

Updates on Home Base and Sanctuary at UUCGL- February 2020

Home Base

What is Home Base?

Home Base is what we are calling our efforts to integrate changes and improvements to both church programming and our building and grounds. For programming, it envisions that all programs held in our church are part of one integrated ministry designed to live out our mission of becoming stronger in body and spirit as a congregation and promoting Unitarian Universalist values in the wider community. In addition, as we look to build our circle wider, we know that we must also focus on improving the physical space where we gather.

Home Base Task Force

In order to coordinate this work, a Home Base Task Force has been formed. Chaired by Eileen Cummings (Board VP), the group includes Mark LaPointe (Faith Development), Doreen Hodgkins (Properties), Elizabeth Muller (Administration), and Sarah Cecil (Treasurer), and meets monthly to share information and coordinate where needed.

Upcoming Programming

- Parenting with Purpose is a new monthly program for those parenting and their families. It will create a safe place for those engaged in parenting to discuss a variety of topics related to parenting in a way that best espouses our unique UU values and our commitment to helping one another raise healthy and happy children. The first meeting is Friday, March 6th with a potluck at 5pm and the program beginning at 6PM.
- Mindfulness Meditation is a practice group led by a mediator and ordained interfaith chaplain. Mindfulness is defined as deliberately paying attention to thoughts and sensations without judgement. This can be most readily developed through a regular practice of meditation. It derives from the teachings of Buddhist traditions. Sunday mornings from 8:30-9:15 beginning March 22nd.
- Our Whole Lives for Preschool - First Grade is an age-appropriate, comprehensive sexual education program. This particular age group will focus on issues such as safety, self-awareness, and basic anatomy. A parent orientation is required, contact Mark LaPointe for more information and to sign up. Five sessions led by Mark LaPointe and Susan Kelley. Thursdays from 4:30-6:00pm, starting in March.
- Walden Warming: Climate Change Impacts in Thoreau's Concord is the final lecture in our Climate Change & Faith Wednesday Speaker Series. Professor Richard B. Primack will be speaking at 7PM.
- Campfire Ministry with Rev. Alix Klingenberg is a simple, collaborative form of worship that involves a dark room with either a literal campfire or a collection of candles to mimic the effect at its center. Rev. Alix will lead songs, poetry, and the sharing of our personal stories together. Perfect for youth, young adults, and adults of all ages. April 8th at 7:30pm
- Tarot 101 with Rev. Alix Klingenberg offers attendees a chance to better understand the role that Tarot readings have played as a spiritual tool and will have an opportunity to practice the craft of tarot card reading. April 15th at 7:30pm.
- Additional programming on race and other topics are currently being planned. For more information on any of the programs above, contact DCLL Mark LaPointe at mlapointe@uucgl.org.

Building and Grounds Improvements

In December, the installation of the copper gutters was completed. These replaced the previous aluminum gutters which had corroded. The work to repair water damage to the building continues. Several of the windows in the sanctuary have been removed so the frames and walls can be repaired. Next steps will be the repair of the wall and windows on the right side of the sanctuary.

In January, the outside light poles were replaced with new ones that contain LED lights. The light poles were in danger of collapse from rusting at the bases. The new ones contain LED lights, which will save electricity costs (and related carbon emissions). Work continues with regard to replacing the poles around the circle and building.

A new control panel and thermostats were installed on the heating system. This will allow for more efficient monitoring of the system.

In the near future, the meeting rooms in the church are going to be renamed for notable UU individuals to better acquaint us and our visitors of our history, as well as help us to orient ourselves in our building!

Sanctuary

Building Modifications

After Scott Nowka, Doreen Hodgkins, and our architect Paul Fermano met with the Swampscott Building Department earlier this month, they approved our proposed plans for creating living quarters in the lower level in the far room located closest to the bathrooms. These plans incorporate feedback from the Department about required exits and kitchen accessibility. In the coming weeks we will place architectural drawings of the proposed living quarters in the lobby for everyone to see. Next steps include obtaining drawings for necessary changes to plumbing and sprinkler system and then a cost estimate from our contractor.

Finances

The North Shore Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition and UUCGL have discussed and agreed to a strategy for fundraising. UUCGL will manage the fundraising effort for building modifications since it directly impacts our congregation. The Coalition will manage the fundraising effort supporting those in sanctuary. The UUCGL Sanctuary Task Force has been discussing fundraising ideas. The Social Justice Ministry Team voted to authorize the use of approximately \$34,000 in unspent social concerns funds for the sanctuary work— with an interest in the funds being used to match other donations.

Volunteer Opportunities

The UUCGL Sanctuary Task Force is overseeing our efforts on Sanctuary and meets monthly. The Task Force is headed by Scott Nowka. Check the weekly email update or Order of Service for information about the next meeting date or email Scott.

Thanks everyone for your hard work and patience as we move forward! Please feel free to contact any of us at our emails below with questions/thoughts or grab our ears at coffee hour!

Scott Nowka, Chair, Sanctuary Task Force: snowka@gmail.com

Eileen Cummings, Chair, Home Base Task Force: mcseknitter@gmail.com

Michael Celona, President, Board of Trustees: michaelcelona@yahoo.com