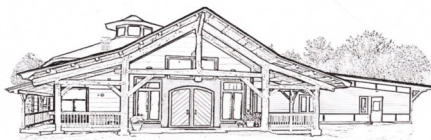


STARR KING VIEW

Starr King UU Fellowship
-A Welcoming Congregation-
Summer 2023



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Save the date for SKUUF's Yardsale on Saturday September 9, 2023

Drop off donations June 13 to September 1 in classroom 1,
or contact Bob Chandler
(978.460.7478 or bobchandler@verizon.net)
to arrange pick up or help unloading/dropping off items.

Suggested items for donation - Items in good used condition including:

- furniture,
- books,
- Christmas decorations,
- vintage dishes/glasses,
- costume jewelry and fashion accessories,
- tools,
- small appliances,
- puzzles,
- games, toys,
- home decor items,
- exercise/sports equipment,
- camping gear.

Items to avoid donating:

- broken, non-functioning or items needing repairs,
- mattresses,
- cribs,
- car seats,
- old electronics,
- tires,
- propane tanks,
- TVs,
- printers,
- toilets,
- clothing,
- shoes,
- open/used beauty items.

Minister's Newsletter

July/August 2023

There is virtue in work and there is virtue in rest.
Use both and overlook neither.
~ Alan Cohen

Dear Friends,

While I have not always found my role as minister easy, I have always found it remarkably fulfilling. This continues to be the case as I close out my seventh year as your minister. This has been a good year for me. Still, I find myself looking wistfully out my office window this week, imagining a change of pace and a different focus. For me right now, *there is virtue in rest*. As is described in my contract with you, I am off for the month of July.

Though I will be gone, our Fellowship will continue to provide a place to gather and share our experiences. A full and varied array of summer services is planned, do check those out. You are welcome to be here in person or participate on Zoom. I remain on-call for emergencies and such. I want to be there for you should a need arise.

be spent resting, hiking, cooking, gardening, and spending time with Mark and old friends. In August, I will be spending a few days on Star Island for a ministers' renewal retreat. After that I expect to spend some time in Baltimore to meet our first grandchild and care for our daughter. Then I will be back in earnest, refreshed and ready to begin again.

It is my hope that your summer brings you what you need. If time off is your need, may time be yours. If a change of pace, connection with family or friends is your need, may that be so for you. Take care my friends, you are worthy of good care.

In faith and love,
Rev. Linda

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Summer Services

July 2 GA Sunday Worship
Ever Willing: Becoming the People Our World Needs

July 9 Darlene Nadeau
Chair Yoga's Surprising Effectiveness Revealed through Research Studies and a Sample Class

July 16 Forrest Seavey
Botswana Safari

July 23 Sarah Dan Jones
Hymn Sing with Sarah Dan!

July 30 Grace Kennedy
Faith Development on Star Island

August 6 Nancy Chaddock
Thomas Starr King Revisited

August 13 Jane and Bob Clay
Exploring Soul Matters and Finding Your Center

August 20 Margaret Rieser
Sunday Morning with Mary Oliver

August 27 The Red Shedders
Red Shedders Performance

September 3 Suellen Skinner
No Apologies Required

President's letter Summer 2023

The board had its final meeting for 2022-2023 on June 20. Using the Soul Matters theme for June, Delight, check-in was to share a delight experienced this year at Starr King. Many of the areas of delight overlapped with the successes we shared later in the meeting, including, but not limited to, the following: Consistent Sunday attendance (a tribute to our wonderful program staff), navigating budget challenges, website re-design, flexibility with the religious education program, Smooth Sunday teams re-established, furnishings and arts committee work nearing completion, building and grounds maintenance and care, Choir and music, membership committee, religious education volunteers, detailed minutes for ALL board meetings, and of course, the support and involvement of everyone.

The consistent enthusiasm and work by our staff are greatly appreciated by all. It had been a difficult decision when preparing for annual meeting to not offer increases for merit or cost of living. Following a wonderful discussion, the board unanimously approved bonuses to be given immediately for our administrative assistant, Taphi Janelle, and the program staff, Sarah Dan Jones, music director, Grace Kennedy, director of religious education, and Linda Barnes, minister. Appreciation and recognition, even a simple "thank you", speak volumes.

We approved a donation from the Boynton family, a swing set/play structure to be set up in the enclosed area. The Building and Grounds (B&G) committee will coordinate with them for moving and set up. The board also approved a proposal from B&G for repairs to be done during the summer to the pad and ramp on the lower level.

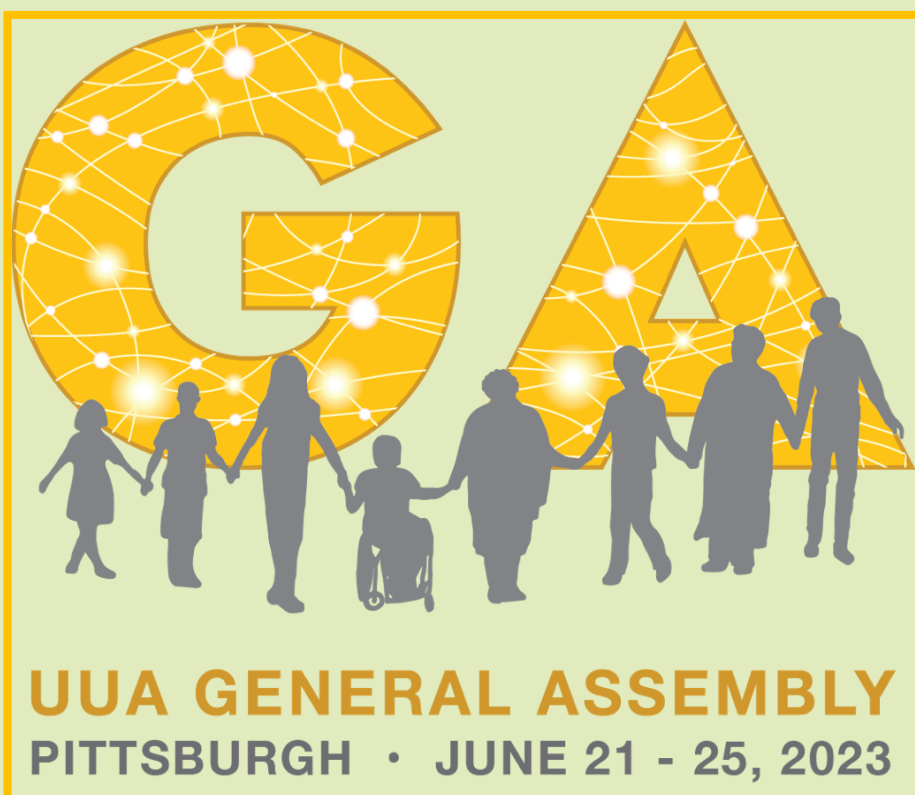
Many thanks to Suzan Gannett, John Marunowski and Sandy Mucci for serving on the board and continuing to support in so many ways. I look forward to July being a sort of "off" time, and wish everyone a happy and healthy summer.

Jane Clay, president

Board's Bulletin

- * **Success and Gratitude for 2023 Gift Appeal**
- * **Building Rentals**
- * **New Website**
- * **Summer Services**
- * **General Assembly**

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



Reflections on General Assembly, 2023

General Assembly is the Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association where members of our UU Congregations come together to meet, greet, and discuss the business of the Association. We also worship together, grieve the passing of long-time UU ministers and welcome new ministers into their ministries.

Nancy Chaddock and I were your appointed delegates this year and we both attended virtually. Sarah Dan and Margaret Rieser were in Pittsburg. Sarah Dan was one of the musicians who led all of us (maybe 4000?) in song.

Since Nancy has written about the “business resolutions” we voted on, I have decided to share a more personal reflection on what “attending” meant to me.

The theme for this GA was “Faithfully Becoming” and as I watched the workshops, panel discussions, worships and heart-felt speeches, that theme really came alive for me. I have been a UU all my life so, unlike most UUs, I did not have a religion to grow out of - but I have still grown tremendously in this Faith and with this Faith. As UUs we are always becoming, reaching toward a vision of ever more radical inclusion. In the 70s we opened our language, our pulpits and our leadership positions to women. Then came the movement to become more welcoming to GLBT+ people and more recently to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and to those with disabilities.

During a panel discussion led by UU Religious Educators, one person mentioned that the current 7 Principles are about individual concerns. Being a UU means that we act in community with others and that we commit to enlarging that community by embracing those who share our values regardless of our many differences. Together we commit to working for justice for all.

I have learned SO much over the years about appreciating diversity.

Next year GA will “just” be virtual. Please consider attending - it’s a lot of screen time, but well worth the effort. For more information on GA, please contact Nancy or me. We have LOTS to share!

Cindy Spring

Renewed faith in the democratic process of General Assembly

Renewed faith in the democratic process of General Assembly. That is what I am feeling as I write this, a couple of days after two critical votes were cast. The first of these, for Article 2, the proposed rewriting of our Unitarian Universalist purposes and sources, which delegates voted to move forward for further discussion and a possible final approval during GA 24. And the second critical vote, a proposal from Unitarian Universalist young adults, to immediately divest the assets of the UUA's Common Endowment Fund from all fossil fuel companies, including the industries and financial institutions that support the fossil fuel companies and projects. This latter proposal failed to be adopted by the delegates, with 68.3% of total delegates voting in the negative for its passing.

The highly positive vote for Article 2 was heartwarming, at 86.3% of the total vote. For many folks who've been Unitarian Universalists for decades, including me, the idea of removing the specific language of our 7 principles for something entirely new came as a bit of a shock when it first became generally known a couple of years ago. However, as I and many of those same long-time UU folks studied the new wording and attended at least one of the dozens of online discussions that have been held over the course of many months, the reasons for change became clear, the new language engaging in its powerful expression of where Unitarian Universalism is and strives to become today, with love at the center and multiculturalism integrated throughout. I am struck by how well the language of our own Fellowship's mission and vision statements both support and are supported by the new wording of Article 2.

So why am I, current chair of this Fellowship's Climate Action Committee, relieved that the delegates defeated the fossil fuel divestment proposal? Well, full disclosure here, for our Finance Committee I also oversee the performance of our Fellowship's investment in the UUA Common Endowment Fund, the major holder of our Endowment's assets. I was greatly concerned before GA began this year, knowing the futility of effort involved in expecting any kind of positive influence to flow to the investors in our nation's financial markets from this proposed UU divestment, and the negative financial and legal consequences this proposal would have for the work of the UUA, our Fellowship's Endowment, and all other participating endowments by congregations. Post GA 23, we can look forward to a process, hopefully now more likely to develop, *because* of the conversation that has been created by the young adults at this GA, working *together* with Unitarian Universalists of all ages in our commitment to move away, as quickly as possible, from fossil fuels.

Nancy Chaddock

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Fellowship Office Summer Hours:

Mondays: Closed

Tuesdays: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesdays: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Thursdays: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Fridays: Closed

Religious Education and Youth Groups

This year has been full of so many wonderful moments in religious education and our youth groups. We did a lot together. On Sunday mornings, children downstairs filled the halls of SKUUF with their art and joy while exploring many different themes and UU values. Our Middle and High School Youth Groups consistently met and created welcoming and warm spaces to gather together. Some of our older youth participated in our adapted Our Whole Lives program in the Fall, and in the Spring, some spent a week exploring Costa Rica.

We are very excited about what next year will bring. Both of our Youth Groups will begin meeting again in September, and our regular Religious Education offerings will begin with the start of the new church year. Our goal is to be able to offer more Our Whole Lives courses in the future. To do that, we need more teachers. There are several upcoming trainings this year in New England, and we are looking for more folks from our congregation to become trained facilitators. If you have any interest in learning more about what it means to be an OWL teacher, please send me an email! This summer, the Religious Education Committee will meet to discuss the curriculum plans for next year and brainstorm how we may continue to best serve and support the youth of our congregation. If you would like to be a part of these conversations or if you have an interest in getting involved with RE next year, please reach out! You can send me an email at: dre@starringfellowship.org

I will soon return to New Hampshire and will be back serving as the Director of Religious Education in person for the Fall. I will be spending a week on Star Island this summer, participating in their Faith Development Week and connecting with other religious educators. If you are interested in hearing about this experience, I'll be sharing about it on Sunday, July 30th at SKUUF. I am very excited to see everyone soon and look forward to the many upcoming things we have planned.

Wishing you all a happy summer!

Grace Kennedy
Director of Religious Education



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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, \$14 per pound. Please Contact Bob and Jane Clay, 603-996-1207 or jhclay@roadrunner.com, to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery.



SKUUF Book Group News

Book group meets via Zoom the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. The selections alternate between fiction and non-fiction.

If you'd like to be added to the email list and participate in the discussions, please let the office know at admin@starrkingfellowship.org.

July 12 - *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

August 9 - *Educated* by Tara Westover

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Meditation Group, Mondays at 6 p.m.

Our meditation group meets every Monday from 6 to 7 pm in the upstairs foyer. We are a small informal group that shares an abiding interest in meditation. Usually, we have between 5 and 10 participants. We are not affiliated with any sect or religion, however we often follow meditations in the Buddhist tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, Jack Kornfield, Pema Chodron and the like. We generally get together at 6 for brief hellos and pertinent comments. Then a facilitator for the week will offer a short reading or discussion on a meditation topic, followed by a guided meditation, related to the topic. The meditation can be anywhere between 20 and 40 minutes. Afterward we have a short debriefing and discussion of the experience. We adjourn at 7. There is no designated leader of the group and there is no effort to persuade anyone to any point of view.

We welcome newcomers to our group. This group is free and requires no dues or contributions. No previous meditation experience necessary.

Great way to continue support of SKUUF during the Summer!

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. As summer approaches watch the calendar for office hours and see Taphi Janelle. 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.



Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Governing Board

Pres.: Jane Clay

Vice Pres.:

Treasurer: Janet Englund

Secretary: Stephanie Halter

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes, Minister

Sarah Dan Jones, Director of Music Ministry

Office Administrator

admin@starrkingfellowship.org

Trustees:

Robert Chandler

Diana Pamplin

Suellen Skinner

Doug Grant

Connie Maatta

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.