May 2, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
Public Health and Public Faith

From COVID19 to racism to environmental justice and beyond, concern over issues of public health call for unique expressions from faith communities. How we envision, discuss, and strategize on behalf of the greater good says a great deal about who we are and what we serve. Let’s consider how our faith informs our advocacy and involvement in issues of public health.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely  Worship Associate: Marc Rubenstein
Music: Victor Cristobal, hymn leader; Natasha Steinmacher, piano; Marjorie Herman

May 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
The Broken Horn

The story of a car with a broken horn being driven down a busy street leads to us to consider noise, silence, and what kind of world our voices create. This service will also include a time to honor the mothers and mother figures in our lives. Please email pictures of people you’d like to honor to Bill@UUPrinceton.org for inclusion in the service.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely  Worship Associate: Lauren Foss
Music: Isabela Morales, hymn leader; Natasha Steinmacher, piano; Marjorie Herman

May 16, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
Beautiful are the ...

Some of the most moving and challenging verses in the Christian scriptures are the Beatitudes: Blessed are the hungry, the poor, those who thirst for justice, etc. Let’s consider this month’s spiritual theme of Beauty through a similar lens.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely  Worship Associate: Darci Erickson
Music: Victor Cristobal, hymn leader; Beth Ertz, piano; Marjorie Herman

May 23, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
YoUUh Perspectives

Inspiration and what nurtures ourselves and our spirits is a life-long practice. Members of our high-school youth group share what is inspiring them now. This morning we will hear perspectives from and receive the wisdom of our thoughtful and insightful youth.

Worship Leaders: Youth-led service, with Rev. Jennifer Kelleher
Worship Associate: Paige Cupp
Music: Victor Cristobal, hymn leader; Beth Ertz, piano; Marjorie Herman

May 30, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
Tombs Known and Unknown

Though we know of tombs that honor the dead, many tombs go unmarked, making it possible that any step we take is upon ground hallowed with sacred memory. This Sunday, we honor and name those memories with a Memorial Day service on friendship, sacrifice, virtue, and loss.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely  Worship Associate: Susan MacDonnell
Music: Mark Boone, hymn leader; Jonathan Kaledin, cello; Beth Ertz, piano; Marjorie Herman
A current article in *Psychology Today* reviews recent studies that explore how people across the political aisle try to gain understanding and respect from one another. Going into the studies, participants of all political leanings tended to believe that sharing statistics and facts would change minds and bridge differences. However, in reality, this approach rarely accomplished that. Within a polarized electorate in which each side is *against* the other as much as they are *for* their positions, statistics backing up one side are quickly discounted as biased by the other. The media plays a role in this; some very influential outlets are proudly biased in either direction. While it’s tempting to think that information can bridge the political divide, that doesn’t seem to be the case, at least not at the beginning.

The article pointed out another possibility though. The sharing of personal experiences, particularly around harm, can begin to bridge some of the divides. If the conversations begin with a personal story of why the issue is important, there can be an opening for respect instead of an opportunity to shoot someone’s statistics down. This takes the vulnerability of the person speaking to share something personal, and the goodness of the person listening to respond with openness. In this way, *beginning with the personal* relies on some of our better angels: honesty and compassion. It creates a collaboration between the two who may not now or ever agree on important political issues: a collaboration of respect, trust, and kindness.

Sometimes I talk about the Bible with people who have far different takes about what it means than I do. And when I was younger, we would often throw verses back and forth at each other, or rattle through stories and parables to make our arguments. It kind of came down to who was more literate, and while one might walk away feeling superior about the battle, no one won, and we both left the conversations feeling less grace, love, and humility than when we started.

And these days, I have no interest whatsoever in those sorts of spars; being in them, or even watching them. There’s always a good book nearby, and there’s always something beautiful in the sky to watch. But even with someone with whom I deeply disagree about the Bible, or faith, or politics, or anything of value, if they are willing to tell me something about their life that makes the conversation important to them, I am very eager to listen. I’ll respond in kind. And in this way, I have felt respect and affection for people with whom I deeply disagree about important things. I’ve felt that divide narrow with me, not as often as I’d like, but a little here and there. And every little bit feels right.

The article makes clear that stats and facts are important, just not at the beginning of the conversation. The beginning is a place for the personal, and then the stats and facts can flow from there. We’ll share them differently if we’ve cultivated a little respect, compassion, and maybe even empathy, with the other person. We’ll hear them differently. And while agreement may not occur; in fact, will likely not occur, agreement wasn’t likely anyway, not if the exchange is one in which we just throw facts at each other. But if we start with who we are and why something is impossible to us, we may grow together nonetheless; not in like mind, but in like heart. And that kind of likeness is a holy one.

**In-Person Planning Update**

Thank you so much to the Committee on Ministry (COM) for creating the survey that many of you filled out on our eventual return to in-person events. Thank you as well to everyone who filled it out. COM is creating a summary of what you shared, and we look forward to learning from that soon.

It’s clear that many of us are eager to return to in-person events, but to do so in a safe and thoughtful manner. This broadly follows the UUA’s advice, which encourages a slow and safety-centered return to in-person activities. We’re seeing some congregational movement toward that return in our denomination (and quite a bit of that beyond our denomination), but being deliberate seems to be the common approach. We’re all eager for the return, but wary still of possibly impacting those vulnerable to the virus, and uncertain about the various strains that keep developing. At the same time, vaccinations are broadly available now, and that is expected to continue. Many schools that went fully remote are now increasing their in-person classes. After a year of very little changing with regard to the pandemic, everything is shifting. Change is afoot, or is being planned. That makes this a very hopeful, and understandably anxious, time.

In the coming months, we plan for our Sunday services and major religious education offerings for people of all ages to remain virtual. If conditions continue improving locally, we’re looking at some in-
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 Beauty this month are:

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.” — Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

What kind of people do you think are beautiful?

“Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.” — Confucius

Has there been a time when someone you were with experienced something as beautiful, but you did not?
If so, what was the situation? Do you see it as beautiful now (or does it remain the same)?

“The truth is not always beautiful, nor beautiful words the truth.” — Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching

Do you have an example when the truth is not beautiful or when beautiful words were not the truth?
If so, what is/was the truth?

“You are imperfect, permanently and inevitably flawed. And you are beautiful.” — Amy Bloom

What are the qualities and characteristics, perfect and imperfect, that make you whole and therefore beautiful?

Coming to a computer near you…

The 2021 UUCP Fellowship Auction
Online May 8 - 15

Bid on Online and In-Person events,
picnics, games, dinners, food, drink, teas,
paintings, antiques, hikes, services, and more.

Thank you to the outreach volunteers and to the congregational members and friends who have donated to make the Auction a SUCCESS!

Join us in our biggest UUCP fundraiser for this memorable year.
Watch your e-mail from the UUCP for details and the Auction link. Or, check the UUCP website.

For more information,
Laurie Powsner at lrpjak@gmail.com
Louise Senior at drlsenior@gmail.com
Candus Hedberg at ckhellberg@gmail.com
**Faith Development for Children**

**Upcoming Events in Children & Youth Faith Development**

**Sunday, May 9, approximately 10:50-11:20 am is our next Children’s Chapel**

**Focusing on the 5th Principle of Unitarian Universalism** (in simpler language for children)

Our focus will be on the 5th Principle* of Unitarian Universalism: *We believe that all persons should have a vote/say about the things that concern them.* Chapels begin after the Story for All Ages in worship and are held in a separate Zoom.

*Principles in Simpler Language from the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith Curricula

**Sunday, May 23, at 10:30am: YOUTH-Led Worship Service YoUUi Perspective**

Join our youth as they lead the worship service on May 23! As always, they will share thoughtful and meaningful reflections and their takes on what is inspiring them now. See page one for more details.

**Please note that the week of May 23, 2021 is our last week of children’s classes for our congregational year.**

We’ll continue with monthly children’s chapels over the summer and hope to hold an in-person distanced event over the summer months for celebration and connection!

Please do reach out to me at jennifer@uuprinceton.org with questions on any of the above events. Blessings!

Rev. Jennifer

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**SPRING EGG HUNT**

Our gratitude to everyone who made our Spring Egg Hunt on April 3 a fun and meaningful day. Thank you to our children and adults who helped fill and hide the eggs. Thank you to our 5th and 6th graders who created a super-cool obstacle course in the parking lot for the younger kids to enjoy and lovely “kindness rocks” that are placed near our front doors. Long-time friends got to connect and new friends were made with families who have recently joined our UU Princeton gatherings. Our children received “travel chalices” to carry our UU flame with them wherever they may go and decorated wooden eggs to bring home. Thank you to everyone who participated; it was a joyous celebration!
News of Note

Adult Choir
We’re moving by leaps and bounds in our understanding and recording of Virtual Choir performances for upcoming Sundays. Right now we’re working on a piece by legendary 20th century choral music composer, Randall Thompson, who wrote a set of choral pieces under the banner, “Frostiana” – 7 settings of poems by Robert Frost. We’re in the process of recording one of those: the immortal poem “The Road Not Taken”.

Who’s at the Keyboard?
I’ve heard that “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” Not always, as this past year has shown. There is always adjustment involved, and this is certainly true when speaking about our congregation’s approach to worship. Ask anyone involved in our Music Ministry and you’ll find how significantly words like adjustment, re-grouping, creativity, and even transformation apply. I’ve also heard another statement that is not only more fitting, but encouraging as well: We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.

We at UU Princeton have been most fortunate to have unique and continued talent when it comes to the person calling the shots from the keyboard. Natasha Steinmacher came in last fall to literally save us when Nick Tiberi moved back to Pittsburgh. We knew this would be a temporary fill since Natasha is the Music Director of the UU Congregation in Cherry Hill. Sad to say, the time has come for her to return to sanity by having only one worship service per week to manage. Natasha’s last service with us will be on May 9.

But fate is kind. And beginning with the May 16 service, Betz Ertz will return to UU Princeton. Some of you will remember her outstanding pianism in every genre, and her warm relationships with so many in the congregation. Beth left several years ago to pursue a career in NYC in the cabaret/Broadway circuits, and she’s been quite successful. (I’m sure she’ll enjoy regaling you with interesting stories from her adventures.) But as you know, when the pandemic hit, one of the areas of employment that went with it was the performing arts. Beth, like all of us, was required to adjust and make her way despite the huge shift, which meant entering the world of Zoom. Thankfully, she is now fulling equipped with a sophisticated electronic setup allowing her to come back to UU Princeton as our pianist until we go completely live. Beth will begin at UU Princeton on Sunday, May 16, and I know you’ll be amazed as you witness her talent.

Gracenotes

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 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton 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.

JOIN US FOR LIVE-STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
As we continue to plan for the 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
**ZOOM Programs for Adults - May**

All on Zoom, all are welcome!
Please check e-Happenings and/or your email for Zoom log-ins.

**Book Discussion:** *The Inner Work of Racial Justice*, by Rhonda V. Magee, Tuesdays, May 11, 18, and 25, 6 – 6:45 p.m.

Magee is a mindfulness practitioner and law professor who integrates embodied awareness into racial justice work, creating a practice that offers depth and sustenance. Let’s lean into some of her insights. No prior reading is necessary, and all are welcome to any or all of the sessions.

**An Animated Experience**, Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 6 – 6:45 p.m.
Where can we find the spiritual in modern media? This year our elementary-school-age kids are viewing animated shorts and talking about them in relation to our UU values. We'll view a selection of the same "CartUUns" and discuss the meaning we may find in them.

**Short Story Hour, TED Talk Discussions, Poetry Hour, and More!** Fridays, 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2 - 3 p.m.
Keep an eye on E-Happenings and your email for our exact schedule of Friday afternoon programs. All are welcome!

**Women’s Alliance**

**Year-End Celebration (Lunch, Annual Meeting and Entertainment) – Thursday, May 20th, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

For our final lunch this church year we are planning an in-person celebration outdoors at the church! Preliminary plans are to each bring our own lunch and eat and socialize while observing safe procedures (physical distancing, mask wearing when not eating, etc.). The Women’s Alliance will provide our traditional May lunch dessert – strawberry shortcake – as well as entertainment by talented members who have been honing their skills during the pandemic. We also will hold our annual meeting including approval of donations to organizations that serve women and children and election of three officers and a Nominating Committee member. All congregants and guests are welcome!

If it is not possible to have our May lunch at the church due to inclement weather or other circumstances, we will have the lunch and annual meeting virtually on Zoom. For further information check e-Happenings or contact Lisa Roche (609) 403-8148, rochebarbiero@gmail.com, text 609 933-4194.

**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 the 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 Lisa Roche, President, at (609) 403-8148 or rochebarbiero@gmail.com.

**Great Books Reading Circle**

**Sunday, May 23 at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom**

The next Great Books Reading Circle discussion will be on Sunday May 23rd (note: this is one week later than was originally scheduled). We'll read *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea: "The De La Cruzes, a family on the Mexican-American border, celebrate two of their most beloved relatives during a joyous and bittersweet weekend. Teeming with brilliance and humor, authentic at every turn, *The House of Broken Angels* is Luis Alberto Urrea at his best, and cements his reputation as a storyteller of the first rank."

Please join us at 12:30 via the church's zoom link. See you then!

Future book choices can be found on the website under 'Connect', 'Adult Small Groups'.
For questions, contact peggy.matthews@gmail.com

**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
Social Justice Steering Committee Meetings:
Our UUCP Social Justice Ministry is a group of ‘sub-ministries’ that assist those in need, educate about injustice, and work towards systemic change to create a more just and beloved society. Representatives of the sub-ministries communicate at UUCP Social Justice Council meetings to confer on topics that we share. Our next Council meeting is Tuesday May 25th at 7 pm via zoom. If you would like to be connected to specific action groups or receive the zoom link for the May meeting, please email socialjustice@uuprinceton.org.

CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS: Thank You to Everyone Who Made Loaves and Fishes 2021 a Success!!

Despite the pandemic restrictions, a wonderful team of UUs prepared at least 400 dinners and 600+ bag lunches for distribution to those in need in Trenton on Saturday March 27. We had hands-on help from 25+, and coordinated with our friends from UU Congregation of Washington Crossing as usual.

THANK YOU to these UUCP friends (and their families who may have helped): Ann Nugent, Beth Nichols, Binnie Thom, Carol Haag, Carolyn Hoeschle, China Palena, Cindy Funka-Lea, Corky Reslier, Debra Lambo, Eileen Bird, Elizabeth Silverman, Eva Douglass, Frances Prestianni, Jane and Ted Fetter, Jeanne DeVoe, Jen Ping Wang, Jody Maher, Lauren Williams, Louise Senior, Mary Kyle, Michele Ochsner, Nadine and Sky LeBeau, Ray Nichols (he made all the cole slaw!), Ruth and Harry Tomlinson, Sue Tillett, and Susan MacDonnell!

2021 Meal COVID gathering restrictions are still in place, so we could not either prepare bag lunches or cook food together – everything was done by volunteers at home, then returned for transport to Trenton! Even the L&F meals are not served inside per pandemic restrictions. Instead they are distributed ‘to go’ style after being assembled in St Mary’s Cathedral basement by a skeleton team of L&F regulars, together with a few volunteers from the food-donating group. Our menu for dinner was: homemade baked southwestern boneless chicken thighs, home made cole slaw, potato salad, chopped celery and carrot sticks with ranch dressing, home made brownies, and a water bottle. The bag lunches contained a PB&J sandwich, a banana or clementine, and a juice box.

Volunteers signed up via Signup Genius to bake chicken at their homes, make Cole Slaw, chop celery and carrots and assemble bags w/ dressing pouch, make 26 PB&J sandwiches each, bake Brownies, shop for ingredients and drive the food down to Trenton on Friday 3/26! Louise Senior and a new conregant Eva Douglass, worked with the L&F folks on Saturday morning to pack/serve the meal.

We’re proud that we were also able to transform our menu, making it healthier and more culturally appropriate – and even save a lot of money in the process! We spent only about $700 of social justice funds – whereas we have usually spent ~$2000.

When we join hands, we CAN move mountains!
Background Loaves and Fishes is a meal we prepare together with UU Congregation of Washington Crossing (UUCWC) and a non-UU group called ‘Loaves and Fishes’ (L&F). L&F serves a hot meal on the last 2 Saturdays of every month, year round, from the basement of St. Mary’s Cathedral, Trenton. Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, the largest provider of meals in Trenton, is closed on the weekends; L&F has been serving on the last 2 weekends for over 40 years. The meals are served in the spirit of Dorothy Day’s ‘Houses of Hospitality,’ in that the recipients are treated as guests and usually served at tables, with dignity and respect. Food is provided by different sponsors at each of the 24 dates per year. UUCP and UUCWC have been collaborating on serving the L&F meal on the last Saturday of March for over 35 years.

~Submitted by Louise Senior

Assembling the bag lunches early Saturday morning – safelydistanced

Rainbow Ministry
May 27, 2021 - The Rainbow Ministry will have Daniel Fernandez, LGBT Health Navigator, Co-Facilitator from the PROUDLY ME Educational Support Group, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital conducting a Virtual Training for our congregation. He will talk about his experience as a transgender LatinX man which will build upon the LifeTies Trans 101 training held in April. Watch for zoom link in upcoming announcements.

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, May 10,
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.

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, 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).

Orion Arthur Maskell was welcomed into the world on March 25. His parents Andy Maskell, Lydia Rieck, and big brother Ben are delighted by their new arrival and very grateful for outreach by the Pastoral Associates to help ease this tremendous transition.

We are saddened to share that John Irving died in December. We send our love and care to his wife Lynn and children Geoffrey, Michael, and Anne and hold the many members who remember John fondly. May we find comfort in his memory.

You may find John's obituary here: http://www.towntopics.com/wordpress/?s=john+irving

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.

(UUJEC) will develop a four-year program of study and action on public health and medical care to envision a system where governments and communities and even congregations strive for adequacy and equality in health care. For more information, go to UUJEC.org. Carol Allen, Emeritus UUJEC Board Member.

Citizens Climate Lobby: We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month, Citizens’ Climate Lobby is pleased to have the support of UUUP (see recent UUUP 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 will be on Saturday, May 8th starting at 1:00PM (log in 5 minutes early for soundcheck); this will be followed by a separate Zoom local Princeton chapter meeting 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.

at 7pm (the link to follow in e-Happenings).

UUUs to Consider Health Care Reform

COVID-19 pandemic experience will be the subject of an Action of Immediate Witness proposal at Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in June 2021. By focusing on the inequalities in the availability of medical care, the denomination will initiate advocacy on health care reform.

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) will develop a four-year program of study and action on public health and medical care to envision a system where governments and communities and even congregations strive for adequacy and equality in health care. For more information, go to UUJEC.org. Carol Allen, Emeritus UUJEC Board Member.

Citizens Climate Lobby: We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month, Citizens’ Climate Lobby is pleased to have the support of UUUP (see recent UUUP 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 will be on Saturday, May 8th starting at 1:00PM (log in 5 minutes early for soundcheck); this will be followed by a separate Zoom local Princeton chapter meeting 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.
Racial Justice Task Force

Conversations about Race, Part 3
UUCP has made a commitment to eliminate racism. Now comes the rolling up the sleeves part. Would you like to be involved? The RJTF has developed new activities that we are highlighting each month in Skylights.

Looking at UUCP Through an Anti-Racism Lens
Through our work with other congregations about the 8th Principle, we have found that many are following up after the approval of the 8th Principle with taking time to look at how the congregation functions using "an anti-racism lens." Kevin Trayner and Megan Innes are the team leaders for this activity at UUCP and are forming a group now to learn how to do this work and to share it with the various boards, committees, and ministries within UUCP.

It is difficult for many of us who are white to see our own white culture. It is even more difficult for us to see how we bring our whiteness into our institutions, organizations and systems. Yet we know that UUCP is different from the Mt. Pisgah AME Church, or the Nassau Presbyterian Church, or UU Congregation in Washington Crossing --even after we set aside our theological differences. The feel of an organization and the often unspoken rules are what comprise the culture of the organization. Recently, a new member said she was so glad to be a part of UUCP and, wanting to be active, now she was learning "how UUCP does things." A key element of culture is who has power, who gets to do what, and how. We write down a lot of our beliefs and values but those written documents are our guides, not necessarily our behaviors.

Culture is learned through socialization both overtly and covertly. It is dynamic and changing and it provides structures for membership and exclusion. Many of us feel that UUCP is accepting of everyone...but some who have left our congregation have not felt accepted.

This internal work, to look at how we apply an anti-racism lens to what we do, will involve:
- developing a basic understanding of anti-racism
- learning more about organizational culture, and in particular, white culture;
- deepening our understanding of what our dominant culture looks like;
- learning more about what a multiracial, multicultural and anti-racist culture looks like;
- using simple tools to reflect on who we are as well as what we may want to be.
- understanding where we are as an organization in our anti-racism journey
- embedding anti-racism principles into our vision.
- defining how we will be accountable

The Team will offer training to UUCP leaders and then work with various groups on the self-evaluation process.

If you are interested in being part of this work, please email racialjustice@uuprinceton.org.

Co-chairs, Sharon Copeland, Megan Innes and Kevin Trayner

Community Meeting About Historical Marker of Lynching
May 6, 7:00 pm
The NJ Social Justice Remembrance Coalition invites you to an evening of "Information, Awareness and Conversation" about placing an historical marker in Eatontown documenting the lynching of Mingo Jack in 1886. To attend this Zoom meeting, email racialjustice@uuprinceton.org to receive the flyer. The NJSJRC is a project of UUCP's RJTF and it works closely with the national Equal Justice Initiative.

Struggling for the Soul of Public Education
May 13, 6:00 pm
Elise Boddie, JD, of Rutgers University will discuss the peculiar challenges of integration in the north and why school segregation is a threat to public education and to democracy. Decades of research point to significant educational and social benefits of integration. Yet public schools across the country are highly segregated especially in New Jersey. REGISTER for this free event: https://tinyurl.com/BoddieDodd. Sponsored by UUCP's RJTF and many other groups.

(In-Person Planning continued from page 2)

person experiments in August. We’ll continue the virtual options then, although they may be in a different format. Much of how you replied in the survey will guide our thinking about these options for worship and religious education.

Also in the coming months, we hope to resume some in-person, outdoor fellowship gatherings like we held last summer and fall. Members of the Board are already planning to facilitate many of these. Some groups are thinking about outdoors meetings and activities in the near future. Masked and socially-distanced, those should be fine, but our Zoom options remain. Please continue contacting Rev. Bill to schedule your Zoom meetings, and as our campus gradually gets more use, please contact Sara Oderwald for physical space questions. Once we are holding more in-person gatherings, we intend to hire a new Office Assistant who will also be a resource for these sorts of administrative needs.

But overall, stay tuned. We have an eye on our eventual return, but there is still some distance to cover, and important conditions to improve, before we get there. Regardless, in person and virtually, we are a vibrant, creative, and resilient “open and welcoming community that lives our message of hope, love, justice, and joy.” And if this year has shown us one thing, it’s that this Mission can unite us, comfort us, and call us forward, in-person, online, and one day, both.
UU History / In the Beginning
By Carl Haag

Diligently digging to find the roots of Unitarian and Unitarianism unearths some surprises, some courageous souls, some men great faith, and intriguing events.

GIANTS WALK THE EARTH

Two specific historical events foreshadowed the development of Unitarianism and Universalism. In 325 AD the Council of Nicea established the dogma of the Trinity within the Nicene Creed. Then, in 544 AD, the belief in universal salvation was condemned as heresy by a church council under the Emperor Justinian's authority. The stage was set for those whose beliefs to the contrary were so powerful that they would express them despite the danger of death.

In Spain during the 16th century, a man was born who challenged the trinitarian doctrine of the church. Michael Servetus (b. 1511) did not follow in the footsteps of his brother, who became a priest. Michael became a physician, but his real interest was theology. It was a time of terror as the harsh, highly organized Spanish Inquisition hunted Jews and Moors to convert or execute them. Servetus believed that the doctrine of the Trinity kept Moslems and Jews from conversion, so he searched the scriptures to find convincing evidence to help them convert. Instead, he found no basis in the Bible for the Trinity. He published his findings in 1531 in a book, On the Errors of the Trinity, in which he boldly stated, "Your Trinity is the product of subtlety and madness. The Gospel knows nothing of it."

Orthodox church leaders were less than delighted with Servetus's discovery, and he was branded a "heretic," one who publicly dissented from the officially accepted dogma of the Catholic Church. Servetus went into hiding under an assumed name for 20 years, trying to live the ethics of Christ by serving as a physician to a small community in southern France. He continued to write and in 1552 published his masterpiece, The Restoration of Christianity. A copy of this work was tied to his thigh when John Calvin had Servetus burned at the stake in Geneva on October 27, 1553. The Catholics and Calvinists searched for and burned all copies of the book. (Somehow they missed three copies, which still exist in Paris, Vienna, and Edinburgh.) Within months, Sebastian Castellio, reacting to Servetus's death, wrote a book pleading for Christians to stop persecuting others, and it was eagerly embraced by early Baptist and Unitarian congregations.

Servetus had been trying to reach the safety of a radical Protestant community in Northern Italy when he was recognized and captured in Geneva. The Inquisition destroyed this community soon afterward, and its members were scattered like burning embers throughout Europe. One of the members was Dr. Georgio Biandrata, a physician specializing in women's diseases, who accompanied Bona Sforza to Poland. Bona was to be the bride of the Polish king. As personal physician to the queen, Biandrata was able to advocate humanist reforms and Antitrinitarian views. As a result, the Minor Church of Poland was formed, later to be led by Socinus.

Some say that Faustus Socinus (b. 1539) was the architect of modern Unitarianism. Born in Italy, he was influenced by his heretical uncle Laelius Socinus and concluded that Jesus was more man than God. At 40 he moved to Poland and became the spiritual leader of those who were called "The Polish Brethren." The most influential work of Socinus was the Racovian Catechism, a propaganda piece designed to instruct adults in theology.

At age 60 this quiet, scholarly man, plagued with chronic illness and with impaired sight and hearing, was dragged from his Cracow home at night by a mob of students. They threw his precious, carefully collected manuscripts and books out the window and burned them. While the mob argued about whether to burn or drown this heretic, a professor was able to rescue him. Socinus lived safely in Luslawice, where one of his devoted disciples was the minister, for the remaining six years of his life. In 1658, the Polish Diet banished all Socinians, most of whom fled the country carrying the Recovian Catechism and their beliefs to Holland and England, where Antitrinitarianism and Unitarianism took root.

Dr. Georgio Biandrata not only served Queen Bona in Poland but became the physician to her daughter, Isabella, when she married King John Zapolya of Transylvania (the "Land Beyond the Forest"). In Transylvania the doctor again pushed for reformation, and when Isabella's son, John Sigismund, assumed the Transylvanian throne, Biandrata recommended that Francis David be made preacher to the court.

Francis David (b. 1510) was successively a Catholic leader, the Superintendent of Hungarian Lutherans, the Calvinists' Superintendent, and finally the Bishop of the Unitarian Churches of Transylvania (there were almost 500 of them in 1571). David, whose fervent oratory in German, Hungarian, or Latin easily swayed the multitude, influenced King John Sigismund (1540-1571) to outlaw religious intolerance, for the first time in history. The king's decree was made on January 6, 1568, after Francis David's debate with other religious leaders at Torda. This was quite a debate, for it began each day at 5 a.m. and lasted ten days.

The Edict of Torda declared: "In every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel, each according to his understanding of it." Further, no Transylvanian official would be allowed to "annoy or abuse" any persons on religious grounds because "faith is the gift of God," not the state's business.

Those holding Antitrinitarian beliefs were first called "Unitarians" in Transylvania, and it became one of the "received faiths." The tolerance ended when orthodox church officials gained power after King John's death; they condemned David for his innovations. David had begun to deny that Jesus was a deity and was questioning the doctrine of predestination. Dr. Biandrata was concerned enough that he called upon Faustus Socinus to come to Kolozsvar and reason with David. Socinus stayed in David's house for four months without effect. Religious leaders labeled (UU History continued on page 11)
FALL SALE – Feasible??

A small planning team is considering possibilities for hosting some kind of in-person Fall Sale event.

Some initial ideas:
- Scaled-down Sale, with most activities under outdoor canopies
- Booths selected based on community need, money raised, and space/work required
- Limited “pilot” event, perhaps in late August
- Host a larger Sale in late Sept or early Oct, outdoors and mail level inside

It would be wonderful if we could resume this long-standing UU Princeton tradition -- Enjoy fellowship, serve our community, and raise funds for social outreach.

The team plans to reach out to past volunteers and Booth chairs.

Please think about feasibility and whether you’re willing to help this year.

Thank you,
Binnie, Judy, Cathy, Teri, Holly, & Amanda

(UU History continued from page 10)

David a "heretic" and had him cast into prison where he died on November 15, 1579.

More than 400 years later, Unitarian churches still exist in Transylvania. Once part of Hungary, Transylvania was given to Romania, which was on the winning side, after World War I. Some 80,000 Unitarians have maintained their churches in small towns, despite 70 years of hostility from the Communist government. Many American UU congregations have become partners with sister congregations in Transylvania, as did UUCP.

To be continued . . .
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Submissions to be sent to:  
[skylights @ uuprinceton.org](mailto: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 ministry 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

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

**Lauren Suchenski**  
lauren@uuprinceton.org  
External Communications ext. 113

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

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

Office Hours:  
Temporarily Suspended  
We are checking voice mail and e-mail. We hope you’ll keep in touch!  
Phone: **609-924-1604**

e-mail:  
[office@uuprinceton.org](mailto:office@uuprinceton.org)

Web page:  
[http://www.uuprinceton.org](http://www.uuprinceton.org)

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