

# STARR KING VIEW

Starr King UU Fellowship  
-A Welcoming Congregation-  
February 2025



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## Stewardship

“With our minds and our hearts and our hands, may we choose to bless the world.”

The Stewardship service on January 26 marked the beginning of our 2025-26 Stewardship drive. Linda's sermon and the music by Sarah Dan and the choir beautifully illustrated the theme of our drive “Many hands cultivating more love in the world.”

We emailed our Stewardship packet to members and friends on January 26. Individual pledge information followed on January 28. The packet contains information on the Fellowship's financing and how to pledge. It also includes a moving letter from Linda that celebrates the ways this Fellowship is vital to our lives and the life of the wider community. If you did not receive this packet, [click here](#). If you have signed up for a cottage meeting, you may want to wait to make your pledge since we can answer any questions you have at those meetings. Otherwise we encourage you to [pledge now](#).

Our Fellowship is sustained by the work of many hands joined in gratitude and generosity. Thank you.



## Sunday Services

### February 2 When it Rains, Practice Acceptance

**Rev. Linda Barnes**

Acceptance is a virtue that can make us ready to bring about the changes we desperately want. "We cannot change anything unless we accept it." Carl Jung tells us. Join us on this Sunday as we explore this spiritual practice and how we might use it for good.

### February 9 Spiritual Journeys: Getting from There to Here

**Rev. Linda Barnes**

Everyone has come to our community for a reason; everyone has a story. The spiritual journeys we take are like all journeys, filled with ups and downs, twists and turns. Three of our members - Mary MacIntosh, Coke Levin, and Janet Englund - will bring their stories to our Fellowship, join us!

### February 16 Random

**Rev. Michael F. Hall**

We often tell ourselves that there must be a meaning for the things that happen in our life and world. Many faith traditions look to a deity who ultimately has a plan for absolutely EVERYTHING! This can be very difficult for those of us who don't have the surety of even a made-up God to comfort and/or protect us, considering all the crazy, illogical and unnecessary things that happen in the world. Today, Rev. Michael F. Hall will speak to another possibility, that things are just as random, haphazard and ruled by chance as they appear.

### February 23 The Price of Admission: The Cost of Belonging

**Rev. Linda Barnes**

Belonging is a spiritual longing; it is core to our sense of community. When the price of inclusion is our identity, it is not about belonging but about fitting in. Join us as we explore the nuances of inclusion so that we might live better into the true heart of universal love where everyone is truly welcome for who they are. Really, everyone.

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### Do You Wish You Could See a Service You Missed?

Did you know that most Sunday Services are recorded and posted to Vimeo - a cloud-based video platform similar to YouTube?

You can view any past service by navigating to the bottom of this page [Sunday Services | Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship | Plymouth, NH \(starringfellowship.org\)](#) on our website

You can see the most recent Sunday or any past services.

Vespers



The Vespers will be held on Friday, February 7 at 6 pm. Please join us for this gentle contemplative service and, if you're able, a potluck meal afterwards.

## Minister's Newsletter February 2025

It's hard to keep an open mind if you don't have an open heart.  
~ Adam Grant

Our theme for the month of February is inclusion. Like the word *woke*, *inclusion* has been co-opted, twisted, and fed back to the public as something sinister. This manipulation of language causes us to become suspicious of any use of the language, in short, we close our hearts to further conversations that contain references to these words. We become close minded, understandably so. When I use the word *gay*, you think light-hearted and carefree, right? Right. The good news is that language is fluid. It is like a living thing, constantly changing and while language is always shifting, the truths at the core of our words are not so mutable.

Our hearts may be pretty beat up by the state of the world right now. Fears are rising. Betrayal and disappointment loom large. Those things we imagined we'd made progress towards are being rolled back; people are at risk. All these things may make us want to protect and hide those parts of ourselves that feel vulnerable. This response is quite reasonable, perfectly normal, and ultimately, miserable. It behooves us to be mindful of how we choose to react.

Every Sunday morning, when the worship team meets before our Sunday service, we ask, we pray, that we may be what the people need. I think this is something our wider Fellowship can do too. We can ask, is our community being what the people, both inside our Fellowship and beyond, need? Staying present in efforts to turn this around will require fortitude, wisdom, and community. It will also require that we trust others are doing their part. My friends, many people are working, just like you, to bring about a better world.

To care for the wellbeing of ourselves and others we have to do the additional work of keeping an open heart. This is my invitation to you this month, keep an open heart. Others with the same concerns as you will be well served by being welcomed into your good company. This is one of the important things we do at our Fellowship. We provide one another good, openhearted company. I invite you to engage in one additional thing this month - come to vespers (6 pm Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>), attend a cottage meeting, join the choir, volunteer to teach religious education (no experience required all materials/lesson plans provided), introduce yourself to someone you've not yet met, attend the New to UU class (even if you're not new to UU.) All of this provides openhearted, openminded interactions that feed the common good and we need all the common good we can muster. Just one more engagement, that's all I ask.

In the meantime, February is the month of Valentine's Day, Imbolc, and of course, Ground Hog Day. It is a month where we might relish all that winter has to offer and to look with hope at the growing duration of daylight. Be of heart my friends, this story is not over, may we ever remain openhearted.

In faith and love,  
Rev. Linda

## President's Message

We are in the middle of a real winter here in the Plymouth area. While the cold can be jarring it is warm and welcoming inside Starr King. Come be a part of our Sunday and Vesper services, join in the fun and nurture deeper relationships within our fellowship.

Today's political climate can seem burdensome to many. Be a part of our special community by taking part in-person or via Zoom. All are welcome as demonstrated by our newly dedicated Welcoming Congregation sign set permanently on the front of our building on January 5<sup>th</sup>. This is also fostered and supported through the generosity and support of each of us.

Please consider participating in different "cottage meetings" and look for outreach from the Stewardship Committee to help explain our financial needs that support our Starr King mission and vision. Lastly, while we navigate winter getting outside whether to hike, skate, ski, ice fish and so many other activities, we do continue to offer shared experiences through the leadership of Deedie Kriebel and others. The sun will soon be stronger, and we will share in all that we can together.

Bob Chandler

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## Fellowship Video Project

We have a story to tell—one that chronicles our history, spiritual journeys, our commitment to social justice, and the vibrant programs we offer our youth and children. This is our opportunity to shine a spotlight on these elements with an informative video that will connect with our roots and connect with a wider audience.

Through interviews, pictures and video clips, we not only want to be transported back in time but want to capture the heart of us.

The video will be created by EVP Marketing in Campton who also did the Pemi Choral Society anniversary video many of us have viewed. Whether you're a new member, an established member, or a friend, we'd love to hear your story. What brought you to Starr King? What do you value in our Fellowship?

If you have ideas or pictures to include or would like to tell your story on camera, give a shout to any member of the Video task force: Bob Chandler, Bob Gannett, Kathy Kelsey



## Soundbites

January brought many changes in our collective culture, but one constant is the celebration of community at Starr King UU Fellowship. I am so grateful to the choir and the lay musicians that serve our Fellowship with their time and talents. For me, music connects us to our shared values centered around Love, and offers solace and healing to a broken world. Where else can people come together in common songs of hope and peace other than in church?

In the coming month we will continue to offer songs that speak to Inclusion and Acceptance, including a choir rendition of the Wailin' Jenny's piece, entitled One Voice. During the Stewardship season, we will also offer up hymns that have special meaning for some of our members and friends. What are some our your favorites? I welcome your feedback! Stop by the piano on a Sunday and share your inspirations.

There will be one change in Choir Thursday time on February 20th . The choir will meet that day from 5:30-6:30pm so that we can attend a concert at the PSU Silver Center, featuring Abigail Charbeneau (piano), Sylvia Stone-Hawkins (soprano from Skidmore College) and Stephanie Jenkins (clarinet from Concord). The concert, which starts at 7pm, will include Shepherds on the Rock by Schubert. I hope some of you will attend as well!

See y'all in church!

Sarah Dan

### SCHEDULE:

Sunday, February 2 - Sarah Dan

Sunday, February 9 - Will Gunn

Sunday, February 16 - Sarah Dan and Choir

Sunday, February 23 - Sarah Dan and Choir

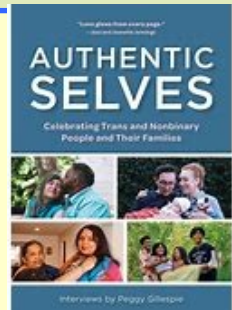
Choir will meet every Thursday in the sanctuary from 6pm-7pm, EXCEPT Thursday 2/20, when we will meet 530-630pm.



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## Welcoming Committee Encourages Community Read

The Welcoming Committee highly recommends the book, [Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and their Families](#). Thanks to the Endowment Fund, Starr King has purchased 6 copies. One copy is available in the lending library at this time, and more will become available as committee members finish reading. We invite you to email Mimi Chandler to get on the waiting list. We will host a book discussion later this church year. The book is filled with inspiring stories by trans and nonbinary people, their families and friends, highlighting the joys and struggles of their individual lives.



## From your DRE

The start of the new year has been full of activity at the Fellowship! To kick things off, the RE committee hosted the first 'Stay and Play' time. This will be an ongoing offering once a month after the service for families with children of all ages. In this time, kids will have access to games and art supplies and are encouraged to freely play in the RE space while parents have a chance to get to know each other better. Keep an eye out for an announcement soon with the next date! The RE committee is also in search of more volunteer RE teachers. Volunteers serve as support to the primary teacher who leads the activities. No prior teaching experience is needed, and all activity plans are provided. To learn more, talk to Mimi Chandler, Jess Boynton, Jane Clay, Mary Crowel, or Sarah Wylie, or send me an email at [dre@starrkingfellowship.org](mailto:dre@starrkingfellowship.org).



At the end of the month, we had a lovely intergenerational service, where folks of all ages participated in an art activity to help the Stewardship committee decorate the pledge poster. In this service, we also heard several members of the Youth Group speak about their experiences and hopes for the upcoming trip to Costa Rica. The youth are so grateful for the Fellowship's generous support in their fundraising efforts, and are excited for things that are to come!

The Our Whole Lives course continues to meet regularly at the Fellowship. We are so grateful to everyone who continues to support the OWL program. Providing comprehensive, inclusive, science-based sexuality and relationship education is one of the most effective and impactful ways the Fellowship can support youth in our community. Also this month, a group of Fellowship members gathered both online and in person to discuss strategies for active allyship and community care. In this workshop, we explored legislative and cultural threats to reproductive and trans rights in New Hampshire and nationally, brainstormed ways to engage in social justice efforts, and shared trusted resources for deeper learning. There are many ways to get involved with social justice efforts at the Fellowship! Send an email to [dre@starrkingfellowship.org](mailto:dre@starrkingfellowship.org) if you're curious to learn more.

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### Fellowship Office Hours:

Mondays: Closed

Tuesdays: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesdays: Closed

Thursdays: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Fridays: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

(Days and hours are subject to change, however, any changes are posted in the weekly View)

## Climate Action Committee

*Green Energy Times* is a good source for articles about Climate Action in our region of the country. Issued quarterly, it is free and available online at [greenenergytimes.org](http://greenenergytimes.org). This source covers climate-related matters in Northern New England and New York. What I appreciate most about this publication is the fact that it presents a great deal about what is happening, or not, climate-wise, across our northeast, helping the reader to gain a deeper perspective on what we face here in New Hampshire. Also included in *Green Energy Times* are articles providing information for consumers about such important items as heat pumps and electric vehicles.

I found the following articles informative in the Jan.-Mar. issue, just released:

### Tackling Climate Change “The New Hampshire Way”

New Hampshire is known as the “donut hole” of the clean energy transition in the Northeast.

### Enough Gaslighting: The Truth About the Gas Industry Disinformation

### The #1 Biggest Heat Pump Installation Mistake

System size matters more with heat pumps.

### Action is the Antidote to Despair: A Post-Election Path to Climate Security

### Is it Time to Think About Our Planet as a Living Being?

### Slowing Down the Fashion Rush

We can do much to maintain the clothes we have, stalling the time when they must be replaced and discarded, and find their way, eventually, to our landfills.

### Addressing Climate Change at Ski Industries

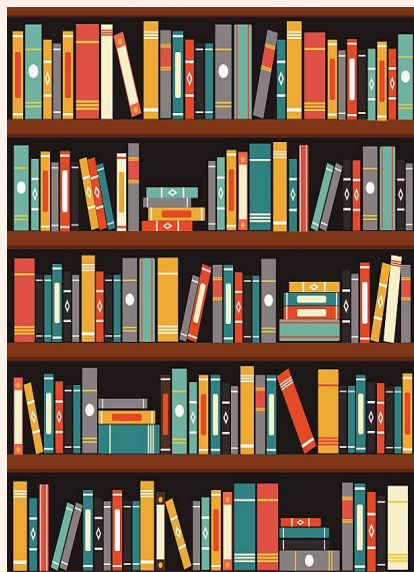
Nancy Chaddock for the Climate Action Committee

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## SKUUF LENDING LIBRARY

Next time you're in the downstairs lobby, take a look at our lending library. It has recently been refreshed and has many new titles. Some of the new selections focus on LGBTQ+ topics as part of the Welcoming Congregation renewal. Other subjects deal with grief and loss. Both children's and adult books are included.

To check out a book, write your name on the library card in the front of the book and place the card in the card file box. Please return the book in a reasonable amount of time, one month suggested.



## February 2025 Outreach Offering

### Pemi-Baker Literacy Program

This month's Community outreach, on February 23, will be for the Pemi-Baker Literacy Program. A member of the Pemi-Baker staff will be speaking on behalf of the organization on that Sunday. The literacy program provides free tutoring and small classes for adults in HiSET/GED Preparation, English as another language and Basic Digital Literacy in the Greater Plymouth / Bristol / Lincoln areas of New Hampshire. This is their twenty-third year of serving this community.

Their mission:

*Because literacy is key to the economic and emotional well-being of every individual, Pemi-Baker Literacy works to improve individual adult literacy skills in the communities we serve.*



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*Thanks to your Generosity  
to Our Outreach Collections:*

*For our Youth Group  
We have collected more than  
\$1,500 and counting!*

## Howling Monkey Nicaraguan Coffee Still Available

Shade-grown, organic Howling Monkey Nicaraguan coffee can still be purchased to support both the Starr King Youth group and Compas de Nicaragua.

It is available either whole bean or ground, \$15 per pound. Please Contact Bob and Jane Clay, 603-996-1207 or [claysusanj@gmail.com](mailto:claysusanj@gmail.com), to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery.



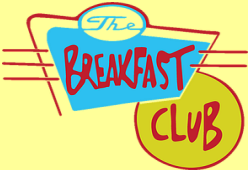


## Second Sunday Hike - February 9, 2025

On February 9, we will take our annual hike to the Flume in Franconia. This is a fun hike for all ages. There are opportunities for those who are young (or young at heart) to do some sliding, so dress in appropriate clothing and bring an adventurous spirit! We usually get to see some ice climbers as well. Our plan is to go to the Woodstock Station for refreshments after the hike. We will leave the Fellowship after the service at 11:30 AM from the lower parking lot. If you plan to join us, RSVP to Deedie at [cdkriebel@gmail.com](mailto:cdkriebel@gmail.com) for updates.



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### Breakfast Club - Friday, February 14

Join us for a Valentine's Day Breakfast at 8:30 AM at the PSU Prospect Dining Hall on 8 High Street in Plymouth. Then we will go to the Museum of the White Mountains where Meghan will give us a tour of the "Silent Shifts: Evolving Winters in the White Mountains" exhibit at 10 AM. Please let me know if you will be joining us for breakfast and the Museum tour and also if you need a PSU Parking Permit. Contact Deedie at [cdkriebel@gmail.com](mailto:cdkriebel@gmail.com)



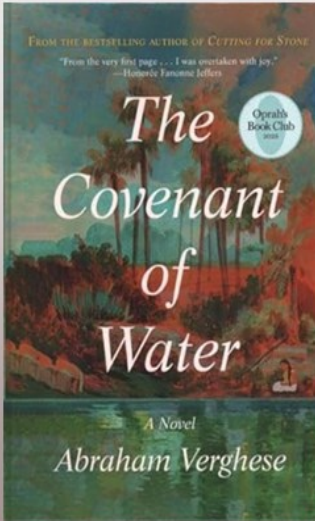
### Great way to support SKUUF

The purchase of a Hannaford card to use for grocery shopping costs you no additional money but helps SKUUF raise funds. In addition, purchase of Hannaford gift cards is always in good taste and you can use the SKUUF Hannaford program to purchase gift cards to give as thoughtful gifts. Denominations \$25, \$100, \$500. Cash or Checks, sorry no credit cards as fees remove our profit. Remember all checks are made out to SKUUF with Hannaford on memo line.



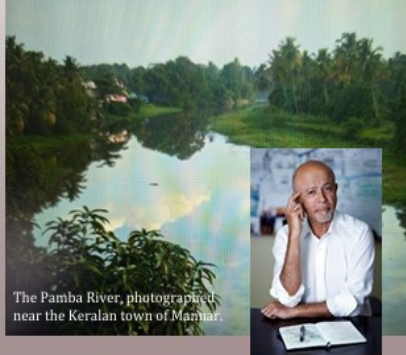
# BOOK GROUP NEWS—February

From the New York Times-bestselling author of *Cutting for Stone* comes a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret.



## Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Zoom Book Group

Tuesday, February 11 at 3:30 p.m.



Members who expressed interest in some kind of list or tree to help keep track of characters should know you aren't alone; here Verghese talks about his use of Whiteboard to keep track of the story line! Excerpts from

[www.oprahdaily.com/entertainment/books/a43869039/abraham-verghese-the-covenant-of-water-visualizing/](http://www.oprahdaily.com/entertainment/books/a43869039/abraham-verghese-the-covenant-of-water-visualizing/)

### Abraham Verghese on the Whiteboard: Its Iterations and Complications

"When I put up the whiteboard, it was because I was determined to plot out the new novel as best I could. I had some elements in my head before I began; the two most important were location—Kerala—and a fictional family afflicted by an inherited disorder that predisposed them to drowning, the Parambil family."

"The whiteboard was often static for months at a time because the real story was evolving on the page. Despite my best intentions, the whiteboard was less of a road map than a record of my detours, or else it was playing catch-up with what was on the page."



If you'd like to be on in the email zoom list, send a request to [admin@starrkingfellowship.org](mailto:admin@starrkingfellowship.org).

A complete list of all the book selections for the year can be found at <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/interest-groups>.

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## Member News



Acting as envoy for the Epilepsy Foundation New England, Dorothy Crowell had a productive meeting with NH State Senator Tim Lang to advocate for [SeizureSafeSchools](#) legislation. Thank you, Dorothy!

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## Our Hometown Plymouth



Four of our members participated in a video project produced by NH Public Television highlighting the many great things about our Plymouth Community. [Click here](#) and scroll down to the “See more videos” section to see snippets by Suzan Gannett, Bob Gannett, Jessica Dutille, and Kathy Kelsey.

## More Member News



Kathy and Fred Kelsey and Andrea Sutherland where we all got together to skate on Little Squam Lake on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Another example of people getting together across the fellowship. Really fun time.

Bob Chandler

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## What's on the Starr King Website

During every Sunday Service announcement we hear the statement "for more information go to our website."

Here are a few things you can find there:

- \* For a list of board members, committees and chairs, and recent board minutes, go to <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/committees>.
- \* To learn about interest groups such as breakfast club, Sunday hikes and book group, go to <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/interest-groups>.
- \* To learn about Adult Spirituality offerings such as Soul Matters, go to <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/adult-spiritual-exploration>.
- \* For a two minute summary of what we believe, go to <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/about>.
- \* **There's so much more. Please surf around!**

**Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
101 Fairgrounds Road  
PO Box 337  
Plymouth, New Hampshire 03264

admin@starrkingfellowship.org  
(603) 536-8908

[www.starrkingfellowship.org](http://www.starrkingfellowship.org)

#### **Staff**

**The Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes, Minister**  
**Sarah Dan Jones, Music Director**  
**Grace Kennedy, Director of Religious Education**  
**Sharon Warga, Office Administrator**

#### **Governing Board**

Pres.: Bob Chandler  
Vice Pres.: Connie Maatta  
Treasurer: Janet Englund  
Secretary: Suzan Gannett

Trustees:  
Suellen Skinner  
Louise Randal  
Jim Hostetler

## **Mission and Vision statement**

### **Mission:**

At Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we cultivate more love in the world and nurture more love for the world.

### **Vision:**

Our Fellowship welcomes and cares for people of all ages and varied identities. We experience joy as we build community and use our relationships with each other to create a more loving world.

Our Fellowship embraces what is meaningful and beautiful. We offer diverse experiences in worship, music, and the arts through our services, events, and the use of our building.

We live and model our values, collectively creating social and environmental justice with direct action and financial support.

## **About Membership in Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

### **What it Means to be a Member**

Membership is open to all individuals sixteen years and older regardless of race, creed, national origin, gender or sexual orientation who are in harmony with the visions, goals and principles of Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

You are invited to become a member by participating in a Path to Membership orientation or by meeting with the Minister to review the benefits and responsibilities of membership. All new members sign the official Membership Record book witnessed by the Minister or a Membership Committee Chair.

Members are entitled to the services of the Minister and the use of the sanctuary for Rites of Passage (weddings, dedications, memorial services, etc.) at no cost. Members are eligible to serve in elected officer positions and serve as committee chairs. Members have the privilege of full voting rights.

Membership is maintained by active participation in the Fellowship, by supporting the annual Stewardship Drive and/or contributing service toward the Fellowship.

### **What it Means to be a Friend**

A Friend of Starr King UU Fellowship is an individual in harmony with the visions, goals and principles of our Fellowship who chooses not to sign the Membership Record Book. A Friend may participate in any and all Fellowship activities but does not receive Rites of Passage services without a fee, is not eligible to vote or serve as an elected officer or committee chair.

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