



# The UNSF Beacon

The Weekly Newsletter of  
The Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence

## Board Report

March 8, 2022

Vol. 3, Issue 3.2

Visit us on the web at [www.uunorthampton.org](http://www.uunorthampton.org)

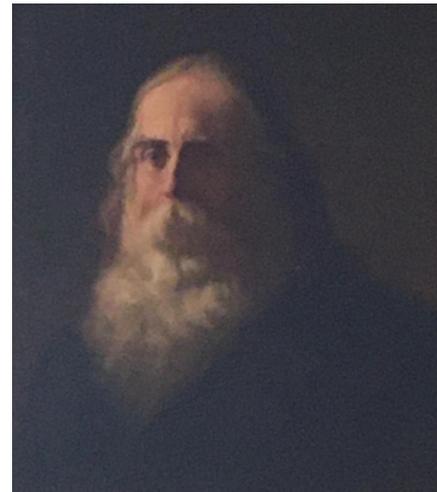
### In This Issue:

- Board Updates: Two Decisions Made at February Meeting
- General Assembly Registration is now open
- Climate Action Group Event
- Adult Education Offerings

### Board Report: Decisions Taken

The Board voted on two items at the February Board meeting. First, after many weeks of information gathering and input from the congregation, it was decided that our portrait painting of Charles Burleigh will be donated to the Forbes Library. Prior to transferring the painting, we will pursue options for making an art quality copy for our keeping.

Dylan Gaffney, a local history specialist, was asked if he had any thoughts on where a Burleigh portrait might be placed in the library. He responded: *"The actual placement of the painting is still to be determined, but giving him a home at the heart of the local history collection, in a climate controlled space, where researchers come to research black and abolitionist lives in the area, seems very appropriate to me. We've been hard at work trying to correct these and other silences in our archives, and would love to have Mr. Burleigh at the heart of where people come to find out more about the lives of blacks and abolitionists in Northampton."*



The Board also approved the final disbursement and closing of the Sanctuary fund. The remaining funds went to support Irida and the pursuit of her legal case. During the more than three years of sanctuary, members and friends donated more than \$82,000, plus nearly \$34,000 in scrip cards in support of Irida. Many, many thanks go to the Sanctuary Team and all the people who supported Irida and her family during her time in our building.

At every board meeting, we take a little time to discuss what we call the "congregational pulse", a chance to relay conversations and concerns from the congregation. As a follow up to the discussion with the social justice groups at the

January board meeting, board members spent a good deal of time in February discussing our own pulse. We reflected on the questions: What stands out most about what you are seeing and experiencing? What are you called to do, honoring your own physical and mental health? And, how do we best support each other? We welcome you to speak with any of us about how you feel now in this community and what you would value going forward.

Finally, the Board asks that you mark your calendars for Sunday, May 22 for our annual meeting where reports from the Minister, the President and the Treasurer are given, new officers are elected, and the budget for next fiscal year is reviewed and approved. More information to follow, so stay tuned!

Dave Nelson

## General Assembly Registration Now Open!

Every year, our denomination's governance entity, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) hosts the General Assembly (GA), where UU's from all over the world gather to conduct business of the Association; explore the theological underpinnings of our faith; and lean fully into our mission and principles. It is a time to find new energy as well as learn innovative ideas to bring back our home congregations and community-at-large.

The theme for this year's GA, is *Meet The Moment: Reimagining Radical Faith Community*. It take place in a hybrid environment, both in-person in Portland, Oregon, and virtually over zoom, June 22-26.

Registration for virtual participation is open. The UUA may provide some financial support for registration - on a first-come, first served basis.

Register now at [uua.org/ga/registration](https://uua.org/ga/registration)



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

## Climate Action Group Event Tomorrow



**Climate Change Impacts:  
How Will We Cope as Individuals and Communities?**

March 9, 2022 7-8 pm  
via zoom

Presenters:

Ezra Markowitz

UMass Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation;

Ben Weil

UMass Extension Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation; Member,, Northampton Environment & Sustainability Commission

Zoom Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86901373880?  
pwd=bEc1dGNXK2duc2JnSk5KODhzUmgxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86901373880?pwd=bEc1dGNXK2duc2JnSk5KODhzUmgxdz09)

For more information contact  
Judy Hyde, 413-427-5669. [judyquake@gmail.com](mailto:judyquake@gmail.com)

## Adult Education



### **March Spiritual Discussion Group** *Renewing Faith* **Wed, March 16, 5-6:15**

*"Faith is a willingness to take the next step, to see the unknown as an adventure, to launch a journey."*

Sharon Salzberg

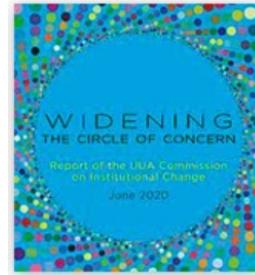
This small group discussion is an invitation to explore your faith in many concepts, from humanity to democracy. What does having faith mean to you? Are you ready to take a leap of faith?

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

Meeting ID: 986 8141 1085

Find out more here:

[Spiritual Discussion Group Schedule.](#)



### **March Widening the Circle Discussion** *Living Our Values in the World* **Thursday, March 17, 7-8:30**

Widening the Circle Listening Circle on  
Living our Values in the World

What do we create together? Come be part of the discussion as we explore how we live the values and principles of being Unitarian Universalists together.

Find out more at:

[https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/  
/committees/cic/widening/living-  
values](https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening/living-values)

<https://zoom.us/j/91395063898>

For more information, email [dre@uunorthampton.org](mailto:dre@uunorthampton.org).  
Learn more on our website: [USNF Adult Education Offerings](#)

Interested in talking through ideas like defunding the police and abolitionism in the context of Unitarian Universalist values? Join us for a deeper dive by discussing the UUA's Common Read for 2022, Zach Norris's powerful new book, *Defund Fear: Safety without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment*. Norris believes it's time to "shift the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities" ([uua.org/read](http://uua.org/read)).

**Thursday April 7th and Thursday May 5th from 7-8:30pm**, location TBA.  
Contact [Sheri Hall-Smith](#) or [Kate Kruckemeyer](#) for more information.

## Weekly Offerings

### Adults

Thursdays, 5:30-6 pm - Meditation Circle on ZOOM  
Readings, Silence, Lovingkindness Meditation and Singing For Zoom link email Janet at [minister@uunorthampton.org](mailto:minister@uunorthampton.org)

### Sundays

Family Gathering: Early Childhood & Primary RE - 9:30-10 am  
Elementary & Middle School RE - 10-11 am  
Youth Group - 2-4 pm

## Beacon Schedule

*The USNF Beacon* is published on Tuesdays with featured articles appearing each week. Pictures/Illustrations are strongly encouraged!

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](#).

Send Submissions, **with the word Beacon in the subject line** to:

[newsletter@uunorthampton.org](mailto:newsletter@uunorthampton.org)

Contact  
Us



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