



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Monthly **COMMENT** Newsletter

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

JANUARY 2023

From our Minister



No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again. ~ Buddha

We say goodbye to another year of challenge and celebration! 2022 reminded us that Covid still lurks around corners and we are still in a liminal time of waiting for a feeling of settled energy. But it was also a year that cried out for gatherings of friends and family we hadn't been able to see and be with for months or years. We also celebrated 200 years of being a religious community and beacon of light in the Danbury area. And 2022 was a year where many of us became exhausted from bouncing back again, and again, and again!

No matter how hard 2022 may have been, we can begin again. We can approach 2023 like the gift that it is: full of promise and opportunity. We can start fresh with new energy and purpose. And that's what we need right now in our beloved community. We need each other to be willing to step up and participate in the areas where others have worked so hard and are now exhausted. Where will you give a bit of your time and how will you share your talents in this new calendar year at UUCD? We need greeters, tech hosts, Sunday Services Team members and welcomers, and we can always use religious education and buildings & grounds volunteers. The truth is that it takes every one of us contributing to make our community one that thrives with life and love. We need each other! Let's begin again together and start 2023 with commitment and joy.

Grateful to see a new year of possibility,
Rev. Kathleen

Our monthly community dinner and social action project experiment feedback survey has been delayed but it is coming soon! Look for it in the first week of January.

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.

UU Danbury Cancellation Policy – During very inclement weather, our in-person Sunday Services, Religious Education and any other on campus meetings or events will be cancelled. To learn of a cancellation, please check one of the following:

1. Your email;
2. Your text messages;
3. The UU Danbury website, www.uudanbury.org.
4. Facebook, www.facebook.com/UUDanbury.

**Deadline for the February *Comment* –
Friday, January 20th.**

January Services – One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 1st Sing in the New Year Nancy Hershatter
 This casual service on New Year’s Day will offer a simple sing-along with coffee and doughnuts! Feel free to bring an instrument and join in the fun, or just come to enjoy the music and the company of friends old and new. You can join in person or online.

Sunday, January 8th The Mustard Seed I Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rudoff
 This is the first in a 2-part parable series. The Buddhist parable of the mustard seed will be explored in part 1.

Sunday, January 15th Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Rev. Winnie Gordon
 Rev. Gordon will join us remotely from Birmingham, England. She considers herself a black British Unitarian and brings a fresh perspective on the American hero, Martin Luther King, Jr.



The Rev. Winnie Gordon (pronouns she/her) is of the Black British Diaspora, queer, cisgender, Minister in the Unitarian faith serving the Birmingham New Meeting Congregation. Her involvement in the wider Unitarian movement includes a number of occasions as a Summer School facilitator and theme speaker, member on various Unitarian Committees including, Unitarian College Academic Board, and the Worship Studies Course. More recently, Winnie completed a Master of Research Degree investigating the inclusivity of People of Colour in the UK Unitarian worship community. She is also involved with Ladywood Community Project, a local charity that aids families experiencing financial hardship and poverty. In her spare time, she loves to read, enjoys life sculpture classes, and hand-building ceramics. Winnie believes learning is life-long and so continues to explore faith, worship practice, and justice issues.

Our Share-the-Plate offering will go to TBICO. TBICO (The Bridge to Independence and Career Opportunities) offers employment related education and training to disadvantaged or low-income men and women at no out of pocket expense to the student with a goal of employment providing adequate income to support their family without government aid.

Sunday, January 22nd The Mustard Seed II Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rudoff
 In this part 2 of the parable series we will explore the Christian parable of the mustard seed.

Sunday, January 29th When Hope is Hard to Find Tom Krattenmaker
 Tom will join us in person in his second guest speaker appearance with UUCD. Tom is the Communications Director at Yale Divinity School and writes for US News Today.

From the Board of Trustees

by Margaret Henderson, President



As I write this in mid-December, the Board has been busy! But first I need to share with you the news that unfortunately **Gina Cassetta** has made the difficult decision to resign from the Board due to time constraints. We will miss her, especially her all-encompassing warmth and her unique insights. We support her in her search for the right work/life balance (or even volunteer/life balance)!

Here's a brief summary of what the Board is working on. If something catches your eye, ask a Board member for more details!

- The **Communications Task Force**, led by Jeff Asher, is examining how UUCD can use technology to get messages out, both within our congregation and in the outside world.
- The **Financial Strategy Team** has begun work on how we can make UUCD more financially sustainable. They plan to submit their recommendation by February.
- **Common Council** met in November and, instead of the usual series of committee reports, focused on how our various teams can add value to the community. They were so excited they plan to meet again January 29th!
- At our December Board meeting we learned how [Sociocracy](#) techniques like speaking by turns in a circle, can dispel hidden power dynamics that unintentionally support white supremacy. This work supports the [8th Principle](#) that we adopted 2 years ago.
- **HELP NEEDED!** Since July 1st, we have made over \$5,000 by renting out Fellowship Hall. Margaret has been opening and closing for most of these rentals, but she cannot continue to do this work alone. If we are going to continue renting our facilities out to the community, we need at least one other person who can help with this. If interested, please call or email Margaret.

In other news,

- In his usual way of taking care of problems we didn't even know could come up, **Gary Mummert** has made minor repairs to our heating systems in both our buildings so they'll be fully functional this winter.
- The **Men's Coffee Group** has graciously volunteered to sponsor a community dinner on January 18th.
- The **Auction Team** is hard at work getting ready for our annual auction to be held on February 11th.
- Coming in February will be a discussion of this year's UUA Common Read, [Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism](#). The hard copy is on backorder until January, but the eBook is available now for Kindle readers.

I wish you all health and a wellspring of energy in the new year!

From Our Director of Religious Education For Children and Youth



Dear Congregation,

The sun is still not spending much time with us, and we are entering what are typically the coldest months of the year. This is a good time for softness and rest. For a while now, I have followed a movement called “The Nap Ministry,” and more recently, I began reading a book that came out of that movement titled *Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto* by Tricia Hersey.

Though I am not yet too far into it, I do recommend the read, but I have a note for those who are white (like me): the movement has developed in a very particular context in which descendants of enslaved people are prioritizing rest as a claim to liberation. Not everything is for us, and at the least, there are different things we must do to move toward liberatory futures.

Nonetheless, I feel moved to share an excerpt from the Introduction: “[S]ince birth we slowly are indoctrinated into the cult of urgency and disconnection via white supremacy culture . . . I am clearly stating that to center rest, naps, sleep, slowing down, and leisure in a capitalist, white supremacist, ableist, patriarchal world is to live as an outlier, a pilgrimage infused with softness, intentionality, and community care.” The book talks about rest as something that makes us more human.

As I read, I find myself thinking of a comment made at the last Common Council meeting, about families with children feeling overwhelmed, overly busy, and tired. What happens spiritually to families who don’t have their needs for rest and leisure met? Do they lose touch with something about their humanity? These reflections inspire me to imagine forms of ministry in the future of this congregation that “center rest, naps, sleep, slowing down, and leisure” and that are infused with “softness, intentionality, and community care.”

This is not necessarily a future filled with programs and activities designed to maximize a feeling of educational productivity. This notion of what we “center” (our productive capacity vs. leisure and play, for instance) can be useful as we discern the ministry needs of families in the greater Danbury Community and consider how to create a future in which we minister to those families. Soon, we will convene some conversations about the future of Religious Education for children and youth in this congregation. It will be useful to consider what is happening spiritually in the lives of children and their adults, and what we need to “center” to tend to these humans.

Warmly in Faith,
Sierra-Marie

Current Religious Education Programs for Children and Youth

This month we are adding two Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education programs to our offerings! Participating youth must commit to attending every session in order to participate. The 7th-8th grade OWL program will take place Sunday evenings, and the high school program will take place Sunday mornings. For younger children attending on Sunday mornings when there is regular programming, there are multiple options:

- Attend service with your adults
- Come to our Forest School-inspired, child-led program in which we explore spiritual themes through play
- Attend nursery care (for our youngest children)

Upcoming in Religious Education

The following calendar for the month of January is subject to change. If your household includes children or teens and you would like to receive regular updates about programs, please get in touch with our Director of Religious Education by emailing dre@uudanbury.org.

- **Sunday, January 1st** - New Year's Day! No programs and the nursery will be closed
- **Sunday, January 8th** - Regular Sunday programming; community removal of the Christmas Tree; rescheduled Caregiver Orientation for the high school OWL program
- **Sunday, January 15th** - Possible special social action project (to be announced) in celebration of Martin Luther King Day
- **Sunday, January 22nd** - Regular Sunday programming including OWL for high schoolers and OWL later in the day for 7th-8th graders
- **Sunday, January 29th** - Regular Sunday programming including OWL for high schoolers and OWL later in the day for 7th-8th graders

A Sampling of Topics Explored in Our Forest-School Inspired Program

Our Forest School program is child-led and play-centered, and the curriculum comes from the children. If you wonder what kinds of things children discuss through their play in a religious education setting, here is a list from the three sessions just prior to the deadline for newsletter submissions:

- Gender identity
- Oppression and inequality related to gender
- Current UU Principles and the proposed changes to article 2 of the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (where our principles are listed)
- Concepts of autonomy
- Elections and the right to vote
- Perseveration and stimming (neurodivergence) as part of the spectrum of human experiences
- Consent (this is a frequent topic)
- The Christmas story
- Social norms around gift-giving and language
- Bodily differences and race/ethnicity
- Values around risk-taking
- The democratic process and other options for negotiating different priorities
- The meaning of "maturity"
- Whether or not people can change

That's right! All this came from conversations introduced by our young participants! Though our topics vary, they are always thought-provoking and informative in one way or another. However, it gets richer when children attend regularly and we develop ongoing discussions that develop over time.

A Night of Celebration – December 9, 2022



More than 50 revelers came together to mark exactly 200 years from our congregation's inception in 1822. We toasted the anniversary (thank you, Doug!), ate luscious desserts, peeked at the 200th Anniversary Quilt, and were serenaded by our dear Jerry Phelps. A wonderful night to celebrate a significant milestone!

Many thanks to all who helped make this happen: Rev. Kathleen (our inspiration!), Jeff Archer, Marcia Brooker, Ginny Cameron, Val Cochrane, Cheryl Edelen, Lisa Greene, Anne Krieg, Judy Lacker, Gary Mummert, Barbara Myers, Kristen Papucci, Doug and Marilou Parkhurst, Jerry Phelps, Diane Purvis, Melene Rose, Janet Swift, Lynn Taborsak and Truus Teeuwissen.

January Pizza Party at UUCD in the Fellowship Hall

by Joe Gillotti

Join us for pizza, salads, beverages and dessert on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 starting at 5:45 pm. The dinner will be from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm and then we will be offering choir practice, programs and group discussions from 6:45 pm to approximately 7:45 pm.



We invite you to bring family and friends - all are welcome! Please rsvp by January 17th via the Signup Genius invitation you will receive on January 6th.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the set-up starting at 5:15 pm and then the final clean up. You will have the option to sign up for this when you rsvp.

This event is cheerfully being offered by the UUCD Men's Coffee Group.

Women of the Congregation

by Jane Leff



I would like to join other UUCD women in a group where we can meet in person, talk to each other about ourselves, get to know each other, and enjoy feeling at home in a supportive group. We welcome long-term members, young women, women who are new to UUCD, and older women. We will start with a monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the lower level of Fellowship Hall. We could take turns leading the discussions, and together we could make changes that make it work well for all of us. I'm hoping we might have at least 12 of us. If you are interested in being a part of this group please let me know.

Together on the Road to Beloved Community

by Randy Becker

Across our larger Unitarian Universalist Association, congregations are reading "*Mistakes and Miracles...*," a consideration of ways in which congregations have failed, been challenged, and sometimes succeeded in moving closer to the welcoming, liberating, inclusive, multi-cultural world of our aspirations.

We are committed to a series of conversations about the book and the issues it raises, to see what it might tell us about our own efforts here at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury. Because of high demand, the book is now on back order with supplies expected later in January (the e-book version is now available). We will be scheduling our discussions once we are assured of the book's ready availability. If you are interested in being personally notified about the discussion of this book, let **Randy Becker** know otherwise, watch your mailings from the congregation.

Ministry/Team News

From *Adult Programming*

UUCD's "Death Buffet" ... A New Adult Course Offering

"How we want to die represents the most important and costly conversation America isn't having."

For adventurous souls who are DYING to talk about death. This promises to be a unique, unforgettable course. Truly, our gathering will be all about LIFE! Where death is just one interesting and inevitable part of it.

UUCD's Death Buffet is our own, unique spinoff from the well-established Death Café. Join us as we take on thought-provoking topics about our mortality. Participants will be expected to attend consistently and be willing to provide a potluck offering at each meeting. This is not intended to be a grief counseling or support group. Due to the intimate nature of these conversations, the number participating will be limited. Please reserve early so you are not disappointed.

We will have a special **Kickoff Death Buffet following the January 8th Sunday Service**. There will be nibbles to eat. If you are interested, please email the co-leaders: **Marcia Brooker** and/or **Jeff Asher** to reserve your space.

So, let's get the FUN back in FUNerals and please join us!

Facebook.com/RizarroComics

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DEATH IS THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, A FACT OF LIFE THAT NO ONE TALKS ABOUT. UNTIL NOW.
Join us for open, constructive, life-affirming conversations about death and end-of-life concerns in a friendly, relaxed environment.

From the *Auction Committee*



February 11, 2023

The new year is coming, and so is..... UUDanbury's Annual **AUCTION!**
 This autumn fundraiser was moved to February to make room for
 our 2022 Bicentennial Celebrations. It will be a **Virtual Event.**

We need items for folks to bid on! What can you contribute?

- A **Service** (babysitting, airport rides, gardening, tech help, organizing, yoga, etc)?
- A **piece of Art?**
- **Baked goods or entrees?**
- A **Timeshare?** (These have brought in a LOT in the past!)
- **Get together with a friend to provide a Group Dinner or Excursion?**
- **Gift Cards** (maybe you have received one you don't need as a gift?)

Email us with your ideas OR questions: auction@uudanbury.org

From *Buildings and Grounds*

by Gary Mummert

There are some changes with our management of refuse and recycling. Now that a new trash area has been erected, all refuse and recycling goes into large carts behind the 6 foot stockade fencing and **must be bagged.** Throwing loose trash or loose items for recycling into the carts could cause our vendor to reject pickup and extra (nasty) work for B&G.

Bags of various sizes and colors are stored in both kitchens. We use white and black bags for refuse, and clear and blue see-thru bags for recycling.

Recycling will be addressed next month. For now, both refrigerators have recycling guidance for review, based on CT's regional waste agency. Please help us to comply to reduce rejection of recycling materials by the sorting companies.

From the *Social Action Council*

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Judy Lacker

On Saturday, January 7th, some members of Soup Kitchen Team #3 (Team Leader **Lynn Taborsak, Bob Taborsak, Jim Wruck, Julie Gordon, Diane Purvis and Laura Reynolds**) will be returning to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Spring Street to help serve take-out meals that were cooked in volunteers' homes as well as bagged sandwiches for lunches and breakfasts and hot lunches for Pacific House also prepared in volunteers' homes as well as through donations. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to serve the guests a meal inside because of the Covid pandemic.

You can also help feed our neighbors with a gift card in any amount from any local supermarket. In addition, you can continue to make food donations to the Daily Bread Food Pantry (25 West Street - entrance off Terrace Place). Donations are accepted on Mondays between 11 am and 2 pm and on Fridays between 8:30 am and 11:30 am. Lynn Taborsak has also been scheduling the sandwich donations so we have just the right amount each day at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. If you are interested in making sandwiches, please email her at ddhsandwiches@gmail.com. We can all be an important part of the fight to end hunger in our community!.

Please note that we have resumed collecting non-perishable food donations on Sunday mornings. Please place your food donations in the basket in the foyer. You can sign up to help transport the weekly collection to The Dorothy Day Hospitality House on Spring Street.

Upcoming Events



UUCD Men Conversing over Coffee meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, January 11th at 10:00 a.m. at UUCD in the Fellowship Hall Lower Level. For more information contact **Gary Mummert** or **Joe Gillotti**.

Chair Yoga will resume on Monday, January 9th - All aspects of this class are designed to lead a person to a feeling of wellness and learning to become calmer. Come join our happy group, it's great value in so many ways, on Mondays 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. at UUCD. Participants must contact their doctor or medical provider for approval before attending this Chair Yoga Class. To register, or if you have questions or concerns, contact **Joe Gillotti** any evening during the week after 7:00 pm.



SUNDAY

JANUARY 8, 2023

4pm



**24 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, Connecticut**

**SALLY ROGERS
&
HOWIE BURSEN**

Since their 1981 Greenwich Village coffeehouse encounter this duo has built a folk reputation throughout the U.S.A. and Canada, even appearing on Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion show. With 2 albums together on the Flying Fish label, they each have other recordings and musical adventures.

Frets magazine says Rogers' voice is "clear as the queen's diamonds", and the Washington Post brands her instrumental work "sterling". Her second album was voted "Best Folk Album of the Year" by the National Association of Independent Record Distributors. Pete Seeger said she "has a beautiful voice and has written many extraordinarily good songs that are going to reach out and touch large numbers of people. They sure are great songs!"

Rogers was official 1997 Connecticut State Troubadour, and is a Master Teaching Artist for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts as well as a K-4 music teacher and adjunct professor at Lesley University. She wrote music for 4 Mennonite folk operas. Thrushwood Kids, her recording label, houses her 5 award-winning recordings for young people. She has songs in Quaker and Unitarian Universalist hymnals and two major national music textbooks and also has had a children's picture book published.

Bursen is known for his warm baritone voice, devilish sense of humor, red-hot banjo wizardry and inventive guitar arrangements. Chicago Magazine said of him, "stunning guitar arrangements...easily one of the finest banjo players ever heard." Feature articles in *Banjo Newsletter* and *Frets* followed the release of Bursen's first solo album on Folk Legacy Records. His song "Small Business Blues" is included in Seeger's book, *Carry It On*. Bursen holds a Cornell Ph.D. in Philosophy. A professor-turned-grape grower, he makes wine at Sharpe Hill Vineyards in Pomfret, CT. His last album "Banjo Mannikin" highlighting his banjo pyrotechnics received national airplay.



tickets at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sally-rogers-and-howie-bursen-in-concert-tickets-478465421957>

Sally Rogers is the composer of our UU hymn Love Will Guide Us.

Notes on Two Hundred Years (and More)

by Douglas H. Parkhurst

During the past year it has been this writer's pleasure and privilege to relate bits and pieces of the history of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury (UUCD) on the occasion of the Congregation's 200th Anniversary. Articles have appeared in each of 2022's eleven issues of *Comment*, the UUCD's monthly newsletter. Many thanks to Sherry Kyriacou, church congregational administrator and *Comment* editor, for editing and fitting them in.

I minimized footnotes and source references in the articles to make reading friendly and as a way to save space. This month I will share some of the sources I used in preparing "Notes." I emphasize "some" as this is not an all-inclusive listing.

The archives of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury are indispensable. These include, but are not limited to, meeting minutes along with membership and financial records, some dating to 1850. Unfortunately, there are many gaps in these records both before and after 1850 and much information is missing.

A most valuable resource is the 132 page book *The Story of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Northern Fairfield County 1822-1995*. This history was written by Reverdy Whitlock, a New Haven bookseller and writer on local Connecticut topics. Prepared in time for the UUCD's 175th Anniversary, this book surveys people and events in the church's long history. Of special interest are chapters on Rev. Harry Adams Hersey (the UUCD's longest serving minister) and on the first twenty-five years (1970-1995) of life at "the Barn" in West Redding. Copies are available through the UUCD.

The book *From Heresy Toward Truth* was researched and written by Donald Watt. Published in 1971 to detail the first 150 years of the Universalist Church of West Hartford, it also touches on the development of Universalism in Connecticut.

A comprehensive two volume history of American Universalism titled *The Larger Hope* was researched and written in the 1970s and early 1980s by Professor Russell E. Miller of Tufts University. This history traces the development of the Universalist denomination from the time of John Murray to consolidation with the Unitarians in 1961. A one volume much abbreviated version of *The Larger Hope* and titled *The Larger Faith* was prepared by Rev. Charles A. Howe, parish minister and UU historian, in the early 1990s.

What might be considered a companion volume to *The Larger Faith* is a study of American Unitarianism edited by Professor Conrad Wright of Harvard University and titled *A Stream of Light*. This one volume study portrays the history of American Unitarianism from 1805 to 1961. Both *The Larger Faith* and *A Stream of Light* are interesting and useful short histories.

The Unitarians and the Universalists by David Robinson is another recent account of the development of the two denominations which became one Association in 1961. This title is part of the *Denominations in America* book series and was published in 1985. There has been a copy available at the UUCD, check the bookshelves near the fireplace in the meeting room of the house.

Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People's History was published in 2011. The author is Rev. John A. Buehrens, writer and now retired parish minister who served as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1993-2001.

Harvard Square Library (www.harvardsquarelibrary.org) is a digital library of assorted Unitarian Universalist topics.

Harvard Divinity School Library (<https://guides.library.harvard.edu/hds/uu-congregations>) has digitized versions of Unitarian and Universalist and UU registers and yearbooks along with links to a variety of UU biographies, histories, and other resources.

Two recent Danbury histories may be of interest to those seeking information about the geographic cradle of our present-day Unitarian Universalist Congregation. These are *As We Were....A Pictorial Remembrance of Old Danbury* edited by Evelyn S. Durgy and *We Crown Them All: An Illustrated History of Danbury* by William S. Devlin. Both books were sponsored by the Danbury Museum and Historical Society (Scott-Fanton Museum). Each includes images of the UUCD's previous buildings in downtown Danbury.

Two books from the nineteenth century contain short histories of Danbury churches, including the Universalist. These are D. Hamilton Hurd's 1881 *History of Fairfield County, Connecticut* and the 1896 *History of Danbury, Conn. 1684-1896* by James M. Bailey and Susan B. Hill. Both books can be found in digital form on the internet. The Danbury Museum and Historical Society (Scott-Fanton Museum) (<https://DanburyMuseum.org>) has a Universalist Church file among its archival subject collection, along with microfilms of Danbury newspapers dating to the 1800s. The museum is located at 43 Main Street. Brigid Guertin is executive director and Patrick Wells is research associate. Telephone 203-743-5200.

Enjoy your reading and researching!



Our Caring Circle is Available

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

Inge Hill is the contact person for January and February.

Donna Lawrence is the assistant.

If you have a need, please contact **Inge**.

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



SIDE WITH LOVE

30 Days of Love 2023

From the UUA's Side With Love, a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression.

Side With Love is thrilled to announce [30 Days of Love 2023](#)! Our annual month of spiritual nourishment, political grounding, and shared practices of faith and justice, 30 Days of Love will go from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 16) through Valentine's Day (February 14).

This year's 30 Days of Love is a gift to our whole community: a love letter, a warm hug, a spiritual balm for all of the individuals, families, religious professionals, partners and communities that embody our values and work for justice and liberation year round. Each week will feature a spiritual theme overlapping with one of Side With Love's intersectional justice priorities, and we'll share an array of offerings to help nourish your spirit and give gratitude and affirmation.

Stay tuned for more details coming soon,

WEEK 1 (January 16-22): **Interdependence :: Democracy & Electoral Justice**

WEEK 2 (January 23-29): **Embodiment :: LGBTQIA+, Gender & Reproductive Justice**

WEEK 3 (January 30 - February 5): **Resilience :: Climate Justice**

WEEK 4 (February 6-12): **Healing :: Decriminalization**

BONUS DAYS (February 13-14): **Blessings :: Liberatory Intersections**

Stay tuned for more details!

