



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

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August 2025

Message from Our Executive Director and Senior Minister



Members of the Dynamic Seniors group that meets weekly at UUUM attend a recent event for its members

Dear Friends,

Even as the hard news rolled into our inboxes daily, you helped make this a season filled with sweetness.

Your gifts meant that this summer:

- We strengthened partnerships with groups like the Dynamic Seniors, who gather

weekly here and help us reach out to our Roxbury neighbors. (the photo above is from their Senior Prom with a Sneaker Flair this month).

- Boston high school students explored college and career opportunities in our summer employment program, and also played volleyball on our greenspace and drummed in the peace garden. They learned and earned and laughed together.
- Outdoor jazz concerts gathered community from across neighborhoods.
- Another family at our Renewal House shelter secured permanent housing.

As evenings come earlier, and summer wanes, we thank you for sustaining our work in the midst of challenging times. Your gifts make a difference.

With gratitude,

Mary Margaret

[Make a Gift to the UU Urban Ministry](#)

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



RYP interns pose together at View Boston on the top of the Prudential Center

From Roxbury to the Top of the Pru

The students in Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) have taken advantage of the summer by exploring Boston's sites, schools, and museums.

This month, during a field trip in the city that featured a stop at the Institute of Contemporary Art, they visited View Boston at the top of the Prudential Center. From 750 feet high, some were able to spot their homes, school, and the steeple of First Church Roxbury.



RYP students attend the recent panel discussion of professionals in the trades

Preparing for After High School

In our RYP summer program, we want young people to see a fuller landscape of their options. So in addition to college visits to Roxbury Community College, Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology and Framingham State University, last week we convened a trades panel. Tradespeople including an electrician from D's Electric, fire system installation manager from Keyes North Atlantic, and an architect from DREAM Collaborative who works with many trades, gathered to tell young people what their work is like. And they had nearby examples - all of them had contributed to the Meetinghouse restoration!

Thank you Helger, Stanley and Thea for sharing your careers with our students - and for your work on our historic landmark.

UUUM Career Exploration Internship



Click on one of the above images to watch a recent video created by our interns

Our career exploration interns are offered the next step in their professional development. This summer, three high school interns worked within our Development and Communications Office - and helped our social media shine! They took the lead in our social media content, enlivening our [TikTok](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) account with videos, images and words that tell UUUM's story, share upcoming events, and are sometimes just fun to watch.

Above are two examples

Local Legacies: A Tour Created and Led by RYP Youth



Students from RYP lead a recent Local Legacies tour in Roxbury

Reflecting on Local Legacies

This summer, young people took visitors on tours of the neighborhood they'd created thanks to a grant from Mass Humanities and mentoring from Live Like a Local Tours founder Collin Knight. Over several months last school year, 5 students crafted a tour that included our Meetinghouse, the Roxbury Heritage State Park, and their own John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. Then they led the tours for visitors through the summer. The guides

connected the historic landmarks to their own lived experience - and how they see themselves in the stories of their neighborhood.

If you missed a tour, stay tuned. We'll add more tours in our calendar soon. Check out our [Upcoming Events](#) page for these and other opportunities to learn more about Roxbury's richness.

Upcoming UUUM Events

Examining Our History



[Black and Indigenous Legacies at First Church in Roxbury](#)

WHEN: Tuesday, September 9th | 5:30-7:30pm

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

RSVP: [Click Here](#)

The UU Urban Ministry, in partnership with the Roxbury Historical Society, invites you to a public presentation on our new report into the history of enslavement at First Church Roxbury.

For the past year, through a grant from the Harvard Reparative Partnership program, two graduate students advanced the work UUUM and RHS began several years ago. The student researchers were MIT Master of City Planning student Mica Caine and Boston University American Studies doctoral student Mary Snyder.

Mary's research advanced the foundational work by Harvard doctoral

student Aabid Allibhai, Race & Slavery at the First Church in Roxbury published in 2023. Mica's focus was on tracing history in the opposite direction – from present to past – by engaging young people in history - their own history, and tracing and sharing history.



Research fellows Mary Snyder (left) and Mica Caine (right) stand with Aabid Allibhai (center) in the Meetinghouse

Writer's Restorative Retreat (in the UUUM Peace Garden)



WELCOME TO THE
PEACE GARDEN ACTIVATION



UU URBAN MINISTRY
10 PUTNAM STREET
ROXBURY, MA

WRITERS' RESTORATIVE

Writer's Restorative

WHEN: Sept. 8, 2025 | 8:30am - 10:00am

WHERE: 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA

Is your muse missing, or just in need of some quality time?

Would you welcome a space that simply nurtures your writer's spirit?

Maybe your practice needs a break from the everyday noise. Maybe you just need a spark to get things moving again. Or maybe you just need a bit of imposed structure to finish that poem, scene, or chapter you keep putting off.

Join us as we gather in creative community despite what can be a deeply solitary passion: the writer's burning need to tell their story.

Bring something you want to keep working on or get a prompt to start writing that morning. Towards the end of each session, participants may volunteer to share something they've written with the group.

Write in community or in quiet solitude—we get it. Just write.

Coffee and donuts provided.

The Makanada Project



JAZZ ON THE GREEN

2025 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Featuring:

THE MAKANDA PROJECT

[Final Show at UUUM This Year](#)

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 9th | 1:00-4:00pm

WHERE: UUUM Greenspace; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA

Join us for the third and final performance by The Makanda Project at the UUUM this summer, as they bring sophisticated jazz to our greenspace. Bring your blanket or lawn chair and we'll see you there.

This concert is free to the public.

On the Occasion of Being Persistent

Performance of Faure's Requiem

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025 at 3:00pm

WHERE: First Church and Parish - Dedham

This performance of Faure's *Requiem* will be accompanied by an orchestra comprised of members of Project STEP, with an orchestral arrangement by composer Michael Weinstein, and directed by Maestro Eric Mahl. There are additional readings from author Cliff Blake's "No Dream Required".

The event is being organized by our friend and former UUUM board member, Marshall Hughes. Like all his events this promises to be a moving and enjoyable performance.



Calling All Singers from Our Member Congregations! *Looking for Voices to Join the Chorus*

Many of our member congregations have wonderful choirs, and we're hoping to bring a little of that magic to this performance. Are you interested in being part of the chorus at the performance of On the Occasion of Being Persistent on Sept. 21st? You need not be a professional, but you must know the work. Plus, you must be able to participate in one vocal rehearsal on Saturday, Sept. 20th at UUUM.

If you are interested in performing in the chorus or have questions, [email Vinnie Myles](#).



Congregational & Volunteer Updates

Delegate of the Month - Cindy Soule from First Parish in Concord



Cindy Soule, from First Parish in Concord

We're proud to recognize Cindy Soule from First Parish in Concord as our Volunteer of the Month.

Cindy has been a steady presence in our work to transform the peace garden into a thriving native garden, a space that honors healing, beauty, and community connection. From early spring into the summer months, she has been right there with us, sharing her time, her energy, and her deep knowledge of native plants.

Her support has helped shape not just the garden itself, but the spirit of care and collaboration that surrounds it. She has been a steady presence, not only planting and tending, but also encouraging others and helping us think through what the space can become.

Cindy understands plants, yes, but she also understands people. She listens, she offers encouragement, and she shares what she knows in ways that make others feel welcomed and empowered. Her presence has been grounding and generous.

This transformation in our garden is ongoing, and it takes people who are willing to return again and again to nurture the space. Cindy has been one of those people, and her impact is already growing. Quite literally. Thank you, Cindy!

Get Involved!



Thank you to all of those who have helped us this spring and summer to make the plants in our peace garden nearly all native plants. We are grateful for your time and talents to help make this important goal a reality.

Native plants are a key strategy in mitigating the impacts of climate change. They benefit the ecosystem by feeding native insects, pollinators and birds, are drought tolerant, hardy in native soils and require less maintenance. They provide beauty and shade in an urban setting like UUUM's peace garden.

We are grateful to the Liberty Mutual Foundation for a Climate Resiliency grant award that made planting native plants in our peace garden possible.

Seeing Me in the World - Dates Are Now Available!



We believe history is not just something you read about. It is something you experience. It shapes the way we see ourselves in the world. [Seeing Me In the World](#) was created by students, for students, to bring history to life in a way that feels real and relevant.

This is more than a history lesson - it is a chance to engage, reflect, and learn to take action. Participants will:

- Explore the rich and real history of Roxbury, the First Church in Roxbury, and the role the UU Urban Ministry has played in the community
- Gain a deeper understanding of Roxbury's people and culture
- Walk away with knowledge and tools to become agents of change in their own communities

If you are interested in bringing a youth group this spring - fall, email UUUM Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones: rjones@uuum.org.

Seeing Me in the World is supported by the Veatch Program, the philanthropic program of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. This support has enabled our program to grow and welcome UU youth from around the country.

Volunteer Networking Opportunities

Join us for a Monthly Volunteer Networking

Our Congregational Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones hosts a virtual volunteer networking session on the third Wednesday of each month.

The aim of these virtual sessions is to offer volunteers a chance to share their experiences, to learn from and support each other, and to share information. Any who have

volunteered in the past or present, or who are interested in getting involved are welcome to join us.



Robert Jones (above), Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator

The next session will be on **Wednesday, September 17th at 7pm via Zoom**. If you would like to join us, email Robert for details and link: rjones@uuum.org.

Join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88958176185pwd=q84bnxfcsn5tpc0AXCjHGNfdJXNWRv.1>

Interested in Volunteering at UUUM?

Check out the current volunteer opportunities at the Urban Ministry and at our partner organizations on the [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page of our website.

Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse



Update Regarding the Meetinghouse Restoration

The work completed on our Meetinghouse interior restoration, we are moving through the permitting process and looking forward to opening our doors wide this fall. We look forward to celebrating with you soon.

Join Our Team

Current Job Openings at UUUM

[RYP Program Coordinator \(Full-time\)](#)

Roxbury Youth Programs is seeking an experienced, energetic Youth Programs Coordinator to join the UU Urban Ministry's program staff. The Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC) will be responsible for the collaborative planning, implementation, and facilitation of our youth programs. The YPC will be responsible for developing and leading and/or hiring teaching artists to lead engaging, relevant workshops centered in skill building, social justice, Roxbury community history, and art-making.



To apply, email your resume to Karsten Cash, kcash@uum.org with the subject line "Youth Program Coordinator".

Youth Program Coordinator (Part-time)

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) is seeking an experienced, energetic Youth Program Coordinator to join the UU Urban Ministry's program staff. The Youth Program Coordinator will be responsible for the collaborative planning, implementation, and facilitation of our youth programs.



To apply, email your resume and cover letter to Karsten Cash, Director of Programs, at kcash@uum.org with the subject line "Learning Artist".

Invite Mary Margaret to Preach



Invite UUUM to Preach

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 2025-2026 church year. If you are interested in inviting us or learning more, please email Maggie Paula: mpaula@uum.org.

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

Rev. Mary Margaret Earl
Executive Director and Senior Minister

In the Community

Backpack and School Supplies Giveaway

WHEN: August 23, 2025 | 12:00pm - 2:00pm
WHERE: Hawthorne Youth and Community Center;
9 Fulda St., Roxbury, MA

Enjoy an afternoon of food, arts and crafts, and free raffles as we come together to celebrate the start of the new school year.

This free event is open to all ages, and we welcome everyone in the neighborhood to attend.

If you have a child in grades K-12 and could use assistance with school supplies, please

email: info@hyccroxbury.org to register with your child's name, grade, and type of supplies needed.



**BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES
GIVEAWAY**
Grades K-12
**12 – 2 PM Saturday,
August 23, 2025**

Registration Required
email child's name, grade, and what they need to
info@hyccroxbury.org

Supplies are limited, register now!

Everyone is welcome to join us for
food, arts & crafts, and free raffles!

Hawthorne Youth & Community Center
9 Fulda St Roxbury 



**THORNTON STREET
URBAN FARM**

**PRODUCE
DELIVERIES**

FREE PRODUCE
DELIVERIES FOR SENIORS
IN HIGHLAND PARK

PROGRAM RUNS FOR 6
SATURDAYS STARTING
JULY 19

JUL-AUG

95th THORNTON ST

CONTACT US AT
857-243-4694 OR
SPILET-JONES@HALEYHOUSE.ORG

Roxbury Produce Deliveries

There is still some space on the Senior Produce list for those who live in Highland Park area.

If you, yourself, or if you know of anyone that may be interested have them reach out via the information below.

Phone Number: 857-243-4694

Email: spilet-jones@haleyhouse.org

Community Garden Design Workshop

Dates and time varies pending on workshop

Join the Neighborhood Grow Plan for their Community Garden Design Workshops to help create a formal garden design for public spaces that are marked for food growing. Participants will be involved in hands-on workshops, individual design kits, and community-driven engagement.

RSVP and find more information [HERE](#).



Design any public space
with confidence
and in collective

**COMMUNITY
GARDEN
DESIGN WORKSHOP**

3 DATES FREE! TAKE ONE TAKE ALL

WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES, NEIGHBORS

**DAY 1
Sep 7 Seeds Within**

- Build an ancestral design & food pathway
- Understand modular growing principles
- Connect land use to spatial choices

HAWTHORNE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER

**DAY 2
Sep 14 Living Principles**

- Draft a modular garden using basic tools
- Understand scale, proportion and layer
- Explore soil, climate, and water access

HALEY HOUSE
at Thornton Street Farm

**DAY 3
Sep 28 Plant Garden Futures**

- Share plans for community gardening
- Model building
- Reflect on the journey and regenerative design

CELEBRATE ANCESTRAL
regenerative design

THE FOOD PROJECT FARM
• DUDLEY GREENHOUSE

Neighborhood Grow Plan
Urban Subsistence Grow Project

We Grow Where We Live!

Co-organizers:
Office of Urban Agriculture
DESIGN FARM COLLECTIVE

Take Back the Kitchen

WHEN: August 27, 2025 | 5:30pm - 7:30pm

WHERE: Hawthorne Youth and Community Center, 9 Fulda Street, Boston, MA 02119

Empower children, youth, the elderly, and families to take charge of their health and well-being through hands-on cooking classes.

Use the QR to register for the classes or click the link [HERE](#).



TBK Classes

Empowers children, youth, the elderly, and families to take charge of their health and well-being through hands-on cooking classes



Learn to cook.
Pass it on.

Register by scanning the QR code!

Class Details:

Wednesday, July 30th from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Wednesday, August 13th from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Wednesday, August 27th from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

All classes meet at the Hawthorne Youth and Community Center:

9 Fulda St, Boston, MA 02119



**HALEY
HOUSE**

For more info please email Sisi at
sjean-baptiste@haleyhouse.org



Words for your consideration...

“If we cannot do great things, we can do small things in a great way.”

- Melnea Cass



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