

# CrossCurrents

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AT WASHINGTON CROSSING

JANUARY 2026



## Spotlight on UUCWC's Finance Committee

*By Holly Bussey, Congregational Engagement*

UUCWC's mission is to "Celebrate Life, Create Community, and Change the World." The Finance Committee plays a key role in making that mission possible. By advising the Board on financial matters, the committee helps ensure the church's long-term stability and growth. Equally important, it helps the congregation understand how our financial resources support our shared dreams and priorities.

### Why Participate in Finance

Volunteering in finance offers a behind-the-scenes look at how work gets done at UUCWC. Whether you serve on the committee or help with a one-time project, you'll gain insight into how the church bridges the gap between vision and reality. Finance work goes beyond balancing numbers, it includes conversations about how we raise funds, how we spend them, and how congregants feel about those choices.

### How Can You Participate?

Curious about how decisions are made at UUCWC? One of the best ways to learn is to attend a Finance Committee meeting. The committee works closely with other committees, ministries, and the Board, offering a clear view of how the congregation functions as a whole.



# CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT

There are also short-term projects that may be a good fit. Opportunities include assisting with stewardship mailings, researching or applying for grants, learning about the church's income sources and expenses, and offering ideas on financial priorities. You can also attend the annual budget meeting in May to better understand the budget process and key funding areas.

For those seeking deeper involvement, the committee welcomes a member-at-large to attend monthly meetings. You may choose to shadow the current member-at-large or step into the role yourself. It's a meaningful way to learn more about the church and to have a voice in how resources are raised and used.

## **More About the Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee brings together members of UUCWC to coordinate financial efforts across the church, including collaboration with the Board treasurer and the Fundraising, Stewardship, and Endowment teams.

The committee meets monthly via Zoom, and no financial expertise is required, just curiosity and a willingness to learn. To find out more, contact the committee at [finance@uucwc.org](mailto:finance@uucwc.org).

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## **Holiday Poinsettia Sale a Success**

*By Donna Miller, Fundraising Coordinator*

Many thanks to all who helped make our annual Christmas plant sale a success. The sale brought in about \$800.

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**Mark Your Calendars: A Joyful Season of Music at UUCWC**

I am excited to share that we have a full roster of guest musicians joining us this spring, and I am especially thrilled to welcome some new instruments into our sanctuary! For those new to our services, we invite several guest musicians each year to join us for the regular Sunday service. If you typically join us on Zoom and can come in person occasionally, these are great days to do so! Please mark the following dates:

**March 1: Will Czartoryski, horn** - Will is a fantastic horn player and composer. He is one of my composition students at Temple University. He grew up in the Langhorne area and graduated from Pennsbury High School. In his free time, Will enjoys composing, running, and watching movies.

**March 22: Josh Quillen, steel pan** - Josh is a wonderful percussionist, a member of the Grammy Award-winning quartet So Percussion, and a longtime friend of our very own Rev. Kim. Josh and I met years ago through Kim's introduction and have collaborated several times since then. However, this will be our first time performing together. This is a rescheduled date from the fall.

**April 19: Medgina Maitre, harp** - Medgina just graduated from Temple University with her master's degree in harp performance and plans to freelance in the Greater Philadelphia area. She currently teaches harp with the Lyra Society and studied with Elizabeth Hainen of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

**June 14: TBA** - This is the date of our annual flower ceremony, when we will be joined by several professional musicians who will accompany our choir and offer a brief, informal performance in the sanctuary after the service. More information about these musicians and this special service will be available closer to the date.

### **...and that's not all!**

I'm thrilled to announce that we have rescheduled the L.O.V.E. Jazz Orchestra (postponed due to the winter storm) for Sunday, March 29, following the service. Tickets are \$20. Please plan to stay after that day to enjoy some refreshments and wonderful music. This performance is open to the public, so please feel free to invite friends and family.

Please contact me with any questions about the music ministry at UUCWC at [ebusch@uucwc.org](mailto:ebusch@uucwc.org). I'd love to hear from you!



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND

## Your Generosity Reaches Farther Than You Think

*By Holly Bussey, Community Outreach Fund*

A meaningful service often ends with a Worship Associate offering a reflection and inviting you to give generously when the plate is passed—or when you click the donation link in Zoom or give through Venmo. You hear that “half the plate, minus pledge payments, supports justice work beyond our walls and empowers our community to serve the wider world.”

What you may not realize is just how far your generosity goes.

From July through November 2025, half the plate generated \$9,200—enough to fund UUCWC’s social justice ministries and make significant contributions to organizations that need our support. That’s 14% more than the same period last year (2024). These funds are the primary source of annual support for our Food, Racial Justice, Faith Action, Community Action, Earth and Climate, and Homefront ministries.

Your giving also enables us to support vital external partners, including Snipes Farm and Education Center, UU Disaster Relief, food banks across Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the Trenton Microloan Collaborative, and many others. When SNAP funding was suddenly cut during the government shutdown, your generosity allowed us to respond immediately, distributing \$5,000 to trusted food charities with long-standing partnerships and proven impact.

Oversight of these funds is handled by the newly renamed Community Outreach Fund (formerly FEFT). We’re the volunteers who ensure that every dollar you give goes as far as possible.

Thank you for your generosity, and please keep it up. If you'd like to learn more, talk with any of us: Rab Bell, Elizabeth Berkowitz, Holly Bussey, Bud Johnson, Jane Root, Jim Sanders, or Dan Tuft.



## Food Ministry Celebrates Three Kings Day at Westminster Presbyterian Church

*By Marcia Whittman, Food Ministry*

Sunday, January 4, was a special day at Westminster Presbyterian Church, an “intercultural, open and affirming, social justice congregation” serving the City of Trenton. The 19th Annual Three Kings Day service honored the traditions of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Dia de los Reyes in a joyous celebration led by the dynamic Pastora Karen Hernández-Granzen.

The UUCWC Food Ministry team’s involvement began last fall when Pastora Karen attended one of the ministry’s monthly meetings, a first step toward building a partnership. During a discussion of how Food Ministry could support Westminster, Pastora Karen described the Three Kings Day service and proposed that Food Ministry provide snack bags for the children participating in the event.

On December 21, after the beautiful Christmas pageant, Julie Rigano coordinated an event in which children, their parents, and Food Ministry members assembled 175 snack bags containing fruit cups, granola bars, holiday treats, and juice boxes. This joyful collaborative effort, made possible by so many, connected UUCWC families with the Westminster congregation.



Seven members of the Food Ministry attended the January 4 service and were warmly welcomed by Pastora Karen and the congregation. They were treated to a multicultural, multilingual experience focused on children and the child in all of us.

A few highlights included “Silent Night,” sung or spoken in English, German, Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, and French, and signed in Makaton; a skit, “The Star Still Leads,” performed by young performers from the Sprout U School of the Arts; and a praise dance, “Take Me to the King.”

The Food Ministry team hopes to build on this rewarding first step and to forge an ongoing partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church to support its vital urban



## Loaves and Fishes: Creating Community, Changing the World

*By Ronnie Dobrowolski*

Through Loaves and Fishes, we continue to live out our commitment to building community and changing the world. We build community by working side by side and sharing conversations. We change the world, one person at a time, by offering hot, nourishing meals to those in need.

Loaves and Fishes is a social action outreach that began with recognizing a need and feeling called to respond. It is about coming together with others who share a commitment to meeting that need.

In Trenton, many people work every day yet still struggle to make ends meet. Rising costs for housing, food, transportation, and childcare often force people to take on multiple jobs just to support themselves and their families.

I often ask myself: What can I do? How can I help? Who will join me to make a difference for families, the working poor, and unhoused neighbors in Trenton? As I walk down the aisle at St. Mary's and see a young child enjoying the food we have prepared, I can't help but smile. In that moment, I know we are showing that child they are cared for and valued.

When I see an older woman, with difficulty walking, enjoying her meal, I feel grateful she is with us, sharing not only food but also fellowship. When young men waiting to be served ask whether they can help, I feel hopeful. Their willingness to lend a hand reminds me that we all need support at times and that community is built through shared effort.

When the Crossings Room is full of people making sandwiches and talking together, I know we are doing far more than preparing bagged lunches. We are building relationships, sharing time and ideas, and reaching beyond our walls. This is social

action in practice, creating community and working to change the world. When we order supplies and deliver them to UUCWC or St. Mary's, I am reminded that even small steps matter.

At the end of the day, after so many have been served a hot meal, I feel a deep sense of fulfillment. We have met our goal: to volunteer, provide food, and offer friendship. By creating a welcoming, friendly, and caring environment, we help make a difficult situation a little more manageable for those who are hungry and in need.

Together, through Loaves and Fishes, we are making a difference.

Learn more about Loaves and Fishes on the [UUCWC website](#).



## UUA General Assembly 2026 Will Be Virtual

*By Holly Bussey, Denominational Affairs Liaison*

The 2026 UUA General Assembly (GA) will be a virtual event with optional opportunities for community gatherings. Alongside the Studio Site in Louisville, Kentucky, several regional satellite sites will offer in-person ways to participate and connect. Congregations are encouraged to host local gatherings or watch parties. Whether joining from a congregation, a satellite site, or from home, everyone will experience the same inspiring content and the spirit of connection that unites our movement everywhere.

The dates are June 14–21, 2026. Here's the schedule:

- **Sunday through Tuesday (June 14–16):** All-virtual General Sessions will focus on UUA's business.
- **Wednesday and Thursday (June 17–18):** This is scheduled as a flexible midweek break for rest, travel, professional organization meetings, and affinity group gatherings.
- **Friday through Sunday (June 19–21):** Whether attending at an optional in-person site or participating fully online, registrants will experience the same livestreamed worship, featured speakers, and "Meet the Moment" programming that will bring us together across all locations.

This year's GA is designed to be flexible, accessible, and meaningful for all participants.

Registration is now open. Visit <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/schedule> to register and learn more.



## Murray Grove Women's Retreat: "Enough Is Enough," March 20–22

*By Jessica Alaimo, Executive Director, Murray Grove*

Murray Grove is delighted to welcome women back for our upcoming Women's Retreat, taking place the weekend of March 20–22 at our historic retreat center. This year's theme, "Enough Is Enough," speaks powerfully to the moment we are living in and to the lives many of us carry.

"Enough is enough" can mean many things. It can be a declaration against injustice, inequality, and harm in a world that often demands we tolerate too much. It can be a collective refusal to accept systems and narratives that exhaust, marginalize, or dehumanize. It can also be a deeply personal truth: enough striving, enough self-criticism, enough believing we must do everything and be everything to be worthy.

This retreat holds both meanings. Together, we will explore how to stay engaged in the work of justice without succumbing to burnout. We will reflect on the reality that rest is not a luxury but a necessity, and that caring for ourselves is not separate from caring for the world. In a culture that glorifies constant productivity, this weekend offers space to remember that we are already enough and that each of us can do enough in our own way.

The weekend will feature facilitated discussions, creative and reflective workshops, time in nature, shared meals, and plenty of unstructured time for rest, connection, and joy. Whether you come seeking renewal, grounding, inspiration, or community, you will be welcomed exactly as you are.

Space is limited. Early-bird tickets are available at [murraygrove.org](https://murraygrove.org). We hope you'll join us for a weekend of reflection, resistance, rest, and reconnection.





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