

A Message from Rev. Chris

This past weekend I had the joy of joining 8 adults and 4 youth from UUCGL at the Ferry Beach retreat, where we gathered with UU friends from Marblehead, Beverly, Stow & Acton, and Malden. My responsibilities led me to co-lead the Saturday morning worship planning meeting, kite flying on the beach in the afternoon, the Saturday evening all-campus talent show, Saturday evening bonfire with s'mores and music, and our all-campus Sunday morning worship. Between the five churches, the retreat center was full to capacity, even as our UUCGL contingent was the smallest we've had during my tenure here.

My own experience was richly multigenerational and multi-church. I very much enjoyed collaborating on programming with our sister congregations, sharing notes, and learning about what they are up to. You can see some of the pictures I took [here](#).

This was my last Ferry Beach retreat with UUCGL and since I've enjoyed the retreats myself each year, I'm sad for that loss. And even though I won't be part of the decision as to whether to continue with UUCGL Ferry Beach retreats in future years, I would love to gather your reflections. If you attended, what was meaningful for you, and what didn't work? If you chose not to attend, I'm curious why — would a different retreat center draw you in, and what would you be looking for in such a gathering? Please let me know!

This Sunday we are blessed to welcome Rev. Beth Robbins back to our pulpit — our final guest minister of the season. I will be leading the children's faith development program this Sunday, and the nursery will be open as usual.

Save the date: if you have served as a program leader or faith development teacher this year, we will honor you in worship on May 17! Please plan to join us so we can celebrate your gifts to the community.

See you in church,

Rev. Chris