



# 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](http://www.uuprinceton.org) for updates.

### October 5, *Made in the Image*

In our tradition, the concept of *Dignity* roots itself in the belief that humans are made in the image of God. All humans have this inherent, intimate, universally shared connection to the Holy, which makes each life worthy of respect. Because of this, dignity has long been a guiding value in Unitarian Universalism. In this service, we'll explore our October spiritual theme of *Dignity*.

**Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely**

**Worship Associate: Isabela Morales**

**Music: Sue den Outer, Pianist**

**Hymn Leader: TBA**

### October 12, *Always Awakening*

*Enlightenment* in Eastern thought sometimes means awakening to a sense of impermanence, which leads to a cessation of suffering, which makes life more peaceful and balanced. It's a complicated, endlessly debated concept that is embraced by practicing meditation and cultivating a sense of nonattachment. And it has much to offer a passionate, active, and engaged faith like Unitarian Universalism. This Sunday, we'll explore why that is. A special "Thank You!" to Judy Vee, who selected this topic after winning the "Pick a Sermon Topic" item at the 2025 Fellowship Auction.

**Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely**

**Worship Associate: Judy Vee**

**Music: Sue den Outer, Pianist**

**Hymn Leader: TBA**

### October 19, *A Wonderful World*

When Louis Armstrong recorded "What a Wonderful World" in 1967, the world seemed pretty far from wonderful. War, poverty, and racism were everywhere, with additional ills and evils too numerous to count. And yet when the artist read the lyrics, he quickly decided to record the song. Why? And what can we learn from his choice?

**Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely**

**Worship Associate: Courtney Orlando**

**Music: Sue den Outer, Pianist**

**Hymn Leader: TBA**

### October 26, *Brave Stories*

Fifty-nine years ago, television audiences were treated to the pilot episode of what has become one of the longest lasting franchises: *Star Trek*. It provided an idealized version of humanity where inclusion was the norm. But was it truly inclusive? Who was in and who was out? Join us on this Sunday as we explore the world of *Star Trek* and how its idealistic goal for inclusion continues to evolve almost six decades later and continues to push our own society to do better.

**Worship Leader: Young Adult Ministry**

**Worship Associate: TBA**

**Music: Sue den Outer, Pianist**

**Hymn Leader: TBA**

## The Good News

### The Good News, Rev. Bill Neely

An old Buddhist story tells us of a parrot who lived in a forest that caught on fire. It was a very large fire, one that raged through the brush and trees and incinerated everything it touched. Animals scrambled for safety and watched from afar as their homes burned to the ground. They were shocked and frightened. They watched the fire hoping that the flames would die down but had no idea of what to do until then.

The parrot, however, thought of something to do. She soaked her wings in the water of a nearby lake, flew over the flames, and shook her wings so that the droplets would fall on the fire. The other animals watched and told her that she wasn't making any difference. They even mocked her for believing that such a small bird could have an impact on something so large. They asked her as she took off to shake more water on the flames, "Why are you doing this?" She replied, "Because it's what I can do."

There are different versions of this story. In some, the bird is a hummingbird and drops water from her beak. In some, most of the animals don't escape the flames, but some do. In some versions, a sacred being in the God realm is so moved by the bird's bravery and self-sacrifice that the being weeps holy tears that extinguish the flames.

In my version, the other animals join in; each does what they can to lessen the destruction and stop the flames. They don't save every inch, and tragedies still occur, but they come together to put as much water on as many flames as possible. They save what can be saved. They rest when they need to. They eat, sleep, and take care of themselves. But they also come together and work as one with differing skills and talents to stop the fire and save lives.

The story reminds us, as our world burns today, that our job is never to decry the ways that others are working to slow or stop today's fires, even if we don't understand their actions. If we see a different action as making more sense, then we take that act without diverting our energy to slow others working toward the same end. There are many ways to put water on a fire. We employ ours and support others who employ theirs.

And it reminds us moreover that we are to act. Our faith is one that engages the world in ways that nourish life, counter suffering, and lessen destruction. We don't watch others try to do that; we try with them, becoming stronger and more resilient as we gather our gifts and talents to make the world a better place. We may hope the flames die down, but we don't wait for them to. As Julia Cameron writes in *The Artist's Way*, we "pray to catch the bus, then run as fast as [we] can." We hope, and try, and with each single effort become part of a collective whole that is, as we sing in *We'll Build a Land*, "raising up devastations from old."

### For Our Newcomers

**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=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXlrUVB  
MQT09](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXlrUVBMQT09)

#### 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](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)  
[jennifer@uuprinceton.org](mailto: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 Emma Moore, President of the Board of Trustees, at [president@uuprinceton.org](mailto:president@uuprinceton.org)

## October Spiritual Theme—Dignity 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](mailto:chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org). Our Chalice Circle thoughts and questions around the theme of Dignity this month are:

“My father used to have an expression. He'd say, 'Joey, a job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in your community.’” --Joe Biden

*What were you taught about the relationship between work and dignity?  
Have the jobs you have had added to or detracted from your dignity and respect?*

“Self-respect is the fruit of discipline; the sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself.”  
--Abraham Joshua Heschel

*When have you had to say “no” to yourself or another to maintain your dignity?*

“I don't believe in the school of hard knocks, although I've had them. All that stuff about whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger is so not true. Do you know what makes you stronger? When people treat you and your art with dignity.”  
--Lana Del Rey

*Do you agree that being treated with respect adds more to your dignity and strength than  
hard knocks? What has made you stronger in your life?  
Has it been “hard knocks” that don't kill you or being treated with respect?*

“Humor is an affirmation of dignity, a declaration of man's superiority to all that befalls him.”

--Romain Gary

“There are so many low points with stand-up. You are perpetually humiliated, so it doesn't really matter anymore. I don't have any dignity left to lose. An audience can't hurt you anymore when you've been completely dismantled.”  
--John Oliver

*Have you used humor in your life to overcome difficulties or has its use led to self  
criticism or criticism by others leading to a loss of dignity?*

### Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This ceremony of becoming a member is for those who have previously attended “New to UU” and want to become members of our congregation. Please contact Rev. Bill to arrange a time.  
[bill@uuprinceton.org](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)

### Joining UU Princeton

Membership in UU Princeton is open to adults who share our congregation's values, wish to help expand them in the world, and support the congregation with a financial pledge. If you would like to join our congregation or if you have questions about membership, please contact Rev. Bill ([bill@uuprinceton.org](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)).

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](mailto:office@uuprinceton.org). We look forward to getting to know you better.**

## Children and Youth Ministry

### Children and Youth Ministry

It has been a delight to welcome our children, including some newcomers, and parents to our sprinkling of summer events and activities. We are grateful to Chris Sturm, Diane Torrance, Betty Ashwood, Molly Sharlach, Carol Haag, Dave Avasthi, Tony & Max Klon, Khristina Gonzales, Courtney Orlando, & Beth Behrend for leading/supporting children's gatherings June-September. Our activities have included learning about PRIDE and making "pride flair," nature walks on the Mountain Lakes Trails adjacent to our grounds, an outdoor "slip and slide," a Fall Harvest activity, and-sharing stories and creating art.

**Registration for Children and Youth** for the upcoming year will be available by mid-September. Stay tuned to emails and weekly E-Happenings for an overview of the year's program options and registration forms. Our fall-spring program kicks off on Sunday, October 5, 2025.

We are excited to welcome our children and youth to our 2025-2026 program year! Our sessions begin Sunday, October 5 and run through May. Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers, we are able to offer gatherings for children and youth three Sundays each month, with a youth group meeting one Sunday morning/month at UU Princeton.

**Registration** is FREE and required for all children and youth. Current members will receive more information about this year's registration process by email. Newcomers please register through this link <https://forms.gle/4cCW5A1H7JNH7nWc9> or by scanning the QR Code.



Descriptions of our curriculum and program offerings are included with the registration information on our website and can also be found at the Children & Youth Ministry table in Robinson Lounge. Please contact me, Rev. Jennifer, Assistant Minister, for support choosing the best learning experience for your child(ren). [jennifer@uuprinceton.org](mailto:jennifer@uuprinceton.org).

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### Program Schedules

**Sessions for Pre-K - 5th grades** are on Sunday mornings and begin after "Wonder & Wisdom" in worship, approximately 10:45am, and end at approximately 11:45am (after service concludes).

**Schedule Pre-K - 5th Grades:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/13tcMk1yWJ53smmfu2In9Q5CLquAmlOMzAbnQKDDJMFM/edit?usp=sharing>

**6th-8th Grade Crossing Paths** sessions are on Sunday mornings, with the exception of some field trips, and meet from 10:30am-12:00pm in Room 1. **There is a mandatory family orientation for Crossing Paths on Sunday, October 5 from 12:00pm-1:30pm in Founders Room.**

**DRAFT Crossing Paths schedule:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11AhSXuHfb0eng0gz7PWKrRHalg6J6kxu86JC0HLuSP0/edit?usp=sharing>

**High School (9th-12th Grades) YoUth Group** meets one Sunday a month from 10:30am-12:00pm. Our youth are encouraged to volunteer one Sunday a month with the younger children, with coffee hour, with welcoming newcomers or ushering during services. We also encourage that they attend worship as a group one Sunday a month. **Schedule is TBA.** Please email [jennifer@uuprinceton.org](mailto:jennifer@uuprinceton.org) for more information.

*(Continued on page 5)*



*(Continued from page 4)***October's Children and Youth Schedule**

<b>October 2025</b>	
<b>Sunday, October 5</b>	<b>First Session of Gatherings.</b>
<b>Sunday, October 12</b>	<b>Gatherings by age group.</b>
<b>Sunday, October 19</b>	<b>Gatherings by age group.</b>
<b><u>6th-8th Grade Crossing Paths</u> Friday, Oct 24 at 5:15pm</b>	<b>Visit to Jewish Center of Princeton.</b> 435 Nassau St, Princeton, NJ 08540 (609-921-0100)
<b>Sunday, October 26</b>	All ages worship followed by Trunk or Treat. No gatherings.

**Volunteer Opportunities in Children & Youth**

There are ways you can offer your time with our children & youth throughout the year. We appreciate support with putting together the worship exploration bags (green tote bags for all ages available for use in worship services), annual events like our spring egg hunt, and helping to organize brunch fundraisers. Please contact me for more information on how you might help support our program.

And as always, I am here for you in times of personal and family transitions and/or challenges. Please do contact me at [jennifer@uuprinceton.org](mailto:jennifer@uuprinceton.org) or 609-924-1604, ext. 118 if I can be of support.

With abiding love, Rev. Jennifer

**Recent Books/Stories Used in "Wonder & Wisdom"**

August 24     *Some Pets* by Angela DiTerlizzi. Illustrated by Brendan Wenzel.  
 August 31     *After the Fall* by Dan Santant  
 September 7     *Frog & Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel

**Public and Private Spaces** - While our congregation hosts many public activities (worship services, meetings, community events, etc.), there are several spaces that are officially designated "private" spaces. Access to these private spaces is limited to those engaging in the religious work of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, as well as all other law enforcement officials, must produce a judicial warrant to enter these private spaces. These private spaces are the Main Office, the Minister's Office, the Assistant Minister's Office, the Music Ministry Office, and the Sexton's Office.

**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*

***Join Us on October 12: All about UU Princeton***

**12:00 – 2:00 in Fahs Theater**

Curious about what makes the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton (UUCP) such a vibrant and inclusive community? Join us for an engaging presentation that offers an inside look at UUCP's history, leadership, worship life, social justice work, and the many programs that bring our congregation together. Whether you're a longtime member or just getting to know us, this overview will highlight the heart of who we are, what we do, and how you can get involved in this dynamic, purpose-driven community.

We will lead you through a brief overview of the history of UU Princeton, then dive into the workings of the church, its programs, administration, and how it all fits into the larger religious structure.

**All are welcome: long-time members, newcomers, and everyone in between.**

**Save the Date: November 2nd**

**Connect & Contribute at UU Princeton Part 2!**

**11:30 - 12:30 in Robinson Lounge**

**Share Your Gifts, Find Your Place at UU Princeton!**

**The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee invites you to our upcoming “Connect & Contribute at UU Princeton” events. These gatherings are your chance to explore the many ways to get involved, meet friendly faces from our committees and groups, and discover where your gifts and interests can flourish.**

**October Conscious Consumer Challenges:**

The Conscious Consumer mission is to raise awareness among members of how everyday consumption habits affect the interconnected web of existence, and to encourage members to adopt habits that can positively impact the following areas: climate change, conservation, human and animal welfare, and health.

This October challenge is to skip plastic trick or treat trinkets and instead share treats that bring joy without adding unnecessary waste. Parents can keep this practice going year-round by finding plastic-free goodies for birthdays and celebrations, and tell other parents that this is a conscious decision - maybe it will get them thinking about their own choices. Next, when choosing Halloween candy to hand out, look for brands that don't use palm oil to help protect rainforests and wildlife. Palm oil plantations are often established in tropical rainforests, leading to large-scale deforestation.

A final challenge for our gardeners is to leave the leaves this fall. Fallen leaves are nature's way of enriching the soil in which plants grow. As they are consumed by fungi, bacteria, and other organisms in the soil, the decomposition process releases nutrients that plants need and improves the soil structure to make it a better home for plants' roots. You might also leave your garden standing as is through fall and winter. Dry plant stalks provide shelter for insects, and birds continue to find food and perches in your “resting” garden. Together, these small choices add up to big blessings for our planet.

**Poetry Walk**

Join Rev. Bill for a poetry-led stroll through the Scott and Hella McVay Poetry Trail at Greenway Meadows Park. This roughly one - mile meandering path is dotted with short poems and excerpts that lift up the beauty and mystery of nature. *We'll meet on Sunday, October 5 at 1 p.m. at the Trail.* This is offered as part of our 2025 Fellowship Auction – please bring a \$10 donation for the church.

## Adult Faith Development

### Buddhist Meditation Group

UU Princeton's Buddhist meditation group meets every Sunday from **9:30 - 10:25** in Fahs Theater. Whether you are a beginning or experienced meditator, all are welcome!

Contact

Michele Ochsner ([michele.ochsner@gmail.com](mailto:michele.ochsner@gmail.com)) for weekly email reminders and Zoom link.

### Zen Meditation Practice and Talks

All are welcome to discuss and practice Zen Meditation on the Fourth Sunday of every month from 11:45 a.m. to 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](mailto:sgvalerio312@gmail.com)) for more info.

### Short Story Hour

Join Rev. Bill for the reading and discussion of a contemporary short story. Our next online-only gathering will be on Friday, Oct. 17 at 12 noon. Please keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link, and no sign-up needed.

### Men's Group

The UU Princeton Men's Group gathers for connection and conversation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Founders Room. Stop by to build community and make friends! Email Marc Rubenstein at [marcruby@gmail.com](mailto:marcruby@gmail.com) for more information or to be added to the e-list.

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

Interested in meeting other young adults within the UU Princeton community? Come to Young Adult Sundays, at least once a month! Emma Moore ([emoore42@gmail.com](mailto:emoore42@gmail.com)), Irene Donne ([irene.donne@gmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto:herb_foster@yahoo.com) to join the Evergreen CUUPS mailing list, or to Jennifer Santos at [jsantoscnm@verizon.net](mailto:jsantoscnm@verizon.net) or Kate Foster at [subligaria@yahoo.com](mailto:subligaria@yahoo.com), Co-Convenors, with questions.

### Adult Faith Development- What's in the Bible?

Our discussion of the Hebrew Scriptures continues on Oct. 5, 12, and 19, which we'll spend on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings. Come to any or all of the sessions, and all are welcome! The group meets in the lower lounge from 9 – 9:45 a.m.

### Ushering Ministry

The Ushering Ministry is looking for help with ushering. If interested, please contact Judy Vee or Jennifer Klon at [ushering@uuprinceton.org](mailto:ushering@uuprinceton.org).

### UU Princeton Book Discussion Group

All are invited to join our Book Discussion Group for 2025–2026.

Our one-hour discussions are held in the John Murray Room beginning at 12 noon.

Here is the list for our next meetings:

November 9 (Nonfiction) *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell

January 11 (Fiction) *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

March 8 (Nonfiction) *On Freedom* by Timothy Snyder

May 17 (Fiction) *This Other Eden* by Paul Harding

Happy Reading!

Contact [peggy.matthews@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.matthews@gmail.com) if you have questions.

### Pathways to Membership Series

New to UU Princeton or Unitarian Universalism? Interested in joining our congregation? Our next three-part Pathways series is on Nov. 2, 9, and 23 from 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Lower Lounge. We'll discuss Unitarian Universalist history, beliefs, and membership, and we'll get to know one another a bit as well! Come to any or all of the sessions, and please contact Rev. Bill with any questions.

### Princeton Eats Plants

Join Princeton Eats Plants, a vibrant UU Princeton community promoting plant-based living through monthly potluck gatherings. Discover delicious, plant-powered dishes and connect with others passionate about sustainable eating and cruelty-free living. Exchange recipes, share journeys, and forge connections. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or curious about plant-based diets, join us every first Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Founder's Room. Contact Vicky Campbell, JoEllen, or John Burton for details.

[pep@uuprinceton.org](mailto:pep@uuprinceton.org)

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

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

## Women's Alliance

### Lunch & Program - Thursday, Oct. 16, 12-2:00 Founder's Room

Join us at **noon in the Founder's Room** for lunch, followed by a program at 1:00 *Please bring a salad or sandwich to share*; the Women's Alliance will provide dessert and beverages.

This month the Women's Alliance welcomes the **Committee on Ministry (COM)**. COM consists of Rev Bill Neely (ex officio), Frances Prestianni (Convener), and members Drake Baer, Vicki Campbell, Carol Ann Meier, Karen Nalbhone, and Mary Tulloss. We elect members to the COM each year, but what is it we ask them to do? Come learn about the history and workings of this very important committee.

COM is currently in the midst of a study of how UU Princeton participants view their involvement with the congregation.

Through a focused discussion, attendees will get a chance to reflect on their involvement and hear other people's views. We hope that these reflections will deepen our understanding of membership both as individuals and collectively as a congregation.

No reservation is needed and all are welcome to join us for lunch, the program, or both. Please feel free to contact Betty Ashwood 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 more fully participate may become a member of the Women's Alliance upon payment of \$10 in annual dues. To receive email updates about the monthly lunches and other activities, obtain more information about the Women's Alliance in general, or to become a member, please contact Betty Ashwood, President at 609 558-1136 (call or text) or email [bjashwood@gmail.com](mailto:bjashwood@gmail.com).

More information about this ministry is also available on the UUCP Website <https://www.uuprinceton.org/connect/groups/womens-alliance/>

**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](mailto: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](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)) for pastoral care and support in times of difficulty and times of celebration.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:JodyM1025@gmail.com) if you'd like to help deliver food to Arm in Arm.

**ArmInArm**  
better together ♡  
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 resumed 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](mailto:JodyM1025@gmail.com).

**Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.**

**HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.**

El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

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



## Racial Justice Ministry



**UU Princeton's Social Justice Ministries** are organized into six major areas, with several affiliated activities, all listed below. To become involved in any of these areas please contact the person listed or the church office. If you have an idea for a new area of focus, please contact Rev. Bill ([Bill@UUPrinceton.org](mailto:Bill@UUPrinceton.org)).

### **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](mailto:caring4neighbors@uuprinceton.org))

**Immigration Task Force** – assists immigrants, refugees and sanctuary seekers. Michele Ochsner, [sanctuary@uuprinceton.org](mailto:sanctuary@uuprinceton.org),

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

**Public Action Issues** – UU Faith Action and Public Issues. Promotes advocacy and collaboration around statewide legislative issues. Contact the church office for more information.

**Racial Justice Ministry** – conducts anti-racism work inside and outside of UU Princeton. Ted Fetter and Kevin Trayner, [racialjustice@uuprinceton.org](mailto:racialjustice@uuprinceton.org)

**Rainbow Ministry** – welcomes LGBTQIA persons at UU Princeton and advocates outside of UU Princeton. (Judy Vee, [lgbtq@uuprinceton.org](mailto: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)

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](mailto: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](mailto:Kevintrayner@gmail.com) or [fetter4@verizon.net](mailto:fetter4@verizon.net).

### Racial Justice Ministry Events

**Oct 10, Showing of Academy award nominated documentary "Sugarcane," Friday, 7-9 pm, Fahs theater at UU Princeton.** We will show the documentary "Sugarcane" (R-rated), which follows an investigation into the Canadian Indian residential school system, igniting a reckoning in the lives of survivors and descendants.

Yours in Racial Justice  
Kevin Trayner and Ted Fetter, co-chairs of Racial Justice Ministry

### 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.

## *Earth Ministry*

### **Live Your Values: Community Service Opportunity Hopewell Clean Sweep Day**

**Sat. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**

On October 4<sup>th</sup> come volunteer for a couple of hours to help our community and the planet and to raise money for our church at the same time! The Earth Ministry is looking to bring a UU crew to participate in the Hopewell Township Clean Communities Fall Clean Sweep litter pick-up. We meet at the Public Works Building at 9am (rain or shine), grab gloves, a safety vest and cleanup equipment (provided), and collect litter in a designated area for a couple of hours. For each volunteer hour we spend, Hopewell Township will make a donation to UU Princeton! Please email [Earthministry@uuprinceton.org](mailto:Earthministry@uuprinceton.org) if you would like to participate so we can coordinate the morning meetup.

## **Celebrations Ministry**

Our Mission: To facilitate intergenerational celebrations that bring our congregation together in moments of joy and fellowship - our programming respects our unique community traditions and continually evolves to be more inclusive and engaging.

### **Trunk or Treat and Tacos - Sunday, October 26th 11:45-2pm**

Come in costume, one and all - as our kids Trunk or Treat from car trunk to car trunk. Sunday, October 26th following service. Join us in the UU Princeton parking lot, rain or shine! Decorate your trunk in a Halloween theme and provide treats (consider options that are nut free, gluten free and possibly vegan). Taco buffet will be set up afterwards (GF and vegan options will be available)... and desserts provided by YOU! Please RSVP via Signup Genius (so we have enough tacos) and consider helping with the volunteer list. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. FYI - You can sign-up for more than one item! If questions, please contact [celebrations@uuprinceton.org](mailto:celebrations@uuprinceton.org)

Sign-up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-58710310-trunk>

### **Homecoming 2025: Living Love at the Center**

**October 4th 10 AM to 5 PM**

**Murray Grove Retreat Center**

Let's come together to celebrate community, compassion, and love at the center of it all. **We can't wait to welcome you!**

What to Expect:

Inspiring Keynote Speaker: Charlene D. Walker

Live Music & Entertainment

Vibrant Vendor Marketplace

Nonprofit Showcase highlighting community changemakers

Speakers & Workshops to uplift and connect us all

**Charlene D. Walker - Keynote Speaker**

As a firm believer that justice begins at our intersections, Charlene reminds us of the need for Black, Brown, people with different abilities, youth, and poor communities to work closely together to build more power to win on the pressing issues that support the families of New Jersey. She sees the enormous capacity for love people have and values their inherent worth and dignity. Charlene is actively cultivating the leaders of tomorrow who will lead to build the Beloved Community; one of hope, justice, fairness, opportunity and love.

Suggested Donation: \$25 per person

Pay It Forward: Sponsor another attendee (or more) so everyone can join in the celebration

Children 12 & under: FREE!

REGISTER HERE!

<https://murraygrove.org/event/homecoming-2025-love-living-at-the-center/>

Your support helps us keep Homecoming accessible to all while sustaining Murray Grove as a place of inspiration, connection, and renewal.

Festivities will be going into Sunday, so make sure to book your overnight stay!



**UU FaithAction NJ Fall Issues Conference “Meet the Moment”  
October 18, 2025 – 10 am - 3 pm  
In person at UUCP / Virtual on Zoom**

Registration is now open for the 2025 Issues Conference: Meet the Moment!

Rev. Charles Boyer from Salvation and Social Justice will deliver the keynote address, “The Role for Faith-Based Social Justice Advocacy.” In this time of turmoil and unrest, the need for strong institutions has never been greater even as those very institutions are facing unprecedented challenges. What are the particular responsibilities and challenges for faith-based organizations working for justice? What is the prophetic imperative calling us to do and how can we most effectively and efficiently prepare to Meet the Moment?

Engage with our task forces (Criminal Justice Reform, Environmental Justice, Immigration Justice and Reproductive Justice) in deeper conversation exploring possibilities for living more fully into our mission and vision and cultivating the values-based relationships that support and sustain this work at its core. Together we can cultivate and strengthen the connections between our personal, congregational, and coalition networks.

As always, our time together will include opportunities for fellowship, good food, and great fun! Register today at [uufaithaction.org/issues-con](https://uufaithaction.org/issues-con) to do your part to Meet the Moment!

Everyone is welcome to join. Recommended donation is \$75 but you can donate any amount (or register for a free ticket).

**UU FaithAction NJ Action Hours**

In these overwhelmingly troubled times, are you looking for simple ways to make a difference? Join UU FaithAction NJ for first and third Friday Action Hours on Zoom at noon. Not available to meet then? No worries, just check out [bit.ly/1st-fridays](https://bit.ly/1st-fridays) for the actions to take in your own time and the link to where to report back to UU FaithAction NJ.

One of the most critical actions is supporting the Immigrant Trust Act (S3672/A4987). This legislation would ensure that New Jerseyans are able to seek support from state and local agencies without fear of deportation. Increasing trust in public agencies allows all people, regardless of immigration status, to seek public services that are essential to the health, education, and well-being of their families and the broader community.

Find your Senator and two Assemblymembers, along with their phone #s, using our NJ Legislator Lookup tool: [uufaithaction.org/nj-legislator-lookup/](https://uufaithaction.org/nj-legislator-lookup/) and call your legislators in support of the Immigrant Trust Act.

*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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**Beware of Email Scams:** As we deeply value your generosity and occasionally communicate about stewardship in various ways, please be aware that **UU Princeton will never request gift cards or urgent donations via email.** Email scams targeting churches and charitable organizations happen regularly. Scammers often impersonate familiar names, so always double-check the sender's email address — even a small difference (like an extra letter or number) can indicate a fake account. Stay vigilant and contact the office directly if you ever receive a suspicious message.

**UU Princeton Workday**

Saturday, October 25, 2025  
 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
 Come lend a hand as we care for our beautiful property!  
 Volunteers are needed for a variety of projects, including:  
 Window washing  
 Ivy and brush removal  
 Clearing sand from playground gates  
 Channing Hall chair maintenance  
 ...and more!  
 All skill levels welcome—many hands make light work!  
 Bring your energy, gloves, and a spirit of community.

*Names & Numbers*

- Rev. Bill Neely**  
[bill@uuprinceton.org](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)  
 Parish Minister ext. 111
- Rev. Jennifer Kelleher**  
[jennifer@uuprinceton.org](mailto:jennifer@uuprinceton.org)  
 Assistant Minister ext. 118
- Pauline E. Nijander**  
[pauline@uuprinceton.org](mailto:pauline@uuprinceton.org)  
 Seminarian ext. 114
- Patricia Hennigan**  
[patricia@uuprinceton.org](mailto:patricia@uuprinceton.org)  
 Seminarian ext. 113
- Jorge Garcia Salas**  
[jorge@uuprinceton.org](mailto:jorge@uuprinceton.org)  
 Sexton ext. 119 or 609-954-7789
- Kirsten Shearer:**  
[kirsten@uuprinceton.org](mailto:kirsten@uuprinceton.org)  
 Membership Coordinator
- Susan Langkafel**  
[susan@uuprinceton.org](mailto:susan@uuprinceton.org)  
 Administrator ext. 110

Office Hours: Varies  
 Please call or e-mail.  
 Phone: 609-924-1604

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

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



*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*



**Computer / Tech Help Needed**

Our congregation's computer, database, and technological needs are tended to by a wonderful and generous group of knowledgeable people. They volunteer the time and talents needed to help our congregation operate smoothly and in technologically up-to-date ways. And they could use some help! The team is mighty, but small, and more people would both lighten the load and make more enhancements possible. If you have talents and skills in these areas, please email [Office@UUPrinceton.org](mailto:Office@UUPrinceton.org) so that we can get you started on joining the team. Whether you have a little time or a lot, there's a way you can help!

**Next Skylights Deadline:**

**October 15, 2025**  
**Submissions due for the**  
**November 2025**  
**ISSUE**  
[skylights@uuprinceton.org](mailto:skylights@uuprinceton.org)