

UUC QUARTERLY REVIEW, June 2022

Dear Friends,

I write this message on the longest day of the year. The sun shines brightly upon us, a signifier of fullness and life. Our congregational year too follows these seasonal rhythms here in the Northeast, as the past few months have brought greater opening and the flourishing of Spring to our community.

This abundance would not have been possible without so many contributing their gifts. Now, in this moment, we may be exhausted. We may yearn for a quieting or a replenishing of spirit. These warm days of summer invite us to rest. And so- at this moment- let's take time to celebrate the blessings of this past season and look ahead to center and refill the well this summer. Let us also take time to offer gratitude for gifts and people we must now let go of, as we prepare the way to welcome the new.

The blessings of the Spring were many: a successful pledge campaign; the welcoming of three new members - **Chaz Baldwin, Linda Berkhoff, and Katherine Molina-Powell** - in our April Easter service; the full return of coffee hours with delicious baked goods; meaningful worship led by myself and members of our own community; multigenerational rituals on RE and Flower Celebration Sundays; UU visitors from Southbury and Meriden; new connections and activities through the vibrant Social Souls network; and engagement with the larger community at events such as the Stamford Chorale concert held in our sacred space; and *Bark in the Park* where I blessed- and was blessed by - over 50 dogs. We also raised our voices in public witness as our world continues to cry out for healing. In May I joined fellow clergy and government officials at the Stamford rally for those killed by a mass shooting in Buffalo, NY, calling for an end to white supremacy and apathy in solidarity with our area's Black community. And together at UUC we raised our new Pride banner on June 19th- declaring our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of all people and our celebration of LGBTQ+ pride.



Rev. Terri addresses a group of Stamford officials and clergy at a vigil calling for an end to white supremacy and apathy.

BAKING NIGHT!



SOCIAL SOULS!



PET BLESSING!



Of course, this past season has also been a time of change. Our pianist, Paul Mariconda has our best wishes as he retires from UUC Sunday services. And we welcomed two new musicians - Lew Turano and Alla Zubarev. Another season of change event: our gratitude and heartfelt goodbyes are sent to our beloved DRE, Darlene, as she moves on to new opportunities. We also extend our thanks to the people of this community who have given so much, especially board members **Maria Lassman** and **Mark Fakundiny** who have completed their years of service. We welcome **Josh Farber** and **Christine Lally**, elected to the Board at the Annual Meeting. Change is the water we swim in at UUC, especially over the past few years, and we are always learning new strokes.

Now, as we move into the summer, let us embrace a time of restful replenishment. Let us take our empty bottles and fill them with water from places of meaning this summer. We will join these together once again at our *Ingathering Service* in September. The Worship Team and you have prepared a lovely series of Sunday morning services in July and August, including music and singing, poetry, savoring the bounty of the Earth, and sharing circles of reflections. I will join you in person on August 7th. Look for details of these and other upcoming events in the summer eblasts.

May you find joy and peace and rest in the summer months ahead,
Rev. Terri



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Summer breeze makes me feel fine, blowin' through the jasmine in my mind!" Who doesn't resonate with that Seals and Crofts melody? Seals and Crofts, Michael McDonald, Steely Dan, all that summer vibe music is running through my head these days as I switch the music in my car from jazz and classical to "Yacht Rock" channel on Sirius XM. Eddie and I are heading to the Cape tomorrow to the same house we have been renting for years in Dennisport. Steps from the beach, our son, Riis and his wife, Leah and the three "Little Littles" will be joining us there for a few days. Little Eddy, who will be 9, will be celebrating his birthday with us there. I am looking forward to a week of reading, swimming, and poking around the Cape, including our annual trek to P- town.

Recently, I was reminiscing about last summer in early August of 2021. We were excited to gather on UUC front lawn for only the second time since the beginning of the pandemic. We were doubly excited because we were to introduce our new minister, the Rev Terri Pahucki! Instead, we were surprised and dismayed to find our Pride banner slashed and torn and strewn about. We realized though, that our banner was only a piece of cloth and could be replaced. Our core values, to uphold the worth and dignity of every person, did not change. And so, last week, once again we were proud to hang a beautiful Pride banner. A huge thank you both to **Janis Stahlhut** for designing the banner and **Norris Wakefield** and **David Hoskins** for constructing the sturdy structure on which it is displayed. We are grateful for their contribution to our congregation. I wish you all a restful and relaxing summer.

Hopefully, you will drop in on a Sunday morning to partake of a summer service and leave renewed and refreshed. After July 1st I will be back in town and hope to see you on a Sunday morning. Until then, pop your windows open on a summer evening and enjoy that summer breeze!

Warmly,
Lynne

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



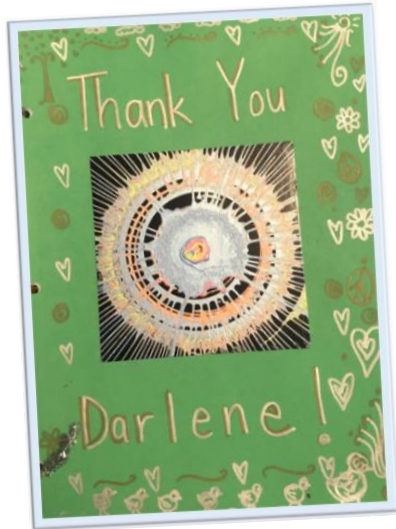
Our wonderful **Religious Education volunteers** worked tirelessly this year to help our children and youth see the beauty within themselves and to shine it out into the world! Thank you to **Eleanor Dennis, Nancy Furnas, Ann Preston, Carolyn Gamanos, Dave Rasekh, Christine Lally, Diana Martinez, and Janis Stahlhut!**

Of course, sending a huge shout out to the members of our REMT – **Carolyn Kagan, Nancy Furnas, and Diana Martinez**, led by Chair **Kim Farber!** These folks were wonderful to work with this year and will be instrumental in easing the transition to your next DRE. Offer your help to them if you can!



Religious Education 2022-2023: Sources of our Connection is coming together nicely, but we need YOU! Please consider joining a teaching team – many hands make light(er) work. The best way to get ready for your next DRE is to have a solid plan in place and volunteers to support it! Please contact

REMT Chair Kim Farber (kadf831@yahoo.com) for opportunities to connect!



So much gratitude fills my heart for all the well-wishes, cards, and gifts to send me on the next part of my journey! They included an unbelievably exquisite copper bracelet inscribed with our Congregational Affirmation, a bouquet of flowers, flowers to plant, a “Hello Sunshine” soy candle, an intention stone, a super-special booklet of drawings and thoughts from the children, and – of course – the amazing performance of “Thanks Darlene” choreographed by Eleanor and Diana! UUC will always hold a special place in my heart. My wish for all of you is that you continue to bring the much-needed gifts of “YoUU” to our world!

With love and care,
Darlene

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

For the past six months, a small task force has been exploring the possibility of establishing a separate 501(c)(3) Foundation to seek building preservation funds from entities that would not provide financial assistance to a religious organization, and to promote our space for broader community use.

Foundation Mission Statement

To preserve and promote our Sanctuary Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, so that it may continue to serve as a space for community in the same tradition as it has for 152 years.

Since 1870, serving the arts – ideas - celebrations – and families.

We have applied for complimentary legal services from *Pro Bono Partnership* to assist us in securing non-profit status for the Foundation. While this process has demonstrated the need for dedicated time and energy for this project, it remains essential that UU values be the basis upon which it is built, and that the Board and congregation be involved at each step.

With its history, its beauty, its size, and its central location, our sanctuary building is a unique gathering space for the greater Stamford community. Ultimately, it can lend financial support for UUC by relieving our operating and capital budgets of some of the constant strain of maintenance and upkeep.

As a foundation, we can apply for grants not generally available to religious organizations. We can also promote the building, making it more widely known beyond our corner lawn.

For broad community use it is recommended that the “hall” (the Sanctuary) be dedicated with its own name, by which the space can become known in the community.

Over the summer, we will seek input from the congregation on the naming of Hall. So far, suggestions have been *Emerson Hall, Latham Hall* and *Prospect Hall*. After July 4th, we will have a table in the Community Room, with greater explanations in support of each name, and ask you to vote for your choice. You may also submit your own suggestion, with supporting evidence! Stay tuned...

FINANCE

A reminder that our Fiscal Year ends June 30th. If you haven't completed your pledge commitment yet, please do so, and if you have any questions about the remaining balance, please contact the Treasurer, Tom Lintern at tlintern@hotmail.com.

CHURCH PARKING LOT

Please help us serve those who meet or attend afternoon and evening activities at UUC by refraining from using our meager parking lot for personal business downtown

Summer Services Schedule

June 26 - *Sharing Circle – Summer Inspirations*, Led by Maria Lassman and Bob Nixon

July 3 – **Zoom Service Only** – *General Assembly 2022* – Sunday Worship

July 10 – TBA (lend **YOUUR** voice?)

July 17 – *Come Sing a Song with Me* – Led by Norris Wakefield (with Lew Turano)

July 24 – *Celebrating Blessings* – Lynne Lane's Soul Matters Group

July 31 – *Smelling the Flowers in a Time of Grief* – Ralph Nazareth and Poem Alley

August 7 – *Bread for the Journey* – Rev. Terri Pahucki

August 14 – TBA – John Unlauf

August 21 – *Celebrating the Harvest* – UUC Worship Team and Friends

August 28 – TBA – *Tony Allam's Soul Matters Group*

September 4 – *Native Voices* – Bob Nixon

More information about each service will be available in the weekly Eblast