**September 6, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Blessed Labor**

All labor is interconnected. Every job, vocation, and calling brings us into wider relationship with larger life. This means that labor is spiritual, blessed, and an opportunity to deepen our faith. On this Labor Day weekend, let us notice and honor what is blessed about labor.

Worship Leader: **Rev. Bill Neely**  
Worship Associate: **Clara Haignere**  
Music: **Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

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**September 13, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Calmly through the Rapids**

We begin our congregational year with our annual Merging of the Waters service, virtual-style! Be ready to share some water representative of your home or journeys with the larger community as we come together to start our church year. All are welcome in this very multi-generational service.

Worship Leaders: **Revs. Bill Neely and Jennifer Kelleher**  
Worship Associate: **Susan MacDonnell**  
Music: **Adult Choir; Victor Cristobal; Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

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**September 20, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Feeding the Good**

Our September spiritual theme of **Nourishment** leads us to consider and voice what is good in our lives, relationships, and world so that we can better feed it and help it thrive. Let’s consider how we might more intentionally nourish the good and holy in life.

Worship Leader: **Rev. Bill Neely**  
Worship Associate: **Darci Erickson**  
Music: **John and JoEllen Burton; Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

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**September 27, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Of Shared Sorrys and Seeds**

Our service today honors the Jewish High Holidays. We will reflect on some of the rituals of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. How might these traditions assist us in how we consider the healing of past hurts and the process of moving forward with greater promise?

Worship Leader: **Rev. Jennifer Kelleher**  
Worship Associate: **Lauren Foss**  
Music: **Victor Cristobal; Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

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**Upcoming Sunday Worship Services**

To help contain the spread of the coronavirus, all Sunday services will be live-streamed on YouTube Live and Zoom until further notice. Please see Page 2, and keep an eye on your email, as well as [www.uuprinceton.org](http://www.uuprinceton.org) for updates.
I hope this note finds you healthy and well-connected as we look toward the beginning of our congregational year together! We’ve had a spring and summer unlike any other. I imagine that our fall and winter will continue to be full of surprises, challenges, and continued opportunities to worship, learn, serve, and grow together in new ways. I know that we’ll face the challenges to come as we’ve faced those we’ve endured; together, in the spirit of love, with the care of one another, and with humble prayers for creative and resilient strength. Amidst so much uncertainty, this gives me great hope.

I also find hope in how we’ve coped and changed with the state of the world. Since March, we’ve worshipped, learned, fellowshiped, and served, over Zoom, email, and sometimes phone calls. We’ve checked in with each other about church matters, our personal lives, and sometimes just to make sure that everything is ok. Babies have been born, some of us have lost people we’ve loved, and we’ve endured or are enduring illnesses and difficulties. As we and everyone have been tossed about in the turbulent waters of a deadly pandemic and faltering economy, we’ve not only stayed connected, but in some ways we’ve deepened and broadened our bonds. We’ve strengthened ourselves and our community.

And I also find hope in thinking about the fall and winter to come. While it’s clear that, absent an unexpected, major advance in the creation of a vaccine and/or rapid treatment for COVID 19, our worship and religious education programs will remain online through the new year, it’s also clear that we are finding creative and effective ways to live our Mission of hope, love, justice, and joy. We are doing the essential and faithful work of our congregation every day, in new ways, often with new participation, and even the budding of new partnerships. Doors are opening during this pandemic, and while I’m eager for its conclusion so that we can again open our doors, physically, on Sunday mornings, I find nothing but hope and energy in witnessing the many ways that the members and friends of UU Princeton are adapting and serving during these strange and stressful times.

As we begin our tenth year of shared ministry together, I find myself more grateful than ever for your spirit, creativity, and passion. As we head into a stressful and high-stakes election season, I know that my life is blessed by this community of peace and welcome. And as the virus continues to physically distance us from one another, I find strength in knowing that our spiritual connections are strong; that we are connected in faith and purpose to building a world made more beloved by the love, compassion, and forgiveness of our faith.

In the weeks and months to come, we’ll continue following the advice of public health and medical officials, scientists, and elected leaders governed by reason and good sense in determining how and when, and in what numbers, we can physically gather again. I’d expect stages, but ultimately our choices will be determined by a singular focus on the health and well-being of all. Until then, our many shared ministries will continue to come alive through new and creative means. We’ll adapt, grow, and experiment, together. We’ll serve neighbor and stranger, together. We’ll mourn and celebrate and share in the spirit of life, together. Blessed be is the journey behind us, the journey before us, and this very moment of peace and movement.

Mission Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton

In our open, welcoming community we live our message of hope, love, justice, and joy.
Approved at the 6/3/2012
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton Annual Meeting

JOIN US FOR LIVE-STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

As we continue to plan for the immediate future, we hope you’ll join us for our live-stream worship service on Sunday mornings, at 10:30 a.m.! We’re planning two ways for us to join together:

View via Zoom:
Every Sunday morning we will send an e-mail message with the access information.

View via YouTube Live
https://www.youtube.com/user/uuprinceton
September Spiritual Theme – Nourishment
By Rev. Bill

Our Monthly Spiritual Themes guide our Chalice Circles, which are small, intentional groups of members and friends that gather for spiritual enrichment through personal sharing. For more information on Chalice Circles, please email Linda Benson at chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org. Our Chalice Circle thoughts and questions around the theme of Nourishment this month are:

“We must never stop dreaming. Dreams provide nourishment for the soul, just as a meal does for the body.” – Paulo Coelho

What dream nourishes you?

“Nourish beginnings, let us nourish beginnings. Not all things are blest, but the seeds of all things are blest. The blessing is in the seed.” – Muriel Rukeyser

Think of a beginning that you can nourish in your life. What is it?

“Meditation is a way for nourishing and blossoming the divinity within you.” – Amit Ray

What spiritual practice nourishes the divinity within you?

“Most sacraments are acts of breathtaking simplicity: a simple prayer, a sip of wine and a piece of bread, a single breath in meditation, a sprinkling of water on the forehead, an exchange of rings, a kind word, a blessing. Any of these, performed in a moment of mindfulness, may open the doors of our spiritual perception and bring nourishment and delight.” – Mark Nepo

What “breathtakingly simple” act/sacrament nourishes you?

Interested in Joining a Chalice Circle?
A Great Way to Stay Connected

Chalice Circles are small groups of ten to twelve people who meet monthly with a facilitator to share our life experiences and thoughts around the UU Princeton monthly spiritual theme that appears in Skylights and is the subject of a sermon during the month. In this time of social distancing, Chalice Circles are one way to stay connected to a group of like-minded people. They will be held virtually via Zoom throughout the fall of 2020.

The format of our Chalice Circles provides a place where we feel really heard. Together we practice deep listening – a time to share without cross talk or feedback from other participants – which allows us to better appreciate our own thoughts and the various viewpoints of our fellow Chalice Circle members.

Chalice Circles are a way to get to know a small group of fellow congregants in ways that are often not possible in our busy lives. Strong bonds of friendship and support develop among Chalice Circle members that carry over into our everyday lives.

Signups for Chalice Circles for the coming congregational year will be held throughout the month of September. Please email chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org for information. A sample Chalice Circle experience will be planned via Zoom sometime toward the end of September for those who have not attended a Chalice Circle and are interested in exploring this ministry.

We hope you will consider joining us. ~Linda Benson
Faith Development for Children

Beloveds -

We know this is a time of uncertainty and stress for our families. Our hearts are with you as you navigate and balance school starts (in whatever format you are choosing/available to you) and child care with the responsibilities of work and home. If an additional supportive presence would be helpful for you and your family, count me as part of your circle of care. Just reach out via phone or text at 609.577.7600 or email at jennifer@uuprinceton.org. Know you are kept, always, in my good thoughts and I’m sending you loving energy.

Planning for 2020-2021 Faith Development Programming

In consideration of a very different start of the school year for our children of all ages, we want to give our families extra time to settle into their fall schedules. So this year we won’t begin our Children’s Faith Development gatherings until early October. Look for more information and details on this year’s programming, including a ZOOM open house for parents/grandparents and class registration forms, to be sent via email later in September.

Stuffie Sleepover!

We may be unable to gather together in our building this fall, but we have a special invitation for some members of our families that are able to visit safely and share some adventures! Rev. Jennifer and her stuffie Ms. Clarabelle (the camel) will be hosting a “stuffie sleepover” the weekend of September 12-13. You and your child may check-in their stuffie at UUCP outside the front door between 10am-12pm on Saturday, September 12 (masks and social distancing to be observed). Alternatively, you can drop off your stuffie beginning the evening of Thursday, September 10 in the box provided. Please bring your stuffie in a bag with their and your child’s name on it. Together with Rev. Jennifer and Ms. Clarabelle, your stuffie will get a tour of the building, read books, play games, enjoy meals, and sleep over. Photos will be taken and shared during worship the following Sunday as well as on our FaceBook page. Stuffies will be available for pick-up beginning Sunday, September 13.

Friends Across the Ages

It has been shown that to grow up healthy, our youth need to be supported and known by at least five adults in addition to their parents or caregivers who are willing to invest their time with them personally and spiritually. [Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, Building Assets, Strengthening Faith: An Intergenerational Survey for Congregations, 2003.]

In the coming congregational year, we will be launching a new opportunity with the goal of being more intentional about connecting our members across the generations. Friends Across the Ages is for families interested in having a new adult friend in the congregation for their child or children and for adults who wish to be a friend to a child. Of course, it is expected that all parents be aware of and monitor communications. We’ll begin later this fall, maybe as pen and zoom pals, and we’ll ask you to continue investing time with one another over the coming years. Like imagine the eventuality, post-quarantine, of sitting together in worship, going to see the child perform in a school play, celebrating a birthday together, being at their graduation party. This isn’t meant to be a short-term program but a long-term, live-giving, mutually beneficial relationship. One of which you will be supported by me and others in Faith Development leadership.

SIGN UP: If you are a parent who would like to have your child participate or an adult that would like to take part let me know today by reaching out via email: jennifer@uuprinceton.org. A more official registration process and additional information will be made available in later this season.

With abiding love, Rev. Jennifer Kelleher, Assistant Minister

HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.
El odio no tiene hogar aquí.
نفرت كم لام يهان ككرش نابي بـ
الكره ليس له بيت هنا.
**Newcomers’ Events**

The Mission of the UU Princeton Membership Ministry is that all who enter feel welcome, known, and loved. Newcomers experience personal and congregational connections that lead them to become committed UUs and members of our congregation.

We hope to resume our newcomers’ events soon.

If you have any questions about our events, membership or our congregation, please email us at [membership@uuprinceton.org](mailto:membership@uuprinceton.org). We look forward to getting to know you better.

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**Racial Justice Task Force**

What Is Your Place in the Story of Race

With COVID still haunting us, it’s easy to forget all the other stuff we do in our lives. Work and school as we knew it are disrupted. A hugely important election is about to happen. Do you even have a moment to wonder, where is that vacation we had hoped for in 2020?

And then there is the incredibly important work surrounding us about race and racism. And many of us have been doing so much!

If you were one of the 95 people that joined in the reading of Debby Irving’s Waking Up White in July, thank you for carving out the time and energy to do that. (If not, go to Sign Up Genius at UUCP’s website and enroll for October.) If you are one of the 23 or so members of the Racial Justice Task Force, thank you for the work you have been doing on our various projects and especially for attending the 3 session “retreat” in August on learning how to be more accountable in our work, particularly to people of color.

An Australian Aboriginal group stated, “If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.” No matter where you are on your journey to understand race and racism, if you remain open, you will come to this vector. We’re not learning about racism to be helpful; we are involved in anti-racist work to destroy racism, to liberate ourselves from racist thinking and behaviors as well as to liberate all marginalized peoples.

That is our challenge for the coming year...to use the knowledge we have been building to take action. If you are wondering how to be more involved, drop an email to: [racialjustice@uuprinceton.org](mailto:racialjustice@uuprinceton.org). You may want to:
1) serve on the Task Force;
2) help with a RJTF project;
3) help prepare our congregation for an anti-racism resolution and adopting the 8th Principle;
4) be on the RJTF eblast to get monthly (roughly) updates;
5) visit the UUCP website/Justice tab/Racial Justice Task Force to get current information;
6) pursue what to do in your own community about racial justice.

Kevin Trayner, Megan Innes and I, as co-chairs of the Task Force, are glad to discuss all of these options with you. The Task Force will be meeting on the THIRD Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm via Zoom this coming year.

~Sharon Copeland, RJTF Co-Chair

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**Joys and Sorrows**

Pastoral Associates is a group of trained and caring members of the congregation that offers support and assistance to congregants facing difficulties, crises, or life transitions. If you believe that someone within the congregation or you, yourself, might benefit from the PA program, please send an email to [PA@UUPrinceton.org](mailto:PA@UUPrinceton.org), or contact Lauren Foss.

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 pa@uuprinceton.org. All items will be reviewed by the Pastoral Associate leadership team before publishing (Lauren Foss, Rev. Jennifer Kelleher, and Rev. Bill Neely).

We are sad to announce the passing of former member, Robin Gould, of Roosevelt, NJ. Robin passed away peacefully at home on August 10, 2020.

Our Office Assistant, Shatara Ryland Lawery, announces that her baby, Samira, who was born prematurely, is now home, healthy and happy! Shatara and her family wish to thank the Congregation for the many welcoming baby gifts. Sadly for UU Princeton, Shatara has decided that the time is right to resign from her position. We are grateful for her many contributions to our congregation and staff team, and we wish her and her family all the best.
**Musical Participation Expands on Zoom**

As we’ve learned more about how Zoom works, we’ve been able to widen our music offerings. For one thing, thanks to our pianist, Nick Tiberi, we’re able to have him pre-record the chosen hymns, while one of our song leaders helps congregants raise their muted voices in worship. Though this has been a learning curve for all of us, there’s been an unexpected gift to this brand of hymn singing. While we’ve lamented not being able to hear our voices together, we realize we have the pleasure of “seeing” our voices together, as we watch each other’s faces. The more we sing out, the more we inspire others to sing out even more.

For the July 19th service, we introduced a Virtual Choir offering – “Winds Be Still”. This was recorded by a group from the Adult Choir, known as the Stone Soup Virtual Choir, borrowing from the Stone Soup parable. We’re planning another Virtual Choir offering now, and hope to apply Virtual Choir technology to both smaller and larger ensembles that will participate in worship. Also this summer, we’ve added several more solo singers to our team, and in this way varied the musical offerings.

**Music Ministry Ensembles** – Even though our ensembles will not be meeting in the foreseeable future, below is information about the ways we hope to resume participation as soon as the fates allow.

**Adult Choir.** The ensemble has 25-30 members, and now includes several people from the community who have come to sing! We’re looking for singers in all sections, **but altos and basses especially are needed.** If you hesitate because you think your voice isn’t good enough, or in shape, come and be surprised at how quickly your voice will expand when surrounded with voices just like yours. Even a minimal amount of choral or music-reading experience, recent or long ago, is all you’ll need to add your voice to this wonderful and welcoming ensemble. Rehearsals are **every Wednesday evening,** from 7:30 to 9pm; the Choir sings for services about two Sundays per month. To sing in the Adult Choir, contact Marjorie at marjmuse@verizon.net, or just come and check us out any Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.

**Bell Choir.** Our Director, Joelle Piercy has been leading our enthusiastic ensemble of bell ringers for many years. AND, for the 2019-2020 season she will be taking a much deserved sabbatical as her new baby is due in the fall. Our interim director is Princeton University student Thaddeus Whelan, who now serves as a lead percussionist with the Princeton University Band. Rehearsals for the Bell Choir has changed to **Sunday afternoons at 12:30 in Room 1.** Please note that we not only have 3 octaves of bells, but we also have three octaves of chimes, with a softer, sweeter sound. If interested, contact Marjorie at marjmuse@verizon.net.

**Kids’ Chorale.** Director Evan Corn is off to college in the fall, and we are in hot pursuit of a replacement. The Kids will continue to rehearse **most Sunday mornings at 9:30am.** It’s a great time to consider this kid-friendly bunch, so contact marjmuse@verizon.net for a complete rehearsal and performance schedule.

**Oompah Band.** This jolly ensemble is for woodwind and brass players. This ensemble is always looking for more instrumentalists. The Oompah Band is the group that adds so much color and charm to church events such as the Hanging of the Greens. With the addition of a few more musicians last year, the Band sounded fuller than ever. If interested, contact Herb Foster at Herb_foster@yahoo.com.

**House Band.** Under the superb direction of **John Burton,** the house band has gone great guns in its first year. We’re still looking for a guitarist, bass player, and percussionist to join accomplished Gig-meister John to add energy (not necessarily volume) to our services. You can reach John at johnmburton@gmail.com.

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**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.

**The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism**

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
**Adult Faith Development & Fellowship**

**Faith Development News – Stay Tuned!**

Adult Faith Development is continuing to be re-imagined and adapted. Please keep an eye out for email announcements about different programs and online gathering opportunities. Our ministries of faith development for all ages will absolutely continue, but in new and creative formats. We’ll be in touch!

**SPECIAL and ONGOING PROGRAMS**

**ZOOM Programs for Adults**

- **Tuesdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, and 29, 6 – 6:45 p.m.**
  *Awakening Together: The Spiritual Practice of Inclusivity and Community* (based on the work of the Buddhist, Larry Yang).

- **Thursdays, Sept. 10, 17, and 24, 6 – 6:45 p.m.**
  *Nourishing the Mind, Body, and Spirit.*

- **Thursday, Oct. 1, 6 - 6:45 p.m.**
  *Faith, Family, and Politics* (the first in a series)

- **Fridays, Sept 11, 18, 25, and Oct. 2, 2-3 p.m.**
  *Short Story Hour* (Sept. 11), *The Wisdom of Rilke*, (Sept. 18), *The Wisdom of Starhawk* (Sept. 25), *TED Talks Science and Faith* (Oct. 2)

Zoom log-ins included in weekly E-Happenings, the UU Princeton Facebook page, and sent via email the day of each program. Keep an eye on E-Happenings and your email for additions and changes. All are welcome!

**Women’s Alliance**

- **Virtual Lunch and Program – Thursday, September 17th at Noon**

Please join us for a *Novel Coronavirus Update* with George T. DiFerdinando, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, at our monthly lunch on Thursday, September 17th, Dr. DiFerdinando will provide an up to the minute update on the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the disease it causes (COVID-19) and current recommendations for personal and group safety measures. George, a long-time member of UU Princeton, has spent his career in infectious disease control at the Federal, state and local levels. He currently serves as Chair of the Princeton Board of Health and on the boards of NAMI-Mercer and NJ Local Boards of Health Association.

We will meet virtually on Zoom at noon for an hour of virtual lunch and socializing, after which Dr. DiFerdinando will speak with plenty of time for questions. Rev. Bill also will be there to answer questions about how the pandemic affects our congregation. Check e-Happenings in September for information about how to connect on Zoom or contact Lisa Roche (see contact information below) to be included in an e-mail with the Zoom instructions. All congregants and guests are welcome!

About Women’s Alliance

The Women’s Alliance promotes friendship and kindness, inspires learning and serves the congregation and greater community. We organize monthly lunches with timely programs of general interest, assist bereaved families with receptions following memorial services and raise funds to support organizations that serve women and children. Anyone who supports what we do and wishes to participate in our activities may become a member of Women’s Alliance upon payment of annual dues of $10. To be placed on our e-mail list for information about our lunches and other activities, to obtain more information about Women’s Alliance or to become a member please contact President Lisa Roche at (609) 403-8148, rochebarbiero@gmail.com or text (609) 933-4194.

**Great Books Reading Circle**

For some twenty years, The Great Books discussion was hosted by our former member Karen Siracusa. Since her move to Virginia, the group has decided to continue meeting, under a slightly different format. Book choices will come from the New York Times/PBS book discussion club “Now Read This”. We’ll continue to meet after the service on the third Sunday, but every other month. It will be via zoom until we return to onsite. We’ll start off on September 20th, 12:30-1:30, with Julia Phillips’ *Disappearing Earth*, selected as one of the Book Review’s 10 Best Books of 2019. Look on our website under 'upcoming events' for zoom link to discussion.

Please join us!

Book choices for the upcoming calendar year are:

- *Disappearing Earth*, Julia Phillips; September 20th
- *There Will Be No Miracles Here*, Casey Gerald; November 15th
- *An American Spy*, Lauren Wilkinson; January 24th (fourth Sunday)
- *Heart Berries*, Terese Marie Mailhot; March 21st
- *House of Broken Angels*, Luis Alberto Urre; May 16th

Please contact Peggy Matthews at peggy.matthews@gmail.com, if you have questions.

(Adult Faith continued on page 11)
UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The 2020 Virtual General Assembly passed two Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) summarized as follows:

1) Regarding Indigenous Peoples: UUs pledge to gather in solidarity with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Standing Rock Nation, and all indigenous peoples struggling to preserve their lands, water, sacred sites, and sovereignty. This commitment will include Indigenous Peoples Day, working to stop and reverse ecological harm, communicate narratives regarding UU origins, establish public school curricula, eliminate harmful flags, mascots, monuments (and team names).

2) Amen to Uprising: UUs commit to shaping a world in which love and justice will thrive, to amplify Black Lives Matter, Black Lives of UUs, etc., to work for systemic change and policies; to create alternatives to prejudicial policing, and create transformative processes.

The full text of these AIWs can be found at UU General Assembly, link to Summary of Business.

~Carol Allen

Social Justice Steering Committee Meetings
Our Social Justice steering committee meetings will resume on September 29 at 7PM. Zoom details will be sent separately. Contact Louise Senior (drLSenior@gmail.com) with any questions or topics that need to be addressed.

Looking for a way to become involved or know someone to recommend? The steering committee is looking for a person or rotating people who would be interesting in taking the role of scribe/secretary to record meeting minutes, compose monthly Skylights updates and other recording activities. The committee meets every other month from September to June, so a commitment of a few hours each for five months.

Meetings will always include Zoom so you can do this from the comfort of your own home if you cannot easily travel. It is a wonderful opportunity for someone who would like to get involved but has limited time. Contact Louise Senior (drLSenior@gmail.com) for more info!

UU Service Committee and Side with Love (https://sidewithlove.org/about-us) are collaborating to offer an exciting webinar series to deepen our collective activism and participation in the Movement for Black Lives. The 5-session series, Taking a Collective Breath: Deepening our Alignment with the Movement for Black Lives, is built around the elements of the BREATHE Act. Though the webinar series is already underway, you can still register and log into the sessions via https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tltiyMKZTD69ZQW3K3LomQ

The sessions and topics are:

- August 11: Divesting Federal Resources from Incarceration and Policing & Ending Criminal-Legal System Harms
- August 25: Investing in New Approaches to Community Safety Utilizing Funding Incentives
- September 8: Education Allocating New Money to Build Healthy, Sustainable & Equitable Communities for All People
- September 22: Environmental Justice and Public Health Allocating New Money to Build Healthy, Sustainable & Equitable Communities for All People Environmental Justice
- October 13: Holding Officials Accountable & Enhancing Self-Determination of Black Communities

We've changed the Social Justice Ministry meeting from Sept 22 to Sept. 29 so that all who wish to can attend the Collective Breath webinar that evening.

Rainbow Ministry
Join us at our September meeting, Sept. 14th from 7:30 – 8:30, to help plan our fall projects and events. For zoom link, contact LGBTQ@uuprinceton.org

~ Amanda Gillum, Directory Project Coordinator

Photo Directory in Production at Lifetouch: Operations at Lifetouch are finally resuming. We don’t know exactly when our directories will be printed and shipped, but hopefully soon. The plan is to mail complimentary copies to all who were photographed. We’ve ordered extras for future purchase, too. In the meantime, our “Photo Directory Roster” from Lifetouch is available for viewing and downloading from the Members area of our UU Princeton web site.

~ Amanda Gillum, Directory Project Coordinator
Our ministry actively seeks to provide welcome, acceptance, celebration and support to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and other (LGBTQ+) persons of all ages, all genders, and all sexual orientations in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton and in outreach to the larger community. Our rainbow flag hangs in Robinson Lounge as a beacon of our welcoming congregation.

**UU Faith Action News**

Even in the midst of all the challenges of meeting and doing the work of UUFA virtually, it was a busy summer. The Board of Directors held its annual retreat in July—virtually of course—to take stock of our ongoing advocacy work in all of the areas of social, environmental, and criminal justice work that Task Forces are involved in.

And once the NJ Legislature adjusted to the need to do its own work in a different way, both Senate and Assembly committees began holding their Committee meetings virtually as well. There are many pending bills related to UUFA’s task forces on criminal, environmental, immigration, and reproductive justice, and on gun violence prevention.

**Criminal Justice**

The most active Task Force over the summer has been the Criminal Justice Reform task force. Susan MacDonnell (UUCP) and Anne Houle (Monmouth UU) have worked with dozens of other advocates around the state since the spring to secure the early release of inmates through a system of awarding “public health emergency credits.” The provisions of the bill apply to those who are within a year of release, and credits accrue based on the length of the public health emergency, to allow an inmate to be released up to a maximum of 8 months early. This bill is especially critical during the Covid-19 public health emergency, and will be activated any time in the future that the Governor issues a public health emergency order. Find out more details here: [https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A4500/4235_S1.HTM](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A4500/4235_S1.HTM)

On August 15th, UUFA’s Criminal Justice Task Force sponsored a Virtual Panel on Exploring Restorative Justice in New Jersey. Over 50 people joined on Zoom to hear presentations by three speakers about their work in the field of Restorative Justice in schools and in the justice system. A full video recording of the event will be available on the UUFA website soon: [www.uufaithaction.org](http://www.uufaithaction.org). This panel was an outgrowth of three successful book groups in the spring, for a discussion of Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration and a Road to Repair by Danielle Sered. If you missed this opportunity and would like to join a group in the fall, please contact Tricia Idrobo at pfressidrobo@hotmail.com.

**Citizens Climate Lobby**

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is pleased to have the support of UUCP—(see recent UUCP resolution: [http://www.uuprinceton.org/new-climate-resolution/](http://www.uuprinceton.org/new-climate-resolution/)).

CCL meets on the second Saturday of each month and our monthly meetings are now virtual. Zoom links are only circulated a couple days in advance.

CCL’s upcoming national broadcast will be on Saturday, September 12th starting at 1:00 PM. Please log in five minutes early for sound check. This will be followed by a separate Zoom meeting of the local Princeton chapter meeting starting at 2:00. Mark your calendars and let Dunbar know you are interested: he can send the correct zoom info a couple days before the event. Email: dunbar.birnie@gmail.com.

**Ranked Choice Voting**

The next meeting of Represent US will be on Sept. 26th at 11 am. (The normal schedule is the third Saturday of the month but this change accommodates the Jewish holidays.)

Represent Us is looking for grassroots volunteers to build up our capacity for Rank Choice Voting. It’s called "talking the talk." It is an opportunity for individual supporters to host a gathering or be a speaker with back up from RepUs. If interested: [https://volunteer.represent.us/centralnj](https://volunteer.represent.us/centralnj)

If you are interested in working with UUCP’s work group on this issue, please contact Debra Lambo deblam52@gmail.com

A health message from UUCP’s Ministry for Earth and UUFANJ’s Environmental Justice Task Force

**Wondering About Lead in Your Drinking Water?**

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. If your home/building was constructed prior to 1988, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present.

**What Can You Do?**

- If you have concerns about your pipes, run water
The Annual Women’s Retreat at Murray Grove will be virtual November 6-8, 2020.
Welcome the return of Rev. Craig Hirshberg, whom you know and love, and introducing Dr. Carol Penn, new to many of us. Both have extensive experience leading retreats.

Dr. Carol Penn, DO, Dipl. ABOM, FACOFP is doubly board-certified in family medicine and obesity medicine and a master Mindset, Meditation, and Movement Coach. Dr. Penn is CEO and founder of Penn Global Visions LLC.

The theme will be Balance – We are all dealing with Hard Stuff right now, diving into it. This retreat will offer some tools to help you manage your life. The weekend will follow the November election by 3 days – regardless of the outcome we will be exhausted. We will all need to find grounding, to return to home base, to make time for retreat and renewal. Carol will lead this focus program: The Mindful Genogram: Examination of Ancestral Bias Or “Where Did That Thought Come From?”

LET’S SEE IF WE CAN FIND BALANCE BETWEEN CARING FOR OURSELVES AND SAVING THE WORLD.

Cost: $99
Register now at Murraygrove.org ~Carol Haag

September is always a special month. There is a refreshing briskness in the air. It is the beginning of the church year, and it felt good to see old friends and to get back into the work of church committees. This has happened every September for 55 years for us, so it became part of our DNA.

This year, it will be different of course. However, the air will still be embracing and while we will not be embracing friends, it is comforting to know they are there as part of the interconnected web of Zoom services and meetings. Thus, it seemed a fetching idea to remember the room where we often first see our friends and how we got started as a congregation. ~Carl Haag

UU PRINCETON HISTORY
NAMING OUR ROOMS By Carl Haag

In a past issue of Skylights, you were told that the UCP Board of Trustee named the Robinson Lounge and a Bronze Plaque was revealed saying it was for Margery and Alson Robinson. This happened on May 4, 1969 when we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our founding as a Fellowship. You can see the sturdy plaque today.

But who were the Robinson’s and why were they honored? To find out we have to go back to our earliest beginnings, as recorded by Mark and June Heald in their Handbook and History — The Unitarian Church of Princeton, New Jersey. This Handbook was dedicated to the Robinson’s:

In July 1948, Lida T. Priest wrote to the American Unitarian Association (AUA) suggesting the founding of a fellowship in the Princeton community. The following spring, on March 27, 1949, an open meeting was held to determine the extent of local interest in liberal religion. Among those present were Margery and Alson Robinson, retired minister of the Plainfield, NJ, Unitarian Church and a vital force in our early years. The first service was held several weeks later on Easter Sunday in the Music Room of Murray Hall of Princeton University. Fifty adults and five children attended. On May 4, 1949, a Certificate of Membership in the AUA was issued by Boston in recognition of the Princeton Unitarian Fellowship. In 1949, the Rev. Alson Robinson became our “Honorary Minister.”

By spring 1953, forty-three families were active in the fellowship, and interest was growing in attaining church status. To do so, the group was required to

(History continued on page 11)
from your tap to flush out your pipe before you drink it, especially in the morning. Water that has been sitting around for several hours in your house pipes is more likely to pick up lead.

- Water filters can remove most lead from your drinking water. However, the filter has to be specifically designed for lead removal – check whether it is certified for that purpose by an independent organization (for example, by the NSF).
- Hot water is also more likely to dissolve lead and carry it to your faucet. Do not use hot water directly from the faucet to cook or make hot drinks.
- Have your water tested for lead. While your municipality may have changed all of its delivery conduits to non-lead materials, the pipes inside your older home (or connecting to the municipal system under your front lawn) may not have been replaced. To confirm your water is safe to drink, contact a reputable, certified water testing lab and have them do an analysis. It is more costly, but it's better to choose an independent company that will not try to sell you a treatment system.
- Your child's blood level can also easily be tested for lead by a pediatrician. Detecting an elevated lead blood level early is important and would give you time to determine where it’s coming from.
- Children spend a lot of time in school – how’s the water there? Request water quality tests from your school district. All public schools in NJ must test their water & report every 6 years. You can look up your local school results here: [https://www.nj.gov/education/lead/summaries/#/](https://www.nj.gov/education/lead/summaries/#/). If you can’t find them there, contact the school’s principal.

"Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land."

--- Luna Leopold

--- Luna Leopold

The Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) of UU FaithAction NJ publishes a monthly newsletter on line where anyone can read it. It contains lots and lots of useful information about environmental issues across New Jersey. There are some articles on what congregations are doing, and many calendars of educational events - webinars and ZOOM conferences that people can attend, mostly free.

EJTF works mostly to impact change through state legislation, so much of the information is related to current bills and calls for help in getting them passed. This compendium of news articles, press releases, action alerts and legislation is a must read for anyone interested in what's happening in New Jersey with environmental justice!

For current and past copies of the EJTF Newsletter, visit the UU Faith Action website: [https://www.uufaithaction.org/blog](https://www.uufaithaction.org/blog)

Environmentally yours,
Ray Nichols
HBNich@gmail.com

--- Luna Leopold

Princeton Eats Plants
contact Vicky Campbell

Buddhist Meditation Group
contact Michele Ochsner

Yoga for health, well-being, and peace of mind
Gentle Yoga contact Sharon Savage.
Vinyasa Flow Yoga contact Lauren Foss.

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) Evergreen Chapter meets monthly and quarterly.
contact Elissa Hoeger
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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.

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**Next Skylights Deadline:**

**SEP 21**

Submissions due for the **OCTOBER ISSUE**  
skylights @ uu.princeton.org

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**Meeting with the Ministers**

Rev. Bill and/or Rev. Jennifer are happy to meet with you individually at church, for lunch, over coffee, etc., at a time that works for everyone. Please email either of them to make an appointment.  
609-924-1604, ext. 111 (Rev. Bill), or ext. 118 (Rev. Jennifer)

In the event of emergencies needing the attention of a minister, please contact Rev. Bill by phone or email first. If necessary, then contact Meg Cox Leone, President of the Board of Trustees, at meg@megcox.com