

# STARR KING VIEW

Starr King UU Fellowship  
-A Welcoming Congregation-  
January 2025



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## Welcoming Congregation Sign Unveiling

The Welcoming Congregation Committee raised Starr King's LGBTQ+ Pride sign on the front entrance of our Fellowship on Sunday, January 5, 2025 as we marked our successful re-designation as a Welcoming UU Congregation.

Starr King was first designated a Welcoming Congregation in 1999 by the UUA. In 2021 they asked for all congregations to reaffirm their designation. Starting in 2023 with the help of ministerial intern Margaret Reiser our task force was formed. Through much work on the task force's part and the work of the congregation, the resolution to renew our Welcoming status was approved unanimously at the 2024 annual meeting!

In the fall of 2024 the task force chose to become a Committee as there is much work still to be done. Please contact any of the members if you have any questions and/or would like to join us in our work! Our next meeting is January 29th at 11 at Starr King. All are welcome!



Welcoming Congregation Committee: Mary Crowell, Rev. Linda Barnes, Sarah Wylie, Larry Wylie, Mimi Chandler, Bob Clay, Nancy Chaddock, Reed Harrigan, Paul Phillips - missing: Grace Kennedy



# WELCOME



Here's a link to view the Sunday unveiling of our new sign.

[Welcome Sign Unveiling](#)

## Sunday Services

### January 2025

January 5 Once Upon a Time

Rev. Linda Barnes

On this first Sunday of the new year, we'll consider what the coming year might bring. What will be written on the pages of our lives? How might we lovingly and thoughtfully navigate what we cannot know? Join us as we explore our *Once Upon a Time*, the stories of our own lives.

January 12 All Stories Are One Story

Rev. Linda Barnes

Our collective story matters. The stories we tell - of our family, our community, our nation, even the land - inform our relationships to these things. When all stories are welcome, then they become our one story. Join us as we explore what stories, and whose stories, might we tell to help bring about a world of deeper understanding and broader love.

January 19 Unfinished Work

Susan Scrimshaw, PhD

We honor the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the same few days that we face dramatic changes in our national leadership. Now, more than ever, how do we rally our determination to continue King's unfinished work, and ours? How do we work towards assuring a society where appreciation of our diversity thrives? How do we ensure equity in access to health care, education, employment, the right to vote and the right to live free of fear?

January 26 Reciprocity, Hands, and Hearts - A Love Story

Rev. Linda Barnes

No one brings about the world we long for by themselves. No one truly transforms the face of justice, brings about equity, or advocates for inclusion with any success, alone. On this Sunday we'll explore how it is together, each playing their own part, that we continue to write our amazing love story.

### 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 \(starrkingfellowship.org\)](#) on our website

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

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### January Vespers

The January Vespers will be held on Friday, January 10th at 6 pm (rather than Jan. 3rd). Please join us for this gentle contemplative service and, if you're able, a potluck meal afterwards.

Vespers



## Minister's Newsletter

### January 2025

The currency of story is not truth but meaning.  
– Patrick Reinsborough and Doyle Canning

In this new year, a year many are feeling trepidatious about, we would do well to be aware of the power of stories. Both the stories we hear and the stories we tell. Each has the power to do good or to bring about ill. The power of misinformation is one example of the damage stories can do. I need not say more about that but, know that stories are necessary to bringing about good change too. This is because stories are about meaning, not truth. This is not to say that truth should not have weight or doesn't matter, it just simply means that if we're trying to change public perspective or opinion, we'd do better with a story that evokes a personal response rather than simply the facts. This is the power of our community and the stories we share with one another. In this way we affirm what is good and right.

With stories we manifest the world we want, where all are welcome and transformation is possible. Need evidence? Look at the front of our building, we now proclaim just a couple of the ways we Side with Love - with the Black Lives Matter sign and the new Welcome sign with its LGBTQ+ symbols. Here's the story, a small group of committed people came together, expressed concern, hope, and action. Then, we did the work. We listened and learned. People stepped up to explain, to help everyone understand the diversity of peoples that make up the human family and recognized their worth. It's a good and ongoing story that we now express on the outside our building so that that story can be part of a larger movement towards inclusivity, compassion, and justice. I am grateful to the Welcoming Committee for the work they did to make this possible for all of us. They did their part to perpetuate good change. Let us tell the story.

I charge you with this as we approach the new year – work at telling the stories that can bring about good change. What stories are we going to tell to continue to bring about the world we want? I know that last year was rough, hell, the last 8 years have been rough, and it may get rougher still. But the story I want to tell is one of resistance and commitment to a liberating love for all. I encourage you too, to stand on the side of love. Be a witness to the good stories all around you that provide evidence that there is reason for hope. Then, retell those stories. It is good to be in this story with you. Let us write the next chapter of our collective story already full of meaning and so much love.

In faith and love,  
Rev. Linda

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### New to UU Class

Curious about what it means to be Unitarian Universalist? What's with that name, Unitarian Universalist? Want to know more about the Starr King UU Fellowship? We are offering three classes. All dates are Sundays from 11:00 until 1:00. Light refreshments will be provided.

- ◇ January 12 Unitarian Universalism: The History and Values at the Heart of this Faith
- ◇ January 26 Starr King UU Fellowship: The Story of this Fellowship and a Building Tour.
- ◇ February 9 All the Things: Who does What and How does it Work? You'd be Surprised!

Whether you are just curious, interested in "officially" joining Starr King UU Fellowship, or you're already a member, your participation at any or all three sessions is welcome. Let us know if you'd like to join us, and if you need childcare, at [admin@starrkingfellowship.org](mailto:admin@starrkingfellowship.org).

## President's Message

Happy New Year!

For some this January is politically unsettling and anxiety producing. Let's all take a deep breath and not get ahead of ourselves. The snow is coming and going and often can be another means of testing our resolve. Starr King is a terrific place to be with your fellow UU's to get perspective on so much of what is going on in our immediate areas never mind globally.

We wanted to share that Jim Hostetler has joined the Starr King board. We are glad to have Jim with us to complement the other board members and share his wisdom and perspectives as we go through the remaining months of our fiscal year.

By now the new Welcoming Congregation sign is hanging from the front of the Starr King building. Special thanks to the Building and Grounds team for help with setting the sign.

The Starr King video history project continues. We met with Peter Adams, a local video professional. More planning and people to be a part of the team are needed. If you are interested in getting involved in the project please see Kathy Kelsey, Bob Gannett or Bob Chandler.

-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. 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? The video will be created by EVP Marketing in Campton who also did the Pemi Choral Society anniversary video many of us have viewed. 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.

## Stewardship Committee

This Year our Stewardship drive will begin on Sunday, January 26, and run throughout the month of February. The theme of this year's drive is "Many hands cultivate more love in the world." During this time we will celebrate the ways in which this Fellowship works to support and fulfil our mission to cultivate more love in the world and nurture more love for the world. We will be offering cottage meetings-small social gatherings in people's homes offering food, conversation and fellowship. We will also briefly share information about the budget and answer and questions you might have about pledging. Please plan to attend one of these cottage meetings. More detailed information to follow in the Starr King View and February newsletter.





## Soundbites

Happy New Year!!

It was a whirlwind of a holiday season! Seems like so much was packed into a short span of time. Yet, we made the best of it and joined together with those who believe that Love is at the center of all we do as a community. I am so grateful that we have so many musicians who participated in the holiday celebrations; folks of all ages and abilities gave of their time and talents to make it all possible. Thank you one and all.

As we enter into the New Year, I am struck by how many new faces and families have been gracing the doors of Starr King. It is a clear indication that people are seeking shelter in the storm of divisiveness and uncertainty, seeking a community that aligns with the values of decency, truth and justice for all beings on this precious planet. This month we celebrate the power of "story" and I am touched that we are able to take our individual stories and meld them with the story of our Fellowship, and our Faith as a whole.

This collective story is seen in our worship, the inclusion of our children and youth, the conscious efforts of our community to move towards a more sustainable future with our solar panels, and the signage on our building that declares to all who we are and what we believe in. It gives us energy, solace and hope to face the unknown future, knowing that we are not alone in our journey. What a blessing!

The choir this month will join in song as we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on January 19th, with Susan Scrimshaw leading the service. We will also sing on January 26<sup>th</sup> as we kick off this year's Stewardship drive, asking us to cultivate more love in the world through our minds, hands and hearts.

I look forward to what this time collectively will call us to be, both at the Fellowship and in the larger community.

See y'all in church,

Sarah Dan



### SCHEDULE

January 5 - Sarah Dan, musician

January 12 - Will Gunn, Musician

January 19 and 26 - Sarah Dan and the CHOIR

CHOIR meets every Thursday in the sanctuary 6pm - 7pm for rehearsal.

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**Martin  
Luther  
King  
Day**

**January 20, 2025**



## From your DRE

### Religious Exploration

This past month in Religious Exploration, we've been exploring the theme of 'Presence.' Through different artistic and embodiment activities, children and teachers celebrated the change to the winter season and practiced being mindful of the present moment. During the holiday services, the Fellowship enjoyed hearing much special music from various youth. Several other young members assisted in worship by lighting the chalice and advent candles and offering readings.



For the month of January, we are exploring the theme of 'Story'. The children have begun exploring what it means for them to write the story of their lives. This past Sunday was also our first 'Stay and Play' time - an opportunity for parents and kids to spend time together at the Fellowship after the service. It is something we plan to continue to offer to families on a regular basis. Our Youth Group has resumed meeting regularly on the first and third Sunday of each month, and the Our Whole Lives course will also start up again this week after taking a break for the holidays. It is wonderful to see so many children and youth engaging with the many things the Fellowship has to offer, and it is all thanks to the many volunteers who dedicate their time and love to the RE program.

The RE volunteers are all deeply passionate about creating a space where our young people feel comfortable. The Fellowship is special in that it is a space where children are treated as whole human beings and their unique expression is celebrated. It is an intergenerational space, where we all demonstrate how we can care for one another as a community. It is a place where we can creatively explore what it means to live out our shared values and practice pausing to be more present. It is a place where meaningful connections and trust in each other are built. As we move into this new year, let us remember the great value of community, and how each of us plays a role in creating that by showing up again and again.



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## Searching for New Our Whole Lives Teachers!

We are looking for someone who is interested in becoming a trained Our Whole Lives facilitator. Our goal is to be able to offer an OWL course for kids in grades 4-6 this upcoming Spring. To do that, we need another teacher! The facilitator training will be offered in March 2025 and will be entirely online.



To learn more about the training or what it's like to teach OWL, please send Grace an email at [dre@starrkingfellowship.org](mailto:dre@starrkingfellowship.org). You can also learn more details about the training on the UUA's website via this link: <https://www.uua.org/re/owl/trainings/calendar/owl-facilitator-training-k-1/4-6-online-march-est>

## A thank you to all who made our Fellowship's Thomas Starr King event after the service on December 22<sup>nd</sup> both possible and memorable.

Many of you were involved:

- ◇ Governing Board members who, in September of 2023 approved the original proposal to have the painted portrait of King installed in our Meetinghouse and who then this year found the perfect location for that installation in our Sanctuary.
- ◇ Rev. Linda who, from the pulpit for all to hear, highlighted King's accomplishments which appear on the plaque under his portrait.
- ◇ Suzan Gannett who produced the high-quality portrait copy and attractive framing of King.
- ◇ Connie Maatta who ordered the cake for us to enjoy.
- ◇ Paul MacIntosh who snapped a picture of the cake before cutting.
- ◇ Kathy Kelsey who greatly improved the summary of King's life on our website and who encouraged me to widely communicate the December event to our wider community.
- ◇ Sharon Warga who completed the communications to our Fellowship and wider Plymouth community.



The writing about King's incredibly accomplished life which is accessible on our website has been pure joy for me and in that regard a special thank you to:

Kathy Hillier for her historical contributions and Kathy Hillier for her historical contributions and encouragement. The history at the website includes a picture of the "Starr King elm tree" as it stood next to what is now "The Flying Monkey" in downtown Plymouth. That picture came from Kathy. She also made a presentation to our Fellowship years ago entitled "Thomas Starr King visits Plymouth," drawing on her extensive knowledge of the times King spent in Plymouth. Finally, I thank Kathy for lending me her precious first edition of King's book, "The White Hills" to hold during my research of King's life. I had been working with a complete copy of the book, but having that first edition close at hand was a treat.

I look forward to a time in the future when someone with a talent for writing for children, or for producing a skit perhaps in which children might participate, uses that talent to help us remember King in a joyful way.



Nancy Chaddock

## Climate Action Committee

In the December newsletter, Nancy discussed issues we might focus on as we wait to see what the new administration brings. One issue involves landfills. The laws and rules controlling the operation of landfills has been debated for years as residents of northern New Hampshire have fought to keep out a huge new landfill whose permitting has been requested by Casella, a waste management company already managing landfills in our state.

Work continues in our government to seek protections from landfills that threaten our land and water. There have been proposed laws to protect New Hampshire from these risks. Last year, several bills were proposed, were approved by the House and shot down by the Senate. At the same time the Department of Environmental Services (DES) has been developing rules.

In case you missed it, the rules put forward by DES have been opposed by many groups as not being protective enough. However a few weeks ago, the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules swiftly approved them without permitting any public hearing (after they received tons of comments in opposition).

As we consider ways we can become involved in issues surrounding pollution and climate change in our state, this looks like something worth learning more about. It is a good example of how our legal system works, the way big business can manipulate things, and importantly, what happens to all that stuff we take to the dump.

If this issue is one you've been following, give Suellen a call or email. This is a long, complicated struggle against big, wealthy businesses that threaten our resources and communities. Efforts to learn more will take time. The good news is that Governor Elect Ayotte says she opposes the proposed landfill in Dalton but the issue is far from settled. We will be looking for ways to be involved by advocating, writing legislature and working with other volunteers. One central non-profit who is leading the fight is North Country Alliance for Balanced Change. If you want more information, check their website. <https://northcountryabc.net/>

More to come.

Suellen Skinner

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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)



## January 2025 Outreach Offering

Most of our outreach offering recipients have been local or regional groups engaged in work that are in line with our priorities as a Unitarian Universalist fellowship: Social justice, reproductive health support, and so on. Our January offering is hyper-local. We will be raising funds for our youth group as they work to fund their next youth trip to Costa Rica.

Have you ever wondered about what the youth group does, who is involved and why these trips are so important in their spiritual growth? Join us on **January 26** to learn more and to support their work financially.



*Thanks to your Generosity  
to Our Outreach  
Collections:*

*The December Collection for  
Pemi Youth Center—\$874.00*

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## THE WINNERS OF THE 2024 HOLIDAY GIVING DRAWING SPONSORED BY THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

*The winners are:*

*Black Heritage Trail NH  
Head Start Plymouth  
Plymouth Historical Society*

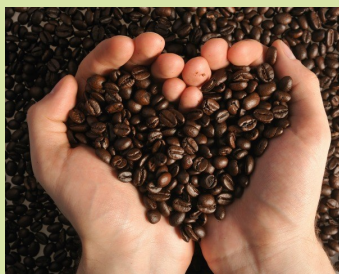
*We would also like to highlight all the worthy charities that were submitted for the drawing.*

*Artistic Roots  
CASA  
Citizens Climate Lobby  
Community Closet  
Got Lunch  
Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance  
Lake Region Community Services  
Lake Region Conservation Trust  
Lakes Region Humane Society  
(Ossipee)  
Loon Preservation Society  
NHPR  
Plymouth Senior Center Kitchen  
Society for Preservation of NH Forest  
Vets Rest Stop*

## 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.

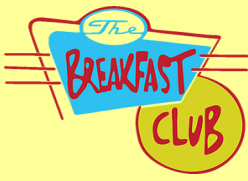


## Second Sunday Hike - January 12, 2025



Join us for a Full Moon Hike to Mason Pond at Mountain View Farm in Orford, NH! The hike is from 5 PM to 7 PM. It looks as if it is an easy 1.2 mile (out and back) walking trail. All ages are welcome, though children should be accompanied by an adult at all times. Please wear snowshoes or micro-spikes and headlamps. Each of us needs to register on their website. We plan to stop for refreshments on the way home at the Last Chair. We will meet at the Walmart parking lot in Plymouth at 4 PM to carpool. Please contact Deedie Kriebel at [deedikriebel@gmail.com](mailto:deedikriebel@gmail.com) if you would like to join us for the hike, carpooling at Walmart, and refreshments at the Last Chair.

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## Breakfast Club - Friday, January 10, 2025 at 8:30 AM

This month, we will meet at Annie's Overflow Restaurant in Holderness for breakfast and conversation. If there is an interest and the weather permits, we will hike Rainbow Falls in Plymouth after we eat. Please come prepared with micro-spikes and poles as it has been icy on the trails. Please contact Deedie Kriebel at [deedikriebel@gmail.com](mailto:deedikriebel@gmail.com), if you would like to join us for breakfast, the hike, or both.

### Foyer Art

We are thrilled to have our first youth exhibit in our foyer. Casey uses a Nikon D750 for his photo shoots.

Thank you Casey!



Hi, I'm Casey Smith. I'm 15 and have been attending UU churches for as long as I can remember. I've been doing photography on and off for about three years, but I really started getting into it over the past year. My main styles are landscape and macro photography. I love macro photography because it offers a unique perspective that I don't usually see. I enjoy landscape photography because I have a deep appreciation for nature's beauty and capturing stunning moments to look back on.

# SO MANY BOOKS



# SO LITTLE TIME

## End-of-Year Book Sharing on December 29 at the Meetinghouse

Sam Miller

*The Daily Stoic* by Ryan Holiday

*On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder

*Eichmann in Jerusalem: On the Banality of Evil* by Hannah Arendt

*Mink River* by Briann Doyle

Also mentioned: *God is Not One* by Stephen Prothero

*The Speeches of Frederick Douglass*

*American Nations* by Colin Woodard

*A Brain for All Seasons* by William H. Calvin

*The Long Summer* by Brian Fagan

Virginia Miller

*The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Robinson

Virginia is currently writing a book about European decorative arts and their pagan origin.

Paul MacIntosh

*Stillness is the Key* by Ryan Holiday

*The Obstacle is the Way* by Ryan Holiday

*Chop Wood Carry Water* by Joshua Medcalf

*The Wide Wide Sea* by Hampton Sides

Sally Gove

*Slow Horses* by Mick Herron

*Ruth Galloway* Mystery Series by Ellie Griffiths

*The Searcher* by Tana French

Katarina Bromkamp (Katarina is from Connecticut, visiting her Grandfather in the Plymouth area)

*Radical Acceptance* by Tara Brach

*Authentic Excellence* by Kelly Grace

Gigi Estes

*Brave the Wild River* by Melissa Sevigny

*The Oregon Trail* by Rinker Buck

*A Deep Presence* by Robert Goodby

Maura Dougherty

*Stitches* by Anne Lamott

*Shoemaker's Wife* by Adriana Trigiani

Nancy Chaddock

*Of Time and Turtles* by Sy Montgomery

Other books by Montgomery mentioned:

*The Soul of an Octopus*

*Search for the Golden Moon Bear*

*The Hummingbird's Gift*

# BOOK GROUP NEWS—January

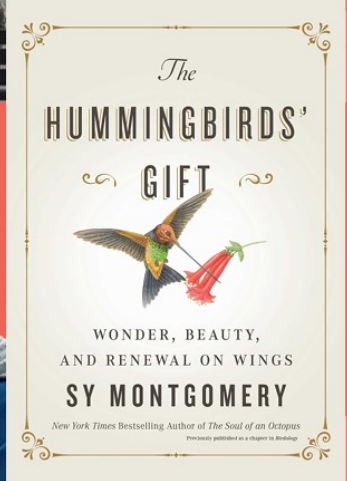


Recommended  
by Gisela Estes

## **Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Zoom Book Group**

Tuesday, January 14 at 3:30 p.m.

Discussion led by  
**Nancy Chaddock**



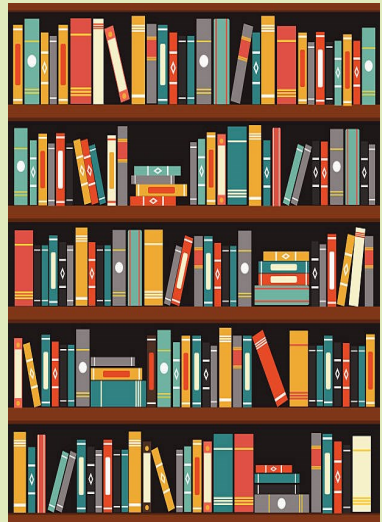
If you'd like to be on in the email zoom list, send a request to [admin@starrkingfellowship.org](mailto:admin@starrkingfellowship.org). A complete list of all the book selections for the year can be found at <https://www.starrkingfellowship.org/interest-groups>.

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## **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.





**Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
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(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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