



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

John Eliot Square • 10 Putnam St. • Roxbury, MA 02119
Tel: 617-318-6010 • Fax: 617 318-6022 • www.uuum.org

February 2025

Message from Our Executive Director and Senior Minister



A scene from this year's "The Ties That Bind" concert honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

To understand where we are now, we have to look back - even as we press forward. In unsettled times, the justice work of the UU Urban Ministry continues, steadfast. We support college-bound BIPOC students and domestic violence survivors rebuilding their lives. We partner with Roxbury organizations to walk together for a fairer future.

And still, we unearth and face a history that brought us to this place.

- We continue researching the lives of those enslaved by First Church Roxbury congregants. Our graduate fellow researchers are learning more about individuals who were enslaved, aiming to track their lineage to today.

- We bring this history to life in our after school program, working with Boston high school students to help them track their ancestors and celebrate their heritage.

- We imagine how to tell a fuller history to visitors when they enter our soon-to-be completely restored historic Meetinghouse.

- We convene Community Conversations to connect this history to injustices today that directly impact people of color.

This is work that you make possible.

Last month, we celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King in our annual Ties that Bind concert with Opera unMet. We gathered in community, huddled together after a snowfall, and remembered how love and truth can, in the end, prevail against the odds.

Onward, and in faith.

Mary Margaret

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

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



RYP students and staff member Abby Seero (center) ice skating in Jamaica Plain.

Lacing Up Their Skates

The students in RYP recently went ice skating at Kelly Rink in Jamaica Plain! For many of the students, this was their first experience on skates. Whether experts or novices on

the ice, the outing was an experience that all seemed to enjoy.

Artistic Exploration

RYP students recently had the opportunity to visit Artists for Humanity, a Boston non-profit that connects young people with art. While there, RYP students took a tour of the space and open studios, and stayed to hear a lecture by artist Aristotle Forrester.

This was a great opportunity to meet the artist, see his work, and network with other young people.



RYP students listening to the lecture at Artist for Humanities.

Career Exploration Internship

This year, our two Career Exploration Interns Ijeoma and Wintana have been working with the team on communications. Part of their role has been creating content for UUUM's social media accounts that share what is happening in RYP.

If you haven't already, check out their weekly videos on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. They're doing a great job sharing our youth program with the world!

Watch the Latest Video: [On Facebook](#) | [On Instagram](#) | [On TikTok](#)



Renewal House

Recently, one of the residents of Renewal House, who had been staying at our emergency domestic violence shelter for over two years, found permanent housing.

The average stay of a resident at our shelter can vary, depending upon numerous things, from months to years.



No matter how long their stay, we're always happy when a residents is ready and able to move on to a permanent housing situation.

Seeing Me in the World - Dates Available Starting March 15th



Young people listening to a student-led tour in Roxbury during Seeing Me in the World

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 two-hour program and tour, facilitated with the help of students from UUUM's youth program, invites young people to engage with Roxbury's past and present through their own lens.

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.
- Walk away with knowledge and tools to become agents of change in their own communities.
- Gain a deeper understanding of Roxbury's people and culture.

If you are interested in bringing a youth group this spring - fall, reach out to UUUM Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator: rjones@uum.org.

Congregational & Volunteer Updates

Delegate of the Month - Lea Anderson



Lea Anderson, UUUM delegate from First Parish in Wayland

This month, we are delighted to honor **Lea Anderson, delegate from First Parish in Wayland, as our Delegate of the Month!**

Lea has been a vital part of the UU Urban Ministry community for years, consistently going above and beyond to support our mission. As a former member of the Congregational Engagement Task Force, Lea contributed her time and energy to strengthening the connections between our member congregations and the Urban Ministry.

Her commitment does not stop there. Lea and her husband Charlie hosted a memorable house party last year to support the UU Urban Ministry and Roxbury Youth Programs, creating a space for conversation and community building. She is a steady presence at our events and volunteer opportunities - and is often accompanied by others from First Parish in Wayland. She inspires those around her to get involved and make a difference.

Lea, we are so grateful for your dedication and passion. Thank you for being such a vibrant and committed member of the UU Urban Ministry community!

FUUSN Musicians Concert



FUUSN Musicians Concert

DATE: Sunday, February 23, 2025

TIME: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

WHERE: 1326 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02465

Come and hear the wonderful musicians of the First Unitarian Universalist Society in concert on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 2pm in the FUUSN Sanctuary. This concert is a fundraiser for the UU Urban Ministry.

Come and enjoy the fantastic array of musical styles and moods: classical works, bluegrass tunes, jazz and more. And we'll continue our tradition of Cookies at Intermission!

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be gratefully accepted for the UU Urban Ministry.

Community Conversations

**Aabid Allibhai, Mary Snyder
and Michael Curry**

**Revolution of Historical
Examination**

Why Black and Brown History Matters in 2025

Thursday, March 6th, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.*

**This event will be held virtually via Zoom
Scan the QR code or visit: uum.org/upcoming-events*



[Community Conversations: Revolution of Historical Examination](#)

DATE: Thursday, March 6, 2025

TIME: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

WHERE: [Virtual via Zoom](#)

Join Aabid Allibhai, Mary Snyder, and Dr. Michael Curry as we discuss why uncovering, examining, and understanding Black and Brown history matters in 2025.

Sponsored by: First Parish Church in Norwell

[Download the event flyer](#)

UUUM Annual Meeting



**Unitarian Universalist
Urban Ministry**

190th Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2025

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

[UU Urban Ministry's 190th Annual Meeting](#)

WHEN: Thursday, May 22, 2025

TIME: 5:30pm - 7:00pm

WHERE: Zoom

Join us to hear about the work of our programs from the UUUM Team, an update on our programs, and more!

Calling All Gardeners!

As we wait for winter to loosen its grip, we're gearing up to get back outside and start gardening again! If you enjoy getting your hands in the dirt and want to help bring beauty and life to the UUUM grounds and the peace garden, we'd love to have you join us.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just someone who enjoys being outside and helping things grow, there's a place for you. If you're interested in lending a hand this season, reach out to Congregational and Volunteer

Coordinator Robert Jones at rjones@uum.org. If you haven't already, please also complete the volunteer information form here: [Please Complete.](#)



Let's get ready to welcome spring together!

Volunteer Networking Opportunities

Join us for a Monthly Volunteer Networking

Next Session: February 19th at 7pm
Our Congregational Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones hosts a virtual volunteer support 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, **February 19, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom**. If you would like to join us, email Robert for details and link: rjones@uum.org.

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.



Roxbury Patriots' Day

Save the Date: Roxbury Patriots Day

WHEN: Monday, April 21, 2025 - starting at 8:15am

WHERE: 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury MA, 02119

The Roxbury Collaborative Presents: Roxbury Patriots' Day 2025! Events of the day will include:

- National Lancers' William Dawes Re-enactment and Send-off
- Free Breakfast Buffet (provided First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton)
- Ralph Browne Unsung Hero Awards
- Warren I. Brown Memorial Scholarship Awards

All Events Are Free. Join us to celebrate Patriots' Day and the rich history of Roxbury!

City Strings United



2025 SEASON....JOIN US AND EXPERIENCE JOY!

FEB 9
3 pm

LET THE CHILDREN SING
Museum of African American History
Boston

CREATIVITY WORKSHOP
With Special Guests
Sheffield Chamber Players

MARCH 8
1 pm



APRIL 12
7pm

JAZZ WITH MAKANDA PROJECT

CSU SHOWCASE
Experience The Next Generation
of Creativity

MAY 18

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TO ATTEND:

CITYSTRINGS.ORG/EVENT

Photo credit Robert Torres

City Strings United: Creativity Workshop

WHEN: March 8, 2024 at 1:00pm
WHERE: TBD

City Strings United will be hosting a creativity workshop, with special guest from the *Sheffield Chamber Players*! To attend the workshop or to check out future City Strings events, visit their website [HERE](https://www.citystrings.org/event).

Final Touches



Thanks to the generosity of Sarah Polansky and Susan Polansky who attend First Church Leominster, there is now a Steinway piano in the Meetinghouse. This piano once belonged to their sister Ellen, and was donated in her memory to be available for and enjoyed by the community. Ellen was a talented pianist who performed at our Ties That Bind concert each year.

We are grateful to Sarah and Susan for such a wonderful gift, and we cannot wait to hear it played in the restored Meetinghouse!



We are excited to share that the new front door is now hanging on its hinges! The next step is to install the handrails on the stairs that lead into the front entranceway.

In Case You Missed It

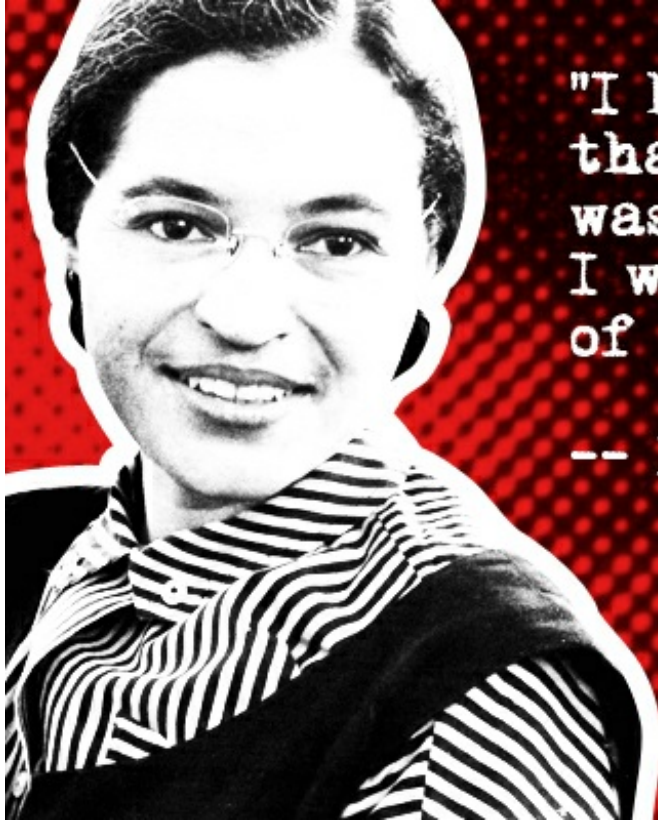


Online UUUM Video Library

Thanks to all who were in attendance for our first Community Conversations, *Revolution in Roxbury*.

Don't worry if you missed the event! The recording of the event is posted on the [Video Library](#) of the UUUM website. Check it (and many other videos) out there.

Words for your consideration...



"I had no idea
that history
was being made.
I was just tired
of giving up."

-- Rosa Parks

Stay Connected with Us

Follow us on social media!

[UUUM on Facebook](#)

[UUUM on Instagram](#)

[UUUM on X](#)

[UUUM on TikTok](#)

[UUUM on Bluesky](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FB.COM/UURBANMINISTRY



@UUURBANMINISTRY



@UUURBANMINISTRY

Click Here to Support the UU Urban
Ministry

Visit the UUUM Website

UU Urban Ministry | 10 Putnam Street | Roxbury, MA 02119 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!