



CHALICE LIGHTERS

The Spark

The Newsletter of
the Chalice Lighter
Program Committee
Spring 2022

In this edition of *The Spark* Newsletter, we want to show how congregations are putting your generous donations to work right now. By being a Chalice Lighter, you make it possible for these congregations to build community by upgrading technology, and adding staff skilled in membership and outreach.

The **UU Church of Amherst, NY** was awarded a grant in the summer of 2021.



"The UU Church of Amherst is very grateful for the Chalice Lighter Grant we received. It has allowed our congregation to stay connected with professional quality video streaming and YouTube recordings. The congregation has been so enthusiastic over the hybrid services that some are choosing to stay remote, watch at their convenience or go to the watch parties and pre or post service chats. Beyond the services, for our elder members or those technologically insecure, we have had a tech person to teach them on laptops or iPads so they can be truly connected to Zoom events, lessons, book clubs, women's

group and much more. Our annual meeting will be done remotely so all members can have access. We are so appreciative and hope that others will take advantage of the Chalice Lighter Grant program. Here's a video showing the camera, mics etc. in action. <https://youtu.be/dIXsNh22jnk>"

The **UU Congregation of the Catskills, Kingston, NY** was awarded a grant in the winter of 2022.

"We have three groups working on this project and progress is being made at a nice clip. A technical team was formed and is progressing towards acquiring equipment for live streaming and for an in-sanctuary Zoom capability. Part of the equipment has been received and tested. The remaining items should be ordered within the next few months. Several individuals are pursuing the needs for sanctuary lighting and have contacted and met with an experienced individual who has made some preliminary recommendations. A committee on membership/outreach is exploring ways to acquire the expertise needed to help better define the needs and strategy to be used in this area."



Sometimes it takes a while before a grant can be used to spark change. In the spring of 2020, The **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester, Mt. Kisco, NY** was awarded a grant to add a part-time Membership Coordinator to their staff. The disruption of the pandemic made them wait to take the grant or make the hire, but it also showed the importance of social media and outreach skills in adding and retaining members. The job description was expanded. After a long search, UUFNW has found a great candidate who is excited to start in the next few weeks.