



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.

May 5, *A Sanctuary Heart*

UU Princeton has a history and practice of providing assistance to immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers in the area. This ministry has taken many forms, but a commitment to compassion, justice, and a sense of sanctuary guides them all. In this service, we'll reflect on the past and imagine some futures for our service in this area.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Bill Neely and Michele Ochsner **Worship Associate: Audrey Pico**
Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

May 12, *Obligations of Our Faith*

As our denomination moves toward a June 2024 vote on a major revision of the UUA Principles, let us consider how the proposed language reflects our obligations to one another and the world. With Love at the center of our Principles, and Generosity, Justice, Interdependence, Transformation, Pluralism, and Equity as our guiding values, how can we best express our commitment to building a world that is more beloved and free? For more information on the UUA's draft revision, please visit: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely **Worship Associate: TBA**
Music: Marjorie Herman; Holy Trebles; Sue den Outer, Pianist

May 19, *The Right to Our Own Beliefs*

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal faith. This was expressed in the words of an early Bond of Union of this congregation: "We share in love and dignity a cooperative search for truth, reserving to the individual the right to his own beliefs concerning the nature of Man, God, and the Universe." All year the Coming of Age youth have been exploring their understandings and beliefs. Today they have prepared a worship service for the congregation and will share their personal credo statements with you.

Worships Leaders: The Members of the Coming of Age Group and Their Leaders
Worship Associate: Kirsten Shearer

Music: Majorie Herman; Adult Choir; Sue den Outer, Pianist

May 26, *Ghosts and Ancestors*

New Jersey rock star Bruce Springsteen speaks of being "ghosts or ancestors in our children's lives." Ghosts burden them, while ancestors free them, and the choice of which we'll be is up to us. Beyond parenting, how can this mindset help us leave legacies of liberation and peace for those to come? How can we be ancestors who bless rather than ghosts who haunt?

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely **Worship Associate: Kirsten Shearer**
Music: Majorie Herman, Sue den Outer, Pianist

The Good News

Reverend Bill Neely

I spent the recent eclipse much like I spent the last one, standing in our front yard, staring up at the sun through special eclipse sunglasses. The clouds rolled in just after it started so there were periods where we couldn't see the sun at all, but my kids and I were still able to catch some really good glimpses of the growing, and then receding, eclipse. Even a quick viewing of an eclipse feels old and new. They're rare for us, but also timeless. They fell upon ancient ones, and they cover the sun above us today.

Those who know about such things said that we had 90% totality; that 90% of the sun was covered up when the eclipse was at its greatest in our area. And yet there still so much light. It definitely dimmed some, feeling like dusk for a short while. But even then, I could clearly see our neighbors staring up at the sky much like we were. I could see my kids on the sidewalk waiting out the cloud cover for another glimpse. I saw an Amazon driver peek up behind his special glasses after he dropped off a package across the street. I saw a flock of noisy, seemingly startled birds suddenly lift from a tree. Even 10% of the sun's light enlightened so much.

It's that way with kindness, patience, and compassion too. Even small acts of warmth can have a great impact on the people around us. A thank you, a smile, or a compliment, can brighten even the cloudiest of days. They can help others remember that thoughtfulness abounds and that people can be considerate. Most people are mostly good most of the time, and it doesn't take much to remind people of that. It just takes bringing a little light to otherwise dim and dreary days to help remind people of the goodness in them, and the goodness in us, together. Like the sun's eclipsed light, a little compassion, patience, and kindness goes a long way. We can offer that light in all weather, in every season, everywhere we go.

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.

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.*

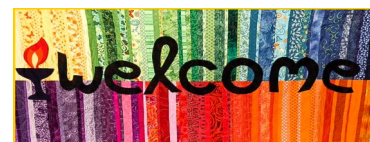
If you have any questions about our events, membership or our congregation, please email us at office@uuprinceton.org. We look forward to getting to know you better.

Welcome New Members!

John and Marcia Shackelford

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



May Spiritual Theme – Obligation
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 *Obligations* this month are:

“...Isaiah Berlin declared the 'most fundamental of all political questions' – [to be] the problem of political obligation, and its mirror, disobedience. Ethical philosophers concerned with finding a moral basis for the rules of society now looked for a moral basis for breaking them.”—Katrina Forrester

How do we determine when we cannot tolerate the intolerable? What obligations can guide us in breaking the rules of society?

There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.”—Marshall McLuhan

Notice McLuhan did not consider a need for officers. How will the crew manage earth on its own?

“Our ideals, laws and customs should be based on the proposition that each generation in turn becomes the custodian rather than the absolute owner of our resources - and each generation has the obligation to pass this inheritance on in the future.”—Alberto Moravia

Do you think this proposition still holds? The younger generations hold the older at fault for the mess the world is in. Is that new, or is it always so?

“The universe is under no obligation to make sense to you.”—Neil deGrasse Tyson

Science is always discovering things about the universe that make no sense to us...until they do. What obligation do we have to consider nonsensical ideas, in science or religion or art? When have you found a kernel of truth, of enlightenment, when giving the non-sensical a chance?

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.



*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.

Mays's Children and Youth Schedule

May 2024	
Sunday, May 5	Gatherings
Sunday, May 12	Last gathering of the program year. Summer program begins June 9.
Sunday, May 19	Our 7th-9th grade Coming of Age youth lead our worship service. All are welcome.
Sunday, May 26	All welcome in worship. Memorial Day Weekend.

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 B**

In July 1770, Murray sailed for New York on the brig Hand-in-Hand. About three days out of New York, an out-bound ship informed the captain that the American colonials there were not allowing cargo from the mother country to be unloaded. The captain changed his course to Philadelphia, where he learned that the information was not true. Everyone got off the ship, but since Murray could find neither a room nor a stagecoach to New York City, the captain offered to take him there.

As the Hand-in-Hand made its way along the New Jersey coast, it entered a heavy fog. Turning into shore by Cranberry Inlet, it struck a sand bar and stuck fast. The fog lifted, and a sloop was brought alongside to take on as much cargo as it could to lighten the brig. The captain asked Murray to sleep on the sloop to guard the cargo. In the morning, having no provisions on board, Murray went on shore to secure food.

He found a young girl cleaning fish and asked to purchase some. She directed him to the next house, beyond Thomas Potter's meeting house. Murray could not believe that there was a religious meeting house in this American wilderness. Approaching the residence, he found a large pile of fish there and asked a tall man, rough in appearance and advanced in age, if he could buy a fish.

Thomas Potter said, "No." Murray replied, "That is strange, when you have so many, to refuse to sell me a single fish." Potter said, "I did not refuse you a fish, sir; you are freely welcome to as many as you please." He then invited Murray to share the comfort of his house, saying, "Come, my friend, I have been expecting you a long time." John Murray was stunned.

Potter told him that when he saw Murray's ship in the bay he knew, as though a voice had spoken to him, "In that vessel cast away on that shore, is the preacher you have been so long expecting." Potter asked Murray to preach in the chapel on Sunday, and Murray replied, "I am not a preacher." Still Potter pressed him, but Murray protested that he must leave for New York as soon as the wind shifted. Potter replied, "The wind will never change until you have delivered your message." The wind did not shift.

It was thus, on September 30, 1770, in Thomas Potter's small chapel in Good Luck, New Jersey, that John Murray preached what is believed to be the first Universalist sermon in America. Then, the wind did shift, and Murray left for New York. However, John Murray had rediscovered his vocation as a messenger of God and soon was in great demand as a preacher all along the East Coast.

During the Revolutionary War, John Murray was appointed by General George Washington as chaplain to a Rhode Island regiment. In 1779, Murray helped organized the first Universalist church in America in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Soon after, Murray and his congregation won a lawsuit, the judgment exempting them from paying taxes for support of the established church. This was the first legal case in America to establish the separation of church and state and the freedom of religion. Whenever he could, John Murray returned visit his friend, Thomas Potter, and preach in his small chapel in New Jersey.

The place where the epic meeting took place between Potter and Murray can be visited. The Murray Grove Association was formed in August 1886. Murray Grove was a popular meeting ground for Universalists having a two-story wooden hotel, a church, and large grounds (the buildings burned down). Potter's Meeting House was torn down but was rebuilt by 1852, using some of the original wood. Thomas Potter's grave is next to this meeting house (now Methodist). Murray Grove is a comfortable UU conference center in the Pine Barrens near Barnegat Bay in Lanoka Harbor, NJ, just south of Toms River. For information, call: 609/ 693-5558.

The Universalist and Unitarian movements here had their largest growth initially in Massachusetts. Let us now see how Universalism developed.

The Sargents were one of the leading families of Gloucester, Massachusetts. Winthrop Sargent was a prosperous merchant, and in May 1751 his wife presented him with a daughter whom they named Judith. Little is known of the first 23 years of her life because Judith burned almost all her letters from this period. In 1769, when she was 18, she married John Stevens, and her father commemorated the event by having her portrait painted by John Singleton Copley.

Gracenotes

As an Enormous Thank You....

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 Friday evening, May 17, 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: **Friday evening, May 17, 7:30pm, Channing Hall.**

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, May 17 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, May 19 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., in-person at UU Princeton. No sign-up needed

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 remaining selection for this year:

May 19, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt 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-serv to get each month's date and keep connected for other events.

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

(Continued from page 6)

The **Evergreen Chapter of CUUPS** will meet on Friday May 24 to celebrate the Full Flower Moon (also known as the Corn Planting Moon, the Hare Moon and the Milk Moon). We will aim to be outside near the Memorial Garden, and will gather at 7pm to ground ourselves and drum a bit before casting the Circle at 7:30. In the event of inclement or chilly weather we will be in the John Murray Room, and if indoors, our group continues to mask. Please bring a mask (if you don't have one, they are available in Robinson Lounge), a percussion instrument and something on which to sit (a blanket or folding chair), as well as a snack (for yourself or to share!) before driving home. All ages are welcome!

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>

Women's Alliance

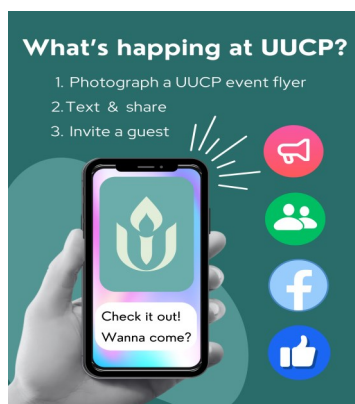
Year-End Celebration with Lunch, Annual Meeting and Program – Thursday May 16, 2024, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Founder's Room In-person Only

Please join us at noon in the Founder's Room at the church for our final lunch this church year. Bring a salad or sandwich to share; Women's Alliance will provide the traditional May lunch dessert, strawberry shortcake, as well as hot and cold drinks. We'll hold our annual meeting with approval of donations to organizations that serve women and children and election of two board officers and a Nominating Committee member. Joelle Piercy, UUCP Bell Choir Director, will speak about "Choices, Boundaries and Consent: Recognizing, Responding to, and Preventing Domestic Violence." Domestic Violence organizations across New Jersey are providing more services to more survivors than ever before. During this conversation, we will talk about current trends, learn ways to support survivors, and practice tools to incorporate violence prevention in our everyday lives. 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).

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 rochebarbi-ero@gmail.com.

We suspend our lunches during the months of June, July and August, but wish you all an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at our next lunch on September 19th!





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)

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.

Racial Justice Ministry Announces Two Outings

In June, the Racial Justice Ministry invites everyone in the congregation to join us in two Saturday outings. On Saturday, **June 8** we'll go to the **Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Pow-Wow**. And on Saturday, **June 15** we'll take part in the **Juneteenth celebration** sponsored by the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum. Both will be great, and we hope you can join!

Pow -Wow, June 8. The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Pow-Wow is always fun, and folks from UUCP attended last year. There is singing and dancing, socializing, crafts, and food. Gates open at 10 am, and the "grand entry" is scheduled for noon. Take a few hours to learn about the Lenni-Lenape, to talk and share food with tribe members and friends, and to enjoy the company. The location is the Salem County Fairgrounds in Woodstown, NJ, and the cost is \$10 per car. The county fairgrounds are about 70 miles away from the congregation, about 90 minutes by car. We'll invite folks to sign up [on Sign up Genius to get a better headcount](#).

Juneteenth, June 15. The Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum's biggest program in the last few years has been Juneteenth, the annual celebration of Emancipation from slavery. This year the program is especially rich, featuring live gospel music, original plays, and great food, including vegan options. African American history in the Sourland is strong, and the program will be at the Mt. Zion AME Church in Skillman, NJ. The program runs from **12- 4 pm**. The theme this year is "Freedom Forward." Our own Isabela Morales is the coordinator of the event, and Isabela is looking forward to having a good number of friends and associates from UUCP. We will park at Montgomery High School (only seven miles from our congregation), and shuttle buses will take us to Mt. Zion. Again, we'll be coordinating sign-ups.

The entry price for Juneteenth is changing. The adult "presale" cost is \$25 (or \$15 for youth), but it goes up to \$30/\$20 on May 1. We will organize early sign-ups and buy tickets in advance.

We hope you can come to both events! Both will be very special!

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.



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.

SPRING SALE

Friday, May 3rd 4 – 7pm (\$10)

Saturday, May 4th 9am – 2pm

(Early Bird Sales, 8 – 9am)

All proceeds for Social Justice Grants

Bargains, Fun, & Fellowship!

Bring your whole family, colleagues, friends, & neighbors!

VOLUNTEER: Please join us to create a successful Spring Sale – Plenty of ways to help! Use **SignUpGenius** at www.uuprinceton.org, contact us, or just stop by during **Set-up Week** or on **Sale Days** to pitch in!

DONATE: Dust off your stored-away clothes, furniture, collectibles, toys, kids' books, jewelry, linens, tools, sporting goods, kitchenware, & household goods! (Please, only items in **good, working condition** – NO tires, mattresses, old style TVs/monitors, damaged furniture, heavy winter clothes.)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Sun, Apr 28 (after service):

Set-up week begins

Donated items received, sorted, & priced in Booth areas.

Thurs, May 2: Final set-up of Booths

6pm: Pizza for Volunteers;

Fri, May 3 SALE DAY 1

Noon: Sandwiches for volunteers

3pm: Begin collecting entry fees

4pm: DOORS OPEN

Sat, May 4 SALE DAY 2

8am: Early Bird Sales (plants, outdoor items)

Food for volunteers

9am: DOORS OPEN!

2pm: Sale ends, Clean-up begins!

-- Cathy, Kirsten, Amanda, Binnie & Teri

RECEIVING TIMES at UUCP

For Spring Sale Donations:

Sun, Apr 28: ~12:30 – 6pm

Mon – Wed: 4 – 7pm

Wed: 11am – 2pm

[NO donations Thurs or Fri]

*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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በመሆንዎት ደስተዎቸ ነን!

Spring Sale PICK-UP Service

We can help bring in **heavy or bulky items** to UUCP

Email photo and description ASAP to

springssale@uuprinceton.org and call Kevin Trayner

609-532-8328 to schedule a pick-up time.

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.

The Coming of Age service is May 19th!

Some of our UU youth will read their credo statements to the congregation, expressing their current personal beliefs and guiding principles. Help mark this important milestone by bringing in a photograph from your childhood or young adulthood and pinning it onto our bulletin board above the coffee service. Label your picture with your name or leave it blank and let people guess who it is. Collect your picture in June.

SLOWLY, BUT SURELY(?)

We had so hoped that we'd be able by this time to announce "Goal Met, Pledge Drive Over." Alas, that was not to be.

As of Skylight's April 18 deadline, 150 congregants had pledged a total of almost \$530,000, some \$70,000 shy of our \$600,000 goal. But . . . we still haven't heard from almost 40 of you!

If you haven't yet pledged, please do so as soon as possible. Once all of the pledges are in, the executive team can finalize the budget for the coming year – and the two of us can move on to other things!

In addition, as we mentioned during the service on April 7, we neglected in our communications to say that, although this year's goal stayed the same as last year's, we still needed pledge increases. Unfortunately, each year there are members who must decrease their pledges or have to stop pledging entirely – some have financial setbacks, some move away, and some, we are especially sad to say, die.

So . . . if you did not increase your pledge, know that we would be delighted – and UU Princeton would be better able to live its message of hope, love, justice, and joy – if you could do so now.

Cindy Funka-Lea and Elizabeth Silverman
2024 Pledge Drive Chairs

(Continued from page 5)

It was in 1774 that Winthrop Sargent invited an itinerant preacher of universal salvation to visit Gloucester. Sargent and others had been much taken with a copy of a book they had received from London, *James Relly's Union*. This visit led to the formation of the first Universalist congregation in America, and the Sargents and Stevens were core members. The visiting minister was John Murray, and he became a close friend of the families. Judith, in the letters she exchanged with him for some 14 years, encouraged Murray in his ministry, particularly when he doubted himself.

Judith's 18-year marriage to John Stevens ended with his death in the West Indies, where he had fled to escape his creditors. A year and a half later, despite the disapproval of her brother Winthrop Sargent (he was the first governor of the Mississippi Territory), Judith married John Murray.

For 200 years little was known about Judith Sargent Murray, but then a remarkable discovery occurred in the early 1980s twenty copybooks, written copies of her outgoing letters, believed to have been lost, were discovered in Natchez, Mississippi. To be sure, Judith had published a three-volume collection of her essays, as well as a drama whose pre-publication subscribers included George and Martha Washington and President and Mrs. John Adams. She was the first female American playwright to have her plays performed. Her copybooks disclosed also that she was among the first avowedly Universalist authors to publish in America.

Judith Sargent Murray was a champion of women's rights, supported Negro equality, and became a communication link for participants in the burgeoning Universalist heresy. Judith was interested in a wide variety of subjects and well educated enough to write letters to her younger brother, which each one dealing with a topic such as astronomy, dance, fencing, music, Persia, proper humor. She was a firm believer in healthy eating (no butter, no sauces, no animal food except very dry white meat), and only four years after the first balloon flight in Europe, she speculated about the possibility of balloon transport across the Atlantic. After John Murray's death, she completed his autobiography and edited three volumes of his *Letters and Sketches of Sermons*. This was fortunate because Murray himself wrote almost nothing down, and the details of his life and thought might otherwise have been lost to history. When widowed a second time, Judith moved to Mississippi to be with her daughter. She died there in 1820.

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT is back!

Saturday, May 11th at 6 PM in the FOUNDERS ROOM

Fellowship Night offers a different program every month providing
Fellowship, Discussions, Learning, and Fun.

Spend time with old friends and make new ones!

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).

Future Fellowship Nights will be on the second Saturday of the month!

Ministry for the Earth

Follow up to Earth Day

with our Earth Ministry on May 19.

From 12:00-1:00, in Founders Room: learn about participating in the newly revised [Green Sanctuary Program](#)

As Rev. Bill Neely discussed during his Earth Day sermon, our faith focuses on this life, seeking to build a kinder, more just, and caring world here and now. Let's extend this daily ethic into legacy practices that will bless all those to come with a more sustainable planet. **Green Sanctuary 2030: Mobilizing for Climate Justice** provides structure, leadership, and support, in broad collaboration, for the UU faith community to engage in an ambitious environmental and climate justice movement that seeks to live our principles fully and achieve our vision of a sustainable and just world for all.

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Unirondack is excited to announce a whole new slate of new trips for adults! Unirondack is a summer camp and conference center founded by Unitarian Universalists that has been serving UU youth and adults in the Adirondacks for more than 70 years. This year we are offering a whole new selection of adventure programs for adults! These programs offer full guided service throughout the Adirondacks including food and cooking, logistics planning, and the major equipment as well. For more information, you can email Sam.B@unirondack.org, or check out our website www.unirondack.org/trip-camps

Unirondack's Spring 2024 Adult Trip Calendar:
 May 6 - 12: Wilderness Art Trip // Creatives Retreat
 May 16 - 22: Adirondack 90-Miler (FULL!)
 May 16 - 21: Intro to Backpacking
 May 24 - 29: Introduction to Canoeing
 May 16 - 21: Leadership Paddling
 July 7 -12: Intro to Backpacking II

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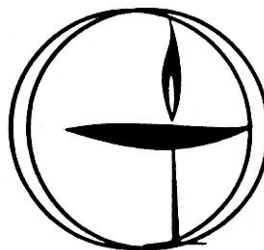
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Save the Date!
The UU Princeton End of Year Picnic will be on June 2nd directly after service. Stay tuned to Happenings, E-Happenings and the UUCP Facebook page for more event details.



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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.

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