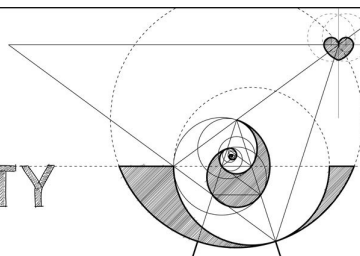


March 2017

Volume 62, No. 3

Building the BELOVED COMMUNITY



MORRISTOWN
UNITARIAN
FELLOWSHIP

From our minister...



Many of you have shared your interest in attending our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA) in New Orleans this June 21 – 25. I hope that a good number of you will decide to come. I would love to have your presence and support during the important final week of the UUA presidential campaign. I know it made a difference to Peter Morales, our current UUA President, to have many members from his congregation attending and helping out during the GA when the last election occurred. No matter the outcome, win or lose, I believe that my nomination is a reflection of the vibrant shared ministry we have offered together in Morris County.

I also want you to know how much I appreciate the many ways you have supported me throughout this year as the travel and campaign demands have inevitably cut into the time I usually devote to you and our congregation. You are once again a partner with me in a shared project - this time involving service to our larger denomination and to our democratic process.

There are many reasons to come to General Assembly where you can attend inspiring worships; learn from powerful speakers; participate in leadership development workshops; engage in justice and service projects; make UU friends from around the US and beyond; and participate in the election of our next UUA President. And for all who love music - there is nothing quite like the energy of singing with 4,000 other Unitarian Universalists or getting to participate in a 200-member choir!

In this issue...

This year's GA theme is "Resist and Rejoice!" New Orleans will offer a powerful place in which to reflect meaningfully on how our faith calls us to engage with issues of racial justice and environmental justice. It is also a place well-known for its vibrant music and food – there is plenty to do at GA and throughout the city. A highlight every year is the Ware Lecturer who will be Bryan Stevenson, a lawyer, advocate and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. You can read more about all the GA Programming here: <http://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights>

Upcoming dates - Registration for General Assembly opens on **March 1** (early registration price ends April 30). Also, UUA sponsored Housing can be reserved beginning on **March 1** and often goes quickly. In addition, some of you may want to sign up for the pre-GA Racial Justice Training. You can find more info here: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/racial-justice-training-ga>.

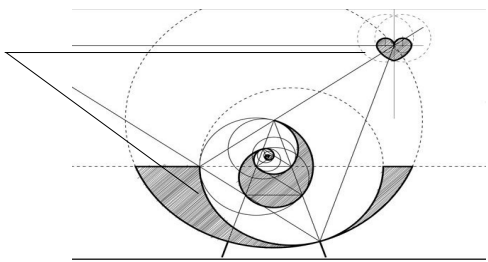
In times like these, it is good to feel connected to fellow Unitarian Universalists and to our shared faith, which teaches: We are one. We come from the same source, and we are headed towards the same destiny. We are called then to repair the tears in the fabric of our communities and between us and our earth. Attending General Assembly is one way to set aside a time of heightened connection and practice. If you can't make it to New Orleans this June, I hope you will follow along and watch the events that are live-streamed.

In faith,

Alison

General Assembly, Getting to Know UU Class
Board Corner, Congregational Meeting
Legislative Ministry MUUsic Festival
DRE Column, Caring Visits, Covenant Groups
Endowment Fund, Community Fun Corner
Young Adults, Cottage Dinners, Blood Drive

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Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown NJ 07960

Sunday Services: 9 & 11 am



Getting to Know Unitarian Universalism Class

Newcomers and new members and anyone who wants a refresher are invited to join Rev. Alison B. Miller and other congregational leaders for a three-part series called "Getting to Know UU," Tuesdays, March 21, April 4 and 18. Bring a brown-bag dinner and join us for Fellowship at 6:30 pm, the class will run from 7-8:30 pm. This series offers a chance for participants to meet others in a smaller group setting, to get answers to their questions, and to learn more about:

- Unitarian Universalist history and beliefs
- Our congregation's history and current initiatives
- Ways to get involved in lifespan learning, social justice, caring networks, and more.

To register, email admin@muuf.org
Childcare available if you register by March 14

Mission and Covenant Statement

We, the members of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives.

This is our pledge:

- ♦ *To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal*
- ♦ *To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence*
- ♦ *To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian Universalist movement*
- ♦ *To work for social justice and the well-being*

Staff

Minister

Rev. Alison B. Miller amiller@muuf.org

Ministerial Intern

Jamie Boyce intern@muuf.org

Director of Religious Education

Tim Atkins dre@muuf.org

Congregational Administrator

Mandi Huizenga admin@muuf.org

Music Director

Dr. Jim Blanton jim@muuf.org

Finance Coordinator

Katy Julich accounting@muuf.org

Religious Education Assistant

Judy Donovan-Lifschulz re@muuf.org

Custodians: Sergio Lopez-Rojas, Marili Quintos

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm

973.540.1177 www.muuf.org

Check us out on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/morristownunitarian



Helene Ferm

Trustee-at-Large for Strategic Planning

Board Corner

What does “Strategic Planning” mean at the Fellowship? The Fellowship has followed a formal planning process that included visioning, and outlining priorities and goals to guide the direction of our congregation’s focus. One role of the Trustee for Strategic Planning is to help the Fellowship consider our longer-term priorities as we make day-to-day decisions.

“We are a dynamic congregation ... seeking to transform ourselves and the world beyond us.” This is an excerpt of the Vision Statement of the current Strategic Plan that was adopted by the congregation in 2010. This vision rings true in 2017 as members of the Fellowship are active inside our community and are also reaching out to participate and have impact at local and national levels.

The Strategic Plan is a tool to help us set priorities and goals. The Plan includes a Goal Statement and Recommendations for six Priority Areas. The Priority Areas are:

- Leadership/ Governance
- Sharing our Values in the World Community
- Life Span Religious Education
- Community, Caring Connections
- Spiritual Growth and Exploration
- Facilities

Many of the original recommendations have been implemented and these ‘Priority Areas’ remain important in 2017. But as in life, unexpected events happen and our plans get re-aligned. While our facilities improvements are requiring extra time to progress, Membership and the Social and Environmental Action Committee (SEAC) have had positive focused reorganizations during the past year. Membership’s recent Sunday Service highlighted the positive results of strategic planning.

Leadership plans naturally focused on lay leadership development, and who would have guessed in 2010 that our minister’s leadership path would be to become a candidate for the role of President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)? Well of course we are not surprised... The election will take place at the end of June at the UUA’s annual General Assembly meeting. The position of President is a full time position based in Boston and if Alison is elected she would assume the new role starting July 1 of this year and permanently leave her current ministerial position with us. There are three active candidates for the President’s post, and as much as we support Alison, we know that elections can be unpredictable... So what are we doing strategically to be ready? An interim minister selection team nominated by our Board is working to pre-select an interim minister who would be our full-time minister for one to two years starting in August if/when Alison leaves us to become the next UUA President.

I am excited to be part of this dynamic congregation and to witness the new ways that we are taking care of ourselves and the world beyond us.

In fellowship, Helene

Congregational Meeting - Join us after the 10 am service (only one service) on Sunday, March 19 for a very important Congregational Meeting.

Two informational pre-meeting sessions will be held on Sunday, March 12 at 10:15 am and Monday, March 13 at 7 pm, at which you will be able to get answers to any questions.

All members are invited to attend one of the informational sessions and the meeting on March 19. To vote at the meeting, you will need to have signed the membership book by February 17.

Questions? Email president@muuf.org



3RD
ANNUAL

Legislative Ministry MUUUSIC Festival

UU CONGREGATION OF PARAMUS

March 18, 2017

1-3 pm

Music ensembles from congregations across the state will showcase their finest and come together for a UU All-State performance!



All proceeds will benefit the work of the
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey

A voice for justice, equality and in the Garden State



Tim Atkins, Director of Religious Education

You might not know this about our Religious Education program for Children and Youth, but our program is widely recognized within the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Religious Education (RE) community for being on the leading edge for our work in implementing Think Orange. In fact, we train other UU congregations in how to implement it in their congregations. And most of you might not have ever heard what Think Orange is.

Think Orange is a philosophy of religious education that comes from Northpoint Community Church, an evangelical megachurch in the metro Atlanta area. I first heard about this three years ago, and your Children's RE Committee and I worked together in studying and implementing this model in our Unitarian Universalist setting. It's required a lot of translating and adapting it to suit our liberal theological perspective, lots of reading and conferences, and we all agree it has been worth it.

At its core, Think Orange is about moving away from silos and toward seeing "Religious Education" as "Family Ministry." During the rest of this year, I'm going to talk with you in these columns about the core principles of Think Orange.

This month, however, I want to talk about why it's important for us to see religious education and faith development as more than just the classes for kids on Sunday mornings. We need to be multi- and inter-generational in all that we do. We need to make connections with people in different generations to share wisdom, to form a support system, to truly form the Beloved Community.

That's why my focus lately has been more on family ministry rather than just children's ministry. When we move from seeing religious education in terms of family units (including families of one) versus religious education for children, youth, and adults, it allows us to see a broader picture. It allows us to have a more unified plan for building up faith. It allows us to not focus on more things than just classroom content. And most importantly, it allows us to focus on relationships – relationships within families that build faith at home, relationships between kids and mentors/teachers that serve as an essential support system for every child, relationships between peers, and relationships between parents to support each other in the toughest job of all – parenthood.

I look forward to talking with you about this journey of family ministry and Think Orange in the months ahead!

Caring Visitor Resource Classes March 26

Beth Hayward is organizing another brown bag lunch and learn class, March 26, 12:45 - 2 pm in the library for folks who either already visit, or who would like to visit, Members & Friends on behalf of the Fellowship. Kate McAteer, LCSW, will be our guest speaker.

Our last class is on May 7 so please mark your calendars. Email care@muuf.org with questions or email Beth if you would like to join us for the meeting. Thanks!

It's Covenant Group Time

It's time to sign up for our Covenant Groups, which are launching in late March.

We have seven groups running at with different times. Sign up online at :

<http://tinyurl.com/MUFCovenant>

If you have any questions, contact our team at covenantgroups@muuf.org

Endowment Fund

The Fellowship's Endowment Fund is in place to enhance our mission apart from general operations by securing, strengthening and extending the long-term survival of our congregation. We invite you to honor special life events by making contributions to this Fund. The following contributions have been received during the past few months:

General Endowment Fund

Marie Griffin and anonymous

In Memory Of

Bert Kent - Susan Oxman;

Paul Ratzlaff - Susan Oxman

Genie Woodbridge - Susan Oxman; Kathy and John Solu

Anne Bungo - Susan Oxman

*Homer Hansen - Darrell and Mary Courtley; Kathy and John Solu; Judy and Hans Bjorklund,
Todd VanGordon and Patricia McNaught; Geraldine Navratil, Vicki Hicks;
Jonathan and Susan Jeans; Jackie Mulcey*

Community Fun Corner

Breaking Bread Together

Over 40 individuals representing approximately 50 members have already indicated their interest in breaking bread together to laugh, share and enjoy old friends and make new ones.

How about you? Complete the [form](#) now or after the service at the Engagement Committee table (it takes less than a minute). For those who have already signed up, we'll be doing our initial recruiting for another two weeks or so. (And, of course, there will always be seats at the table for new folks or for those who decide later on).

We need volunteers willing to take the lead in helping with organizing and publicizing. Please contact me if you'd like to help with one of these ideas and also, of course, if you have *other* fun ideas we can work on.

Stay tuned for more information.

Jerry Weinstein
at engage@muuf.org.



YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

We have a thriving young adult group for folks in their 20s and 30s. In addition to a Sunday Monthly Lunch after the Second Service, the Young Adult Group organizes a variety of events throughout the year.

This month, the young adults group will meet on Sunday, March 12, after the second service for our monthly lunch out.



New Jersey Highlands Coalition
Highlands Pub Crawl

BEGIN YOUR EARTH DAY CELEBRATION WITH
A GREAT BREW AND DELICIOUS GRUB AT THE

HOPPED UP SCAVENGER PUB CRAWL

IN HACKETTSTOWN ON 4/22/17. THE CRAWL FEATURES STOPS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE HACKETTSTOWN AREA. ENJOY THE SPECIALS BEING OFFERED AT EACH OF THE PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS. WE HAVE FUN AND INTERACTIVE TRIVIA-CHALLENGES-CLUES AT EACH BAR AND A COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRT. THE CELEBRATION STARTS AT NOON AND LASTS UNTIL 8PM.

For more information about the group, or any of these events,
contact youngadults@muuf.org



"Cottage Dinners" with members and friends, which began last spring as part of our pledge drive, are back. This project is continuing for two more years, with the goal of having one-third of our membership attend a dinner each year, so that all members will have taken part in a dinner by the end of the third year. The dinners (or brunches) generally take place at the home of a volunteer host; we will also have at least one brunch at the Fellowship after a Sunday service. This is a great opportunity to reflect on and share what we most value about the Fellowship. If you haven't attended a dinner yet and are interested in participating or hosting please contact Maureen Dempsey by March 8. at: stewardship@muuf.org



Adult Learning Programs



Transnational Activism, Climate Justice and UU Ecological Theology - presented by Jamie Boyce, ministerial intern, continues on Sunday, March 5, 12:30 - 2 pm. Jamie will talk about her recent trip to Nicaragua on environmental justice.

For information, contact Jamie at adultlearning@muuf.org

Mind Practice - led by Stefano Crema, March 2, 16, and 30 at 7 pm. Meditation will be explored not only as a relaxation tool but as a technique to check and get rid of negative emotions before they have a chance to overwhelm our awareness and dictate our behavior.

For information, contact Dan Byrd at adultlearning@muuf.org

And Then They Came for Me - presented by Joan Belz, Mondays, March 6, 13, and 20, 7:30 - 9 pm. This program will focus on how the refugee crisis affects us, including personal stories of refugees and those who help them.

To register and for more information, contact Joan at immigration@muuf.org

Makeup Artistry - facilitated by Laurie MacGeorge, licensed skin care therapist, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 14, from 6:30-8:30 pm. As per Bobbi Brown "With knowledge, the right techniques, and the correct products and tools, any woman can be her own makeup artist!" Come and learn skin care tips and makeup application in a step-by-step process. I'll keep it simple so with a little practice, you will feel comfortable and satisfied with well chosen and properly applied makeup. Let's have some fun. Bring your makeup and a large mirror if you like.

Please register by March 7 by contacting Laurie at adultlearning@muuf.org

Comedy Relief Circle - led by Tom McGuinness on Thursday, March 16, 7-9 pm. Wanna laugh, tell a joke or funny story, or read one? What makes you laugh? How can you use laughter to de-stress difficult situations? Join standup comedienne Christine Frederick, Tom McGuinness and other fun loving Fellowship folks and share some funny stories. It will be a fun, funny and insightful couple of hours. Bring your "funny bone" and a joke or two or read one from our joke book or just listen and laugh.

Please register by March 12 by contacting Tom at adultlearning@muuf.org

Getting to Know UU - led by Rev. Alison Miller & Ministerial Intern Jamie Boyce, Sundays, March 26, April 2 and 9, 12:30 pm. Newcomers and new members are invited to join our minister and other congregational leaders for an introduction to Unitarian Universalism (UU) and the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. This series offers a chance for participants to meet others in a small group setting and get answers to their questions. You will learn more about UU history and beliefs; our congregation's history and current initiatives; and ways to get involved in lifespan learning, social justice, caring networks, and more. No registration required.

WorldSpirit Drum & Song - led by Amy Panetta, Monday, April 17, 7 pm. WorldSpirit Drum & Song provides an opportunity to come together with others in an open-minded atmosphere, form community, find spiritual connection, explore rhythms from West Africa and songs from a variety of different cultures, and have fun! All levels and abilities welcome. We are all musical beings! Please bring a djembe along if you have one. No djembe? Any hand drum will suffice. A limited number of djembes and other drums are available; when you email to reserve your spot, please indicate if you will need a drum to use for the class. Donations are appreciated to cover expenses. Visit worldspiritmusic.wordpress.com.

Please register by April 14 by emailing adultlearning@muuf.org

Spiritual Doodling - led by Nina Nemeth, Wednesdays April 19, 26, and May 17, 24, 7 pm. Doodling brings us to rest. It does not require learned skills or talent or any special understanding ... every doodle is ever-new and totally unique. Through drawing and doodling, we consciously connect with the creative, loving, and wise being who is already inside. Come explore a powerful tool for experimenting with creativity, perhaps try something new, and grow spiritually. No drawing or art experience necessary. A \$10 fee for supplies will be collected on the first day.

Please register by April 12 by contacting Nina at adultlearning@muuf.org

Thinking of offering an Adult Learning Program this summer? Please send your course proposal to Susan Oxman no later than 5/1 at adultlearning@muuf.org.

Our book club meets on the third Monday of the month, 1:30 pm.
All are welcome. Join us for interesting and lively discussions!

March 20 - *A Spider in the Wind* by Albert Liang-Chung Chu

Al will be joining us at this meeting!

April 17 - *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch

May 15 - *City of Shadows* by Adriana Franklin

June 19 - *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

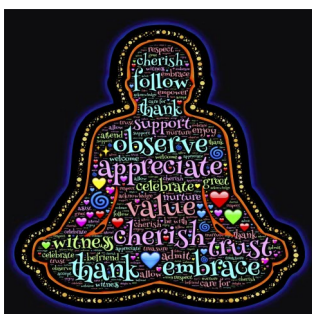
Contact Nancy Lee McLure for information.



Looking to turn your values into action? The Fresh Air Fund Friendlytown program needs volunteers to host New York City children in their homes for JUST ONE WEEK this summer. The children are 7-12 years old. You may choose the age and gender of the child. Please consider giving a child a chance to enjoy the simple pleasures of a vacation away from the hot, crowded city streets.

You don't have to host to be a volunteer for this great organization, just contact Donna for more info!

For information contact Donna Perch or visit www.freshair.org/host-a-child



Lovingkindness Meditation

We will be gathering on Tuesday, March 7, 5 - 6 pm, in Room 304, The Meditation Room. A recording of Jon Kabat Zinn will be guiding us this session.

Please email Tricia Armstrong to RSVP or if you have questions at care@muuf.org

SOCIAL and ENVIRONMENTAL Action Councils

On March 5 from 10 am to 12:45 pm, SEAC will host the ***Social and Environmental Action Fair: Growing Our Beloved Community***. The Fair will showcase the three ministries under SEAC — the Green Earth Ministry, the Immigration Justice Ministry, and the Economic Justice Ministry — as well as the nonprofit partner organizations that these ministries support. Come learn about the work these organizations do and how to help them. For more information, contact seac@muuf.org



Economic Justice Ministry: Family Promise, one of our partner organizations that help homeless families transition into independent living, is holding a tricky tray fundraiser. If you'd like to help, please bring something to the SEAC Fair that would work in a gym- or workout-themed basket that we can donate. This could include items such as dumbbells, jump rope, water bottle, towel, yoga mat, gym membership/gift card, or anything else you can think of. Together we can create a beautiful basket!

Immigration Justice Ministry (IJM): Recent events have caused undocumented immigrants to live in fear of deportation and shattered families. Along with NJ 11th for Change, members of IJM protest every Friday at Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen's office in Morristown to request a town hall meeting and advocate for immigrants' rights.

Thanks to Leslie and Tom Moran and Jane Fox, IJM continues to support Payolba Yameogo of Burkina Faso and Musa Koteh of Gambia, who just passed his written driver's license test.

IJM is also collaborating with Refugee Assistance Morris Partners (RAMP) in supplying tutors and mentors for the Tarakji family from Syria, now in Boonton. Volunteers are needed to research NJ Transit buses and trains for the family, as well as to provide transportation to and from the family's extensive doctor and dental appointments.

Last week, IJM coordinator Joan Belz had the privilege of meeting Kate Sa's ESL class in New Brunswick and called it a heartwarming, energizing experience. They and others like them deserve our help. For more information, please contact Joan Belz at Immigration@muuf.org

The ***Green Earth Ministry (GEM)*** is looking at ways to educate ourselves and fellowship members on how to reduce our carbon footprint. To that end, we are gathering information on clean energy sources such as switching your electric supplier, installing or leasing solar or wind generation systems, or other ways to reduce our individual carbon footprint. If you use, have experience (good or bad) with, or have other useful information on companies that provide ways to reduce carbon footprint, we would like to hear from you so that we can provide and advise fellowship members with the most useful information available. Please contact Bob Calafiore with any information at bobcalaf@gmail.com or greenearth@muuf.org using the subject line "Reduce carbon footprint".



March

2017


 Ongoing Weekly Events:

Sunday Mornings
 9 & 11 am - Worship Services
 9 am - Religious Education
 Coffee Hour after both services

Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

Mon - Sat Mornings
 7:30 am AA

Monday Nights
 6:30 pm GAAMC

Tuesday Nights
 6:15 pm Choir

Thursday Nights
 7:30 pm Men's Consciousness Group

Friday Nights
 8 pm Folk Project's Minstrel Concerts

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
UPCOMING EVENTS:						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 & 11 am Sunday Service 9 am Children's Chapel 10 am SEAC Fair 12:30 pm Activism, Climate & UU Theology	7:30 pm Came for Me	6:30 pm Finance	12:30 pm Adult Learning 6:30 Renewal Service 7 pm BYOT 7:30 Immigration Min.	7 pm Mind Practice Med.	10 am Gentle Yoga	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 & 11 am Sunday Service 10:15 am Info Session 12:30 pm Yng Adult Lunch 12:30 pm Activism, Climate & UU Theology	7 pm Info Session 7:30 pm Came for Me	4:15 pm Loving Kindness	7 pm BYOT 7 pm Board Meeting	7 pm Economic Justice Min	10 am Gentle Yoga	8 am Gathering of Men
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 am Sunday Service 11:30 am Congregational Meeting	1:30 pm Book Group 7:30 pm Came for Me	6:30 pm Getting to Know Unitarian Universalism 7 pm SEAC 7 pm Board Wk Mtg	10:30 am Cordial Convo 6:30 pm SEAC Mtg 7 pm Network Meeting 7 pm BYOT	7 pm Comedy Relief 7 pm Mind Practice Med 7 pm COM	10 am Gentle Yoga	10 am Sunday Service Retreat
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9 & 11 am Sunday Service 12:30 pm Caring Support		6:30 pm GEM	7 pm BYOT		10 am Gentle Yoga	



Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey. 07960-4611

March 2017

Volume 62. No. 3

March 5 at 9 am & 11 am

“Fasting from Fear”

The Lenten Season begins this week. It is a time in the Christian calendar of sustained prayer, practice, and reflection about holding on and letting go. Let us embrace this opportunity for spiritual fortification and renewal.

- led by Rev. Alison B. Miller

March 12 at 9 am & 11 am

“UN Sunday: Equity and Inequality on a Global Scale”

Is equity enough, as our Second Principle suggests? We will explore the implications of income inequality across the globe. Based on learnings from the 2016 UU UNO Seminar, "Colors of Inequality," and Caroline's experience in Ghana last summer.

- led by Shari Loe and Caroline Grossman

March 19th ONE Service at 10AM

“Stumbling Blocks & Stepping Stones”

At different points in our lives we will face challenges that threaten, thwart or delay the direction we feel called to move and act upon. How can we be resilient through these times and glean lessons that equip us to be better able to live into

- led by Rev. Alison B. Miller

March 26 at 9 am & 11 am

“It's So Sticky In Here!”

Caring for the Community that Cares for Us. We will consider the "sticky" relationships in our webby interconnection and consider how we might care for each other deeply and honorably.

- led by Ministerial Intern Jamie Boyce