

STARR KING VIEW

Starr King UU Fellowship
-A Welcoming Congregation-
December 2022



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On Friday, December 2, we will hold a vespers service in our sanctuary at 6:00 PM.

This will be posted live on our Facebook page, but will not be available on Zoom.

Pizza will be served after the service for those who'd like to stay and "break bread."



Christmas Eve Child Dedication

Dear Parents,

We'd like to extend an invitation to have your child (or children) dedicated at our Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Christmas Eve service. The service starts at 5:00 PM.

This simple but beautiful ritual invites us all to bless your child with much love and hope. It's also an opportunity for the fellowship to dedicate itself, as a spiritual community, to the well-being of your child. All we need from you is a short description of why and or how you chose your child's name. Is it a family name or one that holds a special significance? Please send this to Rev. Linda or to the Director of Religious Education, Grace, so that we can personalize your child's dedication.

When you come forward with your child at the Christmas Eve service please feel free to come up as a family however you define family.

ENDOWMENT'S HOLIDAY "GIVING" DRAWING

Sunday December 18th

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE IS HOLDING A DRAWING TO EXTEND OUR OUTREACH INTO THE COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES OTHER THAN THOSE INCLUDED IN OUR MONTHLY OUTREACH. AND ENDOWMENT WANTS THE CONGREGATION TO HELP CHOOSE THE CHARITIES!

HOW THIS WILL WORK:

- You choose a charity that is not a recipient of our regular monthly outreach.
- For those who come to Sunday services, there will be a bowl in the foyer starting on December 4th for names to be submitted.
- For those who will not be at the Fellowship to enter your charity's name in the bowl, you can respond instead to the email that will be sent out for you to submit your choice.
- You may enter more than one and as many charities as you want.
- Your choices need to be consistent with the Endowment's mission: "For outreach into the community, local service agencies or institutions to which this congregation relates."

Outreach Recipients for 2022-2023: New Hampshire Food Bank, Plymouth Area Community Closet, NH Community Bail Fund, UUSC Immigration, PAREI, Ukraine, Pemi Youth Ctr and Got Lunch or Circle Program

Minister's Newsletter

Wonder is the first of all passions.

~ René Descartes

Oh, what a *wonder*-ful world we are born into! It is wonder that takes our breath away; that makes us look again; that sees the world in its beautiful complexity, infinity, and finality. Our Soul Matters theme for the month of December is The Path of Wonder. I feel like I could walk down that path and struggle to return to those things I thought needed to get done! Contemplating this brings me to this insightful quote from Descartes, "Wonder is the first of all passions." In it, I am reminded that all those things I need to get done, came about because of wonder - of what might be, of what is, and what was.

Your Fellowship is a place of wonder for me too. Community is especially important right now when many people are suffering loneliness. In isolation, loneliness is difficult to name and even more difficult to imagine escaping. We are an antidote, especially on Sunday mornings when we are singing, talking to each other, or sitting in silence. I feel a sense of wonder in those moments. Part of what makes it possible is your wonderful staff. I hope you know what a pleasure it is for me to work with these amazing people - Taphi, Sarah Dan, Grace, and Margaret. I love working with them. What we, and so many volunteers work to achieve, is a spiritual community that offers remarkable moments. If you've not been for a while, consider this your invitation to be present in community again. We are an antidote to loneliness and an invitation to wonder. I thank you for that, for being a people who welcome familiar folks and invite new people to be among us too. It's a wonder.

This December we have much to look forward to. We will host a play enacted by our very own children on Sunday, December 18th. It is sure to be a big hit! On Christmas Eve, at 5:00 pm, we will hold our traditional Christmas Eve Service. This is an all-generations, music and wonder filled, candlelight service. I hope you'll have the opportunity to join us.

My wish for you this holiday season is this: that you experience wonder in both the extraordinary and the everyday, and that you know yourself to be loved.

In faith and love,
Rev. Linda

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NEW COVID POLICY

Starr King Fellowship no longer requires vaccinations and masks for those entering the building.

We always welcome those who choose to wear masks and will continue to supply masks at entrances to the building.

If you test positive, please stay home until you test negative or for 10 days.

As always, if you do not feel well or remain uncomfortable in group settings, join us on Zoom.

Sunday Services –

December 4 Ordinary Wonder and the Invitation to Awe Rev. Linda Barnes

We are surrounded by ordinary wonders. Join us this Sunday as we explore the power of attention to bring us, through these wonders, to the great mystery of our existence. It is there where we might find ourselves whole, beautiful, and humble.

December 11 Wonder is Where Love Begins Margaret Rieser, Ministerial Intern

“Wonder is where love begins” writes activist Valerie Kaur. Wonder is the root of empathy and compassion for others. It is only when we wonder that we can openheartedly meet others and say, “you are part of me I do not yet know.”

December 18 Out of the Night Rev. Linda Barnes

This all-generations celebration pays tribute to the longest night of the year and the promise that, slowly, the light will return. And, from a origin story of the Haudenosaunee people past and present, our RE Classes will present a play about Sky Woman and the creation of the earth!

December 24 Christmas Eve Service Rev. Linda Barnes

Join us on Christmas Eve for a candlelight service. We will joyfully invite the rebirth of hope and light with songs and stories of the season. The service begins at 5:00 pm.

January 1 Book Service: What Have You Been Reading? Nancy Chaddock

This relaxed service offers us the opportunity to share our experience with books we’ve read in the past year and to give the Starr King UU Fellowship staff a well-deserved week off. Please join us for this on-line only service.

Nursery Care

If you have a child three years or younger, you are welcome to use the nursery to care for your child. Please know that children of any age are always welcome to remain in our services.

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Coffee/Tea | Volunteers Sign-up

Please consider helping with the Sunday coffee/tea prep and set-up after Sunday services. There are easy directions in the kitchen. Others that can help show you the process, too. There will be a sign-up sheet in Macey Hall. Also, if you want to consider helping with treats that will also be available to volunteer for on the same sign-up sheet. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to Bob Chandler. (Mobile 978-460-7478, email: bobchandler@verizon.net)



Volunteers are needed to clean up after coffee hour. Duties include emptying coffee pots, putting items away, washing dishes, and sweeping. Children are welcome to volunteer with parents. Sign up sheets are in Macey Hall. We are requesting 2 volunteers per week. 😊 Reach out to Stephanie Halter, stephanie.halter@gmail.com, or 603.996.1547 if you have questions.



Do You Wish You Could See a Service You Missed?

Did you know that most Sunday Services are recorded and posted to Vimeo - a cloud-based video platform similar to YouTube? You can view any past service by navigating to our home page www.starrkingfellowship.org and scrolling down to the section called "Sundays at Starr King." You can see the most recent Sunday or any past services.

President's Letter

Dear friends,

IN the Question Box service this past Sunday, one answer resonated me in so many ways that I repeat it here: "Love your people." This answer goes way beyond advice to someone studying to become a minister! I began thinking about what Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship means to me and community, love, people, learning, and more, under the umbrella of these 3 words.

Our staff-Linda, Sarah Dan, Grace, Margaret, and Taphi-thank you doesn't begin to express what you all provide for us, not just for Sunday mornings but every day. We have so many others to thank as well: people who step up to greet you on Sunday morning, someone brings in flowers each week, the choir members, tech crew and volunteers, nursery care provider, religious education volunteers, worship associate volunteer team, collection of the offering, the kitchen "elves" who prepare the coffee and snacks Sunday morning, clean-up that occurs after coffee and snacks, and I am sure there are more! I attempted to list names but sadly, I learned there is much overlap with this group. Here is where each every one of us can have a part.

Pre-COVID, Smooth Sunday teams helped to cover the many areas needed during a Sunday morning. A small group of board members are redesigning the new teams, with new names, responsibilities, etc. More details will be announced when all is finalized.

The website will be undergoing change soon. A small task force began work over the summer and I have recently contacted a few members to provide content for the new design. I cannot express how grateful I am for the work done by Sandy Mucci and Kathy Kelsey so far, but especially for all that is still to be done.

The winter holidays and special events are fast approaching; as soon as December begins it seems to get very busy for most of us. Even though most of us have more activities and plans at this time of year, celebrate quiet times too, like a fresh snow fall, a walk in the woods, reading, listening to holiday music. Continue to spend time with friends and family and remember what Linda said, "love your people."

In joy, enjoy,
Jane Clay, president

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Board's Bulletin

- Need volunteers: Smooth Sundays' revival
- Lots of happenings (see website for details on them all)
- New website coming soon
- All new Climate Action Committee

Reach out to any board member if you have questions or just to discuss matters.

Soundbites

“Jesus is coming. Look busy.”
– sign from a Lutheran Church in San Diego, California

This sign message cracks me up, especially as we enter the season of Advent in the Christian liturgy.

Hymns that are often sung speak of anticipation and a longing for the arrival of the Messiah. At Starr King, we also sing “People, Look East” and “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” as a musical message of waiting and looking for the coming of Christ. We light the advent candles of Peace, Love, Hope and Joy ever hopeful that all of those lights will shine the truth.

It also is one of the busiest times of the year for many – retail workers, grocery stores, restaurants and yes, even Church Professionals. We are flooded with messages from the media to “act now” and “don’t wait” on your gift purchases. Indeed, our capitalistic society thrives on tracking just how much customers spend, and praise the “busiest season of all”.

So, it isn’t hard to “look busy”; many of us are. What if we took some time to honor the advent of the Holy with quiet and contemplation? Even if just for a few moments a day. Maybe a ritual chalice lighting focusing on one of the four themes of Advent. A few moments reflecting of catching our breath during the rush. A heartfelt prayer for true Peace and Love in our world.

There is a great poem by African American theologian Howard Thurman entitled “The Work of Christmas”.

“When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart.”

So, rest easy this season of waiting. When it is over, the work truly begins.

See y’all in church

Sarah Dan

Choir meets every Thursday in the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM except December 29.



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Religious Education

In Religious Education this past month we focused on the theme of *Change*. To start, we brainstormed all the words we think of when we hear the word change. Some that appeared were: *seasons, health, weather, cutting down trees, clothing, behavior, life cycles, feelings, possibility, money, age, education, growth, time, decomposition, passing away, nervousness, and learning.*



What do you think of when you hear the word *Change*?

We have also been working hard on preparing a play that will be performed for the congregation during our solstice service, on December 18th. The play is an adaptation of the creation story of the Haudenosaunee people past and present (<https://native-land.ca/maps/territories/haudenosaunee-ga-confederacy/>), adapted from the written version of the story titled 'Skywoman Falling' by Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer in her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

You can learn more about this story and Kimmerer's choice to share it in this excerpt from the new introduction to her book: <https://emergencemagazine.org/oped/skywoman-falling/>

You can also listen to the story and how it compares to the scientific creation story, told by Kimmerer herself, here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6Dytbz5LGMdV4OVSyTawtv?si=1b9c81a6d8f04902>

It has been a fun creative challenge to turn this story into a performance. We have spent the past few Sundays listening and reading through the story, as well as deciding on the characters and the props we will need to make. We will continue to work on this for the next two Sundays, and are excited to share it all soon!

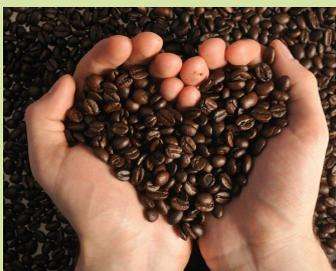
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Howling Monkey Nicaraguan Coffee Still Available

Shade-grown, organic Howling Monkey Nicaraguan coffee can still be purchased to support both the Starr King Youth group and Compas de Nicaragua.

It is available either whole bean or ground, \$15.00 per pound. Please Contact Bob and Jane Clay, 603-996-1207 or jhclay@roadrunner.com, to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery.



Outreach for December



The December Outreach Fund will go to the UU Action NH Community Bail Fund. The bail fund was established in 2018 and has paid more than 150 bails for people held in New Hampshire jails. It has bonded out 11 immigrants detained by ICE. The Bail Fund frees people stuck in jail waiting for a trial. In many cases, they are accused of misdemeanors such as trespassing and shoplifting.

December 4 is the Sunday to make your contribution and there will be someone from the bail fund to answer questions. All through the month, you can donate online.

The offering at the Christmas Eve service will go towards the minister's Discretionary Fund.

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Donating from the Starr King website.

The Donate button on the website is found at the top right of the Starr King UU Fellowship homepage. It is very simple to use, and only requires you to register the first time you use it.



The donation form allows you to select the amount you wish to deposit to our virtual collection and you can choose to donate to the Sunday offering or to any of our other Special Collection outreach or regular Starr King funds. You can also designate if you would like your gift to be a recurring donation, or not.

The funds you designate can be drawn from your bank account or paid by credit card. Either way, please consider helping to cover the cost of processing electronic donations by clicking on the "Cover Fees" box when submitting your donation.

Great gifts for those in need!

The purchase of a Hannaford card to use for grocery shopping costs you no additional money but helps SKUUF raise funds. In addition, purchase of Hannaford gift cards is always in good taste and you can use the SKUUF Hannaford program to purchase gift cards to give as thoughtful gifts. We share cards with our postal deliver person and other persons who help around the house and yard. Denominations \$25, \$100, \$500. See Taphi Janell during office hours or Betty Ann Trought /Linda Haskins after services. Cash or Checks, sorry no credit cards as fees remove our profit. Remember all checks are made out to SKUUF with Hannaford in memo line.



Climate Action News

Climate Action Team Becomes a Committee!

We are pleased to announce that your Climate Action Team is now a Committee of the Fellowship. We are grateful to our Governing Board for their approval of this designation.

So, what will this change in status mean, going forward?

Most importantly, it means that all members and friends of the Fellowship are welcome to attend and participate in any and all of our Climate Action meetings. You can also join the Committee if you wish to do so.

We meet in the Foyer of the Meetinghouse, twice a month, on the first and third Fridays at 10 am. Climate is a big topic, and for most of us this means that you may have an interest or time to follow only one or two climate topics in any detail. So we have decided to make our meeting on the third Friday of the month dedicated to a single climate issue.

We've also developed a list of speakers we might ask to join us for one of these 3rd Friday discussions, or perhaps after a Sunday morning service.

Watch for updates on the above developments and plan to drop in soon at one of our Friday morning meetings.

Committee members: Nancy Chaddock, Gigi Estes, Kathy Hillier, Margaret Salt, Suellen Skinner

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News from the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship

Worthy Now UU Prison Ministry

If you like to write "real" letters and want to make a difference in someone's life, please look into becoming a CLF Pen Pal. (CLF is the **UU Church of the Larger Fellowship** - a virtual congregation with well over 1000 members.)

- Correspond with a fellow UU who lives in a United States prison
- Bring a message of hope and make a big impact in someone's life
- Be one of hundreds of free-world pen pals who are at the heart of the CLF Prison Ministry
- Get the support you need for this safe, easy, and rewarding letter writing ministry

Most CLF members in prison are new to Unitarian Universalism and learned about the CLF from friends or cellmates. With no access to the web or UU Sunday services, people who are incarcerated can only learn about Unitarian Universalism from the mailings we send them and the letters they exchange with our staff and other Unitarian Universalists like you!

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I have been corresponding with two inmates. I write once a month and don't always hear back. (Their lives are complicated.) But when I do they are always so appreciative that I have taken the time to reach out to them.

Please contact me if you want to know more about this important endeavor.

Cindy Spring

## Member News:

There are six Starr king members performing in the Pemi Choral concert series December 1,2, and 4:Sue Chadwick, Gisela Estes, Mary Hazelton, Kathy Hillier, Susan Scrimshaw, Allan Stern

Please join us for the perfect way to usher in the Holiday Season!

THE PEMIGEWASSET CHORAL SOCIETY | SEASON 50

# Sing Out, My Soul

*Be filled with the  
sound of 90 singers*

**2022  
HOLIDAY CONCERTS**  
*William Gunn, Music Director  
Laura Belanger, Accompanist*

**THURSDAY • DECEMBER 1 • 7:30 PM**  
Gilford Community Church • Gilford

**FRIDAY • DECEMBER 2 • 7:30 PM**  
Moultonborough Academy • Moultonborough

**SUNDAY • DECEMBER 4 • 4:00 PM**  
PSU Silver Center • Plymouth

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## Online Member/Friend Directory

Need to reach your Starr King Friends? All members and active friends have access to our online directory. The link is on the Member menu item of the [starrkingfellowship.org](http://starrkingfellowship.org) web page or you can simply go to the url [skuuf.simplechurchcrm.com](http://skuuf.simplechurchcrm.com). Your username is your first name and last name separated with a period such as mickey.mouse. If you have never logged in before, simply click on Forgot Password and one will be emailed to you. If you like using your mobile device, you can download the app for Simple Church. To setup, type in the domain name "skuuf".

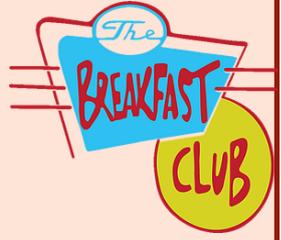
Here's what you can do there:

- Change your contact information
- Find contact information of SKUUF members
- See what groups you belong to (e.g. Soul Matters, Smooth Sundays)

Questions? Contact [kmkelsey@gmail.com](mailto:kmkelsey@gmail.com).

## Breakfast Club - Friday, December 2

Join us for conversation and food on the first Friday of each month. This month we will meet at Annie's Overflow Restaurant in Plymouth at 8:45 AM for breakfast and conversation.



Then we will travel to the Museum of the White Mountains at 10:00 AM, where Gallery Director, Meghan Doherty, will give us an introduction to the exhibit - Field Station: Art-Science in the White Mountains. "Long a site of collaborative research for scientists, for the last decade the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest has encouraged artists to join their ongoing conversations. The artists in the exhibition have all spent time in the forest and with the scientists. While the form of their work varies, all of it is in conversation with the ecosystems of the forest and the research community."

You may park your car at the Museum. Please contact Deedie Kriebel at [cdkriebel@gmail.com](mailto:cdkriebel@gmail.com), if you are interested in joining us, and if you would like to be put on the email list.

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## Second Sunday Hike - December 11

Join us as we hike the Ingersoll-Rand Trail in Plymouth. This is a new trail near Plymouth Mountain and is recommended by Gigi Estes. It's a 2 mile loop through the woods. It descends gently for one mile and then ascends gently back to the trailhead, which is at the top of Texas Hill Road. To access the trailhead, drive up Texas Hill Road, turn left at the boulder and drive to the top of the hill. Turn into the parking area on your right. We should be able to do the entire loop in 2 hours. We will leave from the lower parking lot at Starr King after the service at 11:30 AM.

Some of us will be attending the John Denver Christmas Show at the Flying Monkey at 4 PM after the hike. We should have time to grab a bite to eat between the hike and the show. Contact Deedie at [cdkriebel@gmail.com](mailto:cdkriebel@gmail.com), if you plan to join us for the hike.



## **Book Group News**

Join us every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. for a lively book discussion. Email [kmkelsey@gmail.com](mailto:kmkelsey@gmail.com) if you'd like to be added to the email list to receive the monthly zoom link.

The books for the coming year are:

December 12 - ***Born a Crime*** by Trevor Noah

January 9 - ***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*** by Kim Richardson

February 13 - ***Wastelands: The True Story of Farm Country on Trial*** by Corban Addison

March 13 - ***The Verifiers*** by Jane Pek

April 10 - ***My Beloved World*** by Sonia Sotomayer

May 8 - ***Parable of the Sower*** by Octavia Butler

June 12 - ***The Fixed Stars*** by Molly Wizenberg

July 10 - ***Tattooist of Auschwitz*** by Heather Morris

August 14 - ***The Bible*** by Karen Armstrong



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#### **Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes, Minister  
Sarah Dan Jones, Director of Music Ministry  
Office Administrator, Taphi Janelle  
Interim DRE, Grace Kennedy  
Ministerial Intern, Margaret Rieser

#### **Starr King Fellowship Governing Board**

Jane Clay, President  
Doug Grant, Vice-president  
Janet Englund, Treasurer  
Stephanie Halter, Secretary

#### **Trustees:**

Bob Chandler  
John Marunowski  
Sandy Mucci  
Richard Odman  
Diana Pamplin

## **Mission and Vision statement**

### **Mission:**

At Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we cultivate more love in the world and nurture more love for the world.

### **Vision:**

Our Fellowship welcomes and cares for people of all ages and varied identities. We experience joy as we build community and use our relationships with each other to create a more loving world.

Our Fellowship embraces what is meaningful and beautiful. We offer diverse experiences in worship, music, and the arts through our services, events, and the use of our building.

We live and model our values, collectively creating social and environmental justice with direct action and financial support.

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## **About Membership in Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

### **What it Means to be a Member**

Membership is open to all individuals sixteen years and older regardless of race, creed, national origin, gender or sexual orientation who are in harmony with the visions, goals and principles of Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

You are invited to become a member by participating in a Path to Membership orientation or by meeting with the Minister to review the benefits and responsibilities of membership. All new members sign the official Membership Record book witnessed by the Minister or a Membership Committee Chair.

Members are entitled to the services of the Minister and the use of the sanctuary for Rites of Passage (weddings, dedications, memorial services, etc.) at no cost. Members are eligible to serve in elected officer positions and serve as committee chairs. Members have the privilege of full voting rights.

Membership is maintained by active participation in the Fellowship, by supporting the annual Stewardship Drive and/or contributing service toward the Fellowship.

### **What it Means to be a Friend**

A Friend of Starr King UU Fellowship is an individual in harmony with the visions, goals and principles of our Fellowship who chooses not to sign the Membership Record Book. A Friend may participate in any and all Fellowship activities but does not receive Rites of Passage services without a fee, is not eligible to vote or serve as an elected officer or committee chair.