



*The Unitarian Society  
of Northampton & Florence*  
**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Congregational and Committee Updates**  
December 14, 2021 Vol. 2, Issue 12.2  
Visit us on the web at [www.uunorthampton.org](http://www.uunorthampton.org)

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## Upcoming Services

### **Service of Loss and Remembrance, Wednesday, December 15, 7PM**

An informal service with readings, music, and candle lighting. It is an opportunity to be with others as we honor and grieve people we have lost. You may attend in person or online. The Zoom link is the same as our Sunday service: <https://zoom.us/j/92985424680>, Meeting ID: 929 8542 4680 One tap mobile

+13017158592,,92985424680# US (Washington DC), Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC). You can also view the service on [Youtube](#). No in person pre-registration is required.



### **Sunday, December 19, 10:00 am Bowls of Light**

Donations for our "Underwear Tree" -

A Holiday Tradition Returns: The Interfaith and Grove Street shelters need men's and women's **new** underwear and warm socks, as well as travel size shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream and toothpaste. You may drop off your donations at the side door Mon, Tues, Thurs or Fri between 9 and 3 PM, or bring them on Sunday, Dec 19th. (Please note that we are not collecting mittens or hats.)

### **Christmas Eve, Fri, Dec 24, 5:30 pm**

All services will be available on Zoom & YouTube.  
Use the regular service link on our homepage.

[In Person Service Reservation  
Link](#)

**December Spiritual Discussion Group**  
*Opening to Joy*  
**Wednesday, Dec 15, 10 am - 11:15 pm**



Let's explore joy together. How do you open to joy? What brings you joy?  
Join with others from the congregation to discuss and share joy!

<https://zoom.us/j/98681411085>

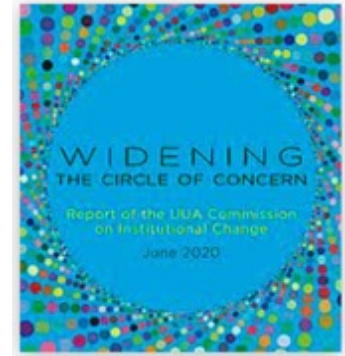
Meeting ID: 986 8141 1085, One tap mobile+13017158592,,98681411085#  
US (Washington DC), Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US

These groups happen monthly, you can find the schedule here : [Spiritual Discussion Group Schedule](#). For more information, contact [Jessica](#).

Learn more on our website: [USNF Adult Education Offerings](#)

## Widening the Circle & Stewardship Partner Up

The ***Widening the Circle*** Steering Committee discussed theology at a deeper level on November 7, sharing ideas about the spiritual side of social justice work as well as the importance of covenants in our congregation. The Stewardship Committee's yearly community gatherings, facilitated by the Steering committee, offered a rich sharing of personal reflections in answer to the questions: *"To whom or what have you promised yourself?"* and *"What does being in covenant with others mean to you?"*



There were 53 participants organized into 6 groups, 4 via zoom and 2 in person at the Society. Overall, participants agreed that family, friends, and communities, including the Unitarian Society, were fundamental to our existence. There were reflections on why covenant offers a meaningful compass to guide us. It can serve as a set of guidelines that make us safe and inclusive, and as a container that holds what we promise together. And someone raised the the notion of praxis, the unity of theory and practice - relating to how our understanding of covenant is realized in the ways we treat one another.

**The January Listening Circle will focus on the *Congregations and Community Chapter of Widening the Circle* on Thursday, January 20th from 7-8:30 pm.** Have you ever felt your voice was not heard or that your vote did not count? Join us! The zoom meeting will be posted in the Sunday Times in January. Here is a link to the chapter for your review: [Congregations & Communities Chapter](#)

## Climate Action Group Remembers Marty Nathan



A substantial part of our December 5 meeting was devoted to thoughts about Marty Nathan, a renowned climate and social justice activist who died last month. Five of us are in ***"2degrees Northampton,"*** which Marty founded. Several others are in ***Climate Action Now*** which Marty co-founded. We also knew her from the antiwar movement and other causes. One of our members, Peggy Misch, knew Marty in North Carolina before the tragic "Death to the Klan" march in Greensboro in 1979.

Our grief is tempered by our gratitude in having known such an inspiring and welcoming teacher. Following her example, we welcome and urge you to engage with the Climate Action Group or any of the other important social action groups at USNF. For more information on this remarkable woman, please see the article in the Daily Hampshire Gazette of 11.30.21: [Dr. Marty Nathan Gazette Article](#)

To get involved in Climate Action at USNF, please contact Bill Diamond at: [diamondwd59@gmail.com](mailto:diamondwd59@gmail.com)

## Racial Justice Team Focused on Reparations for 2022 *Would You Like to Weigh In?*



The Racial Justice Team is actively researching various avenues to help us learn more about reparations in order to create a plan to participate in this movement in the new year. Our core team works hard to keep this conversation going and we would welcome any new members who would like to join in and add their voice to this important congregational work.

If you would like to join us, you can contact [Maryanne Bernini Caughlin](#). **Next meeting is January 18th 6:30-7:30.** After that, monthly meetings are the second Tuesday of every month. The team is actively soliciting new voices and ideas.

## Supporting Afghan Evacuees & Refugees

The *Center for New Americans* and *Catholic Charities* are local agencies with the mission to help immigrants and refugees to integrate into the local community. Both agencies have been working hard to support evacuees and refugees from Afghanistan. There are many ways you can help.

There are other ways you can aid these newest members of our community:

- Do you have an apartment you can rent to these newcomers?
- Can you help clothe them? Important Note: Catholic Charities is asking for gift cards to JC Penney, Walmart and Target instead of clothing donations. They have run out of space for storage.
- Do you have an iPad collecting dust that you would like to donate so students can connect to online English classes?
- Do you want to give a donation to support these organizations?

Thank you for supporting our new neighbors,  
Peg Johnson, [pegrj@cnam.org](mailto:pegrj@cnam.org)  
USNF Member & CNA Enrollment & Assessment Coordinator  
Center for New Americans: <https://cnam.org/>  
Catholic Charities: <http://diospringfield.org/11995-2/>

## Holiday Card Fundraiser - Orders Due by the 17th

The Religious Education classes have once again



made beautiful holiday cards for sale. The students will donate the profits to causes of their choosing: animals, people who are homeless, toys for kids, Afghan evacuees, and mental illness resources and support.

Order your cards here [Holiday Card Fundraiser](#).

You will receive a follow up email confirming your order and providing payment instructions. Cards will be available for pick up or delivery starting next week. All orders are due by December 17.

## Beacon Schedule

*The USNF Beacon* is published on Tuesdays with featured articles appearing each week. The monthly schedule is:

- Week 1 - Minister's Notes
- Week 2 - Board Report
- Week 3 - Committee Reports and Articles
- Week 4 - Religious Education and Faith Development
- Week 5 - Editor's choice for months with 5 Tuesdays

Articles/photos are due the Friday before the week they are to be published. Articles should be 250 words max. For longer articles, please contact the editor.

***Note: The Beacon schedule for December has been pushed forward one week. It will not be published on December 28, 2021.***

Send submissions, preferably with pictures or illustrations, and ***with the word Beacon in the subject line*** to: [newsletter@uunorthampton](mailto:newsletter@uunorthampton).

Contact  
Us



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Office Hours: Mon., Tues., and Thurs., 9 AM - 3 PM, but please call before coming.

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