

UU Church of Nashua

The Everything Book

*“Your Questions Answered,
Your Interest Solicited.”*

2008-09 Church Year

2008-2009 Church Year

We do try to fit “Everything” into this book---all the things we do, in worship, in our greater community, in all seriousness and at play, on Sundays and every other conceivable day.

Read through to find out what’s happening, what will happen, whom to contact about what, where to get involved.

And—this is really far from all of it! New things are coming up all the time, so keep your eyes open and check the website and newsletter for late-breaking information.

If you have an idea or activity you’d like to see happen, we encourage you to contact us here in the church office and we’ll get you started. The shop is always open!

--Your Executive Team

The Worship Connection

Summer Services

Held in our small chapel, and led by anyone who has an interest! Take this opportunity to tell your particular story, hold a discussion, share music, poetry, drama, film, politics, history, you name it, we can have a service about it. Less intimidating than the big sanctuary.

Chalice Lighting

It’s free and open to everyone: lighting the chalice to open our worship service on Sunday mornings. Commemorate a loved one or an important event, read prose or poetry (your own or others’), yourself or your whole family. If you can’t walk to reach the chalice we will bring it to you. Sign up at the Information Table in coffee hour

Greeters

Every Sunday you are greeted by smiling people standing at the rear of the church, who hand you an order of service, direct you to church school classrooms, who can provide you with large-print materials or a hearing device.

Flower Donations

You may donate flowers to the Sunday service in three ways. Always call the church office before Thursday NOON if you wish to donate flowers that week.

- 1) bring your own arrangement
- 2) Call our florist with your special request, and reimburse the church when we receive the invoice,
- 3) Send a donation to cover the costs of the flowers already provided.

Contact the church office at 882-1091 to arrange any of the above options, and to have memorial remembrances or celebrations noted in the order of service.

Winter Solstice Celebration

An annual event sponsored by the Worship Committee with the active input of members. Our service celebrates the ending of the days of early darkness and the return of the light. We explore the realm of nature-based spirituality in the season when nature sleeps.

Passover Seder

Members of our church family join in our dining room for a traditional Seder meal, potluck style, and celebrate this ancient ritual with a contemporary haggadah.

Children's Chapel

3 Sundays during the month our younger church school students meet at the end of their classes for a 15-minute service in the chapel. Stories, songs, and activities teach as well as entertain.

The Music Program

Treble Choir

Open to children in grades 2 through 8 whose voices have not yet changed. Newcomers are always welcome. Trebles rehearse on Sundays when there is church school, from 11:30 to 12:15, in the choir room. They sing in the regular service at various times throughout the church year.

Adult Choir

Is for adults and high school students. There are no auditions, but being able to sing in tune is helpful. The music spans most styles from the Renaissance to the contemporary, sacred to secular, serious to popular. They rehearse Wednesday from 7:03 PM to 9:15, and also briefly on Sunday mornings. Newcomers always welcome! New this year they are welcoming occasional singers for certain anthems that require only rehearsal the morning of. Please watch the Order of Service Bulletin for when these will be held. Open to any and all from age 13 and up.

Activities

Food For Thought Thursdays Ongoing

6 weeks of programming designed to explore spiritual, ethical, and faith development, and UU identity for adults. The classes begin at 7 pm. Children will meet separately for homework and activities.

Registration forms available in coffee hour.

New series begin in the fall, winter and spring quarters.

UU 101

An introductory "class" in 3 parts which is open to anyone wishing to know about our religion's history, theology, and this church in particular. Excellent for new visitors and those considering membership. Offered twice during the year, in the fall and spring.

Covenant Groups

A covenant is essentially an agreement or a promise that a group of people makes with one another. A Covenant Group is a gathering of 8-10 people who agree to meet monthly, rotating their meeting among members' homes. (If you cannot offer your home for a meeting, you can still belong to a group). This is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level than is generally possible during coffee hour!) Readings, check-ins, and themed discussions fill the 90-minute meetings, and the groups also do service projects for the church or greater community. Speak with Steve Edington

Fellowship Gallery Monthly Showings

Members and friends loan their creations to our hallway gallery for a month's showing. If your work can be wall-hung or displayed on a pedestal we would love to have it showcased. Children's art work also welcome.

Simple Gifts Coffee House

Hosts international talent as well as local musicians. 4-6 performances during the church year, Saturday evenings, and open to the community. Coffee and goodies add to the enjoyment.

Tickets available through the church website, www.uunashua.org.

Cardigan Winter Weekend (usually the beginning of March)

If you are a snow bunny or love to huddle round the fire and sip cocoa, this annual event is for you! Church members and friends gather at an AMC lodge and share food, sports, games, chores, and much good conversation. Also a great op for photo buffs!

Ferry Beach Summer Weekend (Father's Day weekend in June)

What better way to give Dad a break than to gather with kindred spirits at Ferry Beach, on the Maine coast in Saco, for a long weekend of sun, sand, games, conversation, music, food, and summer evenings? And if your household doesn't include a Dad, it doesn't matter—this event is open to all.

Meditation every Wednesday, 7—9 pm

This group practices sitting silent meditation in the Buddhist tradition. Always open to newcomers, novices, and the community.

UU Hikers

This is open to anyone who would like to do a monthly hike. Fred Shirley sends out an e-mail to everyone who is interested in hiking. If you are able to participate in the upcoming hike you e-mail him back and he sends out all the information.

Book Clubs

We have several different book clubs in our church. Each meets monthly to discuss chosen books. Pat Ladew hosts a monthly women's only that meets the second Sunday of each month in our Fellowship Room from 2-4 with yoga for those interested afterward.

Jim Hall leads a book club for any interested in discussing philosophical books. Past books include "Huck Finn" and "There is a River, the story of Edgar Cayce" and "Disturbing the Universe".

Local & Global Volunteer Opportunities

Note: our Covenant Groups, Church School classes, and Social Justice Committees also work on church or community service projects during the church year. We also provide a way to help fundraise for giving to the wider community through our Sunday collections, which are given monthly to various agencies or organizations whose work affirms our UU principles. If you would like to have the Sunday collection go to some specific cause you support, please go to our website, www.uunashua.org, on the right hand side click on Outreach Collections and then fill out the application that comes up.

Crop Walk (held in October)

Provides relief and development assistance in over 80 countries including more than 3,200 food pantries and meal sites in the U.S. Sign up as a walker, sponsor or volunteer through sign-ups in coffee hour or at www.cropwalk.org. Contact Steve Edington at 882-1091

NAACP

We now have a very active Nashua chapter, and our members and friends have a special invitation to be part of their groundbreaking antiracist work in southern NH. If you are passionate about our first two principles (the inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations) this may be the place for you. They meet in our Dining Room the first Monday of every month.

Granite State Organizing Project

GSOP is a grassroots organization here in Southern NH's Merrimack Valley. It's made up of representatives of religious, labor, and community groups that work together to improve life in our region. GSOP addresses needs targeted by the members, such as employment, affordable housing, health care. Contact GSOP through our Social Justice Committee.

Bi-Annual Rake and Broom Events

Every fall and spring, the Property Committee hosts a family-friendly morning to take care of the seasonal yard work around our beautiful property. Snacks and beverages provided; bring gloves, rakes, pruners, tarps, shovels.

Soup Kitchen

Prepare and deliver casseroles once monthly to the Nashua Soup Kitchen. Cook at the church or in your home. Great project to introduce kids to volunteer work. Expenses reimbursed if you wish, or donate the food (tax receipts provided).

If you would like to help serve a meal once a month at the Soup Kitchen speak with Jenn Morton.

Church School

It's not really teaching the kids, it's being their partner as they explore their potentials. Team teaching, prepared curricula, training sessions and support from the RE Committee make it easy to participate. Work with any age group from toddlers through Senior High.

Coffee House Crew

Simple Gifts Coffee House welcomes new folk to help run the coffee houses. Set-up, refreshments, publicity, bookings, bookkeeping, you name it. Get in free!

Committees

The following Committees welcome new volunteers at any time.

Denominational Connections

Our church belongs to the Unitarian Universalist Association, a national organization of UU congregations with international connections. The UUA holds a General Assembly yearly somewhere in the United States. Delegates from member congregations vote to set policy for the entire denomination! Our DC committee sponsors delegates to these exciting events, and also keeps us in touch with District (regional) events and meetings.

Fundraising

Concerned with all fundraising activities for the church. Plans the Annual Goods and Services Auction, other fundraisers, and the Pledge Drive. We have a strong belief that raising funds is about raising community friendship, and fun. This is one of the most creative ways you can volunteer to help your congregation. Contact Steve Edington or Sherri Woolsey at 882-1091

Lifespan Religious Education

Adults & Children

Church School and Adult RE fall under this committee's rubric—it is a 2-part committee with one group concentrating on the Church School and the other on adult programming. If you are unable to teach, this is a great way to support our program.

Young Adults

Are you a young adult between the ages of 18-35? Then we would love for you to attend the Young Adult group! Our meetings are Sundays from 6-8:30 in the Fellowship Room. We provide a safe environment for making new friends and catching up with old ones, where you can feel free to be yourself. We discuss issues facing young adults, our community and the world at large. Past activities have included games, glow bowling, mini golfing, watching movies, meditations, discussions, community service activities and many others. Contact us at: uunashuayoungadults@gmail.com.

Membership

Responsible for attracting and integrating new members into our congregation. They staff the info table in coffee hour, and sponsor lunches, breakfasts, and orientations for visitors and new members. They work with our Membership / Volunteer Coordinator to welcome all who come through our doors.

Property

1826 was a very good year—that's when our sanctuary was built! The Parish House and the White Wing buildings followed in due course, and naturally, they do not maintain themselves. Property vigilantly keeps track of major maintenance and all the details of keeping our grounds and buildings in beautiful order.

Public Relations

This group reaches out to the community via newspaper articles, our website, and our in-house newsletter. If you have a flair for description, or like making connections, this one's for you!

Social Activities

Fun for all ages and stages: cook offs, talent shows, excursions, and game nights! If you have an activity you'd like to see happen or are willing to organize one contact Sherri Woolsey at 882-1091

Social Justice

Works with local and regional organizations to make improvements in housing, health care, the environment, responsible government, They sponsor many exciting and informative workshops and lectures during the year; also our connection with the GSOP (see above).

White Wing School Board

Our church sponsors a non-sectarian, developmental preschool and kindergarten, founded in 1959. The Board is open to church members and friends and parents of students. The board works with the paid Director to set policy and operate the school.

Worship

Meets bi-monthly with the Minister to review and reflect on the nature and scope of our Sunday Services and the nature of "worship" in a UU setting. It's a sounding board for those looking at new directions our services might take. They also sponsor the monthly alternative Twilight services, lay-led summer services, the Solstice Service, and anything else they can think up! Contact Steve Edington at 882-1091

FAQs

How Do I:

Get personal help?

Call the Minister, Steve Edington, first and foremost, whether it's a crisis or just a concern. Call him at the church, 882-1091, at home, 883-3141 no later than 9:30 PM for non-crises, ANYTIME in a crisis. Email: minister@uunashua.org.

Become a member? Contact our Membership Coordinator, Sherri Woolsey or Steve Edington at the church, or fill out a request form in coffee hour. 882-1091

To do the following, contact our Office Administrator in the church office, 882-1091 or office-admin@uunashua.org.

- Arrange a ceremony (wedding, union, funeral, memorial service, child dedication, renewal of vows)
- Schedule an activity or event for church members
- Schedule an activity, meeting, or event for a non-church organization
- Schedule a private family event using the church buildings
- Find out the status of my pledge. Get a tax receipt
- Change my address/phone/ #

Change my membership status? Contact the minister or the Clerk of the church (#s on the back pages)

Who's In Charge?

Our church is governed by an Executive Board, nominated from our membership and elected by voting members at our Annual Meeting in June. The Board in turn selects an Executive Team, at this point consisting of the Minister, Treasurer, Office Administrator, Director of Religious Education, and Membership / Volunteer Coordinator.

The Board sets policy based on our vision and mission.

The Team deals with church operations and carries out policy.

The following committees report directly to the Board:

Investment, Nominating, Personnel, Ministry, Teaching Parish, White Wing School Board.

These committees work with the Ex. Team: Denominational Connections, Membership, Property, PR, Religious Education, Social Justice, Social Activities, Fundraising, Worship, Sabbatical.

Contact numbers are on the back of this booklet.

Resources

Our Information Table and bulletin boards in coffee hour keep us up-to-date, as well as our wonderful website and newsletter. The Church Office has publications relating to many topics: designing worship services, running committees, fundraising, life ceremonies, funerals and memorial services. The Social Justice committee maintains a library in coffee hour on justice issues, and the Information Table has denominational information, sign up sheets, phone directories and extra newsletters.

2008-2009 Executive Board

Laurie Goodman, President
Ellen Fisher, Vice President
Hilary Keating, Clerk
Mike Wilt, Treasurer
Phil Brown, Asst. Treasurer
Cecile Bonvouloir
John Burkitt
Ken Cowan
David Golden
Donna LaRue
Jim McCormick
Stephen Nodvin
Henry Zalman

Unitarian-Universalist Church of Nashua
58 Lowell Street, Nashua, New Hampshire
603-882-1091 <http://www.uunashua.org>

Rev. Stephen D. Edington, Minister
Tues.-Thurs., 9 am-noon, & by appointment
Minister@uunashua.org

Sherri Woolsey, Office Administrator/Membership &
Volunteer Coordinator
Mon.- Thurs. 9 am – 2pm
Office-admin@uunashua.org or
Membership@uunashua.org

Chris Parker, Director of Religious Education
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 am-3 pm, Sunday am
re@uunashua.org

You may contact the Music Director and the Custodian
through the church office, 882-1091