

# The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



**Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!**

**February 2023**

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

## February Sermons

### Children, Learning and Love

*Rev. María McCabe*

*February 5*

Neuroscientist Richard Davidson pursues cutting edge research in the areas of brain development and human well-being. He wants us to be able to impart qualities like kindness and practical love to the children and youth we teach. In this service we explore his learnings in light of our own understanding of faith formation.

### Inspiration Sunday

*Rev. María McCabe*

*February 12*

Come to this service and be inspired by what a faith community can contribute to our world when we work together. You may be surprised!

### In Love With The World

*Rev. María McCabe*

*February 19*

In this service we will explore the brilliant work of philosopher of ecology Joanna Macy and the poet Rainer Maria Rilke. How do we love the world with our whole hearts?

### To Be Announced

*Guest in the pulpit*

*February 26*

Stay tuned for further information about this Sunday's service. The NUUwsbytes and the UUFHC website will post the information when it becomes available.

## From Our Minister

*Women dominate the Hallmark target audience demographic, but millennials and genXers are the majority of viewers. The movies have ethnically diverse casts, a wide range of family structures, and characters in same sex relationships.*

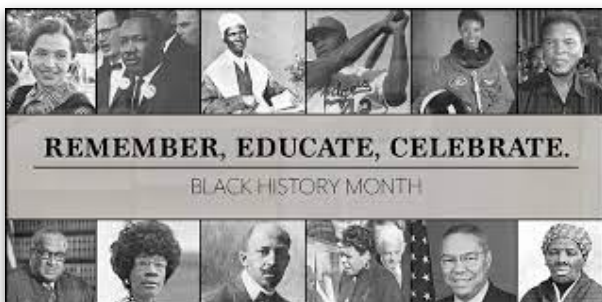
*Michael Hicks, The Herald Times*



**YOU GUESSED IT FOLKS**, love is our spiritual theme for February 2023. That's not a huge surprise, Valentine's Day comes in February, and that brings a burst of frothy cheer for many of us languishing in the midst of winter doldrums. Which is great, because those of us suffering from Hallmark Christmas movie withdrawal need our romance bucket topped up again by mid-February.

Why are these cheesy, low-budget movies so popular? When I googled this question, close to 42 million Google responses appeared in 57 seconds. *42 million!* That's a lot of people with questions, who have *obviously* watched these movies, or they wouldn't care. As a matter of fact, the Hallmark channel is one of the most profitable and most watched cable channels (number 4 or 3 at last count) in the United States, and holiday movies are a huge moneymaker for them.

Many of you know that I am an unabashed fan of these movies. Although I am a tad embarrassed about it. But I find them irresistible at holiday time. I love the cookies, the over-the-top decorations, the meet-cute scenarios, the anti-corporate pro-small-town bias, the wise and grumpy elders, and the ever-present hot chocolate. I even love the predictability of the plots. Everything is reassuring and gently optimistic. Even better, nobody (or hardly anybody) is impossibly good looking or too sophisticated for the rest of us. These movies go so far as to poke a bit of fun at themselves even as they know they deliver something we want. Hardly anybody gets away without humiliating themselves at least once or making mistakes.



There is always a primary love story at the center, usually a secondary love story to keep us guessing and some sort of family communication problem to be solved. There is frequently also a story of a community coming together to solve problems that threaten its future. In a simultaneously chaotic and wondrous time of year, these are all small stories of hope and good cheer. We can watch the Hallmark channel out of the corner of our eyes while we wrap, budget, bake and revise our lists, manage our extra volunteer commitments and pore over lists of recipes. Or alternatively make dinner reservations or order take-out while we put our feet up. As one Hallmark viewer said to a reporter, "it's like a drug, but in a really good way."

In our hearts, I have to believe that human beings want to be loved. We want to feel connected to one another and known for who we are. We want to be comforted and held in times of darkness and fear. We want someone to take care of and someone to care for us.

Join us for worship and conversation in February, as we explore different stories of love and hope.

*Warmly,  
- Rev. Maria*

## From Our President

It's a new year and time for new beginnings. I am looking forward to making travel plans again and hope to plan some extended vacations with my wife Ines this year. It will be a great joy to stretch some wings that have felt clipped over the last couple years.

The Stewardship Committee is in the midst of planning our annual Stewardship drive which will launch on Sunday, February 12 and run through Sunday, March 5. Our plan is to repeat last years approach and have small group gatherings where we can share our progress based on last year's feedback and get input from our congregation that will help set our priorities for next year. Hazel Hopkins, Marlene Lieb, Ed Roberts, Lisa Nickerson, Barbara Bowman, Shawna Brinkerhoff, David Callan and Dick Calvert are all supporting this year's Stewardship Committee.

During this last month's Board meeting we started some discussions around long term plans for the house and school on our property. We are looking into a few options and plan to come back to congregation with proposals for our annual meeting. At this point, we are very early in the process and just trying to understand the via-

bility of renting, selling or leasing arrangements. More to come shortly.

The Board is also working to become a more cohesive team, and as part of that exercise, we're conducting a leadership assessment and planning to spend time with our Regional UUA leaders to help us grow and improve as a Board serving our congregation.

As always, I look forward to getting your feedback and suggestions! I look forward to speaking with you after services, or you can reach out to me at [president@uufhc.net](mailto:president@uufhc.net)

*Yours in service,  
- Mark Davis*



## Corner On Finance

Please see our simplified financial statements for the seven months ending November 30, 2022. With our two very successful fund raisers behind us, our focus now turns to our pledges for the remaining portion of this fiscal year ending April 30. For the detail of the statements, you really need to refer to our Profit & Loss & Cash Flow statements on the website. I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have on any issues related to our financial situation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [treasurer@uufhc.net](mailto:treasurer@uufhc.net) or (410) 688-0891.

### Profit & Loss Statement Year to Date Oct. 31, 2022

Description	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
INCOME	\$194,631	\$169,367
EXPENSES	<u>\$167,244</u>	<u>\$167,022</u>

**NET INCOME (LOSS) \$27,388 \$2,345**  
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### Cash Flow Statement Year to Date Nov. 30, 2022

Beginning Balance May 1, 2022	\$194,496
Net Cash Flow Activities	<u>\$1,189</u>
Ending Balance Nov. 30, 2022	<b>\$195,685</b>

The above statements show that for the seven months ending November 30, we made a profit of \$27,388 and our cash was increased by **\$1,189**

To see our detailed financial statements (Profit & Loss and the Balance Sheet) on our website, [www.uufhc.net](http://www.uufhc.net), click on the Members tab on the top right. You can get the password by sending a request to [office@uufhc.net](mailto:office@uufhc.net) or [webmaster@uufhc.net](mailto:webmaster@uufhc.net). I am trying to let you know exactly where we stand financially on a monthly basis. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [treasurer@uufhc.net](mailto:treasurer@uufhc.net).

BStrong  
BSafe

- Dick Calvert  
Treasurer



## Chalice Lighters Corner

Each month this past year, since UUFHC received our latest Chalice Lighter Grant, we have told you in this column about the importance of Chalice Lighter Grants for supporting congregations, spreading the word about Unitarian Universalism, and for providing seed money for new projects. Some members still have questions about the Chalice Lighter Grant program and how they can help the growth of our denomination.



I have highlighted a few of the Frequently Asked Questions from the Chalice Lighter website, an important program sponsored by our Central East Region.

### What is the purpose of the Chalice Lighter Grant Program?

The CER Chalice Lighter Grant Program works to encourage new and existing congregations to grow, both in terms of numbers and in their efforts to increase justice, compassion and spirituality. The grants support the growth of UU congregations of all sizes.

### What kinds of church projects are right for a Chalice Lighter grant?

Grants can support four types of projects, including:

- Church staff, such as hiring a first-time minister, RE professional, or other staff, moving a position from part time to full time, or adding an additional minister or RE professional.
- Building or land, such as constructing or expanding a church, making major renovations or repairs, or acquiring land for church facilities.
- New congregation organizing.

- Innovative growth initiatives, creative projects to help attract or retain members, and promote justice, compassion, and spirituality.

### How are Chalice Lighter grants reviewed and decided?

After you have submitted a full grant application, the committee will meet to review all the applications received in the same grant cycle and determine which to fund. Soon afterward, your assigned Grant Manager will be in touch with the Project Manager from your congregation to share the committee's decision. Your church also will receive a written letter as notification of the committee's decision.

### How can our church help to keep the Chalice Lighter Program strong?

Please help to recruit new contributors and build awareness of the Chalice Lighter program. For example, members of your congregation can help organize Chalice Lighter Sunday or other programs to encourage people to sign up to become Chalice Lighters.

You can read more about the program and sign up at [Chalice Lighter](#).

- Kay Saucier

## Meet a Longtime Member

**Inez Buis**, a long-time UUFHC financial supporter, sent us her annual note from her home in Catonsville. At 104 years of age, she is doing well and sends her best wishes for everyone at the Fellowship. She became a member early in UUFHC's history and was very active as a member. She served on the search committee for our first full-time minister, Rev Alice Wesley. But she was best known as our volunteer musician at services. She played both the piano and the organ. And she purchased and donated the Fellowship's organ!



You may drop her a line at:

719 Maiden Choice Ln  
BR 336  
Catonsville, MD 21228-6191

- Rob Lieb



## Embracing Integrity

The word 'Integrity' is defined by the Merriam Webster Dictionary as "firm adherence to a code of moral or artistic values: Incorruptibility." That's a truly high code of character. Having integrity and being known as incorruptible—how many of us humans could be described as having integrity by that definition? This is a characteristic most of us strive for: to be trusted, to be included in groups that value our opinions and membership; to be liked because we can be trusted. We expect that most of us want to be known as having integrity.

In researching Unitarians and Universalists in our faith history, and in particular what roles did they play in developing the United States, we discovered more questions than answers; questions such as, what role did integrity have in weaving the fabric of our nation and subsequently our denomination?

Were these men persons of integrity? We are of the opinion that they were because of several books written about our faith ancestors by authors such as Brooke Allen in her book: *Moral Minority—Our Skeptical Founding Fathers* (2006). Spoiler alert: our founders were humans with all the emotions, drives, avarices, along with goodness, spiritual thoughts, and abilities to care about others, honor others, and to love. But above all, they wanted to have their own country—without a king, without oppression, and freedom of and from religion.

Allen traced the discussions of including religion in the Constitution. "The framers, as a group, saw religion as a divisive rather than a cohesive force was made clear and appear to have decided that the less said about it the better, so long as the concept of full religious freedom was made clear and enforceable. Thus while the 1781 Articles of Confederation had acknowledged "The Great Governor of the World," the Constitution acknowledged no supernatural authority at all, not even the vaguest of deist formulations, "Providence."

"Of the thirteen states represented at the Constitutional Convention, all had established religions written into their states' constitutions—except for Virginia and New York." So, the framers basically followed those two states with this: the "legally binding Statute for Religious Freedoms." Interestingly, because of "the British Test Acts, which had curtailed the political and civil rights of so many British subjects... a 'no religious test' clause was favored by many of the delegates, including some of the most fervent Christians in the group."

Roger Sherman spoke about the prevailing "liberality" among the Convention's delegates concerning the sub-

ject of religion to be included. The subject had little debate and was not included. "In fact, so far as we know, no delegate at the convention endorsed any positive role at all for religion in the government." What scared a lot of people was this statement: "...federal officials shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall be required..." Allen found this telling, detailed bit of information: "A delegate at the Massachusetts ratifying convention, for one, worried that if the president were not required to take a religious oath of formal adherence to the Protestant faith, "a Turk, a Jew, a Roman Catholic, and worse than all, a Universalist [Unitarian] may be president of the United States."

And that was then. Did the framers have integrity? You may answer this question for yourself. If you have been able to watch at least one of the current House of Representatives' Republican caucus voting sessions for choosing the Speaker of the House, the whole discussion of integrity may take on another dimension!

Happy February! Enjoy Presidents Day.

*In the Faith,*  
- JoAnn Macdonald

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## We Honor A Black Pioneering Minister

**Rev. Lewis McGee** (1893 to 1979) started out as a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was struggling with his faith and questioned the doctrines of the church. Around age 50, he volunteered to become a chaplain in the Second World War. He believed in human beings, and wanted to bring justice to Black people. He knew he was a humanist. While serving as a chaplain, he thought a lot about his beliefs and learned about the Unitarian religion.



When he returned home he married Marcella Walker from a prominent Chicago African American family and enrolled in Meadville Theological School to begin his studies for the Unitarian ministry. But there was a new problem: how to get a white congregation to call him as their minister.

Lewis and Marcella decided to start a UU congregation for Black people on Chicago's South Side, called the

Free Religious Fellowship and began to gather a congregation. Both Lewis and Marcella were well-liked. Marcella had a lot of connections in Chicago and helped get the word out. His congregation grew to nearly 100 members; mostly Black people, though there were white and Japanese people.

When it was time to move to a new challenge, he looked for a new congregation. Unitarians in Flint, Michigan were impressed but weren't ready to call a Black minister. He finally was called to the assistant minister position at the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles. He was only one of two Black ministers called to largely white congregations that year. Finally, in 1961, Rev. McGee became minister at the Chico Unitarian Fellowship. He became the first black man called as a senior minister of a mostly white Unitarian church.

The UU website, Teachin2: Black UU Ancestors, states, "When Lewis McGee decided that he would wait no longer for the Unitarians to make room for his ministry, he made his own room in our denomination's history. We honor his memory and place among our UU ancestors."

To learn more about pioneering Black UUs during Black History Month, visit [Black UU Ancestors](http://www.uuteachin.org).

- Kay Saucier,  
adapted from [www.uuteachin.org](http://www.uuteachin.org)

## Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Month, **Trisha Tatam**, leader of our very successful Holiday Bazaar! As Trisha mentioned in her thank-you article last month, planning for our two-day Bazaar takes all year. Trisha brought together a talented team of volunteers to plan the event and search for goods to sell. If you attended the Bazaar, you noticed a wide variety of Christmas items and gift ideas. One of the best sellers was jewelry! Although they can use part of a UUFHC shed, Trisha and her team had to store much of the items in their homes. This fundraiser is one that reaches out to our whole community. I worked checkout, and so many people called our Bazaar the best in Harford County.



Congratulations and a million thanks to Trisha. The proceeds surpassed what was budgeted for this fiscal year.

## February Birthdays



February is our shortest month, and actually has the fewest member birthdays. Yet still, as in every other month, two of our members share a birthday. We wish all our February honorees a happy birthday, happy Valentines Day, and happy Black History Month.

Allison Ehrman	February 4
Marla Posey-Moss	February 4
Steven Thompson	February 9
Nicole O'Grady	February 13
Claire Sidell	February 21
Franklin Kuzenski	February 23
Ruth Sanborn	February 29

## Mark Your Calendar!



February is a short month but a busy month here at UUFHC. You won't want to miss any of these special events. As more information becomes available, it will be listed in the NUUwsbytes.

### Chili Cook-Off

**Saturday, February 4, 5:00 to 8:00 pm at UUFHC**

This is one of our most enjoyable events. Bring your best homemade chili, beer, bread or soup and compete for bragging rights as the champ of each category. We vote with our dollars in a jar before each entry. We also welcome salads and desserts if you don't want to enter a competition. To reduce waste, please bring a muffin pan for sampling entries. Childcare is available.

### Journaling for Spiritual Growth

**Monday, February 6, 7:00 to 8:30 Online**

This workshop will introduce you to Spiritual Journaling, a contemplative practice of self-discovery and a way of delving into an existence below the surface level of life. In this practice, we focus on the heart and soul of our collective experiences to mine the wisdom that lies there. We are exploring our spiritual landscape. Writing by hand in a physical journal causes us to slow down—something so necessary in this quick-paced world. This is the second of a series of first Monday journaling sessions. Each session is stand alone, but you are encouraged to attend as many as you can. \$5 per session. ([bwoodrol@gmail.com](mailto:bwoodrol@gmail.com)).

## Stewardship Drive Begins

**Sunday, February 12**

This is an important time to set a budget and plan priorities for the new fiscal year, which begins May 1. Rev. María McCabe will kick off the drive with a inspirational sermon. The plan is similar to last year's to meet in small groups to solicit input about priorities and to find out how we implemented last year's suggestions. You will also receive a mailing from the Stewardship Team with more information. Pledge forms are available on the UUFHC website. Contact Mark Davis ([president@uufhc.net](mailto:president@uufhc.net)) for more information or to find out how you can serve as a host or steward.

## Buffalo Trace Society (BTS)

**February 18 at UUFHC, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Ron 'SilverWolf' Henry has been a member of this Native American group for 25 years. You are invited to attend an Apprenticeship Orientation. Various topics will be presented, questions answered and details about specifics shared. Learn about Native American teachings, traditions, ceremonies and spirituality with respect to preserving Mother Earth for the next seven generations. [RonaldLeeHenry@gmail.com](mailto:RonaldLeeHenry@gmail.com).

## Finding the Beauty We Love: Exploring a Few Spiritual Practices Together

**A UUFHC Retreat, Saturday, February 25, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

We each have our own unique way of finding meaning in life and connecting with the sacred. The day's rhythm will include meditation, body movement, journaling, a bit of prayer, with lots of time for sharing our experiences and learning from each other. Morning coffee/tea and snacks, as well as a vegetarian lunch will be provided. The fee is \$15 and covers building costs and food preparation. RSVP to [bwoodrol@gmail.com](mailto:bwoodrol@gmail.com).

*And coming in March . . .*

## Letting Your Soul Speak Out Loud:

**A UUFHC Retreat Celebrating Creativity and Spiritual Expression**

**Saturday, March 25, 2023 at UUFHC  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

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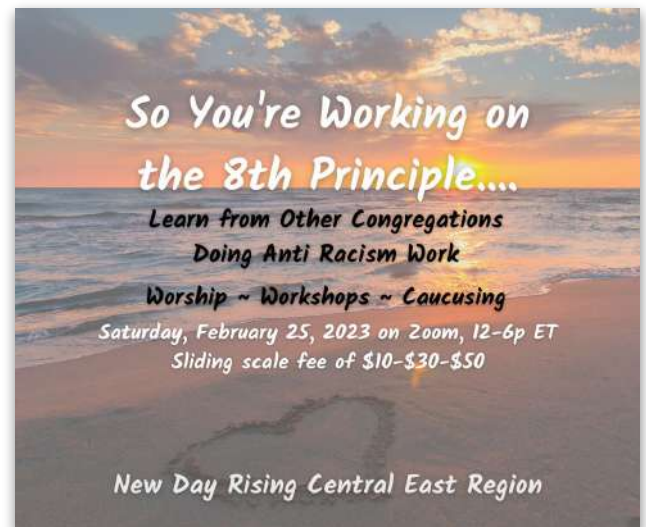
## New Day Rising Event for 8th Principle

**Saturday, February 25,  
12 noon to 6:00 pm via webinar**

Congregations throughout the Central East Region have started work on adopting the [8th Principle](#), covenanting to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual

wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions. Some congregations have discussed it with no action, some have voted to adopt it, and some are using it to actively work on dismantling racism in their systems and communities. Every UU congregation is ready to take the next step in their process of furthering antiracism, whether they use the 8th Principle as a vehicle or not.

Join this year's New Day Rising event to learn from neighboring congregations about what path they've taken with their 8th Principle and other antiracism work, and how your congregation might move itself forward. This Central East Region event will include worship, testimony from congregations engaged in the work, plus caucusing and other community building opportunities. The webinar format makes it easy to attend, but is limited to 500 participants. So registration is required. Go to [New Day Rising](#) to register and for further information.



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## UUSJ: A Social Justice Power House

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, centered in Washington, DC are involved on many fronts to make our world a better place. The group provides advocacy for several social justice issues including:

- Defending our Democracy
- Immigration Justice
- Environmental and Climate Justice
- Economic Justice



Members of UUSJ go to the Capitol to advocate for these issues with congress members and their staffs, and invite UUs to join letter writing campaigns to let Congress know how important these issues are to their constituents.

Upcoming is an in-person advocacy event, “Food Not Feed Summit” on Tuesday, February 7. UUSJ and other partners hope to transition away from industrial agriculture and toward conservation and regenerative practices. They predict that over time, a more climate-smart agricultural system will be more resilient and less costly for taxpayers. A move away from industrial agriculture will allow farmers to grow healthy and nutritious food for their communities profitably.

Many groups are joining together to fight for this shift, which includes regeneratively-raised livestock and poultry within a system that’s fair and equitable from seed to fork.

To learn more about UUSJ’s current projects and initiatives, go to [www.uusj.net](http://www.uusj.net) and look for the eNews link in the menu at the top of the page.

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## Consider GA 2023

The Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly is the annual meeting of our denomination. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the UUA through democratic process. This year, GA is relatively close—in Pittsburgh, PA on June 21 through 25. There is an option to attend virtually.

Most events will take place in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Besides business meetings for delegates, there are programs for children, youth, and young adults, worship services, workshops, and an exhibit hall, with a diverse marketplace of ideas and goods. Evenings offer an Opening Celebration, a service of Living Tradition and other worship, a dance, and lectures, most notably the distinguished Ware Lecturer. The list of previous Ware lecturers is impressive. In 1966, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke, and last year’s Ware lecturer was Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. We will announce this year’s lecturer when available.

UUFHC is allowed a certain number of delegates. Delegates, vote on new bylaws, and importantly, discuss “Actions of Immediate Witness.” This year, delegates will discuss issues related to Transgender, Nonbinary and Intersex Communities; the COVID-19 pandemic; and

stopping voter suppression. Other topics may join the list.

If you would like to become a delegate, see Rev. Maria or UUFHC President Mark Davis for information. Delegates can also attend via Zoom. Any attendee or delegate from UUFHC could also bring our banner to display and for the banner parade.

For further information, go to [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga). To register, choose the link on the left side of the page. Volunteer opportunities and financial support are available.

Consider GA this year. Not only can you feed your spirit, but you will feel part of a much wider Unitarian Universalist Community.

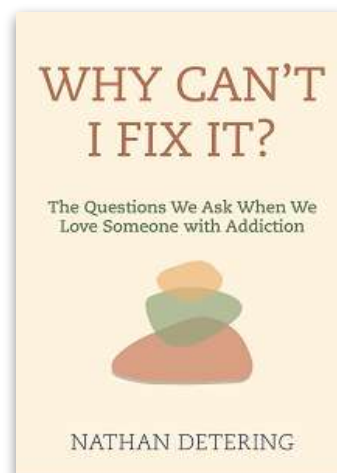
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## New Skinner House Book on Addiction *Why Can't I Fix It* by Nathan Detering

When Rev. Nathan Detering shared the story of his brother’s death from a drug overdose with the members of his congregation, many of them shared their own addiction stories with him.

Weaving together his own and others’ deeply felt experiences of addiction, *Why Can't I Fix It?* responds to sometimes desperate questions such as: Why is this happening? What can you do? What can't you do? How do you care for yourself and the rest of your family?

This is a helpful book for those with a family member or friend struggling with addiction. Skinner House is one of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s own publishing outlet for UU books. (Beacon Press serves a more general audience.) Explore *Why Can't I Fix It?* and other books at *InSpirit*, the UU Book and Gift Shop at [uua.org/bookstore](http://uua.org/bookstore).

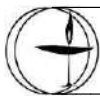


The Unitarian Universalist  
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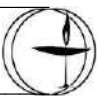
Building Liberal Religious Community  
*Please Join Us!*

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at [www.uufhc.net](http://www.uufhc.net)



Please note: Next Newsletter deadline is Sunday, February 12, 2023



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

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle):  
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9:30 am to 5:30 pm

Minister's Office Hours:  
Tues: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Thurs: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Director of Faith Formation Office Hours:  
Sun: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

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## Wayside Pulpit

The right question is usually more important than  
the right answer.

– Plato