

Daylight
Savings
Time Begins
March 13

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

March 6, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Welcoming the Stranger: Considering Our Immigration Policy

Immigration policies in the U.S. and in the states are very much in the news. There are conflicts and questions about what they should be. Let's look at the impact of current policies and consider what we should do from a UU perspective. In addition to our regular worship format, there will be testimony from a guest who feels the direct impact of these policies. This is a chance to learn more about this complex yet intensely personal subject.

Guest Worship Leader: **Ted Fetter** Special Guest: **Marisol Condes-Hernandez** Worship Associate: **Stephanie Hanzel Cohen**

Music: **Jeffrey Fadden, Beth Ertz—Piano, Marjorie Herman**

March 13, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time Begins)

American Bloomsbury

Ralph Waldo Emerson, with an inheritance from his first wife, supported a “ sudden outbreak of genius” in Concord, Massachusetts. The Alcotts, Thoreau, Margaret Fuller and other literary and cultural icons ate dinner and took walks together, exchanging ideas and experiences. The Transcendentalist Movement grew out of these interactions. Where would UUism be today without them?

Worship Leader: **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** Worship Associate: **Chris Sturm**

Music: **Adult Choir, Beth Ertz—piano, Marjorie Herman**

March 20, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Youth Visions and Hopes

This Sunday I will be partnering with eight members of our youth group to lead the service which will feature their experiences and thoughts as part of our congregation and this faith. Let us all be present to receive from them and affirm their religious growth and their place in our community.

Worship Leader: **Rev. Chris Reed** Worship Associate: **Marjorie Herman**

Music: **John Bachalis—clarinet, Beth Ertz—piano, Marjorie Herman**

March 27, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Grasshoppers in the Glittering Net

As we walk our Seventh Principle, paying attention to the interdependent web of which we are a part, we recycle, try to live more lightly on the earth, and consider eating ethically. What does it mean to live out our faith that we are all connected? How did it affect UU entomology professor Jeffery Lockwood?

Worship Leader: **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** Worship Associate: **Ron Campbell**

Music: **Adult Choir, Beth Ertz—piano, Marjorie Herman**

Reflection

Reverend Chris Reed

As I have been reflecting on my ministry here and the 22 years that I have been on staff, I am so aware of and thankful for the many gifts of leadership and modeling that so many of you have given me. In April I hope to celebrate our shared path and our shared ministry and express my thanks in a Sunday morning worship service.

Meanwhile let us all be reminded that ministry is a two-way dynamic. And as you select and call a new minister to this congregation, the health and vitality and effectiveness of this community will somewhat depend on that two-way dynamic. She or he will bring many gifts of ministry as well as some imperfections. She will bring new vision and changes and possibilities. Equally as important as anything she might bring to her various roles and relationships here, is what you will each bring.

Interim years are times for congregations to grow in health and vitality and to be the best that they can be in the new partnership that they are about to enter into. In this stewardship month, we all have an opportunity to act on supporting UUCP, an institution that has made a change in so many lives, worked to repair the world in vital ways and through vital partnerships, and has been an affirming and loving spiritual home for so many.

In addition to financial support, this is a great time to look at other ways in which you support and help shape the various ministries that make up who we are.

Rev. Meg Barnhouse and I are trying to leave UUCP with all the important structures in place. We have recently put together a new Adult Programs Committee, but there are a few key leadership positions on various committees that we would still like to fill. If you would like to work closely with the new minister and you would like to be involved in the leadership of UUCP, please let us know, as we will be

working on filling these positions in the next two months.

Meanwhile this has truly become a Spring of celebrations for me. My new grandson is expected to be born around February 20, which will mean many trips to New York City. My mother, who still gardens 3-6 hours a day, turns 90 on March 4, with a large birthday celebration in North Carolina. And besides the two Sunday morning services that I am dedicating to my leaving (one in April and one in June), the Board is hosting a retirement celebration on Saturday, June 4. Someone recently said that this is not retiring but refocusing. Whatever we call it, I hope that all of you can come. I have so many great memories of our time together and I will miss you all very much.

I also want to extend our love and hopes for health and healing to Shelle Sumners, our RE Program Coordinator, who is healing from a stroke that she had in December. Members of the RE Council have stepped up to fill in for Shelle's Sunday morning presence and tasks. But we all miss her very much.



Reflection
Reverend Meg Barnhouse

This page brought to you by **HUMBER SUVs of PLAINSBORO** * This is a parody. I know you are reading fast, but please note this important piece of information.

Dear Friends,
 This used to be the time of year when the members of this congregation would have to ask each other for money. We would talk about the money it takes to clear the parking lot of snow so we could gather, the money that went to the congregation's ministers, educators, youth coordinator and support staff. We would ask one another to remember the many priceless moments provided by this faith community: the excitement of your kids about what they heard and who they were getting to know, the conversations at men's group or Covenant Circles, the sermons that invited you to think about something in a new way, the comfort and inspiration brought by the music. We talked about what the congregation meant to us, how we came here, why we stay, how we'd grown because of it. It was fun, in a way, but it was also a lot of work for the people who were willing to make the contacts and have the conversation about money. It was uncomfortable for some of us to face our money-life: our fears about not having enough, of losing what we'd built up, our resentments at the thought that we were giving an amount we could really feel while others were blithely taking a free ride, having "priceless" experiences we were paying for.

We've put all that behind us, though, and now our congregational life is sponsored by **HUMBER SUVs of PLAINSBORO**. All we have to do is put their name on each page of our publications. Oh, and mention them in worship. Just once, though, and only at a slightly louder volume than the rest of the service. And the new paint job the building needs? They are going to pay for it! All they ask is that we use this year's featured "Canyonero" auto body color combination: "Champagne Life" and "Fleshtone." "Fleshtone" is a bit like a Band-aid, and I tried to mention to their ad execs that there is an enormous range of flesh tones from snow to ebony, most of which would go better with "Champagne Life" than Band-aid, but they

glowered and threatened to pull our funding, so I had to subside. We don't want to have to go back to doing an every member canvass, do we?

We could sign up with a different sponsor, who might be a bit more friendly toward our now-discontinued Gr**n Sanctuary Project (the lawyers tell us we can't mention it by name unless we're poo-pooing that whole over-blown "Climate Change" theory) or we could sign up with the state government as our New England forbears did, and receive support from the new State-Faith partnership initiative. Then we'd be free to pursue our promotion of caring for the interdependent web of creation. We'd have to dismantle the Legislative Ministry, though, and have a picture of the governor in Channing Hall, but that wouldn't be too bad. We'll be happy to hear your thoughts on these matters. So join us in the HORIZUN WIRELESS Lounge for coffee hour for a mostly free and somewhat far-ranging discussion.

The above parody is just to remind you that we are a free congregation. We can be free because we support ourselves. With your pledge of support you create space for a free pulpit, where your new minister can say anything s/he wants to say, things that will not be said in any other pulpit in Princeton, things like "You can be a good person without believing in God" or "There isn't any Hell." With your pledge you create an ad-free space where we and our children aren't bombarded by messages about what they should look like, what they should drive, or what medicine they should ask their doctor about. With your pledge you create freedom of thought and word. This spring we are "Building a New Way," a new ministry for this congregation. Be a part of it.



Religious Education for Children and Youth

Youth Read & Feed Update:

On Feb 13th, the day before Valentine’s day, youth group members: **Zach Bayer, Lynn Diferdinando, Mariah Heller, Tori Sabo** and **Nikki Ross** helped to deliver three car loads of beautiful children’s books to the East Trenton Habitat Center. We hung out with the several children from the neighborhood and their parents - reading, selecting books, making bookmarks and valentines, while eating goodies. The East Trenton children were delighted with their selection of books and book series, each taking several home to read. One 4th grader was so excited to share her new *American Girl* series with her classmates at school! The rest of the unselected books are being used at the East Trenton Learning Center.

Sincerest **Thank you** to all who lovingly donated children’s books and to Youth Advisors, **Nancy Gardner** and **Beth Surmont** who donated their time to support this project! Reading makes such a difference in a child’s development! ~*Pia O’Loughlin, Youth Programs Coordinator*

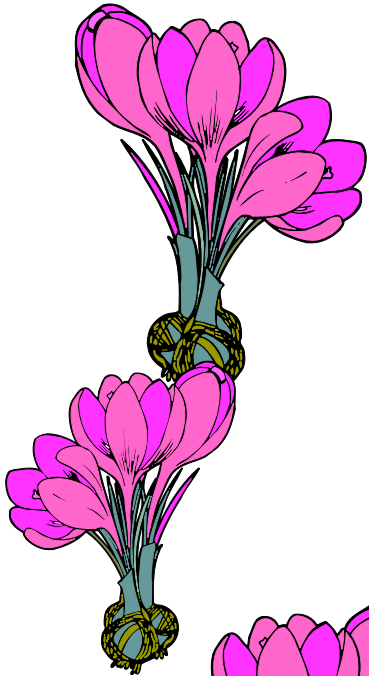
YOUTH MINISTRY



March is a busy month for us! Our brunch proceeds will help support our service projects and attendance at GA this year!

MARCH 2011 YOUTH

Just about Every Sunday Morning	Morning Youth Group in Room 15	11:00—12:30p
3/4-6	District Youth Conference	Summit UU
3/6	Youth Group	11:00—12:30p
3/13	Youth Group	11:00—12:30p
3/20	Youth Group & Brunch	9:00—12:30p
3/25 & 3/26	Fri/Sat, Loaves & Fishes	6p, Fri—3p, Sat
3/27	Youth Group	11:00—12:30p



CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



CHANGE YOUR BATTERY



Contact **Pia O’Loughlin** with Youth Group questions!
 UUCP Youth Programs Coordinator
 YPC @ uuprinceton.org org
 732.421.7008

Adult Programs

The programs planned and presented by the Adult Program Committee seek to further the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton by building community; nurturing spiritual growth; and being an active force for building a more compassionate, sustainable, and just world.

NEWCOMERS' CIRCLES

Sunday, March 6, 12:30-1:45 in the John Murray Room.

Drop-in Newcomers' Circles meet on the first Sunday of each month after the second service. Newcomers and relative newcomers are all invited. The group is part getting acquainted, part questions you may have, and part discussion on a theme. We cover various topics, including theology, worship and prayer and UU history. We also cover UUCP, our own congregation, how it works and how you can get better connected into the various ministries and the religious community in general.

Please help yourself to brunch and/or coffee after the service and join us in the Murray Room (beyond the brunch room). Childcare is available in room 3 or 9. Please sign up at the Welcome Circle in Robinson Hall on Sundays or contact **Rev. Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.org. You can also just join us that day.

Saturday "Exploring" UU Class for Newcomers

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2011

Place: UUCP, Founders Room

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

This "Exploring UU" class is chance to learn about the UU faith, about the UUCP congregation, get a tour of the building, meet other newcomers and share in a light lunch. The class will be led by **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**.

You can RSVP for this event either by phone to **Marty Akers** at (609) 737-3948 or e-mail to welcome@uuprinceton.org by March 9.

Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This ceremony of becoming a member is for those who have previously taken the "Exploring UU" class or have been in a Newcomer Circle and want to become members. Please sign-up at the Welcome Circle or contact **Rev. Chris Reed** or **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** at 609-924-1604 to arrange a time. We will also have opportunities to sign the book in our worship services.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY—

"Get Plugged In" Join a Covenant Circle

Covenant Circles create community, encourage spiritual growth, and invite authentic connection with one another.



After a check in and short meditation, participants reflect on and share responses to questions that evoke our individual sacred stories.

• There is time for discussion, questions, and socializing for the last 20 to 30 minutes of each Circle.

(The previous format did not give enough opportunity for this.)

- Each Circle is encouraged to get together socially a few times and/or work together on a social justice or service project.
- We grow new groups as needed, so that we hopefully turn no one away.
- Circles meet from year to year.

Please sign up at the Adult Program table in Robinson Lounge or contact **Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.org, 609-924-1604, ext. 12 if you are interested in joining a Covenant Circle.

NEW PROGRAMS

Two new affinity circles: "GLBT/Allies" and "Singles." Please look for sign ups on Sunday morning for start-up meetings for both of these groups. If you are interested or want more information or want to sign up through e-mail, please contact Rev. Chris Reed, reed@uuprinceton.org

(Adult Programs continued on page 6)

DO YOU HAVE A PROGRAM IDEA?

Is there a program or group that you would like to see at UUCP? Let us know and we'll try to make it happen.

Do you have an idea for a program or group you would like to facilitate? We invite anyone with an idea for an Adult Program to submit a proposal to the Adult Program Committee.

The proposal should contain

- an outline of the content
- the target audience and maximum number of participants
- time line (how many weeks/hours the course will require)
- suggested dates and times
- any costs for materials associated with the course (no fees may be charged for presenting an adult program)

All proposals will be reviewed by the Adult Program Committee and the ministers. Final scheduling and publicizing of the course will be the responsibility of the Adult Program Committee and the facilitators). Please submit any proposals to **Rev. Chris Reed**, reed@uuprinceton.org.

(Adult Programs continued from page 5)

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Buddhist Meditation Group

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays, March 6 and 20 at
1:00 in Room 1

Have you been excited by Meg's sermons on Buddhism?

Would you like to explore how to actually use this way of thinking in our day-to-day living?

How about meditation? Those of us who have had even a taste of this practice know that the simple act of sitting quietly together can create a greater sense of peace. And yet, even knowing its benefits, many of us struggle to make this practice a part of our lives.

Does the idea of meeting together to experiment with these ideas appeal to you?

Our UUCP Buddhist meditation group has been meeting since October. Our meetings combine a period of meditation with a time to explore how to incorporate a more Buddhist approach into our lives drawing on readings to inspire our quest. If you want to listen to Meg's sermons on Buddhism to help you decide, the tapes are available in the bookshelf in the lounge-- September 6 2009 (Right Livelihood), January 3, 2010 (Right Understanding), March 28, 2010 (Right Speech) and July 25, 2010 (Right Action).

Questions? Contact: **Michele Ochsner** mochsner@work.rutgers.edu 609-924-1166; **Dana Powsner** danapowsner@comcast.net 609-924-5891; **Henry Powsner** powsner@comcast.net 609-924-5891.

Yoga for health, well-being and peace of mind

Thursdays 9:15—10:30 a.m. in Founders Room

Cost: Donation to UUCP Yoga Fund accepted

All are welcome to a new gentle yoga class with Sharon Savage. Sharon's teaching style is based on ashtanga yoga, an 8-limb yoga system, with an emphasis on alignment with breath control, combining effort and surrender in a balanced union.

This yoga class is geared for those new to yoga, those with some experience, and for those who practice regularly. The classes will include pranayama, (breathing exercise), asanas (poses) for balance, strength, and flexibility, and will end with savasana (resting), for deep relaxation and rejuvenation of the mind. Yoga is practiced in bare feet, with clothing that allows free movement. Some mats are available at the church, or bring your own, along with any yoga props you use. (blocks, straps, pillows). Yoga – the Union of the Body, Mind, and Breath.

Sharon is certified through the Devalila Yoga Teacher Training program, (a 200 hour level registered yoga school with the Yoga Alliance)

For more information, see the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays or send an email to events@uuprinceton.org

Telling Our Stories

Martha Hartmann will Tell Her Story on Monday, March 14 at Stonebridge. One of the earliest members of The Unitarian Church of Princeton, Martha and her husband Tom were also intimately involved in integration efforts in Princeton. If you would like to come hear Martha, please call her so we can be sure to have enough chairs in her apartment.

So far this year we have heard from **Joan Waite, Tony Tucker, Sue and Butch Arnould, Henry Powsner, Lorraine Anderson, Marie Sturken, Lieske Wright and Charlie Parker.** Still to come – we hope: Dana Powsner, Hil Anderson, Nan Cooper, and others. Please let Carol Haag know of the stories you'd most like to hear.

Questions? please contact **Linda Benson** at lindabenson5@gmail.com, or **Carol Haag** at revcarolh@verizon.net, or **Rev. Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.com.

Young Adult Circle

Ages 20-35(ish)

Sunday, March 6 at 12:30 p.m. in the Library

Come and join us at our next meeting as we continue to form a new Young Adult circle for our congregation. This is a unique spiritual stage in our lives, and our spiritual growth and enjoyment during this time is enhanced by a loving, supportive and social community.

We meet on the first Sunday of each month for fellowship and spiritual discussion, and the third Saturday of each month for a social activity. Please come and help shape this vital ministry to all who walk through our doors looking for such a community of peers.

To find out more about us, look for the flyer at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays. You can sign up in the lounge or by contacting **Valentine Vollmer** datura1207@aol.com

Aging and Saging

Meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, March 9 & 23, 10:30a-Noon, in the John Murray Room.

An ongoing program for all over 60 years old. Or anyone who feels over 60. We share our experiences, stories, feelings and information with each other.

We offer this affinity circle for those who would like to meet during the day to create a community of loving, supporting, learning individuals who find it exciting to

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explore the terrain of getting older with one another. "Sage" is apparently only a noun and an adjective, but for you purists out there, please consider that it resonates with both —age and, as someone over 60 just said, also with sag, both respected verbs.

Sign up by sending e-mail to events@uuprinceton.org or on Sundays in Robinson Lounge at the Adult Program table.

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) Evergreen Chapter

Friday near the Full Moon, 7:00-9:30 pm, Memorial Garden in fine weather, Classroom 1 otherwise.

For more information about us and our activities, contact Eva (likelystories@yahoo.com) or Elissa (atsilvgvhe@gmail.com).

Great Books Reading Circle

Sunday, March 13 at 1 p.m. in Room 7

Come and discuss *The Leopard* by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa. "Lampedusa's masterpiece is set amongst an aristocratic family, facing social and political changes in the wake of Garibaldi's invasion of Sicily in 1860. .. a memorial to the details of a vanishing world retaining its melancholic and ironic sense of time passing and the frailty of human emotions." Join us for shared, perhaps elegant, reflections and cookies.

(For more info: contact **Karen Siracusa** at kn.siracusa@att.net or 609-918-1016)



A Course in Miracles

Sundays 11:15 am—12:30 pm in Room 8

A Course in Miracles continues to meet every Sunday. All are welcome to join in our study of the course and contribute to our discussions. The schedule for March:

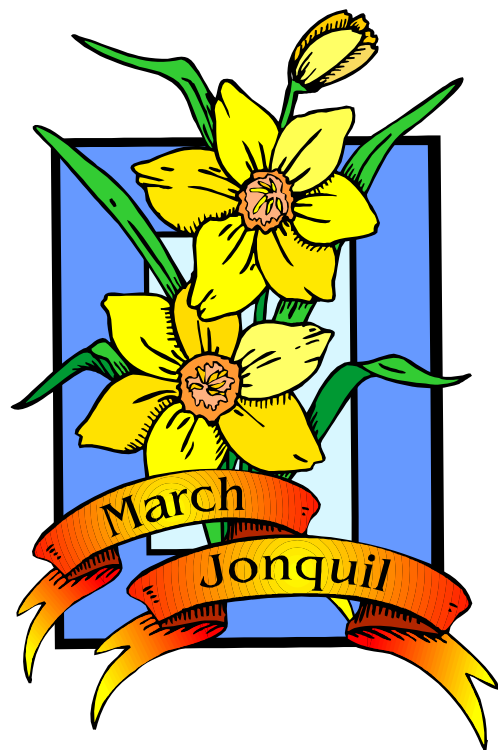
March 6 We will be doing review lesson 178 in the Workbook for Students. Let not my mind deny the Thoughts of God. I am entrusted with the gifts of God.

March 13 We will be studying review lesson 179. There is one life, and that I share with God. Your grace is given me. I claim it now.

March 20 We finish the review with lesson 180. By grace I live, by grace I am released. There is no cruelty in God and none in me.

March 27 We begin the next set of lessons with the introduction and lesson 181. I trust my brothers who are one with me. ~Hil Anderson

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, June 4
5:00-7:00 p.m.
For Rev. Chris Reed's
Retirement Celebration
in Channing Hall at
UUCP
Children are invited!



Community Building

The UUCP BOOKSTORE is open every Sunday between services. Contact **Alice Harper:** aharper67 @comcast.net



The UUCP Relational Covenant

Our covenant affirms a commitment to build loving, healthy and trusting relationships within our congregation. We make these promises in order to love better, relate more compassionately and feel the power of our human connections.

Our Promises:

- ◆ We warmly welcome all.
- ◆ We speak with honesty, respect and compassion.
- ◆ We listen attentively.
- ◆ We express gratitude for the service of others.
- ◆ We honor and support one another in our spiritual journeys and in times of joy, need and struggle.
- ◆ We embrace our diversity and the opportunity to share our different perspectives.
- ◆ We address our disagreements directly and openly and see conflict through to an authentic resolution.
- ◆ We serve our spiritual community with generosity and joy.
- ◆ We strive to keep these promises, but when we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others and begin again in love.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE Thursday, March 17 Luncheon Meeting – Everyone Welcome!

Jim Marks will speak about the Health Care Reform Bill, and will include some remarks about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the remarkable work that it does.

The Alliance gathers at 11:45 in the Robinson Lounge, then moves to the Founders Room for lunch and program. In the spirit of spring, attendees bring salads to share; coffee and dessert are provided.

~Carol Haag

MEN'S CLUB

Our next meeting will be **March 8** at noon in the Founders Room. If you have enjoyed this group in the past, we look forward to seeing you again. If you haven't attended before, now may be the time to give it a try. A usual, a delicious meal can be expected from the culinary skills of Roger Hoff. In order to know in advance how many will be attending, please inform **Bob Flora** at 908-874-0789 or robertf481@aol.com

UU CONNECTIONS

Save the Date:

UU Metro New York District annual meeting will take place May 6-7 in Morristown, NJ. Program details will be in the next issue of Skylights. UUCP's Ted Fetter is nominated for re-election to serve as District President from 2011 to 2013.

~Carol Allen, UU Connections Committee

Delegates Needed for UUA General Assembly 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina

UUCP has nine delegate slots for the annual Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA) to be held from

June 22-26, 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Who will carry the UUCP banner this year? It could be you!

Along with the usual exciting GA events, this year will mark the 50th Anniversary of the merger of the Unitarian and Universalist denominations. The opening ceremony will be a worship service followed by a birthday cake for 3,500 people. A new hymn entitled "Holding Together" has been commissioned for the occasion. GA 2011 will include lectures on UU history, a panel on UU Social Justice, and a "Big Sing" on Saturday evening.

Round-trip air fares between Philadelphia and Charlotte are currently \$238. For more information, go to www.uua.org and link to Events, General Assembly. Notify the congregation office if you would like to be a delegate from our congregation.

Carol Allen, UU Connections Committee

COFFEE HONOR ROLL

Let's have some new (and old) names on 2011 Coffee Honor Roll. Sign up for your turn for either before the first service or after the second service.

Each job takes only about 15 minutes; instructions are provided.

The coffee sign-up sheet will be in the lounge Sundays or email carolkallen@msn.com. *~Carol Allen, AdHoc Coffee Committee*

Interested in Adult Programs?

For more information about any of the classes described on pages 5-7, visit the Adult Program table in Robinson Lounge.

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Social Justice and Social Action

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, MAY 14
9AM – 2 PM

UUCP's Annual SPRING SALE

Think GREEN – Reduce, Re-use, Re-SALE!

All proceeds go to our **Social Justice Ministry**
Time to begin setting aside your donations!

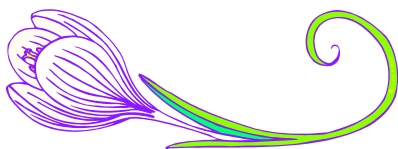
For more than fifty years, our Spring Sale has been a major UUCP & Community event – an opportunity to recycle great stuff and find bargains galore – while raising funds to support area charities that promote social and economic justice, equity and compassion.

Search your closets and storage places

for things you're not using but someone else could. Share your treasures – not your junk. Bring only items you would give to a friend. (Removing trash is expensive and takes away from Social Outreach funds.)

Remember, ALL PROCEEDS support our Social Justice Ministry. Please contact us if you have questions or would like to volunteer for this fun and worthwhile event. Our thanks to the MANY volunteers who have already agreed to chair Booths and Activities this year.

-- 2011 Spring Sale Co-Chairs: Carol Haag, Amanda Gillum & Bridgette Heller



Board of Trustees

Board Reflects on Cottage Meetings

A few months ago, the Reverend Meg Barnhouse led a series of “cottage meetings” to encourage open discussion of “how things are going” at UUCP – particularly policy governance. On Feb. 6, the Board of Trustees held a retreat to reflect on the feedback gained through those meetings. There were many insightful comments made at the meetings. For this article we’ll focus on just a few observations.

One consistent theme that emerged across the cottage meetings was that, with the change to policy governance and to a program church, the vibrancy of the lay leadership had been diminished. Another observation was that it seemed there was a lot of work riding on the shoulders of the Executive Team and concern was expressed that this could create bottlenecks.

The good news is that several steps have been taken in the last year to address these issues. A “Leadership Council” (currently consisting of the ministers, Ted Fetter, Sharon Copeland, Stephanie Cohen and Craig Rubano) was formed with the specific mission to help recruit congregants into lay leadership positions. In addition, the “Program Council” (made up of program committee chairs) has been established. These councils allow for greater communication and coordination – and help to expose volunteers to other ministries, with the hope that these volunteers will get involved with the other ministries in the future. Finally, the ministers have been intentionally working to empower the program committees to take on more active roles and to make decisions. We hope that congregants are starting to feel this shift – and that volunteers are finding their

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Some Background about our Governance & Organizational Structure

As you read the article about the Board’s reflections on last fall’s cottage meetings, the following background may be helpful as context. It’s important to realize that our congregation has undergone a lot of change in the recent past.

Prior to the institution of policy governance, UUCP was governed by “program vice presidents” (heads of program committees) who were members of the Board. A benefit of this structure was that it kept the Board well connected to the various aspects of congregational life. Unfortunately it also encouraged focusing on minutia at the expense of setting long-term goals.

The UUA, its district operations, and an increasing number of UU congregations have adopted a policy governance model similar to that used by the boards of many non-profit organizations. When UUCP adopted policy-based governance, the operational decisions, previously handled by members of the Board, were delegated to an “Executive Team” (currently the two ministers). This team is accountable to the Board and the congregation through a series of policies (both ends or goal statements and specific “executive limitations”) monitored by the Board.

During our change to policy governance, UUCP also made the transition from a “pastoral church” to a “program church.” This means that responsibility and decision-making for various programs resides with lay leadership rather than relying solely on the ministers.

Mercer County Initiatives to End Homelessness – Forum on March 20, 2011

Come hear **Herb Levine, Executive Director, Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness**, discuss Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homelessness Prevention and other initiatives. Gain insight into how multiple agencies in Mercer County are applying proven strategies to assist individuals and families with housing issues. And hear how programs initiated by the Mercer Alliance are serving as a template for state financing of housing.

Herb will speak at **12:30 pm in Fahs Theatre** and will answer any questions you have about this important issue. This program is sponsored by the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ local committee.

~Jim Barnshaw

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experiences more rewarding as they take on more responsibility.

Given the Board's diminished role in the programs of the Congregation, some participants in the cottage meetings also wondered whether Board members are able to keep up with what's really going on in the congregation. The Board agrees that for a period of time, as we adjusted to policy governance, there was a tendency for Board members to immediately refer any problems raised by congregants to the Executive Team (Ministers) rather than trying to learn from the concern being expressed. While we still refer issues to the ministers, staff or committees as appropriate, we now strive to listen and learn from congregants' concerns and reflect on their implications for oversight and policy-making.

The Board has also taken steps to establish "listening posts." Since

the Board's authority to set policy stems from our role as representatives of the congregation, it is extremely important that we have our eyes and ears open to all aspects of our life as a community. In addition to attending cottage meetings and other gatherings sponsored by the Board, we are trying to ensure that we are accessible and present in the community in a number of ways:

- Individual board members regularly sit in on the meetings of the Leadership Council, Program Council, RE Council and the standing committees of the congregation on a regular basis to listen and receive ideas.
- Board members have started to once again serve on various committees and get involved in other ways. For instance, Nancy Gardner sits on the Social Justice Committee. Lisa Roche is on the Membership Committee. Ron Campbell serves as a worship associate. Rona Henry has been helping with a newly formed marketing committee. It should be noted that Board members never chair the other committees, and it's understood that when we are acting as Trustees of the Board, we are to take an overall view – not to represent the interest of particular committees.
- On the second Sunday of each month at our "Chat with the Board," you can find Board members available in Robinson Lounge.
- We frequently report on our activities through monthly Skylights articles. (Minutes from Board meetings are also available to members on the uuprinceton.org website and are posted on the bulletin board across from the coat rack in Robinson Lounge.) We make a point to wear our name-tags identifying us as board members in case congregants want to raise concerns or have ideas, and we have placed a suggestion box in Robinson Lounge. We are engaging UUCP's members,

friends, and visitors on a regular basis to ask how they think things are going.

The Board is also hugely supportive of other new developments at UUCP being led by our ministers and volunteers. The Board of Trustees is in no way a replacement for the operational leadership provided by committee chairs and volunteers—our job is to set goals and to monitor progress in achieving these goals. The Leadership Council and Program Council are absolutely essentially to becoming a "program church" and provide a vital source of operational leadership to this Congregation.

A point raised at both the cottage meetings and a Second Sunday "Chat with the Board" is that the language of policy governance is awkward and can be off-putting. One change we have adopted is to use the term "goals" rather than "end statements" and we are looking for other ways to explain the work of the Board of Trustees in more straightforward and accessible language.

The feedback obtained from the cottage meetings and through a variety of other mechanisms is all incredibly valuable. We encourage you to keep communicating with the Board to let us know your concerns, ideas, and suggestions. You are always welcome as observers at our monthly Board meetings (2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Founders Room) —and if you let us know ahead of time, we will make sure that there is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts with us.



LOAVES AND FISHES BE PART OF THE MIRACLE Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26

Hundreds of men women and children depend on “Loaves and Fishes” for food on the weekends, when the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is closed. Once a year the three Uni-

tarian Universalist congregations of Princeton, Washington’s Crossing and Trenton collaborate to provide two meals: a bag lunch and a Saturday dinner. We provide these meals for very little money (about \$2 per person) and...**a very large crew of volunteers.**

What’s with the name?
“Loaves and Fishes” refers to the Biblical parable where Jesus turned 5 bread loaves and 2 fish into enough food for his disciples to feed about 5000 people!

Here are the ways you can be part of this modern-day miracle:

Recruit volunteers at coffee hour - Sundays March 6, 13, 20

Shopper - buy the milk we’ll need (reimbursed by our budget) from Halo Farm, and deliver it to St. Mary’s Cathedral (Trenton) by 8:30 AM Saturday March 26

Bakers – bake brownies – about 500 are needed by Friday evening March 25.

Sandwich makers on Friday evening 6:30-8:30pm - 10 people to assemble bag lunches at the Washington Crossing Congregation in Titusville

Dinner makers and servers on Saturday March 26 at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 151 N. Warren, Trenton 9-11am Set-up - **3 people** to start the process

10:30am-12:30pm Food Preparers - **4 people** to prepare and warm the food

11am-1:30pm Food Servers - **11 people** to serve dinners to seated guests and visit with them.

12-2:30pm **Clean-up crew!** We need to leave the church in the condition we would like to find our own on Sunday morning...so please come help us tidy up after the “miracle”!

We’ll have several recruits from our Youth Group to help fill our ranks – but additional people (over 10 years old) are welcomed! **This is how you become one of the miracle workers:**

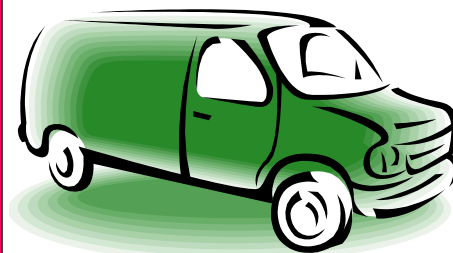
Sign up on Sunday March 6, 13, 20 during coffee hour

Call or email Nancy McCormack: 609 466-8786, mccormackne@comcast.net

**TRUCK NEEDED FOR
SPRING SALE PICK-UP
SERVICE**

Do you have a **commercial van** or **full-sized pick-up truck**? We need one for picking up Spring Sale large item donations from Sunday, May 8 through Thursday, May 12. I could loan you a replacement vehicle, if needed. Please let me know soon. THANKS! -- **Bill Gillum** (609-737-9163)

PS: I’m also looking for a few volunteers (with strong backs) to spend a few hours helping me with Pick-up runs, loading and delivering large items to UUCP.



Do you have one of these we can borrow?

Grace Notes

Sunday Serenades 2011 Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Sunday, Mar. 27, 3:00pm *May the Long Time Sun*
with Sharon Silverstein

Inspirational singer/songwriter Sharon Silverstein and her band, The Peace Project, will be presenting songs from Ireland, India, China, Africa, and the United States. Sharon will also include her original songs that convey messages of oneness and peace.

Sunday, May 1, 3:00pm *Voices of the Feminine*
UUCP Music Ministry Spring Concert

Our combined UUCP ensembles and special guests will present music by female composers of all ages and styles. Included will be music by such composers as Hildegard von Bingen and Fanny Mendelssohn, and contemporary composers Alice Parker, Cecilia MacDowall, and Joan Szymko. Our Composer-in-Residence Kiya Heartwood will present a new work commissioned for this event entitled "A Balance of Earth and Sky."

NEW!! Tickets for these performances can now be ordered online. Either go directly to www.ticketriver.com and search for the title of the event, OR go to our website: www.uuprinceton.org and under "Worship" you'll find "Music Ministry"; when you get there, find Sunday Serenades, and click on the little "ticket button" and it will take you directly to www.ticketriver.com. Tickets will also be available at the door, or can be reserved by calling Marjorie at 609-924-1604, ext. 16. \$15 General Admission; \$12 for students

Music Ministry Ensembles Encourage Your Participation

Adult Choir. There's always room for *your* voice. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm til 9:00pm. Singers of all stripes are welcome. Come try it some Wednesday evening – no obligation!

Bell Choir. Our new third octave means that more ringers are needed. Rehearsals are generally every other Thursday and continue on Sept. 30. Previous ringing experience and rudimentary knowledge of music reading are pluses, but not essential.

Kids Chorale. We'd love to welcome your child(ren) to the ranks of the Kids' Chorale this season. Please contact Marjorie to determine when in the calendar would be best for your child to get on board.

For all information on joining our ensembles, contact Marjorie Herman at marjmuse@optonline.net, or call Marjorie at 609-924-1604, ext. 16.

Hymn –Writing Contest

The winner of our contest is M. Drury, with the lovely poem "Take My Hand." The next step is that the poem will go to the students at Westminster Choir College to

(Grace Notes continued on page 13)

Music Ministry Mission Statement

To provide, through the power of music, a dynamic ministry that will inspire transcendent personal experiences, draw the congregation into greater kinship, and bring inspiration to the wider community.



MARCH HYMN OF THE MONTH

Our "Hymn of the Month," is No. 63: *Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers*. Composer Thomas Benjamin is one of UU's most esteemed and decorated composers, and has written many hymns for our collections. Tom served as a professor of Music Theory at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and is active at the UU Society of Howard County in Columbia. The words are translated of the Latin song "Tempus adest floridum" which appeared originally in Sweden in the collection "Piae Cantiones."

The Mission Covenant of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton

*We come together in a free and open search for
meaning within the mysteries of life.*

*We draw inspiration from the wisdom of the ages,
guided by reason, intuition, and
experience.*

*Transformed through our shared explorations, we
are compelled to build a better World in harmony
with all existence.*

*We commit to love, respect, and nurture each other
in our lifelong spiritual journeys.*

*We pledge our hearts and hands, our minds and
means to this
sacred bond.*

(Grace Notes continued from page 12)
find its hymn-tune among the composition students there.

Take My Hand

Searching
Searching for truth

Loving
Loving the questions

Walking
Walking with you

Please
Oh please take my hand

Wondering
I wander alone

Doubting
I can't find my way

Reaching
I'm reaching out

Please
Oh please take my hand

Standing
I join in the circle

Singing
I sing for my heart

Yearning
I yearn to touch god

Easier
when you take my hand

Legislative Ministry

Update on Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ (UULMNJ) During February:

- UULM and the Princeton UU congregation have been working with other advocacy groups to generate support for **affordable housing** in NJ. A year ago, legislation was introduced which would have been terrible for low cost

housing in NJ. Thanks to the efforts of housing advocates, with our assistance, the final legislation which passed both the Senate and Assembly during January was much improved. It requires municipalities to support affordable housing and provides some oversight of municipal plans. However, Governor Christie conditionally vetoed the bill during February and **we are asking people to contact their legislators asking them not to support this conditional veto which would return the legislation to its original form.**

- A federal initiative, the **Secure Communities program** would give Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) access to any finger prints collected by local law enforcement. ICE agents can interview the person to determine whether he/she is deportable. The program is implemented through an agreement with each State. Working with UULM, the Princeton congregation collected signatures on letters to Governor Christie recommending that New Jersey should not be part of ICE implementation.

Upcoming Events:

- We will be sponsoring a **Forum after the second service in March 20, 2011 by Herb Levine, Director of Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness** who will speak on Mercer County programs.
- **Ted Fetter, co-chair of the UULM immigration task force**, will lead the Sunday services on **March 6** and will focus on the UU perspective on immigration reform. As an outgrowth of this sermon, we are planning a **study group on immigration reform following the UUA curriculum and led by Ted Fetter and Karen Siracusa**. The group will meet on **six Mondays from March 21 through April 25** from 7 pm to 9 pm in the John Murray Room. The curriculum looks at

immigration from a broad perspective covering the causes, history, economics, implications and potential solutions. If you plan to attend the study group, please contact Karen at Kn.siracusa@att.net.

- Please stop by the **Legislative Ministry Action Table** which is available on several Sundays each month after the services to get more information on immigration policy issues and the affordable housing issue. You also have the opportunity to sign up for the UULMNJ e-mail communications. More information is available at www.uulmnj.org.

~Karen Siracusa and Frances
Prestiani, co-liaisons for
UULM

Stewardship

A Chance to Grow

Over the past year the Stewardship Committee has spent a lot of time thinking about how to make our congregation's financial base healthier. For several years our congregation's budget has been shrinking. We have had to cut our support for programs, reduce our congregational charitable giving, and slash our building maintenance. For many of us it has been a disheartening trend. What kind of numbers am I talking about? Our current budget is more than 20% below where it was just three years ago. That is a big, big fall. At one level the historic economic and financial crisis that rocked the U.S. and world economy is part of the story. But, I think it is too convenient of an explanation. It frees us from taking responsibility for what is happening around us. I have two thoughts on our

(Stewardship continued on page 14)

Joys and Sorrows

To help nurture a beloved community here in this congregation, please remember to share significant events in members' lives with the Pastoral Associates, who are charged with extending the pastoral ministry. This column is a place to inform the larger community of major events in people's lives. Sometimes people want to have their news shared; sometimes privacy and confidentiality prevail. Items for this column should be sent to skylights@uuprinceton.org. All items will be reviewed by the Pastoral Associate leadership team before printing (Jon Krejci, Elizabeth Silverman., and Rev. Chris Reed)

Beverly Kling reports with great sadness the death of her husband Frederick Kling on January 13, 2011. Fred was a longtime friend of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton where he enjoyed years of fellowship and worship. During the past several years, Fred lived with Parkinson's Disease and was unable to be active at the church. However, he remained a member of the DUNS group that he and Beverly joined nearly 30 years ago. Fred's family is holding a memorial service for him at the UUCP on Sunday, April 3rd at 3:00 p.m. We invite everyone to join us as we honor Fred's life.

Barbara Rogers is resting at home after five weeks of rehab at St. Lawrence and is doing well. She appreciates the thoughts and best wishes of the congregation, but would prefer not to receive calls or visitors for now.

(Stewardship continued from page 13)
 congregation's stewardship; both relate to the idea of honesty. Let me share them with you. First, we need to be honest with ourselves about our failings. We must not be satisfying the needs of our members and friends. By "we" I mean each and every one of us. Not just Meg or Chris. Not just the Board, not just the Stewardship

committee. "We" means you and me. We stand or fall together. Folks are telling us that they are no longer willing to support UUCP's programs and mission. Why? What do we need to different? I don't have the answer, but I do want to hear what you think. When you see me at UUCP please feel to share your thoughts with me. Talk to the Board. Together we can identify the areas we need to improve.

Second, we need to honestly ponder the relationship between our beliefs and attitudes and our giving practices. What is your relationship with money and your beliefs and attitudes about charitable giving? Gulp. Just writing that is hard. I am asking all of us to think hard about what value we place on UUCP. At one level this is a private conversation you have with yourself and partner. At another level it is a public statement of your values. I am proud to be a member of UUCP. I see what our members do for the community and what they fight for and I want to stand with them. Is this how you feel?

Over the next few weeks each of you will get a call from a fellow UUCP member. This is not meant to be a painful call. It is necessary for our congregation. It is also an opportunity for you to support your values. Please take time to consider how much UUCP means to you. Read and embrace the Fair Share Giving Guide. How you respond will directly determine what happens here.

I look forward to hearing from lots of you. You continually inspire me to be a better person.

~Tom Prusa



Ministerial Search Committee



Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!

We have now completed our three pre-candidating weekends, one with each of our three pre-candidates. These weekends began on Friday evening with a get acquainted dinner, continued on Saturday morning with an intense three-hour interview, followed by an introduction to the Princeton area and some rest time. We met for dinner on Saturday to continue learning more about the pre-candidate and answering questions about our congregation. The weekends concluded on Sunday with our attending services at a nearby congregation that were led by our pre-candidate. We reconnected at lunch and then took our candidates to their departure point.

We are now immersed in the difficult process of choosing the best pre-candidate to be our next minister. We believe we have chosen well in our selection of the three pre-candidates. Each has strengths in the areas that you determined to be most important in dealing with the issues that we now face and for our future growth. Our deadline is March 15. On that day, at noon, congregations in search call the minister of their choice and ask him or her to join their congregation.

You will have an opportunity to meet the final candidate during "candidating week," which runs from the day after the Spring Sale, May 15, until May 22. On May 15 and 22, our candidate will give the Sunday services. During the week between the services, the minister will meet with groups and individuals at UUCP. The services on Sunday, May 22, will be followed by a congregational meeting to vote on calling the minister.

~Kathy, Carl, Linda, Pete, Sharon, and Susan

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
<p>MAR 6—TWO Services—9:15 & 11:15 10:35a-11:10a Kids' Chorale—Room 2 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30p Newcomers' Circle—Murray 12:30p Young Adults Circle—Room 7 1:00p Meditation & Discussion Group—Room 1 6:30p-8:00p Women's Spirituality Circle—Murray</p>	<p>MAR 7 7:00p-9:00p Ministerial Search Committee—Founders 7:30p Covenant Circle (1st Mon) - Murray</p>	<p>MAR 8 11:30a Men's Club Lunch—Founders 1:00p-2:30p OFFICE STAFF MEETING—Office closed from 1:00-2:30pm 7:00p-10:00p Board of Trustees meeting—Founders</p>	<p>MAR 9 10:30a Aging & Saging—Murray 7:00p-9:30p Adult Program Committee (2nd Wed) — Founders 7:30p-9:00p Adult Choir Rehearsal—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAR 10 9:15-10:30a Gentle Yoga—Founders 7:15p -9:00p Covenant Circle (Lance) - John Murray Room 7:30-9:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAR 11 8:30a Pastoral Associates Meeting & Training (2nd Sat) —Murray Room 8:30a Tremont Habitat Work Day (2nd Sat) 9:00a Exploring UU for Newcomers—Founders</p>	<p>MAR 12 8:30a Pastoral Associates Meeting & Training (2nd Sat) —Murray Room 8:30a Tremont Habitat Work Day (2nd Sat) 9:00a Exploring UU for Newcomers—Founders</p>
<p>MAR 13—TWO Services—9:15 & 11:15 Brunch: 9:15 6th & 7th Grade 10:35a-11:10a Kids' Chorale—Room 2 11:15a A Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30p RE Council - Murray 1:00p Great Books Circle—Room 7</p> 	<p>MAR 14 7:00p-9:00p Ministerial Search Committee—Founders</p>	<p>MAR 15 7:00p-9:00p Committee on Ministry (3rd Tue) - Murray Room</p>	<p>MAR 16 7:15p-9:00p Membership Committee (3rd Wed)—Murray 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Rehearsal—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAR 17 9:15-10:30a Gentle Yoga—Founders 11:45a Women's Alliance Luncheon Meeting—Founders 7:00-8:30p Circle Leaders' Meeting—Murray 7:30-9:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAR 18 7:00p CUTUPS Full Moon Circle—Room 11 & Outside</p>	<p>MAR 19 8:30a Program Council—Murray</p>
<p>MAR 20—TWO Services—9:15 & 11:15 10:35a-11:10a Kids' Chorale—Room 2 11:15a A Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:15p Homelessness Forum—Fabs 12:30p Newcomers' Circle—Murray 1:00p Meditation & Discussion Group—Room 1 6:30p-8:00p Women's Spirituality Circle—Murray</p>	<p>MAR 21 5:00p <i>Skylights</i> APRIL 2011 ISSUE DEADLINE skylights@uuprinceton.org 7:00p-9:00p Ministerial Search Committee—Founders 7:00p Immigration Study Group—Murray</p>	<p>MAR 22 7:00p-9:00p Leadership Council (4th Tues) - Minister's Office</p>	<p>MAR 23 10:30a Aging & Saging—Murray 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Rehearsal—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAR 24 9:15-10:30a Gentle Yoga—Founders</p>	<p>MAR 25 Loaves & Fishes</p> 	<p>MAR 26 Loaves & Fishes</p>
<p>MAR 27—TWO Services—9:15 & 11:15 10:35a-11:05a Kids' Chorale—Room 2 11:15a -12:20p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00p 3:00p Sunday Serenades: <i>May the Long Time Sun</i> with Sharon Silverstein—Channing</p>	<p>MAR 28 7:00p-9:00p Ministerial Search Committee—Founders 7:00p Immigration Study Group—Murray</p>	<p>MAR 29</p>	<p>MAR 30 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Rehearsal—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAR 31 9:15-10:30a Gentle Yoga—Founders</p>		

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Skylights
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skylights@uuprinceton.org
 Please submit your article as an attachment in our preferred font, Times New Roman, 11 pt. Describe your submission in the subject line of your e-mail and tell us under which section it belongs.

Ministers' Schedules

Rev. Meg Barnhouse and
Rev. Chris Reed observe the following office hours:

~ **Meg** ~

Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Tues through Thurs

Day off: Monday

Study day: Friday

~ **Chris** ~

Mon Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Tues & Thurs 10:30 a.m.

—3:30 p.m.

Day off: WEDNESDAY

Study day: Friday

Office hours indicate when ministers are in the church building. However, ministry is not confined to specific hours, and our ministers may be attending meetings at any hour of the day. In the event of emergencies needing the attention of our ministers, please contact either of them first, irrespective of time or day. If necessary, contact Jonathan Sachs, President of the Board of Trustees,
[president @ uuprinceton.org](mailto:president@uuprinceton.org)

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 deadline:**
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