



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.

April 7, *Curiosity, Compassion, and Science*

The relationship between science and religion is sometimes tense, sometimes affable, and often a bit of both. In conversation between the two, we see that some qualities, like curiosity and compassion, are present in both fields and make each more fruitful. In this service, a preacher and a scientist will reflect on curiosity, compassion, and how they help us all flourish.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Bill Neely and John Best Worship Associate: Isabela Morales
Music: Holy Treble (aka Vocal Trio); Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

April 14, *Roots and Rootlessness*

Our roots connect us to people and places of sustenance and growth. They strengthen us during uncertain times, and through our networks allow us to offer stability and support to others. In lives that can sometimes feel unstable, how can we rely on, and grow, strong roots to bring us balance?

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely Worship Associate: Linda Joy Miller
Music: Marjorie Herman; Adult Choir; Sue den Outer, Pianist

April 21, *Acting Today, For Tomorrow*

Our faith focuses on this life, seeking to build a kinder, more just, and caring world here and now. Earth Day invites us to extend this daily ethic into legacy practices that will bless all those to come with a more sustainable planet. For today and tomorrow, how does our care of the earth express, enliven, and deepen our faith?

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely Worship Associate: Kirsten Shearer
Music: Majorie Herman; Bell Choir: Joelle Piercy, Conducting; Sue den Outer, Pianist

April 28, *The Stuff of Ministry*

Perhaps the greatest Universalist minister of the twentieth century has some words about hard times. How do they apply in the twenty-first century? *Rev. Charlie Dietrich* is a retired volunteer firefighter, engineer, and UU minister who worships with UU Princeton from time to time. He lives in Kingston, New Jersey.

Worship Leader: Rev. Charlie Dietrich Worship Associate: Jeanne DeVoe
Music: Majorie Herman, Adult Choir, Sue den Outer, Pianist

The Good News

Reverend Bill Neely

That amidst all that is wrong the sun still shines, the dawn still breaks, geese still call, and dew still glistens the grass,

That amidst all worry, of now and of forethought, the soil still nourishes seed into stalk, into grain, into flour, into bread, into an old, comforting taste,

That amidst news of destruction, ongoing and impending, spring still brings flowers, light, life, and the play of creation,

That amidst our turning from creation, creation still enfolds us, with grace, with air, with sun, with shade,

That amidst all this, we would be embraced.

That we would live so that those to come will be as well.

That we would be grateful for the gift and the call of these times.

That we would know there's no saving the earth without savoring it.

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.

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.

Welcome New Members!

Josephine Minardo,
Irene Donne,
Veronique Oomen

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

April Spiritual Theme – Nature
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 *Nature* this month are:

I see that this body—made of the four elements—is not really me, and I am not limited by this body. I am the whole of the river of life, of blood ancestors and spiritual ancestors, that has been continuously flowing for thousands of years and flows on for thousands of years into the future. – Thich Nhat Hanh

Which element (earth, air, fire, water) do you chiefly identify with? Does that change or remain the same?

We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world. We need to restore honor to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don't have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgment of the rest of the earth's beings. — Robin Wall Kimmerer

Who in your life has taught, or modeled, acts of restoration in the world?

We need life around us that grows, flourishes, and thrives. Because we all want to grow, flourish, and thrive. - His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

When have you seen nature growing and flourishing? Did it evoke a similar sense within you?

Much of the oxygen we breathe comes from plants that died long ago. We can give thanks to these ancestors of our present-day foliage, but we can't give back to them. We can, however, give forward. — Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone

Which ancestors in your life would you thank for their gifts of today? What would you give forward?

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.

Nicole Campbell, a CFD student in the Coming of Age class and the Youth Group, unexpectedly lost her father on January 24. Nicole is the daughter of Betty Ashwood, a longtime UU Princeton member. They both appreciate the words of sympathy and support provided by the congregation.



*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.

April's Children and Youth Schedule

April 2024	
Sunday, April 7	Gatherings
Sunday, April 14	Gatherings <i>*Coming of Age retreat this weekend, check in with group leaders for more information.</i>
Sunday, April 21	Earth Day all ages worship service.
Sunday, April 28	Gatherings

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?
pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIrUVBMQ
T09](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIrUVBMQT09)

UU HISTORY - by Carl Haag**CHAPTER 2 - MINOR MIRACLES AT LEAST - Part A**

The Trinitarian-Unitarian controversy raged across the centuries. In England in the mid-sixteenth century, those who believed in universal salvation were increasingly at risk. In 1552, Parliament condemned Universalism as heretical and established the death penalty for anyone caught teaching it. The lives of three Universalists, two men and a woman, incorporate elements of miraculous events.

Early on a morning in 1722, a great crowd gathered outside the prison in Dieppe, France, for the execution of two young men. These men had been convicted of one of the most serious crimes, preaching heresy: in this case "universal salvation." Others of their number had been whipped in public, branded with hot irons, or sent off as galley slaves. However, these two leaders were to be put to death.

George Durant mounted the ladder, sang a psalm, and was hanged. George de Benneville (b. 1703), being of noble birth, was given the honor of being beheaded. He rejected the blindfold, knelt, and put his head on the block. Before the axe could be raised, a man on horseback rode through the throng, carrying a reprieve from King Louis XV. George was taken to a Paris prison and finally set free through the influence of Queen Marie of France. He was then 19 years old.

George de Benneville was the youngest of nine children. His mother had given birth to four sets of twins in four years but died when George was born. He was taken in by a friend of his mother's, Queen Anne of Great Britain. When he was 13, he was sent off on a warship to learn navigation. In Algiers, he witnessed an act of compassion by some Moors and could no longer bear to look at non-Christians as "heathens." Back in England, he returned from a dance hall one night and fell into a serious illness that lasted for 15 months, during which he discovered a powerful truth: God's "holy love for all creatures will save all the human species." It was this belief, later to be identified as Universalist, that he preached in Calais, only to be arrested and warned not to do it again. He did and almost lost his head in Dieppe as a result.

When de Benneville was released from prison, he went to Germany and Holland and continued to preach for 18 years. He learned the languages of the people and studied medicine. He overtaxed himself, became seriously ill with a fever; and finally, appearing to have died, was placed in a coffin. During the funeral; to the amazement of his many friends, de Benneville sat up and began to speak.

In 1771, when he was 38, George came to America, settling in Germantown outside Philadelphia. He helped translate a German Bible, putting those passages supporting Universalist beliefs in boldface type. He also helped the poor and ill, taught school, preached, and practiced medicine. Twice each year de Benneville journeyed to western Pennsylvania, Maryland, or Virginia to spread the Universalist gospel. He learned the language of the Indians and even compiled a dictionary of their words.

He moved to Philadelphia, where one of his neighbors and close friends was Benjamin Franklin. George de Benneville, at age 75, was in the heat of the battle of Germantown, ministering to the wounded on both sides of the Revolutionary War, another example of his belief in the worth of all individuals. He died, not at age 19, but at 90.

In 1750, James Rely (b. 1722), a British Universalist theologian, gathered a group of anti-Calvinists in London to form the first Universalist Church in the country. Rely wrote *Union*, a book in which he laid out Universalist theology.

In New Jersey in the 1760s, in the community of Good Luck, lived a well-to-do farmer named Thomas Potter. Besides his farm, he had 500 acres of adjoining land, a sawmill, and a sloop.

Earlier and well before the Revolutionary War, while working on a ship sailing to New York City, he had been captured by the British Navy and pressed into service on Admiral Warren's man-of-war. No ordinary sailor, he drank no rum, and if an officer struck him, Potter would strike him back. When the ship reached Louisbourg, the French stronghold on Cape Breton Island, Potter escaped. He made his way back 1000 miles, barefoot, to New York City, arriving almost naked so that he had to be given clothes and money by friends.

His sweetheart had wed while he was gone, so he married her sister, Mary. Thomas Potter described himself as "a poor ignorant man; I neither know how to read, nor write." He was deeply religious and had the Bible read to him

(Continued on page 11)

Gracenotes

These Bells Are Ringing

Thanks to the care and generosity of so many in our congregation, we're nearing the end of our fundraising campaign for our wonderful Bell Choir. The end of this campaign will be on Sunday afternoon, May 19, when we will be treated to a complete recital by the Bell Ringers. This event has attracted other musicians from our Musical Circle, such as recorder, violin, and our own Adult Choir.

A small donation will be collected, representing our final ask for the essential refurbishment of these precious instruments, which is due to take place this summer. So please save the date: ***Sunday afternoon, May 19, Channing Hall.***

Becoming Whole -- A Practice of Compassionate Inquiry

Facilitator: Margie Herman

Saturday, April 06, 2024

9:00am till 2:00pm

Founders Room

*The sunshine doesn't interfere with the flower.
The sunshine just
embraces and subtly permeates the flower.
Embraced by the energy
of the sunshine, the flower begins to bloom.
~ Thich Nhat Hanh*

In the quest for physical wholeness, many of us overlook the wealth of healing potential that's available within our own bodies. Many whole-body systems and faiths have for ages provided wise sources of aid in this regard. Currently, the field of cellular healing is burgeoning with research about how cells of the body depend upon one another. In this light, we might ask: Do we approach our ailments as enemies that seem to interrupt or even ruin our lives? Or, can we actually affect cellular change by the way we communicate with our bodies directly?

Through interaction and sharing we will discuss our resistances to illness, explore exercises that may restore our sense of overall peace, and learn simple, effective techniques to help forge a path toward compassionate self-inquiry. A bibliography and other materials will be provided.

A musician for most of her life, Margie has for decades been involved personally with healing from serious and chronic illness. Step by step, she has intuitively put into practice concepts that continue to provide for growth and well-being in her life. This work, "Becoming Whole -- A Practice of Compassionate Inquiry," comes with rigorous research and sincere, growthful intent.



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



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, April 12 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, April 14 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., in-person at UU Princeton. No sign-up needed

UU History

Join Rev. Bill for an hour-long discussion of major themes in UU History. All are welcome. We'll gather on Zoom only on Thursday, April 18 from 6-7 p.m. Please keep an eye on your email the week prior for the Zoom link.

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.

UU Princeton Book Discussion Group

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:
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?

Come to Young Adult Sundays, at least once a month! Emma Moore (emoore42@gmail.com), Irene Donne (irene.donne@gmail.com) and others are working on developing connections for fellowship, activism, and fun! Email the two of us any time, or come introduce yourself after Sunday service. Join the email list-serve to get each month's date and keep connected for other events.

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.

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.



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 Task Force – assists immigrants, refugees and sanctuary-seekers. Michele Ochsner, sanctuary@uuprinceton.org,

Ministry for the Earth – acts to preserve earth's resources at UU Princeton and among individuals (Ray Nichols earthministry@uuprinceton.org).

UU Faith Action – promotes advocacy actions, through support of UU Faith Action, legislative actions, and other Michael Loney, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org,

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

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

Affiliated Activities:

Spring 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 nonprofits sponsored by UU Princeton congregants, determined by committee review of applications. Funded by annual Spring Sale proceeds

Review Committee Chair: Gareth Funka-Lea, 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 Represent US NJ)

Dunbar Birnie (Liaison to Citizens' Climate Lobby)

SPRING SALE

Only a few weeks away!
Fri, May 3 & Sat, May 4

All proceeds go to our **Social Justice Activities**.

VOLUNTEER! Many helpers are needed to make our huge Spring Sale a success. Please join the fun. Plenty of ways to help during *Set-up Week* (starting *April 28*) and on both *Sale Days!* **SIGN UP** Sundays at the **SPRING SALE TABLE** or **SignUpGenius** on the UU Princeton web site (www.uuprinceton.org).

DONATE! Dust off your unused, stored-away household goods, clothes, furniture, jewelry, antiques, crystal, China, art & posters, electronics, linens, small appliances, dishes, kids' books, trinkets, toys & games, sports equipment, gardening tools! Please, only **items, in good working-condition**. *NO winter clothing, tires, mattresses, old-style TVs/monitors, damaged furniture.*

► **IF IT'S STAINED OR BROKEN – TOSS IT!!**

NEW THIS YEAR: **Submit photos and descriptions of higher-value items and any furniture needing Pick-up Service ASAP to: SpringSale@UUPrinceton.org.** This will allow our new Market Research Team to evaluate, price, and promote your items most effectively.

-- Cathy, Kirsten, Binnie, Teri, Amanda, & Emma

PRE-ORDER PLANTS:

Receive a **10% discount** if you pre-order! Fill out order form, tally up your total, **deduct 10%**, and write a check to UU Princeton, or **order online** at www.uuprinceton.org. **Deadline** for pre-orders is **Friday, April 5**.

PICK-UP Service:

We can help bring in **heavy or bulky items** to UU Princeton.

FIRST: Email photos and a description ASAP to SpringSale@UUPrinceton.org.

Then, contact **Kevin Trayner** to schedule a pick-up time kevintrayner@gmail.com, 609-532-8328.

Many Thanks to ALL BOOTH & ACTIVITY CHAIRS!!

Important Chairs Meeting: **Sunday, April 21 @noon in Fahs Theater.** Please join us for important updates and to answer questions. Volunteers are welcome, so please invite your key helpers.

– Cathy, Kirsten, Binnie, Teri, Amanda & Emma

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 UU Princeton.

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 April 18, 2024, 12:00-2:00 p.m., Founder's Room

Please join us on **Thursday, April 18th, in the Founder's Room** at the church for **lunch and a presentation by long time congregant Beth Nichols - "Washington Crossing Audubon Society - Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Protection of Birds."** Beth will describe the activities of the Washington Crossing Audubon Society (WCAS) which includes all of Mercer County and parts of Burlington, Hunterdon and Somerset counties. Since 1979, WCAS has been an active voice in local conservation issues, led or co-led birding field trips to some of the best birding locations, hosted monthly lectures open to the general public, and raised funds for numerous stewardship projects, education programs and conservation-oriented scientific research. **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.

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 Kevintrayner@gmail.com or fetter4@verizon.net.

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*

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.

“For Such a Time as This” is Now!

Our 2024-2025 pledge drive is underway with (we hope) most of the pledges already submitted. Now is the time to get yours in if you haven't already.

Many thanks to the more than 30 congregants who helped us out with the service on Stewardship Sunday. What a great illustration of how, when action is necessary, UU Princeton acts!

Cindy Funka-Lea and Elizabeth Silverman
2024 Pledge Drive Chairs

Fellowship Night is back! Saturday, April 13th at 6pm In the FOUNDERS ROOM

Fellowship Night will offer a different program each month that will provide for
FELLOWSHIP DISCUSSIONS LEARNING AND FUN

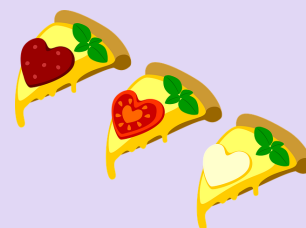
The program this month will be **GAME NIGHT**.
Bring a favorite game or try out something new.

PIZZA will be provided (donations appreciated to help defray the cost).

If you are inclined, please feel free to bring a salad or dessert to share.

Your sign-up in SIGN-UP Genius will help us know how much pizza to order.

You may also RSVP by email to : Cathy
(cbkoggan@gmail.com)



(Continued from page 5)

often. If any traveling minister passed his way, Potter put him up in his house, asking questions and conversing with him. One group he met, German Baptist Dunker pilgrims from the Ephrata Cloister in Pennsylvania, believed in universal salvation. Potter found their message compelling and in sharp contrast to the strict Calvinist doctrine, which stated that people were chosen before birth by God to be either condemned to hell or granted free passage into heaven.

After some years, Mary Potter grew weary of having meetings in their house, so Thomas decided to build a chapel. When asked by neighbors, "Who will be your preacher?", Potter answered, "God will send me a preacher of a very different stamp from those who have heretofore preached in my house." While he opened his chapel to itinerant ministers, he waited many years in vain for his minister to come.

The scene now shifts to a small English village, where in 1741 a boy named John Murray was born. As a teenager, John was appointed by no less a person than John Wesley as leader of Wesley's Bible class. At age 19, he journeyed to London and was swept up in Methodism. He met Eliza Neal, whom he married. One day he was sent to bring a young lady who had become a believer in James Relly's sermons about universal salvation back from her erring ways. The lady bested his every argument, and he left embarrassed, vowing thereafter to avoid "every Universalist."

However, when asked to critically read a manuscript challenging the Universalist James Relly, Murray found the doctrine compelling. He and his wife began dividing their Sundays between Methodist services and Relly's sermons. When the Methodists discovered this, the Murrays were excommunicated. Murray then found "heaven on earth" and began to preach Universalism.

Tragedy struck. The one-year-old son of the Murrays died. Then his wife began to suffer from what became a long illness, and Murray sought the best medical help he could find. When his wife died in 1769, John Murray was so hopelessly in debt that he was sent away to Newgate Prison, which housed debtors as well as murderers. Finally released from prison with the help of his brother-in-law, Murray decided to give up religion and go to the American colonies, where he could "pass through life, unheard, unseen, unknown to all, as though I never had been."

To be continued in the May edition.

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 that 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!

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

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It Takes a Whole Lot of People to Offer the Fellowship Auction and Party! Thank You to Our Many Participants!

Gathering the donations: Vicky Campbell, Ted and Jane Fetter, Amanda Gillum, Carolyn Hoeschele, Lori Ingwerson, Lois Laning, Elaine Nigam, Pat Radtke, Ruth Ramsey, Lisa Roche, Elizabeth Silverman, and Ruth Tomlinson

Publicity: Nancy Fiedler, Susan Langkafel, Pauline Nijander, Kirsten Shearer, and Farooq Zama

Party prep, baskets, operations, and clean-up: Dunbar Birnie, Meg Cox, Stan de Riel and Annette Sheldon, Jeanne DeVoe, Jeffrey Fadden, Lauren Foss, Jorge Garcia Salas, Susan Griffin, Carol Haag, Megan Innes, Jody Maher, Veronique Oomen, Frances Prestianni

Food and Beverages: Aparna and Farooq Zama, Carolyn Barnshaw, Stan de Riel and Annette Sheldon, Judy Fisher, Carolyn Hoeschele, Debra Lambo, Karen Nalbone, Michele Oschner, Pat and Doug Radtke, Molly Sharlach and Kevin Hoeschele, Binnie Thom, Jen Ping Wang

Donors: Many, many fellow congregants and friends!

Our Fellowship Auction and the resulting contribution to the UU Princeton budget could not be a success without the help from all these good folks!

Candus Hedberg, Laurie Powsner, Louise Senior

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Submissions to be sent to:

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@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 it belongs.

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skylights@uuprinceton.org