

Animals, Our Nature, and UUs: Bringing Our Principles to Life

A workshop to help us live compassionately and joyfully in a multispecies world

*Friday, March 24th, 7 - 9 p.m., UU Congregation of Sterling
(UUCS)*



Many humans feel disconnected from nature and the beings that co-inhabit the earth with us. We desire to care for other species and ecosystems, and are unsure how we can maximize flourishing for individuals of all species. One key is to remember

that we exist in an interdependent web where all Beings are connected to each other in inherent worth, dignity and beauty. By nurturing our emotional, social, multispecies, ecological, and spiritual intelligences, we can experience greater belonging, beauty, reverence, wholeness, joy, and vitality. With climate change, loss of biodiversity, extinction, racism, terrorism, and political upheaval ever before us, a group of Unitarian Universalists is asking what it would be like if our First Principle were the "inherent worth and dignity of every Being". The Nurture Nature program helps UUs bring our First Principle to life and empowers people who desire a better world for themselves and for others. It aims to inspire, educate, and support people to take care of themselves, their organizations, individuals of all species, and the biotic community. The program helps to develop awareness and understanding of nature, especially human nature as it relates to the world around us.

The UU First Principle Project Facilitator and Co-Director of *One Earth*, the Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner, will lead an interactive workshop for adults and teens. She will offer background, tools, facilitation, and options for UUs as individuals, congregations, and communities. This is an opportunity to unearth the deep roots of interlocking oppressions, heal our sense of disconnection from life on this earth, and promote justice with ever greater vigor and joy. **To register please sign up with the online registration or sign up at the table in the foyer.** There will be related activities at Maryland UU congregations on Saturday and Sunday.



Rev. Dr. Joyner is an inspiring speaker, Unitarian Universalist minister, wildlife veterinarian, and certified trainer in Nonviolent Communication. She draws on 30 years working in Latin America with marginalized people and endangered wildlife and 20 years working in Unitarian Universalist ministry. She is also an adjunct professor at the Unitarian Universalist seminary, Meadville Lombard Theological School, where she teaches "Multi-species and Ecological Ministry, Theology, and Justice" and "Compassionate Communication."

Location: UU Congregation of Sterling, 22135 Davis Drive, Suite #105, Sterling VA 20164. uusterling.org