STARR KING VIEW

Starr King UU Fellowship -A Welcoming Congregation-May 2024



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Annual Meeting, May 19, at 11:00 AM

New Members Ceremony

On Sunday, June 9th we will hold a New Member Ceremony to celebrate those who are joining the membership of our fine Fellowship. If you are among those who'd like to join and have not yet spoken with Rev. Linda, please let her know at <u>minister@Starrkingfellowship.org</u>.

YARD CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday May 11th - 9am to 11:30am

Are you READY!!

Fun Activities!

- 1. Pick-up sticks & rake leaves
- 2. Move parking lot logs back in place
- 3. Move woodchips under solar array and/or into playground area
- 4. Remove dead trees and/or limbs
- 5. Clean up playground area.

What to Bring to have Fun!

- Gloves, hats and bandanas (for wiping off all the sweat from all the fun)
- Rakes, shovels and /or leaf blowers (to help us look busy)
- Tarps and wheel barrels (for moving large quantities of "stuff")

FYI The "piles of the sand" around the edges of the parking lots will be moved by Dan Boynton with his trusty tractor

If you are able come and enjoy in all the "fun," please email me.

Jennifer Gentry (B&G Chair) junebug2104@gmail.com



Sunday Services

May 5 Multitudes: Acknowledging the Whole of the Self Rev. Linda Barnes

Who are you? In what ways do you describe the parts of yourself? We may identify as being of a certain age, a gender, an occupation. How is it we integrate our identities, our multitudes – that is the pluralism within? Join us on this Sunday to explore the spiritual practice of seeing ourselves simultaneously in pieces and whole.

May 12 Worship in Song Music Director Sarah Dan Jones

Music serves to lift up our common longings and reaffirm our commitment to a more loving world. Join us on this Sunday was we fill the air with music, our common cares, and the beauty of making music together.

May 19 The Wisdom Afforded the Curious Rev. Linda Barnes

Pluralism is the ability to recognize and value differing perspectives. In a pluralistic society the value of diverse experiences, viewpoints, and living with multiple truths offers its members wisdom. Join us for this service as explore how curiosity serves to bring about understanding and really, promotes peace.

May 26 Memorial Day: Let There Be Peace Rev. Linda Barnes

It is in a prayer of peace that we hold all those who have served or do serve. On this Memorial Day weekend, we'll remember and honor those who served, those whose lives were changed forever, and those who were lost.

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Friday of the month at 6:00 PM

For an end-of-week slow down, come for 30 minutes of contemplation followed with pizza and fellowship.

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 <u>Sunday</u> <u>Services | Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship | Plymouth, NH</u> <u>(starrkingfellowship.org)</u> on our website

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

To see the other side, to defend another people, not despite your tradition, but because of it, is the heart of pluralism. ~ Eboo Patel

Minister's Newsletter

Our denomination is preparing to amend Article II of its bylaws. Hmm, that sounds so remote, let's say instead, replace the Seven Principles. I know many of us hold those principles central to our understanding of Unitarian Universalism. This effort to amend our Unitarian Universalist bylaws has been carried out with much care, good listening, and open conversation. I am quite supportive of it. The image below, reflects the proposal to be voted upon this June.



Love is at the center. This might feel familiar, as it is also at the center of our Fellowship's mission. Those things surrounding it - equity, transformation, generosity, justice, and interdependence - all make sense to me and reflect much of the values expressed in our original Seven Principles. It is pluralism that I trip over. It's not that I disagree with it, it's simply not a word I use with much regularity. This month for my sake J we're going to explore the gift of pluralism. Here's what I do know about pluralism - it requires the courage to step outside our comfort zones, to engage others with curiosity and refrain from imposing our own values and opinions while we learn. I hope you'll join mean in learning more about what this means for our Unitarian Universalist identity.

Meanwhile, it's been a busy time for those in our Fellowship. Our intern, Margaret Rieser, is wrapping up her learning. She is graduating on May 19th from Meadville Lombard Theological School. We will continue to benefit from her presence until our last regular service in June. We've had a staff change in our office administrator position, said goodbye to Taphi and hello to Sharon. Your board has been working hard and mindfully to care well for our community. You can do the same. Our annual meeting is on May 19th, I hope you will exercise your right and privilege to participate as a member. We are after all a congregation of members.

Meanwhile take in the spring, see all that blooms and hear all that is singing once again.

With faith and love, Rev. Linda



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President's Letter—

It is a joy to see so many signs of spring as I sit at my desk-yellow forsythia, many shades of green, spring flowers, buds on my lilacs and rhododendron, and so much more. I don't feel joy about the black flies however! With these signs comes the time for outside work around the fellowship as well as our own yards, and the board is busy preparing for the annual meeting May 19, following the worship. You will receive the formal notice, agenda, and more very soon.

Two informal meetings were held to discuss the proposed bylaws change to Article 10 and many thanks to those who participated-your input is greatly appreciated. Town meetings always remind us of the importance of parliamentary procedure and the board has agreed a moderator will be helpful at our annual meeting. Quentin Blaine, current school district moderator for Plymouth and the Pemi-Baker Districts, will serve in this role to keep things going smoothly.

It was sad to say goodbye to Taphi Janelle, our office administrator recently. Many thanks to the organization and talents she shared with us. We are fortunate that Taphi was available to introduce our new administrator, Sharon Warga, to the position. Please stop in to say hi soon! The office hours are posted on the door and in the weekly View.

Many hands make the work easier. Thank you to the team who worked to make the Spring Fling Auction so successful! We were out of town, sorry to miss it, but all reports tell me many of you had lots of fun! The Starr King community has fun in many ways, with lots of work by many as well. There is something for everyone in some way here, to volunteer, have fun, and make friends!

Jane Clay, Board President

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Ministerial Intern News

Thanks to the support and guidance of this amazing congregation, I have been approved by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA, to enter into preliminary fellowship upon the completion of my internship and graduation from Meadville Lombard School on May 19, 2024

I am so grateful to you all for everything you have given me to get to this point in my development. It is said that people are loved into becoming ministers and here at Starr King I have come to know what that means. I want to give a shout-out to my hardworking Internship Committee, Mary Crowell, Nancy Dowey, Joe Keleghan, Paul Phillips and Suellen Skinner.

I will continue at Starr King until the last Sunday of our church year, June 16. I will be doing a chaplaincy residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston from September 2024 to May 2025.

My ordination as a UU minister will take place in the Fall. I am in the planning process and will keep you posted about when and where. You are all invited!

Margaret Rieser

Soundbites

Greetings one and all!

Spring is upon us and there's a song (or several)in the air! Toward that end, I will be leading a Music Sunday on May 12th at Starr King UU Fellowship. In addition to the choir, there will be contributions by individuals of all ages from the congregation, as well as lots of opportunities for community singing! That day is also Mother's Day, which was organized at the end of the 19th century by women advocating for peace. In separate ventures, both Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis called for a special day to honor mothers and their efforts at healing after horrific wars, and endless poverty and illness. The recognition was made "official" in 1914 after years of being celebrated around the country. While the music we feature at Starr King will be broad in scope, it will include several anthems towards peace, including Bobby McFerrin's rendition of the 23rd Psalm, which he dedicated to his mother and is based on the well known Bible verse.

There is still time for anyone to contact me if they are interested in taking part in the Music Sunday service! Just send me an email at <u>sdjones88@hotmail.com</u> with your thoughts! I am so grateful to all of you for your support of our music program, both in kind words and contributions to the Mary Hazelton Music fund, which allows for new music to be purchased and guest musicians to be compensated.

See y'all in church!

Sarah Dan May Schedule

Sunday May 5th - Will Gunn, guest musician Sunday May 12th - Sarah Dan - Music Sunday! Sunday, May 19th - Sarah Dan and the Choir Sunday May 26th - Sarah Dan (no choir)

Choir rehearses every Thursday in the Sanctuary at 6pm

No Choir on Thursday May 23rd.

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Our New Administrative Assistant

A warm welcome to our new administrative assistant, Sharon Warga, who started in the office the week of April 23. Stop by to say hello. Her hours are:

> Tuesdays 9AM - 3PM Thursdays 9AM -11AM Fridays 9AM-3PM

Or email at admin@starrkingfellowship.org

A note from Sharon....

I have worked at the Science Center for the past 10 years and currently hold the title of Compliance Officer and cover all things safetyrelated for the organization. I love being outdoors, crafting, and

reading every fantasy/ romance book I can get my hands on. My idea of the perfect day is spending time in the woods with my husband, Chris and two dogs, Walt and Charlie. I am excited to be a part of the Fellowship and look forward to meeting everyone!





Auction Success!

Thanks to an AMAZING team, the April 13th Spring Fling raised more than \$15,500. A new record!

We would not have had an auction without the monthslong behind the scenes efforts of Janet Englund, Louise Randall and Deedie Kriebel to obtain, organize and enter more than 300 items into the auction catalog. Thanks to our veteran auction volunteers: once again, Susan Jacobs and Ray DeRaymond managed the food, Bill Dowey served as sommelier with assistance from Wes Chadwick on the beverage table, Kathy Kelsey sourced the entertain-



ment and spearheaded communication, and Connie Maatta obtained the lovely plants for each table. Thanks to Rebecca Noel, auctioneer, who so skillfully and humorously cajoled bidders to raise the ante. Thanks to Stephanie Halter & Jess Boynton who checked in attendees along with Phil Haskell and Teri Johnson, entered bids and managed check-out. Nancy Dowey, Kathy Kelsey, Connie Maatta & Mary Hazelton provided support with decorating, and setup and Sue Ellen Tuttle assisted with remote item entry. And of course, everyone helped with clean-up!

Special thanks to our youth for their help in cheerfully passing delicious appetizers (Casey Smith, Christopher & Rachel Pamplin, with assistance from Glenn Smith!), selling raffle tickets & Springo cards (Sidney Halter, Emma Dutille, Rose Altman & Abby Crangle) and tak-



ing pictures (Evelyn Smith).

Thanks to all who not only donated items but bid on and purchased the many offerings. Finally, none of this could have happened without the planning, leadership and coordination efforts of Janet Englund who is still, even today, tying up loose ends. What an effort...it takes a village!



Climate Action

As our committee winds down its activities for this fiscal year, it has been looking ahead to what might be the focus come September.

Here are just some of the items we have discussed at our meetings during the past year that will, no doubt, be part of our committee's continuing focus:

- Keep informed of the latest significant progress being made by scientists, engineers and nonprofit environmental organizations to combat climate change. For example, a couple of us on the committee are members of the Environmental Defense Fund, (EDF). In March of this year, a new satellite EDF and its partners launched will be tracking methane gas around the world, helping to reduce this gas where it is detected. It is estimated that Methane gas has 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide in the first 20 years after it is released into the air.
- Help reduce the use of fossil fuels in some meaningful way. For example, one of our committee's members attends the monthly meetings of the NH lakes region chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL). You may recall that last October our Fellowship's Climate Action Committee hosted a public presentation by CCL at our Meetinghouse. Putting a price on carbon, CCL believes, is critically important to achieve the needed reduction of carbon in our air. It would also provide a dividend to all Americans that would benefit most those who are greatly harmed by carbon.
- Do what we can to reduce the use of plastic. An article in Consumer Reports this year described in great detail the foods that contain plastic that we consume, causing us to fully realize the importance of eating as many fresh foods as we can that are unprocessed by human beings. This realization also makes us increasingly aware of the significant risk many individuals and families suffer who do not have good access to fresh food.
- Help to determine whether or not our Fellowship desires to seek Green Sanctuary Status with the UUA. Many UU congregations in New Hampshire acquired this status years ago. The process now requires an emphasis on climate *justice*. As a first step our Climate Action Committee is committed to learning specifically what this status would require of the membership and friends of our Fellowship.

The above items remind us of our Fellowship's reasons for having an active Climate Action Committee: to learn about, share and act together where we can on issues related to climate change that impact the health of our planet, and with emphasis on environmental justice.

Nancy Chaddock, for the Climate Action Committee

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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.





UUANH's Third Thursday Climate Workshops The opportunity you have been waiting for!

Join UU Action New Hampshire and The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire

What is Community Power?

Thursday, May 16, 2024 6:30 – 7:30 pm by Zoom

Click here to sign up & receive Zoom link: https://secure.everyaction.com/uq72Zbj6zk6fsoRqkDWYmw2

Henry Herndon, Director of Member Services for the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, will discuss CPCNH's efforts to sign up New Hampshire municipalities to bring public power to residential and commercial customers in the Granite State.

- Is your town already a member of CPCNH?
- How can your town sign up for CPCNH membership?
- What are the benefits of Community Power?
- How does Community Power differ from the traditional public utility?

Bring your Questions. Learn and share info with other towns.

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May/June Outreach Offering

Since Fall of 2022 and the overturning of Rowe v. Wade, we have been looking for ways to support reproductive justice in our area. We are pleased to discover the Reproductive Freedom Fund of New Hampshire. This organization will be the recipient of Starr King's outreach offering for May/June 2024.



The Reproductive Freedom Fund of New Hampshire (RFFNH) was founded in 2019 to meet the need in New Hampshire for an accessi-ble source of financial aid for abortions. Thousands of people seek abortions in New Hampshire every year, but many struggle to afford the cost. The RFFNH is proud to be a local community-driven fund that can help break down the various barriers patients face in accessing abortion care.

RFFNH recognizes that reproductive justice is not a singular issue, but one that is multi-faceted and comprehensive. With the right to abortion under attack like never before, they need all the financial support they can get get in order to make sure they can meet the full needs of every patient who seeks assistance.

To date, The Reproductive Freedom Fund of NH has:

- Funded over \$400,000 in abortion care
- Helped over 550 in-state patients from across New Hampshire, and over 250 out-of-state patients access abortion care from other 35 other states

The Outreach Offering will be on May 19.

Reproductive Freedom Fund of New Hampshire (ReproFund)





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Thanks to your Generosity Outreach Collections:

The February 2024 Collection for NH End of Life Alliance

Current Exhibit in the Foyer

PROTEST PORTRAITS

One of my favorite quotes is this: "Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?" (Henry David Thoreau).

Shortly after the murder of George Floyd, I decided I wanted to help support the Black Lives Matter movement in some way. I started by watching and listening, trying to educate myself. Then I began this personal portrait project. I welcomed protesters into my studio during protests on the common in Plymouth, NH. I listened to peoples' stories and shared their portraits.

This is a small selection of the larger body of work. You can see the rest, along with each person's words, on my website.

I hope that these portraits will be an invitation to every viewer to look closer. A closer look often creates empathy. Empathy creates understanding. Understanding builds community. As a collective project, I hope that these portraits also communicate the sense of unity that I see, among everyone who stands in protest for a better country for all of us. – Maundy Mitchell, portrait photographer

WEBSITE: https://maundymitchell.com

FACEBOOK: https://maundymitchell.com/protest-portraits/

INSTAGRAM: @maundymitchell



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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. Please Contact Bob and Jane Clay, 603-996-1207 or claysusanj@gmail.com, to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery.



Members News

Best of luck to Carolyn Erickson and Lauren Therriault and family. Carolyn recently moved to Utah and Lauren to Southern New Hampshire. We will miss you!

Pemi Choral presents, "Sweet Rivers," its May choral concerts celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Pemigewasset Choral Society. The ere are two performances—Saturday, May at the Colonial Theatre in Laconia at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, May 5 at the Silver Center in Plymouth at 3:00pm.

There are 9 members of Starr king Fellowship who sing with Pemi Choral: Babe DeRaymond, Susan Jacobs, Kathy Hillier, Mary Hazelton, Sue Chadwick, Gisela Estes, Susan Scrimshaw, Allan Stern, Jane Clay.

We hope you will support Starr King singers with your attendance at one of the concerts. Admission is by donation at the door. Complete details at pemichoral.org.





Plymouth State PemiChoral.org



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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. Please Note -Breakfast Club now meets on the Second Friday!

Breakfast Club -Friday, May 10, 2024

nd BREAKFAST CLVB

Please notice that we have changed Breakfast Club to the SECOND Friday (instead of the first Friday) of the month.

Also, we have made arrangements with PSU to once again have breakfast at the Prospect Dining Hall at 8 High Street in Plymouth at 8:30 AM. We will be able to use our Breakfast Club cards (valued at \$5 each punch) and add \$4, as the price of breakfast is \$9 for a full breakfast buffet! Those without punch cards pay \$9. Contact Deedie for a printable Breakfast Club Parking Pass. We will be able to leave our cars in Parking Lot 304 at PSU, while we eat breakfast and participate in the activity.

This month, we will be traveling to Meredith for the <u>Meredith Sculp-</u> <u>ture Walk</u>. We will leave Plymouth immediately after breakfast at 9:30 AM. We will have a private tour led by a docent at 10 AM. It should take about 1.5 hours, depending on how inquisitive we are! If you are meeting us at the tour, please meet us at the Innisfree Bookshop no later than 10 AM. Download <u>the map</u> of the sculptures. Please contact Deedie Kriebel at deediekriebel@gmail.com, if you plan to join us.

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Second Sunday Hike -5/12/24

Second Sunday Hike - Join us for an easy hike up Bald Mountain in Campton. This is a 2.6 mile loop with an elevation gain of 560 feet (+100 feet on descent). We are hoping to find the trail resplendent with wild flowers - trout lilies, trilliums, etc. There are views of many mountains including Kearsarge, Stinson, Carr, Plymouth, Tenney, and Cardigan. Also, we should be able to see Newfound Lake, Loon Lake, Bog Pond, the Baker River Valley, and the Polar Caves cliff. Come prepared for those dreaded black flies, just in case. We will find a place for refreshments after the hike - suggestions welcomed. We will leave from the rear parking lot at Starr King at 11:30 AM. Plan to carpool, as there is limited parking. Contact Deedie at <u>deediekriebel@gmail.com</u> if you would like to join us and for updates.



BOOK GROUP NEWS

Dear Readers,

Our May book selection is **Democracy Awakening** by Heather Cox Richardson. A New York Times best seller, this is a vital and urgent call to action about the precarious state of American democracy, charting its historical challenges and current threats, from one of our era's most im-



portant and insightful historians. Join the discussion May 14 at 3:30. The zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting.

Because of some scheduling conflicts, we will be swapping the June and July selections. The June selection will be *Why Buddhism is True* and the July selection will be *Still Life.*

No longer interested or have time to be involved? We'll miss your insights but understand life happens and will relieve you of yet another email to contend with. If you'd simply like to stay on for monthly book suggestions, that's fine, too.

Please email the office at <u>admin@starrkingfellowship.org</u> if you would like to be added to the email list to get the zoom link. Visit our website for the full list of this year's book selections. <u>https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/interest-groups</u>

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

admin@starrkingfellowship.org (603) 536-8908

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 Margaret Rieser, Ministerial Intern

Governing Board Pres.: Jane Clay Vice Pres.: Treasurer: Janet Englund Secretary: Stephanie Halter Trustees: Robert Chandler Suellen Skinner Doug Grant Connie Maatta Louise Randall

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.