



CHALICE LIGHTERS

The Spark

The Newsletter of
the Chalice Lighter
Program Committee
Fall 2021

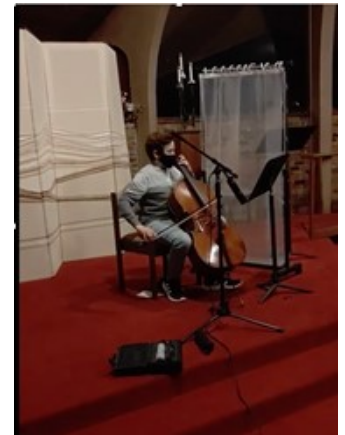
Meet the three Central East Region Congregations who have just been awarded \$20,000 Chalice Lighter grants. Thanks to the generosity of Chalice Lighters like you, they will be able to serve their congregations and communities safely and effectively by implementing hybrid programming.



Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, Burke, VA sends you their thanks. “The Chalice Lighter grant that we have just received from the Central Eastern Region will make an enormous difference as we strive to continue our essential social justice work and nurture our congregation’s spiritual and pastoral needs. We have learned through the hardship of surviving Covid-19, the value of our connections and what it takes to not just survive but thrive. The Chalice Lighter grant is truly a “shot in the arm.” Now we can install windows in our classrooms that actually open to fresh air and that are more energy efficient. We are overjoyed to also be able to purchase air purifiers for our classrooms, install sanitizing stations, and upgrade the air filters for our sanctuary HVAC system. This grant also

makes it possible for us to upgrade our audio-video system to enable hybrid onsite and streaming services.”

The **UU Church of Amherst**, Williamsville, NY says, “Covid and shifting community culture have shined a light on the need to “do church” differently. This grant will allow us to do hybrid services and programs in real time as well as record for future engagement. We look forward to inviting community partners to use our technology to reach a wider audience with our shared values and service projects. Our own impact in the larger community, in-person and online, will allow our programs to be experienced well beyond our walls, and will create avenues for justice-related outreach and educational opportunities for the congregation and community. But most importantly, these advancements will help us to ensure that no one is left behind in an increasingly technological world. Our elders in senior living will have tech support via ‘loaner’ laptops and access to an actual person, one that they know and trust, to help them. For our often over-extended and exhausted families and young people, they will be able to access recorded programming at their convenience and join in with other opportunities as they are able. We look forward to creating children’s programming specifically designed for the young (and young at heart).”



The **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County**, Churchville MD is “thrilled and grateful to have been awarded an Innovative Growth Grant to help us to become even more the radically inclusive, social justice seeking fellowship we aspire to be. This grant will enable us to expand our ability to enrich our worship experience and to offer our ministries of community care and pastoral care to our current and new members. As we use the funds to reach out to the wider community by offering high-tech multi-platform services to include live-streaming, video, and music, as well as dynamic programs and speakers from around the country, our members, guests, and visitors will have the option to meet us where they are, whether it’s at home, in the sanctuary, on the website or in streamed services, through the new multiplatform technology.”

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