

# STARR KING VIEW

Starr King UU Fellowship  
-A Welcoming Congregation-  
March 2025



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## Stewardship

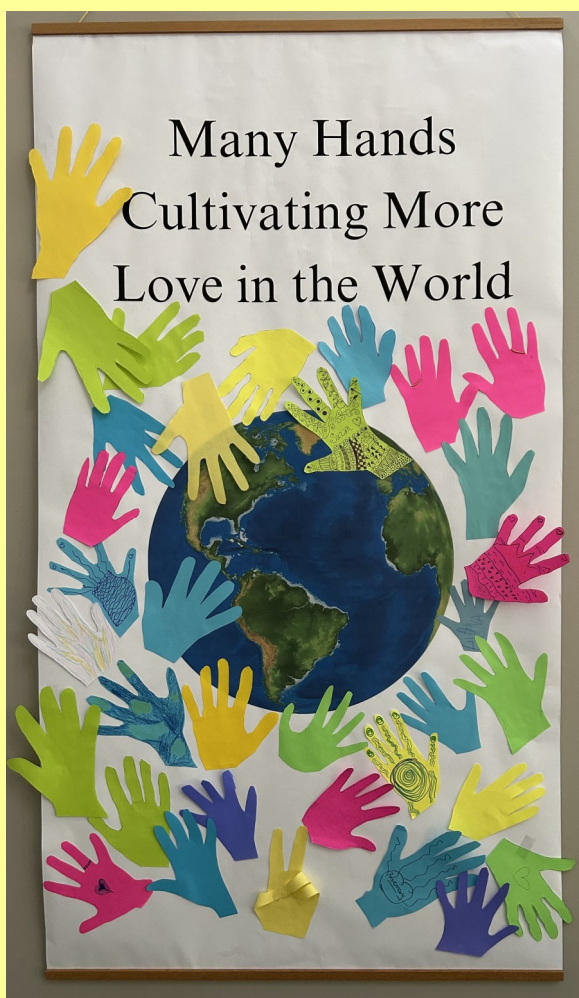
### Special Stewardship Drawing, Sunday March 9!

Have you submitted your pledge for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year yet? If you have, you are eligible to win a \$100 gift certificate to the Common Man. If you have not pledged yet, simply [click here to pledge](#)



and your name will be added to the basket. The drawing will take place after the service on Sunday, March 9. Pledges need to be in by 9:00 am Sunday Morning, March 9.

Thank you to all who have pledged to our 2025-26 FY Stewardship Drive. We have received 75% of expected pledges as of Tuesday, February 25. Of those pledges more than 50% of you raised your pledge by the suggested 4% or more. For those of you who are yet to pledge please join hands with us and make your [pledge here](#) by Sunday, March 9. Thank you to all for your commitment to our mission to cultivate more love in the world and nurture more love for the world.



*"When the hands join, the heart follows, bound by the shared work of building something beautiful." unknown*

## Sunday Services

### **March 2 The Story of Trust and Betrayal**

**Rev. Linda Barnes**

Agreements provide the adhesive that hold our relationships together. Trust is the ground on which we secure our expectations. Right now, many of those things we once trusted feel insecure. Whether the agreements we make are with each other, within groups, or with the wider world; when trust is broken, betrayal results. Join us on this Sunday as we wrestle with our understanding of trust and recovery from betrayal.

### **March 9 What Do You Trust?**

**Rev. Linda Barnes**

What do you turn to, what do you trust when so much seems uncertain? What is it you can count on? Gravity. Really. Gravity is one thing you and I can always count on. Imagine something else, and on we'll go from there until we realize how we might, with one hand on the steady rock of what we already know, embrace what we don't.

### **March 16 The Price of Admission: The Cost of Belonging**

**Rev. Linda Barnes**

Belonging is a spiritual longing; it is core to our sense of community. When the price of inclusion is our identity, it is not about belonging but about fitting in. Join us as we explore the nuances of inclusion so that we might live better into the true heart of universal love where everyone is truly welcome for who they are. Really, everyone.

### **March 23 Can You Be Trusted?**

**Rev. Lyn Marshall**

What allows people to trust you – or not? And even if many other people trust, how much do you trust yourself? Rev. Lyn Marshall will join us to share her observations and questions about the complicated intersection between love and trust.

### **March 30 Proceed as the Way Opens**

**Rev. Linda Barnes**

“Proceed as the way opens” is a Quaker saying that encourages patience and an openness to new paths when making decisions, encountering roadblocks, or feeling adrift. It is a gentle reminder that nothing remains the same and, really, we've no idea what is next. In this service we'll explore how it is we *proceed as the way opens*.

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### **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 the bottom of this page [Sunday Services | Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship | Plymouth, NH \(starringfellowship.org\)](#) on our website

You can see the most recent Sunday or any past services.

## Minister's Newsletter March 2025

The best proof of love is trust.  
~Joyce Brothers

I know that times feel quite uncertain. I know that it feels, for many, like the earth is moving beneath us, shifting in ways that leave us uneasy, suspicious, and cautious. I know. Meanwhile, I am reminded of what Mary Oliver writes in her poem, *Wild Geese*:

*...Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile...*

...meanwhile we live our lives working as we have always done, each in our own way. Working to bring about lives of purpose, of meaning, to bring about an expression of love, a satisfaction, a commitment to the wellbeing of all. This has not changed. I trust that. I believe we can trust our inner voice, the one that tells us that we might need to get closer to community, in person, in real time. Seeking out those opportunities to connect can give us grounding as we navigate the untrustworthiness of our times. Who do you need to spend time with? Who could you invite into conversation. Who might you become more trustworthy to?

Our Soul Matters theme for the month of March is The Practice of Trust. It's a rich topic. I encourage you to check out the packet, the link is listed below. This is a good time to delve into the practice of trust both personally and collectively.

We are a community that gathers, intentionally without obligation every week. We gather, we sing, we sit in silence, we talk over coffee and amidst the welcome commotion of our children. This is good. This is something we can trust.

*...Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean  
blue air, are  
headed home again...*

Dear ones, spring is coming. We know not what will come next, but we do know we have a place here where both laughter and tears can be shared, where concerns can be aired, where we can be here for one another, together. This, I trust.

In faith and love,  
Rev. Linda

To access the Soul Matters Packet:  
[Soul Matters March 2025 Trust](#)

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Vespers



The Vespers will be held on Friday, March 7 at 6 pm. Please join us for this gentle contemplative service and, if you're able, a potluck meal afterwards.

## President's Message

We all know that the February cold and snowy weather wreaked havoc with our normally scheduled services and related events. We do not take canceling Sunday services lightly but if there is enough risk to travel for our Fellowship and Staff, we need to make the right call to cancel. With that there are also implications to some of our initiatives and community service opportunities. Please do not forget to pledge your support for all Starr King does for our fellowship and our community at large. It allows us to be a healthy and sometimes impactful fellowship. Our facility is top notch and a place to be proud of thanks in part to you and our building and grounds team lead by Jennifer Gentry. While winter remains upon us and we surely will have some more snow events the days are longer, and the sun is brighter. Starr King has a bright future, too! You help make it so. When you can find a way to volunteer and/or pitch in please consider helping. Volunteering is a wonderful way to be involved and make more friends and serve Starr King and the community. Between activities available to us given the leadership of Deedie Kriebel and then the fellowship of the Smooth Sunday program, managed by Suzan Gannett, we have many straightforward ways to be a part of both our spiritual and social fabric here at Starr King. Stay warm and safe.

Bob Chandler

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## Fellowship Video Project

We have a story to tell—one that chronicles our history, spiritual journeys, our commitment to social justice, and the vibrant programs we offer our youth and children. This is our opportunity to shine a spotlight on these elements with an informative video that will connect with our roots and connect with a wider audience.

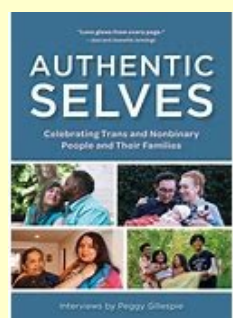
Through interviews, pictures and video clips, we not only want to be transported back in time but want to capture the heart of us.

The video will be created by EVP Marketing in Campton who also did the Pemi Choral Society anniversary video many of us have viewed. Whether you're a new member, an established member, or a friend, we'd love to hear your story. What brought you to Starr King? What do you value in our Fellowship?

If you have ideas or pictures to include or would like to tell your story on camera, give a shout to any member of the Video task force: Bob Chandler, Bob Gannett, Kathy Kelsey

## Welcoming Committee Encourages Community Read

The Welcoming Committee highly recommends the book, [Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and their Families](#). Thanks to the Endowment Fund, Starr King has purchased 6 copies. One copy is available in the lending library at this time, and more will become available as committee members finish reading. We invite you to email Mimi Chandler to get on the waiting list. We will host a book discussion later this church year. The book is filled with inspiring stories by trans and nonbinary people, their families and friends, highlighting the joys and struggles of their individual lives.



## Soundbites

What a month was February! Making the decision to cancel services - and choir - is not an easy one, but the care of our members is of utmost importance when it comes to gathering together in person. Let's hope the nastiest of weather is behind us and we need not have to postpone again.

March is upon us, and the topic this month of "trust" is a timely one based on the uncertainty of our future as a society. The choir will be working on several songs for the month, including selections by Ruth Moody and Mark A. Miller. "One Voice" is a song made popular by the Wailin' Jenny's that sings to the power of joining our singular voice with many other voices to speak to the common good of the whole. "I Believe" is a powerful anthem inspired by an anonymous Jewish poem found written on the walls of a bunker in France during World War Two, where the captives were in waiting for the very existence of their future. Both require an amount of trust - in oneself, each other and the Holy.

Hopefully, this music will help sustain each of us to sing to the justice and freedom for all.

On a personal note, I will be taking a week off in March to travel with Abby to South Georgia for a visit with my family and friends. As always, I am always so grateful to Will Gunn for providing wonderful music for our Fellowship.

Finally, I am grateful to the Stewardship Committee for their work in this year's pledge drive. We have heard some amazing testimonials of members and friends who value our space and the Mission of Starr King. The "hands" artwork is powerful and reminds me, like the song "One Voice," it takes many hands to do the work of justice. Thanks so much one and all.



See yall in Church,  
Sarah Dan

### CALENDAR

Sunday, March 2 - Sarah Dan and the Choir  
Sunday, March 9 - Sarah Dan  
Sunday, March 16 - Will Gunn  
Sunday, March 23 - Sarah Dan  
Sunday, March 30 - Sarah Dan and Choir

CHOIR meets every Thursday 6-7pm in the Sanctuary. NO CHOIR on Thursday March 20.

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### Fellowship Office Hours:

Mondays: Closed  
Tuesdays: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Wednesdays: Closed  
Thursdays: 9:00 am to 11:00 am  
Fridays: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

(Days and hours are subject to change, however,  
any changes are posted in the weekly View)

## From your DRE

### Religious Education

This month in Religious Education, we have explored the theme of 'Inclusion.' One Sunday morning, the children went on an inclusion scavenger hunt around the Fellowship and identified the many ways our space is inclusive, and how it could be improved to be even more welcoming to others. The kids also practiced self-acceptance, including all the different parts that make them unique, by creating Valentine's cards for themselves. At the end of the month, the children heard about the spiritual journeys of several Fellowship members in an intergenerational service. We are still looking for more RE teachers to help on Sunday mornings! If you are interested or would like to learn more, please send an email to [dre@starringfellowship.org](mailto:dre@starringfellowship.org).



The Youth Group and OWL class continue to meet on a regular basis, provided extremely valuable time, space, and knowledge for our youth where they can be themselves, strengthen their friendships, and grow their wisdom and curiosity. We are so grateful to our Youth Group and OWL facilitators who make this possible. The youth are currently working hard on fundraising plans for their upcoming trip to Costa Rica. Mark your calendars! There will be a coffee house/open mic night on April 12th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. Come to be entertained or be the entertainer, and support our wonderful youth!

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## Howling Monkey Nicaraguan Coffee Still Available



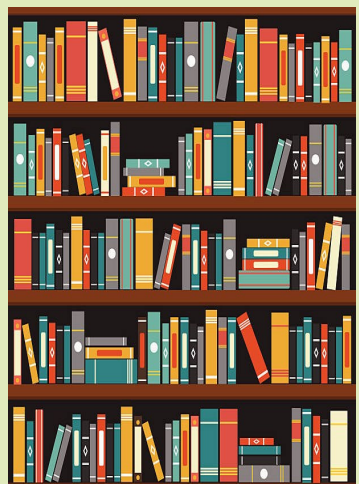
Shade-grown, organic Howling Monkey Nicaraguan coffee can still be purchased to support both the Starr King Youth group and Compas de Nicaragua.

It is available either whole bean or ground, \$15 per pound. Contact Bob and Jane Clay, [claysusanj@gmail.com](mailto:claysusanj@gmail.com) or 603-996-1207, to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery.

## SKUUF LENDING LIBRARY

Next time you're in the downstairs lobby, take a look at our lending library. It has recently been refreshed and has many new titles. Some of the new selections focus on LGBTQ+ topics as part of the Welcoming Congregation renewal. Other subjects deal with grief and loss. Both children's and adult books are included.

To check out a book, write your name on the library card in the front of the book and place the card in the card file box. Please return the book in a reasonable amount of time, one month suggested.



## Climate Action Committee

A program worth listening to on the radio or connecting with online is “*Living on Earth*” which is broadcast on NH Public Radio every Sunday morning from 7 am to 8 am. The program has been on the radio for years and I know many of you have been listening to it when you can for a long time.

During this period when so little good action seems possible regarding our changing climate, what makes “*Living on Earth*” so valuable is that the people being interviewed on the program have credible knowledge and experience in the subject being discussed. I’m always learning something new, interesting and helpful from listening while I’m getting ready to leave for our Sunday service. Even within a story that raises a particular alarm, these knowledgeable folks provide a full account that adds new and hopeful elements.

The subjects covered on February 23 for example:

- An in-depth account and analysis of the attempt to freeze \$20 billion of the funding of loans for clean energy projects and energy efficiency upgrades around the country, approved by Congress in 2022. - *I learned about the careful process by which this funding was set up, making it extremely difficult for these funds to remain frozen. Some hope here perhaps that all will not be lost.*
- A conversation about why we should care about the negative financial effects of allowing emissions to continue at their current pace. - *The speaker suggests that a greater focus on future negative financial outcomes likely to result from ignoring the impact of emissions may be an effective way to change some influential minds who are still enthusiastically investing in fossil fuels for the gains they offer at present and into the near future.*
- A visit to the living plants and animals waiting for spring, just under the ice at Pine Hole Bog located within the Charles W. Ward Reservation in Andover, Massachusetts, a bog I remember visiting with great interest and pleasure decades ago.
- A reflection on civil rights and environmental justice by Rev. Ben Chavis, a well-known activist back in the 1980’s.

The archives at [loe.org](http://loe.org) are extensive and easy to explore, back to 1991. And online you get to see the students who appear to be happily engaged as they visited that bog.

Nancy Chaddock for the Climate Action Committee

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## March 2025 Outreach Offering

Outreach Offering for March 2025

In 2024, we invited a guest to speak to us about the work of New Hampshire Alliance for End of Life Options (NHAEO). This group was hard at work to educate citizens about their efforts to pass legislation to give those approaching the end of life the ability to claim the right to a humane death. We provided the funds from one of our outreach offerings to support their work. The proposed bill failed by a narrow margin.

This organization opted to try again this year. A new bill has been filed – the End of Life Freedom Act, HB 254 - and first hearing was scheduled for January 29. HB254 has bi-partisan co-sponsorship and the prime sponsor is Republican Rep. Bob Lynn, Judiciary Committee chair and former state Supreme Court Chief Justice. Last year's prime, Democrat Rep. Marjorie Smith, continues as a co-sponsor. The bill is revised to clarify and strengthen some provisions but the general approach is the same as HB1283 in last session.

There are approximately 100 new members of the House, and several new members of the Judiciary Committee. NHAELO has hard work ahead. Our outreach offering will support all their education and advocacy work to help push this bill over the finish line. We are hoping to help them with the work that lays ahead. Rebecca Brown will be joining us on March 16 for an update on this update as another vote in the judiciary Committee approaches. Join us for this update to learn more.

Suellen Skinner



New Hampshire Alliance for End of Life Options

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## What's on the Starr King Website

During every Sunday Service announcement we hear the statement "for more information go to our website."

Here are a few things you can find there:

- \* For a list of board members, committees and chairs, and recent board minutes, go to <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/committees>.
- \* To learn about interest groups such as breakfast club, Sunday hikes and book group, go to <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/interest-groups>.
- \* To learn about Adult Spirituality offerings such as Soul Matters, go to <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/adult-spiritual-exploration>.
- \* For a two minute summary of what we believe, go to <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/about>.
- \* **There's so much more. Please surf around!**



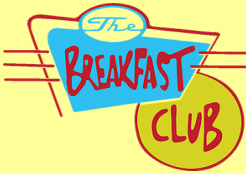
## Third

# ~~Second~~ Sunday Hike - March 16, 2025

Join us as we hike Ladd Mountain Trail. Experience this 1.4-mile out-and-back trail near Meredith, New Hampshire. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 46 min to complete. This is a family friendly hike, so we hope to have lots of young and young at heart joining us! Dogs are welcome and may be off-leash in some areas. Paul and Mary MacIntosh have invited us to their home in Meredith for refreshments after the hike. We will leave at 11:30 AM after the service from the lower parking lot at Starr King. If you plan to join us, contact Deedie at [deediekriebel@gmail.com](mailto:deediekriebel@gmail.com) for more information and updates.



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## Breakfast Club - Friday, March 14

We will meet for breakfast at 8:30 AM at the PSU Prospect Dining Hall on 8 High Street in Plymouth. You can use your Breakfast Club cards or pay for the breakfast. Parking is in Lot #204 across the street from the dining hall. After breakfast, we will travel to the Plymouth Regional Senior Center at 8 Depot Street in Plymouth. There we will tour the facility at 10 AM and attend a Line Dancing Class at 10:45 AM! For the class, a Waiver and Registration Form are required, so please let me know if you plan to attend. Contact Deedie at [deediekriebel@gmail.com](mailto:deediekriebel@gmail.com) for more information, forms, and parking pass.



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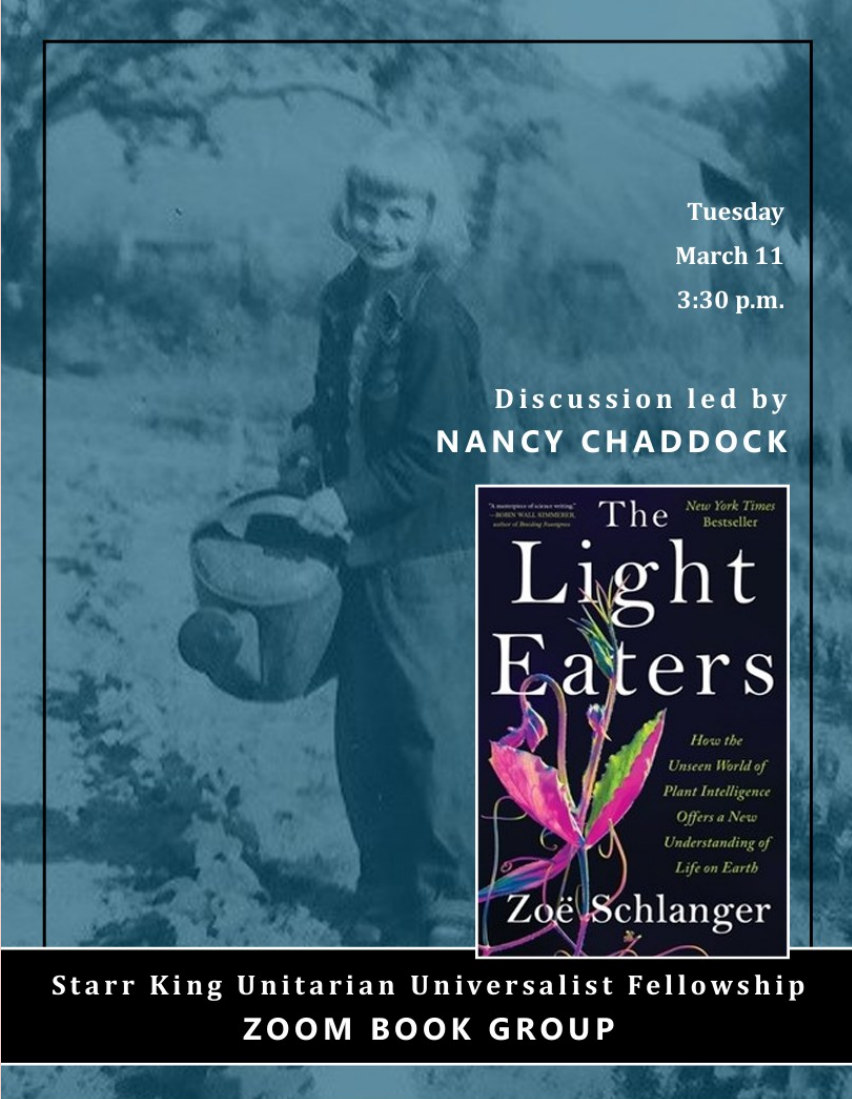
## Great way to support SKUUF

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. Denominations \$25, \$100, \$500. Cash or Checks, sorry no credit cards as fees remove our profit. Remember all checks are made out to SKUUF with Hannaford on memo line.



## BOOK GROUP NEWS—March 11

From the New York Times-bestselling author of *Cutting for Stone* comes a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret.



Tuesday  
March 11  
3:30 p.m.

Discussion led by  
**NANCY CHADDOCK**

*"A masterpiece of elegant writing."  
—JUDEN WELLS KENDERAKI,  
author of Finding Paradise*

The *New York Times*  
Bestseller

**The  
Light  
Eaters**

*How the  
Unseen World of  
Plant Intelligence  
Offers a New  
Understanding of  
Life on Earth*

**Zoë Schlanger**

**Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
ZOOM BOOK GROUP**

If you'd like to be on in the email zoom list, send a request to [admin@starrkingfellowship.org](mailto:admin@starrkingfellowship.org).

A complete list of all the book selections for the year can be found at <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/interest-groups>.

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Save the date!

*Saturday, April 5*

*"People to People Party"*

*Food*

*Entertainment*

*Silent & Live Auction*

## Inclusion



The February Soul Matters theme was Inclusion which prompted discussion as to how we might better help make folks feel welcome in the Fellowship. Long ago, when Dean Starr was District Executive for the Vermont/New Hampshire UU, he wrote a column outlining how to make sure everyone feels welcome at coffee hour. He offered two pieces of advice. When in a conversation with a group of friends, make sure to leave a space in the circle to make it easy for someone to join in. Even long time members sometimes feel left out when seeing all the small clusters with no way to break into the circle. Second, when meeting someone new, introduce them to at least one other person in the fellowship so they are able to widen their circle and know more than one familiar face the next time they come. We are so happy to see each other and share news (all good!) that we sometimes forget what it feels like to enter a new group and not know anyone. Here's yet one more way we can nurture more love for the world.

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## A Poem for Soul Matters

Here's a poem capturing the essence of Soul Matters submitted by the Monday Soul Matters group. Thanks to Paul McIntosh for alerting us to the power of ChatGPT, an artificial Intelligence app. The prompt given was "Write a poem about a conversational sharing circle where people share their spiritual journey and listen to each other, no interruptions." Note that there is no mention of a candle lighting in the prompt, but it is in the poem. How did it know? Read and be amazed! It may evoke a good chuckle, too. The Monday group sure had a good laugh.

### **\*\*The Circle of Listening\*\***

We gather here, hearts open wide,  
No need to run, no need to hide.  
A space where voices gently rise,  
Held by the earth, beneath the skies.

The candle flickers, soft and true,  
A beacon for the old and new.  
Each soul steps forth, their story told,  
With trembling hands or voices bold.

No words are met with sharp reply,  
No eager tongues to question "why?"  
Only silence, deep and kind,  
A presence shaped by love refined.

A tale of loss, a whispered prayer,  
A joy once found, a cross to bear.  
Each thread is woven in the air,  
A sacred bond beyond compare.

We do not fix, we do not teach,  
No hurried lessons, no rushed speech.  
We only offer what we are—  
A quiet soul, an open star.

And when the stories fade to rest,  
We feel the warmth within our chest.  
For in the listening, truth is sown—  
No one speaks, yet all are known.

**Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
101 Fairgrounds Road  
PO Box 337  
Plymouth, New Hampshire 03264

admin@starrkingfellowship.org  
(603) 536-8908

[www.starrkingfellowship.org](http://www.starrkingfellowship.org)

#### **Staff**

**The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes, Minister**  
**Sarah Dan Jones, Music Director**  
**Grace Kennedy, Director of Religious Education**  
**Sharon Warga, Office Administrator**

#### **Governing Board**

Pres.: Bob Chandler  
Vice Pres.: Connie Maatta  
Treasurer: Janet Englund  
Secretary: Suzan Gannett

Trustees:  
Suellen Skinner  
Louise Randal  
Jim Hostetler

## **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.

## **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.

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