

SKYLIGHTS

Monthly



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION
OF PRINCETON

Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Live in Channing and [Live-streamed](#)

For updates view UU Princeton Weekly email newsletter

Upcoming Services

Dec. 7, The Fruits of Karma, Rev. Jane Bennett Smith

The Buddhist teaching of karma offers that what we experience in our fleeting life is a result of our deliberate actions and intentions, whether wholesome or unwholesome. This teaching asks us: If we have done harm, how can we purify our past actions so that we do not bear the future hardships that result? Applicable to the tenets of our own liberal religion, we discover a faith and a series of ancient practices that guide us toward healing our own body, mind, and spirit in the wake of wrongdoing.

Wed., Dec. 10, 7 p.m. Honoring Loss at this Season: A Vesper Service

Joyful festivities abound this time of year. For those of us missing loved ones, the shiny brightness may bring up mixed emotions as we grieve and mourn. Join the Pastoral Associates, Music Ministry, and Revs. Jennifer and Bill for a reflective service that honors love, memory, and loss.

Dec. 14, The Hanging of the Greens, UU Princeton

Join in our annual, all-ages, fun, and festive Hanging of the Greens service! There'll be songs, a holiday skit, and merriment as we Deck the (Channing) Hall for the season.

Dec. 21, All-Ages Christmas Pageant and Solstice Celebration, Revs. Jennifer Kelleher and Bill Neely

Bring the family and join your friends for a joyful, on-the-spot, Christmas Pageant and a peaceful celebration of the Winter Solstice. All are welcome in this very multi-generational service as we embrace the season with joy and wonder, together.

Wed., Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Revs. Bill Neely and Jennifer Kelleher

Gather to hear again the traditional Christmas story with candles, music, silence, and words. In peace, hope, and with one another, let us embrace the meanings and miracles of this season.

Dec. 28, Clarence Skinner: Liberalism v Fascism, Rev. Charlie Dieterich

In the 1930s, Fascism and Nazism were on the rise, Liberalism was failing. Universalist Theologian Clarence Skinner took time to reflect on the WHAT and WHY of illiberal-ism. Almost 100 years later, can we learn anything from his observations? Draw your own conclusions. Reverend Charlie Dieterich is a retired minister living in Kingston, South Brunswick, NJ.



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[click this link for digital
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newsletters](#)

The digital version of
this newsletter is in
full color and displays
active hyperlinks
[underlined & in blue](#)

Check for updates and view
the CommUnity Calendar
on the UU Princeton
homepage



www.uuprinceton.org



THE GOOD NEWS

When I was a child, I remember once sneaking down the hallway late on Christmas Eve to see if Santa had visited yet. I moved very slowly along the wall, like a spy, hoping to get a glimpse of the tree and hoping to see piles of presents underneath it. As I got closer, I could see the warm glow of Christmas lights coming from the livingroom. I could hear Christmas songs being played softly on the stereo. I couldn't see the tree from the hallway; I knew I'd have to stick my head into the room to see that. But I hoped for a quick glance around the corner to see if the visit had happened before scampering back to my room.

But when I poked my head in the room and stole a look, I saw my parents sound asleep on the couch next to the tree. It was so late that I assumed that they would be in bed; it had never occurred to me that they would still be in the livingroom. Startled, I quickly turned around and rushed back to my room. I never even thought to look at the tree. I spent the rest of that long night hoping that they had stayed asleep and that I had not been caught peeking. For even then I knew that Santa was still watching.

I know that Santa did indeed visit that year, but I have absolutely no memory of what he brought me. What has stayed with me is that loving, exhausted image of two of his helpers crashed on the couch after what I now know had been a long stretch of helping him through the season. I now know that it was sometimes a stressful season. Sometimes, a sad one. Often a season of too much to do, too much to buy, too many things to attend. I now know that it's a season that can sometimes leave us spent.

But then again, they had that moment. When everything was wrapped and that which could be

done, was done, they had warmth and stillness with soft music and rest. They had sleeping dogs at their feet. They had string lights and a warm home and a bountiful dinner planned for the next day. They had their kids and we had them. They had love, peace, and in the ways that really mattered, they had plenty.

Decades after the gifts were excitedly opened, eagerly played with, and eventually lost or discarded, that gift of that moment remains. It's the only one I would love to open again. It's the only holiday gift I hope to leave with my kids, in some form, however they come across it.

Rev. Bill Neely, Dec. 2025

Welcome Newcomers!

**Our mission is to have all who enter
UU Princeton feel welcome,
known, and supported.**

Contact the office, Rev. Bill, or Rev. Jennifer with questions about the congregation, its programs, or membership. The ministers are always happy to meet with you individually at church, for lunch, over coffee, etc.



Rev. Bill Neely
Minister
609-924-1604 (ext. 111)
bill@uuprinceton.org



Rev. Jennifer Kelleher
Assistant Minister
609-924-1604 (ext. 118)
jennifer@uuprinceton.org

DECEMBER'S SPIRITUAL THEME

Optimism

connect with others and deepen your
spiritual journey...

Monthly Spiritual Themes guide Chalice Circles, small groups that gather monthly to explore meaningful spiritual themes through personal sharing. For more information on Chalice Circles, please email chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org.

*"What I am trying to cultivate is not blind optimism, but radical hope."
- Junot Diaz*

The verb "to cultivate" is interesting here....What does "radical hope" bring up for you? Have you ever moved from blind optimism to radical hope? Is a glass half-empty an example of blind pessimism?

— * * * —
*"Optimism is Obama's natural resting state."
- Michele Norris*

What is your natural emotional resting state? If not optimism, what if it were? Have you tried to be optimistic but just couldn't? Or if you could, how did you change your outlook?

— * * * —
*"Sensible optimism is a belief that the odds are in your favor, and over time, things will balance out to a good outcome even if what happens in between is filled with misery. And in fact, you know it will be filled with misery....Those two things are not mutually exclusive."
- Morgan House*

Have you experienced blind optimism? Or sensible optimism? Have you had both reactions to the same situation?

— * * * —
*"Choose to be optimistic, it feels better."
-The Dalai Lama*

How do you "choose" a feeling? Is optimism just a feeling? Is it an attitude? Is it an outlook? What would you do to choose optimism?

Welcome Our Newest Member!

We're pleased to welcome Nikki Evangelista, who recently signed our Membership Book and became an official member of the congregation.

Membership is open to all adults who share our values, support our Mission of being an open and welcoming community where we live our message of hope, love, justice, and joy, and who pledge their time, talent, and treasures to the congregation as they are able.

Members become official by signing our Membership Book in front of Revs. Bill, Jennifer, or any member. "Signing the Book" can happen any time.



**In our open and
welcoming community, we
live our message of hope,
love, justice and joy.**

Celebrations and Concerns

Congratulations to Nikki Evangelista, our newest UU Princeton member, who has started a position as Director of Implementation, working with Centenary University to connect their *Addiction Recovery to Happiness Train the Trainer* program to New Jersey recovery centers applying for Opioid Settlement funds at the county or municipal level.

Do have a celebration or concern that you'd like to share with the community?
Email skylights@uuprinceton.org

WHAT'S UUP ?



Holiday Tree Trimming Party & Dinner

Saturday, December 13th

5-8pm Channing & Founders

Our traditional dinner of spaghetti, salad, and baguettes, and crowd-sourced desserts!

Come for the Hot Chocolate Bar (plus wine, beer, and soft drinks), stay for the tree trimming craft activities, karaoke caroling, all-ages holiday games, sustainable yankee gift swap. Fun galore, and more! Don't miss it! View the Sign Up for full details, to RSVP, pick a seating time, participate and, (pretty please with sugar on top) volunteer!

RSVP link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-60586205-holiday>



Women's Alliance Holiday Cookie Sale

Sun. December 14th & 21st

Robinson Lounge 11:30 am

The Women's Alliance will have a scrumptious selection of homemade holiday cookies for sale. A wonderful holiday or hostess gift and a bargain at \$15 for a one-pound plate festively wrapped and decorated. All proceeds will be used to support organizations that serve women and children



Conscious Consumer Challenge Earth Ministry

December

"Wrap Up Joy, Not Waste"

The Gifting Season is coming — let's celebrate with joy and responsibility! Shop local to support our small businesses, surprise loved ones with biodegradable or upcycled gifts, and/or consider a parent-to-parent toy trade to keep the holidays magical without adding waste. Don't bow to commercialism - embrace the charm of thrifted treasures. Be innovative and get creative by making a small gift instead; it is rewarding to you and to the receiver. Purchase tickets to gardens and other areas of interest instead of "things". With wrapping, note that most shiny paper can't be recycled, but gift bags and boxes can live many happy lives. Let's make this season merry, bright, and kind to the Earth!

DONATIONS NEEDED: 2026 Calendars & Recent Magazines

Now- Jan 18 (MLK Sunday)

We're again collecting colorful calendars and recent, high-quality magazines. Colorful calendars are a lovely, much appreciated way to brighten a room and magazines are fun, informative, and used in ESL classes and other tutoring at TASK. **Collection Boxes are located in Robinson Lounge** under coat racks. Note: Please clip off any magazine address labels. We'll deliver our donations to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) during December and January. Many thanks! -The UU Princeton TASK Team

New Year Writing Group

Tuesdays Jan.6- Feb.10

7:30-8:30pm on Zoom

Interested in a chance to celebrate and reflect on the past year, and identify intentions and possibilities for the New Year? Rachel Lee Holstein would like to invite other interested members to join her in a six-week, guided writing series. We ask that participants attend at least 4 out of the 6 sessions. Please RSVP your interest or questions to Rachel Lee at rlholstein@gmail.com

WHAT'S UUP?

New to UU? Learn More About Us!

Sun. Jan. 4

11:45am – 1pm Murray Room

Whether you're brand-new to Unitarian Universalism or just curious about UU Princeton, this welcoming session offers a short and friendly introduction to who we are, what we believe, and how our congregation lives its values. We'll cover the basics of Unitarian Universalism, share a bit about UU Princeton's mission and community life, and wrap up with a guided tour of our building. Come with your curiosity and questions. All are welcome!

Short Story Hour

Dec. 12

12pm keep an eye on your email for Zoom link

Join Rev. Bill for the reading and discussion of a contemporary short story. No prep or sign-up needed. [Join the mailing list](#) for Short Story Hour Reminders!

What's in the Bible?

Resumes again in January

Our Bible discussion group will take a break during December! Please join us on Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 9–9:45 a.m. as we continue exploring the Hebrew Scriptures together.

Women's Alliance Monthly Lunch & Program

Thursday Dec. 18

12-2pm Founders Room

Join us for lunch, followed by a program at 1:00 welcoming Sue den Outer, UUCP's pianist and new Music Director, to shares her knowledge of music's influence on the holidays. We'll have the opportunity to get to know Sue a little better as she engages us in learning about and participating in some of her favorite — and perhaps some lesser-known — holiday music. Come join us as we help get each other into the holiday spirit. No reservation needed and all are welcome for lunch, the program, or both. Please bring a salad 🥗 or sandwich 🥪 to share; the Women's Alliance will provide dessert and beverages. As is our holiday tradition, mimosas and sparkling cider will be served! 🍷 Feel free to contact Betty Ashwood, President, with any questions: 609 558-1136 (call or text) or bjashwood@gmail.com Learn more about Women's Alliance in the Community Connection section.



[UU Princeton Sign Up Genius Link](#)

Need to RSVP or sign up?
Go to the UU Sign Up Genius

Styrofoam Sunday Earth Ministry

Sun. Nov. 30

11:30-12:30 Robinson Lounge

Earth Ministry will collect your styrofoam in the lobby for upcycling. Please adhere strictly to the collection guidelines: **ONLY CLEAN, DRY, SOLID BLOCKS of packing styrofoam accepted** (the kind that breaks into little balls when split).

No food containers, No egg cartons, No packing peanuts, No packing tape or labels, No sheets of flexible foam.

This is a members-only collection but you are welcome to bring in foam from friends, family and neighbors. Send questions to earthministry@uuprinceton.org

Next Collection Dates in 2026:

Feb 8, Apr. 19, Aug. 2

Mending & Movies

Sat. Dec. 20 (Tentatively)

6-8pm TBA

Tackle your procrastinated pile of ironing, mending, and patching up with good company and a movie in the background. Maybe learn some new life-skills. Check for date confirmation in the weekly email newsletter.

WHAT'S UUP?

SAVE THE DATE

Nominate a Nonprofit for a UUCP Grant

Are you working with a non-profit that could benefit from a grant? If you're actively involved with a local nonprofit, it may be eligible for a \$1,000–\$3,000 grant funded by our Spring Sale! Each organization must be sponsored by a congregant and will be asked to complete a brief application provided by the Outreach Grant Committee. We are looking for organizations whose work aligns with UU values and have ongoing congregational involvement. To request a sponsor form, email grants@uuprinceton.org. **Completed forms are due by December 17, 2025.**

Gather & Give Food Drive Success

Thank you to everyone who donated food to last Sunday's Gather & Give food drive! Many hands made quick work of packing **93 'Holiday Fixins' bags**, and we also packed up lots of fresh veggies and additional canned food, for a total of **1513 lbs given!** Amazingly, we were all wrapped up by 12:15 -- and a first: there were NO glass jars donated that cause accidents in the pantry. Wonderful work everyone! Photos are on the UU Princeton Facebook page. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Shariq Marshall at shariqm@arminarm.org to help at the Trenton or Princeton food pantries. Now that Arm in Arm is 'on the move' with mobile deliveries, help is also needed outside during food distributions.

Racial Justice Ministry 2026 Kickoff

Jan. 25, in person
John Murray Room, 12pm
 The UU Princeton Racial Justice Ministry will hold its first meeting of 2026 in person, on after the service. Join us as we plan for the coming year, discuss upcoming projects and where we will focus our energies (immigration, prison reform, election reform, education, etc.). Newcomers welcome!

Oh, We Give Thanks

“Oh, we give thanks for this precious day, for all gathered here and far away. For this time we share, with love and care, oh, we give thanks for this precious day.”

The words of this Unitarian hymn remind us to be thankful for the beloved community that we strive to build here at UUPrinceton. The two of us have led our annual stewardship drive for the last three years, and have agreed to do so once again. While the drive itself will not begin until the spring, we encourage you during this Thanksgiving period to begin thinking of all the ways that your involvement with UUPrinceton has enriched your lives and the lives of others in our community and beyond. Cindy Funka-Lea and Elizabeth Silverman
 2026-2027 Stewardship Co-Chairs

2nd “Music for Food” Benefit Concert

Sat., Jan. 31, 2026
Channing Hall, 7:30 to 9 pm
100% of proceeds will support Arm in Arm’s hunger-prevention work in Mercer County.
 Presented by UU Princeton’s *Caring for Our Neighbors Ministry* and local violinist Sunghae Anna Lim, this special evening will feature outstanding live chamber music performed by Anna and her fellow professional musicians. More details will appear in the January Skylights. Interested in helping with publicity or hosting a simple intermission reception? Contact Louise Senior DrLSenior@gmail.com or Jody Maher jodym1025@gmail.com

Fellowship Auction

Plan early for your donations to the auction committee in early January 2026!
 Get ready to bid and celebrate with old and new UU friends while supporting our community!
SAVE THESE DATES!
Feb. 8-21 (Sunday–Saturday):
 Online Bidding on fabulous donations to help support our congregation
Sat. February 21, 2026 5PM-7PM:
 Fellowship Celebration Party!!!
 New to the Auction? Find info here: www.uuprinceton.org/fellowship-auction/



CHILDREN & YOUTH



Winter Holiday Edition

December's Schedule

We're excited for a festive month of December holidays at UU Princeton! Whether you enjoy crafts, the Hanging of the Greens, holiday skits, caroling, the nativity pageant, or simply the season's cheer, we hope you'll join us!

Annual Holiday Party Saturday, December 13

Spaghetti dinner, ornament-making, holiday caroling and karaoke, and a Hot Chocolate Bar for all ages. See the Celebrations Ministry announcements for full details..

Nativity Pageant Sunday, December 21

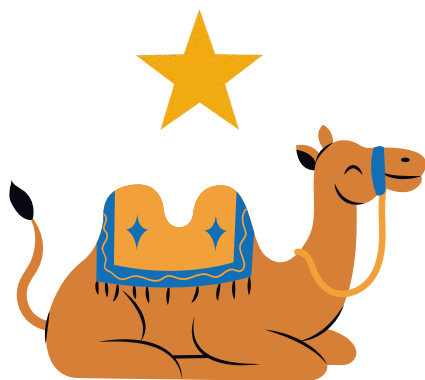
Join us in worship the Sunday before Christmas for this tradition of pageantry and carols. An "on the spot" pageant without speaking roles, all ages are invited to participate. We are seeking shepherds, angels, wise people and more. Sign up to reserve a "costume":
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-60632379-christmas>

"The Last Straw" Skit & Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 14

All-ages, lightly rehearsed skit about a reluctant camel journeying with the Wise Ones. No memorization needed, however, participants are expected to do a **run-through after service on Sunday, December 7**. Two casts needed; roles available for children, youth, and adults (including non-speaking parts). Sign up:
<https://forms.gle/96ua9a9ZhdB LUKjw9>

February or early March 2026: EmbraceRace for UU Families

A 6-session course designed to help parents and caregivers raise children who are thoughtful, informed, and brave about race. While the conversations are designed with younger children in mind, parents/caregivers of youth may find the program helpful as well and are most welcome to join us. We want to find out if there is enough interest to begin this series. Please indicate your interest here:
<https://forms.gle/dBv5pKBsRuy mnW1Y6>



Sun. 12/7	Pre-K-8th grade: gatherings by age group. 9th-12th Grade YoUUth Groups meets at 10:30am
Sun. 12/14	Hanging of the Green all-ages worship. No gatherings
Sun. 12/21	Nativity Pageant all-ages worship. No gatherings. Crossing Paths: 5:00pm-7:30pm visit to Durga Mandir in Princeton.
Sun. 12/28	All welcome in worship. No gatherings.

For support choosing the best learning experience for your child(ren) contact jennifer@uuprinceton.org

Registration is FREE and required for all children and youth.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#) or scan the QR Code



Recent Stories Used in "Wonder & Wisdom"

October 26:

Violet and the Woolf by Rebecca Grabill.
Illustrated by Dasha Tolstikova

November 9:

I Wonder by Annaka Harris.
Illustrated by John Roe.

November 16:

The Most Beautiful Heart adapted by Jessica Zimmer from The Perfect Heart Parable

November 23:

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña.
Illustrated by Christian Robinson.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Check with groups for scheduling changes (especially around holidays)

Short Story Hour

Monthly Zoom Gatherings

Join Rev. Bill for the reading and discussion of a contemporary short story. Please keep an eye on your email for the next meeting dates. No sign-up needed. Stay tuned for upcoming dates in the weekly email newsletter.

Men's Group

2nd and 4th Sundays

9:30am-10:30am

John Murray Room

Gather for connection and conversation. Stop by to build community and make friends! Email Marc Rubenstein at marcruby@gmail.com for more information or to be added to the e-list.

Young Adult Group

Interested in meeting other young adults within the UU Princeton community? Come to Young Adult Sundays, at least once a month! Develop connections for fellowship, activism, and fun! Email Emma Moore (emoore42@gmail.com), Irene Donne (irene.donne@gmail.com) to join the email list for meeting dates and to connect for other events.

Buddhist Meditation Group

Sundays 9:15-10:25am

Fahs Theater

Whether you're a beginning or experienced meditator, all are welcome! Contact Michele Ochsner for weekly email reminders and Zoom link.

michele.ochsner@gmail.com

[Visit our webpage here](#)

Zen Meditation Group

Fourth Sundays

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Fahs Theater

The practice consists of chanting the heart sutra and 25 minutes of seated meditation followed by a Dharma talk and discussion. For more info. Contact Steve Valerio sgvalerio312@gmail.com

CUUPS Covenant of UU Pagans Evergreen Chapter

Meets monthly & quarterly

CUUPS practice and share Earth-centered traditions, and build bridges between 21st-century pagans and other religious traditions.

For more information about CUUPS events email Kate Foster subligaria@yahoo.com
[Visit our webpage here](#)



UU Book Discussion Group

Listed Sundays (below) 12pm

John Murray Room

All are invited to join our one-hour book discussions in 2025–2026.

Happy Reading! Contact

peggy.matthews@gmail.com

[Visit our webpage here](#)

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

Playtime

Fourth Sundays

Playground or in Robinson Lounge, depending on the weather.

Catch up with others, bring your own snacks or lunch and plan to stick around with your kiddos after worship for unstructured playtime and fellowship. No need to register or commit - just show up! Playtime@uuprinceton.org to join the mailing list for reminders and other possible playtime events.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Grief Group

Third Tuesdays
7pm-8:30 p.m.
Robinson Lounge



A monthly gathering for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, providing a supportive, confidential space to share experiences, and find comfort by connecting with others facing similar losses. For more information about this group please email jennifer@uuprinceton.org

Pastoral Care

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 is the primary support for Pastoral Associates and our Prayer Circle. You are always welcome to reach out directly to the ministry team for pastoral care and support in times of difficulty and times of celebration.

Earth Ministry

Second Sundays
12-1:30pm Fahs Theater
Nurturing respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We help the UU community and beyond be better stewards of the earth. Join us! Earthministry@uuprinceton.org
[Visit our webpage here](#)

Women's Alliance

Third Thursdays 12:00-2:00pm
Founders' Room

The Women's Alliance serves the congregation and greater community. To accomplish our mission we organize monthly lunches with timely programs of general interest, assist bereaved families with receptions following memorial services, and raise funds to support local, national and international organizations that serve women and children. Check UUCP newsletters for monthly luncheon topics and visit the WA webpage for membership info: <https://www.uuprinceton.org/connection/groups/womens-alliance/>



Fellowship Nights

Second Saturdays
6pm-10pm Founders Room
Come play a board game, eat some free pizza and snacks, and get to know your fellow congregants better! Games provided, or bring your favorites along! Just show up, or RSVP on the [Sign-up Genius page \(Fellowship Dinners\)](#), to help us know how much pizza to order. Questions or food restrictions? Email John Burton johnmburton@gmail.com.

Music Ministry



Adult Choir
Wednesdays 7:30pm-9pm
Channing Hall

Love to sing in the shower, the car, or with friends? Come join our choir! We welcome all voices - whether you read music or just sing from the heart. Rehearsals are less about perfection and more about coming together, laughing, and making music as a community. Add your voice and discover how much fun singing together can be!

Bell Choir
Thursdays 6pm-8:30pm
Founders Room

Want to make a joyful noise? If you can count and enjoy making music with others, you'll fit right in to Bell Choir. Ringing bells is part rhythm, part teamwork, and all fun. It's a great way to connect and create beautiful music together. Come give it a try — we'll save you a bell!
handbells@uuprinceton.org

Contact office@uuprinceton.org if you have any questions or are interested in joining the music ministry.

Garden Keepers

Connect to find out when
Come grow beauty, community, and connection in our church gardens! No green thumb required and no need to sign up -just show up on gardening days.
gardenkeepers@uuprinceton.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Social Justice Ministries List

Caring for Our Neighbors – organizes projects that provide hands-on help to address immediate, local, concrete needs.

Contact 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

Public Action Issues – UU Faith Action and Public Issues. Promotes advocacy and collaboration around statewide legislative issues.

Contact Suzanne Apel at
faithaction@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 UU Princeton and advocates outside of UU Princeton. Suzanne Apel

lgbtq@uuprinceton.org

Caring For Our Neighbors Ministry

Want to help organize hands-on projects that help hunger and homelessness prevention in Mercer County? You can always bring shelf-stable, in-date, unopened food to our Giving Table in Robinson Lounge.

Contact Jody Maher JodyM1025@gmail.com if you'd like to help deliver food to Arm in Arm. Contact Louise Senior at Caring4Neighbors@uuprinceton.org if you'd like to pitch in in other ways!



Affiliated Justice Work

Annual Spring Sale

Proceeds from our annual, congregation-wide rummage sales fund our annual Social Justice Outreach Grants (Sale Coordinators: Kirsten Shearer, Emma Moore, Teri Hyatt, & 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,

Coalition for Peace Action Liaison:

Carol Allen

Not in Our Town Liaison:

Jeanne DeVoe

Princeton Community Housing Liaison:

Valerie Haynes

Represent US NJ Liaison:

Debra Lambo

Citizens' Climate Lobby Liaison:

Dunbar Birnie

Racial Justice Ministry

Fourth Tuesdays

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 and looking at our own internal policies, practices and history.

racialjustice@uuprinceton.org for more info or to join the mailing list. Co-chairs Kevin Trayner and Ted Fetter

Princeton Eats Plants

First Wednesdays

6:00pm Founder's Room

Join 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. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or curious about plant-based diets, all are welcome! Speak to Vicky Campbell, JoEllen, or John Burton for details. Email pep@uuprinceton.org
[Join the PEP Facebook group](#)



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

UU Faith Action

Looking for simple ways to make a difference for everyone in New Jersey by advocating for public policy consistent with our UU values?

Join UU FaithAction NJ Action Hours 1st & 3rd Fridays 12pm on Zoom. Not available to meet then?

No worries-



Visit the [Action Hour Doc](#) or scan the code for a list of actions to take in your own time.

Sign up for email and/or text alerts from UU FaithAction NJ to hear

about news, action hours, webinars, rallies, and other opportunities to contact your legislators to pass the People's Agenda during this lame duck legislative session. Sign up at <https://www.uufaithaction.org/join-our-movement/>

for more info contact faithaction@uuprinceton.org

or visit:

<https://www.uuprinceton.org/about-justice/uufaithactionnj/>



More than 30 New Jersey advocacy organizations are leading a collective effort to pass 7 key social justice bills during the New Jersey Legislature's lame duck session.

You can take easy steps today to help them get passed by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Murphy, before Jan. 9 by viewing the Faith Action Doc above and completing the actions at a time that is convenient for you. You can also share these actions with others in your congregation or community.

Rainbow Ministry

LGBTQ+

Third Mondays 7pm on Zoom

As UUs we celebrate and support all members of the LGBTQIA+ community, who embody the diverse and intersectional nature of sexual orientation and gender identity. We bring these values to life within UU Princeton's worship and community through Sunday services, vigils, fellowship gatherings, and more. Beyond our congregation, we proudly represent UU Princeton in the wider community by participating in Princeton Pride and collaborating with LGBTQIA+ organizations across New Jersey. Bring your ideas and energy to Rainbow Ministry justice work.

rainbowministry@uuprinceton.org

Building & Grounds

Handy? We need your hands! Not so handy? Learn valuable life skills! This place doesn't fix itself- We Do! Contact Bill Gillum: wgillum@verizon.net.

Fellowship Auction

Attn. party planners and fun-makers! Can you help with UU Princeton's annual stewardship and community-building event that takes place in Feb/March? Some of our main organizers will be absent this year, so if you can step up to learn some of the ropes of this critical event please contact Louise Senior via office@uuprinceton.org



Murray Grove Is Hiring

Murray Grove is searching for a Development Associate. This nonprofit and historic Unitarian Universalist retreat center, rooted in radical hospitality and inclusivity, is located on the beautiful Jersey Shore. The Development Associate will work closely with the Executive Director and Development Committee to support fundraising efforts and donor engagement. To inquire further email

MurrayGrove@MurrayGrove.org

Ushering Ministry

The Ushering Ministry is looking for help with ushering. Can you greet and count? Then please contact Judy Vee or Jennifer Klon at ushering@uuprinceton.org.

Coffee Hour Team

Every few weeks come help make everyone's Sunday morning even more delightful! Inquire in the kitchen or contact the office.



UU FaithAction NJ



@UU PRINCETON
 Sunday Services
 10:30 am

uuprinceton.org

☯️

Welcome!



Working Together

DISMANTLE RACISM

Office Hours vary. Please call or email
609-924-1604
office@uuprinceton.org

- Rev. Bill Neely
bill@uuprinceton.org
 Parish Minister ext. 111
- Rev. Jennifer Kelleher
jennifer@uuprinceton.org
 Assistant Minister ext. 118
- Pauline E. Nijander
pauline@uuprinceton.org
 Seminarian ext. 114
- Patricia Hennigan
patricia@uuprinceton.org
 Seminarian & webmaster ext. 113
- Jorge Garcia Salas
jorge@uuprinceton.org
 Sexton ext. 119 or 609-954-7789
- Susan Langkafel
susan@uuprinceton.org
 Administrator ext. 110
- Kirsten Shearer
Kirsten@uuprinceton.org
 Communications & Membership



CHALICE LIGHTERS

Let's Grow UU! Become a Chalice Lighter

Your support of \$20, 3x/year will enable congregations like ours to pursue projects that can spark the work and message of Unitarian Universalism within their own communities and the Central East Region.



Learn more about the program and sign up with QR code or [Click this link](#)

Public and Private Spaces

While our congregation hosts many public activities (worship services, meetings, community events, etc.), several spaces 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.

To subscribe to our digital newsletters, Skylights Monthly and UU Princeton Weekly (formerly Ehappenings), email skylights@uuprinceton.org

Next Skylights Submission Deadline

MON. DEC. 15

Send newsletter submissions to skylights@uuprinceton.org
 Submissions are due every 3rd Monday of the month

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MEMBER VOICES

A few fun/interesting facts about our members...

NIKKI EVANGELISTA

- I signed the UU Princeton Membership Book on November 23, 2025
- I have a certification in plant medicine from Cornell.
- I have a masters in theological studies from Drew University.
- I am a mother of two wonderful children Nathaniel age 21 and Gabriella age 17.
- I am Dominican American.
- I love the outdoors, camping, hiking, biking and kayaking.
- I'm an avid reader. I love historical fiction and books on science and Buddhism.



KRISTI MARCIANO



- In addition to my full-time job, I'm also a freelance journalist and essayist. You can find my work in *Audubon Magazine*, *Orion*, *the Kelsey Review*, and more!
- I'm a serial hobbyist and love learning new things! I'm self taught on 3 instruments, and recently picked up pottery and crocheting! (Suggest another hobby for me to do and I'll try it out!)
- I love traveling, and sometimes I unintentionally bring back very odd souvenirs (find me during coffee hour to see a picture I took of a dozen ghosts on the French Pyrenees)!

IRENE DONNE

- I am in my 30s.
- I work for the NJ State Government as an Environmental Specialist.
- I have a B.S. in Environmental Science and an M.S. in Plant Pathology.
- I have a 9-year-old dog, a Foxhound, who loves walking in the woods.
- I love dancing and currently take salsa and bachata lessons.
- I have lived in NJ and Michigan.



Thinking about becoming a member of UU Princeton?

Contact Rev. Bill if you'd like to sign the membership book and become an official member of the UU Princeton Community.

Look out for *New to UU* gatherings, *Pathways to Membership* sessions and *Meet, Greet & Eat* newcomer socials to learn more about membership.



SPRING SALE

MAY 1 & 2, 2026

Save the Date & Your “Extra” Gifts

Remember to hold onto your unwanted holiday gifts for our annual Spring Sale event scheduled for MAY 1 & 2, 2026.

The UU Princeton Spring Sale is our largest charitable fundraising event of the church year. Last year we brought in over \$34k for our social outreach grants to local, non-profit organizations! This event is so colossal that we start the effort to recruit volunteers well in advance, so expect a tap on the shoulder from our event leaders early in the new year. Please help us make this year's sale as successful as the last by earmarking your items along with some of your volunteer hours for Spring Sale 2026!



We are people of all ages, people of many backgrounds, and people of many beliefs.

We are brave, curious and compassionate thinkers and doers. We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. The values we share include all the following, which we hold as inseparable and deeply interconnected:

- **Interdependence:** We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.
- **Pluralism:** We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.
- **Justice:** We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.
- **Transformation:** We adapt to the changing world.
- **Generosity:** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
- **Equity:** We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.