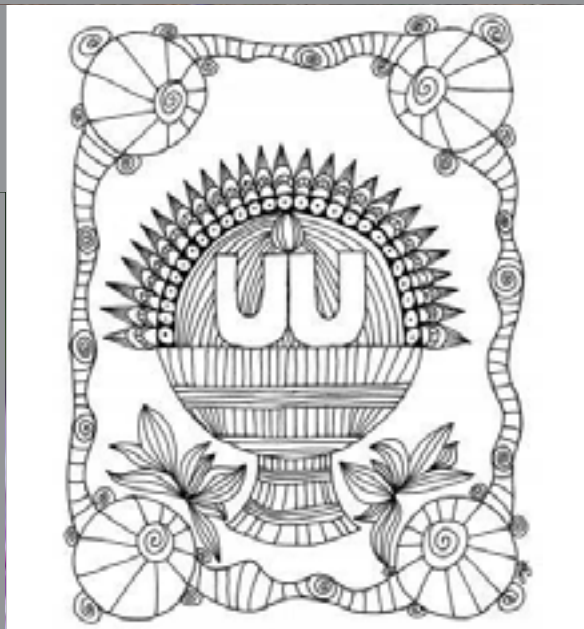


2017
2018



UU CHURCH
of CONCORD



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE



This Yearbook is dedicated to these special volunteers honored in 2018

Lorraine Ellis | Volunteer of the Year

Bob Lyon | Unsung Hero

Ken Koerber | Lifetime Volunteer

May 1, 2019

Welcome to our very first Yearbook!

Our Yearbook is organized around our Ends Statements, which are our shared vision for how we want to be together and impact our world. These Ends were adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2015, and reduced from ten Ends to nine in 2017-2018. Our Yearbook Committee asked our church leaders to reflect on how their project, team or committee helps us achieve one or more of our Ends. A couple dozen leaders responded to a survey doing just that, and their responses formed the foundation for this Yearbook. We've devoted two pages to each of our nine Ends.

As our church becomes more adept at operating under a Policy-Based Governance model, our church leadership increasingly uses our Ends as guidance on where to devote our energy and resources. This allows our talented staff and dedicated volunteers to move on parallel tracks towards the same goals, sometimes finding synergy and amplifying one another's efforts.

Unlike our former Annual Report, this Yearbook is not organized by committee. Increasingly, that format wasn't working for the church we have become. Our leadership structure has been moving from a relatively few standing committees, to a broad circle of people with diverse talents and interests leading ad hoc teams and projects. Yet publishing a report from every ad hoc team or leader seemed unrealistic, and publishing a report that only represented our standing committees would present an incomplete picture of our activities.

Lastly, our previous Annual Report required publication before Annual Meeting, which meant that it included an awkward time frame of April to March. By separating this Yearbook from Annual Meeting deadlines, we can present a complete picture of church year 2017-18 (August 2017 to July 2018.) Since this is our first Yearbook, it actually includes 16 months, April 2017 to July 2018 to make the transitional leap to the new time frame.

Deep gratitude to the Yearbook Committee for creatively re-inventing the way we communicate our annual activities: Karen Landsman, Jack Wakelin, Suzanne Rude, and Rev. Lyn Marshall. They spent hours developing a process for gathering information, and then collating and editing the submissions. Also, a heart-felt thank you to Office Administrator, Heidi Page, who stepped in at the tail-end of the process to format it all into the lovely pages you see here.

Our plan is to publish an Annual Meeting Prep Packet of materials directly related to Annual Meeting each May, and then to publish this Yearbook in the early fall, reflecting on the prior year. This year we got very behind due to time it took to develop the concept and due to office staff transitions, but we hope you will enjoy it nonetheless! We welcome your feedback.

In gratitude for this congregation,

Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger & Lea Smith, Director of Membership and Administration



Exploring Membership is a 6 hour class offered twice during the past year. The class is a required component for becoming a member of our Church. Class members have an opportunity to get to know each other at a deeper level through sharing their spiritual journeys thus far, their values, their hopes, and their goals for the future. From the two classes held this in 2017-18, eight people signed the book to become new members of the Church.

Our **Hospitality Team**, led by David Canfield, enhances opportunities for fellowship among church members by organizing and hosting after-church social hours on many Sundays, as well as our semi-annual church picnics that celebrate the opening and completion of each Church year in September and June. In 2017-18, 30 members and one “friend” teamed up to host 50 after-church social hours, plus our gala fall and spring picnics.

The **Contemplative Practices Group** plans, implements and attends a variety of meditation classes, retreats, and groups throughout the year. Lead organizer Jeanne Ann Whittington writes, “In planning, carrying out and participating in classes retreats our members have begun to form a group that is characterized by openness, warmth, respect, camaraderie and mutual support.”

The Choir is a group of volunteer singers, led by Choir Director Linda Mai, who enjoy sharing diverse selections of music with the congregation to complement and enhance

our church services. Linda writes, “When we connect through weekly practice and preparation for services, we check in with each other as to needs and concerns thereby extending our care not only to the congregation but also to each other. We feel we are growing as a family with a unified mission of love and service through music.”

Covenant Groups continue to be one of the ways many of us found community on a small scale, forming relationships that are deep, meaningful, and lasting. Minister of Lifespan Faith Development Lyn Marshall surveyed the groups, some of which began 17 years ago, and found that there were ten active groups serving approximately 80 people - some of them members, some friends, and a few for whom this is their one connection to the church. A drop-in group on the first Sunday of each month has allowed newcomers to experience a covenant group before making a longer-term commitment.



Church members cook and serve a meal at the **Friendly Kitchen** guests on the first Wednesday of each month. By working together at the Friendly Kitchen each month, the group spends some intimate time together. It has been referred to by a few as their “covenant group”.

Ruth Axelrod, chair of the **Grounds Planning & Special Projects Task Force**, writes “We work together to make decisions about the development and maintenance of our grounds, while many of us also work directly on the tasks involved. We welcome anyone who wants to be involved in any aspect of this work, consulting with us or helping pull the weeds and water the lawn.”

“During the holidays, **UU Friends of Refugees (UUFOR)** supplies culturally appropriate THANKSGIVING food boxes to over 30 New American families in the Concord area.



The food donations, shopping, box stuffing and delivery takes time, effort, energy, coordination and love. It is our honor to do this each year! We have also been able to offer a holiday party and gifts to New American children and their families through our GIVING TREE donation project and Christmas celebration which often includes Santa, his helpers, cookie decorating, card making, food and plenty of laughter! It is wonderful to share our culture with families from other parts of the world in the midst of the cold, chilly, winter!”

— Whitney Howarth, UUFOR Chair

We hosted a variety of **family-friendly events** throughout the year, so people of all ages could connect. Games & Chocolate, Family Covenant Group, Mystery Match, Movie Night, Pancake Breakfasts, and an Everybody’s Birthday Party were among the ways people got to know one another better and enjoy each other’s company.

The Youth Group, galvanized by the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, quickly organized and rented a 12-person van to head to Washington, DC to participate in the March for Our Lives organized by survivors of the shooting, adding their voices to the cries for sensible gun control legislation. They stayed at the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church in Adelphi, MD and met other UU youth at a pre-march gathering at All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC, and all got to know one another much better during the many hours in the van!

Congregants give and receive care and support in times of joy, sorrow and transition.



The Journey Continues was a monthly gathering of older congregants, who met like an open covenant group to discuss the issues surrounding aging. “We gather to affirm our worth as elders and to celebrate the wisdom we have gained. We support each other in our life’s journey and share what is important to us as we gain the status of elder,” said assistant leader Linda Williams.

Highlights from 2017-18 included:

- ⊕ Pat Hoertdoerfer led a two day workshop where they discussed the many facets of becoming an elder.
- ⊕ A wonderful meeting where they started spontaneously singing favorite hymns.

2017-18 was the fourth year of monthly meetings of our **Caring for Aging Loved Ones** group, providing mutual support and encouragement for caregivers.

“Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs) offer a ministry of presence to congregants through visiting or by telephone. PCAs visit congregants regularly. Also PCAs are available to check in with anyone who appears to be emotionally affected during Joys and Concerns on a Sunday morning. The PCAs also send cards to congregants who have experienced a significant loss.”

— Wendy Olson, Pastoral Care Associate



Congregants give and receive care and support in times of joy, sorrow and transition.

“Meals provided by the Caring Network helped sustain our family for several months while I healed from one broken hip on top of another. The homemade pesto, saucy casseroles, African stew, healthy salads and other dishes not only tickled our tastebuds, but saved our sanity. Michael even brought me some of this food to the rehab hospital - a welcome addition to their often questionable fare. The meals continued after I got home since the only thing I could easily do in the kitchen was reach the freezer. Delivered meals were also a great way to get to know some church members a little more (though I wouldn’t advise breaking bones to get this wonderful attention.)”

— Deb Bruss





We have a broad circle of effective leaders who have the resources to complete their work in service to our mission.

David Canfield chaired our **Stewardship and Legacy Giving** efforts in Spring 2018. The goal of these efforts was to motivate generous financial support of our Church by members and friends via both annual pledging during their lifetime and leaving a legacy gift from their estate when the time comes. Successes included:

- ✦ Total pledging for 2018-19 reached a record high, increasing by about \$34,000 (13% over 2016-17).
- ✦ Nine members told us they are planning to leave something to the Church from their estate, thus joining the growing membership roll of the William Walker Society.

The Finance Committee is an Ad Hoc committee that meets as needed to plan, recommend and review financial operations of the church. Jack Wakelin, Chair, noted that activities include:

- ✦ Assist in the preparation of the Annual Operating Budget.
- ✦ Review quarterly Financial Statements.
- ✦ Assist in the timing of withdrawals from the Endowment that support the Operating Budget.
- ✦ Recommend the disposition of any budget/cash surpluses.
- ✦ Provide advice on capital campaigns when needed.

The Operating Budget for Church Year 2016-2017 ended with a surplus which resulted in the withdrawal of less than the 4% allowed from the Endowment (per our bylaws) in support of the 2017-18 Operating Budget.

The Endowment is a significant resource, with its annual distributions, per our bylaws, funding over 15% of our annual budget. Our elected **Trust Funds Committee**, chaired by Rob Fleischman, is dedicated to providing quality management of the UU Church endowment funds. Their goal is to provide effective, transparent, and responsible management of church funds.

Our beautiful and unique church building is one of our most valuable tangible resources, providing a functional

and sparkling clean space for worship, contemplative practice, lifelong learning, and outreach ministries, in keeping with our broad ends statements. Our comprehensive **Building Use Policy** was administered by Congregational Administrator Lea Smith and the Building Use Committee, which included Trudy Mott-Smith and Peter Bartlett. New furnishings such as round dining tables in Fellowship Hall have improved the atmosphere for making authentic connections, while drop-down screens in the parlor and Room 8/9 have improved the functionality of these rooms as learning and working spaces.

The building and grounds are primarily available to provide direct support of the church's mission and ends, but they also create rental income that indirectly supports our mission. In 2017-18, building rental income was \$30,225, and parking rental income was \$17,500. Over 10% of our budget was supported by rental income.

The Building Maintenance Committee included Trudy Mott-Smith (Chair), Warren Haslam, Loren Hill, Kathie Martin (Facility Manager), Gary Schroeder, Bob Williams and Jack Wakelin. The Building Maintenance Committee is charged to:

- ✦ Maintain the Church Buildings with volunteer help.
- ✦ Contract and oversee professional help for minor projects to help maintain the church buildings.
- ✦ Plan ahead for major projects.

In 2017-18, the Building Maintenance Committee:

- ✦ Upgraded lighting in front of the church for added safety.
- ✦ Completed renovation of kitchenette.
- ✦ Repaired leaking roof "scuppers" and the damaged wood below them.
- ✦ Planned and budgeted for engineering review of support beams in the building (less the Sanctuary). This engineering review was completed Sept, 2018.
- ✦ Planned for expanded storage outside the storeroom in Fellowship Hall.
- ✦ Completed comprehensive annual maintenance

services for the heating and ventilation systems.

- ✦ Monitored the installation of a flood alert system for the furnace and storage rooms in the basement.
- ✦ Upgraded the lighting for halls, classrooms and other areas with LED lighting to reduce energy use.

The Grounds Planning & Special Projects Task Force, led by Ruth Axelrod, is charged to imagine and explore options for transforming our campus to fully support the mission and evolving needs of our Church in ways that are both ecologically and functionally sustainable.

The Green Team, led by Tom O'Brien, along with other volunteers, plans and carries out ground development and maintenance tasks on the fourth Sunday of every month throughout the growing season. They also coordinate two major seasonal cleanups, in spring and fall.

It truly took a broad range of leaders to bring our **solar array** to fruition: financial expertise of John Warner, organizational agility of Trudy Mott-Smith, technical input from many members, and of course donations of every size from dozens of congregants. To calculate cost savings in the first year of the operation of the solar panels, it is important to know that the church electric bill is based on two major factors: the cost of electricity used each month and a fee for supplying the service such as maintaining the lines etc. In months where the solar panels generate more electricity than needed, the church receives credit on its bill and then the "credit" is applied to our bill in the winter months when the solar panels do not meet our needs ("Net Metering").

In Year One (June 2017 to May 2018):

- ✦ Church electric bills averaged \$185 per month as compared to an average of \$484 in the prior year.
- ✦ The \$185 represents the service fee portion of our bill so the solar panels essentially eliminated the "cost of electricity" portion of the bill over the year.
- ✦ The total savings to the budget over the first year was approximately \$3600 due to the solar panels ability to generate more electricity than we used over the course of the first year.

Communications within and beyond the congregation are integral to achieving all aspects of our mission, ensuring that the congregation and the wider community are informed about church activities and issues that concern or interest them, and maintaining our visibility as a leader in our social justice efforts. Our monthly Parish Notes, weekly eBulletin, Facebook

page, and website provide opportunities for our leaders to publicize, celebrate, and garner support for their work. We provide multiple platforms to reach out to our diverse congregation and community in the ways that meet the needs of different age groups and communication styles.

The website, capably maintained by our volunteer webmaster Lorraine Ellis, is the church's most prominent outward-facing communication tool. This year we fully updated the church website, and rolled out the new site to the public in Oct 2017. The site is now platformed on Wordpress, using a template designed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The previous major redesign was in 2007.

The Operations Leadership Team launched as "unpaid staff" - a resource to support the Executive (Senior Minister) under the policy governance model. The OLT sets priorities for use of resources, develops lay leadership, and cultivates a culture of gratitude. In 2017-18 the OLT:

- ✦ Facilitated a forum on the possible use of glyphates to control invasive plants on church property, resulting in a choice not to use them.
- ✦ Developed a Procurement Policy to ensure ethical and responsible use of church resources.
- ✦ Provided feedback on a new budget initiative to have "targeted giving campaigns" occasionally throughout the year.
- ✦ Supervised the installation of security cameras and developed a privacy policy for their use.

The 2017 Fall **UU Service Auction** was a resounding success! Planning included volunteers for short or long tasks in an effort to involve as many in the church community as possible.

There were many fun activities and services offered, baskets with themes auctioned and some lovely handmade items. The bidding on the silent auction items started the previous Sunday, which gave a broader range of bidders. On Auction Day, the format was changed to heavy hors d'oeuvres and an hour of socializing and bidding on the silent auction, with many choices and price ranges.

The live auction offered desserts and was limited to 17 items, so that the energy and enthusiasm was high! Christy Bartlett, Auction Coordinator commented, "Thanks to great support from our friends and our church community this effort raised over \$12,000!"

Our congregation benefits from the exchange of wisdom across the generations.



Youth Group at Washington, DC **"March for Our Lives"**



Teen caregiver, Hannah Miller reads to a child in our **"Rainbow Room"** (nursery.)



"Coming of Age" youth leadership game.

Our congregation benefits from the exchange of wisdom across the generations.

Our congregants who volunteered their time hosting during the **Family Promise Host** weeks spanned across generations. They had time as they volunteered to make connections between themselves and the families they were hosting.

Green Team members worked closely together visioning, consulting and doing needed tasks to ensure that our campus provides a supportive environment for all the outdoor activities of the Church community. We solicit and welcome input and help from congregants of all ages, since our tasks vary widely in terms of physical and skill requirements.

Our **Sunday School classes** benefited from having a fantastic crew of teachers who were all serving their second or third year. In the nursery, our youngest congregants learned to feel safe in the care of our new Nursery Care Coordinator Christina Oliva, who started in August 2017. Both teens and adults volunteered as her assistants on Sunday mornings and at **Family Covenant Group nights**.

Our 4-6 year olds were introduced to Unitarian Universalism with the **"Chalice Children" curriculum**, taught by Janet Kibbee and Hannah Miller. 6-9 year olds learned about some of our Unitarian Universalist history, particularly the stories of important Unitarian and Universalist ancestors, with **"Faithful Journeys"** led by Sonya Knowlton and Jennifer Roff. 9-12 year olds also studied Unitarian Universalist history and, using the trusty time machine they built at the beginning of the year, went traveling to various points in the past with **"Travel in Time"** under the watchful eyes of Heather Jacques, Betsy Peabody, and Julia Peabody-Harhigh.

We introduced a new high school Sunday morning class, **"YUU in the World,"** led by Carin Plante, Althea Barton, and Jeff Fetter. The participants focused on issues of racial and social justice guided by the **"Be the Change"** program.

We offered **Coming of Age** for those who graduated from Our Whole Lives in 2017, with participants coming to three overnight sessions at church and spending two nights at First Parish Church in Cambridge, MA during our Boston pilgrimage. Each participant was paired with an adult mentor for conversation about their faith journeys. Participants were asked to deeply consider their own beliefs, values, and questions and, over time, students were asked to write a credo statement to present to the congregation. They offered a moving worship service for all ages in May 2018.



Our rich and diverse worship and religious life nurtures, challenges and inspires us to lifelong learning, growth and transformation.

In 2017-18 **Worship Service** was offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. along with alternative evening services two Sundays per month: **Taize**, a quiet, reflective service of meditative singing on the 2nd Sundays, and **Dances of Universal Peace**, a heart-centered movement practice on the 3rd Sundays.

Sunday worship services were tied to a monthly theme. The minister of **Lifespan Faith Development**, Lyn Marshall, prepared a themed discussion sheet for use by our 1st Sunday Drop-in Covenant Group and other Covenant Groups if they chose to use it.

- September | Practice
- October | Healing
- November | Islam
- December | Letting Go
- January | Identity
- February | Resilience
- March | Sacred Texts
- April | Equanimity
- May | Life Stages
- June | Joy

Music is an integral part of every worship service. The music program is supported by a diverse **Music Committee** that:

- ✚ Recruits and orients new people to the choir.
- ✚ Supports music outreach ministries.
- ✚ Maintains the Music Inventory by adding new music and filing music used by the choir, and identifies and archives seldom used music, in concert with the Choir Director
- ✚ Prepares for weekly choir rehearsals.
- ✚ Provides Hymn Song Leadership for Summer Services in concert with Accompanists and Service Leaders.

The Music Committee includes Victoria Wakelin (*Chair*), Jane and David Brown (*UU Minister-Retired*), Charles Hillen, Whitney Howarth (*Liaison to Worship Associates*), Nancy Morse, Jack Wakelin, Gary Schroeder, and Craig Whitson.

All ages participated in our no-rehearsal **Christmas pageant**, reenacting the story of the birth of Jesus. In a particularly memorable moment, at one point the baby Jesus, played initially by Becca Meinke, was swapped out for her twin brother George, who had been the more restless twin at the start of the service but who fell into a deep and peaceful slumber after a nice warm bottle in his father's arms.



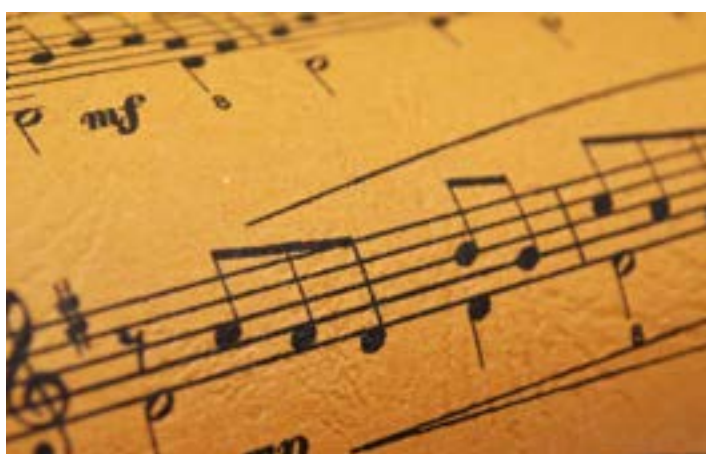
Our **Coming of Age** youth had a congregational participation scorecard to encourage them to try out various aspects of the life of our congregation. Hearing it described, an adult commented that it looked like fun and we should all do it... and the Minister's Challenge 2018 was born! Participants collected ribbons for activities in seven categories, and points for activities within those categories. Winners in three age categories - children, youth, and adults - went to dinner with the ministers. Elliott Pollard, Skylar Star, Jennifer Star, Daniel Leuchtenberger, and Karen Cox were our high scorers.

"The individuals who participate in the Contemplative Practices activities are engaged in growing in their meditation practices and the many ways this growth ripples out into their relationships with family, with the UU community, and with the larger community and world."

— Jeanne Ann Whittington, Contemplative Practices Group Coordinator

The Earth Centered Spirituality Group (ECSG) provides education, public rituals, and a spiritual home for those on a neo-pagan or nature-centered spiritual path. It serves members and non-members alike. In recent years the connection between the ECSG and the core of our church has become looser, and currently there are no UUs on the steering committee of the ECSG. The ECSG and Rev. Leuchtenberger are making efforts to strengthen this connection.

Rich and Christy of the ECSG **Steering Committee** write, "We look forward to meeting more like-minded people to help us better serve our community. Our public and private services allow people of diverse spiritual backgrounds to come together to worship and learn of other traditions. Many attendees are otherwise solitary, so the opportunity to meet and celebrate the holy days with others of a like mind is important. We have many conversations after the service about what it represents, our experiences, and the themes presented."



We are grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition and pass those values to the next generation.



As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. With our youngest, this is how that might look - an elder sharing a book with a pre-reader, demonstrating the importance of reading as an important tool for learning about our world.

Our committee work is grounded in the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism

The **Community Plate Committee** is responsible for choosing non-profit organizations and projects that align with UU principles, both from within and outside our church, that will receive the funds collected during our Sunday offerings. Requests for consideration are accepted from the staff, church members and friends of the church. Since 2012, our UU Community Plate has collected funds for 107 non-profit organizations and other projects that align with UU principles.

The **Grounds Planning & Special Projects Task Force** is guided by UU principles in all its work, especially the 7th principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are part." Chair Ruth Axelrod reported that following installation of the solar array in our front yard, this Task Force oversaw planting of the shrub bed (required by the Planning Board) and reseeded of the rest of the lawn to rebuild our campus environment. They also organized the removal of more than 35 dead and dying trees to keep our forest accessible to all who want to experience its beauty and peace.

The **Green Team** (grounds maintenance volunteers led by Tom O'Brien) ground all their work in environmentally-friendly principles of forestry, horticulture and grounds maintenance.



The choir gives our children and youth a "song bath," singing the beautiful hymn "How Could Anyone Ever Tell You" to them during the Time for All Ages in Sunday morning worship.



One gift we give our children is the gift of music - as they learn songs and hymns in worship, in their Sunday School classes, and in the Children's Choir, which is here pictured rehearsing for a combined piece with the adult choir.

"Participants in the **Exploring Membership** class learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism, as well as the way it is expressed today at the national level and within our own congregation. They also have an opportunity to explore their own relationship with the UU principles and to form and express their own personal covenant with the congregation."

— Lorraine Ellis, Exploring Membership Coordinator



We work hard to create an environment where children get to know one another outside of narrow age groups. Our older children often enjoy helping to care for the younger ones, and in turn the younger children look to the older kids as role models. These three were remarkably patient and forgiving with one another as they created a shared picture on a rather small surface for three artists to share!



One of the goals many UU parents have for their children is that they will learn to work for justice in the world. A small group of parents met to discuss what would be meaningful as a social justice project for our children this year, and decided on a local project of supporting the Five Rivers Conservation Trust, which holds the easement for conservation land behind our church land. Children decorated canvas bags, made posters, and collected donations in exchange for their artwork on practical, eco-friendly reusable bags. They raised \$166 to support land conservation in the Concord area.

We are visible leaders in the greater Concord area as we live our Unitarian Universalist values.

Trust Funds Committee chair Rob Fleischman noted, “It is difficult, if not impossible, for our church to exist without the help of the endowment. Our community benefits from our generosity, in part, because the endowment provides us with funds.”



Our new photovoltaic **solar array** became fully operational in May 2017. With pride of place on our front lawn, it demonstrates to passers-by that we are committed to the preservation of the environment.



Youth Group attends the **March for Our Lives** in Washington DC in March 2018, a student-led demonstration in support of tighter gun control.

We are visible leaders in the greater Concord area as we live our Unitarian Universalist values.



UU Ukles at the **International Day of Peace**, September 2017



Many of our choir members also participate in **Visiting Voices**, providing the joy of song at the Merrimack County Nursing Home, caroling for the homeless, singing for special events in the community such as the Interfaith Concert fundraiser, or at 90th birthday gatherings.

Facebook and our website are the most outward-facing **technology tools** we offer for increasing our visibility outside of our congregation. Our congregants are encouraged to submit photos and text to help us maintain the website and Facebook page with fresh and timely content. To tie us visually to the larger UU community, in 2017-18 we redesigned our newsletters and website using the themes and logos provided by the UUA.



Our outreach ministries have a noticeable impact in the larger community.



To have a **“noticeable impact,”** in the past few years we have concentrated our justice efforts in a few areas: homelessness, refugees, and the environment.

Our **Homeless Outreach** program, coordinated by David Canfield, stimulates participation by church members in local community activities serving homeless families and individuals. Church members hosted homeless families in our church as a member of Family Promise of Greater Concord; prepared meals at Concord’s Friendly Kitchen; volunteered at the winter homeless shelter, homeless resource center, and annual **“SuperFest”** fundraiser for the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, where Rev. Michael serves as Board Chair; and produced the second largest team donation (from over 30 teams) at the annual **“Wicked FIT Walk/Run”** for Families in Transition.

2017-18 was **Family Promise** of Greater Concord’s third year. The focus of Family Promise of Greater Concord is provide housing and meals for homeless families as they work to become sustainable on their own. We hosted families four different weeks throughout the church year. Members and friends of the Concord UU Church volunteer to be evening and overnight hosts to the homeless families. They also provide meals and snacks. Each week that we host volunteers also set up and take down the sleeping quarters in Fellowship Hall. Laundry is done at the end of each week. Wendy Olson has been ably coordinating this program in our church since its inception.

Our church has been serving a monthly meal at the **Friendly Kitchen** (Concord only “soup kitchen) for almost 40 years; we have definitely made an impact on its guests.



UU Friends of Refugees (UUFOR) is a group of activists committed to providing support for New American families in the Concord area. We seek to provide opportunities for UUs to become actively engaged with the New American community through various service programs, volunteer experiences and social interactions. Our mission also includes advocacy and education about New Americans, their home cultures and the challenges they face as members of our community, both regionally and nationally. We welcome new members and suggestions for volunteer projects!

UUFOR is proud to support local service providers and partners dedicated to providing support to New Americans in the Concord area. We support bridging activities that bring cultural groups together to celebrate diversity like the LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR annual picnic (over 100 participants sharing food, sport and play) and we often host New American cultural programs featuring drumming, dancing, fashion shows and food from around the world. We are good friends to organizations such as ASCENTRIA, New American Africans, and the Bhutanese Community of New Hampshire, among

others. The impact our volunteers have on the larger community is tangible -- whether it is regularly offering transportation for children to schools, families to medical appointments, or teaching English to adult learners -- and even as we serve others, we are transformed by our service.” - Whitney Howarth, UUFOR Chair

The Community Plate has collected funds for international organizations (e.g. Hurricane Relief in Haiti, Doctors Without Borders), NH-based groups (e.g. Live and Let Live Farm, AFSC-NH), and for local projects (e.g. Concord Parks and Rec scholarship fund and Riverbend). We also collected several “Outreach Offerings” to support our church’s own outreach projects, such as our Thanksgiving baskets and our membership in UU Action NH. The total collected for Community Plates and Outreach Offerings in 2017-18 was \$30,900.

The Unitarian Benevolent Association is a church-affiliated group with its own trust fund. They distribute money to local social service agencies annually. Beth Corcoran is its President.



We are full and active participants in the work of both the Greater Concord Faith Community and the larger Unitarian Universalist community.

Our **Board of Trustees** members are active congregants connected to the greater church community and to the Greater Concord Faith Community. Board leaders attend the Annual UUA General Assembly whenever possible, with Lisa Eberhart (who was the incoming Board Chair) representing us at GA 2017 in New Orleans.

We were also represented at GA 2017 by Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger, Rev. Lyn Marshall, Administrator Lea Smith, Rik Yeames, and youth group members Jenna Bourassa, Paige Hyndman, and Camille Girard. Our congregation took a break from GA 2018.

Our professional staff are members of their respective professional groups:

- ⊕ UU Ministers Association (national and chapter): Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger and Rev. Lyn Marshall
- ⊕ Liberal Religious Educators Association: Rev. Lyn Marshall
- ⊕ UU Musicians Network: Choir Director Linda Mai and Accompanist Calvin Herst
- ⊕ Association of UU Administrators: Congregational Administrator Lea Smith

Recognizing the truth that UUism calls us to **“live our values aloud, not alone”**, not only as individuals but as congregations in cooperation with one another, we are committed to moving towards paying our **“Fair**

Share” to the UUA for its invaluable work. Beginning with 2017-18 dues are paid directly to the UUA, which includes both national and New England regional dues. Dues are no longer paid to the Northern New England District in the new UUA structure.

- ⊕ In 2016-17, we paid \$17,763.
- ⊕ In 2017-18 we paid \$18,362.
- ⊕ In 2018-19, we will pay \$19,200.

We fully participate with several other churches to make **Family Promise of Greater Concord** a successful program by hosting homeless families, who move weekly from church to church. Congregants attend programs and trainings that are provided by FPGC and attend the Coordinator’s meetings.

The **Interfaith Council of Greater Concord** includes over 20 faith communities and non-profits in the greater Concord area devoted to common worship, mutual education and community outreach. Our church raised \$1,100 of the Council’s 2017 CROP Hunger Walk with the leadership of our representative Linda Rogers. The Council updated its Constitution to allow for additional interfaith organizations to join with leadership from representative Suzanne Rude. Suzanne Rude served as Vice-President of the Council in 2017-18 and was elected to serve as President for the 2018-2019 year.



We provided the space for the annual meeting of the newly-formed UU Action NH state advocacy network in June 2017, and the leadership team met monthly in our building. UU Action NH is the only statewide Unitarian Universalist organization at this time, and greatly benefited from having low-cost and free space when they had no, and then little, revenue. Rev. Lyn Marshall serves on the leadership team as its secretary, and Rev. Emily Burr, a former Concord congregant and interim Director of Religious Education here in 2013-2015, is the group’s treasurer. The organization’s mission is to amplify UU values in the public square, helping congregations work together for greater impact on the issues that concern us. Our congregation is one of the founding members, paying annual dues of \$2 per member to help fund their outreach activities.

“The Downing Trust AdHoc Award Committee awards funds from the Lewis Downing Trust to Individuals and/or Entities promoting “liberal Christianity” to “strengthen the societies of the Unitarian faith in New Hampshire” and congregational projects such as special programs, guest preachers, advertising campaigns, or capital projects relating to accessibility, to make a church more effective for its members and the community. By fulfilling the wishes of Lewis Downing, we are able to strengthen Unitarian Universalism throughout New Hampshire by enabling other UU churches and ministers to maintain spaces or develop programs to reach more people within NH. For the last few years, we have had to actively LOOK for projects that will fulfill Lewis Downing’s wishes, rather than waiting for applicants to come to us. This has required us to develop and strengthen ties to other UU organizations in this region.”

— Karen Mayo, Church Treasurer



The Annual Meeting of the Northern New England District of the UUA focused on social justice issues.



The Imam of Concord gave a message from our pulpit.



CROP WALK 2017

2017-18 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gracias, Merci Beaucoup, Grazie, Domo Arigato, Do Jeh, Danke, Shukran,
Xie Xie, Hvala, Tak, Efharisto, Kiitos, Spasiba, Mahalo, Gvyalielitsehi, Thank You



Thank you to these contributors to our 2017-18 Yearbook

David Canfield | Homeless Outreach Coordinator; Stewardship & Legacy Giving Chair; Hospitality Team Leader
Suzanne Rude | Greater Concord Interfaith Council Representative & Vice President
Erika & Jim Downie | Co-Chairs for Greens & Artisan Fair and Plant & Yard Sale
Jack Wakelin for Trudy Mott-Smith | Building Maintenance Committee Chair
Karen Mayo | Treasurer; Downing Trust Ad Hoc Award Committee Chair
Jeanne Ann Whittington | Contemplative Practices Group Coordinator
Wendy Olson | Family Promise Coordinator; Pastoral Care Associate
Rich & Chris | Earth Centered Spirituality Group Steering Committee
Lorraine Ellis | Webmaster; Exploring Membership Class Coordinator
Ruth Axelrod | Grounds Planning & Special Projects Task Force Chair
Tom O'Brien | Green Team Grounds Maintenance Coordinator
Linda Williams | Journey Continues Elders Group co-leader
Rev. Lyn Marshall | Minister of Lifespan Faith Development
Deborah Bruss | Community Plate Committee Chair



Linda Mai | Choir Director
Lisa Eberhart | Board of Trustees Chair
Jack Wakelin | Finance Committee Chair
Rob Fleischman | Trust Funds Committee Chair
Fran Philippe | Friendly Kitchen Cooks Coordinator
Whitney Howarth | UU Friends of Refugees Chair
Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger | Senior Minister
Victoria Wakelin | Music Committee Chair
Lea Smith | Congregational Administrator

*Thank you to the members of the Yearbook Committee for creatively re-inventing our Annual Report into this Yearbook.
They welcome your feedback!*

Karen Landsman, Suzanne Rude, Jack Wakelin, Lea Smith, and Lyn Marshall, with Heidi Page as our graphic designer.



Left to right: Gary Schroeder, Anne Drewniak, Linda Rogers, Karen Mayo, Suzanne Rude, Lisa Eberhart, Dick Bennett

**MISSION
OUR PURPOSE**

Connecting in Love & Service
Growing Spiritually
Transforming Ourselves & the World

ENDS

1

Our congregants create and experience authentic connection.

2

Congregants give and receive care and support in times of joy, sorrow and transition.

3

We have a broad circle of effective leaders who have the resources to complete their work in service to our mission.

4

Our congregation benefits from the exchange of wisdom across the generations.

5

Our rich and diverse worship and religious life nurtures, challenges and inspires us to lifelong learning, growth and transformation.

6

We are grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition and pass those values to the next generation.

7

We are visible leaders in the greater Concord area as we live our Unitarian Universalist values.

8

Our outreach ministries have a noticeable impact in the larger community.

9

We are full and active participants in the work of both the Greater Concord Faith Community and the larger Unitarian Universalist community.
