

Haikus
written by UUCNH congregants


Sunday Service April 6th 2025

Introduction

During a Sunday worship service in April 2025, Rev. Lee Anne invited the congregation to write a haiku about gratitude or joy or both. This booklet contains the congregation's response. Some haikus were attributed to their authors and others were submitted anonymously.



Nature




Meditate, she said:
Gratitude for little things.
Daffodils are vast.
-Randy Minnich


Robin builds a nest
In my honeysuckle plant
Every spring season
-Kristin Clarke

Blackbirds light in waves
Tall tower chatters and sings
Suddenly silence
-Susan Minton

Sun and wind and rain
Give me reason to reflect
On this sacred life
-Liz Dell

Muddy waters rise,
Mallard pair glides to landing,
April has arrived
-Janet McCall






Springtime trees in bloom
White petals flutter softly
Quiet renewal
-Kathi Finch

Blooming flowers here
Bring some warmth to my person
Spring is a new birth
-Alan Lantzy

Sitting in the pub
The pinks with their bag of crisps
Out the window flew
-Lynn H

The greening of trees
Spring arrives with the raining
Grateful winter's past
-Peggy F

Sunshine on my head
All my worries are distant
Life is wonderful!
-Michael Mitchell




Flower budding tree
It makes my nose itch and sneeze
Yet it looks lovely
-Erin Terrizzi

Sun in the morning
Then clouds, rain drops, and thunder
Moonshine by days end

Tranquil rain falling
Delightful gifts from above
My heart in full bloom

Rain comes with a soft plunk
Sun puts forth radiant love
All is well on earth

Light and air and water
Keep me on even keel
Food for thought and soul




She's broken my heart,
Joys vast and tiny, countless.
I miss you, Nature.

Sunrise brings me joy
Even when I haven't slept
Bird song makes sleep hard

Giving gratitude
Rain falls, birds chirp, flowers bloom
I take a deep breath

The seeds are growing
With rain and sun abounding
Our flowers rejoice

Birds at my feeder
I bring them their daily food.
They bring me their joy.




Elephant prairie
Large acacia trees budding
Feed all animals

Bird on the feeder
Hungry, fast, and colorful
Make me feel relaxed

Moist smell of the earth
I long for the peepers' voices
For spring always comes.

Rain falls down today
Dampening spirits until
The daffodil blooms

Joy of nature is...
Now the plants grow inside my house
Hopeful for the outside



Green buds on the trees
My first reaction is fear
My foreboding joy

Grateful for the storm
Calm in thunder, rain, lightning
Stillness in darkness

O listening ear
Receptive silence on wing
Open hearted one

The geese return now
Honking delta in the sky
I know spring is here.



Relationships with Humans



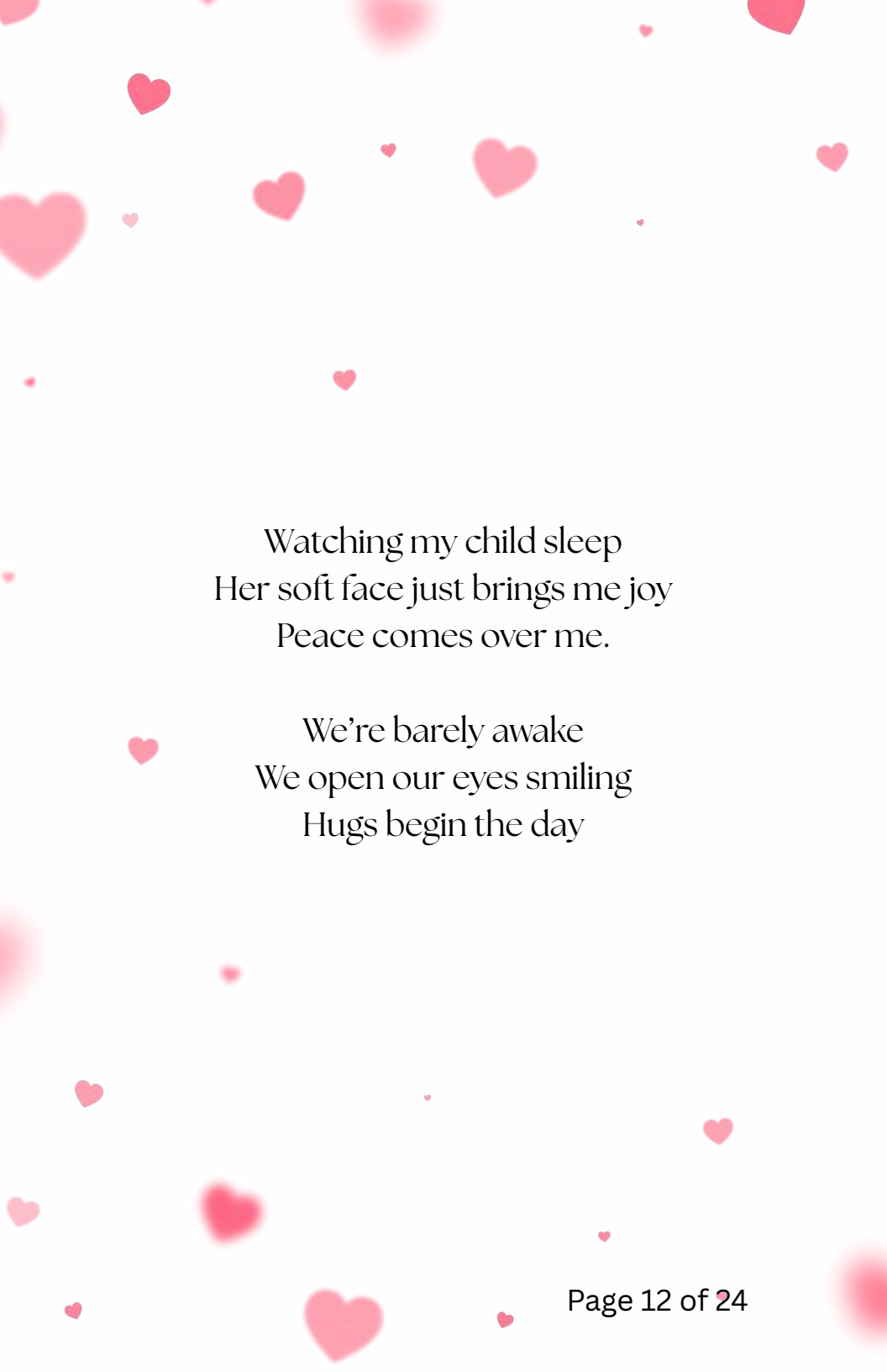
Toddler makes a mess
Aunt Erin cleans it up while
She makes a mess again
♥-Erin Terrizzi

Happiness is love
Between family and friends
Unconditional

Love in your eyes
The day begins with your smile
Laughter warms my heart

Knowing that you care
Makes my world more wonderful
Eases my lonely soul

Baby's giggling laugh
Smiling through a toothless grin
Every mommy's joy.

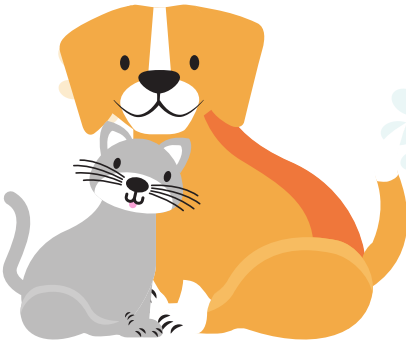
The page is decorated with numerous pink hearts of various sizes, some solid and some blurred, scattered across the white background.

Watching my child sleep
Her soft face just brings me joy
Peace comes over me.

We're barely awake
We open our eyes smiling
Hugs begin the day



Relationships with Pets



The breath of my sam:
Soothes my mind and lets me sleep
When I wake I smile
-Lois Madden

Our new cat is large
To get to the porch she needs
A bigger cat door
-Dick Meyers

Cats snuggled in bed,
It's still too early to wake,
Furry dreams of joy
-Caren Franco

Life is like a cat
Sunbeams, naps, and some kibble
Make our day complete
-Cindy Mitchell

Little cat I love
Only you can cheer me best
Loving and serene
-Lee Gable

Watching my cat sleep
Ignorant of politics
How I envy him.
-Bruce E. Travers

Warm ears, cold nose, fur
Simple things with simple joys
Small teeth massage hand

There is my dog Cole
Wagging his tail when greeting me
Giving me such joy
-Hal D



Relationships with Food & Drink

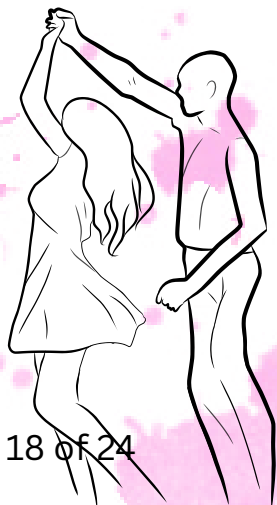


Toes on warm deck boards,
Ice clinks in frosty glass
Lemonade fills up

I like to eat food
But mostly non healthy food
I need to stop this



Appreciation of Artforms



Ballet and music
Unexpectedly offered
Bring tears to my eyes
-M Myers

Music makes us sing
Together joyful or sad
Evokes our spirit

I feel calm and peace
Each time I open my book
Joyful is the day

Music in the air
Rhythm flows all through the day
Fueling one with joy



UUCNH Beloved Community



In a church not mine,
I find community still
Grateful for this faith.

-Liz Dell

Sundays bring us near
To each other we meet here
Thus we know ourselves

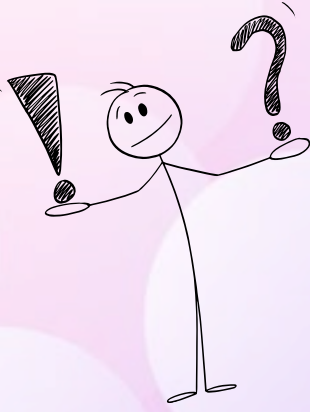
-R Haverlack

Fog and rain vanish
Inside church with all of you
Loving and hopeful
Greta Porter

So, it could be worse...
Wait, what did I learn at church...?
Gratitude, always!

-Lynn Richards

Smiling, welcoming
Faces at our loving church!
Make me grateful!



Philosophical Musings



Hope is sweet indeed
It is never to be lost
Share it when possible
- Dave Roberts

Everything is now
Glad to be a part of it.
Being is a joy
- Connie Ritzert

Things come and they go
Life passes not at all slow
Cherish the movement
- R Haverlack

Waking up happy
Gives me purpose for the day
Isn't life lovely

I am of this world
It's a lie I am too old
Truth be told, I'm old

What is a Haiku?

- A Traditional Japanese form of poetry
- Three lines with a set syllabic structure
 - 5 syllables
 - 7 syllables
 - 5 syllables
- Evokes nature, emotion, or insight with clarity and simplicity

Now, try writing one, yourself!