



The HEED

December 2025

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Take Care, Deb & John

(can't say Goodbye)



Sarge and Rachel Legard reminiscing about the more than 30 years of contributions to the Fellowship by Deb Johnson and John Macri.

Join Our Services at 10:00 AM Sundays

(and stay afterward for coffee/tea, snacks, & conversation)

December 7 - Claire Karl Müller - “Moving towards an Indigenous worldview” Claire Karl (they) is a force of nature. They are a 5th generation Germanic settler to Eastern Massachusetts and identify as a white, middle-class, non-binary, small-fat, neuro-spicy organizer. Their values are curiosity, compassion, truth and people power. They feel called to work with other white middle class folks on racial, economic and climate justice and joined the team at UU Mass Action in 2020. They have organized at the local, state and federal level on climate and environmental justice since 2007, winning victories to stop pipelines, transition coal-fired power plants to solar, and build community. Claire Karl is coordinator of the statewide climate justice coalition Mass Power Forward, which they co-founded in 2015, as well as the UU Mass Action staff lead for Indigenous Solidarity.

December 14 - Katherine Harake - “ACLU NH - calls to action” Katherine Harake is a regional campaign manager for the ACLU NH. She engages in grassroots organizing, outreach, and education to support communities and advance civil liberties at the local level. She lives in the Seacoast area. She will talk about what ACLU NH is doing and their campaigns/calls to action.

December 21 - No 10 am Service - Instead we will have our President's Holiday party. See the story in this HEED for more details.

December 24 - 6pm - Christmas Eve Service with Thomas Pistole - Music by The Solstice Singers and the Avalyn Reed Trio

December 28 - No Service - enjoy time with your family, friends, and favorite activities!



Lanie, left, and Zoe Pavlik will perform wonderful music at the Solstice Sunday service, December 21 at 3pm

(See the President's Party announcement on the next page!)



DUUF President's Party

Please come on **Sunday, December 21st** at **3:00 pm** to the Fellowship.

Finger food to share is welcome.

Let's make merry together as we welcome in the longest and darkest night of the year (Winter Solstice) knowing the daylight will be slowly returning. Enjoy music performed by the Pavlik sisters.

Oyster River Parents Partnership

Dear Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durham,

I'm reaching out on behalf of the **Oyster River Parents Partnership (ORPP)**, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit supporting young children and their families in the Oyster River community, to ask for your support in spreading the word—and, if possible, contributing—to our Imagination Library initiative, which will provide free, high-quality books each month to children from birth to age five in our community through [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#).

We're deeply grateful to the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Janie Keith Fund, Kennebunk Savings Bank, Friends of the Durham Public Library, Newmarket Dental Office, the Durham Great Bay Rotary, and numerous generous individuals for their support. Thanks to their kindness, we've raised just over \$6,000 toward our \$10,000 goal. Our aim is to reach that goal by June 2026, ensuring that even more local children can experience the joy of books and early learning.

Would your congregation consider helping us reach this milestone—through a donation, a collection, or by sharing information about this program with your members? Every gift, large or small, helps put books in the hands of local children and fosters a lifelong love of reading.

Donations can be made by following [this link](#):

Thank you for the many ways you serve our community and for considering this partnership in nurturing young minds. Please let me know if you have any questions about ORPP, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, or this initiative. We are excited to be working toward bringing this stellar program to our community!

With gratitude,
Amy Bekkerman
Sponsorship Coordinator

Help Bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to the Oyster River Community! ★

Oyster River Parents and Preschoolers (ORPP) is celebrating its 25th year by launching a community fundraising initiative to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to our area. This beloved program mails a free, high-quality book each month to every registered child from birth to age five — at no cost to families.

Our Goal

ORPP is aiming to raise at least \$10,000 by June 2026 to launch a local Imagination Library chapter serving residents of Durham, Lee, and Madbury. With help from generous sponsors, we have raised just over \$6,000 so far!

Why It Matters

This program can only happen with support from our local community. Every dollar raised will help build a foundation for early literacy and a lifelong love of reading among our youngest neighbors.

How You Can Help

Donate today to help us bring free books to local kids! All donations will go directly to ORPP's Imagination Library campaign.



Click to learn more about DPIL



Scan to donate



About ORPP

ORPP is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving the Oyster River school district

Since 2000, ORPP has connected parents, caregivers, and young children through playgrounds, family activities, and community service. We're proud to celebrate our **25th anniversary** by giving back in a way that supports all families in the Oyster River school district.

To learn more about or join ORPP, visit <https://www.tinyhood.com/orpp/>



THE OYSTER RIVER FOLK SERIES PRESENTS:

*A Holiday Concert with
Susie Burke, Kent Allyn & Steve Roy*

Saturday Dec 6th, 2025

7 PM



The Holiday Season is here, and we are excited to present our annual Holiday Concert! Three of our favorite local musicians, Susie Burke, Kent Allyn and Steve Roy, will present an evening of holiday music and folk favorites. For over twenty years this annual concert has become a beloved community event and a holiday tradition.

**DURHAM UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
20 MADBURY RD., DURHAM, NH
TICKETS \$20 / \$5 STUDENTS – Cash Only
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM**

Christopher Dunning was appointed by the board to the new position of Website Administrator. He is responsible for making changes to the website, which are currently done by SCDigital. At a point when he feels comfortable, we would give a 60-day notice to terminate the SCDigital contract which is costing \$149 per month. Chris is familiar with a hosting service which would charge only \$12.95 per month.

In his new role, he has created an archive on the Member Portal entitled **“Sunday Services: Transcripts and Presentations.”** You will find **Climate Optimism presented by Mary Downes on Oct. 5, ‘25 and Gratitude presented by Betty Crepeau on Nov. 23, 2025.**

If you need the password, send an email to uudurhamnh@gmail.com.

On the website, you will find a lot of information about our Fellowship including a section of historical photos and memories from our earlier days, policy documents, job descriptions, meeting minutes, financial reports and our calendar.



Music at the Fellowship

Maria Isaak is the person who plays, arranges, conducts, and rehearses the musical goings-on at DUUF. She is also the bassoonist with the [Avalyn Reed Trio](#) (along with Christine Fell and Nancy Fisk). Maria, a graduate of the New England Conservatory, has been an integral part of the Fellowship. She organized the Solstice Singers last year, who now sing monthly for our programs. She has been known to transform ordinary singers into stars! Thank you, Maria!



ROCK MY SOUL

Ringin' in the Merry

Where gospel spirit meets holiday joy

"...A spirit-soaring evening of R&B, pop, soul and doo-wop flavored Christmas carols and popular holiday favorites... High-energy arrangements... A magical and uplifting evening for all!"

SUNDAY
12/14/25 4PM

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH
DOVER NH

FRIDAY
12/19/25 7PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
WOLFEBORO NH

SUNDAY
12/21/25 4PM

ONE LONGFELLOW SQUARE
PORTLAND ME



PROJECTMUSICWORKS.ORG

Want To Know What A Fellowship Potluck Looks Like?



John and Deb



Deb and Carol



Only Some of the Goodies



Betty Nordgren and Deb Johnson



WhaleCoast Alaska 2026



From: Maya Kaup <info@whalecoastak.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 9, 2025 at 10:35 AM
Subject: WhaleCoast Alaska 2026
UU Tours
To: Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Good morning,

WhaleCoast Alaska is once again offering two unique Alaskan tours next summer that are a fundraiser for four UU congregations in Alaska. The tours offer a more authentic and spiritual Alaskan travel experience and an opportunity to connect with Alaskan UUs.

I would greatly appreciate you posting the attached WhaleCoast Alaska poster on a bulletin board at your fellowship/church. We rely heavily on word of mouth and the help of congregations to promote our tours and keep WhaleCoast Alaska running.

An addition to your newsletter would also be greatly appreciated. I have attached a couple of photos that could be used, and here is a potential announcement that could be added to your newsletter:

WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience
Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by 4 Alaska UU congregations are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 32 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience! Details: www.WhaleCoastAK.org Questions: info@whalecoastak.org

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can edit this announcement or poster at all to work for your congregation.

With gratitude,

Maya Kaup (she/her)
Tour Director
WhaleCoast Alaska
707-599-6984
www.WhaleCoastAK.org



WhaleCoast Alaska 2026

Experience a unique and awe-inspiring UU Alaska tour!

- National Parks Tour - June 20-30, 2026 - \$4,535
- All-Alaska Tour - July 17-29, 2026 - \$5,545

Our 32nd Year!

- Spectacular wildlife and views
- Native Alaskan culture and history
- Alaska's finest museums, attractions, and experiences
- Travel on the Alaska Railroad
- UU homestays and dinner parties
- Hiking, canoeing, and rafting options
- See Denali National Park and glaciers



Website: whalecoastak.org

Tour Director: Maya Kaup, Anchorage UU and Alaska travel enthusiast

Email: info@whalecoastak.org

Hurry! Each tour sells out when 30 guests register



President's Message

Wishing Peace to All

As we move into the darkest part of the year, with the promise of returning light, the time of celebrating freedom and miracles, the season of celebrating light and hope- may you feel some optimism and find ways to celebrate the good around you.

It has been a hard year for many of us, and it is important now, not to give up. I hope you can find a way to help another, donate time or give money and thus do something that makes you feel useful in this time. As Mary Downes reminded us in her wonderful program on climate change- good is happening around us and the key to staying engaged and hopeful, is identifying and celebrating positives.

Please let's come together in many ways this month. If you have not found a job for the fair, there is still need for your help! There is swag making, soup making and set up ahead of time and we can use many hands on fair day to sell and cheerfully greet and interact with visitors.

If you have not yet heard, instead of a service on Sunday December 21st, we will be celebrating the season together in the afternoon at the President's Holiday Party at 3:00. This is a chance to gather for finger food and cider (feel free to bring something to share), to listen to beautiful holiday music, and to enjoy a fire in our Fellowship Hall fireplace. Lets celebrate returning light, together.

Rachel Legard, President



Holiday Fair Prep!

Maria doubles up on music director and host of soup making party for the fair! Maria split time between soup making, and practice with Renee and Rachel.

Left to right: Rachel, Maria, Susan, Samantha, Hilary, Renee



DARLA's Winter Light Celebration

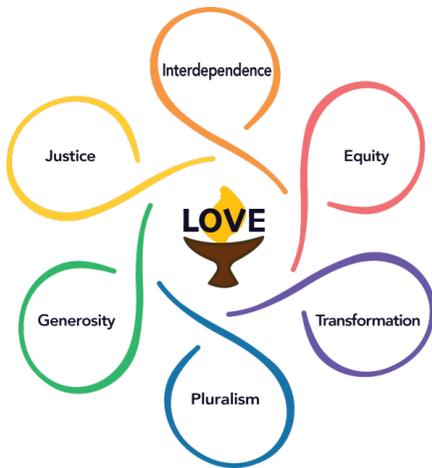
Sunday, December 7, 4:00 PM
Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
20 Madbury Road, Durham, NH
(entrance on side, on Woodman Rd)

A meditative service with poetry, music, and space for prayer and sharing on the topic of moving through darkness to light, sadness to joy.



The Six Sources Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition that has changed in many ways from the original Christian roots of its Universalist and Unitarian heritages, and it continues to evolve today. Most recently, this evolution has taken the form of adopting new language to describe who we are as UUs. At General Assembly in June 2024, UUs voted to replace the existing Seven Principles and Six Sources language in our

bylaws with language describing Unitarian Universalism through these shared values:

Interdependence: We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.

Pluralism: We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

Justice: We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.

Transformation: We adapt to the changing world.

Generosity: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

Equity: We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

The Seven Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The seven Principles and [Six Sources](#) of the Unitarian Universalist Association grew out of the grassroots of our communities, were affirmed democratically, and are part of who we are.



DUUF Officers, Chairpersons and Council Coordinators, and Members of Committees and Councils for 2025-2026 - Under 2023 amended by-laws

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Rachel Legard
Vice President: Mary Downes
Treasurer: Jen Pavlik
Secretary: Bob Bullivant

COMMITTEES

Program: Dawn Meredith (Chair) Mary Downes, Larry Vogelman, Betty Crepeau
Religious Exploration: Bob Pavlik
House: Sarge Legard (Chair), Jon Babon (Grounds), Maria Isaak (rentals), Nick Isaak, John Macri.
Socials: Carol Bullivant (Chair), Sue Noon, Tom Reichheld, Deb Johnson
Membership: Tom Reichheld, Caring Subcommittee: Chris Rodgers (Coordinator), Dawn Meredith, Carol Bullivant, Susan Bullivant

COUNCILS

Nominations: Sarge Legard (Coordinator)
Music Council: Maria Isaak (Coordinator)
Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Coordinator)
Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Coordinator), Betty Crepeau
Denominational Affairs: Deb Johnson

HEED editor: Bob Bullivant
Marketing ad hoc committee: Susan Noon, Chip Noon
Durham Housing Association Representative: Susan Noon, Secretary
DARLA Rep: Chris Chance

Our Mission Statement

The real test of our religion is the way we live our lives. The Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship affirms the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism:

We seek to be a place in which each person's unique worth and beliefs are acknowledged and respected and where each person's voice may be heard – a place in which each may freely explore his or her own spiritual path. We join with others in reaching out to make the world more just, and commit ourselves to caring for the earth and all that makes up the web of life.

We strive to be a source of inspiration, a forum for intellectual exchange, a wellspring of comfort to those in need and a nurturing, supportive community for each other and our children.



Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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