

September Publications Update

News, resources, and more!

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UUA Publications

Skinner House Books

Unitarian Universalist Association

Announcing the 2022–2023 UU Common Read

The 2022–2023 UU Common Read is [*Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*](#) by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin, published by Skinner House Books. The Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action.

What calls Unitarian Universalists to create multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community? What do congregations need when they embark on this journey? What common threads run through their stories? In *Mistakes and Miracles*, Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—share how five diverse congregations encounter frustrations and disappointments, as well as hope and wonder, once they commit to the journey. The world has seen much turmoil, pain, and yes, glimmers of hope, in the three years since the publication of *Mistakes and Miracles*. As we enter a Common Read of this book, we find ourselves receiving its report with a changed spirit, an urgent need, and perhaps new hope for multiculturalism and antiracism work in our congregations and our movement.

Today, UU faith communities are grappling with a charge to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our communities, and our world. What lessons and inspiration can we find in *Mistakes and Miracles* to guide our striving for Beloved Community, today?

The UU Common Read will begin in late 2022 with a recorded conversation with the authors. If you are starting *Mistakes and Miracles* now, note that each chapter ends with questions to reflect on learning and experiences around multiculturalism and Beloved Community work in your own congregation. Materials for in-person and online gatherings will follow. Visit uua.org/read for more information.



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New from Skinner House

[Care for the World: Reflections on Community Ministry](#)

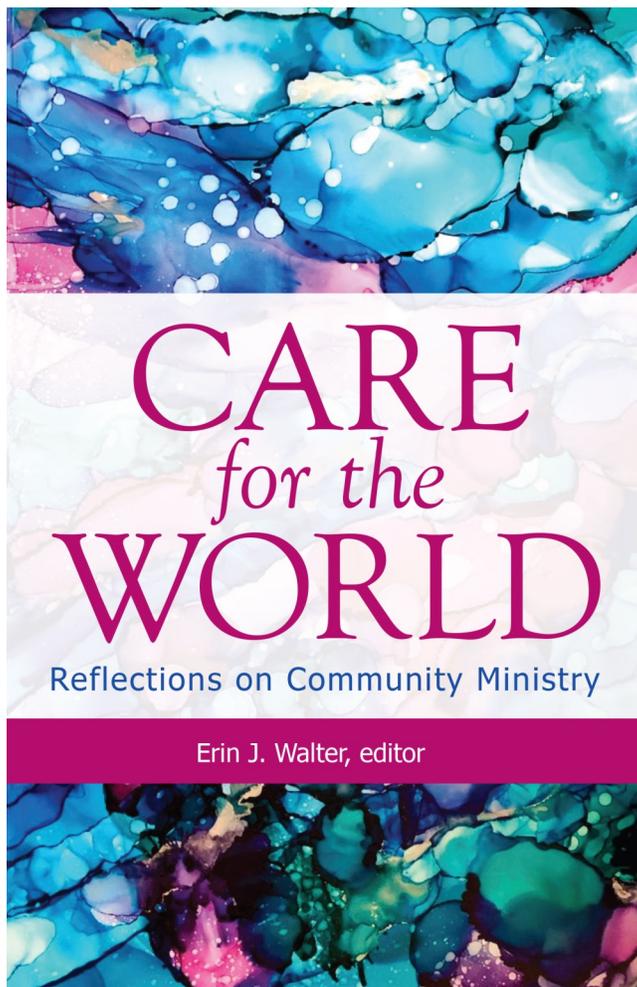
Community ministry is the fastest growing type of ministry in Unitarian Universalism and many ministers serve in some combination of parish and community work. But what is community ministry? It's not often clearly understood, and nonprofit work, justice movement leadership, and other forms of community ministry are still widely unknown or considered radical. When many people think minister, they still imagine only a church minister.

In *Care for the World: Reflections on Community Ministry*, editor Erin J. Walter and contributors offer essays, interviews, and resources to revolutionize our understanding of ministry, lifting up the rich diversity of community ministries—both lay and ordained and led by religious leaders with a broad range of life experiences, identities, and communities of care—within Unitarian Universalism. These reflections show the immense and vital work that Unitarian Universalists are doing in the world and will inspire readers to live a spirited, purposeful life, rooting their daily work in their deepest values and faith.

This collection will also support seminarians and religious professionals who are in or considering going into community ministry and inspire congregations to nurture and affiliate with community ministries. Without knowledge of the important work of community ministry, potential leaders may not answer their call. And the world needs this sacred, vibrant work now more than ever.

Rev. Erin J. Walter serves as the minister and executive director for the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry and a coach for Beloved Conversations. Rev. Erin is the singer/songwriter/bassist for band Parker Woodland and teaches dance as a joy practice. She is affiliated with Wildflower Church in Austin, Texas, and the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

Now available
to [pre-order!](#)



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Announcements and Resources

Recommended Congregational Resources

With the start of a new church year upon us, we'd like to highlight the following congregational resources. We hope they serve you well as you foster multicultural and antiracist Beloved Community, navigate change and conflict, and welcome new members.

[*Beyond Welcome: Building Communities of Love*](#), edited by Linnea Nelson—Through personal and collective reflections, these heartfelt essays tell stories of how it feels to be in Beloved Community while prompting readers to imagine what it will take to get us there.

[*Holding Change: The Way of Emergent Strategy Facilitation and Mediation*](#) by adrienne maree brown—In our complex world, facilitation and mediation skills are as important for individuals as they are for organizations. adrienne maree brown draws on the work of Black feminists to help anyone working to create changes in our world—individually, interpersonally, and within our organizations.

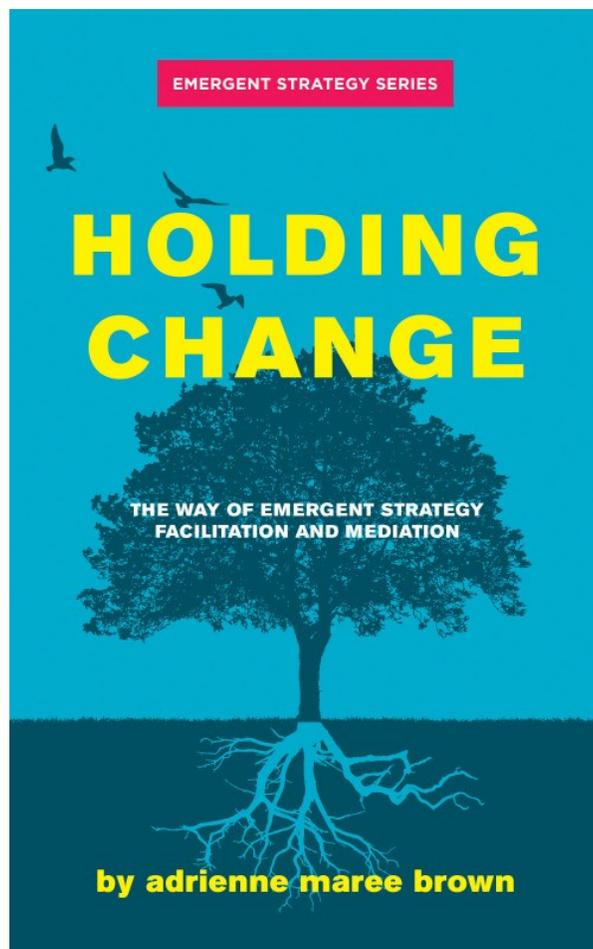
[*Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*](#) by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—Five diverse congregations encounter frustrations and disappointments, as well as hope and wonder, once they commit to the journey to create multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community.

[*The Spirit That Moves: Readings and Rituals for Times of Change and Transition*](#), edited by Rev. Barbara Child—A wealth of worship materials, including prayers, readings, chalice lightings, and more to help you and your congregation turn transition into transformation.

[*Transforming Conflict*](#) by Rev. Terasa Cooley—Exploring new understandings of how our bodies and minds respond to conflict, this resource offers concrete strategies for personal growth and healthy congregational functioning.

[*The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*](#), edited by Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray—The most complete introduction to Unitarian Universalism available, covering worship, religious education, social justice, community, and history.

[*We Are Unitarian Universalists Digital Package*](#)—A multimedia outreach tool for congregations. Each digital package includes an 8 ½ x 11 PDF; an audio file; a link to a video; an embed code for a web page with text, audio, and video; and social media graphics.



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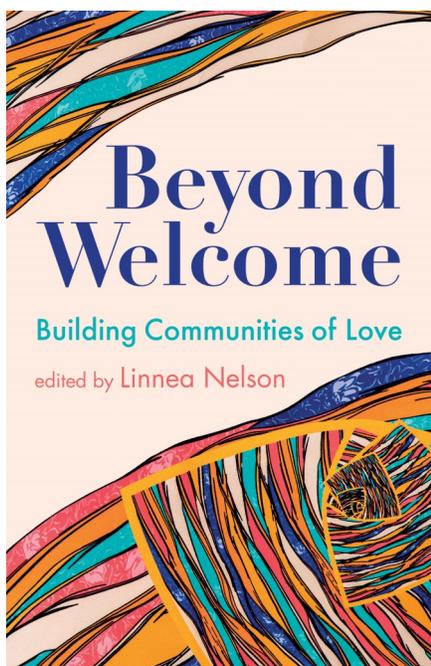
Announcements and Resources

Swinging on the Garden Gate

Review in *U.S. Catholic*

"I almost cried several times while reading *Swinging on the Garden Gate*. Not because it is a sad book. Well, I guess it was sad at times—every memoir is, after all. But mostly I wanted to cry because this book soothed something inside of me. It felt holy—as though the author had held out a piece of her heart and said, 'Here, this is for you.' When I first received a copy of the book, I almost couldn't believe my eyes. I'd never encountered a memoir of bisexuality, especially not a religious one . . ."

We're thrilled to share this stunning review of [Swinging on the Garden Gate](#) by award-winning writer and teacher Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew featured in *U.S. Catholic*. You can read the complete [review](#) online



September's Goodreads [Book Club](#) Pick

September's group read is [Beyond Welcome: Building Communities of Love](#), edited by Linnea Nelson. How do we go beyond welcome to build authentic, compassionate, and equitable communities? In *Beyond Welcome*, editor Linnea Nelson and contributors dream of a future where Unitarian Universalism upholds abundant love and universal justice within every community. Through personal and collective reflections, these heartfelt essays tell stories of how it feels to be in Beloved Community while prompting readers to imagine what it will take to get us there. With questions designed for both personal reflection and group discussion, *Beyond Welcome* is a powerful and necessary resource for all looking to live into the essence of community.



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