



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation at Montclair

THE GAZETTE
SPRING 2023, VOLUME 126, ISSUE 3

BRAVE NEW WORLD

BY REV. SCOTT SAMMLER-MICHAEL, SENIOR CO-MINISTER

Spring seems to have come early this year. As I write this on Feb 15, it is a little odd how warm it is today (65!). The weather is a good reminder that we are living through unprecedented times. As we continue emerging from the disruption of the COVID Pandemic I am heartened by all the energy we see around the U. Folks seem to revel in the chance to come together again to stitch back together the strands of our community that were strained during the pandemic. As it takes as long to recover from a major disruption as the disruption itself lasts, it will take about two more years to begin to see what any "new normal" looks like. That means that the decisions we make today can really shape our congregational life and culture as we rebuild and re-engage.

There are so many ways for you to help us re-weave our community - programs like Theology on Tap; The Commit 2 Give Potlucks; The Changing Mind of God Bible Study; Date Night!; Adult Social; The Interfaith Music Fest. Additionally, we are excited to host a couple events honoring ministers from UUCM's past, as part of our 125th Anniversary celebrations. Saturday, April 29th we will welcome back Rev. Lee Barker with a dinner in his honor; he will lead worship the next day. And Saturday, June 10, we will host "Rev. Charlie Ortman's (Belated) Retirement Party."

As we head towards the Summer, stay tuned as we will be offering more programming than UUCM has in the past; we will provide ways for people to connect, enrich and engage to keep our community re-building project moving apace. And be sure to sign yourself up to teach in our children's Religious Education program - there is no greater volunteer need, and no better way for you to deepen your own faith journey than teaching in our innovative program. Register your children this Spring for the program, too, so we can plan our classes knowing who to expect.

It is a pleasure beyond measure to serve you, the people who make the U come alive and live into our mission of building Beloved Community. Thanks for your commitments of time, talent, treasure and spirit over the years!

*Grounded in faith, we
come together to nurture
the soul, inspire hope,
and bring into being a
more just and loving
world.*

*The Gazette is a quarterly
publication of the Unitarian
Universalist Congregation at
Montclair.*

THIS ISSUE:

Music Notes

PAGE 2

Milestones

PAGE 7

Religious Education

PAGE 9

Grow

PAGE 10

Serve

PAGE 11

Connect

PAGE 14

Upcoming Events

PAGE 16



"Names are an important key
to what a society values."

DAVID S. SLAWSON

OUR MINISTERS & STAFF

Senior Co-Minister:

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, Ext. 0011
revanya@uumontclair.org

Senior Co-Minister:

Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael, Ext. 0011
revscott@uumontclair.org

Ministerial Intern:

Sabrina Trupia
intern@uumontclair.org

Custodians:

Dawn Coleman (lead)
Robert Gaddy
uu.custodian@uumontclair.org

Technology Systems Consultant:

Bruce For
bruce.for@uumontclair.org

Director of Music Ministries:

Markus Hauck, Ext. 0015
musicdir@uumontclair.org

Director of Religious Education:

Judith Hogan, Ext. 0016
jhogan@uumontclair.org

Music Intern:

Juliana Lombardo
musicintern@uumontclair.org

Office & Communications Manager:

Jaclyn Puleo, Ext. 0010
officemgr@uumontclair.org

Bookkeeper:

Emilia Sadonis, Ext. 0019
accountant@uumontclair.org

Administrator:

Jordan Williams, Ext. 0012
admin@uumontclair.org

Affiliated Community Minister:

Rev. Charles Loflin

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

Minister Emerita:

Rev. Judy Tomlinson

ON THAT NOTE...

BY MARKUS HAUCK, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

On the recent kickoff Sunday for our Commitment-to-Give campaign, the choir sang a spirited anthem called "Love Is the Spirit of This Place." That was not the original name of the composition. I probably don't need to elaborate on why the arranger, Elizabeth Alexander, chose to update the lyrics to the 19th-century hymn "Washed in the Blood" for a UU Congregation in 2016; but the title she gave it then was "Love Is the Spirit of This Church."

We used to be called "Unitarian Church of Montclair." In 2007, the membership voted to change the moniker to "Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair," in an effort to make our community more inclusive (for example, to people from a Muslim or Jewish heritage).

Our choir sang "Love Is the Spirit of This Church" for the first time in the fall of 2017, and to acknowledge the discrepancy between the title of the composition and the name of our community, we projected various words on the screen: "temple," "synagogue," "mosque," "meeting house," etc.

We had another conversation when we started rehearsing the piece in January of this year, and this time we decided to change the text itself. So instead of "church," we now sang "love is the spirit of this place."

Why do we go to all this trouble? Why did we change the name of our institution 26 years ago? Why do we update lyrics in hymns? Why do we include pronouns with our names now? Because it matters. Maybe not to everyone, maybe not even to the majority of our members. But if someone who has negative associations with the word "church" can hope they might be welcome here, if one of us who identifies as nonbinary feels a bit more safe because they don't have to justify their pronouns for the 1000th time... then we have made a little progress towards nurturing the soul, inspiring hope, and bringing into being a more just and loving world. And that is why we are here.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

VIRTUAL VESPERS SERVICES

- **March 16, 2023, 7:30 PM** - "Vulnerability" will be co-led by Rev. Anya and the Pastoral Care Team. Join us to embrace your vulnerability and remember its gifts.
- **April 20, 2023, 7:30 PM** - "Resistance" will be co-led by the Mental Health Task Force. Join us to resist stigma and remember that all of us experience the world in ways that are unique and different from others.

Zoom: tinyurl.com/UUCMVV23, Passcode: UUCM



STONE SOUP

What happens if we all bring a little something to contribute to a communal pot of soup? Let's find out! Bring some carrots, onions, squash, celery, any kind of vegetable you like in soup. Bring a grain like barley or a legume like lentils. Bring chopped kale or whole cabbage. Bring a can of mushrooms. Bring what you can. Bring it to the worship service on **March 26, 2023**.

It will be collected during our Time for all Ages and then turned into something amazing (and vegan) by our Youth AND coming of age Groups and our MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for Hope) cooking crew! After the service, we will enjoy this communal creation.

PASSOVER SEDER

Let's get together on **April 7, 2023**, at 6:00 PM in Fletcher Hall for an evening to celebrate our freedom and the hope of emancipation of all people! Food, drink and a wonderful Passover service will help us reflect together about our past and to think about our future. All are welcome!

We need specific food donations and assistance from all who participate. The requested donation is \$15 per adult (ages 13 & up) and \$6 per child (ages 5 thru 12).

Register at: tinyurl.com/UUCMSeder23

Welcome Back Dinner
for Rev. Lee Barker
Saturday, April 29, 2023 6-9pm,
Fletcher Hall

For those who knew him, or for those who simply would like a chance to meet him and hear stories about UUCM from someone who served UUCM in the '80s and '90s, please register to join us. Details will follow.

Rev. Lee Barker will lead worship Sunday, April 30, 2023.

Register:
tinyurl.com/UUCMRLB

Rev. Charlie Ortman's
(Belated) Retirement Party
June 10, 2023 6-9pm,
Fletcher Hall

Join us as we finally hold that retirement party we planned on holding for Rev Charlie in Providence, 2020 - before COVID canceled it. Then on June 11, 2023, Rev. Charlie will join us for worship, led by our Out Front team in honor of Pride week in a service that will include our Annual Flower Communion.

Register:
tinyurl.com/UUCMRCBO



COMMITMENT 2 GIVE

A TESTIMONY BY PAUL BLACK ON FEBRUARY 5, 2023

You might know my wife Paula Pizzi-Black, who taught Religious Education for several years here, or my son Malachy, who is now a senior in high school. I'm here to share a personal story about the U and what it means to us as a family.

We moved to Verona when Malachy was starting grade school. He attended RE classes here, including the excellent Coming of Age program, which included a trip up to Boston. When he learned about the plan for the Boston trip he just flat out said, "No. I am not going." As the weeks passed and the trip got closer, Paula and I cajoled him, encouraged him and somehow, when the day came for the big trip, we managed to get him into the van for the drive up. As it drove off with Rev. Scott and a number of adult chaperones, I just remember thinking, "Oh those dear, poor people – taking a bunch of grumpy teenagers on a long drive. I'd rather have a root canal without anesthesia."

We heard nothing for about 36 hours until the hardy pilgrims returned home and we picked Malachy up from the U, not knowing what retribution we might face for the ordeal we had subjected him to. We were braced for the worst as we drove him back home, but once there he just wanted food and sleep. "OK," we thought, "he's getting his strength back, then he'll let us have it." So we continued to wait for the backlash. Next day, Malachy goes to school, Paula and I go to work – then later on it started to get strange...

Now fast forward about 48 hours, and I call up Rev. Scott and ask "OK – so what happened on that trip to Boston?" Now Rev. Scott's a pro, so he just gets curious and asks "Whaddya mean?" "Well", I said, "2 things happened since he got back that are very unusual. First, I got back from work on Monday and Malachy asked me 'How was your day?' My jaw nearly hit the floor; that has never happened before! Then (if that's not enough), after dinner he asked me if I wanted to play a game of chess! Chess!! I taught him how to play chess, but he never asks me to play a game – not ever! Not only that he's actually being nice. So I don't know what happened up there, but it certainly had a impact."

When I talked to other parents whose children went on the trip they reported similar experiences – their kids came back different: nicer, kinder, less grumpy, more accepting. As I reflect on it, I think it was less about what happened in Boston, than it was HOW it happened. It was a coming together in a spirit of love and acceptance that had a profound effect.

That's what this place has to offer – love and acceptance. That's what the U means to me.

Have you made a Commitment 2 Give?
Visit: <https://www.uumontclair.org/pledge/>



UUCM COME TOGETHER:

POTLUCK!

MARCH 4 • 6PM-8PM

FLETCHER HALL

FREE & FAMILY-FRIENDLY!



REGISTER



VOLUNTEER



COMMIT 2 GIVE



THANK YOU FROM THE UUCM STAFF

The UUCM staff wishes to express their gratitude for the holiday bonus we all received in December.

"Dear UUCM Board and Congregation, Thank you so much for the Holiday Bonus, I really appreciate your generosity! I feel fortunate to be here in such a thoughtful and giving community."

--Blessings, Sabrina Trupia, Ministerial Intern

"Thank you to all who contributed to our bonus! A wonderful and welcome expression of caring and appreciation."

—Markus Grae-Hauck, Director of Music Ministries

"Dear UUCM Board and Congregation, Thank you so very much for the wonderful Holiday Bonus! I appreciate your generosity and want you to know that it arrived at the perfect time for the holidays. Thank you so much!"

—Judith Hogan, Director of Religious Education

"Thank you all so very much for your generous holiday bonus. This came at the perfect time - my family and I need to get passports for a future vacation and this will make it possible! Excitement and happiness in abundance - along with an anticipated first-time trip to the Caribbean for my children."

—Jaclyn Puleo, Office and Communications Manager

"I feel blessed by the congregations' generosity towards the UUCM staff. Thank you for my bighearted piece of the pie."

—Emilia Sadonis, Bookkeeper

"After all, if you do not resist the apparently inevitable,
you will never know how inevitable the inevitable was."

TERRY EAGLETON

MILESTONES

Congratulations



Congratulations to Kira Pipkins, for being the first girl in New Jersey to win 100 varsity wrestling matches.



Well wishes to Nick Lewis, who celebrated his 70th birthday on November 29, 2022.



We are saddened by the passing of UUCM member and long time Montclair resident **Patricia Clark Kenschaft** (known as Pat) on November 20, 2022.



It is with heavy hearts to share that on Sunday, December 25, 2022, UUCM member **Maretta Short** passed away.

Pastoral Care Team

Our Pastoral Care Team works in partnership with our ministers in confidentially ministering to the emotional and spiritual needs of our congregants and offer pastoral care sessions, providing compassionate support to those going through personal transitions, emotional challenges and times of crises, as well as giving comfort to the bereaved. Email pastoralcare@uumontclair.org for more info.

Child Dedications

We celebrated the Child Dedication of Clara Josephine Lombardo with her parents Paul and Juliana on December 4, 2022.



"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone."

SHANNON L. ALDER

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Diane Boyer has chosen to rejoin UUCM since moving back to the area and is looking forward to a spiritual home, friendships and serving the community.



Mo Schlick recently joined UUCM and is already active in some of our groups, including being a leader in our New to the U Covenant Group this spring.



Sarah Vázquez hopes to contribute to our spiritual and ethical home for herself and her family and experience courageous love in covenant with you!



Druscilla "Cil" Knutsen hopes to connect with like-minded and like-hearted people to develop rich relationships and strengthen her connection between spirituality and the work of anti-racism.



Seth Laderman became a member to nourish his heart and soul and hopes to experience community and fellowship.



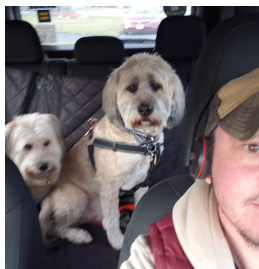
Helen Buckley joined our congregation to be part of a fellowship of people with open hearts and minds and hopes to gain a sense of community with people of all ages and beliefs.



Karen Bonislowski feels UUCM has similar values as she does and acts on those values. She hopes to contribute to the social justice and anti-racism vision of UUCM.



Josh Heivly (pictured here with son **Arthur**) joined our congregation to engage more fully in a community dedicated to growth, acceptance and shared values and hopes to experience love and acceptance.



Chris Budin joined UUCM virtually in 2020 (and recently signed our membership book to make it official!). He is grateful to have shared in your creativity and kindness. He values theological hurdles and embraces the not so ideal reality of experience. The spirit of kindness flows around here effortlessly, where unseen moments in community shine with vulnerability and gratitude. You all are chosen family.



125 YEARS OF UNWAVERING SPIRIT

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

BY JUDITH HOGAN, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings Everyone!

Com·mu·ni·ty - /kə'myōnədə/ - Noun - one definition is...

A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. "The sense of community that organized religion can provide"

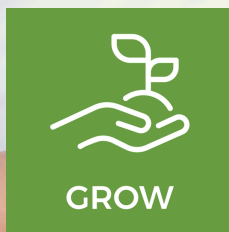
In 1961 the Unitarian and the Universalist denominations were consolidated to become Unitarian Universalism (UU). A faith that that aspires to "creativity, freedom, and compassion with respect for diversity and interconnectedness." (UUA)

As Unitarian Universalism grew, more congregations formed seeking community and the interdependent web - or being part of something bigger than oneself (a direct reference to inclusivity). Additionally, people gather in UU community for spiritual growth, justice-making through fellowship, personal experience, social action, and education.

Congregations are nurtured and bonds are formed out of respect for one another and the basic tenets of wanting to be part of a loving fellowship dedicated to being open minded, loving from your heart, helpful in ways that allow growth of one's spirit, and expansion through increased knowledge. Maintaining and growing multigenerational, inclusive community connections is IMPORTANT!

As February nears it's close, I remind us all of these ideas and ways of being, and ask us all to remember to be respectful to each other, inclusive, and intentionally heart-centered in our exchanges because anything else would be in direct contradiction to the interdependent web of our UU existence. Although no exacting covenant of how to behave lovingly within our UUCM congregation has been signed, gathering under the umbrella of our congregational ministry and living the tradition of our UU faith, demands justice, civility, and intentional aspirations towards doing better, being more, evolving, learning and transcending limitations.

As the Beatles once wrote, "All you need is LOVE!" I wholly believe this! So let's go forward, in love, and respectfully "Come Together" to remain the Beloved Community that we all know UUCM to be!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

SPRING BIBLE STUDY - THE CHANGING MIND OF GOD

March 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27; 2023, 7-8:30pm - Peierls Room and Multiplatform

Why are we supposed to believe that God is "Omniscient" when many Bible stories show that God learns, makes mistakes, and changes? Intern Sabrina and Rev Scott lead a class exploring Bible stories that give chase to traditional notions of what God is and what God is not. Come and discover how to take the Bible seriously (not literally)! We will also look at Process Theology - that theology that claims that God and Humanity grow, learn and change together over time. There is a suggested \$10 fee; Bring your own study bible. Register at: tinyurl.com/UUCMBS23.

LEARN CARD GAMES - NEW IN ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Led by Lee Wilson, a card game champion and proponent, come and learn new (or old) card games. We will meet once monthly on 1st Wednesdays through June in the Peierls Room from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

High school Youth through folks from the "Greatest Generation" are welcome and encouraged to enroll.

We will learn some great games while learning a bit more about what it takes to have fun.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/UUCMARECC>.

Reminder for Committee and Group Leaders:

March 10, 2023 is the deadline for budget submissions for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Visit: tinyurl.com/UUCMBR2324 to fill out a form.

BLUE JEAN SUNDAY

Calling all Gardeners and those interested in Gardening! Blue Jean Sunday will be on **April 23, 2023**, from 8:30 to 9:45 AM.

Blue Jean Sunday is our own UUCM tradition of rolling up our sleeves and working on our building and grounds. This year we will remove invasive plants (ivy) from our renewed Memorial Garden and Rain Garden, plant herbs amongst our Pollinator Garden, weed our Pride Garden and expand our Vegetable Garden with a new bed and planting vines along the back playground fence.

If you have gloves, trowels or loppers please bring them. We will work for about an hour and then go inside for worship. We only will work if the weather is suitable. This is a great way for new members to meet old members, and for us to live into the interdependent web of life.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

MESH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

-Montclair Emergency Services for Hope is looking for volunteers. MESH provides meals 6 nights a week with the help of our MESH café partners.

Every Wednesday UUCM supplies the meals that MESH distributes from their new location at The Office (former restaurant in Montclair). Some Wednesdays, we are packaging meals purchased from local restaurants. Other times, we are preparing and packaging the meals and then taking them to The Office.

Ways you can volunteer:

- in person at the UU Kitchen to package meals (starts at 4:30 PM)
- help to cook meal. This can be done at the UU kitchen (start time 4:00 PM) or in your own home. Recipe will be supplied and purchases reimbursed
- donate desserts and/or water for the meal.
- if you have a connection to a local restaurant you would like us to include in our suppliers, let us know.

We are hoping to do more cooking in the future as we get more volunteers so that we can return to offering "home cooked" meals to our guests.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Sue Zapata at meshcafe@uumontclair.org.

JOIN US!

as we celebrate the Commitment of the Hudson County Correctional Facility, the Public Defender's Office and other county officials to assist currently incarcerated individuals in addressing existing fines, fees, warrants and detainers. We will also call on the State Department of Corrections and every other county in New Jersey to follow this important example.

March 15th, 3pm
Our Lady of Sorrows Church
654 Ocean Avenue Jersey City, NJ

(The church entrance is on Claremont Ave, across the street from the parking lot).

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/NJTMarch15>

Questions? Please contact info@njtogether.org

NEW JERSEY TOGETHER

Are you a leader at UUCM?

Become familiar with our Leaders Handbook, your guide to navigating our congregation as a leader. Visit: tinyurl.com/UUCMLH

Our Little Free Pantry Needs You! Located in our driveway, our LFP desperately needs donations of non-perishable dry and canned goods and personal hygiene products on a regular basis. Even one item can make a difference.





#HOWEHOUSEMATTERS

BY REV. ANYA SAMMLER-MICHAEL, SENIOR CO-MINISTER

In 5 short months a town wide coalition that grew from the strong roots of our congregation's social justice coordinating team set and then achieved a goal that was profoundly challenging and wholly necessary. Working tirelessly together, with help and attention gifted by the wider community this coalition saved the James Howe House.

The James Howe House is one of the oldest homes and the first home owned by an African American in Montclair. Dating to the Revolutionary era, this house helps tell the story of freedom and slavery, the development of an African American community, and also the founding of Montclair as a town. James Howe worked as an enslaved man for Major Nathaniel Crane in the early 1800s. After nearly two decades of servitude, Crane manumitted Howe, ending his enslavement. In his 1831 Testament and Last Will, Crane left Howe the house, \$400, and approximately six acres of land. Howe used the home and the property to support his family and there is evidence to suggest that a small black community developed around the James Howe House.

Now with the keys to the home the Friends of the Howe House are working to secure the it for generations to come. A Steering Committee is being formed to engage with the community and determine a vision. Historians and genealogists are working in concert to tell more of the Howe narrative. Teams are traveling to educate groups at local faith communities. Conversations are occurring between potential community partners (including Montclair State University that has expressed a firm commitment to engage.) Fundraising and grant writing are ongoing, a play centering the Howe narrative is being planned by Luna Stage, a Howe House beer was released on February 17th at the Montclair Brewery, and the Friends of the Howe House are nearly established as a unique non-profit.

The groundswell of energy surrounding this project is incredible and is giving no sign of diminishment. May the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair know that they are a core part of an initiative that will preserve the James Howe House (also known as the Freed Slave House,) so that it might stand as a monument to truth, a concrete defiance against the erasure of the black narrative, and a destination for education and honest reflection on the past, present and future of the African American experience in New Jersey.

To read more go to [friendsofthehowehouse.org](https://www.friendsofthehowehouse.org). To watch a recent news story go here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/montclair-group-saves-house-with-important-black-history/>



SERVE

DECONSTRUCTING RACISM: A PATH TOWARD LASTING CHANGE

SHARED ON BEHALF OF THE UNDOING RACISM TEAM

On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, UUCM's Undoing Racism Team hosted a discussion of the groundbreaking new book, *Deconstructing Racism: A Path Toward Lasting Change*, with the co-authors Barbara Crain Major and Joseph Barndt and the moderator, Marta Esquilin.

Major and Barndt come from radically different backgrounds: She grew up poor and Black; he grew up in a household headed by a Klan member. She earned a master's degree in social work; he received theological training and became a Lutheran pastor. Yet, for over 40 years, they have successfully collaborated as community organizers and anti-racism trainers for the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB). UUCM began its long relationship with PISAB in 1992 when it hosted an intensive two-and-a-half-day anti-racism workshop.

Emphasizing that every system and institution in our country was created "legally and intentionally to serve white people exclusively," Major and Barndt write that efforts at dismantling racism by means of reconstruction have not succeeded because systemic deconstruction is needed instead. That, they contend, is the missing link. *Deconstructing Racism: A Path Toward Lasting Change* focuses on rooting out racism not only in society at large, but also in organized religious institutions. "If you can deconstruct racism in the church, you can do it anywhere," the authors agree. Major stressed the importance of having conversations, however difficult, about racism—long defined by the PISAB as the combination of prejudice and power—trusting that, if done with respect and love, people will continue to engage. "We aim not to call people out," she stated, "but to draw people in."

Barndt recalled as a young student he visited Germany's WWII concentration camps. The experience left him with a lifelong need to explore how anyone could be capable of such disregard for human life. The message he received as a student still resonates. Barndt emphasized: "Go home, look within and work on deconstructing racism in your own institutions."

One of several "reader's reflection" notes scattered throughout the book gently challenges anyone thinking about doing anti-racism organizing in their own congregation with these words: "Perhaps you would be willing to add your name to the list."

A link to a video recording of the event can be found here: https://youtu.be/Z_g3YiCjD_o. Be on the lookout for information about an all-congregation read and discussion of this important book.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

EASTER EGG DECORATING AND EGG HUNT

Join us for Easter Egg Decorating with Reverend Anya on Saturday, **April 8, 2023** from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. All Ages on the UUCM Front Lawn or Peierls Room (if weather is inclement.) Eggs and Supplies will be provided. Wear clothing that can get messy! Then join us for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, **April 9, 2023** from 11:15 to 12:30! Friends welcome to hunt as well. Please let us know how many children will participate in these events so that we have enough supplies.

Register here: tinyurl.com/UUCMEggs23.

DATE NIGHT!!

On Friday, **April 14, 2023**, from 6:00 to 9:30 PM, Rev Scott and a dedicated team will entertain and feed your children so you can go out and have a date night child-free! \$10 suggested donation.

Register at: tinyurl.com/UUCMDN0423

Share Your Skills and Interests

Sharing your skills & interests in Realm will help us when we are looking for volunteers. Go to your profile in Realm and click Edit. In the Personal Information tab, there are two drop down menus, each for Skills & Interests. There are many options to choose from. Be sure to check it out and update your profile.

SUMMER AT UNIRONDAK

Registration is filling up for youth sessions this summer at Unirondack, the beloved UU camp in the Adirondacks for ages 9-18.

This queer-friendly camp in a beautiful, remote setting provides youth from across the Northeast a chance to find community and unplug both literally and figuratively.

Visit unirondack.org for info or contact UUCM member Sarah Scalet via Realm. Sarah's children are long-time campers, and her older child was a counselor last year.

UU ADULT SOCIAL

Hosted by the Religious Education (RE) Team, join us on Friday, **April 28, 2023** from 6:30 to 9:30 PM in Fletcher Hall, for games, conversation, and connection. Some food and snacks provided. Bring your favorite adult beverage.

Build Community - Join:

Volunteer to Serve as a Sunday Morning Greeter

greeters@uumontclair.org

Join a Covenant Group:

covenantgroups@uumontclair.org

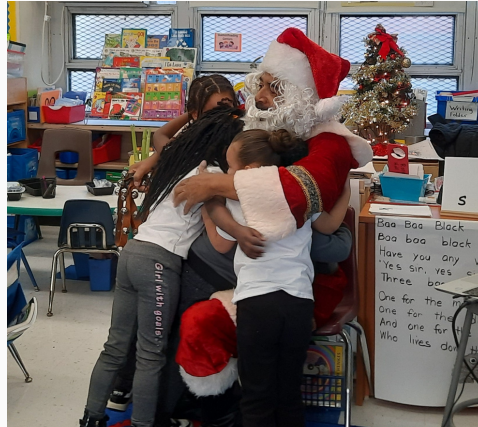
Volunteer to Mentor New Members

membership@uumontclair.org

MOMENTS AT UUCM



Resilience and Joy: An Evening with Ami Brabson was held on December 10, 2022.



On December 14, 2022 Santa visited students at the Horton School in Newark where approx. 100 kids received a gift and a book.



Our Commitment 2 Give team at our February 5, 2023 service: Nick Lewis, Tina Huesing, Dan Silver and Peter Arian.



Our Candlelight Christmas Eve service on December 24, 2022.



Members of our Crazy QUUilters working hard on their newest creations and enjoying fellowship.



Jason Brome assisting our youth during our Creative Edge Religious Education programming.



Juliana Lombardo and Sarah Vázquez at Connection Cafe with our next generation UU's!



Our Pulpit Swap service on January 29, 2023 was led by Rev. Andrée Cornelia Mol from Central Unitarian Church in Paramus, NJ.



Enjoying good food and company at the New Member Generosity and Gratitude Dinner on February 11, 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Services are at 10:00 AM

In-person & [live-streamed](#).

Our upcoming themes:

March

Vulnerability

April

Resistance

May

Creativity

[Watch Past Services Here](#).

March 2 & 16, 2023, 6:00 PM

Theology on Tap

Location: Tierney's Pub

Join Rev Scott where we engage in public theology in a pub setting! We will gather at 6pm, get settled in our space, and have discussions on faith development, theology, and contemporary society. This is a 'Covenant Group' style sharing, but in a Pub setting. Drop-ins welcome! (The consumption of alcohol is not required for this program). This is open to all. Donations are accepted to defray renting the room. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food and drink.

**Our office will be closed
on the following holiday:**

Memorial Day
May 29, 2023

April 17, 2023, 7:00 PM

Yom Hashoa Service

Location: Montclair Quaker Meeting, 289 Park St, Upper Montclair.

Join MICA (The Montclair Interfaith Clergy Association) in a solemn survive memorializing those killed in the Holocaust.

April 29, 2023, 10:00 AM

Pathways to Membership

For those who would like to become members or learn more about membership at UUCM. Bring your questions and your hopes.

Register:

tinyurl.com/UUCMPTM0423

April 30, 2023, 4:00 PM

Interfaith Music Fest

MICA (The Montclair Interfaith Clergy Association) resumes its annual Interfaith Music Festival. This is always a highlight of the Spring!

Important Dates in Religious Education (RE)

- April 1, 2023 - Teacher Recruitment begins for 2023-2024 year
- April 2, 2023 - Third RE Trimester begins for our children's program
- April 30, 2023 - Kick Off RE Children's Program Registration -
- May 21, 2023 - Coming of Age Worship Service; Last Day of RE

Sacred Wheel CUUPs Events

Open Healing Circle
Sunday, March 12, 2023

Ostara Ritual
Sunday, March 19, 2023

Astral Travel
Part I: Sunday, April 16, 2023
tinyurl.com/32xancrd
Part II: Sunday, April 23, 2023

Beltane Ritual
Sunday, April 30, 2023

All meetings will be multi-platform in the Alliance Room at 1:00 PM.

Email sacredwheelcuups@uumontclair.org for more info.

June 4, 2023, 11:15 AM

UUCM's Annual Meeting

Come prepared and ready to vote, and we will get out early!

June 21 through June 25, 2023
General Assembly (GA)

Location: Pittsburgh, PA

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.

Register: www.uua.org/ga

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Connection Groups

Art & Soul
Third Thursdays at 7pm
artandsoul@uumontclair.org

Caregivers' Circle
First Sundays at Noon
intern@uumontclair.org.

Connection Cafe
Every Sunday following the service
Virtual option on 3rd Sunday
connectioncafe@uumontclair.org

Covenant Group Leaders
First Thursdays at 7pm
covenantgroups@uumontclair.org

Crazy Quilters
Third Saturdays at 10:00am
crazyquilters@uumontclair.org

Dream Group
First Wednesdays at 7:30pm
dream@uumontclair.org

Food Diplomacy
Second Sundays at 6pm
covenantgroups@uumontclair.org

Grief Support Group
Third Mondays at 6:30pm
griefsupport@uumontclair.org

Men's Group
Second Saturdays 9-10:30am
mensgroup@uumontclair.org

Monday Night Soul Matters
Fourth Mondays 4pm
covenantgroups@uumontclair.org

Newcomer Connections
First Sundays at 11am
membership@uumontclair.org

Poetry Covenant Group
Third Sundays at 7pm
covenantgroups@uumontclair.org

Senior Lunch Bunch
Second and Fourth Wednesdays at Noon
seniorlunchbunch@uumontclair.org

UU for Jewish Awareness
Third Monday 7:30pm
jewishawareness@uumontclair.org

Wednesday Night Soul Matters
Third Wednesdays 7:30pm
covenantgroups@uumontclair.org

Women's Group
Second Fridays at 7pm
womensgroup@uumontclair.org

Writing as Spiritual Practice
Fourth Saturdays at 9:15 AM
covenantgroups@uumontclair.org

Young Adults & Young at Hearts (YaYahs!)
Every other Saturday at 5pm
youngadults@uumontclair.org

Governance Groups

Board of Trustees
Third Tuesday 7pm
board@uumontclair.org

Council on Ministries
Second Tuesdays at 7:30pm
councilonministry@uumontclair.org

Executive Team
First Thursday at 8:30am
board@uumontclair.org

Finance Committee
Second Thursdays at 7pm
finance@uumontclair.org

NJ Cluster of UU Ministers
Second Thursdays at 9am
revanya@uumontclair.org

Ministry Groups

Allies for Racial Equity
Second Tuesdays at 7:30pm
are@uumontclair.org

BLUU Montclair
Third Fridays 6pm
bluum@uumontclair.org

Care Team Leaders
First Tuesdays 6:00pm
careteam@uumontclair.org

Membership Team
Second Thursdays 7pm
membership@uumontclair.org

Mental Health Task Force
Third Wednesdays at 7pm
mentalhealth@uumontclair.org

Pastoral Care Team
Second Tuesdays 6-7:30pm
pastoralcare@uumontclair.org

Religious Education Team
First Tuesdays at 7:30pm
reTeam@uumontclair.org

Social Justice Coordinating Team
socialjustice@uumontclair.org

Undoing Racism Team
Third Sundays at 12:30pm
undoingracism@uumontclair.org



Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair

67 Church Street, Montclair, NJ 07042

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE

**WE COME
TOGETHER TO
NURTURE
THE SOUL
INSPIRE
HOPE
AND BRING INTO
BEING A MORE
JUST AND
LOVING
WORLD**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2023

President: Shannon Gattens
President-Elect: Sarah Scalet
Past President: Michael Hetrick
Treasurer: John Lytle
Secretary: Wayne Eastman

Trustees-At-Large: Lauren Carlton, Wil Hylton,
David Jones, Nick Lewis, Giancarlo Ponticello, and
Norma Tassy.

Connect with Our Congregation

Facebook: UU Congregation at Montclair
Twitter & TikTok: @uumontclair
Instagram & Pinterest: uu_montclair
YouTube & LinkedIn:
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
Spotify: tinyurl.com/UUCMSpotify
Website: www.uumontclair.org
Phone number: (973) 744-6276