



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry
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November 2023



Photo courtesy of: Joseph Turner

Dear Friends of the UU Urban Ministry;

This week we enter the holiday season in earnest, with all its glitter and contradiction.

It's a time to give thanks, and also a Day of Mourning. A season of bounty, and a time of anxiety.

May we stay open to all these days offer, and all that they ask:

May our hearts be unafraid of new lessons that ask us to make change.

May we seek healing and reconciliation in this and every season

May we see the gifts around us, sacred and small

May this be a time of building community, of reaching out further

And may we remember, always, the way the world calls on each of us

Thank you, now and all year long, for being a part of this work with us.

In faith,

Mary Margaret

We invite you to learn more about the history of enslavement of Native people by First Church Roxbury congregants. [CLICK HERE](#) to read our report, "Race & Slavery at the First Church in Roxbury (The Colonial Period 1631-1775)"

Make a Gift to the UU Urban
Ministry

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) is in full swing. Young people have been participating in the after school drop-in center, and receiving help with homework, tutoring, and college essay writing.

This past month, RYP also successfully organized a teen night event to celebrate Halloween. We invited other youth centers in the area to participate in the festivities as well.

The event welcomed 65+ young people for a fun evening at the Urban Ministry.



A Wonderful Fall Festival

Thanks to those who made the Urban Ministry's "Fall Festival" event a success. This was a fun afternoon for families that included pumpkin-bowling, cider and donuts, and arts and crafts activities. A couple photos from the event are below.

A big THANK YOU to Rebecca Winborn, one of our delegates from First Parish in Concord, and her husband Gib Matcalf, for volunteering at the event (and for bringing the cider and donuts)!



Roxbury Russet Festival

This past month also featured a successful Roxbury Russet Festival.

This event, organized by our friends at [Dillaway-Thomas House](#) and co-hosted by the Urban Ministry, featured a variety of activities including cider pressing, crafts, music, and more. It was a celebration of Roxbury and this aspect of its history.

Reggie Walker, our interim-community engagement manager, was also there offering information about UUUM's work.





Above: The banner for the Roxbury Russet Festival that was created by one of the young people in Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP).

Renewal House

The 5 families currently at Renewal House, our emergency domestic violence shelter, recently enjoyed a "Harvest Lunch" along with staff. Our shelter manager, Marie Padilla, made it extra special by making each resident a box of some serious homemade sweets (pictured below).

In addition to delivering programming and services, Renewal House staff work to ensure residents have events like this to also celebrate and enjoy.



The Impact You Make

The support we receive from you and others in our community helps to make all of the work we do at the Urban Ministry possible.

Whether expanding opportunities for the young people in our youth program, supporting

the families in our emergency shelter, or our work to be a true community partner in Roxbury - your support makes it possible. As we near the end of 2023, we ask that you consider supporting the Urban Ministry by making a gift.

[CLICK HERE](#) to make a tax-deductible donation, or [email Vinnie Myles](#) if you have any questions about supporting UUUM.

Thank you for all that you do to support our work and mission.

Upcoming Events

Community Conversations



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Aja Kennedy (Boston Indicators)

A Long Road Home: Roots of Homeownership Inequity



Tuesday, December 12th, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Aja is a Racial Wealth Gap Research Fellow with Boston Indicators. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics and Public Policy at Tufts University, where her research areas include urban and public economics, with a particular interest in housing, residential segregation, and land use.

Boston Indicators special report A Long Road Home: A Racial Equity Analysis of Homeownership Support Programs in Massachusetts leads with a history of our region's racial homeownership gap and provides a thorough landscape scan of affordable homeownership programs in Massachusetts, diving more deeply into six key state programs and policies. The paper ends with recommendations for strengthening the existing system, derived from a series of focus groups and stakeholder interviews.



Event co-sponsored by: **First Parish in Lexington and Follen Church**



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[Community Conversations: A Long Road Home: The Roots of Homeownership Inequity](#)

When: Tuesday, December 12th; 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Where: Virtual Zoom event

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Thank You to Our Community Conversations Sponsors



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Every year, we are grateful to the member congregations and businesses that help bring our Community Conversations series to life. This year, we would like to highlight those who have stepped up to support the 4th season of this important series:

November: **First Parish in Milton**
December: **First Parish in Lexington and Follen Church**
January: **First Parish in Concord**
February: **Theodore Parker Church**
March: **First Parish Church in Weston**

We appreciate each of these sponsors and want to highlight their support. **Thank you!**

In Case You Missed It



Above: Byron Rushing during the live Q&A portion of Community Conversations on Nov. 14, 2023 at UUUM.

UUUM Online Content Library

If you miss any of the Community Conversations series - like the event we held earlier this month with Byron Rushing that looked at the history of housing and racism in Boston, you can watch the videos on the [Video Library](#) (under the Resources tab) of the UUUM's webpage.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the Nov. 14th Community Conversations with Byron Rushing.

In the Neighborhood

RCS | ROXBURY
CONCERT
SERIES

DEC
2

12:00 P.M.
FREE ENTRANCE
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
ROXBURY PUBLIC BRANCH
RSVP:ROXBURYCONCERTSERIES@GMAIL.COM

TRIO
GAIA



CONCERT
PREVIEW!

RESERVE
A SEAT!



SCAN ME

Roxbury Concert Series

When: Saturday, December 2nd at 12:00pm

Where: Roxbury Branch of the Public Library; 149 Dudley Street

Our friends at the Roxbury Concert Series invite you to the second concert of the Roxbury Concert Series - a free event featuring the award winning **Trio Gaia**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a preview of Trio Gaia performing a piece by Beethoven in concert.

Hope to See You On Sunday

Invite UUUM to Preach



Rev. Mary Margaret Earl
*Executive Director and
Senior Minister*

Each year, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl [and members of the UUUM team] are invited to preach [speak] at UUUM member congregations - and others. Mary Margaret will share a sermon with a social justice message that is both a call to action and reflection. Staff members speak about the programs and mission of the Urban Ministry, and ways to join us in this work.

We are now open to requests for preaching for the 2023-2024 church year. If you are interested in inviting us or learning more, please email Annie Stubbs: astubbs@uum.org.

We appreciate the invitations to join you and hope to see you soon!

The 2023-2024 Calendar is Filling Up

If you are interested in having Rev. Mary Margaret Earl preach at your congregation on an upcoming Sunday, or in having a member of the UUUM Team join you to discuss our mission, work, and ways your church can get involved, email Vinnie: vmyles@uum.org.

Photos From Our Boston Landmark



This photo taken from the raised pulpit encompasses a lot of the current efforts inside the Meetinghouse. You can see the middle section of the box pews - the cushions removed and the wood being sanded and repaired. Laying in the middle aisle are pipes that will be part of the building's new sprinkler system.

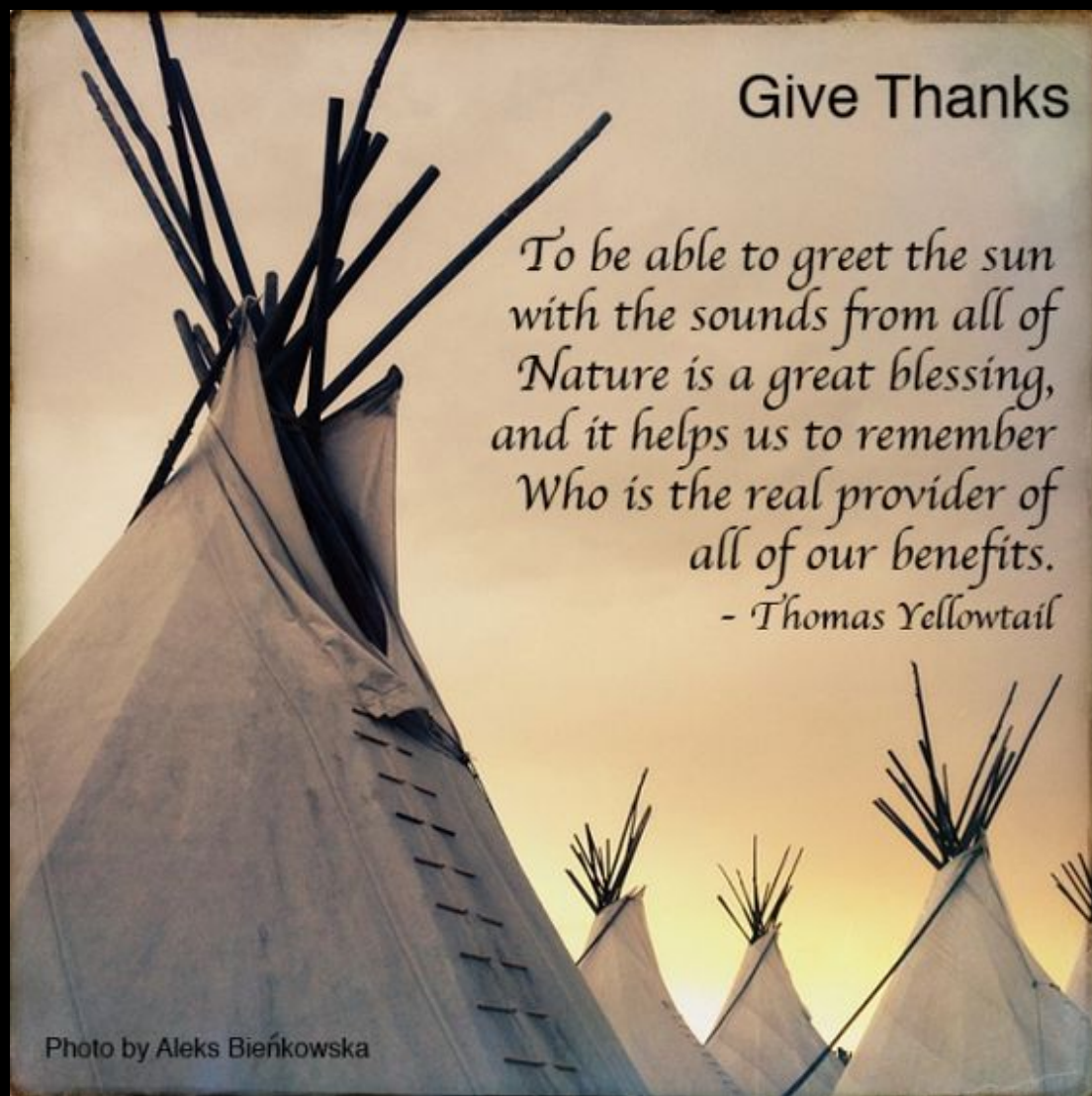


Workers in the cherry picker doing work at roof-level.



The front stairs of the Meetinghouse will be put back into place after repairs are made to the building's sill.

Words for your consideration...



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Stay connected and up-to-date about:

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

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