



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth Newsletter
840 Sandwich Road, East Falmouth, MA 02536 * 508-457-0449 * www.UUFalmouth.org

RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN APRIL

The Soul Matters theme for April is **“Embracing Possibility”**—In his description of a 6-season year, Kurt Vonnegut explained that March & April are a season of “unlocking” that represents the time between the brutally cold and frozen winter (January & February) and our true spring (May & June). With the April Soul Matters theme of “Embracing Possibility” we can look beyond pothole and mud season to welcome the season of rebirth and renewal.

April 5 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—“Easter Transformation” led by Rev. Rali Weaver; service associate, Tedi Bell. Easter is an ancient story of life returning where we least expect it. But resurrection is not just a historical event; it is a recurring rhythm in the life of the spirit. This Sunday, we explore the empty tomb not as a void, but as a space of radical possibility. What stones must we roll away to transform our lives? Join us as we celebrate the stubborn persistence of hope and the beauty of becoming something new.

April 12 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—“Innovation” led by Rev. Rali Weaver; service associate, Michael Goldring. In a world that often prizes certainty and tradition, the call to innovate can feel dangerous. It asks us to step off the sturdy ground of “how things have always been done” and into the mist of “what could be.” But true innovation—whether in science, social justice, or our own spiritual lives—requires more than just a clever idea. It requires a specific posture of the spirit. This Sunday, we will explore the spiritual ingredients required to birth something new.

April 19 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—Earth Day led by Lew Stern; service associate, Rosa Whiting. This year’s International Earth Day theme is “Our Power, Our Planet.” Individually, everything we do, or don’t do, has an impact on Earth. Together, we could save the planet, and save Cape Cod, not for ourselves, but for our children and generations to come.

***Share the Plate on April 19 will go to the MA Audubon Youth Climate Leadership and CC Scholarship Program.** Mass Audubon’s Youth Climate Leadership Program engages teens (ages 14-18) in hands-on climate action. It offers training in advocacy and project development, with events and collaborations happening across Massachusetts, to build youth voices for local climate solutions. They partner with local schools and organizations, hosting youth climate summits to connect students with experts in tackling climate challenges. MA Audubon provides scholarships for Cape Cod students to attend their summer camp.

April 26 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—“Endbeginnings” led by Rev. Rali Weaver; service associate, Ellen Todd. An endbeginning is that shimmering, slightly disorienting moment where the exhale of a conclusion meets the sharp inhale of a new start. It’s the realization that life doesn’t move in straight lines with clean breaks, but in a series of overlapping waves where the debris of the past becomes the foundation for the future. This Sunday we will recognize the value of endbeginnings.

Minister's Message



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth

840 Sandwich Road
East Falmouth, MA
02536
508-457-0449

UU Falmouth Staff

Reverend Rali Weaver
Minister

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9 AM - 5 PM

Phone: 617-459-5979
Email: minister@uuffm.org

Ann German
Bookkeeper

Frederick Johnson
Director of Music

Nancy Wendlandt
Pianist

Kit O'Connor
Office Administrator
admin@uuffm.org

Office Hours: Kit will be
in the office Monday,
Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday from
9 AM-1 PM

Our website:
<https://uufalmouth.org>

Dear UU Falmouth Friends,

Spring, Renewal, and the UU Path

I've often heard it said that Unitarian Universalists are "Christmas Christians" rather than "Easter Christians." While many of us don't identify as Christian at all, and others embrace the resurrection wholeheartedly, I personally land somewhere in the atheistic middle. Yet, the moment I see a crocus peeking through the frost, I find myself instinctively singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." I simply cannot help but celebrate the renewal of spring.

As UUs, we respect the vast spectrum of spiritual beliefs that speak to the heart. To my mind, if a practice honors the inherent worth and dignity of every living thing, it likely holds a piece of the truth. I am mindful, however, that religious language can be complicated; for those injured by traditional dogma, even an innocent hymn can trigger old wounds. We consciously reject the Calvinist idea that some are "saved" and others are not, choosing instead to build a community that welcomes all paths to understanding.

The juxtaposition of Christmas and Easter reminds us of the dualistic lens through which we view life and death, changing it to birth and renewal. This cycle resonates profoundly in the natural world. Just as the birds return and the flowers break through the soil, we are invited to experience our own "fresh starts" after a long, difficult winter.

Our strength at UU Falmouth lies in our diversity. While some center their faith on the teachings of Jesus, others find primary meaning in nature, science, or personal experience. This spectrum makes our community vibrant.

As spring unfolds, I encourage you to reflect: What does renewal mean in your life? How can the idea of rebirth inspire you to flourish? Whether your path leads you to the story of resurrection or the cycles of the earth, there is a place for your voice in our choir and conversations. I invite you to join us for our upcoming services as we celebrate our resilient earth and our shared humanity together.

With Love,
Rali

Rev. Rali Weaver is in her office Tuesday-Friday 9 AM - 5 PM and is available by appointment by calling or texting 617-459-5979 or emailing minister@uuffm.org or going to <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me/>

Governing Board Report



UU FALMOUTH BOARD

2025-2026 Officers

Charlotte Harris, President
Phil Zimmerman, Vice President
Betsy Young, Treasurer
Betsy Wilder, Clerk

Directors

Cynthia Dyer
John Jackson
David Mark Welch

2025-2026 Committee Chairs

Art Exhibits—Joanie Thompson
Building & Grounds—Dave Crichton,
Phil Zimmerman, Dave Dimmick,
emeritus chair
Caring Community—Reed Walsh
Committee on Ministry—Cathy
Kligler
Communications—Joanie
Thompson & Nannette
Oldenbourg
Denominational Affairs—Larry Ladd
Fellowship Activities—Steve &
Joanne Treistman
Finance—Gayle Simundza
Lay Ministry Team—Tom Kirkman
Leadership Council—Steve
Treistman
Library—Joan Vaughn
Membership—Betsy Wilder
Memorial Woodland—Phil
Zimmerman
Music—Susan Brooks
Nominating—Rudolf Oldenbourg
Religious Services—Judy Andrade
& Julie DeSorgher
Safe Congregation—Contact: Tom
Kirkman
Social & Environmental Action—
Rosa Whiting
Stewardship—David & Jessica Mark
Welch
Welcoming Congregation—Contact:
Judy LeBeau

Hello Members and Friends,

First the summary and then a question. In summary, the March board meeting's primary goals were to review the proposed FY27 budget and brainstorm new three-year goals. February minutes were approved and Larry Ladd announced he is running for a position on the UUA board and needed petition signatures to be on the UUA Annual Meeting ballot in FY27; all present signed.

Old Business

- * **Hospitality/Coffee:** The congregation's hospitality coordinator resigned. Two replacements are in the pipeline. A budget request for \$75/Sunday per person will be submitted. An espresso machine was donated and will be placed in service.
- * **FY27 Budget Review:** The Finance Committee's proposed budget was reviewed to learn the committees' requests and inform the upcoming stewardship campaign. Key decisions: staff will receive a raise; communications budget line items will be consolidated; snow removal budget will increase by \$1K given this year's higher costs.
- * **Blood Drive:** Very successful—24 pints collected, 26 attendees, and 24 non-members came through the doors. Cape Cod Healthcare requested a repeat. The board agreed to hold the drive twice a year going forward.
- * **Stewardship Campaign:** The tentative FY27 fundraising goal is \$402,000 (a 3% increase over last year), with an April- May schedule similar to prior years.

New Business—Next Three-Year Plan Brainstorming

Led by Artemis Joukowsky, the session explored long-range visions to begin the FY27-29 planning. Top themes included:

- * Becoming a welcoming spiritual and social home for all
- * Growing and revitalizing the Religious Education (RE) program
- * Expanding physical space (a new fellowship hall was mentioned)
- * Deepening community engagement and civic presence

Near-term priorities that received the most support: planning for expanded space, hiring an RE coordinator, and improving landscaping.

Ongoing Reports

- * **Minister's Report:** A \$19,000 installation budget was approved (funded from savings), covering a Friday gathering and a Saturday fair/reception with a tent, DJ/band, and advertising. (Start looking forward to a wonderful party in May!)
- * **Membership:** 160 members and 100 friends. Red cups have been introduced to identify visitors. Eight people are enrolled in the current Starting Point program and eight children are enrolled in Sunday School.

My question for all of you: We have an embarrassment of riches, of volunteers actually. **Each year the board gets to choose the volunteer(s) of the year. Again this year there are many outstanding volunteers—so we would like your input.** Please tell us in person or by email who you think has earned this distinction. Please—speak or write soon!

To me, at least, this award is especially meaningful now because we have lost our role model, Marv Grosslein, whom the award honors along with his wife, Avis. RIP Marv, we loved you and we miss you. Marv's memorial will be at the Meeting House Saturday, April 4 at 10 AM.

Charlotte Harris, Governing Board President
Charris20@me.com * 617-645-8609

Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

REALITY: THROUGH THE LENS OF ART

Wednesday, April 1 at 7 PM at the Meeting House and via Zoom

Last year we introduced a new series called “Exploring the Nature of Reality.” In Part Two of this series presenters from UU Falmouth and the wider community are focusing on “Reality Through the Lens of Art.”

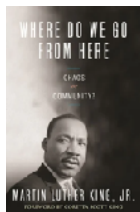
April 1: “Reality Through the Lens: Photos of My Trek on Mount Kilimanjaro” – Robin Melavalin. **“When the ‘Truth’ Is Shown to be Lies, We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident: Photos from Local Protests”** – Laura Puopolo



Come explore how the lens informs our ideas of local protest activists, Cape Cod nature, and hiking in high altitudes.

JUSTICE BOOK GROUP

Friday, April 3 & 17 at 4 PM (and every other week)
at the Meeting House and via Zoom



Our new Justice Book Group has started by reading *"Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community"* by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Advocating for human rights and a sense of hope, it was King's fourth and last book before his 1968 assassination.

We meet in person and on Zoom every other week at 4 PM. All are invited to attend this important conversation.

JUSTICE DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

Sunday, April 12 at 3 PM at the Meeting House

Join us for our **new monthly gathering** to explore the most pressing issues of our time through film. We'll kick off each session with a screening, **followed by warm soup and an open-floor conversation** to process what we've seen.

In **our next feature film "BORDERLANDS" (2024)**, we journey with immigrants resisting and organizing for their human rights in the shadow of the vast border industrial complex —a multi-billion dollar business of surveillance, detention and deportation effectively embedding the border in every corner of our nation. The interwoven stories of courageous immigrants seeking a way forward shed light on the human cost of the struggle, as the threat to themselves and democracy looms with immigration used as a wedge issue for political gain and a gateway to authoritarian rule.



"IF YOU DON'T SHARE, WE CAN'T CARE"



If you know of someone who is sick or hurt or would simply like a card, please let the Caring Committee know by contacting Reed Walsh or Betsy Young directly or via admin@uuffm.org.

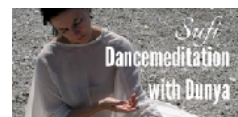
Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

SUFI DANCE MEDITATION CLASS with Dunya

Saturday, April 18 at 10 AM at the Meeting House

No experience is necessary to attend this dance meditation session—everyone is welcome! The class will be gently led by Dunya Dianne McPherson, internationally recognized Sufi meditation authority, beginning with gentle stretches on the floor or in a chair. Dance meditation provides the opportunity to relax, be creative and playful, and explore spiritual realms within us. Participants, please bring a mat and/or a blanket or towel.

For more information go to dancemeditation.org.



SANDWICH ROAD CLEANUP

Meet on Saturday, April 25 at 10 AM at the Meeting House



Come join your friends at the Meeting House to clean up UU Falmouth's section of Sandwich Road. Please wear long sleeves and long pants to protect against scrapes and ticks. Bring your own refillable water bottle, sturdy garden gloves, and a reflector vest if you have one. UU Falmouth will also provide some vests.



It's a simple walk with a partner along our beautiful road picking up whatever has accumulated over the winter. Anyone under 18 should be accompanied by a parent. A signup sheet will be available in the foyer. Join us for pizza and drinks afterward.

GET OUT THE VOTE and LEGISLATIVE POSTCARDS

During this political season many democracy-minded civic groups are stressing the **importance of registering to vote and voting**. Our UU mission is to advocate for all people, so we will continue to provide postcards to be sent, particularly to states that have tried to limit voting accessibility, and to support legislation that hopes to address the greater needs of all residents.



Watch for announcements letting you know that postcards are available. Any donation of postcard stamps would be appreciated.

CAPE COD FOSTER CLOSET NEW HOURS - Volunteers Welcome

The Cape Cod Foster Closet is thriving in its new satellite location at UU Falmouth! Due to the demand, they are expanding their hours. In addition to Thursdays from 10-12, they will be open on the **2nd Monday of the month from 3:30-6:30 PM and the 4th Saturday from 12:30-3:30 PM**. If you are interested and available to volunteer with clients on those days, please contact Pam Morrone directly or email admin@uuffm.org.

The Foster Closet welcomes donations of children's new and gently used items. You can see lists on their website: capecodfostercloset.org.



Annual Pledge Drive

“Planting Seeds for the Future”



From your pledge drive team:

The pledge drive for the 2026-2027 pledge year is underway! This year’s theme is “Planting Seeds for the Future.” Our goal is to raise the resources to expand our outreach and welcome newcomers to our congregation.

You will soon be receiving a mailing with information about how to pledge. Face-to-face canvassing will start in April, and the pledge drive will conclude with our annual ritual of commitment on Sunday May 24. During the service, we bring our pledge cards forward as a symbol of committing ourselves anew to one another and the future of our congregation with generosity and love.

UU Falmouth relies on your generosity. As a young congregation, our endowment is modest, and we receive no direct financial support from the Unitarian Universalist Association. The budget to pay our wonderful staff—minister, office manager, musicians—and to keep up our building comes, overwhelmingly, from us, the members and friends, through our pledges of support.

– With gratitude, your pledge drive co-chairs, David and Jessica Mark Welch

Looking Back...



Justice Documentary series began March 1 with the film “POWER.”



On March 4, “Reality: Through the Lens of Art” featured visual artists Charlotte Harris and Joanie Thompson.



“Melt the Ice” protest hats sold after Sunday services to benefit MA Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition.



UU Falmouth sponsored a Blood Drive at the Meeting House on March 9. Over 24 people donated blood. Thank you to those who organized, gave blood, and baked brownies!



“No Kings” rally March 28 on the Falmouth Green. Our new banner was put to good use! LOTS of people from UU Falmouth came to have their voices heard!

UU Falmouth Announcements



April Birthdays



4/2 Rudolf Oldenbourg	4/14 Rory Saito	4/19 Evelynne Swagerty
4/2 Christie Davis	4/19 Andrew Mark Welch	4/26 Cynthia Domack
4/11 Susan Wilcox	4/19 Mary Sellers	4/27 Reed Walsh

Fellowship Weekly/Monthly Gatherings Open to All

(For information on any of these gatherings, contact the person listed or email admin@uuffm.org.)

- **PFLAG Cape Cod** - Monday, April 27 (and the 4th Monday of the month) at 7 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Scott Fitzmaurice.
- **Breakfast Bunch** - Tuesdays at 8 AM. This month we will meet at Betsy's Diner, 457 Main Street, Falmouth. For more information, contact Reed Walsh.
- **Mah Jongg** - Tuesdays from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House. *We welcome new people and are happy to introduce you to the game of Mah Jongg.* For more information, contact Peggy Sabin.
- **End Zone Reading Group** - Tuesdays from 6-7:30 PM on ZOOM ONLY. For more information, contact Rev. Rali.
- **Brown Bag Book Bunch** - Wednesday, April 15 at noon (and the 3rd Wednesday of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Chris Jacobi.
- **Men's Breakfast** - Thursdays from 8-9:30 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom. (Gatherings will resume periodically at Dave's barn in June.) A notice will be sent out if it is switched to Zoom-only because of bad weather. If you would like more information, or for the Zoom login, please contact Stu Graham.
- **Chimes Ensemble** - Thursdays at 1:00 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Laura Wing.
- **Justice Book Group** - Friday, April 3 and 17 at 4 PM (and every other Friday) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Rev. Rali.
- **Community Circle** - Friday, April 10 at 2 PM (and the 2nd Friday of the month) at the Meeting House - open to the public. During Community Circles, we listen to one another, share our thoughts about the topic, and build community as we learn from one another. For more information, contact Joanne Treistman.
- **Community Drumming (aka Percussion Discussion)** - Friday, April 17 at 6:30 PM (and the 3rd Friday of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Nannette Oldenbourg.
- **Grief Group** - Friday, April 24 at 1 PM (and the 4th Friday of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Reed Walsh or Rev. Rali.

The online calendar is more complete and up-to-date. To find it, go to uufalmouth.org and click on "News."
 Email admin@uuffm.org if you'd like to have an event or meeting added to the calendar.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>April 2026 Red = All are welcome to attend.</p>						
			<p>1 9:30am Writing Time 7pm Reality: Through the Lens of Art series</p>	<p>2 8am Men's Breakfast 10:15am B&G Meeting 1pm Chimes Ensemble</p>	<p>3 4pm Justice Book Group</p>	<p>4 10am Marv Grosslein's Memorial</p>
<p>5 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion</p>	<p>6 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm SEAC Committee</p>	<p>7 8am Breakfast Bunch 10:30am Religious Services Committee 1pm Mah Jongg 6pm End Zone Reading Group</p>	<p>8 9:30am Writing Time</p>	<p>9 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Chimes Ensemble 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3 7pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>10 10am Writer's Path Group 1pm Membership Committee 2pm Community Circle</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion 3pm Justice Documentary Series</p>	<p>13 9:30pm Staff Meeting 1pm Caring Committee Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm Music Committee</p>	<p>14 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 3:30pm Welcoming Congregation Committee 6pm End Zone Reading Group</p>	<p>15 9:30am Writing Time 12pm Brown Bag Book Bunch</p>	<p>16 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Chimes Ensemble 7pm Governing Board</p>	<p>17 4pm Justice Book Group 6:30pm Community Drumming and Sound Healing</p>	<p>18 10am Prostate Survivors Group 10am Dance Meditation</p>
<p>19 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion 3pm Pernambuco Concert</p>	<p>20 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 6pm End Zone Reading Group</p>	<p>22 9:30am Writing Time</p>	<p>23 8am Men's Breakfast 10am Soul Matters Small Group 1pm Chimes Ensemble 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3</p>	<p>24 10am Writer's Path Group 1pm Grief Group</p>	<p>25 10am Sandwich Road Cleanup</p>
<p>26 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion</p>	<p>27 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PFLAG Cape Cod</p>	<p>28 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 6pm End Zone Reading Group</p>	<p>29 9:30am Writing Time</p>	<p>30 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Chimes Ensemble</p>		