

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

July 5 | A Dog's Eye View of Universalism: David Bentley Hart, His Dog, Roland, and the Future of Our Faith
Congregant Drake Baer

Join a surreal romp with David Bentley Hart and Roland through their conversations about Universalism, the nature of consciousness, seeing fairies and much else. Hart has been called 'the most important theologian since Tillich' and the most interesting philosopher writing today.

July 12 | The Spirit of 1848
Congregant Emma C. Moore

In this year of emotionally complex American milestones, let's consider those anniversaries of work that remains unfinished. July 1848 saw in the Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, later widely hailed as a milestone of the American suffragist and feminist movements. Yet at the same time, across an ocean, the European "springtime of the Peoples" was facing a counterrevolution, one that brought many new immigrants to America in its fallout. And amidst it all, at Seneca Falls itself, the anti-slavery and anti-racist movement would not be suppressed. What lessons does the summer of 1848 hold for our UU community today, in our own time of tumultuous unfinished work?

July 19 | On Monarch Wings
Rev. Jennifer Kelleher

Monarch butterflies have long held spiritual symbolism - that of change and new beginnings, resilience, guidance and freedom. In what ways might we invoke the spirit of the monarch as a personal guide, in lifting up the needs in our community, in our ministries to help heal a hurting world? This service will include ritual and prayer for detainees in Delaney Hall and across the country.

July 26 | Loving Each Other Back
Congregant Ted Fetter

Interconnectedness is part of the fabric of our UU principles and the new set of values. It's an essential part of who we say we are. But what does it mean? How can we live interconnected lives? Let's explore how to find a social understanding of ourselves in the world. Here is a starting point: There is no Us and Them; there is only Us.



Scan code or
[click this link for digital copies of current and past Skylights Monthly newsletters](#)

This newsletter is best viewed in digital form where it appears in full color and displays active hyperlinks [underlined & in blue](#)

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



www.uuprinceton.org

Upcoming Services Continued

Aug. 2 | UU 101

Rev. Bill Neely

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? What do we believe, do, celebrate, and confess? How, and in what spirit, do we serve the Holy and one another? With lightness and curiosity, let's break our sometimes hard-to-explain faith down to the basics, and begin with what we know.

Aug. 9 | Apocalypse Never

Rev. Bill Neely

The more conservative the religion, the more eagerly it usually predicts and awaits the "end times." Most of life is spent preparing for this day of doom and judgement for most and paradise for a few. Liberal theology is usually more optimistic, focusing on progress and positive actions, and yet apocalyptic thinking is present in our faith. Even if we don't believe in them, the "end times" informs how we act in the world. Should it?

Aug. 16 | Modern Scripture

Rev. Bill Neely

Scripture is a common source of authority in religion, and interpreting scripture is the central religious journey for plenty of adherents of various faiths. The scriptures used are usually quite particular per religion and are rooted in centuries, or millennia, of history. In our faith, however, the writings we use for discernment and discussion are broad, diverse, and evolving. How does this very modern approach to religious authority shape our faith?

Aug. 23 | Banned and Widely Read

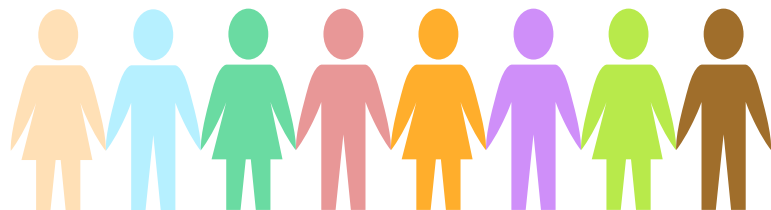
Rev. Bill Neely and Airlie Anderson

Banning books, aside from being a good way to publicize them, says more about the thinking behind banning books than the works themselves. So too does opposing book bans on principle. As a faith centered in free thought, free association, and free expression, we tend to be pretty critical of book bans, though we often speak of them in political terms. How is this a religious issue for us though? How are books bans spiritually profane?

Aug. 30 | The Last Sweet Bite

Rev. Bill Neely

Grace said before a meal centers the time in gratitude. But the blessings of the meal last well beyond the gathering and eating. Reflecting on a Buddhist parable as well as the words of the poet Joy Harjo, this service will explore what lives on, in sustenance and spirit, after the last sweet bite.



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



THE GOOD NEWS

Summer Reading Suggestions

I always look forward to a little extra reading time over the summer. There's never as much time for that as I'd like, but there is a little more time in the summer than there is during the hustle and bustle of the school year for a good book or two. I always have plenty of those good books on my "to read" shelf (or shelves, really). I'll try to make that shelf a little lighter by the time school starts again.

I thought I'd mention a few books that I've recently enjoyed, some of which were recommended by some of y'all. I like your recommendations, even if it sometimes takes me a while to pick up that book! I write them all down though, and sometimes those works just sort of find their way to me at the right time. Timing matters in the reading life. A great book read at the wrong time may seem pretty average, while a lesser work that has the perfect message for a particular season of life may come across as brilliant. Words read differently in different times of life.

But these ones spoke to me over the course of this year...

My favorite book so far has been *Fear Less: Poetry for Perilous Times* by Tracy K. Smith. Smith is an excellent poet, but this book is less poetry than it is about poetry and how it can help us understand and live through the most difficult of personal and societal seasons.

I also loved *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese (thank you, Meg Cox, for the recommendation) and *Stone Yard Devotional* by Charlotte Wood (thank you, Courtney Orlando, for the recommendation). The former was an epic, generational drama of love, loss, and change set in South India, and the latter was a Booker Prize winner about a secluded Catholic order in Australia that is encroached upon by the outside world in different, unsettling ways. Both are beautifully written, and the characters in each have stayed with me.

You Better Be Lightning is a raw, wise poetry collection by Andrea Gibson. Fans of Rebecca Solnit will love her latest, *The Beginning Comes After the End: Notes on a World of Change*, which offers reasons for hope in times that can feel hopeless (a common theme of Solnit).

Everything Must Go: The Stories We Tell About the End of the World by Dorian Lynskey contextualizes the frequent "end times" talk so easily encountered these days. That talk is interesting and says much about us, but it's nothing new.

Baldwin: A Love Story taught me so much about a writer I thought I already knew pretty well, and *Little Man, Little Man: A Story of Childhood* by James Baldwin, illustrated by Yoran Cazac, one of his lovers, is a delightful and beautifully drawn "children's story for adults," as Baldwin described it.

And lastly, I never imagined that it might be politically helpful to know something about Greenland, but such are the times in which we live. Thus, *So You Want to Own Greenland: Lessons from the Vikings to Trump* by Elizabeth Buchanan was an interesting and helpful read this year. The question of who wants to own Greenland is much less important than the question: Does Greenland want to be owned at all? This book dives into all that.

-Rev. Bill Neely
July 2026



JULY'S SPIRITUAL THEME

Resilience

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

"Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."

ELLA FITZGERALD

- Has love for an activity or calling ever led you to keep trying something when you might otherwise quit?

"Though many have suffered shipwreck, still beat noble hearts."

MARGARET FULLER

- Who in your life is an example of someone who suffered greatly, but still beats with a noble heart?

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

DR. MAE JEMISON

- When has someone else's thoughts or actions limited your imagination?
- When has someone else encouraged you to grow free?

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall."

ATTRIBUTED TO CONFUCIOUS

- What was one big "fall" in your life, and how did you rise from it? Or are you still rising from it?

Joys & Concerns



To share your joy or concern in this
newsletter email

Skylights@uuprinceton.org

We are saddened to share that longtime member **Herb Foster** died peacefully at home on June 1. We keep his wife Eva and daughters Sarah, Kate and Ann in our hearts. A memorial service will be held at UUCP in the coming months.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of the **Rev. Dr. Paul S. Johnson**, who died on April 22, 2026, at the age of 82. Paul was UU Princeton's minister from 1991 - 2002 and is remembered with love, appreciation, and affection. He is survived by his wife, Carol Rowan; his children, Kristin Johnson and David Johnson; and his granddaughter, Rowan Johnson. A full obituary is forthcoming. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Meadville Lombard Theological School, 180 N Wabash Ave #700, Chicago, IL 60601.

AUGUST'S SPIRITUAL THEME

Books

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.

"A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face. It is one of the few havens remaining where a person's mind can get both provocation and privacy."

EDWARD P. MORGAN

- What book broke open your world, introducing you to new views or perspectives?

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me."

C.S. LEWIS

"The covers of this book are too far apart."

AMBROSE BIERCE

- What books have you enjoyed so much you didn't wish them to end?
- Do you finish every book you read?

"Never judge a book by its movie."

J.W. EAGAN

- In addition to reading, or if you are not a reader, what are the ways you experience storytelling and seek new information?

"Good books do not give up all their secrets at once."

STEPHEN KING

- Are there chapters in your own story you hold close?
- With whom do you share your secrets?



Thank you, Wylencia

As Wylencia Monroe concludes her time with UU Princeton as our ministerial intern, we want to offer our heartfelt thanks for the gifts she has shared with our congregation. Through worship, learning, pastoral presence, and community building, Wylencia has touched many lives and enriched our congregation in countless ways. We wish her every blessing as she continues the next chapter of her calling.



WHAT'S UUP ?



[UU Princeton
Sign Up Genius
Link](#)

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

New to UU? Explore More

Sun., Aug. 9

12pm, Fahs Theater

Curious about UU Princeton? Join Rev. Bill for an introduction to Unitarian Universalism with a special focus on

Transcendentalism. What do nature, intuition, and personal spiritual experience have to do with our faith tradition? Together we'll explore the enduring influence of

Transcendentalist thinkers and how their ideas continue to shape UU values today. Whether you're a longtime member or just getting to know us, these sessions highlight the heart of who we are, what we do, and how you can get involved in this dynamic, purpose-driven community.

UU Princeton Summer Night at the Ballpark

Sat., July 25

6pm, Trenton Thunder Ballpark

Join us for a thrilling summer evening at the baseball game — Tickets are \$8. Reserve a spot and pay for tickets on the [Signup Genius page](#).

Summer Picnic Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Summer Picnic. From the volunteers who planned, shopped, set up, grilled, served, and cleaned up, to everyone who brought delicious dishes to share, your generosity and participation made the day a success.

Events like these remind us that UU Princeton is more than a place we attend—it's a community we create together. Thank you for showing up for one another and for helping make UU Princeton a welcoming, vibrant community. We are grateful for each of you!

—Celebrations Ministry

What's in the Bible?

Sun., Aug. 2, 9, 16 and 23

9-9:45am Lower Lounge

Ever wondered what the Bible really says (and what it doesn't)? Join us for open, thoughtful exploration—no beliefs or prep required, and no need to BYOB(bible)—text is provided. Sessions will take a break in July, but we'll be back in August when we expect to explore Ecclesiastes and The Song of Solomon before beginning Isaiah. No prior reading necessary, and drop in as you're able. All are welcome!

Create Socials

Thur., July 16

2pm, Lower Lounge

If you have a creative hobby that can essentially fit on your lap, we welcome you to participate in Create Socials.

Short Story Hour

Fri., Aug. 14

12pm, Zoom

Join Rev. Bill for our next Short Story Hour. An elderly couple crosses the sea on a ferry, intent to keep to themselves until they connect with a young harpist travelling to see her father. As they learn about each other's lives, they find that they share grief, music, and much more not only with each other, but with all their fellow travelers. Join Rev. Bill in our next Short Story Hour for a reading a discussion of *Sounds and Sweet Airs* by Bernard MacLaverty, published in his 2021 collection, *Blank Pages and Other Stories*. No prior reading necessary. Please keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link, and no sign-up needed. All are welcome. [Join the mailing list](#) for Short Story Hour Reminders! Please note, there will be no Short Story Hour in July.

WHAT'S UUP?

Natural Burial Training Trips

Marian's Natural Burial Ground Field Trip! Are you interested in green burial? Thinking about whether you might want to get involved with our merry band? A group of Marian's Natural Burial Ground volunteers are currently "on call" to pop down to Steelmantown Cemetery in southern NJ for an informal training on how to lower a body by hand into a grave. We will need able bodied people to help with this when the time comes. We will learn how to shore up the sides of the grave and about the wooden platform that goes around the top (are you handy and maybe up for building that?). Join us! It's also a chance to see a lovely example of green burial. Carpooling available. RSVP: Laurie Powsner
lpowsner@gmail.com

Fellowship Night!

Sat. July 11

6-10pm Founders Room

It's all Fun & Games!- *literally!* (plus pizza). Play games, chat, and make new friends. The fun and food are free and you're welcome to bring your favorite games along to share. Just show up (or RSVP on the [UU Princeton.org](http://UU.Princeton.org) Signup Genius so we know how much pizza to get).

Grief Group Summer Schedule

July & September Grief Group meetings remain on same dates: July 21, Sept 15.
The August meeting moves to the 4th Tuesday of the month: Aug 25.
We will meet in the upper lounge during the summer months.

Coalition for Peace Action: Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Wed., Aug. 5

Princeton Public Library

The Coalition for Peace Action will observe 81st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The speaker will be Rutgers Climate Scientist Dr. Alan Robock who has studied the potential impact of nuclear war. The program will include the Solidarity Singers and updates on the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons. The event will close with candle lighting in Hinds Plaza. For more information about peace campaigns, go to peacecoalition.org.

Women's Alliance Summer Break

See you in September!

The Women's Alliance promotes friendship, kindness, learning, and service within UU Princeton and the wider community. Activities include monthly luncheon programs open to all, support for memorial receptions, fundraising for organizations serving women and children, and congregation-wide social action projects.

The group takes a summer break during June, July, and August and looks forward to gathering again on Thursday, September 17 at 12 noon in the Founders' Room. Details about the September program will appear in the September Skylights. Plan to bring a salad or sandwich to share; dessert and beverages will be provided by the Women's Alliance. To learn more or join the email list, contact Betty Ashwood at bjashwood@gmail.com or 609-558-1136.

Anyone who supports our mission is welcome to participate and become a member of the Women's Alliance by paying annual dues of \$10.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer!

WHAT'S UUP?

Connect & Contribute at UU Princeton is Back for 2026!

We all have gifts, skills, talents, interests, or strengths that we love sharing with others and our UU Princeton community is full of places to put them to good use! Curious how to get involved but not sure where to start? Here's your chance to discover all the ways you can make that connection — come explore the many opportunities waiting for you!

The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee is thrilled to once again host 'Connect & Contribute at UU Princeton.' This event will host folks from many of our committees, programs, and interest groups who will be happy to tell you about what they do and provide you with opportunities to join. Your participation may be onetime, weekly, monthly, or even semi-annually; you decide where and how your gifts will best be shared.

Over the summer, information will be sent to group leaders about preparing their tables.

We've divided the ministries/committees into two sessions: September 14 and October 18, 2026 from 11:30 - 12:30 in Robinson Lounge. Questions? Reach out to Lisa or Jennifer at LDNC@UUPrinceton.org

Green Sanctuary Initiatives at UU Princeton

Across the country, Unitarian Universalist congregations continue to expand their participation in the Green Sanctuary program, a UU initiative that encourages congregations to integrate environmental sustainability, climate justice, and ecological responsibility into congregational life. Through education, worship, advocacy, and hands-on projects, participating congregations are finding new ways to live out the Seventh Principle: respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

The newer Green Sanctuary 2030 framework places particular emphasis on responding to the climate crisis while building resilient, hopeful communities. From reducing energy use and supporting sustainable practices to engaging in environmental justice efforts, UUs are working together to turn values into action. As congregations across the denomination continue this work, Green Sanctuary remains an important expression of Unitarian Universalism's commitment to caring for both people and planet.

As we look ahead at UU Princeton, we invite congregants to reflect on the environmental issues they care most deeply about and consider bringing ideas to Earth Ministry this fall. Together, we can explore new ways to make our congregation and our community more climate-friendly.



*"The windows of my soul I throw
Wide open to the sun"*

- Unitarian Minister
John Greenleaf Whittier
(1807 to 1892)



— SAVE THE DATE! —

MURRAY GROVE

Homecoming 2026

“We the People: A Loving Response”

At this time when our country is celebrating its **250th** anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many people are hurting and there are deep divisions, we want to offer a day of **inclusive, creative and positive** responses.



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026**

Join us for a day of community, inspiration,
reflection, and connection.

Details & Registration
Coming Soon!



431 US-9 SOUTH
LANOKA HARBOR, NJ 08734



MURRAYGROVE.ORG



(609) 286-8108

WHAT'S UUP?



Planning Ahead for 2026–2027 Children & Youth Ministry Programs

Would you like to help nurture the children, youth, and families of UU Princeton? We invite you to attend one of our upcoming Children & Youth Ministry Volunteer Information Sessions to learn more about the many ways you can get involved.

We are seeking leaders and assistants across age groups, including a second youth advisor. Most volunteer commitments average just one Sunday per month (approximately 8–9 Sundays between October and May). No teaching experience is required—we see ourselves not as teachers, but as guides, mentors, and caring adults who help young people grow and thrive. Orientation, training, and mentorship will be provided.

Summer Information Sessions

- Sun., Jul. 26 | 12–1 pm | Fahs Theatre
- Thu., Aug. 27 | 7–8 pm | Zoom (link to come)
- Sun., Aug. 30 | 12–1 pm | Fahs Theatre

Volunteer Orientation

- Sat., Sept. 12 | 9:30 am–3 pm | In Person

Beginning this fall, we plan to offer Sunday morning programs for:

- Pre-K & Kindergarten
- Grades 1–3
- Grades 4–6
- Grades 7–9 Coming of Age
- Grades 9–12 Youth Group

Please consider being part of this important ministry. With our continued devotion, the love we have for our young people will remain palpable. With abiding love,

Rev. Jennifer



Conscious Consumer Challenge

Summer gatherings can be a great opportunity to reduce waste and lighten our environmental impact. This July, consider using reusable plates, cups, and utensils at your BBQs, and explore adding a delicious meatless option to the menu. Even small shifts can make a difference.

In August, our focus turns to beating the heat consciously. Before reaching for the thermostat, consider simple cooling strategies like fans, shade, and smart AC settings. Using less energy can reduce both your carbon footprint and your summer electric bill—a win for the planet and your pocketbook.

Help UU Grow Become a Chalice Lighter

What if a small gift from many people could help launch a new UU congregation, strengthen a struggling community, expand children's programming, or make a congregation more welcoming and accessible?

That's exactly what the Central East Region Chalice Lighter Program does. Chalice Lighters pledge to contribute modest donations a few times each year when special grant calls are issued.

Learn more and sign up through the Central East Region Chalice Lighter Program: <https://www.uua.org/central-east/programs/chalicelighter/cerclsignup>

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Celebrating Our 2025–2026 Children & Youth Ministry Leaders

Thanks to everyone who made our Children & Youth Ministry 2025–2026 Program Year possible. From our children, youth, and parents, to their class leaders and assistants, and all those who helped with event setup and cleanup: together we co-create a vibrant program centered in love.

Families, thank you for trusting us with your children and youth. May you feel held in our care and commitment to them and to you.

And our deepest gratitude to the volunteer lead guides and assistants who organize fun and meaningful gatherings for our young people Sunday after Sunday. Please share your thanks with our 2025–2026 Children & Youth Program Team. Their dedication is the foundation of our ministry.

Pre-K / Kindergarten

Program Leaders: Jo Ellen Burton, Kari Dalane, Jon Kreji, Betsy Marshall

Assistants: Nicole Campbell, Rachel Neely, Maggie Power, Andrea Williams

1st–3rd Grade

Program Leaders: Dave Avasthi, Lydia Rieck, Rebecca Thompson

Assistants: Nancy Fiedler, Debra Lambo, Marybeth Tran, Iain Weeks

4th–5th Grade (Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints)

Program Leaders: Beth Behrend, Binnie Thom, Hannah Thompson

Assistants: Amnah Ali, Alice Deanin, Sofia Strauss

6th–8th Grade (Crossing Paths)

Leadership Team: Regine Clement, Trevor Daly, Robert Eaton, Jennifer Kelleher, Andy Maskell, Wylencia Monroe, Michele Ochsner, Molly Sharlach

Guest Speakers:

Alice Deanin, Eva Foster, Vijay Manghnani, Lydia Rieck, Carol Watchler, Farooq Zama

9th–12th Grade (High School YoUUth Group)

Advisors: John Burton, Deana Weeks

July & August Schedule

Stay tuned to the weekly newsletter for info about Sunday activities.

Summer Sundays 2026

June–September -- dependent on volunteer support -- we will hold all ages activities two (2) Sundays each month.

Our summer program activities are play, experiential or craft centered.

We are seeking 3-4 adults/activity to help lead the following:

- the ever popular water slide on the lawn
- outdoor play on the playground
- tie-dye t-shirt making
- sing along
- a craft or activity of your choosing

Dates are flexible for all of the above.

Anytime in July, August or September with the exception of September 13 - which is our annual Water Communion. Please reach out to jennifer@uuprinceton.org to volunteer.

Registration is FREE and required for all children and youth.

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



Recent Stories Used in “Wonder & Wisdom”

May 17: *Mouse was Mad*
by Linda Urban. Illustrated by Henry Cole

May 31: *In the Neighborhood* by Rocio Bonilla

June 7: *‘Twas the Night Before Pride*
by Joanna McClintock. Illustrated by Juana Medina

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? Email Office@uuprinceton.org 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](#)

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](#)

Earth Ministry

We care for the earth; learning to be careful stewards of its resources not just for ourselves, but for those to come. Join us!

Earthministry@uuprinceton.org

[Visit our webpage here](#)



UU Book Discussion Group

Listed Sundays at 12pm

John Murray Room (Starting in Fall)

Good books bring us together — that's what the UU Princeton Book Discussion Group is all about! Come share ideas as we explore new stories and perspectives. No homework vibes — just thoughtful discussion and connection. New books and gathering dates will be announced in the Fall.

peggy.matthews@gmail.com

[Visit our webpage here](#)

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.

(August meeting moves to the 4th Tuesday- Aug 25)

Robinson Lounge July & August

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

Women's Alliance

Third Thursdays 12:00 – 2:00pm
Founders' Room (after summer break)

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 newsletters for monthly luncheon topics and visit the WA webpage for membership info:

<https://www.uuprinceton.org/connection/groups/womens-alliance/>



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Associates are trained volunteers who extend the love and care of our congregation into the lives of people enduring great difficulties or enjoying wonderful news. PA's care for people who've lost loved ones, connect with people who are sick or are experiencing difficult circumstances, and celebrate new births and additions within UU Princeton families. This is in addition to the ministers' pastoral care. If you feel you or someone in the congregation may be in need of support, please reach us at pa@uuprinceton.org.



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 (after summer break)

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 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

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



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, 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,

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

Monthly Zoom @ 7pm:

4th Tuesdays of each month

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. Reporting ICE info on page 13

Princeton Eats Plants

First Wednesdays

6:00pm Founder's Room

PEP is a vibrant UU and local Princeton community that promotes plant-based living through the sharing of delicious food, plant-powered recipes, and great conversation. We create a welcoming space for all, both seasoned plant-based eaters and plant-curious. We do it for our health, for the climate, and for the animals.

pep@uuprinceton.org

[Join the PEP Facebook group](#)

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 (no glass containers please). Add your McCaffrey's receipts to the box labeled 'McCaffrey Receipts for ArmlnArm' on the shelf unit directly across from the donation table. If you'd like to help deliver food to ArmlnArm or help out in other ways. Contact Louise Senior or Jody Maher at Caring4Neighbors@uuprinceton.org



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/>



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.

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.

To Report ICE Activity

Call 1-888-347-3767

This is the number for DIRE – Deportation & Immigration Response Equipo

<https://diresupport.org/>

DIRE supports undocumented individuals and their families facing immigration and detention crises.



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

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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

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. AUG. 17

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

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