



# The Spark

The Newsletter of  
the Chalice Lighter  
Program Committee  
**Spring 2021**

The Central East Region Chalice Lighter Program provides grants to UU congregations and clusters of congregations for initiatives that will enable them, and our beloved faith, to thrive and grow in spirit, justice, compassion, and outreach.



By your continued generosity, you have stood with congregations such as the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County in Lincroft, New Jersey (UUCMC), the most recent recipient of a Chalice Lighter Grant. In their application, UUCMC told us about their congregation and their project:

*UUCMC is embarking upon a series of major renovations to address a 30-year-old infrastructure and unsafe HVAC system, and to meet the needs of tomorrow's congregation and the community around us.*

*When exploring options to protect against Covid-19 UUCMC learned that their HVAC system emits deadly carbon monoxide. Their immediate goal is replacing that dangerous system with a safe system that will dramatically reduce the congregation's heating and cooling energy cost and carbon footprint. In tandem with replacing an old roof, the congregation plans to expand their solar panels array to triple output of clean energy, dramatically cutting their buildings' contribution to climate change. In later phases of the project, the parking lot and outdoor signage will be replaced and equipment to live stream services will be installed in their sanctuary. "Upgrading our sign to a digital format along with installing live streaming capabilities in our sanctuary will ensure that we reach beyond our doors to those who need us and cannot participate physically."*

*UUCMC has been a Green Sanctuary since 2006, a Welcoming Congregation since 2000, and has been doing the hard work of becoming anti-racist since 2015. In March they voted as a congregation to adopt the 8th Principle. "All the while, children are born and need to be nurtured, spiritual growth at every age continues, along with all that a caring community can offer one another through our final days and beyond. None of this work is ever complete, but our commitment is to continue to prioritize love and justice. Having a building and infrastructure to house all that this dream can become for the next 30 years is the work in front of us now."*

Your participation as a Chalice Lighter makes it possible for us to award a \$40,000 double grant to UUCMC to kickstart their project.

Thank you for your support of the Chalice Lighter Program, on behalf of the CER Chalice Lighter Program Committee and staff.