

# STARR KING VIEW

Starr King UU Fellowship  
-A Welcoming Congregation-  
December 2024



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## Child Dedications

Our Christmas Eve service will include a Child Dedication Ceremony. It is a blessing expressing our commitment as a community to support and nurture the children among us. We typically do this for babies and children new to our fellowship. It's really a sweet ceremony. If you would like to have your child and family participate in our child dedication, please let Rev. Linda know at [minister@starrkingfellowship.org](mailto:minister@starrkingfellowship.org).

## **HOLIDAY GIVING DRAWING**

***On Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>***

**Sponsored by Starr King's Endowment Committee**

Be sure to submit the name of your favorite charity for the HOLIDAY GIVING DRAWING!

The drawing will take place during the Sunday Service on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Three charities will be chosen to receive \$500 each.



## Why we Gather

*The first is that community is essential at this time. We need community to recover, ...Don't wait for someone to invite you into community. Will it into existence. Call on your leaders to make spaces to gather. Invite a friend into your home. Invite yourself into a friend's home! Create community in every interaction with a colleague, a service person, a passerby in the market. People are hungering for community. If you offer it, they will join.*

-Robert Hubbell, November 12, 2024

## Sunday Services December 2024

### December 1                      Question Box Service Rev. Linda Barnes

This is the service to ask Rev. Linda questions. Questions about life, ministry, Starr King UU Fellowship, and anything else that is on your heart and mind are all welcome. She will entertain questions for what would be the duration of a sermon. Feel free to send her questions before the service at minister@starrkingfellowship.

### December 8                      The Practice of Presence Rev. Linda Barnes

The human mind is mysterious thing. Our past is made of memories, and our future is made of imaginings. Paying attention to this moment can help us create memories we want to relive and a future that is better for all. Join us as we explore the *practice of presence* so that we might be better at living our lives right now.

### December 15                      Err on the Side of Presence Rev. Lyn Marshall

When we don't know how to help someone going through a hard time, or when we're afraid we'll say or do the wrong thing, we may put off reaching out. Unitarian Universalists recently adopted new language saying that we hold love at the center of our faith. What if showing up is the most important thing?

### December 22                      Find A Stillness Rev. Linda Barnes

Winter solstice offers us a moment, as the earth axis tilts us furthest from the sun, where we might find a stillness that can offer comfort and reflection. On this Sunday, we'll honor the still small light in each of us which needs tending as we look bring about a world of more light and more love.

### Tuesday, December 24      Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Rev. Linda Barnes

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service, we will light candles, sing, and tell the Christmas story. We'll gather at 5:30 PM. All manner of family, all ages, all peoples are welcome as we gather in the love, hope, and peace of Christmas.

### December 29      Book Service: What Have You Been Reading?

Looking to consider what to read next? Want to share the really great book that you're sure everyone else would love too? This low-key service offers us the chance to share the books we've read in the past year and to give the Starr King UU Fellowship staff a well-deserved week off.

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## New things at our Vespers Services

Starr King has held vesper services on First Fridays of each month during the months Fall – Spring. They have always, for years and years, concluded with “shared bread” also known as pizza generously arranged and supplied by Bob and Jane Clay. We have enjoyed this enormously – thank you, thank you, Jane and Bob.

Vespers participants have decided, after some discussion, to move to a more communal form of sharing bread. In December, we will share the task of providing food – a light potluck. Bring what you like and bring also your personal plates and utensils to reduce use of disposable supplies. You are encouraged to bring a little more to allow for guests who missed this new process of worship and community building.

Our next vespers service will be December 6. Looking forward to this new way of being together.



## Minister's Newsletter December 2024

*Live as if you were to die tomorrow.  
Learn as if you were going to live forever.*  
~ Mahatma Ghandhi

The theme for this month is *Living Love Through the Practice of Presence*. In the month of December, the use of the word presence, homonym of presents, is not lost on me. It feels a little trite. Still, much can be gleaned beyond this rather shallow use of words, to remind us that time together, the practice of ritual and holidays, all have value. They help us live as Ghandhi invited, as if we were to die tomorrow and to learn as if we were going to live forever. This is what mindful presence in our own living has to offer.

In these times of conflict and anxiety do not forget to live your life. Being present means we care for ourselves. This is a gift not only to ourselves, but to our families and our communities. This can look like being present in our bodies - going outside, eating well, receiving physical touch. It means connecting with others in a community of care, of laughter, music, and conversation. Caring for ourselves also means carving our precious time alone, a time for quiet wonder, reading, or walking, so that we have a spaciousness in our hearts and minds to be present to our own lives and each other. In short, let us pay attention. Is there snow on the mountains today? Look, the Juncos have returned in earnest. Look! those I care about are here in all their imperfections, in all their beauty, in all their human expression, here in my time with me. In the starlit darkness, in the shortness of days and the brightness of the holidays, let us celebrate, break bread, laugh, and wonder.

In these holy days and holidays, these are my hopes for you: that your life is filled with the presents of the spirit, that the stillness of these winter nights offer you solace, and that time with those you love reminds you of your worth and that you return the favor. Finally, I hope for you a calm reserve for whatever challenges you face, that we all face. And may peace be yours this season. This is my hope for you.

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

As we move into the month of December and all that it can represent it is a particularly difficult time for many in the Fellowship. One can not ignore or diminish the consequential implications of November's election cycle. The anxiety and in some cases scary implications and fears weigh on us all. We are very fortunate to have a fellowship and ministerial leader in Reverend Linda Barnes to help us navigate this time. We need to stand together, and both reflect on our values and not ignore what we see as hurtful and divisive. There are ways we can support ourselves through our SKUUF community, committees, and in some cases join into action. We can remain true to our mission and values and not be brought down by negative outside influences. Our Starr King community is strong and can take strength from within. Starr King is a wonderful place in these times.

With the very noticeable increase in Sunday service attendance, we have a very good opportunity to service our greater community in their spiritual needs as well as grow our membership. We should all make an effort to reach out to these visitors as they clearly are experiencing some of the many benefits the SKUUF fellowship has to offer. This also includes families with all age groups that feel a need to associate with our values and compassion in these difficult times.

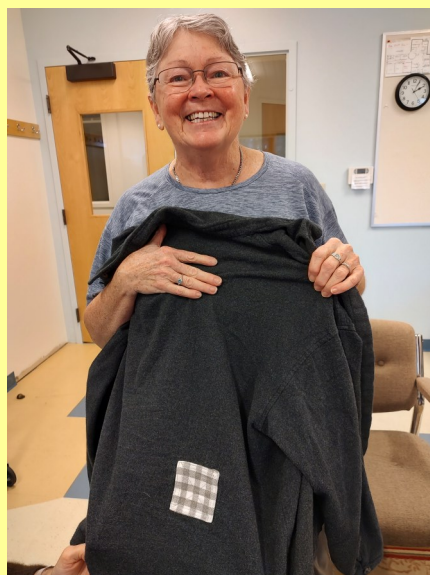
Also, special thanks to the Building and Grounds team, led by Jennifer Gentry, with help from Ray DeRaymond, for jumping into action to repair our SKUUF sign in a recent windstorm. As Reverend Linda often says, take a breath and together we can make it through what lies ahead for us.

-Bob Chandler

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## Lifting Love Through the Practice of Repair

One way to calm the spirit is to Slow Draw, a spiritual exercise described in the November Soul Matters Creative packet on "Lifting Love Through the Practice of Repair." The Monday Soul Matters Group tried this during their Soul Matters session. We agreed that the practice of slow drawing puts one into a Zen mind frame and calms. Linda's sermon "[All is Broken](#)" highlighted how a broken object might be put back together to create something new and beautiful. See how Mimi transformed her damaged sweatshirt into a new style. Many of us also listened or read from the rich resources in the packet. The monthly packets are all available through our website if you're interested in seeing some of the other exercises and resources. The December theme is "Lifting Love through the Practice of Presence."



## Soundbites

November was a magical musical month at Starr King! It started with a terrific Open Mic/Coffee House hosted by the Youth Group. There were acts of all ages and abilities that were gracious in their offerings. That event helped me to identify some "new" musicians who then participated in our Music Sunday at the end of the month. So much talent! Thanks to all who contributed in both events, and I look forward to more music making in the future. Remember, you don't have to wait for a special event to take part in the music ministry of our Fellowship.

December is upon us and we prepare for the lights and sounds of the Holiday season. In this time of Advent, we practice the art of patience and contemplation around the coming of goodness and mercy as promised in the Christian scriptures. That theme is also found in the Hebrew teachings during the days of Hannukah, as well as the Yule tide and the anticipation of the lengthening of days and the return of the light. We will honor all of those traditions in our Fellowship, and feature the music and mystery of the Season.

My hope for you this month is to take some time in the hustle and bustle to focus on all the good that is yet to come, and all the good that you can share with others. It will not be easy, but I hope that our community will offer some guidance and solace in your journey.

See y'all in church!

Sarah Dan

### SCHEDULE:

December 1 - Will Gunn, guest musician  
December 8 - Sarah Dan  
December 15 - Sarah Dan and Choir  
December 22 - Sarah Dan and Choir  
December 29 - no Musician/service



CHOIR: meets every Thursday at 6pm, EXCEPT December 5 (PEMI Choral Concert weekend) and NO Choir Thursday December 26.

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## Fellowship Video Project

Inspired by [Pemi Choral Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary video](#), a task force has been formed to create a six minute professionally produced video of our Starr King UU Fellowship history, beliefs, music, social action, and children's programs. The video would be used to inform interested folks to learn what we're about and to be a digital scrapbook for us. We have started putting together ideas for content and participants. The topic ideas so far include how we began, how we grew, the importance of social justice, music program, religious education and how we differ from other churches. This would be shown through interviews, pictures, and videos. We hope to have the video completed in time for the annual meeting in May. Please share your thoughts with Bob Chandler, Bob Gannett, or Kathy Kelsey. We'd love your input.



## From your DRE

This past month in RE we have been exploring the theme of 'Repair' through different lenses and activities. On one Sunday morning, the group shared experiences of difficulty or bullying that they've had while tearing up colorful paper. They then patched the pieces together, gluing them into something new and beautifully transformed - representing a new, repaired wholeness. The children also enjoyed time outside, practicing mindfulness and observation while walking the labyrinth and in the woods.



The Youth Groups this month hosted a fabulous Open Mic/Coffee House event, where Fellowship goers of all ages shared their musical talents! Keep your eyes out for more events like this in the future, as the Youth Groups are working on fundraising for future trips. The 7th-9th grade Our Whole Lives course continues to meet regularly. We are so grateful to be able to offer this course that provides youth with life-saving, compassion-filled, and scientifically accurate information about sexuality and relationships. The OWL program is unique in that way, and offering this class has a major ripple effect on the wider community of young people. We are currently looking to expand our OWL offerings to more ages. If you have any interest in learning more about what it is like to teach Our Whole Lives, please reach out to me at [dre@starkingfellowship.org](mailto:dre@starkingfellowship.org) to learn more about training opportunities.

Grace Kennedy



*Photos from  
DRE*



## Climate Action

It is difficult to imagine what difficulties lie ahead with respect to action on climate change and climate *justice*, but I believe that educating ourselves and staying informed about issues as they develop in New Hampshire, should lead us to some comfort that we are “doing what we can, together.” We do know there will be occasions when our UU presence at a particular time and place here in NH may be important. Preparing ourselves for those occasions is time well spent.

It is also helpful to learn the specifics of what UU’s across our country are thinking of doing within their states about climate issues. Great to learn that many of you are planning to attend UU General Assembly in Baltimore in June, 2025. If you haven’t considered it, please **do!** See info about GA’25 at [uua.org](http://uua.org)

Here is a sampling of what we are tracking and learning about here in New Hampshire at present:

- ◆ From a NH Network Zoom meeting I attended on November 18:
  - One speaker, a long-time rep in the NH House who has been focused on climate change for many years, stated that he and other reps are planning to introduce bills that refer to “costs” rather than “climate change” since the latter wording dooms a bill to failure at the outset.
  - Another speaker, a NH resident representing the Center for Climate Integrity, informed us of the likelihood that a lawsuit brought by the State of Massachusetts against a major oil company may be the first court battle in the country of the type that oil companies fear the most, for what it might cost them.
- ◆ Incoming Governor Ayotte may bring to the table different ideas regarding climate matters, based on past statements, downplaying offshore wind development and perhaps supporting nuclear energy. She visited Forest Lake Park in Dalton, NH, stating her strong opposition to expansion of a landfill close to the lake being sought by a privately-owned waste management company. Her opposition is shared across political lines because it would threaten not only the beauty and use of the park, but also endanger water resources with so-called “forever chemicals” and increase the amount of heavy truck traffic for residents of this rural area. Opposition also comes from the fact that presently our State allows waste from Massachusetts to be transported to this landfill.
- ◆ We look forward to attending the presentation by the NH Department of Environmental Services, scheduled to be held in December, offering Federal grant money to our State for the development of a comprehensive climate action plan (see our article in the November newsletter).

A big “thank you” to whoever donated the book “*A Life On Our Planet*” by David Attenborough. His views are worth reading, based as they are on his extensive studies in nature around the globe for decades. Other book donations are noted with our thanks. Check the display out at your next visit to the Foyer.

Nancy Chaddock for the Climate Action Committee

## December 2024 Outreach Offering

### Pemi Youth Center

This month's Community outreach, on December 8th, will be for the Pemi Youth Center. Julia Dunn, the director, will be speaking on behalf of the center. Here is a bit about the center from Julia:

Pemi Youth Center is a non-profit afterschool program run from 2:30 -5:30 PM Monday - Friday.

Our Mission is to provide a safe and welcoming environment where our youth may gather outside of school and gain a sense of community, belonging and self-esteem.

Founded in 1999 by Glenda Toomey, who saw a need for a safe afterschool location for youth in Plymouth considered "latchkey kids" from the hours of 2:00 - 6:00 PM. Now, celebrating 25 years in operation, we are an empowerment and enrichment program. On average, we serve 10-15 youth per day, with over 35 active registrants.

#### Daily Schedule

2:30 - 3:30 PM - youth arrival

3:30 PM - community circle- snack & daily briefing

3:45 PM - 15 min. of homework/reading time

4:00 - 4:45 PM - enrichment activity (varies daily)

4:45 PM - snack/Small dinner

5:00 - 5:30 PM- free play until pick-up



*Thanks to your Generosity  
to Our Outreach  
Collections:*

*The October Collection for  
NH Bail Fund was  
\$ 960.00*

## Year-end Reminders from the Treasurer

### IRA Gifts for 2024

As year-end approaches we remind you that if you are 70 ½ or older and have an IRA, gifts, known as "Qualified Charitable Distributions or QCDs" transferred directly from that IRA to qualified charitable organizations, such as our Fellowship, may:

- allow you to make a gift of pre-tax dollars, rather than an after-tax gift through a check or credit card;
- be excluded from federal income taxes since your gift would pass directly from your IRA to the Fellowship; and
- provide you with a tax savings regardless of whether you itemize or not.

### Year End Reminders from the Treasurer

- Please remember to note on the memo line of your check what your check is for. If it is left blank, we will assume it is meant to be a non-pledge donation to the operating fund.
- Checks for contributions you wish to see included on your 2024 charitable giving statement must be post-marked or dropped off at the Fellowship by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

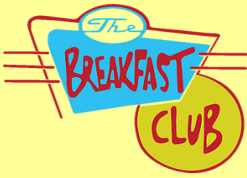


## Second Sunday Hike - December 8, 2024



Join us as we hike Ladd Mountain Trail. Experience this 1.4-mile out-and-back trail near Meredith, New Hampshire. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 46 min to complete. This trail is great for hiking, and it's unlikely we'll encounter many other people while exploring. Dogs are welcome and may be off-leash in some areas. We usually find some place for refreshments after the hike. We will leave at 11:30 AM after the service from the lower parking lot at Starr King. If you plan to join us, contact Deedie at [deediekriebel@gmail.com](mailto:deediekriebel@gmail.com) for more information and updates.

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## Friday, December 13, 2024

We will meet for breakfast at 8:30 AM at the PSU Prospect Dining Hall on 8 High Street in Plymouth. You can still use your Breakfast Club cards or pay for the breakfast. You can park in Lot #204 across the street from the dining hall. After breakfast, we will travel to Starr King UU Fellowship on Fairgrounds Road for a special treat. Linda Smith will read our cards! She will give us a brief history of Tarot Cards and then do a few readings for anyone interested. The readings can be private or shared. Most say that a card reading shouldn't be used to make decisions, but instead should be used as a guide to help you make the decision yourself. Come with a question or two that you are looking for insight into or help with answering, and Linda will let the cards guide you. You can choose from several decks- a gypsy oracle deck, a deck similar to Tarot but not Tarot, and even a Christmas deck! Come and have some fun with us and maybe go home with some insights. Please contact Deedie at [deediekriebel@gmail.com](mailto:deediekriebel@gmail.com), if you would like to join us and if you need a parking permit.

## Luminary Hike to Inspiration Point - Friday, December 20, 2024

Luminary Hike to Inspiration Point followed by dinner at Cielito Mexican Restaurant in Bristol. Take a hike on the Worthen Trail to the summit of Little Round Top and Inspiration Point following the magical glow of trailside ice luminaries along the way. This is a self-guided event, leaving from the parking lot of the Slim Baker Area (301 New Chester Mountain Road, Bristol, NH). Each luminary is unique and beautiful as they are all handmade by board members and local volunteers. In the event of snow or ice on the trails, poles and traction devices are recommended for your safety. This trail gains approximately 800 feet of elevation and has several steep sections along the way. This event is free and open to the public. Dogs are allowed if leashed or under voice control. We will meet in the parking lot by the kiosk at 5 PM and hike to the top together. Last year, it was a star studded evening, and we sang Christmas Carols at the top! Please contact Deedie at [deediekriebel@gmail.com](mailto:deediekriebel@gmail.com), if you would like to join us, indicating whether or not you will be going to Cielito's with us.



## Member News

The December concert series of the Pemigewasset Choral Society features 115 voices, joining together in a moving collection of songs of peace. This choral music experience is guaranteed to elicit joy as it ushers in the holidays for the members of the audience.

Among these singers are 10 Starr King UU Fellowship members:

Sue Chadwick, Jane Clay, Gigi Estes, Mary Hazelton, Kathy Hillier, Susan Jacobs, Babe DeRaymond, Susan Scrimshaw, Allan Stern, Kristen Walsh

Please add at least one of the concert dates to your calendar—details on the poster below.

**Pemigewasset**  
CHORAL SOCIETY

**Give Us**  
**PEACE**

SEASON 51 | 2024 HOLIDAY CONCERTS

William Gunn — *Music Director* | Laura Belanger — *Collaborative Pianist*

THURSDAY | DEC. 5 | 7:30 PM | Gilford Community Church | Gilford  
FRIDAY | DEC. 6 | 7:30 PM | Inter-Lakes Middle/High School | Meredith  
SUNDAY | DEC. 8 | 3:00 PM | PSU Silver Center | Plymouth

Admission by Donation

**Plymouth State**  
UNIVERSITY

**PemiChoral.org**

**SILVER**  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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## Howling Monkey Nicaraguan Coffee Still Available

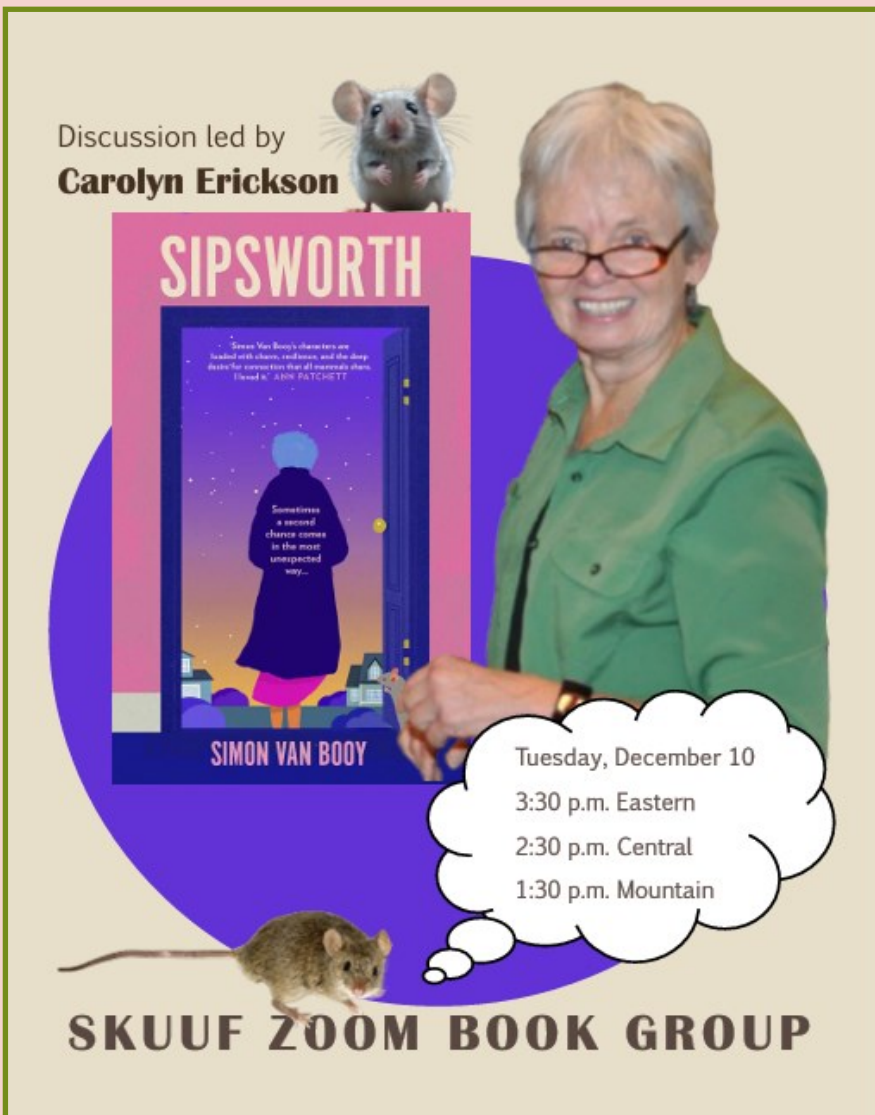
Shade-grown, organic Howling Monkey Nicaraguan coffee can still be purchased to support both the Starr King Youth group and Compas de Nicaragua.

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.



## BOOK GROUP NEWS—November

Zoom into our book group December 10 at 3:30 PM for a discussion of **Sipsworth** by Simon Van Body led by Carolyn Erickson.



Discussion led by  
**Carolyn Erickson**

**SIPSWORTH**

Simon Van Body's characters are loaded with charm, wit, and a deep desire for connection that all mammals share.  
Reviewed by ANN FITCHETT

Sometimes a second chance comes in the most unexpected way...

**SIMON VAN BODY**

Tuesday, December 10  
3:30 p.m. Eastern  
2:30 p.m. Central  
1:30 p.m. Mountain

**SKUUF ZOOM BOOK GROUP**

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

## **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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