

March 2026

# NEWS & VIEWS

---



## President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are all coping with this winter of 25-26. Our snowbanks are the deepest we have had on the estate in the seven years we have been here. We've also seen some of the coldest weather in a while. Where is global warming when you need it?

On the very good news front we have hired a new church administrator. Her name is Jennifer and she will begin training soon. We are so sad to lose Karina, but we realize she must follow her path and wish her well. I was surprised at the number of very qualified applicants we had for our twelve hour a week job. It took some thought and thorough discussion to decide on the winning candidate. I am looking forward to working with her.

As you know, I've been looking for a way to connect with the indigenous people from our area. Reverend Barbara pointed me toward the Atowi organization and I reached out to them. They are going to be the half-plate recipient in May and June. They are an Abenaki organization based in Brattleboro. To reach their website just enter Atowi in the search line. It's worth a look. Below is brief description of the group and what the donations are used for.

Atowi is a shared community initiative to affirm relationships with the Land and All of Our Relations, raise Native voices, and foster inclusion with understanding+--+ in place.

Any funds donated will be used to support our outreach programming, resource research and sharing, travel, and staff time to do so. Please direct folks to the website and our FB Page, which are kept very active on a daily basis as a learning archive and posting of kindred events.

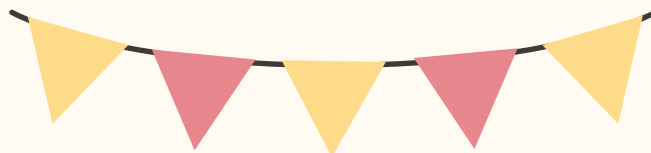
Just a brief reminder here, our Annual Meeting is coming up in May. All committee chairs and officers who write reports for the meeting need to have them in by April 15 th . This reminder is for me as much as anyone else. I will be writing the president's report.

continued on next page ...

# President's Letter continued...

The service auction is coming soon. This is a great deal of fun and is a major fund raiser for our budget. The deadline for submitting goods and services was Feb. 24 th , but my guess is they will take entries up until the very last minute. They do need to publish the catalog ahead of time so folks can decide what they want to bid on. Many thanks to the stalwart souls who are pulling this together.

Blessed Be,  
Bruce D.



**SPRING GOODS AND SERVICE AUCTION**

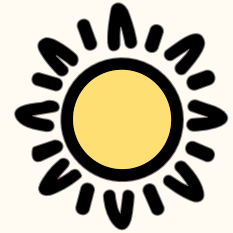
**MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> AT 4PM!**

**THE AUCTION FINANCIALLY SUPPORTS THE CONGREGATION  
AND OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US  
TO EXPLORE NEW HOBBIES, HAVE NEW EXPERIENCES,  
AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS. PLUS, IT IS FUN!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Half Plate for March



RUTLAND NEIGHBORS

Rutland Neighbors shares meals and provides safe space, assistance, and companionship for people in need.

## Contra Dance 3/28

Family Friendly! Live Music! All Dances Called!

Contra Dances are a fun way to connect with the community. Refreshments will be available. If you are a Church Member, please bring a snack refreshment or beverage as a donation.



## March Birthdays

3/14 SAMANTHA C.

3/15 SARA N.

3/28 THEO F.



birthday cake @  
coffee hour-  
March 22nd



Minister:  
Rev. Barbara

President:  
Bruce D

Vice President:  
Ann B

Moderator:  
Kevin K

Treasurer:  
Cathy T

Secretary:  
Marcia F

Trustee:  
Rosie H.

Trustee:  
Margaret F

Clerk:  
Herb O

Church Administrator:  
Karina J

Church Phone  
802-775-0850

Church Email  
uurutalnd@gmail.com

# From Rev. Barbara's Couch



I find myself humming a song from 1970 a lot these days. It was written by Stephen Stills and recorded by Crosby, Stills & Nash in response to the murder of four college students at Kent State in Ohio on May 4, 1970, who were killed by members of the National Guard during a peaceful protest opposing the Vietnam War. Their names: Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer, and William Knox Schroeder. No doubt many of you remember the images from that day, and the song too. "Find the cost freedom," the song says, "Buried in the ground. Mother Earth will swallow you; lay your body down." There were others who died while protesting the war: Buddhist monk Thich Quàng Đức, who burned himself to death in Saigon in 1963; Norman Morrison, a Quaker activist who self-immolated outside the office of Robert McNamara in 1965; and George Winne, Jr. who did the same in San Diego in 1970. An estimated 1,353,000 soldiers and civilians died in that war, including Americans, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, and others.

On March 11, 1965, Unitarian minister James Reeb died in Selma, Alabama, two days after being severely beaten as he left a restaurant. Reeb, along with about 125 other UU ministers and many hundreds of others had come to Selma to march. And one of the reasons for the protests was the February 26, 1965, murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson, a black man from Alabama. Jackson's killer, an Alabama state trooper, was finally arrested and tried in 2010 (yes, forty-five years later). He served a five-month sentence. Four white men were charged with Reeb's murder, and they were acquitted in under two hours. Many credit the outrage that followed the death of Reeb, a white minister, as key to the Voting Rights Act finally passing: President Johnson invoked both Reeb and Jackson when sending that bill to Congress four days later, on March 15. That same day, Martin Luther King, Jr, gave a eulogy at a memorial for Reeb.

This past January, Renee Good and Alex Pretti were murdered in Minneapolis by ICE agents, who have not been charged. They are not the first ICE-related deaths: the American Immigration Council lists Luis Gustavo Núñez Cacaes, Luis Beltran Yanez Cruz, Parady La, Heber Sánchez Dominguez, Victor Manuel Diaz and Lunas Campos, all of whom died in ICE custody in 2026. There are more: these just the ones from this calendar year. Ruben Ray Martinez was killed in March of 2025, although the fact that it was an ICE agent who shot him was only revealed last month.

continued on the next page...

# From Rev. Barbara's Couch continued...



All of those people matter, and so do their names. All of them paid a very high 'cost of freedom,' whether it was seeking the freedom they thought they'd find in the US, or protesting to protect the freedom of others. And the cost is far greater than that: the grief of the families of those who have died or been injured; the PTSD that lingers for so many; the number of people whose lives were upended or set on a different path as a result of Vietnam or the (ongoing) struggle for civil rights or the war in immigrants and the actions of ICE, is incalculable. That doesn't touch the impact of Syria, or Gaza, or Somalia, or the looming situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan or...the list goes on.

In recent weeks, I, along with many of my colleagues and many of you, have been attending discussions, informational meetings and trainings about how to prepare for the possible incursion of ICE and other anti-immigration agents or actions into our area. It often feels overwhelming to me, almost unbelievable that we as a nation have come to this point. And yet we have – and we've also been in crisis times before. What will get us through is remembering the cost of freedom, reflecting on why so many have been called upon to pay that price, and letting them move us forward to be sure their deaths were not in vain. I am reminded of the words of Abraham Lincoln, who spoke of the terrible carnage at Gettysburg where over 7,000 died in three days, and 51,000 were injured, captured, or never found.

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.

May we each do our part – no matter how small or great - to remember and honor, to keep fighting and advocating, and to keep protesting and working for freedom and respect for all people, of all names.

Shalom and Salaam,  
Rev. Barbara



# UPCOMING SERVICES



March 2026

**March 1, 10:30am - Rev Barbara**

**“A Radical Map”**

Each of us follows a map in life (kindergarten, learning to ride a bike, 7th grade, first love, etc.) There’s an expected map for American adulthood - college, marriage, kids, graying hair, creaking knees and so on. We each try to create maps too - if I do this, it should lead to that. How do internal and external maps inform us? How do they constrain us? How do our ‘maps’ shape our lives and how do our lives shape our ‘maps’?

**March 8, 10:30 am - Bela & Margret**

*Intergenerational Service*

**“Cultivating Joy”**

In this All Ages service, we will be cultivating a practice of joy. Joy is an act of resistance - come explore ways to build that practice in community.

**March 15, 10:30am- Nancy Weis**

**“Vulnerability”**

A talk on the importance of letting yourself be open to other people, even when it might make you vulnerable.

**March 22, 10:30 am- Rev. Barbara Threet**

**“Those Words”**

**‘Those’ Words - Rev. Barbara**

When I was a kid there were words you Couldn’t Say, starting with ‘ain’t.’ Then there were the forbidden ones we skirted around by saying “Gee” or “Darn” instead. UUs have some words we struggle with too: we mostly avoid words like “sin” or “salvation” and “God:” even “forgiveness” or “guilt” or “church” can make us uneasy. But they’re very powerful words in our culture, often defined and used as weapons in ways that many of us find troubling. So what do we do with ‘those’ words?

**\*Birthday Cake Service\***

*Service Auction at 4pm!*

**March 29, 10:30 am- Rev. Calvin Dame**

**TBA**

# Board Minutes

## UU January BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

The Board discussed the criteria we are looking for as we search for a new church administrator. Karina will be missed but the Board wished her well in her new endeavors.

We are pretty much on budget for the year and more than half the pledges have come in. Our new church brochure, a bit larger than post card size, is in the works and should be ready soon.

The Board discussed being a bit more connected to the indigenous population in the region perhaps for a sermon and for our half plate initiative. Bruce will look into it.

---

## Rutland Neighbors “sleep out”



On Friday, March 20, Rutland Neighbors (formerly Companions in Wholeness) will hold a Winter Sleep Out at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rutland. Participants will “sit with discomfort, cold, darkness and uncertainty, knowing that for many, this is not one night, but many.” An evening meal and breakfast will be provided: the event will run from 7 PM on Friday to 7 AM on Saturday. It is a fundraiser, and all donations and/or sponsors are gratefully accepted. Contact Rutland Neighbors at 802-773-2460 for more information.

---

## Silent Vigil

The Rutland Interfaith Clergy have decided to hold a SILENT vigil at 3 PM on Tuesday, March 10 near the Gazebo in the park at the corner of Main and West Street. We will simply stand together in clerical garb and hold a place for peace, love, and justice in our world, for 5 - 10 minutes. You are welcome to join us: plans for subsequent weeks are emerging.





## Legacy gifting



a note from Joan E.

A few months ago I donated my legacy gift to the UU Church of Rutland well before my demise. I did this to ensure that the Church would receive my legacy even though my financial circumstances could change by that time due to medical bills or another type of personal financial disaster. This allows me to enjoy the part of my donation that went to the stained window renovations. The other half of my donation will be spent as the Board decides its best use. I feel that I have done my part and encourage others to do the same. With our country in serious economic and spiritual peril, some of us might not get the chance to make an end of life donation.

Spiritually yours,  
Joan L. E.

---

## Saying Bon Voyage

a note from Karina J

I have so enjoyed my time serving as your Office Administrator! It was the perfect role for this chapter in my life. I happy to say I will be returning soon on May 24 as a Sunday Service Speaker. I hope to continue to attend occasional events and services at the church. Thank you again for your kindness, patience, and being a great landing place. I have been training Jen this week and I think you will enjoy getting to know her.

Best Wishes!  
Karina Jutzi