

NUUs letter

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of

A Welcoming Congregation

Sunday Services

December 3, 10:30 am, "Rumpelstiltskin, the Advent Story" Advent isn't something Unitarian Universalists always celebrate. Perhaps it's because we haven't found the right story to support it. And maybe we've had the story all along. Rev. Annie Foerster

December 10, 10:30 am, "Our Multi-Generational Holiday Program" We won't have donkeys, sopranos, or even a practice. What we will share is a holiday story that we can all enjoy. Courtney Sinha, Rev. Terre and Friends

December 17, 10:30 am, "The Mystery All Around Us" In this season of stories of miracles and heroes of the race, let us explore our own understanding of "mystery". Joan Lewis and Rev. Terre

December 24, 10:30 am, "Stories of the Seasons " Each of us have favorite memories, stories, and readings of the seasons that inspire us. Bring them to share during this informal service. Rev. Terre

December 24, 5:00 pm, Our Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service. Rev. Terre and Friends

December 31, 10:30 am, "Silent Service" Susie Joiner will once again lead us in a service of meditation and reflection in Drysdale Hall as we share our final Sunday of 2023. Susie Joiner

DISCUSSION GROUP December 3rd, 10th, 17th, 31st

We will be meeting in **U House at 9:30 am** and hope that participants will attend in person. However, Zoom will be available for those who are unable to attend due to mobility limitations or other reasons.

Discussion Group Link: <https://zoom.us/j/955583755?pwd=YTFFbm01MlpYdjY1UkdCYU8yT0YyQT09>
Dial-in: (301) 715-8592
Meeting ID: 955 583 755
Password: 040542

On December 10, Brad Warner will continue his talk on AI via Zoom at 9:20 am.



Minister Column



Friends,

It is December! What a November our congregation had! We celebrated the life of Joan MacCallum; a new adult class began; we had a pulpit swap with Church of the Covenant; and LOTS of work was accomplished to get our terrace level ready to become an apartment. So, it seemed appropriate that we also shared a Friendsgiving meal (with special thanks to the Corbins and Sinhas for the organizing and cooking skills). I hope everyone enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving in their own way.

Now we move to the wonderful and diverse holidays that come in December! Our theme for this month is **Mystery**, a theme that encourages us to explore the meaning beneath whatever holiday we celebrate. This theme seems to be in contradiction with our usual December frenzy. To explore mystery, I hope we will choose to step back from some of the frenzy to enjoy the heart of the wonder and meaning of the seasons we celebrate. The holidays at their best have space when we can find calm moments with loved ones that give meaning to our holidays.

On December 3 we look forward to having Rev. Annie Foerster in the pulpit again. On December 10, we will enjoy a "no rehearsal, holiday program" with our young people and brave adults. The December 17th service will explore varied experiences and understandings of Mystery. This year on Sunday December 24th, we will have two services. On Christmas Eve morning we will have an informal service during which folks are invited to share their favorite holiday memories or readings. At 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve we will have our traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service of readings and carols. We will end 2023 with a Silent Service of meditation led by Susie Joiner. This service has become a fond tradition which is held in Drysdale Hall and will serve as a time to release 2023 and prepare for 2024.

There are many in need this holiday season. May we be generous in our support of charities that are important to us. It is also a season when we find people reaching out to offer kindness in many ways. While it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy, may we be mindful that many people need a bit of extra compassion and kindness.

Blessings of the Seasons to Each of You,
Terre



Betty Corbin

November is a month when we give thanks for our blessings. A personal blessing that I am thankful for is the return of our Friendsgiving celebration on November 18th, our first since 2019. May each of us find time during the winter holiday celebrations to reflect on the quiet beauty of winter sunrises and sunsets, and the winter night sky.

The Unitarian House task force led by Makaanah Morriss continues working to clear and rearrange items in Unitarian House so we may rent out the lower level. Please note your help is needed on **Saturday, December 2nd** to deep clean the church office and parlor areas and to haul items for disposal outside to the parking lot.

The budget potluck starting at 5:00 pm will follow the December 2nd work party. Bring a dish to share. If you'd rather go to the dentist than sit through a budget discussion, you can slip out before we start. There will be a Zoom link starting at 6:00 pm for those who wish to participate in the budget discussion from their homes. Please see details about these events elsewhere in this newsletter. They also will be published in the Friday blasts. The congregational meeting to approve the 2024 budget will be held on the 3rd Sunday of December.

The congregation's board meets on the second Wednesday of each month. If you have business for us to consider or you wish to attend, please let me know.

As we continue to work for justice and live love in the world, may we remember that together we are stronger.

Blessed be, Betty Corbin, President



CARING & SHARING

In Our Thoughts

Don't hesitate to contact the Care Coordinator of your Community Group if you need help or have a concern.



**Pre-Meeting Potluck & Budget Walk-Through
Saturday December 2nd at 5:00 pm**

There will be a potluck on Saturday, December 2nd starting at 5:00 pm. This will be followed by a walk-through of the budget at 6:00 pm. For those unable to attend in person, a Zoom link will be available.

**Call to UU Congregation of Lynchburg
Meeting on Sunday December 17th
11:30 am**

On Sunday, December 17th, there will be a congregational meeting to approve the UU Congregation of Lynchburg's operating budget for 2024 immediately after the service. Also, on the agenda is the approval of changes in the congregation's by-laws. Prior to the meeting, draft copies of the proposed 2024 budget and the by-law updates will be distributed by email. A few paper copies will be on hand the day of the meeting.

Zoom

NOTE FROM ZOOM ADMINS

Here are the ways to connect with us on Zoom!

Weekly Sunday Service

Time: 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada).

Every week on Sunday.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86315352706?pwd=S1M1eFZVd1ZBK0Rjblp2dnN5WEC1UT09>

Meeting ID: 863 1535 2706

Passcode: 318498

Discussion Group:

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/955583755?pwd=YTFFbm01MlpYdjY1UkdCYU8yT0YyQT09>

[=YTFFbm01MlpYdjY1UkdCYU8yT0YyQT09](https://zoom.us/j/955583755?pwd=YTFFbm01MlpYdjY1UkdCYU8yT0YyQT09)

Dial-in: (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 955 583 755

Password: 040542

Alliance, BookwUUrms, and one time programming

Room: Rachel Carson Room

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85658301039>

Dial in: +1 309 205 3325

Meeting ID: 856 5830 1039

Other meeting links:

Available from the relevant group upon request.



Pat Bower, Generosity Sunday team


In October, our generosity produced \$ 1,290.67 for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network! Thanks to everyone who participated.

On **December 17**, Kate Goodman, Development and Marketing Director for **Rush Homes** will bring us an update on that organization. Rush Homes provides affordable homes for people with disabilities, enabling them to live with independence and dignity. Their disabilities range from developmental differences to spinal cord injuries to mental illness, and many residents require mobility assistance. The 130 individuals and families they serve now have a place to live that meets their needs. The waiting list is always long.

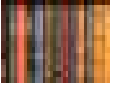
We hope you will make a contribution in December to their important work. You may:

- Place **cash** in the offering basket or a check made out to Rush Homes anytime you are with us in person in December.
- **Click** the DONATE button on uulynchburg.org.
- **Mail** a check to the church at 818 Court St., 24504. The check may be made out to Rush Homes or to Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lynchburg with Rush Homes in the memo line.

Barbara LaFleur, Molly McClenon and Finis Southworth are also members of the Generosity Sunday team.



BookwUUrms
Wednesday, December 20
11:30 am at Depot Grille



BookwUUrms will meet at the Depot Grille on December 20 at 11:30 am for lunch. We will not have a book discussion in December.

Their website has this information about parking:
 \$0.25.....First Hour
 \$1.00.....Each Additional Hour
 \$5.00.....All Day

Visit the Pay Station to make payment. Pay stations accept coin or credit card only (Mastercard/Visa). That's for the lot beside the building; parking in the outlying areas is free.

Hope to see lots of you there!

Alliance News


Westminster Canterbury
December 14 at 12:00 pm

The Alliance will join our friends at Westminster Canterbury on December 14 at noon for lunch. You may purchase lunch there in the cafeteria or bring your own.

Due to the business of the holiday season, we will only have this one gathering in December. We hope that you can join us.

Contact Becky Piatt, Pat Bower, or Molly McClenon if you have questions or need directions.





MUUVies that Matter
Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7:00 pm
"Inside China's Tech Boom"

China's role in the world has and is continuing to change and develop. In just a few decades, China has transformed into a science and technology superpower. The PBS NOVA documentary, "Inside China's Tech Boom," takes a look inside leading Chinese tech companies and labs to discover how they innovate, what drives their rise, and what it means for the future of the global economy.

Join us for our December MUUVies that Matter as we gain information and have a change to discuss and reflect on why our connections with China are important and challenging.

You may join us on Zoom to watch the movie or watch it on your own (go to PBS NOVA "Inside China's Tech Boom") and then join us for a time of discussion.

Please e-mail us for the Zoom link: Makaanah and Bob Morriss, revs2uu@aol.com

JART

Justice Action and
Resource Team

Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Finis will moderate the meeting and Jim will take notes. Email Pat Bower at **bowerpatricia2@gmail.com** if you'd like to be added to our email list. The Zoom link will be sent out on the morning of December 19.



**U House Project
and YoUU
Saturday December 2
9:30 am—12:30 pm**



Our House Project to turn the terrace level back into an attractive rental garden apartment is moving along well. AND we could use some help from any and all who could lend a hand on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm (pizza lunch will be available for all volunteers!)

We need cleaning help on the main level of U House as we prepare to move Terre's and Courtney's offices from the Terrace level to the Main Level. Bring a vacuum if you can and/or dusting and cleaning clothes.

We need "strong" help on the Terrace Level moving an old stove out of the coal room; clearing out other things from the coal room; garden shed; and cellar room of the Church, plus assorted other moving. We have engaged Tim and Joya Condon to haul all the stuff away!

Please let me (Makanah Morriss, revs2uu@aol.com, (434) 238-7232) know if YOUU might lend a hand as a cleaner or "mover". Doing this work in community guarantees an enjoyable time while helping UUCL!



Thanks to everyone who helps to make coffee hour possible this year by bringing healthy snacks and especially by helping with clean-up!

How do you know who shares "your" Sunday? Or another Sunday, in case you are looking for someone to trade with?

Check the online **Directory of Members and Friends**. It is available via the email you receive each month which announces that the new nUUsletter is available, with a link to past nUUsletters and to the directory. Usually they both are in the second line of text. Just click on the link!

This month's volunteers are:

December 3 N-Z
December 10 A-C
December 17 D-M
December 24 N-Z
December 31 A-C

Our weekly Sunday Services nourish our minds, souls, and spirits. Our Coffee Hours provide connections, conversations, and fellowship. Our Coffee Hour is a ministry of hospitality that we all offer and share with each other.

Thank you for participating.

Please label snacks that contain any form of nuts, or other allergens, for those with nut sensitivities / allergies.

Dear friends,

Here we are in the wintry welcome of December. I wish you peace and delight during this busy season. We have an exciting month ahead of us in congregational life. I look forward to being with you during this time.

Our **Religious Education** classes will be a wonderful celebration of the theme of **Mystery** this month. It has been such a delight exploring our Unitarian Universalist values and principles at all ages and stages over the past few months. Thank you for sharing your children with us. Their energetic and inquisitive selves are such fun to be around!

This month, our younger Religious Education classes will continue with the **Soul Matters** curriculum as we explore the theme of Mystery. We will continue to use stories, activities, movement, mindfulness, and crafts to help us fully embrace the curriculum.

If you have a child in preschool to 1st grades or 2nd to 4th grades, here is what you can expect: **Soul Matters** is a hands-on, exploratory curriculum. We use multiple learning modalities including books, music, movement, arts and crafts, sensory experiences, and shared experiences to learn the values in this curriculum. The Value we will be exploring in December is Mystery. We will be studying and exploring:

- December 3 The Mystery of Our Amazing World
- December 10 Multigenerational Serving - ALL AGES in the Sanctuary: No RE or Nursery this week.
- December 17 Noticing Mystery in the Ordinary
- December 24 AM The Mystery of the Returning Light
- December 24 PM Multigenerational Christmas Eve Service; Family Service (No RE or Nursery for this Service)
- December 31 NO RE OR NURSERY THIS WEEK. We will see you in January!

Our older kids (5th to 8th grades) will be continuing their look at gaming through a UU lens, as they work together at Building a Better World. In December, they will be exploring building a world with and without magical powers; super-powers; and special human powers; death and dying in real life and in their world; and the economics of their world compared with scarcity and abundance in the real world.

Finally, if you have a youth 9th grade or above, let's chat about options for them. Our infant nursery is available at all times, except where noted above.

Blessing of Mystery

"In the ever-unfolding mystery that envelopes us as we move through our lives, may we open up, extend grace, act out of love and curiosity, and above all, appreciate—for the mystery is the gift. May we appreciate the mysteries of within and without, knowing we will forever be discovering both the twists and turns, lights and shadows of our own minds, as well as the tumbles, dances, and dynamism of humans in relationship. May we embrace the mystery of childhood, when so much is raw and new and full of life; of young adulthood, with its beauty, heartbreaks, and becoming; of middle age, wrestling, reckoning and coming to peace; and finally, of elderhood, where all of our accumulated knowledge and experience seems to expand exponentially into the vast field of that which we do know and may never understand, and we are again raw and new. May the mystery hold us. May the mystery inspire us. May the mystery move us toward the Love at the center of all creation." – The Soulful Home Team

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We have great **Adult RE** programming this season as well! If you haven't found a spot for you yet, it's not too late. There are several great options for adults of all ages and stages! **Soul Matters Small Groups** meet once per month. It is not too late to join the in-person cohort or one of the online cohorts, so if you are interested, reach out to DLE Courtney Sinha for more information.

Our first round of **Creating Theology Together** is well underway. This curriculum has been an amazing hands-on look at what we believe; why; and how we can unite these beliefs in common ground with one another. We may be offering a second round of the first session in the new year. Watch for more information in January.

Just like the changing seasons bring a sense of renewal, our Religious Education program aims to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment where you and your whole family can grow and flourish spiritually. If you ever have any questions or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Blessings, Courtney

**Director of Lifespan Engagement**

**Contact Info:** courtney.sinha@gmail.com or (434) 509-5821 (text or call)

**Office Hours:**

Sunday mornings you will find me around church, usually in the RE spaces.

Mondays: OFF

Tuesdays: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and 6:00—9:00 pm

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Fridays: By appointment only

Saturdays: OFF

**Adult Religious Education Offerings in December**

- Adult RE Committee does not meet this month. We will see you in January! Please reach out to DLE Courtney Sinha if you are interested in learning more about this committee.
- Discussion Group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.
- Soul Matters Small Groups meet at various times, in-person and online. If you wish to join us, reach out to DLE Courtney Sinha.
- The Young Adults will meet on December 5 and December 19. Check with Rev. Terre to confirm meeting information before attending.
- Alliance usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays and for special events. Watch your email and announcements for December dates and events.
- MUUVies that Matter will meet on December 12 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

**Children and Youth Religious Education Offerings in December**

- The Children and Youth RE Committee meets December 5 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Please reach out to DLE Courtney Sinha if you are interested in learning more about this committee.
- Virtual Parent Group has been discontinued for now.


**Multigenerational Offerings in November**

Please join us for a Multigenerational Service on December 10 and for a Family Christmas Eve evening Service on December 24.

**What's Happening in Your Community Group?**

- Watch your email for upcoming Community Group gatherings!
- Drop me a line to let me know what's happening in your group so we can feature it here next month!



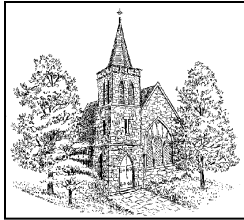
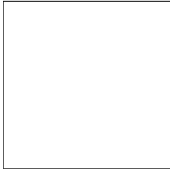
| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | MONDAY                                                                             | TUESDAY                                                                          | WEDNESDAY                                                                    | THURSDAY                                                                               | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                  |                                                                              |                                                                                        |        |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>9:30 am</b> Discussion Group<br><b>10:30 am</b> Service "Rumpelstiltskin" [see p. 1]<br>Rev. Annie Foerster<br>Religious Education<br><b>11:30 am</b> COFFEE HOUR                                                                                                                                                       | <b>7:00 pm</b> Committee n<br>Ministry                                             | <b>7:00 pm</b> RE Committee<br><b>7:00 pm</b> Young Adult<br>Group               | <b>7:00 pm</b> Connections<br>Committee                                      | <b>6:00 pm</b> Creating<br>Theology Together                                           |        | <b>9:30 am - 12:30 pm</b><br>U House Work Party<br>[see p. 4]<br><b>5:00 pm</b> Pre-<br>meeting Potluck<br>dinner [see p. 2]<br><b>6:00 pm</b> Budget<br>Walk-Through<br>Meeting [see p. 2] |
| <b>9:30 am</b> Discussion Group<br><b>10:30 am</b> Service "Multigenerational Holiday<br>Program" [see p. 1] Rev. Terre,<br>Courtney Sinha, and friends<br>Religious Education<br><b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b><br><b>11:30 am</b> COFFEE HOUR<br><b>11:40 am</b> COFFEE HOUR<br><b>12:00 pm</b> Sunday Services Committee |                                                                                    | <b>7:00 pm</b> mUivies that<br>Matter [see p. 3]                                 | <b>6:30 pm</b> Board<br>Meeting                                              | <b>10:30 am</b> Alliance<br>[see p. 4]<br><b>6:00 pm</b> Creating<br>Theology Together |        |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>9:30 am</b> Discussion Group<br><b>10:30 am</b> Service "The Mystery All Around Us"<br>[see p. 1] Rev. Terre and Joan Lewis<br>Generosity Sunday<br>Religious Education<br><b>11:30 am</b> COFFEE HOUR                                                                                                                  | <b>7:00 pm</b> Parent<br>Support Group                                             | <b>7:00 pm</b> Young Adult<br>Group<br><b>7:00 pm</b> JART meeting<br>[see p. 4] | <b>NUUSLETTER<br/> DEADLINE</b><br><b>3:00 pm</b><br>BookwUrms<br>[see p. 3] |                                                                                        |        |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>9:30 am</b> Discussion Group<br><b>10:30 am</b> Service "The Stories of the Seasons"<br>[see p. 1] Rev. Terre<br>Religious Education<br><b>11:30 am</b> COFFEE HOUR<br><b>5:00 pm</b> Traditional Christmas Eve Service                                                                                                 | <b>CHRISTMAS</b>                                                                   |                                                                                  | <b>6:30 pm</b> Briana's<br>Soul Matters Group                                |                                                                                        |        |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>9:30 am</b> Discussion Group<br><b>10:30 am</b> Service "Silent Service" [see p. 1]<br>Susie Joiner<br>Religious Education<br><b>11:30 am</b> COFFEE HOUR                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                    |                                                                                  |                                                                              |                                                                                        |        |                                                                                                                                                                                             |



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lynchburg**

818 Court Street  
Lynchburg, VA 24504

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



**THIS MONTH:** • Christmas Eve Service, 12/24; p.1

- U House Work Party; 12/2; p.4
- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, 12/17; p.6

**Church Staff**

Rev. Terre Balof.....Minister  
Maile Shay-Mountain .....Administrative Assistant  
Courtney Sinha ..... Director of Lifespan Education  
  
Ernest Berry ..... Sexton

**Church Officers**

Betty Corbin .....President  
Stacy Yoder .....President Elect  
Matt Canning .....Secretary  
Finis Southworth ..... Treasurer  
Stef Nichovich.....Past President

**Trustees**

Audrey DeJarnette (2024)  
Jim Barton (2025)  
Miles Dolihite (2026)

**Nominating Committee**

Joan Lewis-Yoder (2023)  
Makanah Morriss (2024)

**Committee on Ministry**

Briana Valone

**Endowment Committee**

Joan Lewis-Yoder (2023)

**Office Phone:**  
**(434) 528-0744**

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**office@uulynchburg.org**  
**Website:**  
**www.uulynchburg.org**

**Content Deadline**  
**for the January nUUletter:**  
**Wednesday, December 20th**

**Submit Info at:**  
<https://uulynchburg.breezechms.com/form/20746f>  
**Jane Pianowski Fagiano, Editor**

**Directions:** The Church and Sanctuary may be accessed from the top of Monument Terrace steps. Unitarian House is at 818 Court Street. If the steps are a problem, handicapped parking spaces can be reached by driveways on either side of the Unitarian House. Once on the lower level, enter the Addition, where there is an elevator to access the Sanctuary level.

**Notes:** For files, please submit as Word document. Submissions prepared on Apple computers should be submitted as text within the body of the Breeze message.

If you would like your name to be removed from the nUUletter mailing list, please leave a message at (434) 528-0744 or email office@uulynchburg.org.