



The Mail Pouch

WORSHIP: Sunday at 10 a.m.



"Welcoming the Solstice"

*Saturday morning at 4:21 a.m.
the sun will reach its farthest point south of the equator,
marking the precise moment of the Winter Solstice and
the beginning of our winter.
In the northern hemisphere.
the southernmost sunrise and sunset
usher in the shortest day and the longest night of the year.*

In these short, dark days, all are welcome at our annual observance of Winter Solstice rituals from ancient times as we gather to appreciate the darkness and rest there a while.

*Seeking volunteers after the service, please,
to help with lights, peace flags,
and chair set-up for Christmas Eve.*

Young People's Program with Marion and Alice Posner

*For this week's Coffee Hour, the 4th Sunday of the month,
last names S-Z are invited to bring refreshments. Thank you!*

Zoom service link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92959299766>

NOTE: THE POUCH WILL TAKE NEXT WEEK OFF FOR A LONG WINTER'S NAP.

“The Lotus Opens: A Multicultural Christmas Eve” Tuesday at 4 p.m.

This holiday season, UUFES again offers a service with a twist. Set in the mountains of Tibet, the UU players and musicians present the story of an encounter between Buddhist monks and a Christian refugee family. May the spirit of Christmas broaden all understandings!

GREETERS WELCOME

Zoom service link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92959299766>

“The Lotus Opens”

A Multicultural Christmas Eve at UUFES



*High in the cold mountains of Tibet
Movement on the horizon
Strangers on foot - Who journeys there?
A story of differences and good will*

**Music from near and far
with Shana Aisenberg and a holiday ensemble**

**UUFES players - with Marion Posner, narrator -
present a script by Richard Posner**

Rev. Betsy Tabor, Minister

Tuesday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m.

**UUFES Meeting House 30 Tamworth Road Tamworth
All ages and all understandings are warmly welcome.**

2024 A Full Year at UUFES

Rev. Betsy writes a monthly Minister's Report as part of Governing Board meetings. Barbara Lubin's sharing the past year of Special Collections a few weeks ago inspired Betsy to devote her December report to "2024 at a glance." It begins....

January: Willie Farnum re-installed the original blackboard - a gift. UUFES hosted the Winter Landscape Coffee House, kick-off event for the yearlong community-wide creative response to climate change organized by Cook Library and Chocorua Conservancy.

February: The Needlecraft Ministry resumed, with shawls going out to four UUFESians. "Seriously" resumed. Staff evaluations, too. No heat on 1st floor, two months running.

March: Regular meetings began with the Young People's Program, Betsy L, and me, starting with agreement on contract terms. GB began Pledge Drive planning: "Imagine the Possibilities." Incident forms were updated (tx, Kathy Bird).

See the full report [here](#).



Holiday Fair Update

Though attendance at this year's Holiday Fair seemed lighter than in the past, our super volunteers and three new outside vendors provided UUFES with \$1627 in revenues. Congratulations and many thanks to all!!



Way Station Thanks UUsed

"Dear Friends of U-Used,
We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the U-Used Thrift Shop for selecting Way Station as the non-profit community recipient from your seasonally raised funds. We loved giving Kathy and Pamela a tour of Way Station, learning about the inspiring

connection U-Used has in giving to Way Station, and as we learned, we shared so many other connections. Your generosity will keep Way Station inspired and dedicated to the forward movement of our mission."

Read the whole letter [here](#).



Year End Staff Gifts

As 2024 comes to a close, we like to express our gratitude to our valued paid staff - a long-standing UUFES tradition, recognizing their service to us all year.



If you'd like to contribute a monetary gift, please make your check payable to **Barbara Lubin** (noting Staff Gift). * Barbara will distribute the total amount collected among our following staff members as our appreciation of them:

Shana Aisenberg
Caitroina Barclay
Danielle Mason
Alice Posner
Marion Posner
Tom Posner
Rev. Betsy Tabor
Becky Thompson
Steve Thompson
Sandy Trask

*Please, no checks to UUFES due to tax implications. Please give or mail your check to Barbara - address in Directory.



End-of-Year Service NEXT WEEK - 3 Reflections!

December 29: "Looking to 2025"

Seeking three people to reflect on hopes and intentions for the new year. Please contact Rev. Betsy (off next Sunday). Thank you!



YPP Seeks Sunday Volunteers

The Young People's Program seeks UUFESians to help downstairs in the New Year so that a second adult can work with Marion or Alice if needed.

Several Sundays/month, YPP will start with gathering before the service. This would involve the helper arriving around 9:15. The program ends about 11:15 or whenever the children are returned to their parents. If no children are present, of course, you will be free to attend the service.

As this means missing a service, I hope to get a long enough list of volunteers that we could call on people only once in 6-8 weeks. If you call my cell or send an email, I can tell you which days are likely to have a 9:15 start. Please email me your availability for any week in January or February – or your willingness to be on an email list for regular contacts.

Thank you! Betsy Loughran



Reminder: December Special Collection

Donations go toward the Way Station Annual Appeal (general fund), online at <https://waystation.networkforgood.com/projects/181715-general-giving> or by check to: Way Station, Attn: Karen Albert, PO Box 1888, North Conway, NH 03860. Thank you.

Every UUFES group and every UUFES ministry is cis, trans, and non-binary inclusive. All are warmly welcome!



Book Group - Mondays at 10 in the Library - No meeting December 23

Zoom option: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/104432872>

Jan. 6: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain

Jan. 27: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

Feb. 24: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

On other Mondays, the group discusses what arises – drop-ins welcome.

Tamworth Meditation Group - Tues/Thurs 4:30 in the Sanctuary

"I don't know of anyone, at some point in their life, who doesn't feel like they are supposed to be doing something important; who feels some sort of pull toward the existential; a pull beyond themselves and their experience."

Read Breathing Room Issue #75 [here](#).

Co-sponsored by UUFES & the Tamworth Community Nurse Association

Poetry Group - Tuesday at 4 (Zoom)

<https://uuma.zoom.us/s/5022081578>

All are welcome every Tuesday to consider a poet's work - BUT NOT NEXT TUESDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE. On Tuesday Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, we will read "Letter to My Body" by Joy Ladin. Thanks to Shana for this suggestion. To receive a reminder Tuesday morning, please contact David Wilkins.

Letter to My Body

By Joy Ladin

Philosophers shilly-shally, but it's true: you are me; I am you.
This dust, these rays, this strange internal sense
that after all these years, I finally exist — all of this
is only mine through you.

You still seem surprised – that's part of your charm –
that I wish to be extracted
from your handsome bindings.
This, you say, is only the beginning,

which is why it feels like drowning
in what we've both survived.
Ever the politician, I say I'll be your widow,
smiling cheerfully as you die.

Not yet, you say, as though
— this is the other part of your charm —
you still believe in time.
Violent laughter, yours and mine.

Let's go out into the woods
of meaning and matter, among the laurels and the mustard,
the unlit suns and unnamed branches, listening shoots and loosening leaves
we only appreciate when we're drowning

in one another. Let's break up before we meet
and fall in love again
in the darkening parlor of the heart,
let's wait for God in the gathering dusk

and watch the stars come out.



Thanks to Sandra Carr for these wintery photos.

Men's Group - 3rd Wed, 2-4 p.m. Resuming January 15

We will discuss the longstanding theme, "This I Believe," for its own sake and in preparation for a Sunday service that the Men's Group will lead sometime in the new year. Zoom link and other details tba.

The Men's Group always welcomes transgender, nonbinary, and cisgender persons

Women's Lunch Group (cis, trans, non-binary inclusive) 1st Thursday, 12 noon - UUFES Library unless otherwise noted

Links to Recent Services

"Coming of the Light" 12/15 - Read Hope Hutchinson, Ed Parsons, and Barbara Bald reflections [here](#).

[https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/CPpxpr9Lq7r6JGhqPyIeaPLz2EZfHJh9BpMP1q_o-ygZisv18YXJEIllaCIRaDr4.niJOHIWiNl99A12x?](https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/CPpxpr9Lq7r6JGhqPyIeaPLz2EZfHJh9BpMP1q_o-ygZisv18YXJEIllaCIRaDr4.niJOHIWiNl99A12x?startTime=1734271637000)

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"Peace in my Heart" 12/8 - Reckoning with Israel/Palestine, racial justice

[https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/HssIuFZOmqH7fWHOeDffWawzHQDGeuxkPZZFjiWNrtCsCnNu29V7nfY2GW8sEdZ.GqrRHNUO1r6QPzmH?](https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/HssIuFZOmqH7fWHOeDffWawzHQDGeuxkPZZFjiWNrtCsCnNu29V7nfY2GW8sEdZ.GqrRHNUO1r6QPzmH?startTime=1733667524000)

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Important Dates:

Tuesday, December 24: Multicultural Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m.

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Another Way to Support DEI Locally

Monday, January 8, 6:30-8, at Cook Library

Cook Library hosts this evening to continue last year's facilitated conversation about issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in this area. This event is a program of "DEI in the Lakes and Mountains." More at info@lakesmountainsdei.org.

Rev. Betsy Tabor:

Email is preferred contact, and by all means call when in need. I'm in the office most Tuesdays if you would like to arrange a meeting.

Email: revbetsytabor@gmail.com

Cell: 603-431-6693

UUFES Office: Danielle works in the office two midweek afternoons. One morning/week, Becky Thompson manages bills, deposits, and payroll. Please send office business to Rev. Betsy/Barbara Lubin and Mail Pouch correspondence to Rev. Betsy.

Using the Online Directory

If your email address is in the UUFES directory, you can access the directory online. Log in as an InstantChurch member:

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com>

Office 603-323-8585
UUFES WEBSITE LINK: www.uufesnh.com



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