



# NEWS & VIEWS



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Minister:

Rev. Barbara Threet  
[bthreet@gmail.com](mailto:bthreet@gmail.com)

President:

Kimberly Bushnell 235-9626

Vice President:

Bruce Douglas 483-6892

Moderator:

Joan Eckley 265-3204

Treasurer:

Cathy Thomas 282-5852

Secretary:

Marcia Foley 422-4091

Trustee:

Rebecca Mattis 773-3535

Trustee:

Ann Baylock 483-9395

Clerk:

Luther Brown 775-6854

Church Administrator:  
 Karina Jutzi Mondays,  
 Wednesdays and Fridays

Dear Members and Friends,

As I write this note, we are half way through our annual canvass. Pledges come in all sizes and each plays a critical part of our future. If you had intended to pledge but haven't, it is never too late! Speak to myself or Cathy Thomas and we will find you a pledge form. The strength of the canvass informs the board as we build the budget for the coming year. Together we are building a strong tomorrow and a vibrant today with our pledges and with our participation in church life.

The budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting, after the service on Sunday, May 5. We will also be voting a slate of candidates, including Bruce Douglas as the next church president. Annual Meeting is a time to gather together to discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead, have a say in our priorities, and share your visions for our faith home. Please join us. While only members may vote, I would encourage interested friends to attend to learn more about the organization behind that which is UUCR.

Despite the largest snowstorm of the year causing us to move the auction to the following day, our annual Goods & Service Auction was a wonderful success. With many new activities offered, and some perennial favorites, the auction raised over \$5,700. When you think about it, it's astonishing we are able to raise that kind of money by selling goods and services to each other. From now until the next auction, we will be sharing dinners, going on hikes, and cashing in on the services we won. It's a win-win for all of us.

I hope you have or will be joining us for our evening events this spring. It is a joy to see the church calendar filling with contra dances and concerts. Sunday services will continue until mid-June when we will switch to our summer schedule of less frequent services. Come be part of the community that gathers each Sunday. We all benefit when you do!

Thank you to those of you who have returned your pledge form, and another gentle nudge to those who keep meaning to but haven't yet. Your financial support for the coming church year is deeply appreciated.

Be Well,  
 Kimberly Bushnell  
 Church President

# NOTICE...

## Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rutland

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 12:15

Following the service and a potluck lunch.

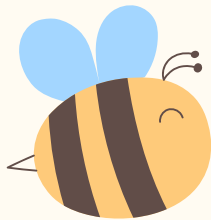


The agenda and Annual Report for Church Year 2023-2024 will be emailed to most and mailed to those without email access later in April. It is helpful to read it before coming to annual meeting as it includes reports from the Church President, our Minister Rev. Barbara Threet, and the church committees, as well as year-to-date financials from church year 2023-2024, and the proposed budget for church year 2024-2025.

If you do not receive it or if you have questions about our annual meeting, please contact Kimberly Bushnell, Church President (802-287-0168 or [uurutlandpresident@gmail.com](mailto:uurutlandpresident@gmail.com)).

### Pollinator Pathway... Creating Bee-Friendly Native Habitat

Our friends at 350VT Rutland County are hosting a talk by the experts from Pollinator Pathway of Addison County at the Rutland Free Library on Tuesday, April 16, 6-7:30pm. Light snacks provided.



“We admire elephants in part because they demonstrate what we consider the finest human traits: empathy, self-awareness, and social intelligence. But the way we treat them puts on display the very worst of human behaviour.” –  
Graydon Carter



# From Reverend Barbara's Desk



One of the issues that continuously confront residents of both Bennington and Rutland is the many people who are without housing in our communities. That is a challenge for towns and cities all across our country, as we all know. But the UUA is doing something about it in Boston! I'm copying a press release from earlier this month:

On March 1, 2024, the United Way announced a coordinated effort with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the Black Refugee & Immigrant Community Coalition, and the Greater Boston YMCA among other community-based organizations, to provide temporary emergency housing and support to approximately 25 families with children who have an urgent and immediate need for shelter in Boston.

UUA Executive Vice President Carey McDonald said of the decision to join in this emergency effort, "In our faith tradition, Unitarian Universalists commit to uphold the inherent worthiness and dignity of every person, to embrace interconnectedness, and to strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Those values are fundamental to our religious practice, and they call us to take action in the face of oppression, injustice and suffering. All children deserve a safe place to sleep. As a religious community headquartered in Boston, we consider it an act of faithful witness to use our facilities to do our part to support families in need, including migrant families who are simply seeking safety for their loved ones. We hope other building owners will take seriously whether their space can also be used in this way."

This work is carried out through the United Way & SafetyNet Shelter Grant program, which is available to families who have been determined eligible for the state's Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter program but could not be immediately placed in an EA shelter due to a lack of availability.

This is an exciting development: it's our faith in action. We moved our headquarters into a large and efficient 24 Farnsworth building in 2013. Until recently, the top floor of that building sat empty, but now, it's providing safe housing for around 25 families! UU churches nearer to Boston are gathering supplies for those who are living there, mostly diapers, and baby supplies clothes. I don't know what we in Vermont could do to support this work, but being inspired would be a good start!

More than that, we can continue the efforts that each of our congregations makes to assist those in our own communities who are need of shelter, food, clothing, and companionship. We can't provide all of these things, but whatever we can provide is a real help, and an way of living out our faith. In Rutland, Comfort Zone, which is part of Companions in Wholeness, was the recipient of our half-plate of over \$550 in November and December, and it accepts donations of used clothing as well as food. In Bennington, our weekly involvement with Community Café offers a warm meal and a time of companionship to many, and in November our special contributions went to BROCC, which provides a variety of services. There are many other options for service – and it's great to know that our denominational headquarters is actively taking part, opening their/OUR space In Boston!

So this month, kudos to the UUA, and to our congregations, both for the work that we do, and for the work that our energy, care and dues enables the UUA to undertake!

**Shalom and salaam,  
Rev. Barbara**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Half Plate for April

### THE TURNING POINT CENTER!

The Turning Point Center is a Safe Place for People in Recovery to get resources to help them in their journey to live a healthy, addiction-free life.

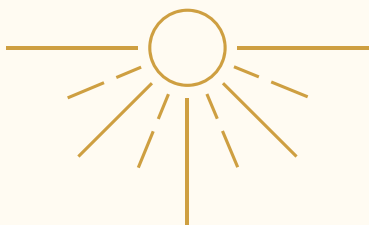


## Sunday Service Survey!

Members: please fill out this survey so the Sunday Service Committee can bring the best services to our church.

**FILL OUT NOW - IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

[LINK TO SURVEY](#)



**Rutland Dismas House Annual Dinner & Auction  
Saturday, May 25, 2024**

**Tickets \$75**

**3:30 pm EDT 8:30 pm EDT**

**100 Diamond Run Mall Pl**

**Rutland, VT 05701**



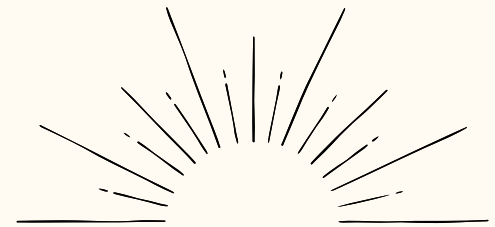
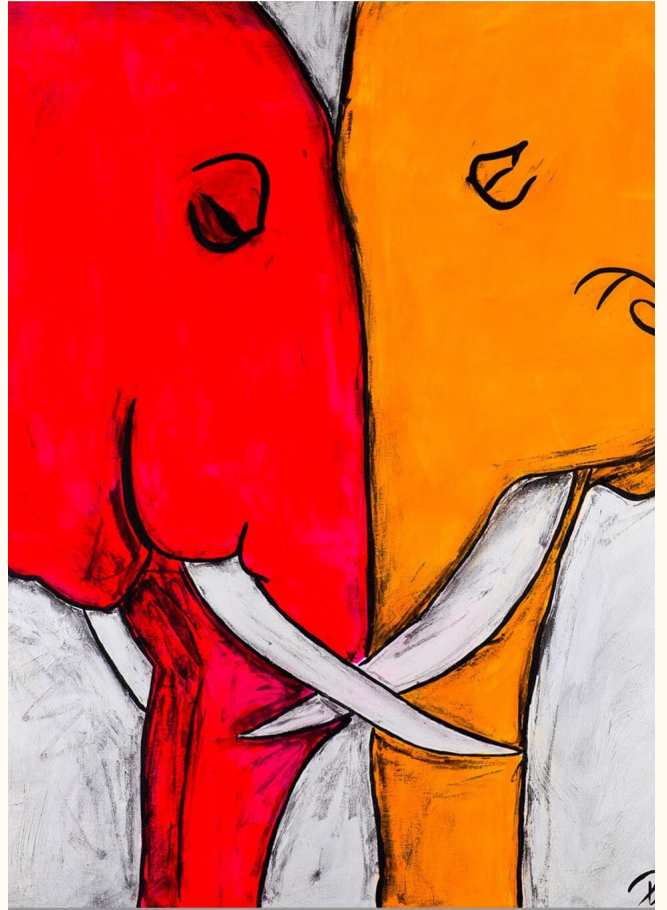
# ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

## Happy Birthday.

4/4 KURT KRETVIX  
4/5 BELA FRANCOEUR-SCHUG  
4/15 BECKY ENO



WOULD LIKE YOUR  
BIRTHDAY ADDED TO THE  
NEWSLETTER??  
PLEASE EMAIL  
UURUTLAND@GMAIL.COM



Want Something posted in News & Views?  
Email the office at [uurutland@gmail.com](mailto:uurutland@gmail.com)



# A PAGE FOR ALL AGES

JOIN FOR ONE  
OR ALL SEVEN  
SATURDAYS  
THIS  
SUMMER!

**7 SATURDAYS FOR \$175** **AGES 4-12**

## CAMP COMPASSION

Calling all future leaders! Join us for our unforgettable summer series; "Camp Compassion", where we'll explore the seven principles that we've built our foundations on. Throughout our 7 Saturdays together we'll dive into sensory play, creative arts and crafts, outdoor play, and of course; exceptional moral development through discussion and opportunities to explore concepts through play. Lead by our well known and loved Jessica Alexandrik; this camp is sure to be special.

- Snack Included**  
Children learn and play together on a full stomach! Each day will include a snack for the children to share together picnic style.
- Outside Play**  
Fresh-air and movement are essential! Our activities will be outside incorporating movement and play as much as possible!
- Creating and Crafts**  
Each week your child will have something special they've put together to take home. We hope this will lead to a discussion opportunity!

June 29th, July 6th, July 13th, July 20th, July 27th, August 3rd, and August 10th. 9:30am - 12:30pm

More Info [www.rutlanduu.org](http://www.rutlanduu.org) Contact Us (802) 775-0850 Our Location 117 West St, Rutland VT

SIGN UP  
NOW!

## EARTH DAY SERVICE!

**April 21 - Led by Bela & Margaret**  
**\*INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE\***  
10:30am

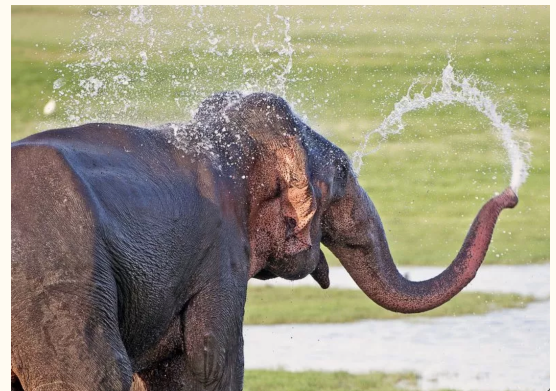
A special Intergenerational Service for Earth Day.  
We will be exploring Blue-Green Hills of Earth, from  
the book 'Story, Song and Spirit'.



# POETS CORNER

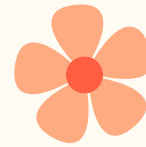
## As If by J. Allyn Rosser

How do you explain why elephants  
appear to move their unwieldy hulks  
with greater dignity than most humans do  
in their finest moments,  
as if they had evolved beyond wanting  
anything but what they have?  
Why does the field begin to ripple  
before the wind arrives in whispers,  
as if there were a communication,  
as if the landscape were poorly dubbed,  
and we weren't expected to notice?  
What butterfly does not dart away from us  
as if it could sense our latent cruelties,  
and yet return to check and double-check?  
Has the night not gotten recently darker,  
as if to insinuate that we have squandered  
the light that was there?  
Have we made too much of our own?  
And did you notice afterward the dawn  
opening up with a tentative eagerness  
as if there were something crucial to illumine,  
as if we would wake up early just to see it?  
I imagine you reading this now  
with an expression of quiet trouble  
itself troubled by currents of hope,  
as if you imagined me here with you,  
as if I might be able to see your expression,  
and at least answer it with mine.



# UPCOMING SERVICES

APRIL 2024



**APRIL 7- Rev. Calvin Dane**

**“Abundant Life”**

I've long been interested in a passage attributed to Jesus: 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' What would an abundant life look like, and how do we get there?

**APRIL 14- David Mook**

**“Questioning”**

Tolstoy said, “All learning begins with a question.” So, I set out to explore this particular question and to see what I might discover.

**April 21 - Bela & Margaret** *\*INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE\**

**“EARTH DAY”**

A special Intergenerational Service for Earth Day. We will be exploring Blue-Green Hills of Earth, from the book ‘Story, Song and Spirit’.



**April 28 - Rev. Kathy Duhon**

**“Music Deeply Heard: The Spirit of Comfort and Joy”**

Since poetry began, people have written rhymes to describe and celebrate (or not) the creatures with which we share the world. Members of our community will read poems about animals domestic and wild.

**May 5 - Rabbi Ellie Shemtov**

**“Defining Antisemitism”**

ISince Oct. 7th there has been an alarming rise in antisemitic incidents in this country and around the world. While criticizing Israel does not automatically translate as antisemitism, I will explain when anti-Israel rhetoric becomes antisemitic.

*\*ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWS THIS SERVICE\**



**A REMINDER THAT REV. BABARBA IS ON SABBATICAL  
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**



# Canvas Update

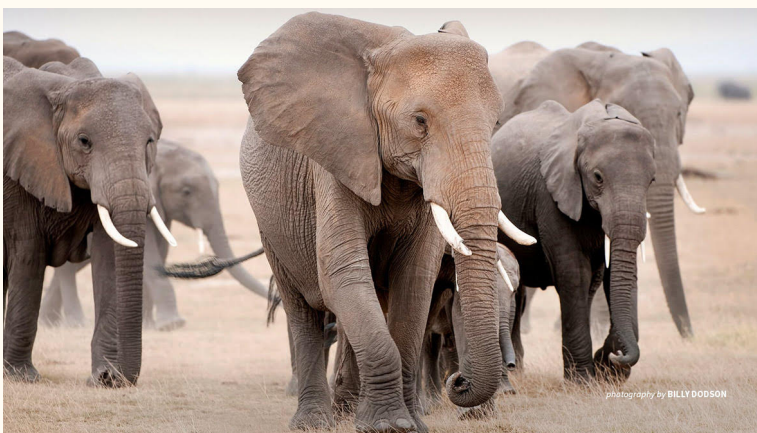
There were five Circle Dinners in March, organized by the Canvass Committee, and attended by some 35 members and friends. We hope you were one of them. It was great to be together sharing a meal and such good company!

Midway through the Canvass, we have 23 pledges of financial support for the church in the coming year for a total of \$43,700. We are very grateful for the generous support of all those who have sent in pledges. Our goal is to have approximately 40 pledges totaling \$60,000 at the end of the campaign. If you have not yet pledged, please take a moment to consider how you might comfortably and generously support our shared church home in the coming year. Pledges come in all sizes and yours makes a difference. Here is a pledge form that you can print and send to the church. There will also be forms available at church on Sundays.

In the middle of April the Board builds the budget to present to the congregation at the annual meeting on May 5. It is critical for the board to have an idea of the support they can expect from our congregation. If you have questions or would like to speak to a member of the committee please feel free to contact any one of us.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration and the generosity of your pledge in support of our church in the coming year. Working together we will continue to sustain and strengthen our UU congregation.

The Canvass Committee,  
Kimberly Bushnell, Bruce Douglas, Marcia Foley, Cathy Thomas



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**APR 6 MARSH LIGHTS CONCERT, 7:30 PM**

**APR 27 SONG WRITER'S SHOWCASE, 7:30**

**MAY 5 ANNUAL MEETING, 12:15**



**APRIL PHOTO THEME:  
IN THIS ISSUE, WE LOOK AT ELEPHANTS.  
WE HUMBLY THANK THEIR CREATORS FOR ADDING THEIR  
BEAUTY AND VISUAL CONCEPT TO OUR LITTLE NEWSLETTER.**

## MARSH LIGHTS PERFORMS IN RUTLAND IN LEAD-UP TO NEW ALBUM

*In Concert*

# MARSH LIGHTS



**Saturday, April 6th • 7:30 p.m. • at the UU Church of Rutland  
117 West Street, Rutland, VT  
All Tickets at the Door \$15 • Children under 12 Free**

***Vermont Vocalist of the Year  
Vermont Song of the Year***

*Former members of PossumHaw and The Bluegrass Gospel Project*

*"The combination of talent, passion, and songwriting  
in the band is breathtaking" — Mary-Nell Bockman, Whallonsburg Grange*

Marsh Lights plays acoustic folk-grass music with a hyper-literate edge and beautiful execution. Colby and her band-mates have received accolades, including Vermont Vocalist of the Year and Vermont Song of the Year (Tammie Awards, Barre-Montpelier Times-Argus). Stunning past performances by the Bluegrass Gospel Project and PossumHaw have included appearances at premier venues such as Flynn Mainstage and Higher Ground, and have reached thousands of audience members around the Northeast. The group's strong rapport built over years of performing together makes for a band that can go light and heavy, solemn and joyful, fast and slow.



### **Songwriter's Showcase Concert, Saturday, April 27, 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rutland, 117 West St., Downtown**

Rutland Singer/songwriters Phil Henry and George Nostrand have been hosting a songwriters workshop at A Sound Space for the past several months. This concert will showcase the original music created by the participants - a real variety of all new, all original tunes that resulted from the workshop. Featured will be: professional sound provided by A Sound Space, free refreshments, a variety of styles and all original songs presented by multiple musicians. \$10 admission ("keeps the lights on" at the UU Church and supports A sound Space). This will be fun!