

# February 2024 Worship Services

## *February Worship Theme: Forgiveness*

### **February 4: Rescue**

We welcome Rev. Nathan Detering of the Sherborn UU church. His sermon, "Rescue," weaves together his own and others' deeply felt experiences to address the common questions we ask when we love someone with addiction and offer support to anyone struggling. Rev. Rebecca will lead worship. Following the service, Rev. Detering will facilitate a discussion on some of the themes in his book, *Why Can't I Fix This: The Questions We Ask When We Love Someone with Addiction*, from 12-1pm in the Lower Meetinghouse and via Zoom.

Rev. Nathan W. Detering serves as the Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn, a position he has held since 2003. Rev Detering's passions in ministry are how to sustain one's ministry without overworking or over-functioning; writing for pew, pulpit, and public square; and mentoring students as they find their voice in their vocation. Prior to seminary, Rev. Detering served for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Grenada, West Indies. He lives in Holliston, MA with his family.

### **February 11: To Learn, Remember, Honor, and Celebrate**

Through this service, we will celebrate and honor contributions to the LGBTQ+ community by a variety of individuals, some well-known and others lesser known. This service planned by the FRSUU Welcoming Committee contributes to fulfilling our annual renewal as an LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation.

#### **Justice Sunday with soup and salad follows at noon:**

**Understanding the Current Threats Against the Trans and Gender Expansive Community:** Join UUSC's Coordinator for Congregational Activism, Heather Vickery (she/her), to learn about the current threats that the trans and gender expansive community is facing in the U.S. These threats have already caused many to relocate to a safer state or to start searching for support to relocate.

### **February 18: Gaia (Mother Earth) in Song**

We welcome UU musician and composer Jim Scott, who will lead the service with Rev. Rebecca. We will celebrate the Earth with Jim's original songs, readings, and personal reflections on Mother Earth or "Gaia" being one living organism. Our "spiritual response" is so timely now, as the spirit of life on earth is in crisis. Jim's uplifting songs provide the balance to the wake-up call, leaving us with vision and inspiration to take the healing into our own hands. From his work with the Paul Winter Consort, where he was co-composer of their celebrated "Missa Gaia/Earth Mass," Jim has long been an activist for peace and the Earth with his music. He's visited over 700 UU churches in four decades, and his songs are in our hymnbooks. Former Co-Chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth, Jim helped create the "Green Sanctuary" program.

## **February 25: Seasons of Love**

Rev. Rebecca will preach about the role of forgiveness in our lives. How does forgiveness help us create a life of meaning? Can we find a way to honor the things and circumstances that are difficult to forgive, or may never be fully forgiven, without them robbing us of joy?