



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

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February 2024



As important as it is to savor each season, it's hard - at the cusp of March - not to look eagerly toward spring.

And spring brings so much promise here at the UU Urban Ministry.

This week, we met with religious educators from Greater Boston and around the country on the relaunch of our Seeing Me in the World program for visiting youth - a program to be guided by Boston students in our afterschool program. This program - by youth, for youth- begins again in spring.

A high school intern is building a new walking tour of the Meetinghouse interior, to share when the weather warms. And we can begin imagining the concerts on our greenspace again.

As we ready to shed heavy coats and gloves, and look toward thawing days and look to new life, I am so grateful for all those who sustain our work day in and day out, season to season.

Thank you for supporting our youth programming, our Meetinghouse restoration, our work for justice.

Thank you for investing in work that matters now, and that will bloom in the days ahead.

In faith,

Mary Margaret

Make a Gift to the UU Urban Ministry

Program Updates

Career Exploration Interns

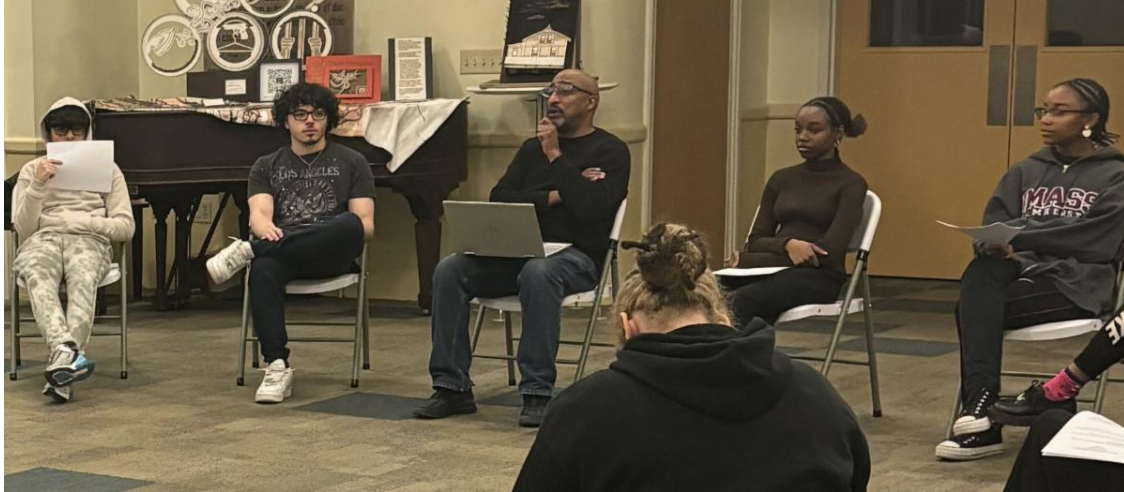


Our Career Exploration Interns are working with members of the UUUM team this semester on a variety of projects. Amongst them are:

- Helping to create a new addition to our Tours Program that focuses on the history of First Church in Roxbury
- Creating a new section of the UUUM website that focuses on the history of slavery as it relates to First Church in Roxbury and those who worshiped there
- Working with the community engagement manager on our Seeing Me in the World program with ideas about how young people from the Boston-area think will be meaningful for UU youth who participate
- Researching available resources for the residents of Renewal House, our emergency domestic violence shelter

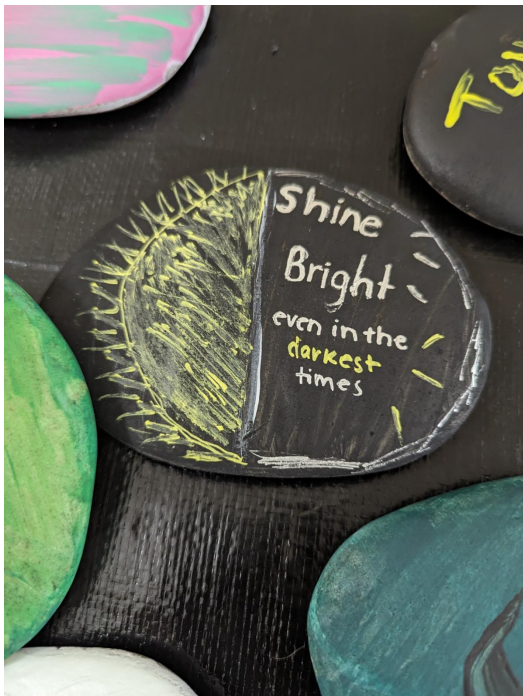
These interns are helping with important work and we look forward to sharing updates with you as it progresses.

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



One way that Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) helps provide young people with space to develop their voices and opportunities is through art and artistic expression.

This year, RYP students are producing a play that examines social justice issues from their perspectives. They are working with RYP's Community Teaching Artist, Naheem Garcia, a Roxbury native who brings a wealth of knowledge in theater and acting.



Rocks painted by RYP students with images and words of inspiration.

Community Engagement

Seeing Me In the World

Our Seeing Me In the World program is an opportunity for UU youth to meet across congregations, and to learn and reflect on the history of segregation and race in Greater Boston. Youth from 8th through 12th grade are invited to join us at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury for an historical walking tour, circle discussion, and artistic expression.



We are updating the program with input from students in our youth program, and others, to make it more meaningful and impactful for participants. We plan to offer three dates for this opportunity for UU youth in the spring. Stay tuned for details...

Renewal House

Thank you to all those who joined us for the "Beauty for Ashes" interactive art exhibit on Jan. 31st.

The event featured artwork that was inspired by the stories of the residents of Renewal House, our emergency domestic violence shelter. This was the first event of its kind organized by UUUM as a way to share these stories while maintaining the anonymity of Renewal House residents.

We are grateful to [Boston artist Lisa Lee](#), who did a masterful job of transforming some of these stories into tangible, and moving artistic works.



Upcoming Events

Community Conversations



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



UU Mass Action & Homes for All MA



Fighting the Fight

The UU Urban Ministry partners with UU Mass Action and Homes for All MA to focus on how we put our knowledge of housing injustice into action to work for justice now.

Tuesday, March 5th, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Sponsored by: First Parish Church in Weston



[Community Conversations: Fighting the Fight](#)

When: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 - 6:00pm-7:00pm

Where: Virtually via Zoom

Join us for this event, as the UU Urban Ministry partners with UU Mass Action and Homes for All Massachusetts to focus on how we put our knowledge of housing injustice into action to work for justice now.

Sponsored by: First Parish Church in Weston

Save the Date: UUUM Program Spotlight & Open House



[UUUM Program Spotlight & Open House](#)

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Where: UUUM; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA

Save the Date!

Join the UUUM team and program participants and hear about our work, programs, and see our campus. Food and refreshments will be served.

Partnering in Our Community

Our friends at the [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute](#) (LDBPI) are gearing up for their 28th Annual [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#).

Each year, the walk has had the support of many of our member congregations that form a team to support the effort.

This year, the Urban Ministry will be holding two info sessions with our friends from LDBPI about the walk. Join Rev. Clementina Chéry, LDBPI executive director, and members of the LDBPI and UUUM teams to discuss how to

participate in the walk, forming a walk team, fundraising best practices, and the impact you make supporting the critical services provided by LDBPI.

Info about these two opportunities are below. Whether you've walked in the past or are just interested, we hope you can join us.



Brunch with LDBPI at UU Urban Ministry

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Join us for brunch at UUUM (10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA) and discuss the event with members of the LDBPI team.

RSVP:

If you plan to attend, email: development@uum.org

Virtual Evening with LDBPI

Thursday, March 28, 2024
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Join us via Zoom to meet and discuss the event with members of the LDBPI and UUUM teams.

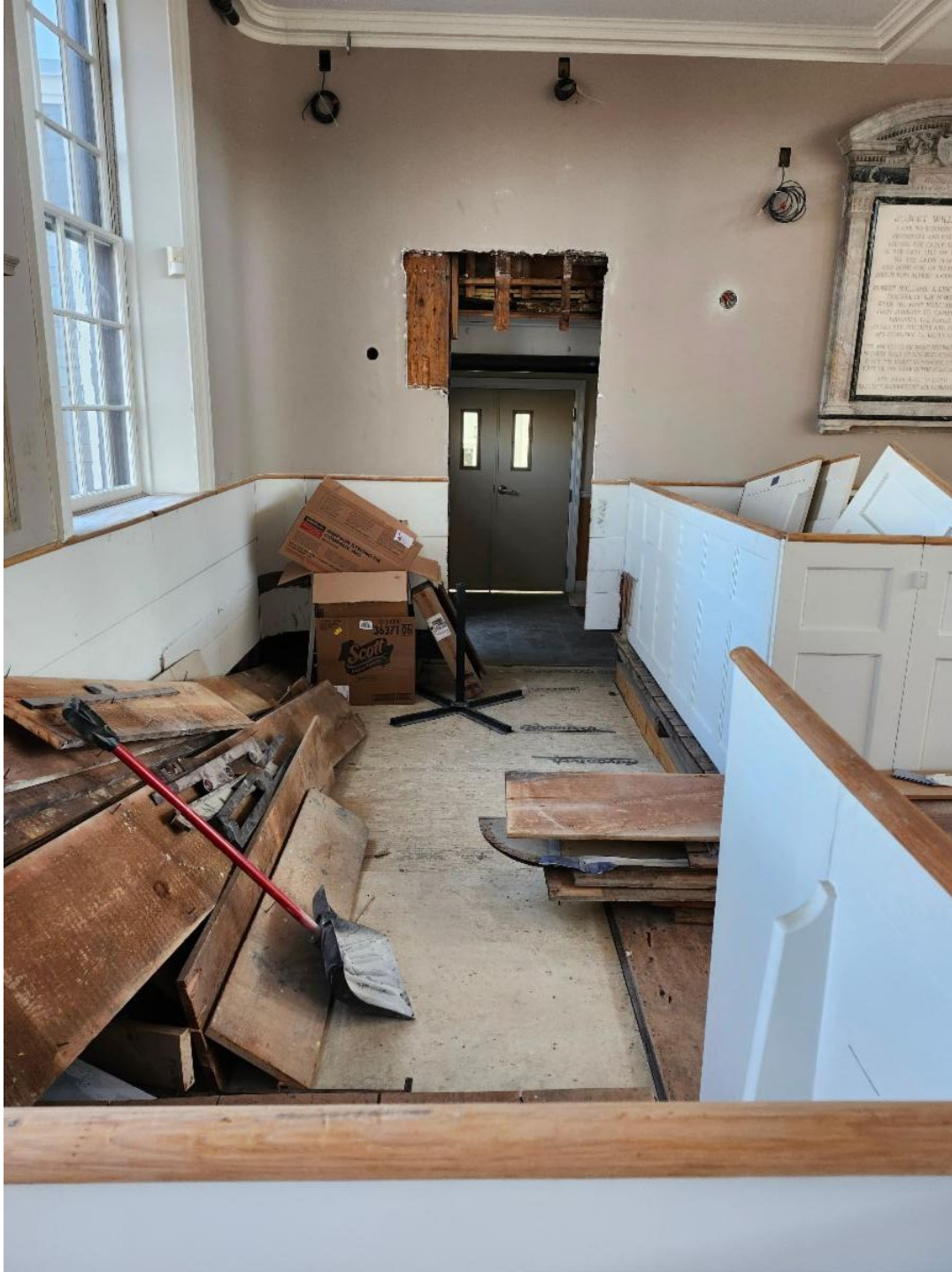
Zoom Info:

[Click here](#) to access the Zoom meeting on March 28th.

Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse



The repair and painting of the center pews is now complete. Now, work is being done to remove the first 2 rows in order to expand the performance space at the front of the Meetinghouse.

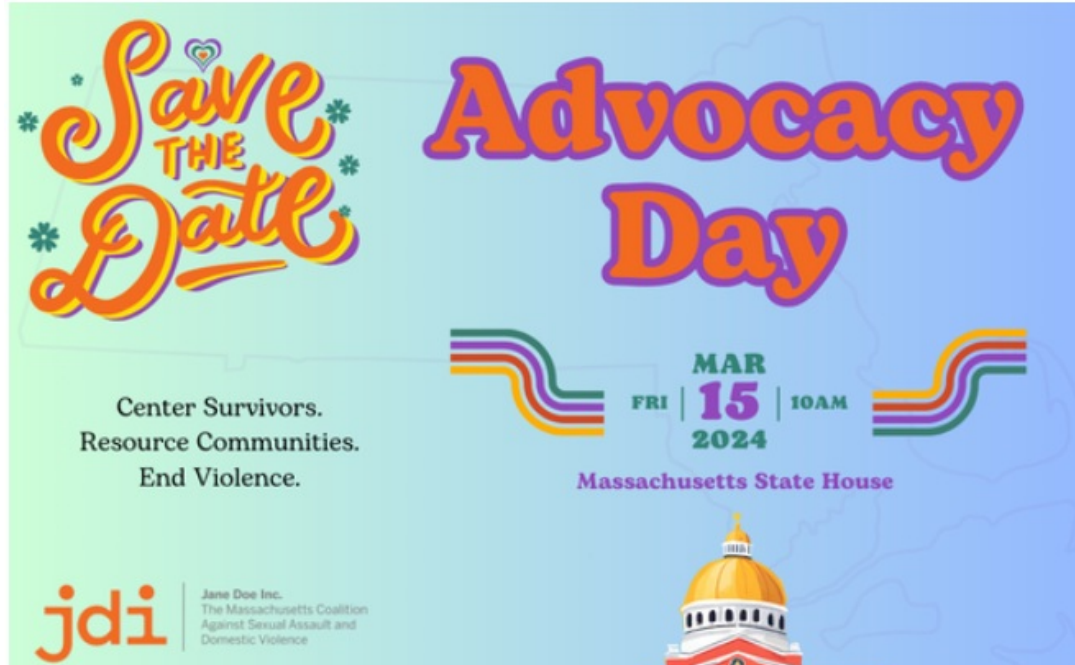


In the back center of the photo is the hole cut in the wall that will be the new handicapped accessible entrance. You can also see the recently added floor (where there had been a hole looking into the church's basement).



Work has begun on the entrance way of the Meetinghouse, including repair to the walls and twin stairways leading to the second level.

In the Community



JDI Advocacy Day 2024

UUUM's Renewal House is part of the Jane Doe, Inc. Massachusetts coalition of shelters. On March 15th from 10am-noon they will hold their annual Advocacy Day event at the State House. It's an opportunity to come together and support legislation and budget priorities that center survivors, resource communities, and work to end violence!

If you're interested in being a part of JDI's Advocacy Day, [CLICK HERE](#) for event registration details.

Words for your consideration...

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*The new dawn blooms
as we free it. For there is
always light, if only
we're brave enough to
see it. If only we're
brave enough to be it.*

AMANDA GORMAN



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- all things UUUM
- our member congregations
- opportunities and resources in Roxbury and the Boston-area

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