

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!

March 2024

Our Sunday Schedule
Worship at 10:30 am
is now in-person and virtual via Zoom

March Sermons

Quantum Mind

Rev. Jaye Brooks and Rob Lieb *March 3*
In the book called *Putting Ourselves Back in the Equation*, physicist George Musser explores human consciousness and quantum mechanics—treating them as flip sides of the same coin. Rev. Jaye, who is not a physicist, and Rob Lieb, who is, read and discussed Musser’s book over the last few months. Together they offer some insights on how the brain and the universe are linked—becoming, not just metaphorically, the quantum mind—and what this linkage means for human growth and transformation.

Note: We are also celebrating Stewardship Commitment Sunday.

Whose Bright Idea Was This?

Rev. Amanda Aikman *March 10*
Why did monogamous pair bonds arise as our predominant model for relationships? What are the blessings and limits of this model, and what transformations might occur in the future as we strive together to save are planet?

Note: “Spring forward”—the clock change is today. Set your clocks forward by one hour so that you arrive on time.

A Tale of Transformation: The Story of Esther

Jenn Blosser and Rev. Jaye Brooks *March 17*
In this service for all ages, we share a tale of transformation: the story of Esther. This true story is the centerpiece of the Jewish celebration of Purim, which this year begins on March 22. In many ways Esther was a true superhero: a seemingly ordinary person who saved many lives and transformed her nation’s relationship with reli-

gion. Today we’re invited to consider how our own life stories intersect with this tale of transformation.

Equinox Ritual

Laura Paligo *Wednesday March 20*
Let’s celebrate Spring! This Equinox ritual helps us welcome Spring and the stirring of new life. Please watch the NUUwsbytes for the time to be announced.

Are We Really Ready for Change?

Jasmine Stock *March 24*
From the 8th Principle adopted in hundreds of congregations, the Widening the Circle of Concern Report in 2020, and the proposed revisions for Article II of the UUA bylaws to be voted on at General Assembly 2024, there has been a movement within Unitarian Universalism as a denomination. Yet tensions and growing pains remain as congregations try to adapt (or not). Change is inevitable, adaptation is intentional. Anxieties and resistance to change remain high. What is the vision? And are we really ready?

Jasmine Stock, a social worker, worship associate, seminarian, and lifelong Unitarian Universalist, will share her perspective on how this movement is both the result of and a call to organizational and individual reflection with a focus on anti-racism. These efforts have become an invitation to transformation, for Unitarian Universalists to live into our proclaimed values and legacies of honoring human dignity and working toward social justice.

Body and Soul

Rev. Jaye Brooks *March 31*
The emergence of buds and flowers after the cold of winter vividly reminds us of life’s ability to renew itself, body and soul. This Sunday is Easter in the Christian tradition—but the story of resurrection is more nuanced and complex than convention may suggest. The oldest traditions of Judaism and Christianity offer diverse ideas about the relationship between body and world, ideas that resonate with the questions of today’s spiritual seekers.

From Our Minister

Transformation

IN THIS MONTH when our learning and worship theme is Transformation, I find myself thinking about how transformation happens. Twenty-six centuries ago, on the coast of what is now Turkey, a Greek named Anaximander proposed for the first time the idea that the earth floated in space.



It is remarkable that anyone could form this understanding without the scientific instruments we use today. After all, even in our 21st-century there are flat-earthers. Yet cuneiform tablets from the 16th century BCE, a thousand years before Anaximander, bear records of eclipses and the position of Venus—so some human beings, at least, had begun thinking about what they observed and, probably, what it might mean. It was Anaximander who posed an entirely new notion of the world.

The ancient Greeks, and most of the other civilizations of the time, thought that gods brought rain and thunder. The Greeks believed that Atlas held the heavens in place. Yet Anaximander's mind was flexible enough that his observations of the natural world led him to think that rain came from water that had evaporated and risen into the sky.

Although Anaximander wasn't correct in all his suppositions, his flexibility of mind is something to admire. How flexible are our own minds today? Do we nourish the capability to see things from someone else's perspective? Can we, within a short human lifespan, grow enough, personally and spiritually, so that we are able to listen well, consider thoughtfully, and genuinely take in ideas and information new to us?

The history of humanity makes it clear that human beings aren't necessarily good at combining an open mind with an open heart. But throughout that history, people like Anaximander have demonstrated that we can. And when we do, we may find ourselves transformed—and the world along with us.

- Rev. Jaye Brooks



From Our President

As this newsletter comes out we are in the midst of our congregational Stewardship Drive. This year's drive will be unique because we need to support the operation of the church for 14 months—an extra two months of operations. While this will result in larger than usual expenses, it will be a one-time correction that will allow us to align our fiscal calendar to start on July 1. Our pledge form has a “calculator” to help you consider how the additional two months, as well as general inflation as you consider your pledge.

In the past the UUFHC Board has been under time pressure to finalize a budget in March so we can present it to the congregation during the annual meeting in April. This can be challenging, particularly if we need to make budget tradeoffs or follow up on any pledges. With the new fiscal year beginning in July (starting next year), we will have enough time to fully prepare the budget and review tradeoffs with the congregation well in advance of the congregational meeting.

For those who would like a deeper dive into our draft FY24-25 budget, we will plan review sessions in advance of *and* following our Stewardship Dinner on Saturday, February 24. Look for more information shortly. I really appreciate everyone's support of our fellowship and the mission we serve.

I want to recognize Sue Knause, Jasmine Stock and Sara Brinkerhoff who continue to guide us through the Article II discussions. I was reflecting after the last discussion and while there is clear debate and opinions both for and against the change, the one thing I think we can all agree is that we are fortunate to be part of a worship tradition that promotes reflecting on its principles and purposes. To me, this is part of the essence of being a UU. We challenge ourselves to consider some of the most basic tenets of our faith and determine if a change is needed. While we continue to the dialogue, I will be grateful that we have the opportunity for this debate.

As always, I appreciate any of your feedback for me after the service or at any time on my email at president@uufhc.net.

*Yours in service,
- Mark Davis*



What's New in Faith Formation

Registration is OPEN for Summer Camp!

It's with much excitement that we announce registration is now open for our immersive, imaginative summer camp, **but** with a bit of a twist. This year, instead of attending the Univelarian University of Wizarding Arts (UUWA), our young folks will enter into the whimsical world of the Univelarian University of **Fantastickal Arts** (UUFHA). Why the change? To become even more radically welcoming and intentionally inclusive—now UUFHA students can determine what sorts of magical beings they will be! Mermaids, monsters, cryptids, talking animals, fairies, fawns, gnomes, dryads, *all* fantasy beings are welcomed into covenanted community and celebrated for who they are.

- Summer Camp runs Monday July 15 through Friday July 19 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with a special worship service to follow on Sunday, July 21
- Registration is open for children / youth ages 5 to 13
- Youth ages 14+ can volunteer to earn service hours (and have far too much fun)
- **Camp is free** for all children / youth registered in UUFHC's program!
- Relatives of members receive a discounted rate!
- Scholarships are available—please inquire with Jenn Blosser (dff@uufhc.net).

To register your child / youth to attend or volunteer, click here! Yes, even if they are registered for our regular Sunday programming, they need to be officially registered for camp.

We are so looking forward to the summer so we can spend a week of wonder together! Please reach out to Jenn Blosser if you have any questions or would like any information on participating in camp this year.

- Jenn Blosser,
Director of Faith Formation



Corner on Finance

The days are getting longer and brighter, yay! We are moving towards spring, and our UUFHC lights are shining brightly. With our committed members and new members, we've closed the calendar year strong

and carry forward with enthusiasm and hope for this Stewardship season.

In December, we completed our last large fundraiser event of the fiscal year, the Holiday Bazaar. A shout-out again to all the volunteers and visionaries that made the event a success. We now only have the festive and community building Chili Cook-off coming to raise some extra funds, but for the most part we will be heavily relying (as always) on the remaining pledge receivables to carry us financially through the rest of the fiscal year. So please be timely and fulfill your FY23-24 pledge promises and commitments.

The following information covers data for the month of December 2023. What is presented are simplified financial statements. For more detail, please look for the full statements (Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, and Cash Flow) posted in the 'Members-Only' section of our website.

FYTD 2023-24: December 31, 2023

Our December 31 Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) net income was \$32,106.44. Our year-to-date pledge receipts continue to be strong and slightly surpass our anticipated budget figures for the time period.

Profit & Loss Statement: FYTD November 30, 2023

Description	Actual FYTD	Budget FYTD
INCOME	\$206,768	\$188,083
EXPENSES	<u>\$174,661</u>	<u>\$177,135</u>
NET INCOME	\$ 32,106	\$ 10,949

Cash Flow Statement: FYTD December 31, 2023

Beginning Balance May 1, 2023	\$ 197,481
Net Cash Flow Activities	<u>\$ 9,350</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	\$ 188,131

The above statements show that for the eight (8) months ending December 31, 2023 we had net income of **\$32,106** and our cash has decreased by **\$(9,350)** since the start of FY23-24. Our cash position early on in the fiscal year was substantially decreased due to expenses accrued from the previous fiscal year. The net effect is although we are tracking well within our current budget, items carried forward from last fiscal year have a lasting negative effect on our current fiscal year cash flow and cash position. But we continue to make strides to close the gap!

That's it for this round. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about these financial state-

ments, or any other issues related to the financial health of UUFHC. I can be contacted via email at treasurer@uufhc.net or call me at (410) 878-6337.

Again, to see full detailed statements (Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet & Cash Flow) go online too our website at: <https://uufhc.net> and select the Member's only section and locate the "Financial Statements" header.

Thanks for your continued commitment to the financial well-being of our congregation.

Warmly,
- Shawna M. Brinkerhoff, Treasurer



**27th Annual UUFHC
Chili, Beer, Bread and Soup
Cook-off
Saturday March 23rd, 5-8 Pm**



**This is our annual potluck fundraiser
where you vote with cash for your favorite
vegetarian chili, meat chili, soup, bread and
home-brewed beer.**

Share your best recipe and enjoy a fun night with food and friends!

**\$5/ person, \$10/ family
Admission fee is waived if you bring a dish!
Desserts and salads are welcomed too!**

Chili Fiesta FAQs

Here are some tips to optimize your experience at the Chili Fiesta:

- Chili and soup can be brought in crock pots for warming.
- Create a fun name for your for your dish.
- Some folks like to bring cupcake tins for sampling.

- Bring any additions you want for your dish (sour cream, cheese, etc.).
- Beer, wine and sodas will be available for sale.
- And, don't forget to bring your dollars to vote!
- The entry fee is \$5 per person or \$10 per family, but bringing food waives the entry fee!
- If you choose not to bring soup, beer, chili or bread for the contest, you are welcome to bring a salad or desert to complete the meal!

Remembering Beryl Fleming



Beryl Fleming, along with his friend Barb Stroud, began attending UUFHC in the early 90s, and he certainly brightened up our congregation with his presence. First, it was hard to not notice his bumper-sticker-plastered car in the parking lot, and it was interesting to read about all of Beryl's connections and favorite causes. I soon learned that

he had a wide range of connections here in Harford County. More often than not, when I mentioned to an acquaintance that I was a member of UUFHC, I'd get a question in response, not asking about our faith but "Oh, do you know Beryl Fleming?"

Beryl was very active in our Congregation, volunteering at events, and present most Sundays. I liked hearing about his bicycling and running, and commiserated with him after he went through knee surgery and struggled with MRSA. I learned that he really enjoyed being active and missed it when he was healing.

For many years, Beryl offered as one of his Serendipity Auction donations transportation to and from the airport. We don't travel much by plane, but I was always interested in finding out how high the bidding would go on this very popular item.

He made many close connections at UUFHC, loved talking to people, and was always willing to help anyone. When I would send him a "Get Well Soon" card, he would call to thank me and we would talk awhile. He attended services either in person or via Zoom almost until the very end. He will be missed by all of us.

Sincerely,
- Kay Saucier

Faith Formation Volunteer Training Announced

**Saturday March 23, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
at UUFHC**

One of our Fellowship's primary commitments is to provide a meaningful, engaging program for children and youth. On March 23, UUFHC members interested in working with our children and youth will have the opportunity to participate in a 3-hour workshop led by **Rev. Ginger Luke**, a UU religious professional with a long career in UU religious education and faith formation for children and youth. She served for many years as Director of Religious Education and then Minister of Congregational Life at River Road UU Congregation in Bethesda, Maryland where she is now Minister Emerita. There is no fee for this workshop, but registration is required. Register with Jenn Blosser at dff@uufhc.net.



Easter Baskets for Kids at Anna's House!

We have a wonderful opportunity to support Anna's House by providing items for Easter Baskets for the kids who are staying there! For those of us that celebrated the Easter Holiday growing up, we have fun memories of looking for our Easter Basket and then taking inventory of everything that was in it! Let's help give these kids some great memories too. There are about 30 kids at Anna's House ranging in age from three months to 16 years.

Anna's House has suggested items that would be helpful—new empty Easter baskets and grass, candy, and new small fillers and Easter crafts. All that we provide will go directly to the kids. Let's make this a fun Easter morning for them!

We will begin collecting donations at the Church on Sunday, March 4. A large basket complete with grass will be placed outside the coat closet on that day. We appreciate any donations to make memorable Easter Baskets for a great group of kids.

For additional information, please contact [Marlene Lieb](#) at or [Kathy Kraft](#).

Thank you!

- Kathy Kraft

What's New With Buildings and Grounds

Hopefully this finds everyone doing well. Usually Winter is a quiet time for Buildings and Grounds, but that doesn't seem to be the case this year. Our years without much snow have come to an end as we have had two snowfalls that required plowing so far, and as I type this article, more is predicted. The second of those storms caused our roof to leak. Repair is estimated at \$700. There was a lull in the weather that allowed our gutter guards to be installed. This will protect our intrepid volunteers who clean gutters and who need to stay off ladders.

The indoors have not been ignored. Faith Formation was interested in updating the last room on the right in the Faith Formation Hall. This was the room painted by our youth years ago. The youth are now their 30's. Many of the parents of those youth and members involved in the RE program, however, have nostalgic feelings towards room #3. Jenn Blosser took pictures of the walls, and these will be displayed in the room as a part of its history. And the big rainbow wall is still a part of the décor. Bob Veidt has painted the other three walls, not as easy task, as some of the paint used was tempura. He also stained the coffee table.

We will be getting an almost new, donated couch for this room. The couches previously in the room were donated to Habitat for Humanity's Restore. Thanks to Russ Poulsen, Ed Roberts and Bob for helping with moving out the old couch. We are getting the room ready for committees or other groups to use this space for meetings. Kim Roberts will be ordering some folding chairs to increase the seating in this room or the sanctuary as needed.

Laurie Feldman made a donation to B&G in Beryl Fleming's honor so an appropriate use will need to be considered. Thank you Laurie!

- Cindy Veidt

Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations to **Erin Gallagher**, our volunteer of the month. Erin has been very active in the Faith Formation program, helping to plan program offerings and getting background information for February's Faithful Conversation on our children's programs. Erin has taken the



Right Relations training and is active in so many areas of the Fellowship. She was a member in the mid 2000s, moved away for career opportunities; we're glad to have her back at UUFHC again.

March Birthdays

Spring is just around the corner for our March birthday honorees. Not only do they get to celebrate their special day, but they celebrate all the signs of spring arriving, beginning with the crocuses and daffodils—and maybe a few tulips! Best wishes for a fabulous year.



Laura Paligo	March 2
Darlene Rothwell	March 3
Bob Blackstock	March 9
Virginia (Cindy) Curry	March 20
Elesa Johnson	March 25

You're Invited to the "Facing Addiction" Event

On March 13, the Harford TV Foundation will have a live audience and broadcast of "Facing Addiction in Harford County: Finding Facts, Solutions & Hope" at the Cultural Center at the Opera House in Havre de Grace, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Expert panelists will discuss substance use disorder and drug misuse in our county, effective ways of reducing drug use ("What is Working") and future directions that individuals and groups can consider to help people and their families. UUFHC member Don Mathis is your point of contact to register if you want to be in the Center audience at donmathis59@aim.com or call (443) 608-3589.

Spring Retreat 2024

Friday, May 3 to Saturday, May 4

(May 5 optional, informal, second overnight)

Making Connections With Ourselves, Others, and this Beautiful World

Come join us to reflect on what matters deeply to you, renew your spirit for life, and restore your soul.

For our **first overnight retreat since 2019**, we are choosing a very positive theme and vibe. In these difficult times, we believe that this hurting, angry world could certainly use more positivity. We invite you to step away from the pressures of daily life for a little while and give yourself the gift of time and space to reconnect with your deeper Self, other human beings, and the whole natural world.

We are trying out a new venue this year. **Cranaleith Spiritual Center** (<https://cranaleith.org/>) is located northeast of Philadelphia about an hour and a half from UUFHC. It is nestled in a sanctuary of trees and green space—truly a salve for the soul.

Our time together will include a range of contemplative-focused group activities and intentional conversation, mingled with time to yourself to soak up and process the richness of our experiences and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. You are encouraged to sit and relax by the pond, explore the lovely grounds, which include a peace pole, honey hives, and a labyrinth, during some of the open time built into the schedule.

We begin on Friday evening with a gathering time and dinner, with light programming to follow. Saturday includes sunrise meditation (optional), followed by breakfast, morning conversations and activities, then time to yourself before lunch. We will gather again after lunch for more fellowship and activities and will end our time together at 3:00 pm.

* There is an option to stay a 2nd night for us all to just enjoy each other's company, if you so choose. Dinner on the second night is not included (we usually find a local restaurant for a group dinner). Breakfast on Sunday morning is included in the second night fee.

We hope you will consider giving yourself this gift of time to rest, recenter, refocus, and remember how to just BE in this busy, busy world.

Contact: Cindy Curry at cindy.aka.mo@gmail.com or Beth Wood-Roig at bwoodrol@gmail.com if you have any questions. There is limited space available. Contact Beth or Cindy for registration information or refer to the Adult ED brochure or the UUFHC website.



One of Our UU Foremothers

As we read history we note just how many Unitarians and Universalists contributed the greatness of our country. During women's history month we honor **Clara Barton** (1821-1912). Her father was prominent in the Universalist Church in Oxford, Massachusetts. Although she remembered the church as "austere," she remained a Universalist, although she claimed not to be a "church woman."



She was a quick learner, mostly schooled at home. She attended local school briefly but had to leave to nurse her brother during a two-year convalescence after an accident. Afterwards she felt restless: she needed to be needed. A doctor recommended that Clara teach school to overcome her shyness. She was very successful—and her school even won a prize for discipline. She taught school for 10 years, and during that time demanded the same pay as men. Then she worked at a patent office for the same pay as men, until the men she worked with started harassing her.

She became a nurse during the Civil War, first soliciting medical supplies, then nursing the soldiers at the first battle of Manassas. "I will remain here while anyone remains. I may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it, and while our soldiers can stand and fight, I can stand and feed and nurse them." She served at many of the sites including at Hilton Head, South Carolina. There she met fellow Unitarian and Universalist volunteers, including Dorothea Dix, Mary Livermore and Frances Dana Gage. She had a long career during the Civil War, both on the battlefield and in hospitals, though sometimes she was under such great pressure that she fell ill herself. But she stated that she preferred the battlefield to the hospitals.

After our Civil War she went to Europe on a vacation. But the Franco-Prussian War broke out, and she offered her services to the International Red Cross. She was awarded the Iron Cross for her work, and when she came home, established the American Red Cross. But lack of organization caused critics to accuse her of pocketing contributions, even though she personally funded many of the operations. She was hailed as a heroine in Europe, but not at home. Eventually, after contending with rival organizations, the American Red Cross adopted a new constitution, and Clara Barton stepped down from leadership. The Red Cross emerged as the organization we know today.

Later in life she was active in women's suffrage. She made her main home in Glen Echo, Maryland. She affirmed her Universalist faith in a letter from an inquirer: "Your belief that I am a Universalist is as correct as your belief in being one yourself, a belief in which all who are privileged to possess it rejoice."

- adapted from [Clara Barton](#) at uudb, the UU historical data base

Join UUs to Watch The Total Solar Eclipse!

On April 8, a Total Solar Eclipse event will occur at precisely 3:26 pm, with Burlington, Vermont in the path of totality. Burlington is expecting thousands to visit for this phenomenon; and where will all those visitors stay?

Members of the First UU Society at 152 Pearl Street are ready to receive some of those eclipse-chasers as their paying guests. The Society has made rooms available in 20 private homes with fees donated to the church. The site where accommodations may be purchased is [FUUSB Eclipse Homestay](#).

In addition, the Society has created a [t-shirt for purchase by the public](#), with artwork by local artist, Sara Rosedohl. It's an image of two cows in muddy boots wearing eclipse glasses, looking up; underneath are the words, "From Daylight to Udder Darkness." Perfect for any eclipse enthusiast in Vermont!

Burlington is planning a series of educational and celebratory activities for all ages to welcome Eclipse visitors as Burlington is located along Lake Champlain, where viewing will be prime. This exciting event connects us to the awe our forebears must have felt and wondered: What is it and what does it mean? The next **Total Solar Eclipse** is in 20 years.

For more information about FUUSB's Eclipse Celebration and Homestay Program, go to the link in the second paragraph or email Susan Ogden at eclipse@uusociety.org. Her phone number is (240) 687-0164.

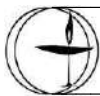


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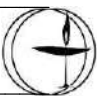
Building Liberal Religious Community
Please Join Us!

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net



Please note: Next Newsletter deadline is Sunday, March 10, 2024



Minister:	The Rev. Jennifer Brooks
Director of Faith Formation:	Jennifer Blosser
Church Administrator:	Karen Kurrle
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle):
Tues & Thurs: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Wed (Home Office): 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Minister's Office Hours:
Sun, Wed & Thurs: Afternoon

Director of Faith Formation Office Hours:
Thurs: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tues, Wed & Fri (Home Office): 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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Wayside Pulpit

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

– Albert Schweitzer