



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Monthly **COMMENT** Newsletter

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

MARCH 2025

FROM OUR MINISTER



“Stay in Your Lane and Trust the Other Lanes to Others”

Dear Beloveds,

It’s easy to feel overwhelmed right now with the horrific political news emanating from the Trump administration and the constant barrage of policies, initiatives, corruption, and lies targeting each and every one of our Unitarian Universalist values, especially when these things are so full of hate, they function like an attack on Love itself.

One way I am managing to not feel overwhelmed with all of this is by trusting that other people of good faith and good conscience are fighting back against this tide of hatred, deceit, and injustice. I remind myself that my job is to find what things are mine to do and do them to best of my ability and have faith - trust - that others like me are working on the other things as much or more than I am working on what I feel called to do.

One resource I have found valuable in the weeks since the inauguration is the “Social Change Ecosystem Map” from Deepa Iyer in her book “Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection.” Iyer lays out ten different roles people play in the work for positive social change: Weavers, Experiments, Frontline Responders, Visionaries, Builders, Caregivers, Disrupters, Healers, Storytellers, and Guides.

Iyer uses her ecosystem framework to “clarify values, identify roles, and support organizations, campaigns, and networks committed to solidarity, justice, and equity. It identifies ten roles that people and organizations often show up in (such as weaver, builder, and storyteller) when they are responding to crises, participating in social change movements, or organizing collectively to advance a campaign or a cause related to equity, justice, and solidarity.” You can explore her ideas further with an introductory handout you can download or read [here](#).

Iyer says using her framework is a three-step process: (1) identify your values and cause in the middle circle; (2) map your roles and those played by your ecosystem; and (3) reflect, observe, and plan. I’ve been doing the exercise in her book and it’s helped a lot over the last few weeks. Following her process, I put JETPIG (Love and our UU Values) at the center, and I’ve been reflecting on what role I am asked to play in this current crisis. I used to be a frontline responder, attending and organizing protests, but now I feel like my role is to be a Caregiver, Storyteller, Guide (advisor), and Visionary/Builder. These seem like the best way to use my time and my role as a parish minister. I am in the process of reflecting, observing, and planning - both at home and in my ministry for how to play my role in the current crises and how to help organize my family and my congregations to find and play their roles.

(continued)

I trust that if I stay in my lane, do the work I feel equipped and called to do, and do it the best that I can, that others will also find their work and give it their best. All of us have something we can do to work for justice, uphold democratic institutions, and protect the most vulnerable. During the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s not everyone was called to march, people were needed to make meals, give rides, make phone calls, and do lots of other things that never made headlines but were essential to the overall success of the movement.

I encourage you to explore what your role might be in this crisis, engage it with confidence that what you're contributing matters, and trust - have faith in - others to find their work and do it, too. None of us can do everything, but all of us can do something. Let's do it!

In Solidarity,
Rev. Tony

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE TO PERSONAL GROWTH - "Articles of Faith"

My challenge to you this month is to create your own personal Articles of Faith. Articles of Faith usually refers to a religion's statement of belief or creed, the individual articles of faith being those theological and religious ideas required to claim affiliation with a religion. Unitarian Universalists have no creed and require no profession of faith. Instead, we ask every Unitarian Universalist to undertake a much more difficult and personal task - creating for yourself a personal philosophy and theology as well as a personal practice of spirituality.

My challenge to you this month is to create your own articles of faith, a list of things in which you have faith. If faith is a difficult term for you, understand that in Hebrew and Koine Greek (the language of the Christian Scriptures) the word for faith is actually the word for trust! In Hebrew, faith is emuna and trust is emun. In Greek, trust is empistosýni and faith is písti. Theologically we can think of faith as trust, so that having "faith" is actually trusting in something or someone. In what (or who) do you place your deep and secure faith? What and who do you ultimately and abidingly trust? You might think of our Unitarian Universalist values outlined in the new Article Two of the UUA bylaws as things in which you put "faith" or trust.

I have faith in the power of love. I trust the power of love to conquer fear, hate, anxiety, isolation. I trust the power of love to inspire and motivate. I trust that justice is truly what love looks like in action. I also trust that there is no such thing as a lesser person and that dehumanizing other people is evil. I trust that it's more important to be kind than nice. I trust that it's imperative to love my enemies, but not to like them. I trust that in the end there will prove to be enough divine, human, and natural resources to justify taking on an attitude of ultimate if not immediate optimism and therefore although the arc of the moral universe is long, I trust that it will bend toward justice. I trust that it is required of me to help create a just, equitable, and inclusive human society. I trust my wife, my son, my mom, my friends, my colleagues, and you. What and who do you trust? Reflect and make a list or write a statement, or create some art to express it.

As always, I would love to hear what your experience of engaging this challenge was like.

Welcome

New Members

The Membership Team is happy to welcome New Members to the Congregation. UUCD will officially welcome new members during the March 2 service. We look forward to celebrating all of our new members that day after the service over coffee and refreshments.

Jean Kannan



Jean Kannan is originally from Worthington, Ohio and a graduate of The Ohio State University. After graduation she and her new husband moved to Westchester County, NY where they raised their three children in Yorktown Heights. She considers her greatest honor and accomplishment to be raising these three remarkable human beings.

In 2005 Jean moved to Danbury and pursued a certificate in therapeutic recreation from Norwalk Community College. She has spent the last 16 years working in assisted living facilities and nursing homes helping older adults have the best quality of life possible, despite their health concerns and limitations that make living in a facility a necessity.

Jean was raised a Methodist, but has long considered herself more spiritual than religious, having questioned religious practices and beliefs from an early age. She has been attending UUCD since November 2024 and instantly felt a connection that grows stronger each week.

When not working part time, she likes to volunteer or spend time with her three children and 6 grandchildren. She lives with her three cats (all foster fails) and sweet fluffy cocker spaniel. She looks forward to many years at UUCD and becoming an active and involved member.

LouAnn Heller



LouAnn Villani-Heller was born and raised in West Haven, CT, where she and husband Stan raised 2 daughters. Until the pandemic hit she really never thought of leaving the shoreline. In 2020, they moved to the Danbury area to be close to her daughters, leaving behind a large extended family who think that Danbury is the Midwest and can't believe she moved so far away. She assured them she will make the trip back regularly for family functions and card games.

LouAnn worked for 40+ years as a nurse specializing in elder care, learning along the way the beauty of aging gracefully, to which she has joined weekly chair yoga at the senior center and recently learned to play Mahjongg.

Being troubled by the events in the wider world, she asked a minister friend how she kept her faith. The answer was “put your faith in the people around you and find a community”.

With that advice, in November of 2023 she attended her first UU service at UUCD. There she says “I found a welcoming community of like-minded people. From the chalice affirmation to the commitment I make when extinguishing the chalice, I have felt grounded for the week ahead and it is not so scary”.



March’s theme is Trust and all services will relate to that idea in some way. Some services may differ slightly from these descriptions, as details of the main presentation aren't finalized until a day or two before each service.

Sunday, March 2nd

Four-Way Stop

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Rev. Tony reflects on the power of culture to shape us and how culture shapes attitudes. He asks us to reflect on what parts of culture we’re willing to exchange for putting our faith in the power transformation and growth. This is part five of our Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation series.



Our **Share-the-Plate offering will go to Triangle Community Center (TCC)**. Their mission aims to support, advocate for, and strengthen the LGBTQ+ community in Fairfield County and beyond through programming focused on wellbeing, community, and learning. TCC provides programming, resources, and education to nurture growth and connection within and for the LGBTQ+ community and has free support, recovery, and social groups that cater to our diverse community of LGBTQ+ folks, their families, friends, and allies.

Sunday, March 9th

We Need Each Other

Jeremy Klein Farrell

Guest Speaker Jeremy Klein Farrell will talk with us about how we tend to close ourselves off in dark and frightening times. Our instincts are to turn inward, but we forget how much we need the support of those around us, and how much they need us. Nobody can do this alone, we need each other.

Jeremy Klein Farrell is a queer, autistic, Jewish activist. He is an Autism Advocate and public speaker professionally. He is an admin for Not Just Us, which holds rallies around the state. Jeremy is also coordinator for Justice Southbury, holding rallies for 235 consecutive weeks, where he has learned the true power of love, presence, and persistence. He has also pushed back on LGBTQ+ focused book bans.

Sunday, March 16th

Trusting Ourselves and Each Other

Rev. Michael Tino

Rev. Michael Tino reflects on when bearing witness becomes a radical theological act? We are called to bear witness to those whom our society wants to remain hidden and also to create a space where we need not hide ourselves. We will bear witness together and in doing so honor humanity, worth, dignity, and love.

Rev. Dr. Michael Tino is a Unitarian Universalist minister on the lead team of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, our faith's online and direct mail ministry. He previously served on the UUA Board of Directors and currently serves on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Before entering the ministry he worked in cell biology, a field in which he holds a Ph.D. Originally from New York City, Rev. Michael now lives in Peekskill, NY, with their husband and daughter.

Sunday, March 23rd

Having Faith

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Rev. Tony leads a multi-gen service on how to build trust.

Sunday, March 30th

Finding the Courage to Act

Deborah Tickell

Guest speaker Deborah Tickell reflects on living into her baptismal vows to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself; strive for justice and peace among all people; and respect the dignity of every human being” in our current world.

A cradle Episcopalian, Deb Tickell has extensive experience in youth ministry and congregational development and has held secular employment in public relations and event planning in both the for profit and not-for-profit arenas. Deb grew up in Connecticut. In 2005, she and her then-young family relocated to the Phoenix Valley in Arizona. While in Arizona, she served as Youth Director at St. Peter’s, Litchfield Park. Together with her now wife (an Episcopal priest), she co-founded the Emmaus Episcopal Church community in Surprise, AZ. When Emilie was called to another parish, Deb continued to lead the Emmaus community for over five years as (solo) Lay Missioner/Vicar, responsible for liturgy planning, officiating and preaching weekly worship services in person and online, pastoral care, Christian formation, and community and ministry development. She also served the Diocese of Arizona as a Facilitator of Anti-Racism Training and as a catalyst for the establishment of a Committee for LGBTQIA+ Inclusion and Ministry. She returned to Connecticut in 2023. She is wife, mother of two amazing young adults, and human companion to a beloved (and overly possessive) cat and an adoring black lab.

Our Caring Circle is Available

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

Donna Lawrence is the contact person for March and April.

Joan Stapleton is the assistant.

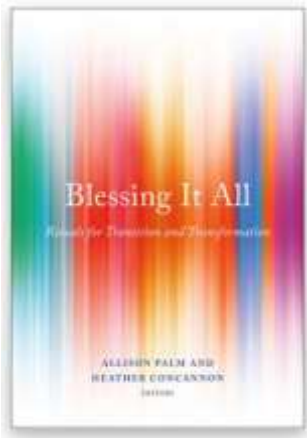
If you have a need, please contact **Donna**.



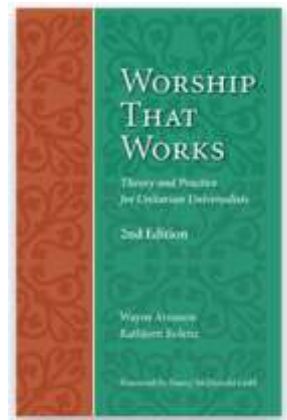
Please note that your call will be returned as quickly as possible but it may be at the end of the day.

Books on How to Speak from the Pulpit on Sundays

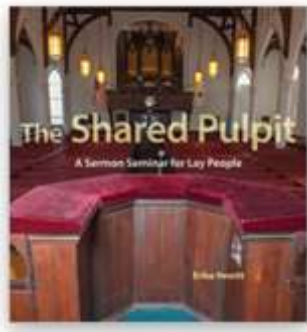
Rev. Tony and the Sunday Services Team are starting a program for lay people interested in speaking on Sunday mornings in the coming months, UUCD has purchased 3 resources for our library. These items are available for a 2-week checkout - contact Sherry at officemanager@uudanbury.org if you're interested.



Blessing It All: Rituals for Transition and Transformation, Editors: [Heather Concannon](#), [Allison Palm](#). Lists dozens of rituals for life events. 458 pages. [Info and to order](#)



Worship that Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists, 2nd edition by Wayne B. Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz. Essential theory and best practices for lay worship leaders and ministers. 218 pages [Info and to order](#)



“The Shared Pulpit: A Sermon Seminar for Lay People” by Rev. Erika A. Hewitt. A workbook with a step-by-step lesson plan to develop preaching experience among lay people. 128 pages. [Info and to order](#)

From the Board of Trustees

by Nancy Cullen, Secretary

Trans Inclusion in the Congregation

Despite all the competing events going on in our congregation and in the world, you've probably heard of the course: *Trans Inclusion in the Congregation*. Rev. Tony took the course, and the Board of Trustees decided to offer it to the congregation this year.

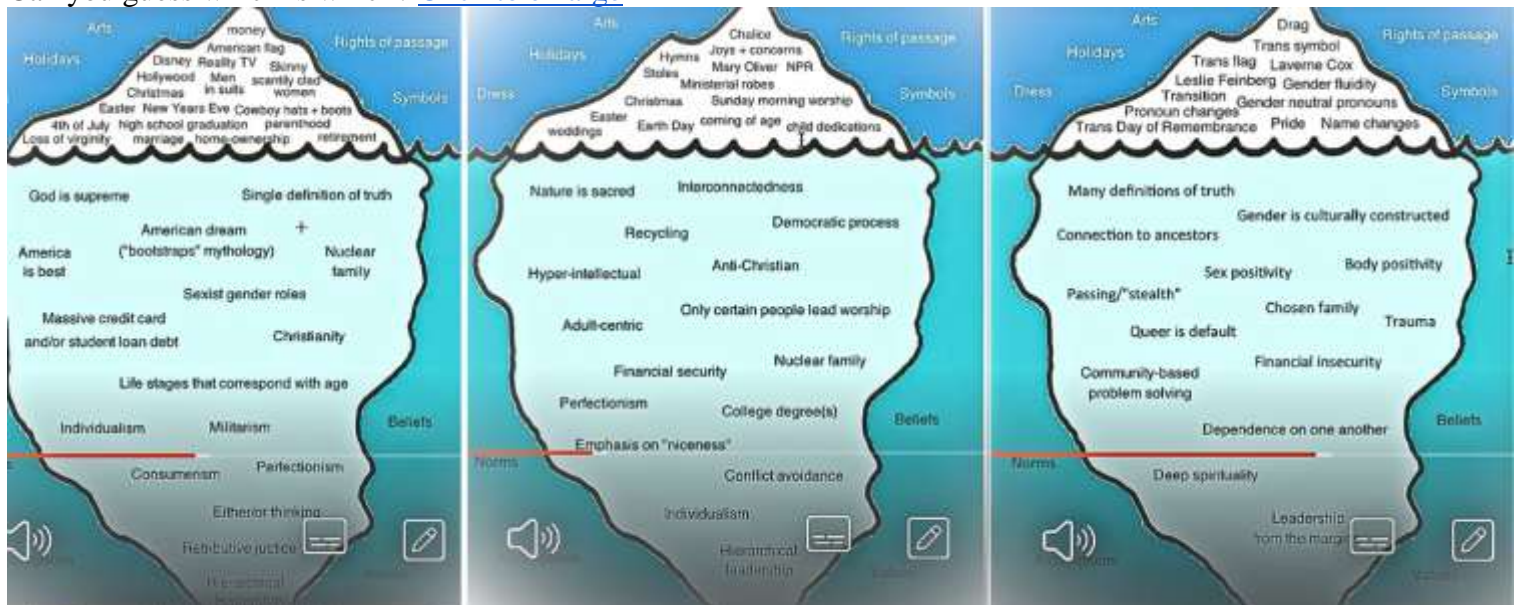
Alex Kapitan, a partner in creating the course, spoke at our February 2nd service. Are you taking the 6-video online course? It is free: ask trustees, Sherry, or Rev. Tony if you need help accessing the course. Rev. Tony is offering discussions on Zoom periodically, in both daytime and the evening.

A book, *Authentic Selves*, has also been offered as a text for all of us to read. Many of us bought the book, and you can borrow one—just ask anyone on the Board of Trustees, Sherry, or Rev. Tony.

The 5th video in the course is my favorite. Alex and Mykal shared [3 iceberg models of culture](#), illustrating what is above the surface and what is below, in 3 different cultures: Trans, UU, and the Dominant culture. This says a lot about Alex and Mykal's perspective in graphic form.

Like UUs, Trans people are a very small percentage of the larger culture. Only by taking the time to get to know individuals from other cultures can we understand their values and beliefs. There are connections we can build. I recommend the course.

Can you guess which is which? [Click to enlarge](#)



From Our Director of Religious Education For Children and Youth, Rev. Sierra-Marie Gerfao



Upcoming in Children and Youth Ministries

Our nursery is open every Sunday from 9:50-11:10AM for young children who prefer not to stay in the service with their adults. For children in preK-12th grade we offer Sunday programs.

- **Sunday, March 2:** Regular Sunday morning programs
- **Sunday, March 9:** Regular Sunday morning programs for preK-8th grade, Group for Parents/Caregivers of LGBTQIA+ People, and an evening game night for 8th-12th grade
- **Sunday, March 16:** Regular Sunday morning programs
- **Sunday, March 23:** Multigenerational Sunday Service - No Programs
- **Sunday, March 30:** Regular Sunday morning programs

Thinking
Ahead
to
2025-26

Volunteers are the only way our programs happen! Can you help with our children and youth ministries during the 2025-2026 school year. Program volunteers spend two Sundays a month with the kids. It is ***only a ten month commitment***, and it is a great way to get to know more people in the congregation. Please reach out to Rev. Sierra-Marie at dre@uudanbury.org if you think you might be able to volunteer during that time period. She can help you figure out if this is the right fit for you.

Upcoming Events



MUSIC AT THE RIDGE



HUGH BLUMENFELD,
AND DAVID COLLER
with DIANE CHODKOWSKI
Sunday, March 2, 4 PM



Three Connecticut songwriters. One 40-year collaboration/friendship.

Two guitars, one banjo, three voices.
One glorious afternoon at Music at the Ridge.

24 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, Connecticut
www.musicattheridge.org



TICKETS:
\$25 in person,
\$20 streaming
All tickets through
EVENTBRITE or at door



Saturday, March 8th - **Suze Shaner and Dan Brodax** are facilitating **Movies with a Message**, using **Spiritual Cinema's** movie shorts each month **from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** These nights consist of 1-3 short movies that explore the big questions about life and living (i.e, Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we bound? and What can we become when we live at our highest level of potential?) with discussion afterwards. We will supply water and popcorn. Feel free to bring your takeout dinner. Donations to UUCD gratefully accepted.



UUCD Men Conversing over Coffee meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Lower Level. For more information contact **Jeff Asher** or **Joe Gillotti**.

On Sunday, April 13 from 5-8 PM in Fellowship Hall, we will hold a **potluck Passover Seder** to which all are welcome. The telling of the Passover story in narrative and music will be shared in an interactive way, with the reading of the Haggadah (literally, "the telling") being shared among participants taking a turn to read the story. **Nancy Hershatter** will lead the music piece of the Seder. Others on the team are **Lou Ann Heller** and **Judy Lacker**. Anyone who wants to help is welcome to speak with one of us. Children are especially welcome. A signup sheet for the potluck meal will be on the bulletin board in the lobby beginning March 15.



Ministry/Team News

From the *Social Action Council*

Social Action Council Reboot

Join Rev. Tony Lorenzen, Margaret Henderson, and others to discuss how we should organize UUCD for social justice activism in response to ongoing threats to our values and to vulnerable populations from our own government. We can learn who's already connected to what activism and advocacy, discuss what our priorities should be as a congregation, how to support non-priority activism and advocacy, and the role of a reformed Social Action Council. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 2 at 11:30 a.m. for about an hour.

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Judy Lacker

On Saturday, March 1st, some members of Soup Kitchen Team C (Team Leaders **Judy Lacker and Rose Schlemmer, Jane Leff and Randy Becker, John Miglietta, Gary Winn, and Andrea Anderson**) will be returning to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Spring Street to help serve take-out meals and sandwiches that were cooked or prepared in volunteers' homes or through donations. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to serve the guests a meal inside Dorothy Day Hospitality House.

PLEASE NOTE: ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT YET ABLE TO SERVE THE GUESTS AS WE USED TO INDOORS, WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE THEM TAKE AND EAT THEIR MEALS THAT ARE HANDED OUT AT THE DOOR, INSIDE TO THE SHELTER AREA. FOR THIS, WE NEED EXTRA VOLUNTEERS TO SUPERVISE THAT AREA FROM 3-4:30 FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.. WHEN OUR TEAMS ARE PREPARING THE MEALS IN THE KITCHEN AREA. PLEASE CONTACT [judyLacker48@gmail](mailto:judyLacker48@gmail.com) IF YOU CAN HELP.

You can also help feed our neighbors with a gift card in any amount from any local supermarket. Sandwich donations are being scheduled so we have just the right amount each day at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. If you are interested in making sandwiches, please send an email to ddhhsandwiches@gmail.com. We can all be an important part of the fight to end hunger in our community!

In the past couple of years, we have lost some of our Dorothy Day volunteers. Please consider volunteering to be on a DD Team - it only involves a few hours, 4 Saturdays per year. You will find it to be a very rewarding experience. Please contact Judy Lacker for more information or to sign up. If joining a team is not for you, you may consider being an alternate. It would require you to be available to substitute for a team member who would contact you a few days in advance of the particular first Saturday of the month. You can sign up on the poster on the bulletin board in the lobby and indicate "Alternate".

Please note that we continue to collect 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. Please see the note below for suggestions on donations. http://www.dorothydaydanbury.org/Wish_List.htm

News from the UUA



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

Join us in Baltimore for GA 2025, June 18-22! - The annual gathering for all UU's will be live in Baltimore, MD this year. Join us in person June 18-22 (Wednesday night thru Sunday morning), or register for virtual access only and join us from the comfort of your living room - although anyone who's been there will tell you it's more fun in person!

Go to <https://uua.org/ga> for details. Registration is in the fine-print options right below the video.

Bad news: Registration costs \$540 if you're 25 or over (\$275 for youth and young adults)

Good news: Until the end of March, it's only \$410!

Bad news: That's still a lot of money

Good news: UUCD has *dedicated funds* to help pay! -- And if you identify as BIPoC (Black, Indigenous or a Person of Color), you are especially encouraged to apply. For details, ask Bruni Edwards or Margaret Henderson.

Bad news: The registration cost doesn't include room and board

Good news: UUCD can help you pay for that too! All you have to do is submit a written request to Sherry (our admin), or Carl Tichler.

Bad news: But I may not know anyone there

Good news: There are other people going from UUCD!

Bad news: What about transportation?

Good news: Register before March 31 and you can ride with others for the 5-hour drive!

Now go share the good news, and **register early** as hotel rooms often sell out!

Notes on Two Hundred Years (and More)

by Douglas H. Parkhurst

Continued from February 2025...

An article about the Danbury Universalist Church appeared front and center, with an engraving of its building, on page one of *The Christian Leader* issue of September 14, 1893. The *Leader* was a Universalist periodical (subscription price \$2.50 a year) and a forerunner of the present-day *UU World* magazine. The write-up begins by reporting the dedication, on Sunday morning, September 10, of the newly constructed church edifice at 347 Main Street.

"A new Universalist Church in Danbury, Ct., has long been a consummation devoutly to be wished....The old building was not adapted to the growing needs and opportunities of Universalism in these times and in the growing city. The purpose to build anew took shape in early summer 1891...."

A complete description of exterior and interior features of the building follows, as does a copy of the order of service for the dedication. The day of the service was characterized as "most pleasant....that the congregation filled the church; that the financial pledges at the service amounted to twenty-five hundred dollars, and that with the coming of better times [see note below] the indebtedness will soon be largely decreased; and that the edifice 'called forth the admiration of the hundreds who were there.' "

The report concludes with details of a Service of Friendship and Good Will that followed on Sunday afternoon. Participants were pastors from other churches in Danbury: First Congregational, Disciples, Methodist Episcopal, Second Congregational, Union Hall, and Second Baptist.

The cornerstone of the new building had been laid a year earlier, on September 15, 1892. A brief history of the church's first seventy years was prepared for that occasion, though the author was not named. Perhaps it was read aloud to those assembled and perhaps their hearts did rejoice at these words:

"Sometimes prosperous, sometimes under the shadow of misfortune, but always alive, the faith has been kept, and taught and loved, and lived, by earnest souls who have rejoiced to hear its name....Once more the circumstances of the time, and the desire of the Society for larger opportunities for work, call for another change of location. In the summer of 1891 the beautiful lot on upper Main Street was purchased...and we lay the cornerstone of the new edifice [today]...."

James M. Bailey's and Susan B. Hill's *History of Danbury, Conn., 1684-1896*, contains a four-plus page essay about the local Universalist Church. The author was Rev. James Vincent, minister from 1891 to 1897. It tells of Rev. Hosea Ballou's visit to town in 1807, to the formal organization of the Danbury society in 1822, and the evolution of the church up to completion of the building project in 1893.

"With the completion of the new church the opportunity offered itself and the necessary machinery was at hand for what may be called a new era for Universalism in Danbury....Various departments are organized for special lines of effort, all to concentrate upon the task of making life sacred, helpful, and glad. Among these are the Society, the Church, the Sunday-school, the Ladies Social, the Women's Mission Circle, the Young People's Christian Union, and the Thursday Night Conference....One and a half years have passed since the beginning of

this new era. There have been no spasms of religious feeling, no sensational methods, but steady, persistent work...."

First Universalist Church, now Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury (UUCD), celebrated its first one hundred years in December 1922. A lengthy history of the group, presented at one of the centennial gatherings and printed in the *Danbury News*, was written by congregant Luman L. Hubbell, who joined First Universalist in 1863. A church deacon, Luman Hubbell had many personal memories of the congregation. He recorded bits of history not found in other accounts. For example:

"Our Society was represented in the Civil War, 1861-1865 by Grandison D. Foote, William O. Hoyt, Timothy Rose, Benjamin F. Skinner, all members of the first company to respond, on April 19, 1861. After the return of the 'three months men', a company was organized and became a part of the Seventh Regiment, Benjamin F. Skinner was elected captain. Lewis A. Ward was a member of Captain Moore's company in the 17th Regiment, and Joseph T. Bates was a member of Co. B, 23rd Regiment."

Hubbell goes on:

"There is no record of any special service on the occasion of the semi-centennial anniversary. I do recall, however, a church social being held at the home of Ezra G. Wildman, in Beaver Brook, about that time December 1872. I remember that Ira R. Wildman was present, one of the original twelve founders, also Mrs. Joseph T. Bates, and it was remarked that the oldest and the youngest members of the church were present."

Rev. Dr. Harry Adams Hersey, minister on the occasion of the 125th anniversary, wrote "A Brief History of the First Universalist Church in Danbury, 1822-1947." It was printed in the program for the 125th celebration and also in *The Danbury News-Times* [see note below]. Here are some excerpts:

"Theological Atmosphere - Fierce theological controversy and slanderous and libelous opposition to the Universalist Church, with its 'Larger Faith,' raged in the early years. But as sectarian strife everywhere decreased and liberal views increased, the sterling character and community service of Universalists commended them to their fellow-men...."

"Contribution to Danbury - Both clergy and laity have been very active in all community enterprises. A permanent contribution to the institutions of the city was made by the long-time church school superintendent, the late Laura Scott Fanton. In her will she gave 'in perpetuity' her estate on Deer Hill Avenue for an historical museum.... [see notes below]."

"Today and Tomorrow - Today [1947], in a redecorated church, with a renovated organ, with an active and progressive board of trustees, the Universalist Church faces the future...with a modern attitude to truth, known or to be known."

A more recent historical treatment was prepared by Rev. Stephen H. Furrer, minister in West Redding from 1983 to 1987. This nine page "A Brief History of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Northern Fairfield County" (UUSNFC) is interesting and useful. It describes the religious field in colonial and revolutionary Connecticut, and surveys the appearance of religious dissenters and liberals and Universalism's long Danbury experience. Furrer goes on to recount the founding of the Unitarian Fellowship of Ridgefield, and concludes with the establishment of the UUSNFC and touches on its first years in West Redding.

[Note - A national economic panic began in 1893. It had serious repercussions for the hatting industry, Danbury's most important at the time.]

[Note - The text of the 1947 newspaper printing confused an anniversary celebration in 1897 with centennial activities in 1922.]

[Note - Laura Scott Fanton died in 1918, and her husband, John H. Fanton, a year later. The museum contents were later moved from the Fanton home at 109 Deer Hill Avenue to the present museum in the John Rider House at 43 Main Street. The former Scott-Fanton Museum is today the Danbury Museum and Historical Society.]

[Note - Coincidentally, when the UUCD was planning its return to Danbury in the early 2000s, one of the properties toured and considered by the building committee was the former Fanton home (and museum) at 109 Deer Hill Avenue.]



Dear friends,

Thank you for all of your kind thoughts and well-wishes for my son, Jonathan and our family after Jonathan's assault and hospitalization. So many of you reached out to us and we all appreciate it. It really brought Jonathan's spirits up to know that so many people were thinking of him.

Thank you to our Caring Circle – we had a need and I reached out to the Caring Circle and within 2 hours they found someone to assist us.

UUCD is truly a special community made up of kind and caring people and we are so grateful to be a part of it.

Sherry Kyriacou

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” for LGBTQ+ people. This year we are engaging in a Trans Inclusion program of education and action as we live out our UU values of Love, Equity, Justice and Transformation. 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 April Comment –
Friday, March 21st.

