



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Monthly **COMMENT** Newsletter

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

APRIL 2025



FROM OUR MINISTER

“Remember the Dance”

Dear Beloveds,

I have been reflecting quite a bit over the last couple of months on a statement by Dan Savage about how the gay community dealt with the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. He said, “During the darkest days of the AIDS crisis, we buried our friends in the morning, we protested in the afternoon, and we danced all night. The dance kept us in the fight because it was the dance we were fighting for. It didn’t look like we were going to win then and we did. It doesn’t feel like we’re going to win now but we could. Keep fighting, keep dancing.”

Although it’s attributed to Friedrich Nietzsche, the actual source of this wisdom is unknown: “And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music.” When I see and hear the vile attacks on Trans people and undocumented immigrants and refugees, and on empathy itself, I wonder if the attackers truly think of those of us who value compassion and kindness and justice, those who are woke, as people dancing to no music.

It’s very easy to be discouraged right now with so much that we hold dear and so many people that we hold dear under philosophical if not physical attack by our own government. Levity seems out of place lately, almost disrespectful of the fear and anxiety some are experiencing. But it’s in times like these we most need to laugh, to sing, to dance, to enjoy a meal with friends, to remember why we fight so hard for love and light.

W.H Auden notes, “As a rule it was the pleasure haters who became unjust.” And so the agents of bigotry seem to me. Their hearts are so full of darkness and hatred, their humanity is a black hole, not even light escapes from their presence. They cast shadows wherever they go. They can’t comprehend the lightness of being, the laughter born of being just alive, the tears that fall freely encountering beauty. They truly can’t hear the music of the heart. It’s like they’ve never known love. And that in itself may have caused the profound hurt that leaves them unable to do anything but hurt others.

Do not fear them. They have no power here over those of us who refuse to stop dancing.

In Solidarity,
Rev. Tony

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE TO PERSONAL GROWTH “Develop a Practice of Joy”

My challenge to you this month is to cultivate a practice of Joy. Joy, like hope, can be understood as a practice like meditation or yoga or journaling. It's something you can work at and develop. It's not just something you experience, it's an attitude you bring to everything you do. This month, I challenge you to find ways to improve your practice of joy. Over the next month, see if you can do a little better at noticing love, light, meaning, symbol, and things that lift your heart. Maybe take some time at the beginning or end of each day to remind yourself to look for the joy or remember what joy you might have passed over too quickly.

Joy is often confused with being an expression of extreme, ultimate happiness. Joy and happiness are not the same thing. Happiness is an emotion, while joy is a state of heart; a condition of the soul. Joy amplifies happiness, certainly, but joy can also be present amid sadness and pain and loss. The opposite of joy isn't sadness, but emptiness and isolation.

Joy is one of the foundational themes of liberal religion. It is intertwined with faith, hope, and love. Joy is often used as a single word descriptive of one of the five smooth stones of liberal religion. James Luther Adams writes, “Liberalism holds that the resources (divine and human) available for the achievement of meaningful change justify an attitude of ultimate (if not immediate) optimism.” This is a cause for joy; a reason to look for and see what is possible; a reason to trust in ourselves, each other, and the universe around us.”

Joy is a fullness of heart that experiences a deep connection to the divine, the ground of all being, source, spirit, the universe, your higher power, love - however you want to think of it. Joy is wonder and amazement at the miracle of existence. Joy is love and being loved. Joy is seeing and being seen. When we experience joy, it is usually accompanied by pleasure, happiness, excitement and elation, for this is when we most easily recognize it. However, it is when joy breaks through as a small light in the darkness, that perhaps teaches us its most profound lesson and its true nature.

The day of my father's funeral, I had an experience of joy. His memorial service was at an apple orchard. I read Robert Frost's poem “After Apple Picking.” When we left the orchard for the cemetery, I gazed out over the apple trees and was unexpectedly caught up in the beauty of the orchard. It was a sunny October day and after apple picking so most of the fruit, but not all, had been picked or fallen to the ground. The sun on the grass, the apple tree branches, and the horizon of rolling hills produced a feeling of wonder and awe, and for a moment, in the company of family and friends, I felt ultimately connected to this world and to the circle of life - and death. It was a moment full of love. It was a moment of joy in the middle of a sad and difficult day. I was able to find this moment because of my practice of looking for love, light, meaning, symbol, and things that lift my heart. My practice of joy enabled me to experience a moment of joy I might otherwise have missed.



April's theme is Joy 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, April 6th Mountains and Rubber Tree Plants Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Rev. Tony Lorenzen helps us kick off the annual stewardship drive and reflects on how to create meaningful change from a place of Joy. This is the final service in our year-long series on Transgender Inclusion.



Our Share-the-Plate offering will go to Connecticut Can End Homelessness (CCEH). Their mission is to catalyze transformative change to solve homelessness in Connecticut by ensuring effective responses to emergency situations and fostering long-term solutions through collaboration with providers, state agencies, and communities.

Sunday, April 13th Where Is Humanity Today? Suze Shaner-Brodax
Suze Shaner-Brodax, one of our members, will explore navigating the current environment in ways that we can stay well resourced. These times require that we summon our joy on demand creating glimmer moments amidst the chaos.

Sunday, April 20th Habitual Joy Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Rev. Tony Lorenzen leads an Easter service and reflects on joy as a practice, offering that joy is more about a way of moving through the world, and less about fleeting moments of happiness.

Sunday, April 27th Improv as Spiritual Practice Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich
When the Buddhist monk shared his wisdom, "Meet what arrives," he probably didn't realize that it's also the first rule of improvisational theater. Join us to look more closely at the place where reflection and ridiculousness collide.

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich (they/them) is a minister, writer, musician, and activist dedicated to radical inclusion, deep collaboration, and courageous kindness. Lindasusan has served congregations in Connecticut, Michigan, and Minnesota; is a certified spiritual director; and identifies as a gender dynamic bisexual person of color.

Annual Meeting of UUCD - Proposed Bylaws Amendments

All members and friends of UU Danbury are cordially invited to attend the **Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1** after the service. We will be electing a new president and voting on other business of the congregation.

Voting: To be eligible to vote, **you must be a member of the congregation by April 2nd**, 60 days ahead of time. Absentee ballots will be available - look for more information in late May.

Issues:

1. Should UUCD sign on to the [Apartheid-Free Pledge](#), aimed at stopping apartheid in Israel? Look for more information soon about this.

2. Two **Bylaws Amendments** - Any proposed changes to our bylaws must be published ahead of time, so we are hereby doing so. They are also posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions, please ask any Board member.

Amendment 1 (proposed) - Large Emergency Expenditures

Article IV, Section 4, subsection A, which now reads:

A. The following items of business require a two-thirds vote, including those qualified members present and voting and absentee ballots, for passage and must be published to the congregation at least thirty (30) days preceding such meetings:

1. Amendments to Bylaws

2. *Expenditure of money in excess of \$10,000 for a non-budgeted item, except in the case of emergencies as determined by a majority of the Board of Trustees.*

Replace **paragraph 2** above with the following:

2. Any single or aggregate expenditure of money for non-budgeted items in excess of **10% of the approved expenditures for the fiscal year**, except in case of emergency as determined by **a two-thirds** majority of the Board of Trustees.

Amendment 2 (proposed) - Clarifying Who's on the Board

[Proposed text to be added is in **red** .]

Article VIII BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Amended 1983, 1989, 1992, 1995, 2004, 2014, 2018, 2021)

Section 1. BOARD COMPOSITION: The Board of Trustees (herein "Board") shall consist of seven **voting** persons who are members of the Congregation, **plus other non-voting persons**, one for each of the following positions and for the term specified:

- President (1 year) or Co-President (1 year)
- Vice-President (1 year) or Co-President (1 year)
- Secretary (1 year)
- Treasurer (2 years)
- Three Trustees-at-Large (3 years)
- Immediate past President to serve **as an** ex officio, **non-voting member** for 1 year

- Any Minister serving the congregation, who is in Fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association, is an ex officio, non-voting member of the Board

- Any Religious Educator serving the congregation, who is either in Ministerial Fellowship or holds Religious Education Credentialed Status with the Unitarian Universalist Association, is an ex officio, non-voting member of the Board.

Section 5. MEETINGS: The Board shall establish a regular schedule of meetings, normally once a month. Special meetings of the Board shall be called at the request of the President, or at the request of a majority of **the voting** members of the Board, for such purposes only as shall be stated in the call.

Section 6. VOTING: A quorum of the Board shall consist of a simple majority of the **voting members of the** Board, and all questions shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting.

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, April 6:** Regular Sunday morning programs; After-service craft for all ages; Senior High Youth Group meets Sunday evening
- **Sunday, April 13:** Regular Sunday morning programs; Senior High Youth Group meets Sunday evening (including a special laser tag event!)
- **Sunday, April 20:** Easter Sunday - kids stay in the service; a non-traditional Easter egg hunt will follow the service
- **Sunday, April 27:** Regular Sunday morning programs; Senior High Youth Group meets Sunday evening

Playground Updates!

A big thank you to everyone who has been giving to our playground fundraisers and to Randy, Kristen, Larissa, Steven, Catherine, Keith, Dave, Jessica, Matthew, Judy, Dale, Joanne, Suzanne, Val, Anne, and Luanne for volunteering to help the kids in various ways with their playground project!

We still need volunteers who are specifically willing to join our playground planning team. Members of this team, inclusive of kids, will occasionally meet on Sunday mornings for planning. Joining the team does not mean being involved in all aspects of planning. Some people may focus on the playground's design, others may focus on landscaping, others on identifying a company to help us build, others on fundraising, and still others on volunteer coordination.

You can make a donation of any size toward the playground using Simple Give on the congregational website. Be sure to mark it as playground money by selecting the "Playground Project" category. These donations are all appreciated greatly!

Any gifts received during April will count toward the Easter Egg fundraiser money. On Easter, the children will hunt for eggs containing "bunny money" (fake bills with bunnies on them) that they can count up to see how

much money has been given in the Easter fundraiser for their playground. They love counting money toward their fundraisers!

We also are hoping to have **one or two people who are willing to give the first large gifts** to help us kick-off a full fundraising campaign. A board member has requested that the kids bring a solid chunk of seed money to the board when they present their final proposal for the playground, as it will help indicate the congregation's support for this project.

If you feel moved to give one of the first large gifts in the \$2,000-6,000 range to help back the children's playground proposal, or to join our playground planning team, please contact Rev. Sierra-Marie at dre@uudanbury.org.

Volunteers Needed Next Fall!

This is the time of year when we turn our attention to program planning. Children, youth, and family plans for the upcoming school year will depend on volunteer availability. However, it is still very important to match people with the right volunteer roles for them. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to Rev. Sierra-Marie (dre@uudanbury.org) with the following information.

- **Frequency:** How frequently are you interested in volunteering (once or twice during the year; three or four times during year; once or twice per month; most Sundays)?
- **Type:** What inspired you to reach out? Are you interested in helping with planning, preparation, or committee work, or is your preference to work directly with program participants?
- **Style:** What is your preferred style of interaction (for example, do you prefer to be in charge, or are you more interested in mutuality; do you like to have structure or do you prefer to interact in more flexible ways)?
- **Age:** Is there a particular age group with whom you are best suited to work?
- **Skills:** Do you have a special skill you can offer the children's community in either behind-the-scenes or direct work (some examples might include making music, telling stories, creating props and sets for stages, art of any type, etc.)?
- **Connections:** Do you have a connection to a community organization with which we could partner for social action event?
-

We have many volunteer jobs that are **only a ten-month commitment**, and this is a great way to get to know more people in the congregation.

From the Board of Trustees

by Todd Zagorec

Volunteers?

“I always wondered why somebody didn’t do something about that. Then I realized I am somebody.”

– Lily Tomlin

UUCD relies on volunteers, and right now we need a few. In particular, we need candidates for what will soon be open positions for: President of the Congregation, one member of the Board of Trustees, and one member of the Nominating Team.

Apart from the obvious perks and prestige, this is an opportunity for you to be involved, to help the whole congregation, and let your little light shine. You won’t be alone. There’s work to be done, but it’s shared with folks who are either already your friends or soon will be!

Don’t make the mistake of thinking your ideas and your skills can’t make a real difference for the congregation. They can. The more of us who get involved, the more UUCD starts to reflect us and our values. The more it starts to look like us and becomes OUR place, and not just another building with cars in the parking lot on Sundays.

In terms of a time commitment, no one wants you to make promises you can’t keep. Don’t feel pressured into doing something you don’t have the time for. I’m not trying to do that. But if you have some time, know that your help would be gratefully and enthusiastically received!

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on June 1st. If you’d like to help, please contact Jackie Alexander or text Dan Brodax of the Nominating Team.

UUCD relies on volunteers. Like you. Thank you.

Upcoming Events



Join in the All Ages Holiday Craft on April 6th

During coffee hour on April 6th, kids and adults alike are invited to make a spring holiday craft from egg cartons and other reused material. You don’t need to be skilled at crafts to join us. The point is to have fun together. This is a chance to have some community-oriented social time among people of all ages.

Movies with a Message

Saturday, April 12th - **Suze Shaner-Brodax 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, April 9th** 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.





MUSIC AT THE RIDGE



SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 – 4PM:

THE FOUR HORSEMEN



David Ray, Mike Latini, Dave Goldenberg, and George Mallas

THE FOUR HORSEMEN are acclaimed individual singer-songwriters who have banded together to create lively shows known for their joyful spontaneity and for well-crafted songs ranging from hilarious to heartbreaking.

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



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

Ministry/Team News

From the *Caring Circle*



Our Caring Circle is Available

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

Donna Lawrence is the contact person for 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.

From the *Family Ministry Team*

by Gina Cassetta

The Family Ministry Team has decided to do the **Easter Egg Hunt** again on Easter Sunday this year, and the kids will be hunting for eggs filled with "bunny money" for the new playground. There will be prizes for them to choose from as well.

We are asking people to sign up and let us know how much they would like to donate towards this event ahead of time so we can print the correct amount of bunny money to distribute in the eggs. Any amount is welcome: \$1, \$10, \$100... The children enjoy counting the proceeds.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall from March 30 – April 13. You can donate anonymously or not. You can pay with a check with "Easter-Playground Fund" in the memo or on SimpleGive.



From the *Social Action Council*

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Judy Lacker

On Saturday, April 5, some members of Soup Kitchen Team A (Team Leader **Lynn Taborsak, Bob Taborsak, Diane Purvis, Nancy Brown, Linda & Steve Schneiner, Jyo Buyyala, Michael O'Hare and Lisa Deldin**) 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

Educational Offering: "Beyond the Binary" Conference

The First UU Society of Syracuse is offering a day of enlightenment about all things LGBTQ+ on Saturday, April 26th. The conference is reasonably priced (max \$50) and can be attended virtually or in person in Syracuse. For information and to register, go to <https://firstuusyr.org/bcbb-conference/>, or email bcbb@firstuusyr.org

News from the UUA



See UU's from all over the U.S. - Come to Baltimore for General Assembly 2025!

What: UUA General Assembly
Where: Baltimore, MD Convention Center
When: Wed. June 18 - Sun. June 22, 2025
Going: Margaret, Bruni and ??

We are looking for 1 or 2 more people who want to be voting delegates from UUCD. Our congregation has endowed funds available to help cover registration and expenses. Preference for financial assistance will be given to People of Color who would like to connect at GA with DRUUM (Diverse Revolutionary UU Ministries) or BLUU (Black Lives of UU). Note: **The 2026 General Assembly is planned to be all-virtual.** If interested, please contact Margaret Henderson.



Notes on Two Hundred Years (and More)

by Douglas H. Parkhurst

This month marks the 160th anniversary, on April 9, of the surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to combined Union forces under Ulysses S. Grant. Lee's surrender effectively ended the American Civil War. Less than a week later, on April 14, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

Danbury Universalist Society deacon Luman Hubbell, in his 1922 historical account (see Notes... article of March 2025), identified six congregants who were Civil War veterans. Four of these men, Grandison D. Foote, William O. Hoyt, Timothy Rose, and Benjamin F. Skinner, responded to President Lincoln's initial call for volunteers in April 1861. This followed the shelling by secessionists of the Federal installation at Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Foote, Hoyt, Rose, and Skinner were "three months' men," members of what was locally called the Wooster Guards [see note below], and officially Company E, 1st Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment. All four mustered in as privates on April 22, 1861. The 1st Connecticut arrived in Washington, D.C., in mid-May and moved to northern Virginia shortly after. Here the regiment performed picket and reconnaissance duty and skirmished with Confederate forces in the area. Most significantly, on July 21, the 1st Connecticut saw action guarding the Warrentown Road at the First Battle of Bull Run near Manassas, Virginia. The Wooster Guards ended their service and returned home on August 1, 1861.

Grandison Foote (sometimes spelled Foot) was born about 1820 in Brookfield, Connecticut. In 1843 he married Mercy Ann Porter, "both of Danbury." Danbury Universalist Society pastor J. K. Ingalls officiated. The 1860 U.S. Census shows Foote, a hatter, living in the borough of Danbury with his wife and four young children, Anna, Edgar, Frank, and Clement. Grandison's father Philo Foote, a shoemaker, and a servant named Bridget Smith also resided with the family. Grandison is listed as one of two musicians (he was possibly a drummer) on the rolls of 1st Connecticut. Local Universalist society and church records show Grandison Foote was elected to membership in 1852 and Mercy Ann in 1863. She later was a member of the church visitation and hospitality committees.

The fires of patriotism must have burned bright in Grandison Foote's heart. In November 1861, after only three months at home, he re-enlisted as a private (he was later promoted to sergeant), this time joining Company A, 11th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, known in town as the Averill Rifles [see note below]. This was a three year enlistment (in 1864 he again re-enlisted). A passage in Bailey's *History of Danbury, 1684-1896* describes Foote's second going away:

"Mr. Foote was in the first company of three months' men, and after returning he went back to his trade of hatter in the Pahquioque Factory. The departure of the Averill Rifles was too much for him, and throwing down the implements of his trade he enlisted in the same company. They had already gone to Hartford, and there Mr. Foote joined them....On the afternoon of his departure his fellow-workmen...presented Mr. Foote with a Bible with \$20 in bills between the leaves....Mr. Foote responded, and then left for the cars. As the train passed the shop the whole force turned out, and he went by amid the cheers of the crowd."

Between 1862 and 1865 the 11th Connecticut was involved in perhaps a dozen actions including South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, and the siege of Petersburg. The regiment mustered out in December 1865. After the war Grandison Foote returned to Danbury and resumed his trade as a hatter. He became active in veterans' affairs and joined the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, which he served

as post commander [see note below]. Grandison Foote died in Danbury in 1878 and is buried in the Old North Main Street Cemetery [see note below]. Mercy Foote collected a Civil War widow's pension and died in Danbury in 1889.

William O. Hoyt was born about 1840 and grew up on a Danbury farm. By 1860 he was working as a hatter's apprentice and in 1861 joined the Wooster Guards. In late 1861 he, too, re-enlisted, this time as a sergeant, in Company E, 12th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

From 1862 to 1864 the 12th Connecticut did duty mostly in Louisiana, including operations in and around New Orleans and the Union occupation of that city. In 1863, in conjunction with the Vicksburg campaign, the 12th participated in the siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana, which ended with Union forces gaining full control of the Mississippi River. In 1864, the 12th moved to Virginia and saw action in the Shenandoah Valley campaign. On October 19, 1864, at the Battle of Cedar Creek, William Hoyt was captured by Confederate forces and held as a prisoner of war until being paroled in February 1865.

William Hoyt married Frances M. Shepherd (or Sheppard) from Danbury, a hat trimmer. Unfortunately, local Universalist church and society records are not complete and this writer was unable to find mention of either William or Frances. In 1870 the family, including two children, Julia and Charles, was residing in Danbury. William was employed as a hatter. By 1880 the Hoyts had relocated to Flora, Kansas, where William farmed with son Charles. He received a Civil War pension and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Frances died in 1896 and is buried at Graceland Cemetery, Creston, Iowa. William Hoyt died in 1916 at the National Soldiers Home in Leavenworth, Kansas, and is buried at Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Timothy Rose was born in 1835, perhaps in Troy, New York. The 1860 U.S. Census shows him living in the borough of Danbury with wife Emma and infant daughter, Ida. He is described as a hatter, though later records show his occupations as blacksmith and stationary engineer, possibly his functions in hat manufacturing. He joined the Wooster Guards in 1861 and served for three months, as described above.

Timothy and Emma were both elected to membership (and Emma was baptized) in the Danbury Universalist Church in 1869. They soon moved away, however, and in 1870 were living in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with young sons William and Goodsell. William was born on August 4, 1861, three days after his father's return from the war. Daughter Ida died in 1862, at age 2. The Rose family stayed on in Grand Rapids. Emma passed away in 1878 and was interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Grand Rapids. Timothy Rose eventually collected a pension for his Civil War service. He died at the Soldiers Home Hospital in Grand Rapids in 1913 and is buried in Garfield Park Cemetery in that city.

[Note - The name Wooster was and is ubiquitous in Danbury, after General David Wooster, who led American troops responding to the 1777 British raid on the town during the Revolutionary War.]

[Note - The Averill Rifles were named in honor of Roger Averill, a prominent attorney and public official in Danbury. He served as lieutenant governor of Connecticut from 1862 to 1866.]

[Note - The Grand Army of the Republic was an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. The Danbury unit was James E. Moore Post No. 18.]

[Note - Old North Main Street Cemetery is located on a rise near Main, Downs, Smith, and Water Streets, just south of Interstate 84.]

To be continued in May 2025... We will learn about Civil War veterans Benjamin F. Skinner, Lewis A. Ward, and Joseph T. Bates.

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 May Comment –
Friday, April 18th.

