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End of the Year Picnic June 11th
Be a Part of the Group Photo!

Our Annual Picnic will be on the lawn following the service on June 11. In case of rain we will be in the social room. We will take a congregational photograph on the front steps of the building immediately following the service and prior to the picnic.

We have divided the congregation alphabetically with each getting a category of food or beverage to bring.

- A-C Beverages
- D-H Desserts
- I-O Salads and Sides
- P-R Snacks
- S-Z Sandwiches.

If you need to switch to another category, other than the one assigned, please feel free to do so.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

USNF Votes to Adopt the 8th Principle!

We are excited to announce that our congregation voted unanimously to adopt the 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism!

_We, the members of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions._
Cathie Brown
Generosity of Spirit Award

Cathie Brown received USNF's "Generosity of Spirit" award at the annual meeting on May 21, 2023.

Here are some of the accolades shared:

I have the privilege of recounting the story of Cathie’s generosity and commitment to USNF. I know she’s been involved with COA/Youth and Partner Church for at least as long as I’ve known her —20+ years, served two terms on the Board —and I believe as President in both terms, was very involved with Sanctuary and continues to help ensure Irida’s family remains part of our family. Cathie was also active in helping to spearhead Widening the Circle work and now co-leads the RIT. She’s been Coordinating Council Co-Moderator—and I’m sure I’m missing countless other ways she’s served members, friends and the local community on behalf of USNF. Is there anything she hasn’t done??

Jane Simonds

I first met Cathie when I took the Youth Group gleaning. Cathie would bring gigantic plastic tubs that she used for gardening. Without batting an eye, she would lug a tub filled with 50 pounds of potatoes through farm fields, up and down stairs, and into the basement of Kate’s Kitchen, a soup kitchen, to donate the harvest. Often she would say something like, “This is the easiest way to do it.” To me, that will forever be who Cathie is. She jumps right into tasks fearlessly, confidently, and always willingly. She has creative plans and solutions for all sorts of problems and is always willing to help. Whether there is a social event, a social justice activity, or a regular youth group meeting, Cathie shows up willing to carry the load with a smile.

Jessica Harwood

Cathie has helped me grow into a much better USNF member. As co-chairs first on Widening the Circle and now with the Racial Justice Team, I have learned so much from her patient, optimistic, can-do attitude. Cathie totally goes with the flow and lets little rattle her. She is willing to help out with just about anything and when I have hit a wall or feel totally frustrated she is the one who gets me back down to reality and ready to move on. I appreciate that more than words can ever express. For me, having her as a friend and colleague has been an experience for which I am extremely grateful.

Maryanne Bernini Coughlin
One time we had small group stewardship conversations. Cathy was in my group. We talked about why this place matters. Cathy responded with such heartfelt love for our congregation that I went up to her after and said, you should be president. She got back to me later and said she'd be honored. I'd forgotten and she didn't mention, that she'd served as president once before. I can't imagine anyone else stepping up like that and saying, "Sure, I'll help." This recognition is very well deserved.

Craig Dreeszen

*Cathie Brown has been a major and steadfast source of support for the Youth Group over the past two years. Cathie is an excellent adviser and knows how to make sure that everyone feels included in the Youth Group. She has a great attention to detail and always knows what needs to happen so that our activities and projects can be accomplished as smoothly as possible. I can always rely on Cathie to show up and be fully present with the Youth Group no matter what the activity is. I don't know how our group would have made it through the past two years without her. I am very grateful for the service she has given to our community.*

Collee Williams

**New Slate of Elected Officers**

**Board Members 2023 - 2024**

Stephanie Baird, President, serves through 2025.
Ed Olmstead, Past President, serves through 2024.
Emily Quintana, Vice President, serves through 2026.
Ruth Banta, Treasurer, serves through 2025.
Jessica Jones, Clerk, serves through 2025.
Julie Chandler, Member, serves through 2024.
Molly Hale, Member, serves through 2024.
Rick King, Member, serves through 2025.
Kate Kruckemeyer, Member, serves through 2026.

**Other Elected Positions**

Auditor, David Klimczak, serves through 2026.
Council Clerk, Kim Henrichon, serves through 2024.
Council Co-Moderators: Laurie Loisel, serves through 2024 & Joan O'Brien, serves through 2025.

**Nominating Committee**

Nancy Whittier, co-chair, serves through 2025.
Members serving through 2024: Fran Adams, Patty Cowden, Terri HerrNeckar.
Member serving through 2025: Steve Kramer.
Submit to The Beacon

We welcome submissions!

The Publication Schedule is as follows:
- Week 1: Minister's Edition
- Week 2: Board Updates & Social Justice
- Week 3: Committee, Team, & Activity Reports
- Week 4: Faith Development & Religious Education
- Week 5: Special Edition, Topics Vary - chosen by you perhaps?

To submit an article, use this link: Beacon Submission Form
For questions, please email newsletter@uunorthampton.org