



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

September 20, 2026 at 11:00 am

If you would like to join us virtually the link is down below:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6UHqS_OTHDrNw8hP1OAGnQ

Service will be led by Evander Cannon

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

[See other recent Worship Services on UUCCN's Facebook page.](#)

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear UUCCN,

It was good to be together for our Water Communion. It was unfortunate that the weather gave another version of “Water Communion” with all of the rain. It did impact the efforts of some folks to attend, but we enjoyed being community, beginning a new church year and sharing with each other what water meant to us.

On September 27th, 2026, we will have a special service honoring Wise Women’s Wisdom. For all the women and those men who love and support them, please come to our service wearing white. (And don’t worry if you don’t have anything- come anyway.)

We will share our reflections and acknowledge our gifts and talents with the community. If you have a poem, letter or quote from a wise woman- including

yourself, please plan to share it with us.
I'm also taking suggestions for songs for this service.

Also on September 27th, at 3:00 in Hempstead (tba) there will be a service led by Long Island Immigrants Justice Alliance. I will be participating in this service. A flyer will be posted soon so please save the date. We will be honoring the memory of Santos Bengas Reyes who died only hours after being detained in Nassau County's detention center on last September 18th. Please join us in supporting the immigrant community and their pleas for justice.

We are asking everyone to keep Michael Sansonia and Mary-Ellen Kreye in your thoughts and prayers. We hope that they will feel better soon.

The Long Island Advocates for Police Accountability continue to meet weekly on Monday evenings at 7:30. Here is the link:

LIAPA UPDATE

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85205749096?pwd=VWL9IKFO0ayearK5keKEPxm3waZ3eb.1>

In Faith,
Rev. Petra

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

SPECIAL EVENT!

My office hours will be on Friday, October 2nd from 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

Be sure to come to our annual Pumpkin Patch! The first delivery of pumpkins will be on Saturday, September 19th, 2026. Tell your family and friends to come by.

[SEE PDF Regarding Letter](#)

Our UUCCN Board Members welcome you as we begin a new congregational year.



Anita Coddington- Board Member, House and Grounds, Rentals



Gerri Forrai- Board Member, Stewardship Committee



Dr. Janice Marie Johnson- Board Member, Caring Committee and Outreach Committee



Georgie Collins- Board Member



Adam Marczyk Board Member, Secretary,

UUCCN ANNUAL EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE

**Book Club on zoom at 8pm: September 24th- Here Where We Live Is Our
Country: The Story of the Jewish Bund by Molly Crabapple**

Pumpkin Patch 2026



Share The Plate for September

Our Share the plate for September is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization, The INN provides a broad variety of essential services to assist

those challenged by hunger, homelessness and profound poverty. We partner with those in need in a dignified and respectful manner to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Please mail a check made out to UUCCN with “Share the Plate” written on the memo line or go online to: www.uuccn.org/donate.

Special Alert- Scammers

Dear Community,

Please be aware that scammers are sending out invitations and or requests for funds. If you receive something like this please delete it. If you are unsure, check with the person directly to confirm that it came from them. We need to take care of each other. Be safe out there!

The Wisdom of Women Celebration



Celebrating the
WISDOM
of
WISE WOMEN
September 27th, 2026

We invite you to join us for a special service
honoring the Coming of Age for Elder Women.

 We will be affirming the importance
of women in our lives and our
communities as a whole.

 We ask all participants to wear white
for this occasion.
(If you don't have anything, come anyway.)

 You are encouraged to share poetry,
photos, letters.
Share the names of women in your life
who have supported you.

 We will have a remembrance of those
who have passed away.

 **Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Central Nassau**
223 Stewart Ave, Garden City, NY 11530

 **11:00 AM**

*Please join us for this
special event.*

[LIAC]  The Open Circle—Rev. Sara Green this Thursday!



This year, The Open Circle at Fourth Universalist becomes a year long series, and Rev. Sara Green is kicking it off.

Sara has joined us as Fourth Universalist's settled minister, and she's opening the year on Thursday, September 17th from 7 to 8:30pm via Zoom with a question Unitarian Universalists have long found compelling: process philosophy's claim that nothing, including us, is ever finished becoming. It's the right place to start a year about learning to be at home in ourselves, with each other, and in the world. That question only makes sense if we admit we're all still in progress.

Sara won't just open the series. She'll be in conversation with every speaker who follows, all year.

[Zoom Link: The Open Circle @ Fourth U with Rev. Sara Green](#)

Questions? Email me.

Zach

--

Zachary (Zach) Young (he/him)
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York

<https://4thu.org/>

"...darkness has a hunger that's insatiable; And lightness has a call that's hard to hear." Amy Ray/Emily Saliers

Immigration Update

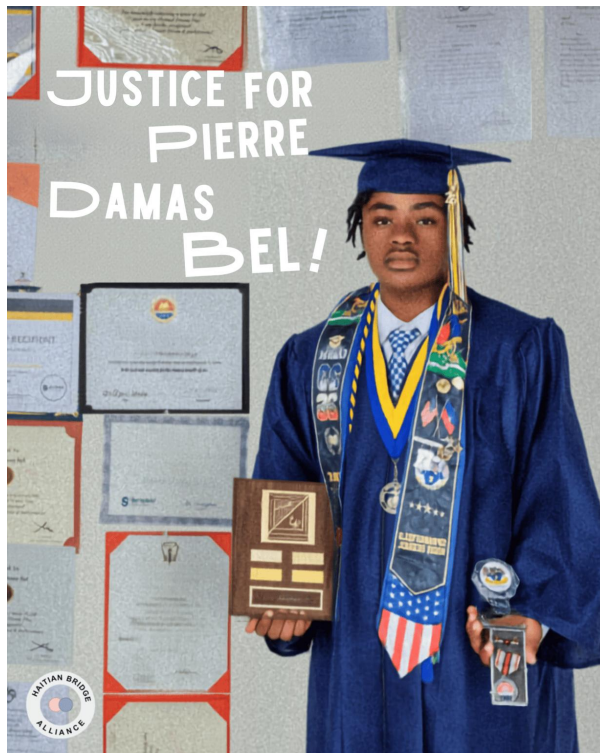
Dear UUCCN,

We will be sharing pertinent information regarding immigration on a regular basis. Much is taking place that we as a congregation working for justice, should know about.

Last February, our congregation sponsored a Share the Plate program for a Catholic Church in Haiti that was providing support to the population due to the effects of Hurricane Melissa. The arrangement was made to send the funds to the church but their website and any internet access was compromised. I have been working with my colleague, Deacon Berthin Eduoard to find a suitable replacement. Given the recent actions of this government's administration to end the Temporary Protected Status of Haitian people, we will be sending the Share the Plate donations to Haitian Bridge Alliance, tps. They provide community services and legal resources to support the Haitian community. Presently there are 350,000 Haitian people who have lost protections under recent legislation.

The situation is dire; on the first of this month, a twenty year old honor student, Pierre Damas Bel , newly enrolled in Wright State University, Ohio, took his own life when he was forced to wear an ankle monitor. He was no longer allowed to play soccer, which he had excelled in. He had contacted ICE to have the monitor removed, to no avail.

Overtime he became despondent. His college scholarships and freedoms were stripped away. He called his father to say that he was not feeling right. He expressed his despair. His father encouraged him to return home so that they could talk. He never made it home. He parked his car on the side of the road and walked into traffic.



“I came to this country to pursue my education. I didn’t come here to commit a crime or hurt anyone. Yet now I’m walking through the streets of the United States with a GPS monitor on my leg, carrying a feeling of shame and humiliation that I never imagined I would experience.”

— Pierre Damas Bel.

More than 350,000 Haitians are facing deportation after the Supreme Court ruled with the Trump Administration to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which is a legal status they have had for over a decade.

Family: Ankle monitor distressed Haitian man killed by tanker truck in Springfield (Please read the article)

Family wants proof Haitian man’s death was suicide <https://haitiantimes.com/2026/09/01/haitian-pierre-damas-bel-death-ohio-immigration/>

Helpful Strategies for Dealing with Members of Hate Groups

Dear UCCN,
I found this information from my friend and colleague, Rev. Kate Lore. Please

take the time to read it and reflect on it as it is helpful for addressing the frustration many are experiencing.

How To Deal With Members of Hate Groups: (this is the 2nd of 2 posts on Hate Groups. The prior post deals with WHY people join Hate Groups).

1) PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE TARGETED. The first priority is always the safety of people threatened by hate. That means:

- * Enforcing laws against violence, harassment, and intimidation.
- * Protecting vulnerable communities.
- * Challenging hate speech when it incites violence or dehumanizes others.
- * Strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law.

Compassion for individuals should never come at the expense of the safety of those they target.

2) SEPARATE THE PERSON FROM THE IDEOLOGY. Many people who have left hate groups say that what helped them change was encountering people who refused to reduce them to their worst beliefs while also refusing to excuse those beliefs.

This is different from tolerating hate. It means holding two ideas together:

- * Every person has the capacity to change.
- * Harmful beliefs and actions must be confronted.

3) DON'T EXPECT FACTS ALONE TO CHANGE MINDS. Research consistently shows that simply presenting more evidence rarely changes deeply held extremist beliefs.

People are more likely to change when:

- * Someone they trust asks genuine questions.
- * They experience contradictions between the movement's promises and reality.
- * They develop meaningful relationships outside the group.

4) REDUCE ISOLATION. Former extremists often describe leaving as incredibly lonely.

Organizations that help people disengage from hate groups focus on helping them build:

- * New friendships.
- * Employment.
- * Purpose.
- * A sense of identity beyond the movement.

Without alternatives, people often return to the only community they know.

5) HOLD LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE. There is an important distinction between:

- * Someone struggling to leave an extremist ideology.
- * Someone recruiting others, organizing violence, or profiting from hate.

The latter requires accountability through legal and civic institutions.

WHAT PEOPLE WHO LEFT HATE GROUPS OFTEN SAY: Former members of extremist organizations frequently describe a similar pattern:

- * They were welcomed before they were indoctrinated.
- * They found identity and purpose.
- * Over time, the ideology became more extreme.
- * What finally broke through was often an unexpected act of kindness or a relationship that challenged their assumptions—not because kindness erased accountability, but because it made a different identity imaginable.

Please note: I know this work isn't for everybody. But as Dr. King once said, resisting injustice and loving the person committing it were not opposites. He believed people should resist systems of oppression vigorously while leaving open the possibility of personal transformation. I agree.

When Black Women Gather CAPITAL B: Federal court rules there is no constitutional right to safe drinking water

Federal court rules there is no constitutional right to safe drinking water

A federal appeals court has used a decades-long water crisis in one of the Blackest cities in America to rule that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee Americans the right to clean and safe drinking water.

Read in Capital B: <https://apple.news/AMXxa5732Rb-prcgLs-dS9A>

Religious Education

RE Session Summary – September 13, 2026

The September 13 Water Communion service was intergenerational, so our Religious Education students joined the adult members of UUCCN's congregation for most of the morning. The service, *From the Beginning, Water Runs Through Us*, invited us to reflect on water as the source of life, a symbol of our shared humanity, and a reminder of our connection to one another and the Earth.

Following the "Prayer to the Waters, The Seven Directions," led by Rev. Petra, the students joined me for a brief separate conversation. Together, we read the prayer again, taking turns reading each paragraph aloud. I was pleased the students participated in this way, as it allowed us to share the experience of reflecting more closely on the prayer's words and meaning.

I asked the students what they thought of the prayer and whether any part of it resonated with them. Although they were initially a bit reluctant to share, the conversation began to open up as Charlotte McDonnell, UUCCN's Religious Education leader, offered valuable context about some of the historical and religious themes behind the prayer. I was quite happy that Charlotte

participated, and it was encouraging to see the shift her contribution created as the students began to focus more closely on the discussion.

Following our brief exploration of that context, I asked the students to begin thinking about the questions they would like to ask and explore during this RE year. I explained that we didn't have to identify all our questions in that one session, but I encouraged them to consider the subjects and ideas they would be interested in discussing together.

I was quite pleased to hear one student ask, “How come every planet is named after a Roman god except Earth?” Not only is this a unique question, but I appreciated the spirit of curiosity behind it. One of my goals for RE has been, and continues to be, inspiring our students to consider questions we might not always have the opportunity to ask and giving them space to explore their curiosity. Even if we do not have all the answers in our attempts to understand, I believe the act of trying to understand our world and the communities within it is unbelievably valuable.

The students also raised questions about more seemingly tangible concerns, including, “What can I do for and with the unhoused?” and “What can I do with and for my community and my world?” As our students navigate the complicated world around them, I am eager to encourage the altruistic spirit behind questions like these. They give us an opportunity to explore what we can do—as well as what may be more difficult to accomplish—within our own communities and throughout the world.

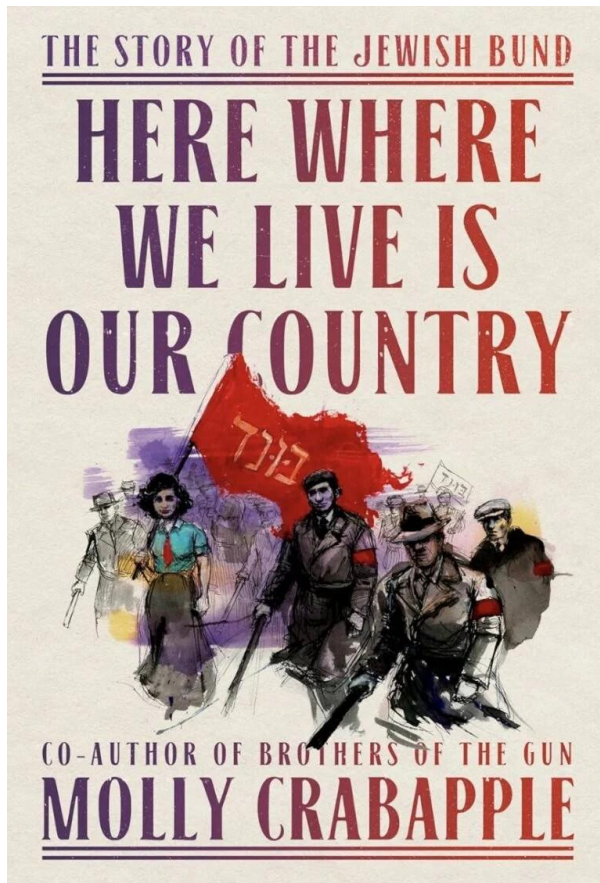
Following our conversation, the students and I rejoined the service for the Water Communion. Congregants were invited to contribute water to a shared bowl and explain the meaning behind what they had brought. My hope is that witnessing the adult members of the congregation share their water and the stories connected to it was as meaningful for our students as it was for me to experience my first Water Communion at UUCN.

I am very excited to continue working with our students and to facilitate their growth through our future sessions. The questions they raised during this first gathering have already given us meaningful possibilities to explore as we continue learning together throughout the RE year.

Ashley Davis,
RE Teacher

BOOK CLUB

Here Where We Live Is Our Country: The Story of the Jewish Bund by Molly Crabapple



September 24th, 2026 at 8PM

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86826549564?pwd=MDNIRUVSNnUrR29SN0F3NXhYb2JLdz09>

9.27.26 Hempstead Action

[Click here to view the flyer](#)

IIJA

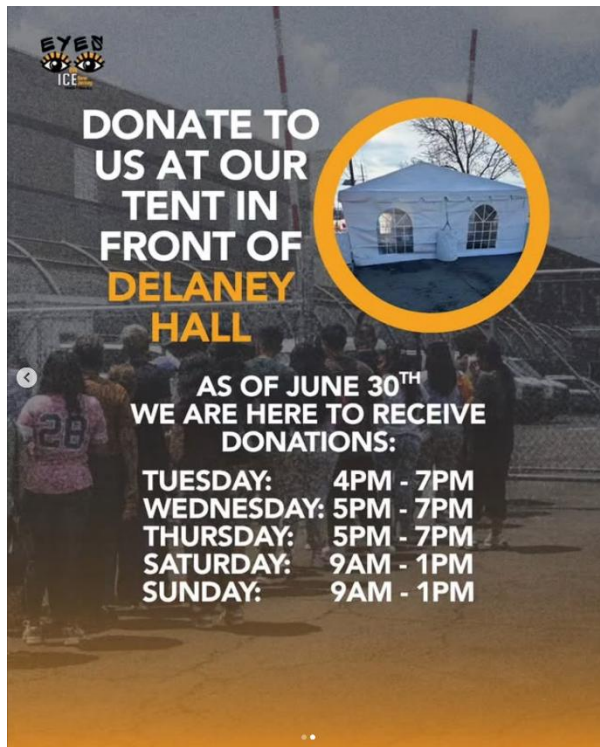


THINGS TO **DONATE**

THIS WEEKEND, VISITORS WILL WAIT OUTSIDE IN DANGEROUS TEMPERATURES **ABOVE 100° F** TO VISIT THEIR LOVED ONE AT DELANEY HALL. HELP US KEEP PEOPLE COOL BY DONATING THESE ITEMS!

- PEDIALYTE
- PACKETS OF LIQUID IV
- COOLING PACKS
- UMBRELLAS
- CAPRI-SUNS
- HONEST KIDS JUICE BOXES
- BATTERY RUN HAND-HELD FANS





Vote

Our Fifth Unitarian Universalist principle says:

The right of conscience and the use of democratic principles within our congregations and society at large. We encourage everyone to vote in every election and support others who may need help getting to the polls.

LISTEN: New Performance by Shaina Taub for Immigrant NY - NYCLU

<https://www.nyclu.org/resources/campaigns-actions/campaigns/huddled-masses>

Does Anyone Have a Piano Lamp?

Michael Sansonia has requested a little bit more light over the piano. A piano lamp would be great!

Please contact Jessica or a Board Member with your donation.

STEWARDSHIP

Please send in your pledge form for the new congregational year.



We are all Stewards of UUCCN. Your pledges and gifts sustain our congregation! We look forward to hearing

from you. Contact: **Gerri Forrai** at gerriforrai@gmail.com (516) 567-1066

Anita Coddington at anitagesky@aol.com (516) 581-2603

Once again, it is time for the Stewardship Committee to ask you to join us in supporting our congregation in the coming year. By renewing our financial commitment, we support our mission of making a difference here and in the world. This congregation belongs to each of us. It is our spiritual home and our beloved community.

Your pledge provides the salaries for our minister, religious education teacher, our musical director as well as the administrative assistant. It pays for the utilities, insurance, maintenance and the heating of our building, as well as any capital campaign improvements.

Please review your pledge form, fill it out promptly and return it. You can mail it, bring it in on Sunday, drop it in the office, or pledge on our website (uuccn.org). Thank you for your support and participation in UUCCN. We couldn't do it without the help of every member and friend.

[Donate / Pledge Payment](#)

ARTICLE II AND OUR UU PRINCIPLES

Our congregation has responded to updating our affirmation with this responsive reading shared during our services:

- Love is at the heart of our values.
- *We promise to live our values everyday with love at the center of all things.*
- Equity is the value of our inclusive community.
- *We believe in the inherent worthiness of all.*
- Interdependence teaches us, we are all connected.
- *We will only be made whole when we live as co-inhabitants of the world.*
- Justice is essential for peace and building a Beloved Community.
- *We will work to dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions.*
- Generosity expresses compassion, gratitude, and hope.
- *We will offer our faith, ourselves, and our resources.*
- Pluralism encourages respect for diverse beliefs.
- *And allows us to be curious, as we learn from one another.*
- Transformation allows us to adapt to an ever-changing world.

- We are evolving and growing; we are never perfect

[Please read updated information regarding Article II.](#)

UU HOUSING

Have you thought about moving? Why not think about living in the vibrant community of Port Washington on Long Island! How about considering living at Hadley House, a 40 unit apartment building for Independent Seniors for UU members and their families? If you have any questions about the availability of units or how to apply they can be answered by the Social Worker in the building, Susan Bagnini, 516-944-8457. A descriptive brochure is available on request.

RENTERS NEEDED

UUCCN's excellent location makes it a great site for renters. We are looking for new organizations that would be a good partner for UUCCN. Please share this with any interested groups and contact Maria Sutton in the UUCCN office for more information at uuccn@aol.com or call (516) 248-8855.

CARING COMMITTEE

Janet McShea, Phyllis Ross, and Gerri Forrai are serving on UUCCN's new Caring Committee. They will be reaching out to members as we try to uplift and support one another. Let one of them know if you want to talk or need a hand.



RESOURCES AND NEWS FROM THE GREATER COMMUNITY

UUA - CENTRAL EAST REGION

[CER News for September](#)

[Welcome & Orientation Packet](#)

[UUA HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN](#)

[UUA Newsletter](#)

[RE Save the Date - Trainings & New Curricula](#)

[The Longest day \(and why it matters\)](#)

[In Recognition that All Roads Lead to Delaney Hall](#)

NOW WHAT: The Gathering for Congregational Leaders

Join the "Side With Love" monthly event to strengthen your spirit, make sense of the threats to democracy, and take meaningful action alongside others.

[INFORMATION](#)

UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH (UUMFE)

[The changemakers in our interdependent web of life](#)

[September News](#)

[The theme behind our Earth Day Worship](#)

[Support our work!](#)

[Side with love](#)

[Community Read Starts This Month!](#)

**NO MORE DEATHS:
UPDATES FROM NORTHERN MEXICO PROJECTS
[INFORMATION](#)**

FERRY BEACH DISCOVERY
[Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Information](#)

JOIN THE [UUCCN Private Facebook Group](#)