



Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

**Unitarian Universalists affirm
the worth and dignity of all
human beings and
advocate freedom of belief
and an open search for truth.**

JANUARY CALENDAR OF SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

First Sunday of Month – collection for Food
Pantry

Jan. 4 - Fiona Petersen

Jan. 11 - Rev Nancy Pelligrini

Jan. 18 - Barbara Meyers

Jan. 18 - Lunch at the Vashro's - Potluck
after service

Jan. 25 - Rev Michael Hall

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Holiday Prayer - A Winter Blessing
- Positive News
- Publications of Interest
- Carry Each Other into the New Year
- LGBTQ+ News and Resources
- Tech Tip of the Month
- A Little Smile for the New Year to
Bring Some Cheer
- *President's Message, Photo
Submission Form, Birthdays and
Anniversaries, Lunch Information and
Obituaries are not included, become a
part of our congregation to see more!*

**Question: Why did the New Year
bring a notebook to church?**

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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The Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship meets weekly on
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
(September through June) at the
Stone Chapel in Andover, NH
and via Zoom



Assisting Ministers: Guests

President: Donna Peirce

Music Director: Martha Woodward

HOLIDAY PRAYER - A WINTER BLESSING

In the shadowed quiet of winter's light
earth speaks softly
of her longing.
Because the wild places are in tears.

Come, she cries to us.
Kneel down here
on the frosty grass,
and feel the prayer buried in the ground.

Bend your ear to my heart
and listen hard.
Love this world, she whispers.
Distill peace from the snow
and water the cities
with mercy.

Weave wonder from the forest
and clothe grief
with beauty.

Rest in the rhythm of the turning year,
Trace the bending arc
Rounding the curve toward justice.
And vow anew to do no harm.

A vibrantly orange and crimson sky, at sunset, with the silhouette of an
evergreen tree in front of it.
The winter trees stand watch
haloed in the last gleams of the slanting sun.
Glory sings here.
Heaven echoes the call:
Repeat the sounding joy.

Make your life an answer:
Bow.
Praise.
Rise.

By Rebecca Ann Parker



POSITIVE NEWS

What went right in 2025: the top 25 good news stories of the year

<https://www.positive.news/society/what-went-right-in-2025-the-good-news-that-mattered/>

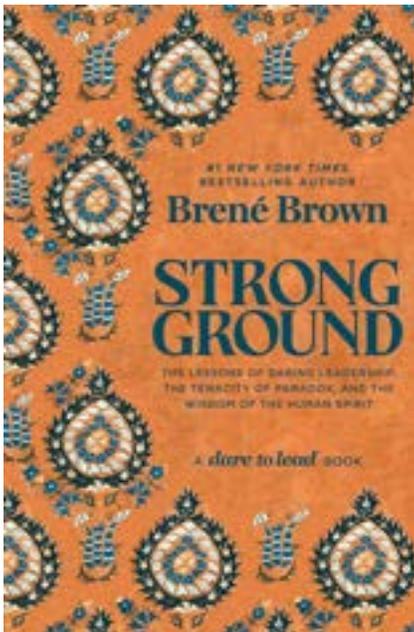
The Comedy Wildlife Photography Award Winners

<https://www.comedywildlifephotography.com/gallery/nikon-comedy-wildlife-2025-competition-winners.php>

Subscribe to the Free Builders newsletter.

The Builders mindset is rooted in the 4Cs: curiosity, compassion, courage, and creativity. By adopting these values as daily habits, it promotes flexible thinking, constructive problem solving, and respecting the dignity of all people. <https://buildersmovement.org/>

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST



The Lessons of Daring Leadership, the Tenacity of Paradox, and the Wisdom of the Human Spirit. by Brené Brown

Brené Brown returns with an urgent call to reimagine the essentials of courageous leadership. In a time when uncertainty runs deep and bluster, hubris, and even cruelty are increasingly framed as acceptable leadership, Brown delivers practical, actionable insights that illuminate the mindsets and skill sets essential to reclaiming focus and driving growth through connection, discipline, and accountability.



A LITTLE SMILE FOR THE NEW YEAR TO BRING SOME CHEER

Q: What's a Unitarian Universalist's favorite New Year's resolution?

A: Keep learning.

Q: Why did the New Year sit in the circle instead of the front pew?

A: It wanted to meet everyone.

Q: Why did the New Year bring a chalice?

A: To help keep the light going.

Q: What's the best way to welcome the New Year at a UU church?

A: With open hearts, open minds, and open coffee cups.

Q: Why do UU resolutions last longer?

A: They're held together by community.



KUUF ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides a lasting legacy for Unitarian Universalism in our Kearsarge Sunapee region.

Making a bequest to the KUUF Endowment Fund is a simple way to protect your values and help our congregation remain a voice for liberal faith throughout the Kearsarge Sunapee region.

You can name KUUF as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or financial accounts. Anyone can make a bequest, and no amount is too small.

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For further information, contact a member of our Finance Committee. Currently serving 2025-2026 are Sandy Wells, Henry Howell, and Bill Hickey.

*"Live and let live is not enough; live and help live is not too much."*

*~Orin E. Madison,  
Quotations from the  
Wayside*



## SEEKING MEMBERS

*Are you talking with people about KUUF?*

*About UU principles?*

*Are you inviting friends to our luncheons?*

*Are you greeting new guests on Sunday?*

***We need to MEET, GREET and INVITE  
new people regularly!!***

## MEMBERSHIP

Do you want to take part in KUUF decisions by voting on topics brought up at our annual meetings?

As a member you may do that.

**To become a member, Contact Kathy Vashro  
735-5642 or 208-440-1855**

# CARRY EACH OTHER INTO THE NEW YEAR

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In this new year, may we leave behind the weight of unfulfilled resolutions, of unrealized dreams, and of unrealistic expectations.

May we unpack the heavy weight of stories that tell us we are unworthy and unlovable.

May we remember that we each carry inside of us a spark of the Divine.

In this new year,

A small vase of red Gerbera daisies, a lit taper, and a wooden angel are on a window sill, outside of which there's a grey winter day.

May we carry kindness, gentleness and hope that hold us through even the hardest days and the most daunting risks.

May we carry the weight of memory that reminds us of who we are, and the weight of spirit that reminds us we are still becoming.

May we carry the seed of knowledge that teaches us that improvement and growth aren't linear and individualistic but are cyclical and communal.

May we carry the wisdom to seek rest and connection, to lean into mutual care.

May we carry the certain belief that when we have patterns of thinking and behaving that harm ourselves and others, we can seek resources that will help us move towards healing.

May we carry the knowledge that happiness and success take many shapes and one of those shapes is purpose.

May we carry purpose lightly, trusting that it changes and evolves and surprises us.

May we carry curiosity, wonder, and the ability to be surprised.

This year, may we carry space for all of our flaws, all of our longings, and all of our love, remembering that the truly daring adventure of life is not to be better-better-best! but to show up wholly, authentically, lovingly as ourselves.

May we carry these prayers and carry each other into the new year.

*By Beth Monhollen*



# LGBTQ+ NEWS AND RESOURCES



**Hallmark's Queer Films:** Hallmark is expanding with films like \*The Christmas Baby\*, featuring established lesbian couples, signaling greater mainstream acceptance.

## **Global & Historical Recognition**

**UK Compensation:** The UK is offering stipends to service members discharged for being LGBTQ+, acknowledging past discrimination.

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2025/12/uk-has-issued-over-43-million-in-lgbtq-military-reparations-but-there-are-still-more-to-go/>

**Memorials:** A new memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum will commemorate those impacted by the ban on openly LGBTQ+ service members. <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2025-10-27/king-charles-iii-dedicates-britains-first-national-memorial-to-lgbtq-troops>

## **Legal Aid and Advocacy Resources**

Navigating legal challenges can be stressful, especially when it comes to protecting rights as a transgender or non-binary person. The following organizations offer guidance, advocacy, and legal support to help access justice, protect identities, and navigate systems that may not always be affirming.

**Transgender Law Center** <https://transgenderlawcenter.org/>

The Transgender Law Center is the largest national, trans-led organization working to ensure transgender and gender-nonconforming people can live safely and authentically. They provide legal guidance through their Helpdesk, engage in impact litigation, and offer community programs that support leadership, healing, and justice.

**Lambda Legal** <https://lambdalegal.org/>

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people, and everyone living with HIV, through impact litigation, education, and public policy work.

## **Trans Legal Services Network Directory**

<https://transequality.org/resources/trans-legal-services-network-directory>

The Transgender Legal Services Network Directory is a comprehensive national resource that helps transgender and gender-nonconforming people find legal support in their state. It includes organizations and attorneys that provide assistance with issues such as name and gender marker changes, healthcare access, discrimination, employment, housing, and civil rights.

# TECH TIP OF THE MONTH

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Larger text and simpler screens (fewer icons and buttons) often reduce mistakes and frustration when using computers and mobile devices.

Do this (accessibility basics):

## **Bigger text:**

**iPhone:** Settings → Display & Brightness → Text Size (for larger options: Settings → Accessibility → Display & Text Size → Larger Text).

**Android:** Settings → Display → Font size.

**Windows:** Settings → Accessibility → Text size.

**Mac:** System Settings → Displays → More Space/Larger Text.

**High contrast / dark mode:** In the same Display or Accessibility menus; turn on Dark Mode or High Contrast if it feels easier on your eyes.

## **Voice help:**

**iPhone:** Settings → Siri & Search → “Hey Siri” ON.

**Android:** Settings → Google → Google Assistant (or) Settings → Apps → Assistant” (or) “Settings → Apps → Default apps → Digital assistant app,”

**Use your voice:** “Call Mary,” “Open Photos,” “Set timer 10 minutes.”

