

Skylights newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF PRINCETON



Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

Sundays: One Service Only at 10:30, Live in Channing and Live-streamed on Zoom.
Please see Page 2, and keep an eye on your email, as well as www.uuprinceton.org for updates.

March 3, Guest Speaker - *Veronica Ota*

Veronica Ota is a student at Princeton Theological Seminary who regularly worships at UU Princeton. She's also an educator, writer, and peace advocate, and we are thrilled to welcome her to the pulpit!

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely Worship Associate: Isabela Morales
Music: Marjorie Herman, Sue den Outer, Pianist

March 10, *For Such a Time as This*

We kick off our Annual Giving Drive with special music, lots of participation, and a festive atmosphere! We'll join together in fun and fellowship as we begin building our 2024-2025 congregation; one that is made *For Such a Time as This*.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely Worship Associate: Emma Moore
Music: Marjorie Herman; Vocal Trio: Emma Moore, Isabela Morales and Audrey Pico;
Oompah Band, UU Princeton Adult Choir, Sue den Outer, Pianist

March 17, *The Rising of Nones*

The number of those who consider themselves *none of the above* when asked to choose a religious identification is rising, and has been for some time. And yet many in these numbers crave the connection, meaning, and support that religious communities can offer. What messages do we have for the nones? How does UU Princeton offer what they seek?

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely Worship Associate: Meg Cox Leone
Music: Marjorie Herman, UU Princeton Adult Choir, Sue den Outer, Pianist

March 24, *200 Years of Freude*

Imagine that it's the spring of 1824 and we're in Vienna for the premier performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The Fourth Movement, ready to sweep us up toward Schiller and Beethoven's renewed and exalted vision for humanity, is about to begin.

About Rev. Tiebout - After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, Mary visited this congregation and joined soon after. She was ordained as a UU minister in 1993, has served congregations in NJ and beyond, and is currently taking time off from ministry to help take care of her dad.

Relevant to this day's topic, singing in choirs has brought great joy to Mary's life since she was 5.

Worship Leader: Guest Speaker - Rev. Mary Tiebout Worship Associate: TBA
Music: Marjorie Herman, Jeffrey Fadden, Guitarist, Sue den Outer, Pianist,

March 31, *Easter Miracles*

Easter tells of a specific miracle found in scripture and celebrated across the globe. How can the story and celebration lead us to see other miracles that happen every day? What are the daily miracles that Easter uncovers?

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely Worship Associate: TBA
Music: Marjorie Herman, UU Princeton Bell Choir, Sue den Outer, Pianist

The Good News

Reverend Bill Neely

There are times when I'm about to click one of the news apps on my phone when I stop to think for a second about whether or not I really want to. The news is seldom good, and is often quite bad. We continue to degrade the environment that sustains us. New forms of racism and hatred replace older versions, and sometimes the older versions come back to life in alarming expressions. Democratic values are under attack in practices that seek limit voting, disregard election results, and excuse political violence. The cultural climate seems hopelessly divisive, and it's easy to feel anxious these days.

And yet I know that while the news may be difficult, our shared ministries here at UU Princeton bring hope, love, justice, and joy to life. We make beauty together. We care for one another. And we spiritually equip ourselves to engage the world in alignment with our values. Every time we do that, we are answering the bad news with the good. Our shared ministries enliven our message near and far: one that assures that all are loved, all are worthy, and all are better together.

We care for the earth; learning to be careful stewards of its resources not just for ourselves, but for those to come. And we learn about all oppressions and their many faces so that we can counter messages of hatred with proclamations of love. And we practice democracy, advocating for elections to be fair and honest, and working with many partners in doing so. And while we advocate passionately, we do so out of love, even for those we oppose. Our love is so large that it includes everyone.

UU Princeton grounds us in the good and guides us toward justice. It's done this since our congregation was founded, but never more so than in days like these, when the stakes are so high and the decisions we make will have such lasting consequences. Days like these are when we shine with hope and love. They're when our message provides comfort and inspiration. They're when our community serves beyond itself with messages of peace and opportunities for connection.

That's why I'm so grateful that our Annual Giving theme this year is *For Such a Time as This*. It serves as reminder that together, we are a positive and affirming beacon of love and hope in a world that often lacks those messages. We make the world more caring and curious, and less harsh and judgmental. We connect and grow across the generations, and gather to worship in a spirit of freedom and gratitude. And we enliven our values, making good deeds our living creed, and in doing so, help heal a wounded world.

We are able to do all of this because of the pledge support that we receive from members and friends of the congregation. Every March is when we collect pledges for the next church year, which begins on July 1. Dedicated volunteers lead our Annual Giving Drive, and you'll soon receive information from them about how to make your pledge. Every pledge of every amount helps us bring our values to life in the world. Each one combines with all the others to strengthen our congregation and faith. Each one shows that our congregation is made *For such a Time as This*,

as right now is when people desperately need our message and ministries. When asked, please pledge as generously as you are able, as early as possible, and help us create next year's UU Princeton. Together, we can build a better world, for us and for everyone.

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.

bill@uuprinceton.org

jennifer@uuprinceton.org

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

For Our Newcomers

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.*

If you have any questions about our events, membership or our congregation, please email us at office@uuprinceton.org. We look forward to getting to know you better.

Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This ceremony of becoming a member is for those who have previously attended "Exploring our Faith" and want to become members of our congregation. Please contact Rev. Bill to arrange a time. bill@uuprinceton.org

March Spiritual Theme—Renewal 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 chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org. Our Chalice Circle thoughts and questions around the theme of *Renewal* this month are:

And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.

— F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

How does each of the seasons affect your sense of renewal?

I couldn't imagine living in a state that didn't reach the ocean. It was a giant reset button. You could go to the edge of the land and see infinity and feel renewed.

— Avery Sawyer, Young Adult novelist

What do you turn to for renewal?

Hope is not pretending that troubles don't exist. It is the trust that they will not last forever, that hurts will be healed and difficulties overcome. It is faith that a source of strength and renewal lies within to lead us through the dark into the sunshine.

—Elizabeth Muriel Chase was a Zimbabwean field hockey player and member of the national team that won the gold medal at the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Have you experienced a time when this statement was true for you?

I really think that's the key, part of the spiritual renewal that America needs to have, the notion that we really can have confidence in a better tomorrow.

— Carol Moseley Braun

What would America's spiritual renewal look like to you? How confident are you that it could happen?

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.

**HATE HAS NO
HOME HERE.**

El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

نفرت کے لئے یہاں کوئی گھر نہیں ہے
الکرہ لیس له بیت هنا



*This is a congregation of open minds,
Of helping hands.
And of loving hearts.
Together we care for our earth
And work for friendship and peace in
the world.*

Children and Youth Ministry

Rev. Jennifer Kelleher is currently on sabbatical until June 1, 2024. While she is away Patricia Hennigan is serving as our Children & Youth Ministry Sabbatical Coordinator and may be reached at patricia@uuprinceton.org. Ministry questions outside of Children & Youth programming may be directed to Rev. Bill Neely.

March's Children and Youth Schedule

March 2024	
Sunday, March 3	Gatherings
Sunday, March 10	Gatherings. (Daylight savings. Spring ahead 1 hour.)
Sunday, March 17	Gatherings
Sunday, March 24	All welcome in worship.
Sunday, March 31	Easter all ages worship followed by our Spring Egg Hunt after service.

You can find our full 2023-2024 program schedule here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/16B93ZDbb33JM1HUS239iUoD2_vfYbQt--CTSdr2vxCA/edit?usp=sharing

Join Us for our Sunday morning Programming!

You can learn more about our wide array of our activities on our website under Children's Faith Development: [Children & Youth Ministry Programs for 2023-2024 - Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton](#)

Registration is FREE (and required) and may be completed through this form: <https://forms.gle/UUbEDtKagkyu2Ls98>



Volunteer Opportunities in Children & Youth

Class assistants are needed throughout the year in our *Pre-K-Kindergarten classes*. Go to uuprinceton.org and click on Sign-Up Genius to find a date that works best for you. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-44703052-children#/>



**JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP SERVICE**
In-Person, as well as live-streamed, at
10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall

Via live-streamed video:

[https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIUVBMQT09)
[pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIUVBMQ](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIUVBMQT09)
[T09](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIUVBMQT09)

UU HISTORY - by Carl Haag

The Beginning of Unitarianism and Universalism

Once, some years ago, I started writing the history of the Unitarian and Universalist Churches. It was an interesting endeavor, which I never completed except for three chapters. This is the first one and the other two will follow.

CHAPTER 1 GIANTS WALK THE EARTH

Two specific historical events foreshadowed the development of Unitarianism and Universalism. In AD 325 the Council of Nicea established the dogma of the Trinity within the Nicene Creed. Then, in AD544, 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 would challenge 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,

(Continued on page 11)

Gracenotes

MANY THANKS -- but we're not there yet!

Many of you have responded so generously to our calls for help in raising funds to support a major and overdue refurbishment of our beloved Bell Choir Instruments. We appreciate those who wonder how much longer that pesky Music Ministry will be asking for money. We hope you'll understand that this repair is quite costly and our Music Ministry budget wouldn't begin to cover such an expense. We have another fundraising opportunity in March.

COMING ON FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 22 Screening in Fahs Theater: "The Greatest Night in Pop"

There will be ONE fundraising event in March which we hope will catch the attention of those who have not yet had the opportunity to help us. On **Friday evening, March 22, 7:30pm**, our Music Ministry will offer a screening in Fahs Theater of "The Greatest Night in Pop." This inspiring film is a detailed tracing of the painstaking creation all-star production of "We Are the World."

Many of you will recall the impact of this song as a single around the world. The song itself was released as a single in 1985 and became a global #1 hit, selling more than 20 million copies and raising funds for famine and medical relief in Africa. The brainchild of global freedom champion Harry Belafonte, the creation of the song and production of the movie needed Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson to wander through the pitfalls, snares, interruptions, and other challenges with an all-star cast that went on behind the scenes to bring forth this amazing film. We'll see the film, enjoy snacks (outside of Fahs), and have a robust discussion, including sharing our memories from that time. All this for a modest donation.

Music Ministry Ensembles

Our ensembles consist of volunteers who give freely of their time to create beautiful and moving music for our congregation. But any one of these folks will tell you that the benefits they receive through this effort are health restoring and even life-changing. Come to volunteer and be filled with the grace of making music with and for others.

Adult Choir. Still recovering from the effects of the pandemic our intrepid ensemble has 15-20 singers and includes several people from the community. We're looking for singers in all sections, **but tenors 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 marjuse@verizon.net, or just come by 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. Rehearsals for the Bell Choir are held on Thursday evenings from 6:30p – 8:30pm in Founders Room. We have 3 octaves of bells, but we also have three octaves of chimes, with a softer, sweeter sound. New ringers are always welcome, experienced or not. The Bell Choir rings for at least 6 to 8 times during the church calendar year. If interested, contact Joelle at joellepiercy@gmail.com.

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



Adult Faith Development & Fellowship

Short Story Hour

Join Rev. Bill for the reading and discussion of a short story! All are welcome as we engage the spiritual themes of a short work of fiction. The program will be offered on Zoom on Friday, March 15 at 12 noon. Keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link. No sign-up needed.

Exploring Our Faith

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism (UU) and UU Princeton? Attend *Exploring Our Faith*, an interactive 60-minute discussion with Rev. Bill Neely. We'll talk about UU beliefs and history, our congregation and people, and the meaning of membership. All are welcome! Our next *Exploring Our Faith* will be on Sunday, March 17 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., in-person at UU Princeton. No sign-up needed

Film and Discussion

The 1973 musical film *Jesus Christ Superstar* gives us a perfect Easter weekend movie to view and discuss. Join Rev. Bill in Fahs Theatre on Friday, March 29 at 6 p.m. for a short presentation on the film, followed by a viewing and discussion. Popcorn and soda will be provided (BYOB if you'd like). There is no fee, but please sign up on the *SignUp Genius* tab at www.uuprinceton.org.

Buddhist Meditation Group

UU Princeton's Buddhist meditation group meets every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:25 in Fahs Theater and on Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:15 pm on Zoom.

Whether you are a beginning or experienced meditator, all are welcome! Please contact Michele Ochsner (michele.ochsner@gmail.com) to receive weekly email reminders and Zoom link

Zen Meditation Practice and Talks

All are welcome to discuss and practice Zen Meditation on the Second Sunday of every month from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. the practice consists of chanting the heart sutra and 25 minutes of seated meditation followed by a Dharma talk and discussion. Contact Steve Valerio (sgvalerio312@gmail.com) for more info.

Great Books Discussion

Join us for our discussion of member-chosen books. All are welcome.

We will meet at noon in the John Murray Room unless otherwise noted.

Here's our reading list for the rest of the year:

March 10, *Dead Wake: The Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson

May 19, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Special Event

April 14, 2024, A discussion with Helga Deaton about her book *Beyond Fences: A Memoir: 1937–1970*.

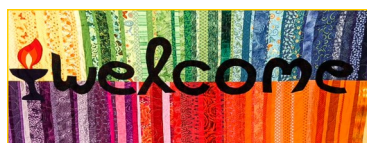
Happy Reading!

Contact peggy.matthews@gmail.com if you have questions.

Young Adult Groups (ages 18-27 and 28-40)

Interested in meeting other young adults within the UUCP community?

Jenna Finan Kelly (jenna.finank@gmail.com) and Emma Moore (emoore42@gmail.com) are working on developing connections for fellowship, activism, and fun! Email us any time, or come introduce yourself after Sunday service.



Princeton Eats Plants

The Princeton Eats Plants potluck group is a vibrant UUCP community that meets monthly to enjoy and promote plant-based living with unique plant-based potluck gatherings. Join individuals who share a passion for sustainable eating and cruelty-free living. This group creates a welcoming space where people come together to enjoy delicious, plant-powered dishes and great conversation. The potlucks not only showcase the diversity and creativity of plant-based cuisine but also serve as a platform for exchanging recipes, sharing personal journeys towards a plant-based lifestyle, and fostering connections and events. Whether you're a seasoned plant-based enthusiast or just curious about incorporating more plants into your diet, the Princeton Eats Plants group offers a supportive environment for individuals to come together. Join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Founder's Room. For more information, please contact Vicky Campbell, JoEllen or John Burton.

Meet Up group: <https://www.meetup.com/princeton-eats-plants/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2428735040700564>

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

For more information about CUUPS events, please reach out to Herb Foster

at herb_foster@yahoo.com to join the Evergreen CUUPS mailing list, or to Jennifer Santos at jsantoscnm@verizon.net or Kate Foster, Co-Convenors, with questions.

FELLOWSHIP AUCTION PARTY 2024

SATURDAY, March 2nd, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

BID IN PERSON & ONLINE DURING THE PARTY

EAT, DRINK & BID
on Amazing Raffle Baskets and Take-it-Home-Tonight items

CONTINUE BIDDING AT HOME AFTER THE PARTY

MARCH 2nd - MARCH 10th
for the many creative donations posted online!

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Watch for UUCP emails about donations & visit the Fellowship Auction link on www.uuprinceton.org for ideas and more info.





The Social Justice Council meets to enhance the collaborative work of our various shared social justice ministries (noted below). The SJ ministries assist those in need, educate about injustice, and work towards systemic change to create a more just and beloved society.

Council meetings are held about four times a year with Rev. Bill Neely, and the 2023 Council consists of: Louise Senior, Amanda Gillum, Ray Nichols, and Judy Vee. General requests and inquiries about the Social Justice Council can be sent to sjcouncil@uuprinceton.org. To be connected to specific action groups, please consult the contacts below.

Social Justice Ministries (alphabetically):

Caring for Our Neighbors – organizes projects that provide hands on help to address immediate, local, concrete needs (Louise Senior, caring4neighbors@uuprinceton.org)

Immigration & Sanctuary Task Force – assists immigrants, refugees and sanctuary-seekers (Michele Ochsner, sanctuary@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 earthministry@uuprinceton.org).

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

Racial Justice Ministry – conducts anti-racism work inside and outside of UUCP (Ted Fetter and Kevin Trayner, racialjustice@uuprinceton.org)

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

Affiliated Activities:

Spring/Fall Sale – Proceeds from our 50+ annual, congregation-wide rummage sales fund our annual Social Justice Outreach Grants (Sale Coordinators: Kirsten Shearer, Binnie Thom, Teri Hyatt, Amanda Gillum & Cathy Bauer-Koggan)

Social Justice Outreach Grants – Financial grants to local non-profits sponsored by UUCP congregants, determined by committee review of applications. Funded by annual Spring Sale proceeds (Review Committee Chair: Gareth Funka-Lea, gfunkalea@gmail.com)

Carol Allen (Liaison to Coalition for Peace Action)

Jeanne DeVoe (Liaison to Not in Our Town)

Valerie Haynes (Liaison to Princeton Community Housing)

Debra Lambo (Liaison to RepresentUS NJ)

Dunbar Birnie (Liaison to Citizens’ Climate Lobby)

SAVE the Dates: May 3 & 4

2024 SPRING SALE - LET’S DO IT!!!

Friday, May 3 (4-7pm, \$10 admission)

Saturday, May 4 (9am-2pm)

Thanks to the many folks who have already volunteered! We are seeking help with several key activities:

- Clothing Booth Chairs
- On-line e-Sales (pre and post sale)
- Lawn Signs

NEW: Market Research Team

Please join us to help make our major fundraising event for local charities a success. Many hands make light work!

Set aside your unused clothing & household items to donate. Take photos of special items and send us key info ASAP. We plan to begin “Market Research” activities early this year, to price items appropriately, advertise, etc.

Contact us: springsale@uuprinceton.org or use SignUpGenius on UU Princeton’s web site.

IMPORTANT: Kick-off Meeting for all Booth & Activity Chairs: Sunday, March 3, at Noon in Fahs Theater.

Thanks! -- Cathy Bauer-Koggan, Binnie Thom, Kirsten Shearer, Teri Hyatt, and Amanda Gillum, 2024 Spring Sale Coordinators

Racial Justice Ministry

Do you have a passion for equity, anti-racism and social justice? The focus of our Racial Justice Ministry includes race related issues in local governments, working with Indigenous peoples, education and school policies, faith development opportunities (a congregational book read is in the works for example), and looking at our own internal policies, practices and history.

Come and check us out and be part of our work. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Email racialjustice@uuprinceton.org for more information or to get on our mailing list. Or **you can** contact co-chairs Kevin Trayner and Ted Fetter directly at Kevinctrayner@gmail.com or fetter4@verizon.net.

Caring for Our Neighbors

Caring for Our Neighbors Ministry

Join us for hand-on projects that help hunger and homelessness prevention in Mercer County. Contact Louise Senior at Caring4Neighbors@uuprinceton.org if you'd like to pitch in! You can always bring shelf-stable, in date, unopened food to our **Giving Table in Robinson Lounge**. Contact Jody Maher at JodyM1025@gmail.com if you'd like to help deliver food to Arm in Arm.



Formerly the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County

Caring for Our Neighbors
ArminArm is in need of food to help support the Trenton

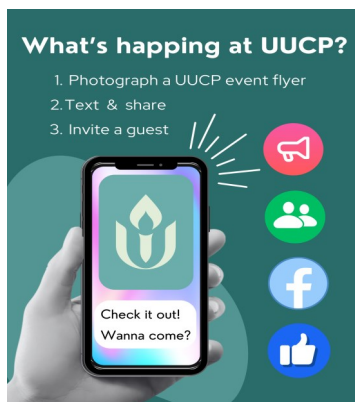
& Mercer County community. Even though the pandemic seems to be lessening, demand at the food pantries continues to increase each month, and is now almost TWICE what it was before COVID.

To help, we have decided to resume our in-church drop-off collection table for food donation in Robinson Lounge at UUCP.

Here are suggested items, with the greatest need for the top three. *No glass containers, please. Be sure to check expiration dates.*

- * Canned low-fructose fruit
 - * Canned low-sodium vegetables
 - * Canned tuna, salmon, chicken or chili
 - * Canned beans or 1 lb. bag dried beans
 - * Canned potatoes
 - * Cold cereal
 - * Hot cereal
 - * Shelf-stable milk
 - * Honey (plastic container)
 - * Olive and canola oil (plastic container)
 - * Herbs and spices (plastic container)
- Any questions, contact Jody Maher at JodyM1025@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.



Women's Alliance

Lunch and Program In-Person Only – Thursday, March 21, 2024, 12:00-2:00 p.m., Founder's Room
Please join us on **Thursday, March 21st**, in the **Founder's Room** at the church for **lunch and a presentation by George DiFerdinando, a Mercer County Master Gardener** - **"Shaping a Suburban Property with Native Plants."** Over 24 years, George, Betsy Marshall and their daughter, Lynn DiFerdinando, have reshaped their Littlebrook, Princeton property with more native plants and less 'turf' to withstand a rising water table and the loss of over fifteen ash trees. George will show where things stand now. **Bring a sandwich or salad to share for lunch and socializing in the Founder's Room at noon. Hot and cold drinks and desserts will be provided and the program will begin at 1:00 p.m.** No reservation is needed and all congregants and guests are welcome! Please feel free to contact Lisa Roche with any questions (see contact information below).

Sunday Brunch – April 7th

Mark your calendars! Women's Alliance will host a delicious brunch after the Sunday service on April 7th.

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 \$10 in annual dues. To be placed on our e-mail list for information about the monthly 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 (landline), 609-933-4194 (text) or rochebarbiero@gmail.com.

Our Eight 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.
- Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Land Acknowledgement

The land and waterways upon which the congregants of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton gather and live are the ancestral and unceded Lenapehoking territory of the Lenni-Lenape nation. We honor the contributions of their ancestors, those now in the diaspora, and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Ramapough Lenape and Powhatan Renape who continue to live in the area we call New Jersey. We pledge to work with them to dismantle the legacy of oppression of Indigenous Peoples and to live in harmony.

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*

UU PRINCETON ACTS!

What do Audrey Pico and the Oom-Pah Band have in common – aside, of course, from outstanding musical ability? Audrey and the Oom-Pah Band – along with some thirty other UU Princetoners will help us celebrate Stewardship Sunday on March 10.

Our theme this year will be “For Such a Time as This . . . “. We are eager to show you how, when action is necessary, UU Princeton acts!

While we won’t be doing a replay of last year’s trivia game competition, we will again be hosting an all-congregation brunch in Robinson Lounge after the service. See you on March 10!

Cindy Funka-Lea and Elizabeth Silverman
2024 Pledge Drive Chairs

Ministry for the Earth

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.

UUCP first ever 40-Day Lent Challenge for the Earth

Wed, Feb 14 – Thu, Mar 28 The UUCP Earth Ministry challenges you to focus your mind and actions on taking better care of our planet during the 40 days of Lent. Sometimes it is hard to think of the things that we, as individuals, can do to combat climate change and to follow through on our plans to be better stewards of the planet. But if we take small actions together, and do them consistently, the results will add up. We hope this challenge can have both a positive impact on the environment as well as on your habits. To participate all simply choose one of our environmental challenges (or create your own) and try your best to follow through for 40 days (2/14-3/28). Come sign your name in our Earth Ministry Lent Challenge book in the lobby after services each Sunday in February and get a string to tie onto your wrist, your bag or anywhere that might serve you as a reminder of the challenge and your participation. See the UUCP Website homepage for more detailed information about each of these challenges:

Animal Product Fast
Plastic Bottle Fast
Online Shopping Fast
Take-out Food Fast

(Continued from page 5)

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 Kolozsvár and reason with David. Socinus stayed in David's house for four months without effect. Religious leaders labeled 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 connected with partner congregations in Transylvania.

The Promotions/Outreach Committee Needs YOUR help!

One message heard loud and clear during the Strategic Plan process was that more people should know about our nurturing, progressive church and be invited to visit. That's the mission of the new Promotions Committee, which is working on multiple fronts to get the word out about our congregation. We are currently getting ready to run ads both on Facebook and in local newspapers. The committee is also behind the recent "Bring a Friend" initiative, because studies show that the number one reason people try out a church is because they've been invited to come with someone they know. We're also behind the Elevator Speech Workshop because Unitarian Universalism can be complicated to explain, and it's good to practice colorful, concise ways to do that based on your own passions and values.

So here's how you can help our efforts: if you haven't checked out the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton Facebook page recently, you may not know that we've been posting congregation updates and announcements more or less daily. Mostly thanks to Kirsten Shearer, we now regularly share the wide variety of programs, events and sermons that happen at UU Princeton and provide links for more information. If someone trying to learn about our church sees just two or three people have engaged with the posts, we risk appearing inactive and unpopular. Please, go check out our page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/uuprinceton) and click the Follow button. When you see a post you like, please click the Like button. Maybe even leave a comment once in a while. As the saying goes, rinse and repeat: we'd love if you could get in the habit of doing this weekly. We're counting on you!

Do you want to sponsor an organization for a grant?

Are you actively involved with a local organization that could benefit from a grant funded by the money we raise at the UU Princeton Spring Sale?

Then please consider sponsoring that organization for a grant. We are looking for organizations whose work aligns with our congregations values.

If so, email Gareth Funka-Lea at gfunkalea@gmail.com for a grant sponsorship form. This is a one page form where you explain our congregations involvement with the organization.

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FELLOWSHIP AUCTION PARTY!!

DATE: March 2nd, 2024; 5-7pm

Online bidding: March 2nd through March 10th

Enjoy the Festivities and bid on and WIN Great Raffle Baskets and Take It Home Tonight Items!!

Bid online during the Party and from March 2nd to 10th for the many other creative offerings you can preview during the Auction Party.

Eat, bid, drink, bid, eat, bid - Win!

You won't want to miss this fun, intergenerational, community-building event, where we UUs share our services, talents, art, and other goodies with each other through bidding. It's a fun way to get to know others better, both at the party and when you cash in on your winnings. During the evening we will have great food, drink, music and, of course, FELLOWSHIP!

The Fellowship Auction is fun, fun, fun, but it's also the biggest fund-raising event we produce to support the work of our congregation. This year, we're having both an auction at the PARTY and the ONLINE auction following it, but some items will be available ONLY at the PARTY.

Can't come to the party? Donate your admission and ask us to do some proxy bidding for you on the baskets and Take Home Tonight Items.

Your whole family is welcome, but there will be no formal childcare. So, grab the kids, hitch up your wagon and come on down! Suggested admission is \$5 for adults and free for children.

To make a donation to the auction or for more information, contact:

Candus Hedberg, ckhedberg@gmail.com

Louise Senior, drlsenior@gmail.com

<https://www.uuprinceton.org/fellowship-auction/>

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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 Ministry it belongs.

Next *Skylights* Deadline:

March 8, 2024

**Submissions due for the
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skylights@uuprinceton.org