

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

## SANDSCRIPT

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth Newsletter  
840 Sandwich Road, East Falmouth, MA 02536 \* 508-457-0449 \* [www.UUFalmouth.org](http://www.UUFalmouth.org)

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN FEBRUARY**

Our theme for February is *Living Life Through the Practice of Inclusion*. According to the pioneering consultant and author Verna Myers, “Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance.”

**February 2 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom — “Draw the Circle Wide”** led by Rev. Rali Weaver; service associate Steve Treistman. As we gather as a community united by our shared values and beliefs, we recognize the importance of embracing diversity and expanding our connections. The call to draw our Unitarian Universalist circle wider invites us to reflect on the ways we can welcome new perspectives, experiences, and stories into our midst. As we explore this theme, let us consider not only how we can enrich our own lives, but also how we can foster understanding and compassion in our broader communities.

**February 9 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom — “The Promise and the Perils of UUism”** led by Larry Ladd; service associate Tedi Bell. What are the hopes, values and vision that hold us together as Unitarian Universalists? What are the fears and flaws that hold us back? How can we realize our potential?

**February 16 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom — “Scarcity vs. Vulnerability”** led by Rev. Rali Weaver. This Sunday, we will explore Vulnerability and Scarcity. While they may seem interconnected, they represent distinct concepts in our emotional and social landscapes. Vulnerability refers to the state of being open to emotional exposure, risk, and uncertainty, often associated with bravery and authenticity in sharing our true selves with others. On the other hand, scarcity embodies a mindset rooted in lack—a belief that there are insufficient resources, whether they be time, love, or opportunities. We will ask if a scarcity mindset might be transformed into a vulnerability that will help us to effect more change in the world.

**Share the Plate on February 16: The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.** The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank is working with government agencies, nonprofit and faith-based partners, and others to respond to the fires throughout Los Angeles County. The Food Bank collects food from hundreds of resources. With the help of hundreds of thousands of volunteers annually and an agency network of more than 600 partner agencies, they serve more than 900,000 people on a monthly basis. <https://www.lafoodbank.org/>. Please give generously.

**February 23 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom — “We the People: Exploring Social Justice in Troubled Times”** led by the Welcoming Congregation Committee with guest speaker Dr. Sandra Faiman-Silva; service associate Judy Andrade. From Dr. Silva: “An anthropological lens of inquiry has been instrumental in helping me as a teacher, scholar and activist to deconstruct some of the most pressing issues of our time and act to foster social change. What I believe are my most important contributions include a course I taught on *War, Peace, and Culture*; and my books on the Oklahoma Choctaw Nation and Provincetown, MA. I will share my work to show how and what we can learn from the ‘puzzle of life’ to be effective agents of both consciousness raising and activism.” Her work offers lessons on how we can become agents of social change to address pressing antagonisms and conflicts today.

# Minister's Message



**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth**

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

**Reverend Rali Weaver**  
Minister

**Rali's Office Hours in February:**

9 AM - 5 PM

Saturday, February 1

Sunday, February 2

Monday, February 3

Friday, February 14

Saturday, February 15

Sunday, February 16

Monday, February 17

Friday, February 28

...and by appointment

**Ann German**  
Bookkeeper

**Frederick Johnson**  
Director of Music

**Kit O'Connor**  
Office Administrator

**Nancy Wendlandt**  
Pianist

**Office Hours:** Kit will be in the office Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9AM -1 PM  
Website: [UUfalmouth.org](http://UUfalmouth.org)

Hello, My Falmouth Friends,

In January, I had the good fortune to attend three UU Falmouth-supported events. The first was the Reality Series Rudolf Oldenbourg and Steve Treistman dreamed up; the second was the Upper Cape Women's Coalition charrette; and finally, the "No Place for Hate" Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast. In different ways, these three events gave me hope for the future in a month fraught with disappointments, and offered me pride in our UU congregational system of governance.

Classes like the Reality Series are the kind of intellectually stimulating and invigorating opportunities UU communities are known for but were often lost after the COVID-19 pandemic. Finding ways to revitalize our intellect after such isolation is problematic. A community of free and responsible searches for truth and meaning is what UU communities are uniquely equipped to foster.

While working on my (still incomplete) PhD in Transformative Studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies, I explored church decline and searched for markers of church vitality. My unproven theory is that collaborative congregations are more vital and sustainable than isolated or internally focused congregations. The wisdom of your Governance Board to share space with groups like the Upper Cape Women's Coalition is a perfect example of the collaborative efforts necessary to grow congregations. Over 70 women from the Upper Cape gathered to brainstorm solutions to the impending crisis for women in the face of the change in administration. While there is no linear line to 70 people showing up on a Saturday and the same 70 people showing up on Sunday morning, a congregation that sanctions its buildings and grounds with people of similar values helps to amplify our work in the world.

Finally, the MLK breakfast started at UU Falmouth. To be a founder of critical social movements and then allow them to take on a life of their own is, in many ways, the best way to live our values in the world. We can't do everything, nor would we want to! When we can fill vital civic needs and make it so attractive that others take credit for it, that is the best way to make the world more UU.

Even when you cannot attend every event or take the reins of every planning session, it must feel good to be part of a community that furthers values of love, justice, and acceptance in the world. As I reflect on these events, I'm reminded of the incredible strength of our shared UU values: our commitment to community, to justice, and to the ongoing search for truth. It's not always easy, and we certainly don't do it alone—but together, we make a difference one thoughtful conversation, one shared experience, and one act of kindness at a time.

So, whether you've attended these gatherings or not, I invite you to take pride in the ways our congregation is growing, learning, and impacting the wider world. Our work is far from over, but I have hope in the direction we're headed. I'm so grateful to be on this journey with all of you.

With warmth and gratitude,  
Rali

[minister@uuffm.org](mailto:minister@uuffm.org) \* 617-459-5979 \* <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>

I will be in the Falmouth Office from 9-5: Feb. 1, 2, 3, and 14, 15, 16, 17 and 28

# President's Corner



Dear Members and Friends

We might be getting a full-time minister sooner than you think. In December the Governing Board moved the target date for calling a full-time minister up from July 2027 to July 2026 because we felt the congregation is eager for this change. We know this means that the stewardship campaign this year has to focus on the full-time ministry goal. The results of the campaign will tell us if we can do it.

Last week for the January Board meeting, anticipating that the congregation will rise to the challenge, we invited Larry Ladd to update us on ministerial search processes. He described the UUA's process for a "contract to call" ministerial search in which the congregation would not do a full-scale ministerial search, but rather decide whether to call Rali Weaver as our settled, full-time minister. That's a big step that requires careful discernment within the congregation of our current and future needs and opportunities. It also requires deep conversation with Rali and her own consideration of whether such a move is what she wants to do at this stage in her career.

Larry advised us to use the "contract to call" process for two reasons: 1.) the congregation seems to like Rali enough for her to be a very strong inside candidate, which will discourage other candidates and 2.) the pool of available UU ministers is very small, especially if you add in the cost of housing in our area. There's a third reason to use this simpler process: Rali's other congregation, Dedham UU, has initiated a search for a called minister creating the potential for us to lose our contract minister if we don't step up our own process.

Therefore, soon, during a Sunday service the congregation will learn about both the "contract to call" process and the difference between a contract and a called minister. Some months later, the process will conclude with a vote by the members of the congregation because it's the congregation, not the Board, that calls the settled minister. Expect more on this in the days to come.

On behalf of the congregation, thank you to **Carol Ann Cronon** for her service on the Governing Board. The Board accepted her resignation with sadness and heartfelt best wishes for her return to good health. And thank you **Steve Treistman** for creating a Wednesday night series about reality seen through the lens of the speaker's professional experience. Steve, a biologist and the first speaker, taught us a fascinating lesson: all animate creatures have evolved to fill a niche in their environment. The next eight speakers are also part of our congregation. (See page 5 for a full description of upcoming sessions.)

Stay warm,  
Charlotte Harris  
Governing Board President  
[Charris20@me.com](mailto:Charris20@me.com) \* 617-645-8609

# Rev. Rali's Schedule

Rev. Rali will be at UU Falmouth every other week in February on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with her, try out this easy, convenient booking link: <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>.

**Rev. Rali's Office Hours, 9 AM – 5 PM at UU Falmouth for 2025:**

**February** 1, 2, 3 and 14, 15, 16, 17 and 28...

**March** 1, 2, 3 and 14, 15, 16, 17 and 28 29, 30, 31

**April** 11, 12, 13, 14 and 25, 26, 27, 28

**May** 9, 10, 11, 12 and 23, 24, 25, 26

**June** 13, 14, 15, 16 and 27, 28, 29, 30



You can also reach her anytime by emailing [minister@uuffm.org](mailto:minister@uuffm.org) or calling 617-459-5979.

## Upcoming UU Falmouth Events

### This Year's Pledge Drive Will Be Starting Soon!

#### Pre-Kickoff Planning Meeting—Sunday, February 16

We invite everyone interested in being part of this year's canvass team to please come to a pre-kickoff planning meeting, Sunday, February 16th after the Sunday service.

We look forward to the opportunity to re-commit ourselves to each other and this congregation!

~Your stewardship campaign co-chairs, Jessica and David Mark Welch



### February Grocery Card Sales



We LOVE those of you who make a donation or purchase Grocery Cards each Sunday. So in February, you will receive a heart-shaped sugar cookie with every purchase or donation. Thank you always for your support.



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

The 2025 Unitarian Universalist [General Assembly](#) will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore MD from Wednesday, June 18 through Sunday, June 22.

As always, GA includes business sessions, inspirational worship services, informative workshops and lectures, and social events. You can celebrate that you are part of a larger faith community beyond our own congregation. The schedule is [here](#). You can register for GA without being a delegate and can participate in all of the programs except voting.

If you have any questions, contact Larry Ladd, Chair of the Denominational Affairs Committee, or email [admin@uuffm.org](mailto:admin@uuffm.org).

# Upcoming UU Falmouth Events (continued)



## **“Exploring the Nature of Reality” Series Continues...**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 7-8:15 PM at the Meeting House  
and via Zoom (UU Falmouth members/friends only)**



Please join us for a bi-weekly series “Exploring the Nature of “Reality.” Each session will have a facilitator who will present different perspectives on reality and opportunities to explore them individually and as a group. This is the beginning of a pilot program that we may expand upon later.

**February 12, 2025 “Our Psychology and Subjectivity” – Lew Stern.** What each of us experiences as “real” depends on who we are psychologically: our past experiences, beliefs, emotions, hopes, and perspectives. We also share group realities with those around us: our family, culture, and peers. We will explore our unique individual and shared realities and how they impact us by observing and participating in experiences together and in small groups. **Note: This session will NOT be available in person. It will be presented in a webinar format available only via Zoom.**

**February 26, 2025 “How We Relate and Come to Agreement” – Sangaku Dan Joslyn.** Reality is relational as opposed to absolute and, as such, there is a quality of depth and interconnectedness that is hard to fathom. We use agreement as a way to label things. We do so in all directions and in all flavors of a thing to reach absolute agreement on what it is, causing disagreement about certitude.

**March 12, 2025 “How We Know About the World Around Us: The First Steps of Sensory Inputs” – Rudolf Oldenbourg.** We learn about the world around us through our senses, of which we have five on first count: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. From the time we are born, even before, our brain receives and integrates these different inputs and forms our experience of the world around us by literally recreating it. Because the brain recreates the outer world, the creation is necessarily subjective, as it is derived from the physical sensory inputs and their interpretation based on our past experiences. In my contribution to this series on reality as we experience it, I plan to examine the physical nature of the signals and the first steps of detecting them to form the input for our senses. Many of the contributions by others in this series are covering the further processing of these basic sensory inputs so we can survive, procreate, and together thrive in this world.

**March 26, 2025 “How We Measure Things” – John Jackson.** How do we measure reality? John has spent his career “measuring.” But is there a truly unambiguous value that can be attached to any of the things that we measure and feel comfortable assigning a number to?

**April 9, 2025 “Is Our Sense of Self Too Narrow? You and Your Trillions of Microbiome Friends” – Jessica Mark Welch and Betsy Wilder.** We’ll discuss the microbiome and our sense that we are human, but *in reality* are mostly microbial in terms of our cell numbers and DNA coding potential. Our microbiomes likely change our moods and behaviors as well as our health status.

**April 23, 2025 “Views of Reality: A Synthesis of the Presentations and Discussions” – Ensemble led by Steve Treistman.**

# Upcoming UU Falmouth Events (continued)

## L.I.N.K. Programs Continue in 2025

As part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast annual celebration on January 20, the Linking Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Knowledge group (L.I.N.K.) was honored as the recipient of the No Place for Hate Civic Leadership Award. Their commitment to building bridges in our community was one of the key elements of their work that brought them this honor. Their spokeswomen explained the origins of the group and the valuable support they received from UU Falmouth during 2024. Most of their educational and informational sessions were held in our Meeting House and were attended by 100 or more people each time! While they will not be holding monthly programs this year, they will have periodic presentations throughout 2025. The next one will take place on March 1 at Mashpee High School.



## Linking Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Knowledge, Inc.

### 2025 “Rights of Nature” Programs

**March 1, 2025**

*Free*

1:00PM - 3:00PM

**Mashpee High School Auditorium  
500 Old Barnstable Rd.  
Mashpee, MA 02649**

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**Sherri Mitchell, Esq.  
Author of “Sacred Instructions”  
and  
Founder of The Land Peace Foundation, Inc.**



SHERRI MITCHELL was born and raised on the Penobscot Indian reservation. She received her Juris Doctorate and a Certificate in Indigenous People’s Law and Policy from the University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law. She is an alumna of the American Indian Ambassador program, and the Udall Native American Congressional Internship program. She is the Founding Director of the Land Peace Foundation, an organization dedicated to the global protection of indigenous rights and the preservation of the indigenous way of life. Sherri speaks and teaches around the world on issues of indigenous rights, environmental justice, spiritual activism, and transformational change. Sherri is also the co-host of Love (and Revolution) Radio, a syndicated radio program that highlights stories of heart-based activism and revolutionary spiritual change.

This event is supported by The Fund for Science

[www.linkcapecod.org](http://www.linkcapecod.org)

*Donations Welcome*

# UU Falmouth Announcements



## February Birthdays



2/2 Donna Jumper	2/11 Dan Joslyn	2/26 Lazara Wilson
2/2 Joanne Briana-Gartner	2/17 Peter Grinnell, Jr	2/28 Kunio Saito
2/7 Cynthia Repplier	2/18 Tedi Bell	
2/7 Marcia Easterling	2/26 Betsy Wilder	



### Fellowship Weekly/Monthly Gatherings

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

- **Breakfast Bunch** - Tuesdays at 8 AM. This month it will be at Moonakis Cafe, 460 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth. For more information, contact Reed Walsh.
- **Mah Jongg** - Tuesdays from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Peggy Sabin.
- **Fellowship Tea** - Tuesdays at 4 PM. To get the Zoom login, email [admin@uuffm.org](mailto:admin@uuffm.org).
- **Brown Bag Book Bunch** - BBBB will meet again on February 19 (and the third Wednesday of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Chris Jacobi.
- **Men's Breakfast** - Thursdays from 8-9:30 AM. It will take place at the Meeting House in February. A notice will be sent out if it is switched to Zoom 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.
- **Chimes Workshop** - Thursday, February 6 and 20 from 3-4 PM (and the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Laura Wing.
- **Community Circle** - Friday, February 14 at 2 PM at the Meeting House - open to the public. We will be sharing our thoughts about what love represents and how it works for each of us. During Community Circles, we listen to one another and share our thoughts about the topic. We build community and many people find this experience relaxing as we learn from one another. For more information, contact Joanne Treistman at [treistmanjoanne@gmail.com](mailto:treistmanjoanne@gmail.com).
- **Expressive Movement** - Friday, February 7 at 6:30 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Nannette Oldenbourg.
- **Percussion Discussion** - Friday, February 21 at 6:30 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Nannette Oldenbourg.

For the most up to date version of this calendar, go to [uufalmouth.org](http://uufalmouth.org) and click on "News." Email [admin@uuffm.org](mailto:admin@uuffm.org) if you'd like to have an event or meeting added to the calendar.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>February 2025</h1> <p>Red = All are welcome to attend.</p>						
						1
<b>2</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service</b> <b>11:15am</b> <b>Coffee Hour/  Grocery Cards</b> <b>11:30 Sermon</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>3</b> 10:15am Religious Services 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> <b>8am Breakfast</b> <b>Bunch</b> <b>1pm Mah Jongg</b> <b>4pm Fellowship Tea</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30am Writing Time 1pm Committee on Ministry 3pm Partners Grief Support Group	<b>6</b> <b>8am Men's</b> <b>Breakfast</b> 10:15am B&G Meeting <b>1pm Chimes</b> <b>Ensemble</b> <b>3pm Chimes</b> <b>Workshop</b>	<b>7</b> <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Expressive</b> <b>Movement</b>	<b>8</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Prostate</b> <b>Cancer</b> <b>Survivors</b> <b>Group</b>
<b>9</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service</b> <b>11:15am</b> <b>Coffee Hour/  Grocery Cards</b> <b>11:30 Sermon</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>10</b> 1pm Caring Community Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm Music Committee	<b>11</b> <b>8am Breakfast</b> <b>Bunch</b> <b>1pm Mah Jongg</b> 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 <b>3:30pm Welcoming</b> <b>Cong. Committee</b> <b>4pm Fellowship Tea</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30am Writing Time 3:30pm Lay Ministry Team <b>7pm "Reality"</b> <b>Series</b>	<b>13</b> <b>8am Men's</b> <b>Breakfast</b> <b>1pm Chimes</b> <b>Ensemble</b> 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3 7pm Finance	<b>14</b> 9am Membership Committee <b>2pm</b> <b>Community</b> <b>Circle</b>	15
<b>16</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service</b> <b>11:15am</b> <b>Coffee Hour/  Grocery Cards</b> <b>11:30 Sermon</b> <b>Discussion</b> <b>12:30am</b> <b>Pledge Drive</b> <b>Planning</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal <b>7 pm SEAC</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>18</b> <b>8am Breakfast</b> <b>Bunch</b> <b>1pm Mah Jongg</b> <b>4pm Fellowship Tea</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30am Writing Time 11:45am Soul Matters Small Group <b>12pm Brown Bag</b> <b>Book Bunch</b> 3pm Partners Grief Support Group	<b>20</b> <b>8am Men's</b> <b>Breakfast</b> <b>1pm Chimes</b> <b>Ensemble</b> <b>3pm Chimes</b> <b>Workshop</b> <b>7pm Governing</b> <b>Board</b>	<b>21</b> <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Percussion</b> <b>Discussion</b>	22
<b>23</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Service</b> <b>11:15am</b> <b>Coffee Hour/  Grocery Cards</b> <b>11:30 Sermon</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> <b>8am Breakfast</b> <b>Bunch</b> <b>1pm Mah Jongg</b> 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 <b>4pm Fellowship Tea</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30am Writing Time <b>7pm "Reality"</b> <b>Series</b>	<b>27</b> <b>8am Men's</b> <b>Breakfast</b> 10am Soul Matters Small Group #2 <b>1pm Chimes</b> <b>Ensemble</b> 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3	28	