



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 MAY

Our theme for May: Living Love Through the Practice of *Imagination*

“There are so many boundaries in me, so many limitations, prisons, places where a line has been drawn... And sometimes the imagination takes a line and bends it, twists it like a clown with a balloon...until what I thought was a boundary becomes bird, becomes crown, becomes flower. Or it turns the line perpendicular, so what I thought was a deadline becomes path...” *A Prayer for Imagination* by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

**May 4 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom — “The Sacred Power of Imagination”** led by Rosa Whiting, written by Rev. Rali Weaver. What if imagination isn’t just for artists and dreamers, but a spiritual tool for building compassion? In this sermon, we’ll explore how using our imagination can help us build a better tomorrow. We will consider the movements of the past that have spurred change for the future and how we can do the same thing too.

**Share the Plate** - Our Share the Plate goes to help *glowwoodshole*, a newly organized group of LGBTQIA+ scientists and community members, sponsor Pride and other events.

**May 11 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom — “The Peace of Trees”** led by Rev. Fred Small; service associate Julie DeSorgher. “The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence.” wrote Trappist monk and peace activist Thomas Merton. “The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace... It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.” As we work together for social and environmental justice, how do we remain grounded in a peaceful spirit? What can we learn from trees?

Rev. Fred Small is a UU pastor, singer-songwriter, and former environmental lawyer who serves as Minister for Climate Justice at the Arlington Street Church in Boston.

**Note: The Annual Caring Committee Award will be presented at this service.**

**Please bring diapers of any size to be given to the Cape Cod Foster Closet and the Falmouth Service Center. They can be left in the playpen in the communications/nametag room.**

**May 18 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom — “What Becomes of the Broken Hearted?”** led by Larry Ladd; service associate Izzie Williams. The title comes from Jimmy Ruffin’s 1967 song. You can have disappointments; you can have bad news. But what can break your heart and can you do anything about it? Yes you can!

**May 25 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom — “Paw Prints on Our Hearts”** led by Rev. Rali Weaver; service associate Joanie Thompson. This will be our pet blessing service where we will explore the sacred connection with the pets in our lives.

# 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 May:**

9 AM - 5 PM

Friday, May 9

Saturday, May 10

Monday, May 12

Friday, May 23

Saturday, May 24

Sunday, May 25

Monday, May 26

...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

#### **Our website:**

<https://uufalmouth.org>

Hello My Falmouth Friends,

Depending on the outcome of your stewardship campaign, you may soon be asking whether you'd like to call me as a settled minister. I am aware that Larry Ladd has shared the distinction between a contract and a called minister (see page 5), so I won't repeat it here. Of late, I've been reflecting on the difference between historical churches and grassroots fellowships. Having only attended and served historical UU congregations in my nearly 40 years as a Unitarian Universalist, my understanding of fellowships was mostly theoretical—until my time as your contract minister.

That understanding told me that a historical UU church is often older, sometimes larger, and traces its roots to the pre-merger era—often as far back as the seventeenth century. These churches typically have traditional buildings, long histories of paid clergy, and more formal structures for governance and worship. In contrast, UU fellowships often emerged in the mid-20th century, expanding UUism into smaller communities. They tend to be lay-led, less hierarchical, and more informal in organization. While both expressions share core UU values, fellowships often reflect a more grassroots, community-led spirit, whereas historical churches may carry the weight—and the resources—of a longer institutional history.

In practice, I've seen that, despite similar membership numbers on paper, UU Falmouth has more members actively involved in the congregation than Dedham UU. Your fellowship lives out our shared values through genuine, committed participation. I know it can feel discouraging when the nominating committee struggles to fill key roles or when cherished activities don't happen due to a lack of hands, especially as some long-time leaders step back. But these moments are part of the natural ebb and flow of congregational life. What endures is the heart and spirit your community brings.

I'm excited to be in contention to serve your fellowship into the future. I'm deeply interested in building leadership systems and ensuring all we do as a community is spiritually nourishing. UU Falmouth will continue to grow in meaningful ways—whether I serve as your contract minister another year or become your settled minister for the long haul.

With warmth, peace, and hope for the future,  
Rev. Rali M. Weaver

My search packet can be found at: [www.raliweaver.com](http://www.raliweaver.com)

I will be at UU Falmouth May 9, 10, 12 and 23, 24, 25, 26. I am always available by phone 617-459-5979 and email [revraliweaver@gmail.com](mailto:revraliweaver@gmail.com).

**Note:** Although I wrote the sermon for May 4, Rosa Whiting will read it for me so that I can be with the UU youth in Dedham as they complete their Coming-of-Age ceremony. I have been with all of them since their birth, and as they approach this 8-9th grade milestone, it is important that I can witness their growth. Thanks to Rosa and the Religious Services Committee for making this happen.

# President's Corner



Dear Members and Friends,

Wednesday April 23 Steve Treistman wrapped up his eight session program on *Exploring the Nature of Reality* by having all the explorers recap their presentations. From the series I learned much about science and, a big bonus, gained insight into the professional lives of some of the scientists in our midst. Many thanks to Steve and Rudolf Oldenbourg who together ran the series, to all the explorers, and to Joanne Treistman, the organizer of these fellowship programs. Steve concluded by asking everyone to please bring him ideas for further topics to explore together.

Now, about the Governing Board. Our primary responsibility is fiduciary so, very quickly, be assured UU Falmouth is in good shape financially. We are underspending against the approved budget and we have accumulated very substantial savings. Gail Donkin, our treasurer, posts the financial reports in the communications room (the one with the bulletin boards and your nametags) so you can check the numbers. The Stewardship Committee reported that of 102 pledge units, 53 have pledged so far, many with increases. The committee believes we may reach our FY26 goal to fund regular programs and a full-time minister. Inshallah, as the Muslims say.

Our other Board responsibilities concern policy, program, and property oversight. No need for new or revised policies arose at the last Board Meeting; committees appear to be working well, although all would like more members (check the sidebar on this page for the committee list and who to call). Spring cleanup of the grounds will happen in May; the Audio Visual upgrade project will begin installation in May; and Cynthia Dyer, RN will continue offering training in emergency response so that if help is needed during Sunday service, a designated person will know how to call 911 and direct others to be useful.

A problem with governance was discussed and kicked down the road. The problem is getting people to be willing to take responsibility for leadership of committees and the Board. When asked, people say, "Glad to help but no, I don't want to be chair – or vp or president." What is with this? Maybe if the terms were shorter? Maybe co-chairs? Maybe rotating responsibility? Discussions to be continued, ideas welcome.

It's budget making and ministerial search time – these are our two biggest policy processes and decisions. The Finance Committee developed a draft budget that, as usual, closely resembles this year's budget, but also includes salary and benefits for a full-time minister. The Ministerial Search Committee reports that in May it will be gathering your thoughts about extending the time of our part-time minister and changing her status from contract to call, i.e. from at-will to tenured. **(See page 5)**

***You, the membership, will determine the outcome by voting at the Annual Business Meeting on June 8.*** If you are a friend and want to vote, see Betsy Wilder or Rev. Rali to become a member before May 8.

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

# Annual Pledge Drive

## “Together We Can!”

### News From Your Pledge Drive Team:

The 2025-2026 “Together We Can!” Pledge Drive is coming in strong! Our goal is to raise the financial resources that will let UU Falmouth enter confidently into a discernment process about calling a full-time minister.

Over the past month, members and friends met one-on-one or in small groups for conversations about what this congregation means to us and why we support it. Collectively we are expressing our strong support and commitment to this congregation and one another through our pledges.

Every pledge is important! If you haven’t yet pledged, it is not too late! Pledge forms are available at the Meeting House or by contacting a member of the canvassing team. Your pledge, of any size, will be greeted with more joy than you can imagine.

Many, many thanks to this year’s canvassers: Dave and Karen Crichton, Julie DeSorgher, Cynthia Dyer, Stu Graham, Laurel Hallman, Charlotte and Mary Harris, Jane Jackson, Tom Kirkman, Larry Ladd, Judy and Mark LeBeau, Alice and Jim Liljestrand, Pam Morrone, Jack Mulkeen, John McWilliam, Nannette and Rudolf Oldenbourg, Steve Treistman, and Betsy Wilder; to follow-up caller Peggy Sabin; to canvass committee stalwarts Charlotte Harris and Jack Mulkeen; to Kit O’Connor for help with mailings and communications; and to Izzie Williams for receiving and recording all the pledges. Great job, team!

~ With gratitude, your Pledge Drive co-chairs, David and Jessica Mark Welch

# Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

## Minister Contract-to-Call Process Begins!

In May we begin the process of discerning whether to call Rev. Rali Weaver into settled ministry with UU Falmouth. A called ministry is one in which the congregation and minister decide to journey together without a specific time limit. That's very different than the more transactional contract ministry that we have currently. If the fund drive achieves its goals, that also means full-time ministry. The process involves inviting members and friends into conversation about that decision, a Board recommendation, and then, most importantly, a congregational vote to call.

The discernment process will be led by a team consisting of Judy Lynch, Tom Kirkman, and Larry Ladd (facilitator).

Rev. Rali Weaver has prepared a ministerial record or packet, which is standard practice for candidates for settled ministry. The packet, available on her website <https://www.raliweaver.com/>, tells you a lot about her. There are also two copies in the library that you can borrow.

**During the week of May 5**, you can schedule a one-on-one conversation with Rali by making an appointment in person, via Zoom, or on the phone using this scheduling app: <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>. You can ask questions or make observations. There will be group discussions via Zoom with key committees. You are also encouraged to write or email Larry Ladd to ask questions or offer comments. Please email him directly or via [admin@uuffm.org](mailto:admin@uuffm.org).

**During the week of May 12**, anyone asking can have a one-on-one Zoom conversation with the facilitator and at least one other discernment team member. (Send your request directly to Larry or via [admin@uuffm.org](mailto:admin@uuffm.org).) **There will also be two open Zoom meetings for anyone wishing to participate. These meetings will be held Tuesday, May 13 at 1 PM and Wednesday, May 14 at 7 PM.** The links will be sent out in Kit's weekly Zoom logins email.

**Near the end of May**, the Board will receive a recommendation from the discernment team about whether to call Rev. Rali Weaver to settled ministry. **If the Board acts favorably on a call, the congregation will then vote at the Annual Business Meeting on June 8.**

~Larry Ladd, facilitator

## Accessible Walking Group with Cynthia Domack and Wendy Bone

**Mondays, beginning May 5 at 11:00 AM**

Members and friends of UU Falmouth are invited to join us for a new weekly tradition: an accessible walk on the beautiful, level Shining Sea Bike Path or Cape Cod Canal Service Road.

These walks are designed to be fully inclusive—welcoming people of all abilities. Whether you use a cane, a walker, or simply prefer a gentle pace, you are warmly encouraged to come along. Bring a friend, bring your curiosity, and come walk (or roll!) with us—one step at a time. Walks will be approximately one hour.

Questions? Contact Cynthia or Wendy directly or at [admin@uuffm.org](mailto:admin@uuffm.org).

May 5 - Old Dock Road, West Falmouth, Bike Path

May 12 - Depot Road, Falmouth, Bike Path

May 19 - Tidal Flats Recreational Area, Bourne, Cape Cod Canal Service Road

May 26 - Memorial Day - No Walk





# Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

## ***Spirituality and U: A Journey of Exploration and Conversation***

**With Lisa Jo Rudy and Rev. Rali Weaver**

**Continues at the Meeting House Monday, May 12 and 26 at 4 PM**



Join us every other week for an engaging and thought-provoking discussion series exploring spirituality from diverse perspectives. Each session is a chance to explore, share, and expand your understanding of spirituality in a welcoming and open-minded space. Whether you come with strong beliefs or just a curious mind, all perspectives are welcome. Join us and bring your questions, insights, and wonder!

### **May 12: Do we have souls?**

Most religions have a concept of a soul: a discrete entity that is non-corporeal and is not destroyed or injured when the body suffers harm or dies. This week, we'll take a quick look at some concepts of the soul, including the Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Buddhist beliefs. We'll then discuss some soul-related questions from a UU perspective.

### **May 26: God vs. Spirit**

Do you resonate with the concept of a "metaphysical, spiritual energy field that connects all living things in the universe and binds them together?" Would you be surprised to know that this describes The Force in the Star Wars movies? It also describes some Asian conceptions of what we Westerners would call God. Today, let's explore the difference between spiritual beliefs in a disembodied, universal power or force and the concept of an Abrahamic God (Yahweh in the Old Testament, The Lord or God in the New Testament, Allah in the Koran). Few UUs believe in a bearded man sitting on a cloud, but many of us define ourselves as spiritual, agnostic, or even deistic.



## **Diaper Collection Mother's Day and Father's Day**



Beginning May 1, diapers of all sizes may be placed in the playpen in the communications/nametag room to be given to the Cape Cod Foster Closet and the Falmouth Service Center. They will be distributed on Mother's Day (May 11) and Father's Day (June 15).

## **Let's Refresh Our First Aid Skills!**

**Monday, May 19 from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House**

Come join Cynthia Dyer, RN, to learn how to recognize and respond to a medical emergency. Topics covered: assessing the situation; making a 911 call; treating burns; recognizing shock, strokes and cardiac emergencies; hands-only CPR; and the use of the AED.

The sign-up sheet is in the foyer. The class is open to everyone.



## **Members' and Friends' Art Show June and July. Call for Art!**

We will be hanging our home-grown artworks in the Meeting House again for the months of June and July. **We will start collecting your submissions Sunday, May 25.**

This is a non-juried show: we will try to display anything that you think is art, within reason. We do ask that you limit it to two pieces, wall ready. We will also display three-dimensional art, carvings, fiber work, etc. Please contact John Jackson or Joanie Thompson for details.

# Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

## Cape Cod Foster Closet - Welcome to the Meeting House!

UU Falmouth is delighted that, beginning early June, the Cape Cod Foster Closet will be occupying the room next to the kitchen in the West Wing so they can better serve Upper Cape foster families. This important organization helps local foster families by providing urgently needed clothing, shoes, books, baby gear and furniture, formula, car seats, and more. All items are donated by the community and provided free of charge to families who care for other people's children on Cape Cod and the Islands.

When our Board decided to invite non-profits with missions aligned with our own to use our building for free, we were hoping to attract organizations like CCFC. They have a clear mission, strong leadership, and a realistic plan to achieve their goals. CCFC is all we had hoped for with the added plus of a record of success at their home base in Orleans.



Over the next few weeks, they will be getting the room ready by putting up shelves and moving in merchandize. Karen Doucette, the designated liaison, will plan an orientation meeting for those from UU Falmouth who might be interested in volunteering. CCFC will have their own back entrance with hours still to be determined.

**Everyone is welcome to view the space after the service on June 1.** To learn more about Cape Cod Foster Closet, go to their website: [capecodfostercloset.org](http://capecodfostercloset.org). Contact Pam Morrone at [admin@uuffm.org](mailto:admin@uuffm.org) if you have any questions.



## 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. You can be a delegate from UU Falmouth!

As always, GA includes business sessions, inspirational worship services, informative workshops and lectures, and social events. The [Service of the Living Tradition](#) and the Sunday morning service are inspiring worship with several thousand participated. This year's Ware Lecturer is [Imara Jones](#).

For many, the best part of GA is just being surrounded by thousands of Unitarian Universalists. 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. Registration is [now open](#).

If you are interested in being a delegate, or if you have any questions, contact Larry Ladd, chair of the Denominational Affairs Committee via [admin@uuffm.org](mailto:admin@uuffm.org).

## Looking Back...



April 17th - Artemis Joukowsky speaking after the showing of the film *Defying the Nazis* he made with Ken Burns and Tom Hanks about his



Men's Breakfast April 17th. The group has now been meeting for almost 30 years (sometimes in Dave Dimmick's Barn).



April 20th - Don Mallinson's family accepts the Environmental Steward Lifetime Achievement Award on his behalf.



Six new members were welcomed during the service on April 27th.



Welcome new UU Falmouth Members!!! Molly Masland, Phil Smith, Andy Raymond, Donna Scheer, Micaela Champagne, Leona Bombaci.



# UU Falmouth Announcements



## May Birthdays



5/1 Michael Singer	5/12 Margaret Cooper	5/21 Jean Stern
5/3 Steve Treistman	5/12 Seth Stoffregan	5/23 Julie DeSorgher
5/4 Henry Gartner	5/13 Barry Blake	5/28 Marilyn Pageau
5/5 Victor Smith	5/16 Kristen Lawler	5/29 Al Tomek
5/8 James Liljestrand	5/16 Jacqueline Webster	5/30 Callidora Ward
5/8 Judy Alden	5/20 Alan Alai	5/31 Sharon Ellis
5/10 Artemis Joukowsky	5/20 Jenifer Alai	

### Fellowship Weekly/Monthly Gatherings Open to All

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

- **Accessible Walking Group** - Mondays at 11 AM. For more information and the starting location of the walks, contact Cynthia Domack or Wendy Bone.
- **Breakfast Bunch** - Tuesdays at 8 AM. This month it will be 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. For more information, contact Peggy Sabin.
- **Brown Bag Book Bunch** - BBBB will meet on Wednesday, May 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. It will take place at the Meeting House in May. 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, May 1 and 15 at 2:45 PM (and the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Laura Wing.
- **Grief Group** - Friday, May 23 at 1 PM (and 4th Friday of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, Reed Walsh or Rev. Rali.
- **Expressive Movement** - Will take place on Friday, May 2 at 6:30 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Nannette Oldenbourg.
- **Community Circle** - Friday, May 9 at 2 PM at the Meeting House - open to the public. The topic for May will be "What is Your Impossible Dream?" 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.

• SUNDAY	• MONDAY	• TUESDAY	• WEDNESDAY	• THURSDAY	• FRIDAY	• SATURDAY
		May 2025		Red = All are welcome to attend.		
				1 8am Men’s Breakfast 10:15am B&G Meeting 1pm Chimes Ensemble 2:45pm Chimes Workshop	2 6:30pm Expressive Movement	3
4 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion	5 10:15am Religious Services Cmt. 11am Accessible Walking Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg	7 9:30am Writing Time 1pm Committee on Ministry	8 8am Men’s Breakfast 1pm Chimes Ensemble 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3 7pm Finance	9 9am Membership Committee 10am Writer’s Path Group 2pm Community Circle	10
11 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion	12 11am Accessible Walking Group 1pm Caring Community Meeting 4pm “Spirituality and U” series 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm Music Committee	13 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 1pm Zoom Meeting with Contract-to-Call Discernment Team 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 3:30pm Welcoming Cong. Committee	14 9:30am Writing Time 3:30pm Lay Ministry Team 7pm Zoom Meeting with Contract-to-Call Discernment Team	15 8am Men’s Breakfast 1pm Chimes Ensemble 2:45pm Chimes Workshop 7pm Governing Board	16 6:30pm Percussion Discussion	17 10am Prostate Cancer Survivors Group
18 10am Earth Day Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion	19 11am Accessible Walking Group 1pm First Aid Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm SEAC Meeting	20 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg	21 9:30am Writing Time 12pm Brown Bag Book Bunch	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 4pm “Spirituality and U” series 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1	28 9:30am Writing Time	29 8am Men’s Breakfast 10:15am B&G Meeting 1pm Chimes Ensemble	30	31