September 5, 2021 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall

Re-gifting

Faith development can be described as the continuous journey of becoming our better, most authentic selves. How might we discover the sources of strength, the gifts, that accompany us on a lifelong path to what Brene Brown calls "Wholehearted living."

Worship Leader: Rev. Jennifer Kelleher  Worship Associate: Aparna Zama
Music: Herb Foster, horn; Marjorie Herman, piano

September 12, 2021 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Do we look to the past and remain there, or do we look to the future and dream about it or fear it? Perhaps, some of us sit somewhere in-between, our gaze alternating between both. Join us for worship on this Sunday as we explore where and how we find ourselves looking back and looking forward.

Worship Leader: Pauline Nijander, Seminarian  Worship Associate: Darci Erickson
Music: Courtney Orlando, violin; Beth Ertz, piano; Marjorie Herman

September 19, 2021 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall

Returning: The Merging of the Waters

We celebrate our annual Merging of the Waters with a virtual celebration at the 9 a.m. service and an in-person merging at 10:30! Details to come, but be ready with a small amount of water that represents your home, life, or travels to merge in the common cup of our community as we celebrate the ceremonial beginning of our church year together.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely  Worship Associate: Lauren Foss
Music: Adult Choir; Victoria Chow, piano; Marjorie Herman

September 26, 2021 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall

On Holy Ground

“Green Burials,” which offer simple and environmentally-sustainable ways to return our bodies to the earth when our lives are over, are being increasingly embraced as issues of faith for many congregations and denominations. As we dive deeper into the practices and possibilities here at UU Princeton, how can we reflect, faithfully, on “Green Burial?”

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely  Worship Associate: Bob Harris
Music: Jo Ellen Burton and Friends; Victoria Chow, piano; Marjorie Herman
The Good News

Reverend Bill Neely

The first rollercoaster I ever rode was *The Big Bad Wolf* at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va. I think I was in junior high school, and the coaster flew suspended from an overhead track through the woods, whipping us around this way and that, before ascending a huge incline and then sending us screaming down toward a lake below. At the last second, the track veered left and lifted us away from the water before swinging us around a bit and dropping us off safely at the station. It was exhilarating and terrifying and so much fun. After the ride, I immediately got in line again. I fell in love with rollercoasters, and have been riding them whenever possible, ever since.

These days, however, I feel like we’re all on a rollercoaster that we can’t dismount. The times in which we live whip us around between hope and despair; freedom and confinement; peace and anxiety. Safe, effective, and widely-available COVID 19 vaccines were for so long the goal that we were trying to reach; the threshold beyond which we imagined more in-person community with fewer restrictions, safer and healthier living, and a return to the people and activities that we love. And many of us had a blessed and beautiful taste of that goodness later in the spring and over the early summer. But as variants surge and vaccinations lag, the hope for a return to more collective living and connected lives dims and wanes. It’s hard to be hopeful when the number of the infected and very sick are going the wrong way.

And yet we know that where we are is not where we were. Scientific and medical professionals continue to better understand the virus and how to fight it. Treatment is getting better. Vaccines are gradually becoming more and more globally available. Minute-by-minute, there are reasons to hope, and reasons to despair. Indeed, living in a time of deadly pandemic is like being on a rollercoaster, although it’s not one that we boarded willingly, and it’s one that we wish would safely arrive at the station so that we could dismount and go eat some popcorn. With friends. Lots of friends. Sharing. Laughing. Hugging.

My sense is that it’s ok to feel hopeful, and it’s ok to feel despair; that both feelings, even felt at the same time and woven together into our experiences of being alive make a lot of sense right now. My sense is also that that if I only feel despair, I’m probably not noticing the abundance of good, courageous, and selfless living that is happening across the globe right now. Even in the face of all the bad and sad there is, there is also so much goodness and beauty in life.

It’s ok to despair sometimes, but where we are is not where we were, or will be. The last chapter of this pandemic has not been written, but is being scribed this very moment by scientists and medical experts who are tirelessly working for humanity’s safety. It’s being written by teachers and clerks and caretakers who are helping society function as essentially as possible. It’s being written by everyone who lives in our collective interest; who masks in public and distances when possible and vaccinates if able and stays home when they’re sick.

We are writing the end of this story every day in how we care for one another. That is the legacy that those to come, years from now, will assign to us. They’ll remember and speak of how we cared for neighbor and stranger, nearby and across the globe. May we earn their admiration, and may we leave them a legacy of goodness, faith, and a commitment to the common good that they can build upon.

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
September Spiritual Theme – Returning
By Chalice Circle Facilitators

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 Returning for the month of September is:

“When coming back, we may notice we have changed because others haven’t.”
   – Lauren Klarfeld
   Has there been a time when you’ve discovered a change within yourself by comparing yourself to others?

“You'll leave. And then one day you'll come back, and everything that you once loved about the place will drive you a little bit crazy.”
   – Alex George
   Have you ever returned to a place only to find it wasn’t what you recalled?

“Old places fire the internal weather of our pasts. The mild winds, aching calms, and hard storms of forgotten emotions return to us when we return to the spots where they happened.”
   – Siri Hustvedt
   Do you have feelings tied to a place in your past? What are they?

“I regarded home as a place I left behind in order to come back to it afterward.”
   – Ernest Hemingway
   What do you consider to be home? Is it a place, a feeling, a person, or something else altogether?

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. We look forward to getting to know you better.

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.
We began to experiment with in-person worship and other programming mid-August. As of this writing, I am sharing activities for Children & Youth through September and what we are thinking about for the remainder of the fall. We all understand that "plans" are continually forming and re-forming as we do our best to remain connected and make the best decisions we are able to in the continuing persistence of Covid-19. I imagine I am not the only one that is feeling disappointed, frustrated and uncertain at this time. I am also grateful and hopeful. I've witnessed the flexibility and resolve of this community. We've cared for one another with grace and loving hearts through these many, many months. And I know we will continue to care, be flexible and be tender with one another as we continue “making it up as we go.” I welcome your thoughts and will continue to work with you in partnership as we create faith development experiences for all ages. And as always, I am here for you in times of personal and family transitions and/or challenges. Please do contact me at jennifer@uuprinceton.org or 609-924-1604, ext. 118 if I can be of support.

SEPTEMBER ITEMS & ACTIVITIES

“Exploration bags” are currently available for all young children attending in-person worship services. Please pick a green tote up on your way into the sanctuary and drop off used bags in the container provided in Robinson Lounge so we can prepare them for the following week’s use (including disinfecting surfaces). The children’s area in Robinson Lounge, directly outside the doors to our sanctuary Channing Hall, will also be available. In Robinson you can still hear the service and allow our smallest members to run off a little extra energy or play and meet new friends.

We will hold Children & Youth Faith Development 2021-2022 Grown-Ups Open Houses via Zoom on Tuesday, September 21 from 7:00pm-8:00pm and in-person on Sunday, September 26 from 12pm-1pm. Please check-out E-Happenings closer to the date for the Zoom link.

Registration for Children and Youth for the upcoming year will be available later in September, stay tuned to emails and weekly E-Happenings.

We will hold our postponed “Plushie Picnic” on Saturday, September 25 from 1pm-3pm. Last fall, our children’s stuffed animals got to sleep over in the church and meet new friends! Now we invite stuffed animals/plushies to return, and new ones to join, with their human families for a “plushie picnic.” We’ll gather from 1-3pm on the lawn for casual conversation and free play. Please bring your own picnic blanket and/or chair with your lunch or snacks. Masks required. Rain date is Saturday, October 2. All ages and (stuffed) animals are welcome.

Our next Children’s Chapels are Sunday, September 26. The virtual children's chapel begins after the story in our 9:00am on-line worship service on a parallel Zoom. An outdoor children’s chapel begins after the story in our 10:30am in-person worship service. For those joining in-person, please dress children for outdoor play, including sunscreen if needed. Masks are required. We do need at least 2 adults to help supervise the outdoor chapel (I will lead it) if you could be one of them, please contact me. If the weather is poor we will meet masked and distanced in the Fals Auditorium.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Our Fall programming will begin the week of October 3. We will focus on engagement and community building (e.g. meeting, making, gathering again as friends) and learning through play and other activities. Virtual/Zoom gatherings will continue. In-person gatherings will be held outdoors, if, and as long as we are able. Masks are required. All adults leading in-person children and youth activities will be vaccinated. Details for the virtual and in-person offerings are still in development.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

In great part, what we are able to offer from October on will be dependent on the adult volunteers available to convene gatherings. It is a rewarding ministry in which our adults often gain a deeper understanding ofUU Identity, UU History, stories and rituals of world religions and experience spiritual practices and community service alongside our children and youth. We’d love to have you as part of this ministry team!

In addition to my guidance, we have a number of “veteran” leaders that will provide mentorship. We are looking to fill leadership roles for both on-line and fingers-crossed and hopeful, in person sessions. We also need folks who are willing to serve as the class assistant/parent volunteer. In our commitment to safety, there are always two adults present at online and in-person classes.

We have openings to support the following age groups/programs:

- Pre-K/Kindergarten, Younger Elementary (Grades 1-4), Jr. Youth (Grades 5-7), 8th-10th Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL)
- Sexuality Education and Coming of Age Growing Anti-racist UUs (Preschool, Kindergarten-Grade 2, Grades 3-4)

Please note that OWL adult leaders must have (Children’s and Youth Faith Development continued on page 11)
Join Us for Live-Stream Sunday Worship Service
at 9:00 a.m.
In-Person service at 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall

We hope you’ll join us for our live-stream worship service on Sunday mornings, at 9:00 a.m. if you are unable to join us in Channing Hall at 10:30 a.m. There are two ways for us to join together at 9:00:

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

Now that we’re once again worshipping together in Channing Hall

We Need Ushers!
Please Volunteer

If you would like to be a full-time scheduled usher or a backup usher, please contact Dudley Jones jonesdudley@hotmail.com. Scheduled ushers work one week a month. We are covered for weeks two, three, and five. So far there are no scheduled ushers for weeks one and four. If you have never ushered before your first week will be with an experienced usher.

Basic usher responsibilities are:

* Place hymnals before service
* Take collection during service
* Take attendance during service
* Count money and deposit in safe after service
* Clean up Channing after service

Thanks!

Welcome Home
August 15, 2021

Sunday Worship in Channing Hall
**Gracenotes**

**Adult Choir as “Humming Choir”**

The Adult Choir is back in action. On Sunday, August 15, we were present for the first in-person service in Channing Hall. It was a poignant moment for all who were there. We’ve learned that for the present the safest way to sing is to hum – our mouths are closed, and the result is intimate and very moving. So get ready something unusual and uplifting in congregational participation on Sundays.

Hopefully, on Sept. 19, Water Communion, your Adult Choir will sing a couple of anthems with words but masked of course and socially distanced. Contact Marjorie at marjmuse@verizon.net if you are interested in joining our merry throng. Weekly rehearsals start on Sept. 8 from 7:30pm til 8:30pm in Channing Hall.

**Our Bell Choir Has Begun**

On Sunday, August 15, the bell choir was represented by Joelle Piercy, Bell Choir Director, who gifted us with an amazing solo. We were all mesmerized as she danced across the bells with such flair and provided us with an extraordinary few minutes of pure inspiration.

The Bell Choir itself has begun meeting on Thursday evenings in Founders Room. If interested in joining, contact Joelle at joellepiercy@gmail.com.

**Who’s at the Keyboard?**

Many thanks to Victoria Chow for filling in for our August re-entry in Channing Hall. Victoria and Beth Ertz will be filling in as they are able starting in September. And we have been fortunate to have them during this transition. But Both of them have regular gaps in their availability.

**NOTE:** We are in need for part-time or full-time pianists who are free on Sunday mornings to join our music team. If you know of a pianist who has experience in accompanying and playing solos, please let Marjorie know (marjmuse@verizon.net), or contact that person first to determine possible interest. Salary would be commensurate with experience. Thanks very much.

---

**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.

---

**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. Rev. Jennifer Kelleher (jennifer@uuprinceton.org) is the primary support for Pastoral Associates and our Prayer Circle. You are always welcome to reach out directly to Rev. Jennifer and/or Rev. Bill Neely (bill@uuprinceton.org) for pastoral care and support in times of difficulty and times of celebration.

**Hil Anderson** entered hospice care the week of August 9. If you would like to reach out to him, the best way to reach him is at his home phone number, 609-759-3797.

**Peggy Matthews’** mom, Betty Loome, passed away on August 12 at home in Georgia, where she’d spent the last 18 years of her life. She lived a long and wonderful life and was the pillar of her large family. Though she had some challenging times in the end, she spent her final days with her children by her side.

An early member of UUCP, **Marilyn Durbin**, gently left us on August 11 at age 97. She was surrounded by her family in California. The church was an enormous and essential part of the lives of both Marilyn and her late husband, Enoch Durbin. They were both very active and have left a lasting legacy behind.

Long time and beloved member, **Charlie Ascher**, passed away on August 14 after contracting Covid-19. We are keeping Charlie's wife Mary in our thoughts; cards may be sent to their home address.

A few weeks ago, **Carl Haag** suffered a fall. He has completed a stay at St. Lawrence Rehab and has returned home. He has, with Carol's good help, figured out how to deal with most activities in the house. Next, a Home Health care worker will determine what still is needed. Notes sent to his home are always welcome. Carol and Carl will send notes to a small number of friends when they are ready.

**Blair Williams** had cardiac surgery and it went well. Thanks to all for their thoughts and prayers.

(Prayer Circle continued on page 10)
Great Books Reading Circle
The Great Books Circle is excited to continue in the fall! Books are chosen from the New York Times/PBS News Now Read This book discussion list (with one exception this year). We'll meet every other month on the second Sunday at 12:30. We'll plan to continue our meetings on Zoom, though that may change, TBD. Here is the upcoming schedule along with our books, with selections alternating between fiction and nonfiction. Happy reading! (Contact peggy.matthews@gmail.com if you have questions.)

- September 12, 2021: Severance, Ling Ma
- November 14, 2021: Inheritance, Dani Shapiro
- January 9, 2022: Conversations with Friends, Sally Rooney
- March 13, 2022: The Moth and the Mountain, Ed Caesar*
- May 15, 2022: Beijing Payback, Daniel Nieh (3rd Sunday)

*Not selected from the Now Read This list

Princeton Eats Plants
Contact Vicky Campbell
vcampbell@callawayhenderson.com

Princeton Eats Plants
We will be having an outdoor potluck for VACCINATED PEOPLE on Wednesday, September 8 at 6pm next to the Memorial Garden at UUCP. We realize that it has been a long time since our last meeting and we would like to try an outdoor, safe and socially distanced potluck to once again share great healthy good food and to connect with each other. The rain date is the following day, Thursday, September 9 at 6pm and a notice will be posted by 4pm on Wednesday if the potluck is being pushed back to Thursday due to weather.

Due to the current Covid situation, this potluck is for VACCINATED PEOPLE ONLY. No exceptions! In addition, masks must be worn by everyone when near the food table. Hand sanitizer will also be available. You should bring your own chair or blanket, plate, bowl, utensils, napkins, drink and serving utensil for the dish you prepared. Electricity and tables for eating will not be available.

Regarding the potluck food, PLEASE make sure that your dish has 10-12 SERVINGS (everyone wants to try it!), and is made with no added sugars, oils, and very little added salt (it's a good rule of thumb to double a recipe you would make at home). Please bring a serving utensil for your dish.

Here is an easy way to remember: We promote a low-fat, whole-food, plant-based diet for optimal health:
Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all meat (including fish), dairy, eggs; also

Avoid all me...
Our UUCP Social Justice Ministry is a group of shared ‘sub-ministries’ that assist those in need, educate about injustice, and work towards systemic change to create a more just and beloved society. General requests and inquiries about the UUCP Justice Ministry can be sent to socialjustice@uuprinceton.org.

The six sub-ministries and their UUCP contacts are (alphabetically):

**Caring for Our Neighbors** – organizes projects that provide hands on help to address immediate, local, concrete needs (Louise Senior, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org, please put ‘Caring for Neighbors’ in subject line)

**Immigration and Sanctuary Task Force** – assists immigrants, refugees and sanctuary-seekers (Michele Ochsner, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org, please put ‘Immigration Task Force’ in the subject line)

**Ministry for the Earth** – acts to preserve earth’s resources at UUCP and among individuals (Ray Nichols, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org, please put ‘Ministry for the Earth’ in the subject line)

**Public Action Issues** – promotes advocacy actions, through support of UU Faith Action, legislative actions, and other (Eileen Bird for UU Faith Action, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org, please put ‘UU Faith Action’ in the subject line)

**Racial Justice Task Force** – conducts anti-racism work inside and outside of UUCP (Megan Innes, Sharon Copeland and Kevin Trayner, racialjustice@uuprinceton.org)

and **Rainbow Ministry** – welcomes LGBTQIA persons at UUCP and advocates outside of UUCP (Chana Palena and Judy Vee, lgbtq@uuprinceton.org)

The Spring/Fall Sale and Social Justice Outreach Grants are related, but not considered a subset of any of the SJM sub-ministries.

**CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS**

A small group tends the organic vegetable garden next to the Arm in Arm Food Pantry at 123 E. Hanover Street, where the harvest of collards, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet and hot peppers and more are taken directly into the pantry for distribution to those in need. The transportation ‘carbon footprint’ is very small – we walk the produce in, and many recipients walk away with their groceries! We meet there on Tuesday mornings, 10 am to noon, to harvest, plant, water and tend the plants. **Join the fun! We’ve harvested over 335 lbs of food this summer already!** With more trained helpers, we could have additional work days and welcome in the pantry clients to harvest as well – contact Louise Senior if you would like to be involved (no prior gardening skills required), email is best: DrLSenior@gmail.com or text message to 609 240 6543.

Photos are shots of the garden, and the August 17 harvest of peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers, as well as weeder-extraordinaire Laurie and her pal Stella! In late October we’ll start planning and publicizing our traditional **UUCP Ingathering, a congregation-wide food drive to support Arm in Arm.** In February we’ll be publicizing our plans for **Loaves and Fishes 2022, our traditional meal for those in need, served on the last Saturday of March together with the UU Congregation of Washington Crossing.**

**PUBLIC ACTION ISSUES**

**Save the Date:** UU FaithAction NJ Issues Conference, October 16, 2021

Mark your calendar—Our 2021 UU FaithAction NJ Fall Issues Conference will be **October 16.** The Issues Conference is your opportunity to help decide the justice issues New Jersey Unitarian Universalists focus on for 2021-2022! We are excited to announce our **Keynote Speaker** will be Senate Majority Leader **Loretta Weinberg.** Over her career, Sen. Weinberg has championed matters of conscience including criminal justice reform, gun violence prevention, marriage equality, gender equality and reproductive justice. Having announced **plans for retirement** in January, she hopes her legacy will be “a whole generation of troublemakers” following her into politics. Our 2021 Fall Issues Conference will be hosted by **Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** and their stellar tech team. Due to the uncertain development of public health conditions, we will be making a final determination mid-September as to whether our 2021 Issues Conference will convene in a hybrid (options to attend at Morristown OR on Zoom) or virtual (Zoom only) format. A finalized schedule and registration will be forthcoming. **Save the date, and invite your friends! We hope to see you there.**

Submitted by Eileen Bird, <eileenbird@msn.com>

---

**FALL SALE**

**SPRING/FALL SALE Postponed Again!!**

(Social Justice Ministry continued on page 9)
After considerable planning and anticipation, we recently surveyed our core Fall Sale volunteers about the impact of the Delta Covid-19 variant on the feasibility of hosting our community-wide sale in September.

Based on feedback and the latest news, we have determined it is best for our congregation’s safety to postpone the Sale indefinitely.

Most of us have been setting aside furniture, clothing and household items to donate, and we know that this fourth (!!!?) postponement is distressing and inconvenient. We’ll monitor developments and make plans to resume our wonderful community event once conditions improve.

-- Submitted by Judy Vee, Binnie Thom, Teri Hyatt, Amanda Gillum & Cathy Bauer-Koggan

Sale Coordinators

RAINBOW MINISTRY

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 Pride flags hang in Robinson Lounge as a beacon of our welcoming congregation.

Everyone, regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation, is welcome to join us at our next Rainbow Ministry meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7pm (the link will be in e-Happenings for that week). Rainbow Ministry also has a Movie date, and we welcome you to join us on September 17th at 7:00 PM. We will be showing the movie Cloudburst with Olympia Dukakis (the link or information about the event will be in e-Happenings for that week).

For any questions about Rainbow Ministry or our events, you may contact us at lgbtq@uuprinceton.org.

We resolved to focus our efforts in the coming year on the plight of trans women and men of color who are the most marginalized population in our country at this time. Since difficulty in obtaining employment is one of their most critical issues, we will explore resources and partnerships and education to improve this condition.  ~Submitted by Judy Vee and China Palena

CITIZENS’ CLIMATE LOBBY

We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month, Citizens’ Climate Lobby is pleased to have the support of UUCP (see recent UUCP resolution: http://www.uuprinceton.org/new-climate-resolution/). CCL’s normal monthly meetings in Fahs have been converted completely to virtual meetings: The upcoming National broadcast for September will be on Saturday September 11th starting at 1:00PM (log in 5 minutes early for soundcheck); this will be followed by a separate Zoom local Princeton chapter meeting

HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.

El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

(Adult Faith Development continued from page 7)
The UU Princeton Prayer Circle
If you have any prayer requests, for yourself or anyone who needs to be held in love and compassion, please email PrayerCircle@UUPrinceton.org. Your request will be sent to members of our Prayer Circle Team who will include your request in weekly prayers. And if you’d like to be a part of our Prayer Circle Team, please email the same address to be included. All styles of prayer are welcome.

starting at 2:00PM. Mark your calendars and let Dunbar Birnie know if you are interested: he can send the correct zoom info a couple days before the event. Email: dunbar.birnie@gmail.com. Mark your calendars!

FAREWELL TO ONE OF OUR LONG-TIME JUSTICE ORGANIZERS: Susan MacDonnell Is Moving To Mexico!
Our UUCP and Statewide Justice Ministries will suffer a loss this Fall when Susan MacDonnell moves to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Susan has done so much to educate and enlighten our congregants over the years, organizing showings of the Solitary Confinement Chamber, co-chairing the Criminal Justice Task Force for UU Legislative Ministry/UU Faith Action, connecting UUCP with the New Jim Crow chapters, screening films and holding discussions of the film Thirteenth, and others on James Baldwin, Octavia Butler and more! In addition, she has been a strong supporter of all Justice projects, and we’ll miss her deeply. With COVID restrictions affecting how often we can see friends face-to-face, it has been difficult for Susan to share her monumental decision with more than just a few people. Here she shares her news:

So the big news is that after making an eight day trip to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, in June, I made the decision to move there in the fall! As abrupt or wild as it may seem, this is a culmination of several years of trying to work out ways to live somewhere in this country that would be (very) affordable, with the kind of lifestyle I need if I’m going to go into really old age with contentment, decent health, and accessible new challenges.

At one point early this year as I thought about what I valued, the important and fulfilling relationships with fellow Unitarians was near the top of the list. And then one day back in February, I had the idea to check into UU congregations in other countries, especially in countries that are considered to be inexpensive to retire to – Portugal, Costa Rica, etc. So, I went to the UUA website and looked up international congregations. Wonder of wonders, up popped San Miguel de Allende!! So unexpected in a heavily Catholic country. Given San Miguel’s long history as an expat haven, especially with so many retirees from the baby boomer generation, it’s unsurprising that UU’s migrated there over the years. A small Fellowship began over 20 years ago, and it is now a sizeable congregation. The UU community in San Miguel will allow me to connect with a congregation right away, and get involved with the many people-to-

people non-profit efforts that abound throughout the greater-SMA area. And of course now that we are all skilled in Zoom, I will still pop in on UUCP’s services, as I have been doing occasionally with the UU in SMA.

Learning of this congregation sealed the deal, so I planned a trip in June to visit—the country, the city, and the UUs! I came back having put a deposit down on a one bedroom apartment ($500 includes all utilities, cable, internet and housekeeping once a week!). I’ve been downsizing ever since. I mean, REALLY downsizing.

San Miguel is a city of under 180,000, a few hours north of Mexico City, in the mountains (6000’ up). Streets are made of traditional (and often original!) cobblestones, so they’re tricky to maneuver. Streets go either up or down, rarely flat for more than a block or so. So while it’s not my walking paradise, taxis are cheap and plentiful when I can’t manage going the distance. People with healthy incomes and retirement can live kingly existences here, but living very inexpensively is still possible. As everywhere in the world that is desirable, those who have always called the place home end up suffering the results of higher rents and cost of goods. On the flip side, the tourism in San Miguel and the money spent by expats whose moved here to live are all vital to the city’s healthy economy -- employment centers around the service industry, and demands for produce, wines, construction and home furnishings support many many local and regional businesses.

It feels a bit overwhelming, and I sometimes get a little panicky. But mostly I’m quite excited for this next chapter. It has a lot to do with embracing the fact that I am an aging woman on my own and must create the next chapter for myself. I’d accepted that lowering my living costs was essential, wherever that meant I needed to go, so I cast the net wide. When I did this, I discovered a place where I can do that and live in a beautiful part of the world, learn a new culture, become fluent in Spanish (finally!), and get back to doing more creative things in a city that is one of the most vitally artistic and cultural in the world. San Miguel is often called the cultural center of the country, and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site.

(Social Justice Ministry continued on page 11)
Mexican health care is good, though not always accessible due to distance from population centers. Many doctors train in the US, and US doctors come here to practice as well. Once I am a temporary resident, I’ll be eligible for their national health insurance – it’s not terrific, but it would cover me for serious illness or injury. Besides, doctor’s visits for the usual stuff are $10.

There is so much going on in SMA. Oddly (or perhaps not) the ratio of women to men, especially among retirees, is 5:1 -- Lots of female energy! Those I’ve met so far from the UU, over 65 and into late 70s, 80s +, say that the move was the best thing they ever did, they’re healthier and happier than they were in retirement in the US. Some come down with spouses, but many also come after being divorced, widowed, others never married. Living without a car will force me to walk a lot (however slowly), and they all say this is a a key to their good health (that and wonderful fresh food everywhere you look!).

A huge plus is that my son thinks this is an awesome idea, and he is now feeling the itch to travel also. So perhaps rather than needing to nag him to come visit me in NJ, he’ll be just counting the days till he can come down to Mexico. All of the above, notwithstanding, might things go south in five years, ten years, or whenever? Perhaps. Is my move without risk? Absolutely not. As we have all learned the past several years, nothing is certain. I just recently started listening to Mary Chapin Carpenter’s album, The Things That We Are Made Of, again. It had been my mantra for months ahead of my solo trip to Costa Rica back in 2016. I’m finding the lyrics of these songs to be incredibly on point once again... as I move, not entirely without trepidation, to my next stage.

And I remember feeling I’m alive and in no need of saviors
If the past’s another country I’m at the border with my papers
Where is your heart if not inside you where is home or are you lost
where is love if not beside you I had no answers but they let me cross

~Mary Chapin Carpenter

Submitted by Susan MacDonnell, August 2021

You can Contact Susan at <susmacdonn@gmail.com>

completed the UUA facilitator training process. We expect the UUA will begin to host OWL training workshops again in the coming year. Adult leaders for children’s anti-racism curriculum must have completed Beloved Conversations or equivalent anti-racism/anti-oppression training.

An information session to learn more about these roles and opportunities will be held early September. However, we are planning for the fall NOW :) and I would love to know of your interest. Please reach out to me at jennifer@uuprinceton.org or (609) 577-7600.

Finally, do stay tuned for more information on parent/grandparent and other adult programs for the coming year. Our kids “grown ups” are their primary spiritual guides and as such we have a strong commitment to adult faith development, including your growth and deepening in UU identity.

Whether online or in person, I am looking forward to re-connecting!
**About Skylights**

*Skylights* is published monthly except August. *Skylights* is a publication of the:

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
50 Cherry Hill Rd.
Princeton, NJ 08540-7626

Submissions to be sent to:
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.

---

**Names & Numbers**

**Rev. Bill Neely**
bill @ uuprinceton.org
Parish Minister ext. 111

**Rev. Jennifer Kelleher**
jennifer @ uuprinceton.org
Assistant Minister ext. 118

**Pauline Nijander**
pauline @ uuprinceton.org
Seminarian ext. 114

**Patricia Hennigan**
patricia @ uuprinceton.org
Ministerial Intern ext. 113

**Marjorie Herman**
marjorie @ uuprinceton.org
Music Director ext. 116

**Lauren Suchenski**
lauren @ uuprinceton.org
Social Media Coordinator

**Arkady Thompson**
arkady @ uuprinceton.org
Office Assistant ext. 115

**Jorge Garcia Salas**
jorge @ uuprinceton.org
Sexton ext. 119 or 609-954-7789

**Sara Oderwald**
sara @ uuprinceton.org
Administrator ext. 110

**Office Hours:**
Limited - please call or e-mail
We are checking voice mail and e-mail. Keep in touch!
Phone: 609-924-1604

e-mail:
office @ uuprinceton.org

Web page:
http://www.uuprinceton.org

---

**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 Lauren Foss, President of the Board of Trustees, at president@uuprinceton.org