



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

RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN JANUARY

This month's Soul Matters theme is ***Practicing Resistance***. As we think about resistance, consider the words of the Dalia Lama, "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."

January 4 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—"Revolutionary Love" led by Rev. Rali Weaver; service associate, Tedi Bell. This Sunday, we draw powerful inspiration from The Reverend Dr. Jacqui Lewis and the legacy of the Revolutionary Love Conferences at Middle Collegiate Church. We will explore her theology of "Fierce Love"—a rule-breaking, boundary-dismantling commitment that calls us to move beyond mere tolerance to true liberation.

January 11 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—"Forward Together" led by Rev. Rali Weaver; service associate, Ellen Todd. This Sunday, we dive into the inspiring, unwavering ministry of The Reverend Dr. William Barber II, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. We explore his question, "If we could truly harness the power of *us working together*, what impossible mountains could we move?" Come explore a vision of justice where solidarity is our strongest weapon and reconciliation is our ultimate goal.

***Share the Plate January 11 will go to the UUSC Emergency Response Fund.** UUSC's Emergency Response Fund provides vital assistance to people impacted by natural or human-made disasters, but whose access to aid is very limited. By contributing to this restricted fund, you can help UUSC and our grassroots partners equitably and effectively respond to a crisis as soon as it occurs—and over the long-term.

January 18 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—"Don't Ask What I Believe, Ask What I Do" led by Tom Kirkman, a longtime member of the UU Society for Community Ministries and retired MA judge; service associate, Joanne Treistman. A number of years ago, our former settled minister, Rev. Bob Murphy, provided us with the phrase "Don't ask what I believe, ask what I do." It was a measured, compassionate response to a question of what do Unitarian Universalists believe. Ours is a relational religion and our ministry is about living in right relation to others. The more intentional community ministries of working outside our parish halls and church walls are as old as American Unitarian and Universalism, and as young as today. As we celebrate the birth and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this weekend, we consider Rev. Murphy's phrase by honoring our UU principles and practices that shape a caring and loving community by seeking justice for all.

January 25 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—"Reconciliation vs. Defeat" led by Rev. Rali Weaver; service associate, Noreen Cavanaugh. This Sunday, we explore the deep difference between defeat—a surrender driven by exhaustion or coercion, and reconciliation—a courageous, mutual effort to heal a rift and forge a new way forward. We will look at how Unitarian Universalist values call us to move beyond adversarial thinking in our personal lives, our communities, and our pursuit of justice.

Minister's Message



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth

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UU Falmouth Staff

Reverend Rali Weaver
Minister
Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday
9 AM - 5 PM

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Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday from
9 AM - 1 PM

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

What Winter is Good For: Preparing the Ground For Spring

During the short time I lived in California, I often found myself missing winter. While practical friends suggested I could simply drive north to find snow, I longed for the simple joy of looking out my window and seeing bright icicles hanging from the eaves.

Now, back in New England, I'm reminded that winter offers much more than just a time for snow, ice, and seeds to stratify. It is a season of quiet preparation—a gift of indoor time we avoid during the warmer months. It's the perfect opportunity for the deep, necessary work: cleaning out closets, organizing file cabinets, getting dust out of hidden corners, and, most importantly, planning the vibrant gardens and future events that will burst forth in spring.

This winter at UU Falmouth, I hope we can embrace this spirit of preparation. Just as we clear out the old files and tidy our physical space, I also invite us to dedicate time to organizing our communal vision.

Specifically, I am eager to begin planning a big celebration for my installation on May 16th. This public ceremony, which formally adopts me as your minister, is more than just a formality. It is a moment to honor all we have already built, and to leverage our visibility to communicate the exciting future we are committed to creating together at UU Falmouth. I chose to wait until spring for the ceremony so my family—my daughters, mother-in-law, and father—could be here to share the celebration with all of you.

Much like planning a garden, planning an installation can be a powerful act of planting seeds for the congregation's future. My hope is that we can couple this important ceremony with a Spring Fair on the morning of May 16th. This would be a wonderful opportunity to invite families with children into our space and introduce them to our warm, welcoming community.

This is where I need your input!

Whether this idea excites you or gives you pause, I want to hear your voice. It takes a village to plan any big event, and the installation of a minister is no different.

You are invited to join me for a brainstorming and planning session immediately after Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 4th, over lunch.

If that date doesn't work, please feel free to schedule an appointment with me anytime to share your ideas, concerns, or vision for our future.

I hope you will join me in this season of planning and preparing the ground so that May 16th will be a celebration to remember.

With Love, Rali

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

Governing Board Report



Dear Members and Friends,

Your Governing Board did not meet in December because there was not a pressing need to meet, I was having trouble coming up with two hour's worth of "business" for the agenda and, besides, the holiday atmosphere taking shape in mid-December when we would have met encouraged taking a break.

So, no meeting report. Instead, I'll call your attention to a survey we are conducting. It is called "UU Falmouth at Work and Leisure in the Community." (See page 6 for more detail.) It takes only minutes to do. We encourage everyone to participate by clicking [here](#).

As its introduction says, "This survey is intended to show how Members and Friends of UU Falmouth are engaged in the community. What volunteer work do we do? What organizations are we a part of? How do we spend our time? The results will be shared among the congregation so that each of us can find contact information for new things that we might want to do, and the results in aggregate will help us communicate more broadly about UU Falmouth and the people that visitors will find here."

I found when I did the survey that the list of organizations isn't complete. Feel free to add any you think might possibly interest UUs. The survey asks you to give your contact information so that people can find each other to get candid, first-hand information about an organization that they might consider participating in. When we did a similar survey in 2015, the number of organizations people are involved in was amazing.

Thank you Betsy Wilder for doing this survey—it will be illuminating for us all and may generate ideas for kickstarting 2026. Nothing like a new activity to give you a lift.

Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2025

Investment Accounts: Baxter Prince Endowment	\$ 182,545
Vanguard Star Fund	\$ 297,599
Vanguard Unrestricted Account	\$ 109,165
Bank Cash Accounts: SAC Food Certificates	\$ 119,826
TD Checking	\$ 103,545
TD Money Market	\$ 44,927
Minister's Discretionary	\$ 1,332
Total Assets	\$ 858,939
Liabilities Employee Pretax health insurance	\$ 7,024
Total Assets Less Liabilities	\$ 851,915

Happy New Year,

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

Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

END ZONE READING GROUP: Exploring Life, Death, and Grief

**Every Tuesday evening (January: 6, 13, 20, 27) from 6-7:30 PM on Zoom only
Hosted by Rev. Rali**

The *End Zone* Reading Group is starting back up in January. This is a space for deep reflection and meaningful conversation on life's profound final chapter. We explore topics of mortality, peace, grief, and the sacred work of preparing for the end of life through thoughtful and transformative books.

Whether you are seeking personal solace, preparing for future eventualities, or simply curious about these vital topics, all are welcome to join this supportive and reflective circle. **To sign up and receive the Zoom login, please contact Rev. Rali** at minister@uuffm.org or email admin@uuffm.org.

SPIRITUALITY DISCUSSION GROUP

With Lisa Jo Rudy and Rev. Rali Weaver

Wednesday, January 7 & 21 (and every other week) at 4 PM at the Meeting House

Are you curious about the deeper questions of life? Do you seek a sense of connection to something larger than yourself? Join us every other Wednesday for an enriching discussion group where we explore spirituality through diverse lenses—inviting both new ideas and ancient wisdom.



January 7 Topic: *What is consciousness?* What does it mean to be aware? Is human consciousness different from the awareness of simpler life forms? Maybe we can throw in a conversation about out-of-body experiences in which consciousness is not associated with our bodies.

January 21 Topic: *What happens to us after we die?* Another biggie. Do we simply cease to be? Do we become part of something greater than ourselves? Do we go elsewhere, reincarnate, or haunt our loved ones? On a related note, can we actually communicate with the dead?

“GOOD NEWS” Coffee Hour

Saturday, January 10 from 9-10:30 AM at the Meeting House

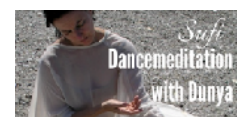


Do you need some good news and some time with UU Friends? Then plan to join the Membership Committee for a “Good News” Coffee Hour! This follows from the successful Good New Happy Hour held in October. It is an opportunity to focus on good things happening in the world and around us—**so bring a good news item to share!** We'll provide coffee and tea, but breakfast items are potluck! If you have questions, email Betsy Wilder at betsymail2012@gmail.com.

SUFI DANCE MEDITATION CLASS with Dunya

Saturday, January 17 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 on 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.



Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

AI 101 - THE BASICS

Wednesday, January 21 from 2-4 PM at the Meeting House



Jenny Carlson-Pietraszek (Rev. Rali's spouse) will guide us as we learn the WHAT and the HOW, and start playing with the possibilities AI presents to us. We'll break down some of the jargon and begin exploring the myriad ways Artificial Intelligence is changing how we live and work. Bring your computer, tablet, and/or smartphone (NOT required) and come with a curious, open mind!

UU FALMOUTH ONGOING GATHERINGS

There are so many wonderful groups that gather at UU Falmouth on a regular basis, filling every need and schedule. Some of them you may be familiar with; some you may not. In an effort to showcase all the wonderful possibilities available, more information on each will be provided over the next two months. This way you can see if there is something you've been missing and would like to try. (See page 7 for the full list with times and locations.)

- **PFLAG Cape Cod** - PFLAG's network of over 360 chapters is helping create an equitable and inclusive world where every LGBTQ+ person is safe, celebrated empowered, and loved. The Cape Cod chapter meets **the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Meeting House**. For more information, contact Scott Fitzmaurice.



- **Breakfast Bunch** - This wonderful, friendly group meets at a restaurant **every Tuesday at 8 AM**. The location is announced in the Sandscript each month. We eat, talk, laugh, wake up, solve the world's problems (or not), support each other and have fun. It is open to all. For more information, contact Reed Walsh.



- **Mah Jongg** - UU Falmouth has a long standing group that has been playing Mah Jongg for 10 years. It has grown from a group of 4 to the current group of 16. Many play **weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 PM**, and others come occasionally and seasonally. Mah Jongg (mahjongg is the international spelling) originated in China in the 19th century and is now played worldwide. Playing Mah Jongg both challenges one's brain and provides shared enjoyment of the game in a friendly and fun group.



We have experienced players who are willing to teach new people. So as the new year begins, please stop in on a Tuesday afternoon to observe and/or learn to play. For more information, contact Peggy Sabin.

- **Brown Bag Book Bunch** - The BBBB (Brown Bag Book Bunch) is a drop-in book share with lunch. It meets on the **third Wednesday of each month at noon** at the Meeting House. You may bring a book to talk about or just listen to what others are reading. We start the meeting with lunch if you'd like to bring your own. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Chris Jacobi.



Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

UU Falmouth *Activities Survey*—Please fill it out!

Through the covenant that we repeat each week, we agree that “Love is the spirit of our fellowship and service is its law.” But how do we live out this agreement? In order to understand ourselves better and be able to communicate about UU Falmouth with visitors, the **Governing Board asks that you tell us how you are involved in the greater community by filling out a survey.**



The survey asks about your service activities and about your involvement in social activities—both of which help to build the fabric of community on the Upper Cape. The results of the survey will be used in two ways. First, they will be shared within the Fellowship so that Members and Friends might find contact information for activities that they are interested in. Second, the results in aggregate (no names or contact info) will be shared on the website and with visitors to let them know more about the people that they will find here at UU Falmouth.

Please take a minute to fill out the survey online (by clicking [here](#)) or by filling one out at the Meeting House.

SAVE THE DATES: *STARTING POINT* PROGRAM

Saturdays, February 14 & 28, March 14 & 28

1:00 – 3:00 PM at the Meeting House and via Zoom

The Membership Committee is again offering a unique program designed for Members, Friends and newcomers. UU Falmouth is at an inflection point and the committee believes that ***Starting Point*** could be useful to us all as we seek to grow a welcoming UU community for the Upper Cape.

This program, inspired by the UU slogan “deeds not creeds” does not present a set of beliefs but rather many opportunities to experience the deep listening and sharing practices inherent in UU small groups. Participants are invited to look within themselves for direction in their spiritual journey and are asked to prepare for each of four session topics:

Session 1 – Your Journey

Session 2 – The UU Journey and the Journey of UU Falmouth

Session 3 – Our Journey Together—the 3 paths of Unitarian Universalism

Session 4 – Finding your Journey Group



The program promises several takeaways: an understanding of UU history and the history of this congregation; a new connection to your fellow participants; an experience of UU small group practices; and a sense of the next step in your spiritual journey. **It is important to commit to all four sessions, either in person or by Zoom.**

If you have questions, please seek out any member of the Membership Committee listed below. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Meeting House foyer, or you can sign up by contacting Betsy Wilder at betsymail2012@gmail.com.

Membership Committee: Judy Andrade, Jane Jackson, Carolyn Powers, Betsy Wilder, Karen Zimmerman, Rev. Rali Weaver, *ex officio*.

UU Falmouth Announcements



January Birthdays



1/05 Alice Liljestrand
1/05 Lynne Stack
1/07 Donna Scheer
1/07 Laurel Holmes
1/08 Anne Giblin
1/09 John Jackson
1/10 Kathy Dyer

1/11 Lillian Palmer
1/12 Lisa Jo Rudy
1/13 Bob King
1/16 Rosa Whiting
1/16 Izzie Williams
1/19 Judy Lynch
1/23 Nathan Gartner

1/23 Silas Gartner
1/25 Ellen Todd
1/26 Julie MacNary
1/27 Trish Keohane
1/30 Joanie Thompson
1/31 Sara Fisichella-Bower
1/31 Andrew Raymond

Fellowship Weekly/Monthly Gatherings Open to All

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

- **Accessible Walking Group** - We will be taking a break for the winter, starting up again in the spring. For more information, contact Cynthia Domack or Wendy Bone.
- **PFLAG Cape Cod** - Monday, January 26 (and the fourth 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 Mah Jongg game.* For more information, contact Peggy Sabin.
- **Brown Bag Book Bunch** - Wednesday, January 21 at noon (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 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.
- **Community Circle** - Friday, January 9 at 2 PM 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.
- **Percussion Discussion** (drum circle and sound healing) - Friday, January 16 at 6:30 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Nannette Oldenbourg.
- **Grief Group** - Friday, January 23 at 1 PM (and every 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
<div>January 2025</div> <div>Red = All are welcome to attend.</div>						
				1	2	3
4 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion 11:30am Rev. Rali's Installation planning session	5 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm SEAC Committee	6 8am Breakfast Bunch 10:30am Religious Services Committee 1pm Mah Jongg 6pm End Zone Reading Group	7 9:30am Writing Time 4pm Spiritual Discussion Group	8 8am Men's Breakfast 10:15am B&G Meeting 1pm Chimes Ensemble 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3 7pm Finance	9 10am Writer's Path Group 1pm Membership Committee 2pm Community Circle	10 9am "Good News" Coffee Hour
11 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion	12 9:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Caring Committee Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm Music Committee	13 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 3:30pm Welcoming Congregation Committee 6pm End Zone Reading Group	14 9:30am Writing Time	15 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Chimes Ensemble 7pm Governing Board	16 6:30pm Percussion Discussion (drum circle and sound healing)	17 10am Dance Meditation
18 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 6pm End Zone Reading Group	21 9:30am Writing Time 12pm Brown Bag Book Bunch 2pm "AI 101 - The Basics" 4pm Spiritual Discussion Group	22 8am Men's Breakfast 10am Soul Matters Small Group 1pm Chimes Ensemble 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3	23 10am Writer's Path Group 1pm Grief Group	24
25 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion	26 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PFLAG Cape Cod	27 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 6pm End Zone Reading Group	28 9:30am Writing Time	29 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Chimes Ensemble	30	31