in both cases the committees only met when I convened them. As your new minister, it was important for me to meet with them as a way to get to know the members and the church systems. This year, I've stepped back more, and besides initiating a Worship Associate training and having one Caring committee meeting, there haven't been committee meetings that I am aware of.

It is easy to say, "The committees need to meet." And maybe they do. But the reality is that they aren't meeting, and there must be reasons for that. Some reasons that come to mind for me are that the people involved don't find meetings to be valuable enough to prioritize them, or they don't feel empowered to (and/or don't want the responsibility) to take initiative. Our workshop with Rev. Erica Baron gave us all the perspective that returning to the "good old days" of church volunteering is not possible. So rather than putting our energy into trying to make things work well the way they used to work but no longer do, what if we tried something new?

I'm not sure what that new thing might be, but I do go to a lot of meetings in my work, and have some thoughts on why I like some meetings and not others. I like meetings when they mean spending time with people I enjoy and might not get to see otherwise. I like meetings where I feel I can show up honestly and fully and connect more deeply with people, even if only in small ways related to the topic of the meeting. I like having a general idea of what to expect going into a meeting, or at least being able to trust that someone has a rough agenda and can facilitate. I don't like meetings that are mostly just me listening to someone else talk or present information; that's a lecture, not a meeting. I don't like meetings where I am told I have to do extra work, especially when it is paperwork and the reasons are not clearly communicated. Similarly, I don't like meetings

where there is a sense of pressure or guilt about taking on more commitments than I feel up for. On the flipside, I do like meetings where there are clear opportunities to volunteer or take initiative on new projects, where there are clear ways to collaborate with and support others.

The [Sanctuary Boston](#) community has a model of:

- No volunteering without joy
- No committees without purpose
- No programs without leaders

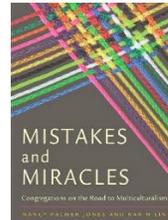
If we lean into joy and purpose and leadership, where do we end up? What kind of meetings do we have, when, and why? How can we show up for the work of the congregation in such a way that we leave our meetings feeling connected, inspired, and dedicated towards our shared purpose? Where are we already experiencing that? How do we empower each other in taking ownership and responsibility for the work, while also trusting that we do not have to do anything here alone?

I don't think this starts with me saying to the committees, "Okay, we are going to meet at this time." Maybe it does. But they are not *my* committees. I see my role as supporting the congregation in its work, not determining what that work is. I want you all to feel empowered to call your own meetings, to ask for help in deciding how to best run them, to communicate clearly with the rest of the congregation about what you are up to, to invite me and others into the process.

One of my biggest takeaways from the workshop with Rev. Erica Baron was a clearer understanding of my own role in this community: to support and encourage you all to lean into the places where you feel energy and excitement, to help that build. To tend to the small fire that is the heart and soul of this place, that it may sustain and warm many others.

May we find the places where we want to say Yes, and feel empowered to move towards them.

Love,
Ariel



***Mistakes & Miracles* books are here!**

This spring we will have a 4-session congregational discussion series of the UUA's Common Read book, *Mistakes & Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*. A number of paperback books are available and will be for sale from the congregation. You can also order a Kindle copy to get a head start or if you prefer e-readers. We will schedule the discussion series after we have a chance to read the entire book. If you are interested in participating, please fill out this [form](#) to reserve a book and support scheduling.

Upcoming UUCF Sunday Services

February 5th, 10am ~ Cindy Clarenbach
"The Healing Power of Birds"
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

February 12th, 10am ~ Rev. Ariel Aaronson-Eves
~ Musician ~ Robin Charles

February 19th, 10am ~ Rev. Linda Goodman
Musician ~ Paul Hubert

Bread and Soup Sunday



February 26th, 10am ~ Jennifer Whitten
Musician ~ Robin Charles

The **Music and Worship Committee** is looking for volunteers to serve as **Worship Associates**. 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, February 14th 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 has a Facebook Page!

During our Congregational meeting on January 8th, Rev. Erica Baron mentioned the importance of social media in reaching people. 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.



Gail and Pam will be leading the Poetry service on March 19th. There will be a planning meeting Sunday, March 12th after Coffee Hour for anyone who would like to participate in the service.

“Dear UUCF AmazonSmile Customer,
We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, we will be providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program, and they will also be **able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February**. Once AmazonSmile closes, charities will still be able to seek support from Amazon customers by creating their own wish lists.”

**Support UUCF through AmazonSmile
Up until February 20th**

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



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

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.



It's so exciting to have some new people attending our congregation and I thought it would be fun for all of us to get to know each other a little better. It started with a conversation in the kitchen cleaning up after coffee hour and it made me think since we haven't had our small meals gatherings since covid began, we could use our newsletter to feature someone every week or month so we can get to know each other better.

It's hard to know how much to write. I suppose we each get to choose how much we want to divulge about ourselves. I started attending the Franklin Unitarian Church maybe 9 years ago. The kids were in second and third grade (I think) and I wanted them to learn about all the world religions. They came with me for a couple of years but did not choose to continue, however, my good fortune was to find a bunch of like-minded people who challenged me to become better. I really enjoy the diversity of our rotating ministers and lay led services. On many a Sunday in my early years here the tears flowed freely. That's a good thing! My heart was touched.

Since I have joined the church, I have led three services, participated in a couple of others, helped out with the Santa Lucia tea, hymn sing, assisted with yard sales and cookie walks and coffee hours. I have also served on the caring committee and the canvas committee. I greatly look forward to the annual picnic at Debbie and Paul's house on Webster Lake and hope that

soon we can get back to having a monthly game night.

I am the mom of two teens. Lily graduates this year and moves on to Dartmouth on her path to becoming a naturopathic doctor and Cole will be completing his sophomore year at Franklin High School. As many of you know, the kids were at Sant Bani School for their first through eighth grades.

Sean and I sold our house in Pembroke in 2002 and bought our land in Franklin the following year. It took 4 months to build the driveway to get to our property so construction began in October 2003. We have built an insulated concrete form house on our 50 acres of boulder and ledge laden property.

I got clean in February 1990 (stop smoking pot and drinking). Even though that's a long time to be sober I still really enjoy a good party and love bringing people together in celebration. Both of my grandmothers were named Louise and they were both innkeepers. I feel that is my calling and would someday love to run some sort of communal situation on my property.

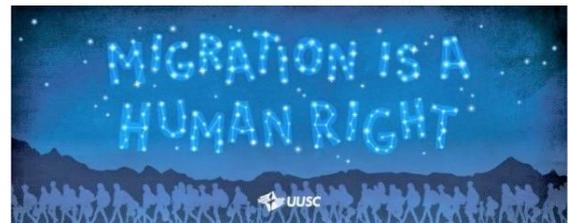
Other fun facts about Louise: she loves gardening and cooking for her vegetarian family (although she is not vegetarian herself), her mom was on the cover of women's day magazine November 1940, she and her mother were arrested at the Seabrook nuclear power plant sometime in the 1980s, she also participated in a peace March from Georgia to Cape Canaveral in an attempt to stop the Titan missile testing and finally her attendance at an internship on Kauai Hawaii at the national tropical botanical garden was a highlight of her life.

That's probably way more than enough but feel free to ask me about my ancestors as that's a whole other story!

If you would like to submit a short story about yourself so we can all get to know you better, please send it to Cindy at hope@metrocast.net by the 27th of the month.



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.

Sanctuary/Asylum Newsletter
Sanctuary Coalition of Southern NH
January 2023

It's a New Year, and many of us are thankful for that. We're ready to move on, with renewed energy, to continue the hard work we do to improve the lives of our asylum applicants and to advocate for immigration reform.

Meanwhile, Ben has sent two updates:

#1: "I'm doing well, keep waiting for my family's arrival it's a longer process than I was expecting, I don't know when exactly they

will be here. Which making me stressed. Meanwhile I'm working every day and sometimes double shifts in Belmont one hour driving. We are in vacation we are going to start again with school in two weeks. Thank you."

#2: "I finished 4 courses, all with A and one with A+, (PROJECT MANAGEMENT DESIGN, PROJECT MANAGEMENT DESIGN AND PLANNING, ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP, INTEGRATIVE APPROACH. Before this 4 courses I took STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS). I'm readying to take this semester PROJECT MANAGEMENT MONITORING. I can't take two courses lack of finance. Matha Carlson and her organization can't pay for me two courses again because it's very expensive while they have a lot of students to support. So, I will be taking one course by semester from this coming semester.

About my family seems like I have to stay be patient nothing new I'm over the time expectations, I don't know what is going on. Thank you."

And what's up with Chris?

His court case for his divorce was Friday, January 6. Choisie never showed up. The judge and the Case Manager had Chris complete forms and sign them, and the court will send them to Choisie to sign and return. Once she returns the signed forms, the court can grant the divorce without another hearing.

Chris returned to Manchester on January 4th. He has been in KY caring for his brother's family while his brother and wife deal with medical issues. The brother will be having surgery in April, so Chris is still needed down there, and will be returning on January 14th. The local Congolese community is helping the family, and our committee continues to send money to Chris to help with expenses.

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

Upcoming Franklin Events

61st Annual Franklin Winter Carnival
February 4th - March 4th

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

44th Annual Webster Lake Ice Fishing Derby
Sat, Feb 18, 6am–3pm Sun, Feb 19, 6am-3pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webster-lake-ice-fishing-derby-2023-tickets-302666552807>



Birthdays!

Tyler Barody ~ 2nd

Sheryl Anderson ~ 10th

Howard Amsden ~ 20th

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>



“The present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it.”
~ Thich Naht Hahn

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

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.