

CrossCurrents

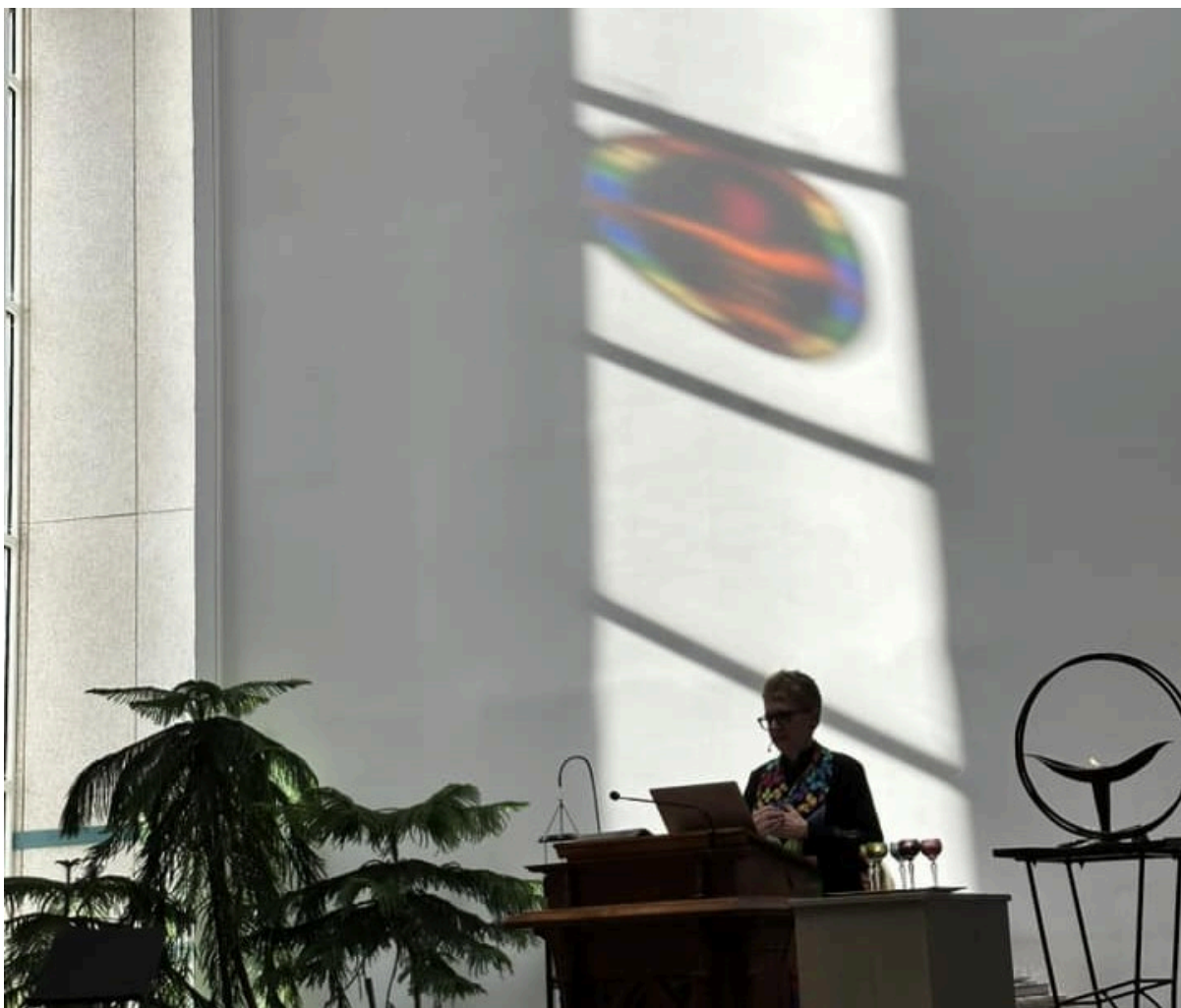
✦ *CREATING COMMUNITY BY KEEPING YOU INFORMED* ✦

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AT WASHINGTON CROSSING

March 2026



Earth & Climate Ministry Co-Chairs Leslie McGeorge and Geri Koblis with a mural from UUCWC's Climate Justice Dialogues representing a collective vision of an ideal community, illustrated by Sue Busch, and framed in repurposed wood by Roy Vogel. Read the Congregational Spotlight article on Earth & Climate Ministry in this month's newsletter.



Revisiting Kim's March 1st Sermon: "To Have a Village"

By Rev. Kim

(Editor's Note: In case you missed Rev. Kim's sermon from a few weeks ago, or would like to revisit it, here's your opportunity to do so.)

I have been thinking a lot about how we learn about who we are. How the children cup their hands to make the Us of Unitarian and Universalist, and how those Us also look like little chalices raised up in the air.

How their minds and hearts are both acknowledged as sacred tools. The way their little voices say *We are the church* – and how, my most sincere hope is, they come to let the truth of that word *we* imprint so deeply that they know – when they need it most one day – that they are not alone.

I have been thinking a lot about how we learn about who we are. The visitors who are considering what membership might mean. How they are learning about covenants as an alternative to creeds. A faith that wants for right relationship rather than being right. The way our music calls in our ancestors. How personal experience is its own wisdom source. Its own holy voice.

I have been thinking a lot about how we learn about who we are. And how teaching these stories and movements and key phrases and lessons is the very important very first step to having a language and a container and a people and a place...

to put your feet on the floor and breathe. To be among like-hearted others with whom you can find and create hope. To have a village. To articulate and test and be accountable to a faith. To grow a faith.

I have been thinking about how essential this starting point is of teaching and learning over and over again.

But also.

How it is not the same

As putting our feet on the floor.

As calling in our ancestors.

As raising a chalice high for others to see.

We talk a lot about community here. This secular word that we know to be faithful. In fact, during a recent interview with one of our Assistant Ministry candidates, one of the questions we asked was:

What would you say to someone who thinks Unitarian Universalism is less of a religion and more of a social club?

It can be easy to confuse the two. Or conflate them. It can be easy to think that being in a room with others, enjoying their company, recognizing shared values is community.

But that is not what we mean.

Community that is faithful and faith testing and faith building is one that is committed to each other so deeply, so out loud, so consistent that it is clearly a relationship, not a service. So clearly an evolution, not a transaction. So clearly something we do, not just proclaim.

Beloveds, you might think that this is just another entry into our joys and sorrows ritual, but I am calling our attention to the *practice* of our Unitarian Universalism today because it has never been so clear...

that what the world, our country, our communities need right now is an active, brave, and faithful community building. Dinner tables and doors open as though the *pizza* you ordered might be salvific. Cluttered homes left untidy because anything else is near impossible and we shouldn't try to hide that. Sharing our tears and rage. Our clumsiness and confusion with strangers and friends. Releasing ourselves into music and art, and creating our own as a testimony to the co-creators that we are.

Have you seen? Have you noticed? How Adam Serwer of The Atlantic coined the term "neighborism", and Jelani Cobb, Dean of the Columbia Journalism School, recently wrote that "in a democracy, the fundamental civic unit is the neighbor." Amanda Litman, the leader of Run for Something, believes that hosting dinner for friends every Saturday was the most political thing she did in 2025. And Ezra Klein – take him or leave him but do not cancel him – says that if you're not going to host a potluck, it's got to be some variety of gathering.

Why? Why all of a sudden is the world waking up to our need for each other – post pandemic isolation; in the midst of a loneliness epidemic; with suicide rates on the rise. Why now?

Well. For one, there's a whole lot being said about how if we want to defeat fascism, about how to survive this time, we're going to need to build relationships outside of our existing social spheres – *and we won't, if we don't practice with those closest to us first* – that's nearly a direct quote from Garrett Bucks of the White Pages. And later in the same brilliant article he talks about how it's so much easier to ask people to do hard things together if you already love and trust each other.

Yes yes yes.

But also, I think that even those of us who have known, who have learned, who teach about the salvific nature of community, still resist the vulnerability it comes with, the bravery it requires, the accommodations and curiosity and time and energy it needs. And that resistance – that has been masked by some really good words over the years, over the generations – is starting to show.

Those of us who have learned about the promise of community, by and large haven't yet made it an expression of living faithfully. Haven't yet taken that promise and, in return, let it change us. Let it redirect us. Let it inform us. Let it build us up and help us change the world.

We talk a lot about community here. Which is the right first step. But it is not the same thing as being in - or building the - community or neighborhood or school district or state or country or world we want to belong to.

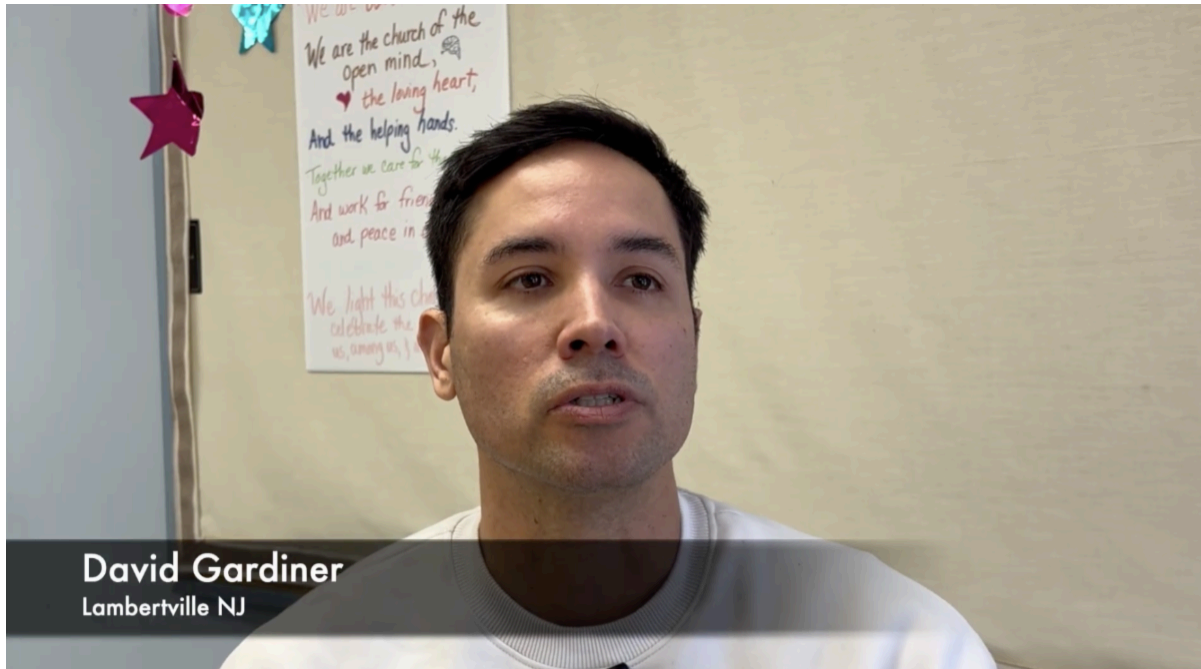
We are the church of the open minds and loving hearts and helping hands.

May we make it so.



Not Too Late to Make Your Pledge

Three highlights of UUCWC's current pledge campaign have been the series of videos featuring UUCWC members describing what inspires them to contribute to the church's financial health. If you haven't had the opportunity to view these inspiring videos or simply need further inspiration to make your pledge, you'll want to watch them. Note that the third video features Regina Zilinski.





Drivers Needed: Help Keep UUCWC's Airport Ride Program Rolling

By Caryl Tipton

As you may know, the UUCWC Transportation Fundraiser was paused during the pandemic. Since restarting in mid-2004, we have collected over \$7,000 in donations for the church. How it works: volunteers respond to requests for rides to and from the Philadelphia or Newark airports, or local train stations. There is a set fee for each destination, which goes to the church, and a small tip for the driver to cover tolls, gas, and other expenses.

With this service, instead of riding with an unknown airport van, Uber, or Lyft driver, you can ride with a trusted and safe driver from UUCWC, and your fee will go to the church. I've enjoyed spending time with new members during the trip and catching up with people I haven't seen in a while. An added bonus has been spending time with those I've known for years but never had the chance to have an extended conversation and get to know them better. A win/win situation for everyone, I'd say! Next time you're traveling, think of us.

At one point, we had seven volunteer drivers. We are now down to four. We need more drivers, especially with vacation months coming up. It's not a major time commitment and happens only occasionally. We want to prevent our current volunteers from burning out and to serve more people when they call for rides.

If you need a ride or want to discuss volunteering, please contact me at transportation@uucwc.org.



Earth & Climate Ministry team members working on Allie's Garden.

Spotlight on Earth & Climate Ministry

By Martha Bell, Congregational Engagement

With Earth Day approaching, this is a great time to learn more about UUCWC's Earth & Climate Ministry. Keep reading, and watch for upcoming Earth Day news. Do you love the outdoors and want to connect with others who share that passion? More than a dozen UUCWC members find companionship and purpose through their involvement in the Earth & Climate Ministry. With many ways to honor the interconnected web of all existence and our place within it, the group sponsors projects for all ages and focuses on five key areas:

- Advise and promote environmentally and climate-friendly stewardship of our church building and grounds
- Educate and encourage congregants to adopt environmentally responsible practices
- Raise awareness and support social justice action around local, state, and national climate and environmental issues
- Create opportunities to experience nature and appreciate the environment

- Explore expanded environmental justice efforts through the UUA's Green Sanctuary 2030 program

Why Participate?

Members engage in activities that often foster spiritual experiences and provide opportunities to share knowledge and skills. Participants share a passion for caring for the Earth while building strong relationships and making a difference in our congregation, the broader community, and beyond.

How Can You Participate?

You're invited to participate. The ministry offers many short-term opportunities, including used book sales and educational or advocacy events. Volunteers assist with tasks like weeding, watering plants, planting or harvesting Allie's vegetable garden, compiling Earth Day "green tips," helping with plant giveaways, installing birdhouses, leading outdoor hikes, suggesting guest speakers, supporting announcements, guiding outdoor spiritual experiences, and aiding climate justice initiatives such as community disaster preparedness.

More About the Ministry

You don't need a background in environmental issues to participate—only an interest in protecting the Earth and supporting a sustainable climate.

The group meets on the third Thursday evening of each month, either via Zoom or multi-platform. During warmer months, meetings are often followed by in-person potlucks. Two co-chairs lead the ministry, focusing on climate justice, grounds and gardens, and overall coordination. The group also collaborates with staff, other congregational leaders, and the Council for Faith in Action.

For more information, contact the ministry chairs at earthministry@uucwc.org.



What to Expect at Auction 2026 as We Share Our Joy!

By Barbara Drew, Co-Chair, Auction Committee

The highly anticipated UUCWC Auction, Sharing Our Joy!, is coming up. A variety of contributions are arriving, thanks to the generosity and creativity of our members. It's not too early to start planning your participation in this fundraising and fun-raising event. Online bidding begins Saturday, May 2, at 9:00 a.m., and runs through Saturday, May 9, at 9:00 p.m.

Starting April 19, you can register and preview auction items, so don't wait until the last minute! Access the website [here](#).

But first, you're invited to the Kick-off Party at UUCWC on Friday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance (through April 30) after worship services or through

a donation via the UUCWC [website](#) (Please note that your donation is for the auction party.), or \$35 at the door.

- Refreshments: delectable finger foods, beverages & desserts
- Viennese Coffee Bar! New this year.
- Showcase of Physical Items
- Online Registration Assistance
- The Boutique – jewelry, scarves, wallets, purses, and more

AND

- A Mini-Live Auction!
- FREE Childcare – advance registration required!

You might even win the door prize, a collection of UU-themed, joyful, and useful items such as a tote bag, chocolates, and more. Be sure to purchase your tickets for raffle baskets of specialty items! You must be at the party to win.

The Auction Book, available after the service on April 19, details each item across various categories (fixed price, buy now, or competitive), and the online auction features a photo or graphic along with the description. These are just a few of the offerings you'll find.

- Getaways – Poconos Escape, Rehoboth Beach House for a week!
- Family and Hands-on Adventures – Unique experiences such as Ellarslie Museum, Celtic Fling, Grounds for Sculpture
- Sermon of Your Choice, offered by our own Reverend Kim Wildszewski!
- Dining In/Dining Out – Enjoy meals and themed dinners hosted by UUCWC members at their home or area restaurants, including Mizuki and Non Solo Pasta, a Harvest Brunch, and Dia de los Muertos Dinner
- Gift Cards – A wide array, including Colonial Farms, Marsilio's Pennington Bagel, and Newtown Bookshop
- Services – Hair Styling, Baked Goods, Bike Repair, Knitting Lessons
- Events – Bicycling, Game and Movie Nights, Wine Tasting, Golfing, Hikes, Pickleball, Crafting, Holiday Singalong, Concerts, Poetry & Music, Walk with the Earth as Therapist, and Bunco
- Physical Items – Jewelry, and handmade items by our talented members, including knit hats, collector's items, and Roy Vogel handcrafted originals
- Gift Baskets – Eco-Friendly Products for Home & Self-Care, Farm-Fresh Products, Self-Care, and so much more

Through these auction offerings, we will be finding joy all year long. Our members express it best: "The auction opened paths to connection, just a few weeks after we visited for the first time!" – *Gayle and Bruce Allen*

Board of Trustees Co-President shares: "I love hosting events for the auction. It's a great way to meet new people, deepen relationships, and have fun while raising money to support our UUCWC mission. I hope you do the same!"

If you have questions or want more information, email auction@uucwc.org.



Speaking of the Auction...

By Scott Cullen

Since we are on the topic of the Auction and I recently submitted my contribution, here's a teaser video featuring Maya Hawke (for you *Stranger Things* fans) and her father, the actor Ethan Hawke, that hints at what you might find among this year's offerings. The two of them are in an amazing place that I, as a lifelong cinephile, can only dream of visiting.



Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing | 268 Washington Crossing Pe Rd | Titusville, NJ 08560
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