



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Monthly **COMMENT** Newsletter

*Welcoming all in a spirit of compassion, inquiry, and service*

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SEPTEMBER 2018

## From our Consulting Minister



Dear Danbury-area UU Members and Friends,

Hello! What a delight it is for me to get the chance to serve as your 1/2-time Consulting Minister for this 2018-19 congregational year. I *so* look forward to getting to meet and get to know you all. A few of you I met and remember from when my spouse and Co-Minister, Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, and I led worship at your congregation back in February 2014 as part of the search process that brought us to Connecticut. We are now in our 5th year serving the Unitarian Society of Hartford as the settled Co-Ministers, sharing the one full-time position of ministry, there. We also have not one, but two small children now (and are not planning to have any more!)--Robin is 6 and Braden is one-and-a-half years old. We are indeed a busy, lively, Unitarian Universalist household.

I'm sure that many of you will have good questions about how this job-sharing endeavor will work, this year. I want you to know that I have a fair amount of experience at this point juggling multiple part-time ministries--for better-and-for-worse, I do think it is becoming a more common necessity as the costs of "doing church" rise and many congregations struggle to keep up. I have simultaneously served congregations in northern Minnesota (Duluth and Virginia, up on the Iron Range), the Pacific Northwest (Bend, Oregon and Twin Falls, Idaho), and New England (Hartford and Monson, Mass., for the past 2.5 years). Thankfully, I do enjoy driving!

One of the key ways that this arrangement will work well is if you reach out to me directly. There is always plenty to keep me busy, and I may not know what is going on in your life and heart unless you reach out and tell me. I am available by cell phone, e-mail, on Facebook/Facebook Messenger, and by mail. I am still living into what my Danbury schedule will be exactly, but I can tell you that I will be leading worship with you all 2 Sundays a month, spending at least 1 day & evening per week in the Danbury office, and am online frequently during daylight hours. Monday is our family Sabbath day and I strive to not be online or working that day unless it's a true emergency.

I sense that this is a significant transitional time for this congregation, with lots of shifting going on, both good and challenging. I look forward to being a positive, hopefully-steadying presence for you all. I am life-long Unitarian Universalist, and I have lived all over the country. I look forward to hearing from you about what you cherish about this congregation and the Danbury region. Please don't be shy--reach out and introduce yourself to me by e-mail, snail mail note, or on Facebook. If you or one of your loved ones are experiencing a crisis, please give me a call and let me know. I truly look forward to getting to know and spend time with you.

The September 9 Homecoming and Water Ceremony service will be the first service I will lead with you, and there will be time after the service for us to talk and get to know one another better. Please plan to linger after the service as long as you are able!

Warmly,

Rev. Heather Rion Starr

*Our Mission Statement:*

*The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is an open religious community that welcomes a diversity of people, ideas and beliefs. We celebrate together that which is good in life, and offer comfort and care in times of need. With others, we work to create a just society and a sustainable Earth. We stand as a beacon for independent thought, and encourage lifelong spiritual and intellectual exploration.* - Adopted by this congregation May 16, 2008

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is a UUA designated “Welcoming Congregation.” Our congregation is welcoming to people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. The Welcoming Congregation program is consistent with our first UU principle in which we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We welcome all – regardless of age, race, disability, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, religious background, or political affiliation – factors that can separate people in our larger culture.

**Deadline for the October Comment –**  
**Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Our Caring Circle is Available**

Our ‘Care Coordinator’ receives requests and answers questions for the Caring Circle.

**Cheryl Edelen** is the contact person from **September 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Donna Lawrence** is the contact person from **September 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.**

If you have a need, please contact **Cheryl** or **Donna**.

Please note that your call will be returned as quickly as possible but it may be at the end of the day.

## September Services – One Service at 10:00 a.m.

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

A Conspiracy of Decency

Karen Gillotti and Inge Hill

It was 75 years ago that this remarkable rescue of almost all the Danish Jews during World War II took place.

**September 9<sup>th</sup>**

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Darlene Anderson-Alexander, and others!

Homecoming and Ingathering Service: Return Again

We return and return again to our beloved and co-created community. Remember to bring some water symbolizing your summer experiences, from wherever you have spent some soul-nourishing time. Plan to linger after the service to introduce yourself to our 2018-19 half-time Consulting Minister, Rev. Heather. We look forward to being with you!

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Venerable Wisdom

We will commission our Religious Education Program during the Children's Focus this morning as well!

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Resilient Hope

Rev. Erica Richmond

We will explore what it means to cultivate hope even in the face of loss. As a Palliative Care Chaplain at Hartford Hospital, Rev. Richmond often navigates the tension between hope, loss, and multi-faith spiritual care. Reverend Erica Richmond currently serves as the Palliative Care Chaplain for Hartford Hospital and the affiliated Community Minister at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. Erica completed her undergraduate degree at Clark University in 2008. She then stayed in Worcester and earned her Master of Arts in Community Development in 2009. During that time she did community organizing work and deepened her commitment to both faith and justice work. Soon she went to Union Theological Seminary in New York City and graduated in 2013. From there she moved to Seattle and completed a two year chaplaincy residency program. Beyond hospital work, Erica is a board member for the RE•Center (an organization committed to racial justice in education) and serves as a commissioner on the Hartford's LGBTQ commission. Her passions include social justice, community work, and creating space for the sacred within our healthcare systems.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>**

Imagine That

Rev. Heather Rion Starr

It can be so hard for us to imagine and genuinely comprehend the experiences, the situation, of people that we don't see as "us," as part of our "we." In response to reading about the latest traumatic event going on around our country or our shared planet, we might find ourselves saying "I can't imagine." How we can spiritually practice intentionally "imagining that," not to cause ourselves unnecessary pain but to insure that we are not closing our hearts off to the experiences of those who need our witness?



## Capital Project Update

by Alex Makai



Work on the build-out of the lower level of the Fellowship Hall is nearing completion. The new rooms are finished. Lighting, plumbing and air conditioning are installed and operating. The access lift has been installed and will have its City inspection on August 21. Only a few items remain to be worked on. The stairway is in place but not yet fully walled and finished. The new alarm system is yet to be installed along with some bathroom and door fixtures. Painting will be the last to be done. If you'd like to see the new rooms after a Sunday service please connect with **Alex Makai** or **Gary Mummert**.

Before we can put the new spaces to use several inspections by Danbury city authorities need to be conducted in order for us to get a Certificate of Occupancy. Timing on those inspections is not in our control so please be patient if they take some time to complete.

A huge thank you to all those who've completed their Capital Campaign pledges! Since all the major work is done we'll be getting the contractors' bills very soon. It would be great if we can pay those bills without needing to trigger the stand-by bank loan that has been arranged, since that would incur interest costs. If you have not yet paid all of your capital pledge, and can do so within the next few weeks, that would be much appreciated.

## Notes from the Board of Trustees

by Brad Greene, President

### I'm So Excited ...And I Just Can't Hide It

(With apologies to The Pointer Sisters)

As you read this, many kids will be back at school, Labor Day and our Ingathering Water Communion service will be upon us, and the calendar says there are (technically) about three weeks left to the summer. I hope you were able to use these past couple of months as you wanted. Now, excitement awaits you back at UU Danbury!

It was exciting to stop by UU Danbury periodically over the summer and see the work progressing on the lower level. The space has been transformed! While we have tried to share weekly updates and teasers with all of you, you won't fully appreciate it until you get to see it for yourself. We are planning a "ribbon cutting" so everyone can do just that. THANK YOU **Alex Makai** and **Gary Mummert** for the project management, coordination, elbow grease, ingenuity, and patience to make the build-out a reality for all of us.

I know we are also excited to welcome **Rev. Heather Rion Starr** to UU Danbury. Her first service with us will be September 9<sup>th</sup>, and there will be an extended opportunity after the service that day to meet her. I expect you will find her energy, insight and experience invaluable to us at this time in our journey.

The Board continued to meet during July and August to integrate our two new members and begin to set priorities for the coming year. Our focus is on actions to sustain our congregation for many years into the future. You'll be hearing more about these as the year progresses, but our priorities are:

- **Minister Search**
- **Communications** (A focus on process; how can teams and ministries best communicate; more face-to-face including reenergizing the Common Council and regular meetings with our paid staff)
- **Money** (How can we generate more revenue streams; what can we do so that we are not always 'scraping by')
- **Engagement** (How can we make better connections; how do we engage new people so that they stay; how do we better use the talents of everyone in the life of our congregation)
- **Document 'How Things Get Done' at UU Danbury** (Clarify our decision-making and procedures so that everyone has clarity of how things work at our congregation and volunteering is easier)

The Board is excited for the coming year! I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.



# Roots & Wings

... what's happening in Religious Education

by Darlene Anderson-Alexander, Director of Religious Education



**“Open the door, step right inside. Come into this place where love and hope will abide. Reach out your hand, I’ll welcome you in. It’s so good to be together again!”**

This wonderful song, by UU musician and songwriter Joyce Poley, has been stuck in my head since I returned to UU Danbury at the beginning of August! Not the worst earworm to have stuck in my head I suppose! There is definitely a palpable sense of excitement brewing around here for the upcoming year in so many areas. **Look what’s happening in and around Religious Education** and how **YOU** might reach out those “helping hands” to get involved!

- ★ Welcome **REVEREND HEATHER!** How lucky we are to have Consulting Minister Reverend Heather Rion Starr with us!

👋 **CHILDREN AND YOUTH** – be sure to say “Hi!” to Reverend Heather when you see her! She’ll be at the **PICNIC** following the Service on September 9th. Hopefully you will be, too, and you can tell her all about RE!



- ★ **NEW SPACE!** The new, finished space in the lower level of the Fellowship Hall looks **ABSOLUTELY A-M-A-Z-I-N-G** and we are so lucky to be able to use it on Sunday mornings to provide our RE program. We will also be using some of the rooms in the House for our middle and high school youth (and prek-k class one Sunday each month).

👋 **HELP!** We need to move our nursery and elementary furniture and equipment down to the new rooms. We also need to get two donated couches to UU Danbury and then up the stairs to the new Youth Room! Last year, we defined “**STEWARDSHIP**” for our children as “taking care of that which you do not own”. This is a **GREAT** opportunity for us to walk our talk! Please let me know if you can help get us ready for the first day of RE on September 16th! There are small items perfect for young children to help move, large items that will require muscles and height, and everything in between!



★ **NEW RE LENDING & RESOURCE LIBRARY** Thanks to the hard work of Val Cochrane, Dean Alexander, Jan Galloway, and Julie Tramontana over the summer, the new RE LIBRARY (located in the former Nursery in the House) is almost ready to go! 2/3 of the library will be a lending library and will be open on Sunday for children, youth, parents, and grandparents to browse and borrow. We have SO MANY wonderful books to support the faith formation of our children; NOW they will finally be accessible to all!

👉 The **NEXT STEP** is to make sure that all of the books in there are cataloged in “LibraryThing” and have “UUCD” labels. Do you have an hour or two to spare? The library can’t “open” until the books are all accounted for!



★ Our **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM** is the advisory team that works closely with me to create our RE Program. Members take responsibility for various events and activities during the year and all are involved in curriculum selection and planning. Ideally, this is the “only” function that members of the REMT serve in our Program. This year, however, ALL of our wonderful members – **Sam McCoy** (Chair), **Alison DiPinto**, and **Kathleen Granger** – are also teaching in RE! Please thank these superstars when you see them (and **Ali Haffner**, our new liaison from the BOT)

👉 **JOIN US!** The REMT is in search of **two additional members** to round out the Team. Monthly meetings are typically on Sunday mornings before the Service with some follow-up work offline. Contact Sam ([samantha.ligon.mccoy@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.ligon.mccoy@gmail.com)) for more information.

★ **NEW DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ON-SITE SCHEDULE** As you hopefully read about during the Summer, I have accepted another part time DRE position serving the UU congregation in Stamford. This will not affect my job responsibilities here with you, however, it means that I will be splitting my on-site Sundays between Danbury and Stamford.

👉 **“DRE DU JOUR TEAM”.** I will be forming a team of 3-4 people who will function as my substitute on the 19 Sundays when I will be in Stamford. Tasks may include walking the elementary children downstairs to RE, checking periodically on each classroom (in the lower level and the House), connecting visiting families with RE, and locking up the RE spaces at 11:30. There will be an orientation session once the Team is formed. The schedule for the year is in place, so Team members can sign up in advance for days that work for them.

👉 **CHILDREN’S FOCUS.** Continuing an initiative that began last year in response to a congregational survey conducted the year before, we are looking for a variety of folks to lead the Children’s Focus during the Services. Please see Sunday Service Team Co-Chairs Michael Stengle and Tony DiFabbio for information and a list of available dates. As always, I am happy to help volunteers to create a Children’s Focus – and the “Sparkle Box” is always available!



On **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**, we will commission this year's Religious Education Program:



We have **OVER 30 amazing volunteers** on-board this year! We will welcome them on the 16th and their names will be listed in next month's Comment. Check out the description of this year's program at [www.uudanbury.org](http://www.uudanbury.org), "Our Community", "Religious Education", "Learn More".

- ☞ While you're there, please **REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN)** for RE! Children have to be *re-registered each year*. You will notice this year that there is no longer a registration fee. We are strongly encouraging **ALL** members and friends to consider how much they value Religious Education as they make their pledge commitment to UU Danbury. We anticipate that all families with children in RE will participate fully in the life of the congregation. Please contact the Stewardship Team (Matt McPartlin, John Miglietta, Marie Dupree) if you would like to discuss your financial commitment.
- ☞ Feel free to **SHARE** the link to our website with friends who you think might be interested in checking out our congregation and our RE program! This is a "non-OWL" year, so children and youth (and parents!) are always welcome to visit and take part in a class. Let's spread our **GOOD WORD!**

To get ready for the start of RE on the 16<sup>th</sup>, we have two **RE Volunteer Orientation/Training sessions** planned as follows (volunteers PLEASE RSVP here if you haven't already done so <https://tinyurl.com/UUDanburyVolunteerOrientation>):

- ✓ **Religious Education Volunteer Orientation** – Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. – for **ALL VOLUNTEERS** - a time to find out what's new & exciting in RE 2018-19, to meet your teammates, to plan your schedules, and to set up your rooms!
- ✓ **Religious Education Volunteer Training** – Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. – for all interested volunteers – a hands-on, "this is how to plan a lesson" session especially good for new volunteers or those volunteering with a new age group this year; lots of time for questions and idea-sharing!



**“Open the door, step right inside. It is TRULY so good to be together again!”**

# Ministry/Team News

Ministry of

## Appreciation

**THANK YOU to Val Cochrane, Jan Galloway, and Dean Alexander** for helping to transform our former nursery into an RE LIBRARY (1/3 curriculum, 2/3 lending library filled with children's and parenting books)!

**THANK YOU to Jasmine and Lynn Taborsak** for testing all of our RE markers! Thanks to them, we are ready to create beautiful pictures this year!!

### Buildings and Grounds

Says **THANKS for the AMAZING Help!**

In the recent months, many members and friends have stepped forward to help with care for the building and grounds or with preparations for the FH basement build-out, despite the busyness of this time of year and our local weather difficulties.

### So we say Thanks!

- To the youth who gave of their time - **Bryce Alexander, Dennis Papucci, and Julie Tramontana!**
- To those who weeded, mulched, pruned - **Barbara Myers, Brad Greene, Kristen Papucci, Lisa Austin-Smith, Lisa Greene, Matt McPartlin, and Yvonne Ruddy-Stein!**
- To those who boosted the build-out preparation - **Gale Alexander, Joe Gillotti, Jon Dupree, Meline Zagorec, Nicole Paris, Sharon Stram, Tim O'Donnell, Tony DiFabbio, and Walt Sizemore!**
- To the Paris family, **Nicole, Matthew, Sean and David** for moving and installing window cooling units in the cottage house!

Thank you to the **Cousens Family** for donating (and delivering) MANY sensory motor foam blocks, wedges, and mats for us to use in our new RE space! Not only will these items help us to be more inclusive to children with special sensory integration needs, but they are also just fun for everyone! I bet they will be incorporated into at least one of our new "SUUnday FUUnday" days!

Thank you to the **Kyriacou Family** for donating two, big couches for our new senior high youth room!

If you notice someone doing something nice at UU Danbury, let us know.

Email us at [thankyou@uudanbury.org](mailto:thankyou@uudanbury.org)

**From the Auction Team**



**Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
(Preview: Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m.)**

Are You Involved Yet?

**Can you:** Bake Some Bread, Wrap a Gift, Organize a Room, Draw a Cartoon,  
Write a Note, or Share Your Boat?

**You can:** Host a Party with a Friend, Create Real Fellowship that never ends.

**You can:** Be a Matching Donor, ask us how, and Do it NOW !

For more information contact **Marian DiFabbio**.

**From the Music Ministry Team**



The UU Danbury Choir will be directed this fall by **Marian DiFabbio, Cheryl Edelen, and Barbara Myers**. We sing twice a month at services, and rehearse every other Wednesday night at 7:30. Contact Barbara, Cheryl, or Marian, or come to a rehearsal to join us. Upcoming rehearsal dates: September 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will join us - we welcome all voices!

## From the *Social Action Council*



### UU Danbury Comida Garden

The UU Danbury garden has produced a bounty of produce for the Comida Food Pantry this summer, and will continue through September. Many thanks to the hard work of our volunteers for planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting: **Lisa Austin-Smith, Chris Creter, Dre Dretzin, Cheryl Edelen, Anne Krieg, Chris McCarney, Gary Mummert, Barbara Myers, the Paris family, Kristen Papucci, and Sharon Stram.**

### Social Action Council Film Series

Starting **Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**, we'll be starting a new round of films and documentaries. For a crazy but amazing look back, we're offering DOCTOR STRANGELOVE. If you have not seen this 1964 Stanley Kubrick movie, you have missed an iconic film. If you have seen it, come out and let the political satire and comedy fill you with shock and awe as we examine the craft of film-making. How many parts did Peter Sellers play? What chemical was alleged to be used on Americans by the Soviets? Aside from the craft, the role of women in the film raises serious questions. Was Kubrick making a statement? Let's examine the film from our contemporary perspectives, together!

For future showings, we are soliciting films and documentaries that you would like to see. We'd like to attract a more diverse group of folks to the Film Series, so please suggest to your heart's content! Reply to **Gary Mummert**.

### Soup Kitchen Corner



**On Saturday, September 1st**, Soup Kitchen Team #3 will serve up a hot, delicious meal at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Spring Street. Team Leader **Lynn Taborsak** will be joined by **Bob Taborsak, Jim Wruck, Mike Toto, Liz Casey, Jim Moore, Julie Gordon, Ron Skelton and Cynthia Stevens**. Please remember that if you are not able to help on your scheduled day, you must find a substitute from the alternates list which you can access from the member's page of our website – [uudanbury.org](http://uudanbury.org). The show must go on!

It is also time for members and friends to sign up again for another year. UU Danbury has been committed to serving a meal once a month for the past 37 years. It's a UU tradition! Sign-up sheets for each team are available in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact **Judy Lacker**.

You can also help us feed our neighbors with a gift card in any amount from any local supermarket. In addition, please continue to bring in your weekly food offering so that we can stock the food pantry at ARC. We need you to include size 4 and 5 disposable diapers in the food offering if possible. We can all be an important part of the fight to end hunger in our community!

## Upcoming Events



The **Conversations** group meets every other month on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. You do not need to read the book to attend. For more information please contact **Mary Ann Kulla**.

September 13<sup>th</sup> our book will be "**A Higher Loyalty - Truth, Lies, and Leadership**" by **James Comey**.

Comey shares his never-before-told experiences from some of the high stakes situations in his career.

And he explores what good, ethical leadership looks like and how it drives sound decisions.

November 8<sup>th</sup> we'll be considering "**The Woman's Hour**" by **Elaine Weiss**. Set in 1920 when only one state is still needed to ratify the 19th Amendment and conclude the seven-decade long crusade to win the vote for women, this book opens a window on a part of our history that is usually glossed over. Who opposed the suffragettes? The opposing forces included politicians with careers at stake, liquor companies, railroad magnates and racists who didn't want black women voting.

### Men Conversing over Coffee



Some male veterans have been meeting for coffee and conversation and would like to invite other men to join us. It matters not if

you are retired or working, veteran or non-veteran. All that matters is that you want to meet with men over coffee or tea for conversation and sharing.

We are meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, 9:30 a.m. at Dunkin' Donuts, 407 Main St, Danbury, near North Street. Typically, we meet for about an hour, then go about our busy-ness.

Next Date: 9-11-2018 (that's right, 9-11).

Please consider joining us.

Contact: **Gary Mummert**

## Movies with a Message

**"Life resembles a novel more often than novels resemble life."**

George Sand (1804 – 1876)

**One of our films for September is fiction, the other documentary. But you may wonder, which is which!**

- 7:00 – *The Voorman Problem* – Martin Freeman plays the role of a psychiatrist who is called to a prison to test the sanity of an inmate who claims to be God.
- 7:20 – *Losing Sight of Shore* – A team of women set out to row unsupported across 8,000 miles of Pacific Ocean from San Francisco to Australia. Choice of this film is inspired by Jim Russell's talk at the UUCD on August 19<sup>th</sup>, "Navigating the Pacific and Wayfinding in Life."
- 8:55 – 9:15 – Time for wrap-up and discussion.

**We believe that good experiences are even more fulfilling when shared with others.** To this end, our objective each month is to present films of substance in a living room setting and to provide an opportunity to discuss with friends. Please join us on **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza is provided. Bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional -- See you at the movies!

Contributions will be gratefully accepted, all of which will go to UU Danbury.

**(For more information on the service from which we make our film selections, please check the website at [www.SpiritualCinemaCircle.com](http://www.SpiritualCinemaCircle.com).)**



Off the Streets  
PO Box 591  
Bethel CT 06801  
[www.OffTheStreetsNow.com](http://www.OffTheStreetsNow.com)

It is with the deepest gratitude that Off The Streets has received your April 26, 2018 gift of \$298.50 which will enable us to continue to carry out our mission. Specifically, that mission is to remove homeless people from the streets and emergency shelters in Danbury and locate them into housing they can call their own NOW.

We ask that you please spread the word about Off The Streets so that more people will learn about this program. In addition to prayers and donations, volunteers are needed to work with homeless people and to help with furniture and household goods donations. You may contact us for more information at (203) 733-5880 or on the web at [www.OffTheStreetsNow.com](http://www.OffTheStreetsNow.com).

Sincerely,

Joan Dulko

on behalf of all of us at Off The Streets

Enc.

*We are truly grateful.*



Thank YOU! On behalf of ARC, it's my pleasure to thank you for your generous in-kind donations during May and June 2018 of food valued at \$145.

Little things really do add up. Little things make a huge difference to the people served by ARC. Many smiles have crossed the faces of people in need of articles of clothing, hygiene products, fresh and non-perishable food, and school supplies, and cuddly toys. In the same way, behind the scenes gifts of time and talent make impacts on people that are huge and appreciated.

One love and many blessings,

Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold  
Executive Director



www.CLFUU.org  
www.DailyCompass.org  
www.QuestForMeaning.org  
Phone: 617-948-6150 Email: CLF@CLFUU.org  
24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210

Dear Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$233.50 received on 7/9/2018 to the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Our appreciation is deep and real.

Other ministerial colleagues that I know tell me that they periodically sit in their church sanctuaries, in quiet moments, to gratefully think of all the people who make up their congregation -- people who literally create that sacred space.

In our unique, buildingless and boundaryless community, I practice a similar gratitude as I sign this thank you letter to you. I look at your name, and where you live, and I say, "Thank you, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, for literally creating the Church of the Larger Fellowship!" I picture our unique congregation, made of generosity, appreciation, and love.

These are challenging times on the planet. Just reading the news has become an exercise in fortitude, commitment, and resilience if we are not to bow down to despair and hopelessness. Without your company, I honestly don't know how I would make it. I hope you feel the same way about us, and know that you are cherished here. Whether or not we have ever spoken, or even exchanged an email, you are dear to me.

In faith,

Rev. Meg Riley  
Senior Minister



Whether we are helping Syrian families reunite in Serbia, bolstering women’s economic empowerment in Nicaragua, or supporting indigenous communities facing coastal erosion in Alaska, UUSC is only able to advance human rights worldwide because of the incredible generosity of Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations.

This year, we owe a special thanks to your congregation for helping make our programs possible. It is with great pleasure that UUSC recognizes UU Congregation of Danbury with the Creating Justice Banner Society Award for outstanding support during our fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). We look forward to acknowledging your congregation in our annual report as well as online at [uus.org](http://uus.org).

Thank you for your support. I hope you will continue to join hands with UUSC and our grassroots partners as we advance human rights, dismantle systems of oppression, and uplift the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

In gratitude,

  
Rev. Mary Katherine Morn  
President and CEO

