

# THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

121 North Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 502, Amherst Massachusetts 01004

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## Important Information

**STREET ADDRESS:** 121 North Pleasant Street,  
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### INTERIM MINISTER

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Contact for an appointment.

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Vice President: *To be chosen*

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## NEWSLETTER

Copy Editor: Janis Gray, 413-259-1584

Production Editor: John Foster, 413-253-2632

Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month.

Please sign submissions, so we may reach you if we have questions. Submit entries one of two ways:

1. Email it to [jsgray@crocker.com](mailto:jsgray@crocker.com).
2. Mail it to 219 Wendell Road, Shutesbury MA 01072.

Please limit entries to 500 words (100 for the "For Your Information" section). Submissions may be edited to save space or to maintain a consistent style. Thank you!

Printed on recycled paper



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## Schedule of Services

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**Sunday, November 4, 10:30 A.M. – *The Rhetoric of Truth***

**The Rev. Cook**

One of the most consequential election days of contemporary times is upon us. What does it mean when all sides characterize their opponents as thieves?

**Sunday, November 11, 10:30 A.M. – *Serving Conscience and Country***

**The Rev. Cook**

Veterans Day reminds of us that the history of our country has been, and still is, entangled with war.

*Today is our Dedicated Offering Sunday.*

**Sunday, November 18, 10:30 A.M. – *Come, Ye Thankful People***

**The Rev. Cook**

A celebration of gratitude for the blessings of our lives.

**Sunday, November 25, 10:30 A.M. – *White Fragility***

**Glen Bertrand**

Glen's sermon will reflect on why it is so difficult for white folks to hear criticism and to accept responsibility for institutional racism. Although now associated with the First Congregational Church of Amherst, Glen has long been a friend of, and active participant in, our UU Society. He has spoken on several occasions from our pulpit, giving us inspiration and thought-provoking ideas. He was also one of the founders of the Wednesday morning Community Breakfast program.

*Many sermons and readings are posted on our website, [www.uusocietyamherst.org](http://www.uusocietyamherst.org). Click on the "SERMON ARCHIVE" button on the right side of the home page, and then on the title of the sermon you wish to read.*

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## Along the Way

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Dear Members and Friends of UUSA:

As we think about harvest and Thanksgiving, I wanted to share with you this meditation by Percival Chubb, a lovely and sensuous evocation of this glorious time of the year.

“A Harvest of Gratitude

“Once more the fields have ripened to harvest and the fruitful earth has fulfilled the promise of spring. The work of those who labor has been rewarded: They have sown and reaped, planted and gathered. How rich and beautiful is the bounty gathered. The golden grain and clustered corn, the grapes of purple and green. The crimson apples and yellow pears and the colors of orchard and field. Season follows after season, after winter the spring, after summer the harvest-laden autumn. From bud to blossom, from flower to fruit, from seed to bud again, and the beauty of the earth unfolds. From the harvest of the soil we are given occasion to garner a harvest of heart and mind. A harvest of resolve to be careful stewards of all life's gifts and opportunities. A harvest of reverence for the wondrous power and life at work in the things that grow, and in the soul. A harvest of gratitude for every good which we enjoy, and of fellowship for all who are sustained by earth's beauty.”

Percival Chubb was not a Unitarian Universalist. He was an Englishman who had been influenced by the ideas of Emerson and Thoreau, then came to this country in the 1930s to advocate for free thought and ethical culture, a spiritual/political movement inspired by religious humanism. His writings and hymn lyrics found a home with us not only because they are beautiful but also because we are open to inspiration and wisdom from many sources.

May your own season of harvest be one of blessing.

Rev. Steve

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## Dedicated Offerings

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Dedicated Offerings provide a way for our Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst community to recognize and financially support worthy organizations engaged in projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian-Universalist principles.

On one Sunday every month (except for June, July, and August) we schedule a Dedicated Offering (DO),

recognizing that our Society needs our support on the other Sundays of the month. Dedicated Offerings are suggested by both individuals and committees of the Society, and the program is managed by the Minister and the Dedicated Offering Committee. Our goal is to cover a wide range of areas of need in our area and in the larger world, including these categories: local, regional, national, international, environmental, medical, educational, animal rights, arts/music/culture, and different ages and genders.

Thank you for showing your support for the Dedicated Offering program, not only with your contributions to the DO recipients themselves, but also with your contributions to the Society on other Sundays when our budget counts on those receipts. Remember that no one is required to contribute to our Dedicated Offering recipients – this is a voluntary initiative.

Our September offering raised \$732.71 for **Picture Book Theatre**. (We hope some of our members will attend the theatre's performance of *The Littlest Matryoshka* at the Eric Carle Museum at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 24! It will be followed by a book signing by the author.)

Our October offering raised \$1023.60 for **The Care Center in Holyoke**.

**The November Dedicated Offering** during our Veterans Day service will benefit the **Friends of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Inc.** The Friends, an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff, raises funds for programs and equipment that are not state budgeted. The **Friends** provides a seven-day/week schedule of stimulating programs and activities designed to meet the needs of the 300 elderly veterans at the Home. Programs developed by the Friends include purchasing equipment to provide immediate and technologically advanced medical care. It is known for its excellent Quality of Life programming that makes the lives of the veterans more fulfilling through a variety of recreational, intellectual, literary, educational and spiritual offerings.

A large number of the veterans in the Home have no family to provide the diversions and emotionally satisfying experiences that we all need to thrive. The **Friends** work hard to provide group outings in the community, entertainment activities, and many other social functions, including birthday and holiday celebrations. These programs are not normally found in long-term care facilities. Please be generous with your donation for this most worthy cause.

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## Notes from the President

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Hello friends,

September was a formative month, and October promises to be another month of growth for us as we continue our third year of interim ministry and prepare for a settled minister. We have much to be thankful for.

The Board held a retreat September 15 that all found valuable. There was a good mix of feedback from presenters—Jackie Shanti from the UUA and Rev. Steve, our Interim Minister—as well as honest discussion and observations from our Board. We gained insight into the value of being on the Board, and began to experience a deeper and more sacred value to our work there as well as the fun we can have together while doing what we need to do to help sustain our beloved community.

We ended our time together that day with a list of goals for the year:

- Continue to oversee and vision our financial state in order to offer fair compensation for our incoming minister as well as our current staff
- Increase our communication with congregation to keep all apprised of what is happening to keep our congregation vital
- Help our Interim Minister introduce the transition and change that will help us all welcome a new Minister and help message the benefits of flexibility to our congregation
- Hone a clear definition of division of responsibilities for individual board members and keep a record or handbook for incoming Boards
- Enhance our leadership development to help ensure the kind of succession that will sustain the volunteer workforce of our congregation and grow the depth of commitment for new members
- Identify best practices for leadership
- Connect with UUA for Leadership Development.

As I said in my contribution to **Steve and Susan Rice's** service on community building September 30: Leadership is relational; it is interdependent. Successful, sustainable leadership depends on all of us taking a turn and

sharing the roles. This is illustrated by geese flying in v-formation: The leader makes it easier for the followers by taking on the headwinds, and the followers make it easier for the leader with the updraft of their wings. Most important, sometimes the leader falls back to rest, to become a follower, and one of the followers moves forward to take the lead. The geese model succession, which is vital to sustainable success. Everyone takes a turn.

Our seventh principle values the interdependent web of existence, the interdependence of people. Our faith is itself relational; it was created by people, for people right here, right now. To both give and receive with grace is a holy act that bestows worth and dignity to both giver and receiver. We lean on each other and we hold each other up. We talk and we listen. We help and we accept help. We share as the geese share; we have each other's backs. And there are few feelings as remarkable as the knowledge that someone has your back, that you are not alone.

If you have never served or if you have served for years on end, consider how you can change that by either stepping up or stepping back. If you have been a committee chair for a long time, longer than two years, consider how you will cultivate a new leader for next year. And if you need help, contact me or anyone from the Leadership Development Ministry—**Joe Flueckiger, Tom Fricke, and Bo Mack**. We can help you find a successor.

### **Notes from September:**

#### **STAFFING**

When **Judy Mitrolka**, our longtime congregational administrator and bookkeeper, resigned in June, the Board together with the Personnel Committee worked to find a temporary replacement. We were very fortunate to find **Lea Douville** through a recommendation of a congregant. Lea agreed to take on the position on a temporary basis over the summer—both to help us and to see if she liked the job. This also gave the UUSA time to do a formal search in September. Fortunately for all of us, Lea liked the job enough to throw her hat into the ring when we made our formal search in September. We had 17 applicants. I am very happy to announce that together with the Personnel Committee, the Board offered Lea the job of Office Administrator for 25 hours a week for 42 weeks over the formal church year, and 15 hours a week for 10 weeks over the summer. Lea accepted.

The Board and Personnel Committee similarly hired a bookkeeper consultant for the summer months to help us both keep our books and also understand what the job should look like going forward. Our consultant gave us the recommendation that we hire a bookkeeper for 5 hours a week over the course of the 42 weeks, and 2 hours a week over the 10 weeks of the summer. We are currently in our formal search for that position. We have six applicants.

#### **COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT**

The Personnel Committee continues to hone our UUSA Personnel Policy Manual. Over the last year the committee has created job descriptions for all positions, streamlined the staff evaluation process, and updated the manual to clarify the benefits offered to UUSA non-ministerial staff. In the past, we have not been consistent about staff evaluations and we want to make sure as we move forward that we honor the good work of our staff with helpful, consistent, recorded evaluations. Thank you to **Kelly Aiken, Lisa Harvey, Jenn Chylack, and Mike Sussman** for their hard work on this handbook. Thank you to the Board for helping to keep us accountable to this important process.

#### **VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Our longtime Social Supper coordinator **Carol Rothery** has stepped down. We are all so grateful to Carol for her many years of coordinating time for us to gather together to share food and conversation. The coordinator position is now open and we would be so grateful for someone to step forward to continue to facilitate this important fellowship.

We would love to welcome more people to help with the Welcome Table—greeting and orientating visitors to the congregation. This is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and model the warmth of this congregation. Help with the Membership Committee is also welcome.

We also need help with hosts for the Art Nights, welcoming the public to see our beautiful window during the periodic Amherst Art Nights (first Thursday of the month, April through October for UUSA).

Please contact **Karen Fisk** ([karenmargaretfisk@gmail.com](mailto:karenmargaretfisk@gmail.com)), or any member of the Board, if you are interested.

#### **SAFER CONGREGATION**

In order to renew our insurance this year, we needed to prove to the insurance company that we are in compliance with Safer Congregation rules, such as having two adults always present with children and youth under 18 years old. Our Director of Religious Education **Rebecca Fricke** was able to confirm we are in compliance and

our insurance was renewed. It is important to note, though, that we had to shift one of our policies. We used to allow two youth age 13-18 to work with children with an adult occasionally checking in. We are not allowed to do this anymore. Our children and youth must always have two adults present.

The Safer Congregation Task Force will meet this year to continue to hone our policies, including active shooter strategies and fire alarms. As always the safety of our congregation is a responsibility we all share.

### KEYS

One of the recommendations our Interim Minister has given us is also a process we had begun before he arrived—it is time to change out the keys for our external doors. Too many people have been given keys with no record kept of who all has keys. A task force consisting of representatives from the Rental Committee, the Building and Grounds Committee, the Board, and our Office Administrator and Director of Religious Education (wearing her Safer Congregation hat) are implementing the change. You will hear more about this—policies and timing—soon. We will also be regularly changing the external code for entrance to the building. You will also be hearing more about that. *(See also related article on page 11 — Your Copy Editor)*

### MINISTERIAL COMPENSATION PACKAGE NEGOTIATING TEAM

**Charlie Atwood**, from the Ministerial Search Team; **Rob Fuderich**, from the Board; and **Gorden Wyse**, from the Congregation, will work together to craft the Minister's Compensation Package and will be the team negotiating the final package with the incoming minister. **Steve Rice** will serve as a pinch-hitter for this important task force. Thank you to each for their service to our congregation.

### INSULATION WORK BY ENERGIA

Energia has begun to add to the insulation in the attic spaces of the building, further enhancing our energy efficiency. We received a grant that pays for ¾ of the work, thanks to the efforts of Energia and the Green Sanctuary Committee.

This is the first step in an ongoing exploration of energy usage to help ensure we are being responsible and frugal world citizens with our remarkable building.

More to come.

Yours in faith, Karen

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## Fundraising



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### AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH TWO SINGER/SONGWRITERS

**Where: UU Society of Amherst, 121 N. Pleasant St, Amherst, MA**

**When: Saturday, November 17, 2018, 7 - 9 P.M.**

**Sliding Scale: \$10-15/person**

**Join us for a concert of original music provided by artists Dave Dersham and Jason Threlfall.** Dave Dersham's lyrics are fiercely honest, wonderfully articulate and paint a unique image of Americana, with well-crafted songs of hope and challenge. Singer/songwriter Jason Threlfall delivers a warm and inviting look at the everyday things that matter to us all.

Light snacks and drinks will be offered.

The concert is a fundraiser for our UU Society.



## STONE SOUP BAZAAR & CAFE – December 1 – DON'T MISS IT!

Back by popular demand, we will be hosting this fundraising event again on Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Save some of your holiday shopping and enjoy the many artisans and craftspeople who will be present. And don't forget the yummy homemade soups, breads and baked goods available for breakfast and lunch. Our vendor list is growing, but we have room for more if you know anyone! Parents, grandparents and people of all ages are sure to find that special something for the people on their lists.



A beautiful quilt has been donated by **Rachel Peterson** for the Quilt Raffle this year! The quilt (shown above) and the famous UU gift baskets will be displayed during November, and raffle tickets will be available for purchase.

And soon it will be time to get busy in the UUSA kitchen! Once again we will be looking for teams of soup makers and muffin bakers. If you are willing to gather a team to make one of the delicious soups or trays of muffins for sale in the Café, please let **Catharine Porter** know at [catherine220@comcast.net](mailto:catherine220@comcast.net). Save the date and join in the fun! We'll be looking for volunteers for day-of jobs such as helping vendors, staffing the kitchen and Café and hosting kids' activities. If you are able to help, email **Libby Stanforth** at [bstanforth@comcast.net](mailto:bstanforth@comcast.net).

### STONE SOUP BAZAAR: Gift Basket Raffle

Each year UU committees contribute baskets to raffle off at the Stone Soup Bazaar, this year on December 1. (The raffle is at 3:30 P.M. that day.)

The baskets are creative and fun and make wonderful gifts! And this is a great fundraiser for UUSA. We are asking two things of you:

1. Please buy raffle tickets! They will be on sale November 18, 25, and at the Bazaar: 1 for \$1; 6 for \$5; and 12 for \$10. (Note: The odds of winning are usually pretty good!)
2. Donate a basket! You and a friend could get together and create a basket! This involves picking a theme (a craft like knitting, cooking, food or drink for a party, a kid or pet theme—your imagination is the limit! The basket should be brought to UUSA on Sunday, November 4 or 11 to the Social Hall before the service. Items in the basket should be new, and most baskets are worth \$60 or more, but anything appealing is welcome! This IS a fundraiser!

Thanks for any help to make this a successful fundraiser! For questions contact **Jeanne Ballantine** [Jeanne.ballantine@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanne.ballantine@gmail.com) or 937-767-7417.

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## Ministerial Search Committee

We are moving along, meeting once a week, and making good progress. We have a negotiating team: **Charlie Atwood, Gordon Wyse and Rob Fuderich. Steve Rice** will be a backup. Thanks to all of those folks! The negotiating team has the job of working with the Board this month to decide on the salary we can offer. In February and March, Charlie will answer precandidates' questions, if they have any. The negotiating team will work closely with our final candidate next spring. The salary is a critical part of the puzzle, especially since we live in a place where housing is expensive. We want to be sure that we offer a fair and competitive package.

We have four "neutral pulpits" set up, thanks to **Carol Johnson**. We can't tell you where they are, except that we will be touring around New England. We don't know whether we will have three or four candidates who come for a weekend of interviewing, seeing the area, and giving a sermon at a neutral pulpit. But we are responsible for the Sunday service at each of the four UU congregations. **Mary Herman and Polly Peterson** have offered to be on call, and may go offer a sermon at one of our four neutral pulpits, if we don't have a candidate minister coming on one of those weekends.

We are working our way through a brand new UUA handbook for doing searches, which they just published. The UUA has also changed the process of exchanging information between congregations in search and ministers looking for jobs, so we will be guinea pigs this year, trying out a new website and the new handbook. There have been a few glitches already, but their web designers, the UUA contact for Searches, and our coach, Debby Bergh, are happy to answer questions, so presumably everything will work out fine.

**Sue Kelly and Janis Gray** led two cottage meetings. A small number of congregants attended both. They shared their thoughts about the UUSA and their hopes for the future. We will include their ideas in the description of UUSA that we put together for our candidates.

Several of us were previously on other committees, and have had to shed those responsibilities, in order to focus on the search. Thanks to **Steve Rice** for taking **Louise Grosslein's** place as chair of the Green Sanctuary committee this year, and to many people who are taking leadership roles for the Stone Soup Bazaar. **Sue Kelly** is still serving as the Chair for Stone Soup Bazaar, but there is someone else in charge of every part of the bazaar at this point. **Janis Gray** wears many hats, and would welcome help on the Membership committee and also at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings. Luckily for all of us, she wants to keep doing the newsletter, even though she is on the Search committee!

We are grateful for your support, as we continue our work on the Search committee.

Carol Johnson, Charlie Atwood, Janis Gray, Kiana Diggs, Sue Kelly,  
Jess Murphy and Louise Grosslein (co-chairs)

### Are you bringing flowers for the Chalice Table?

To add another personal dimension to a special piece of that day's worship, you'll be invited (if you wish) to briefly note a special acknowledgement or dedication of the flowers, which will be included in the Order of Service. Celebrating an anniversary, dedicating to the memory of a loved one, acknowledging a life transition, or honoring someone special are some examples.

If you'd like to sign up to bring flowers on a future date with special meaning to you, please contact [SusannePersonette@gmail.com](mailto:SusannePersonette@gmail.com).



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## Religious Education Ministry



Let's embrace the darkness, dance in the swirling leaves, crunch on apples and carve our pumpkins, and find small ways to share the upcoming holidays with those of us who are less fortunate.

**Preschool:** Fall is a good time to explore family and friends and talk about our UU Seven Principles. **Jacy** has an endless amount of good energy for our littlest members.

**Elementary:** Every Sunday I work with K-5th graders to tackle a different UU topic through art, drama, and other kinds of activities. Since the start of our year we have made shoe box sanctuaries, designed our own chalices and talked about the "official names" of things in our sanctuary. We will continue to working on learning UU basics like our principles and our sources. One wonderful addition to our program is that **Maura Whalen** has volunteered to help the children become part of the choir once a month. After most RE sessions the children will practice songs and hymns for the upcoming whole congregation service.

**Sanctuary Keepers:** This year 6th - 8th graders will be helping the adult sanctuary keepers complete the tasks necessary for a smooth service. Thanks to **Kyle Cave**, **Steve Ransford** and **Elliott Kelly** for giving these young people guidance and trusting them with these serious responsibilities.

Finally, thank you to the families who are signed up for our RE programming! If you know of families who would like to join us – the more the merrier!

Rebecca

Director of Religious Education

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## Membership

We are pleased to report that **Yael Fuerst** and **Jennifer Mark** signed our venerable Membership Book October 14. They reside in Amherst.

We will have a New Member Recognition Ceremony during the service on November 18 for those who have joined our UU Society since May, as well as others who joined our UU Society in 2017-2018 year but were unable to attend the ceremony in June. It will be a celebration with meaning for everyone!

Meanwhile, if you are interested in becoming a member, please speak with **Rev. Steve**. For more information, you can also stop by the Welcome Table in the Social Hall following a service!

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## Hospitality



Hello Everyone!

We hope you are enjoying the Social Hour after the 10:30 service. We enjoy seeing that it happens every Sunday but are in need of everyone's support to continue this long-standing tradition.

We must have at least two people every Sunday and three would be better, in order to provide the refreshments.

### Can you please help?

If you do not believe you are able to do the setup and work in the kitchen, we would welcome a donation of food or cash in order to defray the costs as we do not have a budget set aside for expenses.

**Please check our sign-up sheet and volunteer.**

We welcome your support.

Mary Latham and Catharine Porter

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## Social Events

**The Women's Lunch Group** meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at noon for spirited conversation over local, inexpensive cuisine. Our luncheon November 8 will be at House of Teriyaki, 1177 North Pleasant Street, Amherst. We welcome every woman, whether she is new to our Society or a longer-time member or friend. It is not necessary to RSVP, but if you have questions or want to be on the e-notification list, contact **Sophie Rogers** at [sophiesailing@gmail.com](mailto:sophiesailing@gmail.com) or 413-772-9814.

**The Men's Breakfast Group** meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 A.M. at Kelly's Restaurant (314 College Street, Amherst). Contact **Michael Sussman** at [msussma@music.umass.edu](mailto:msussma@music.umass.edu) for details.



## Social Action



**Just One Thing** On **November 11**, the second Sunday of the month, there will be a collection for the Survival Center. As the weather gets colder, more hearty food is required. A list of specific items needed will be printed in the emailed announcements two weeks before. As always, thank you for your support of our neighbors in need. For information please contact Mary Beth Seminario, 413-253-0894, [mbsem@comcast.net](mailto:mbsem@comcast.net),

**Sanctuary** The week of **December 10** our Society will be responsible for providing **meals for Lucio Perez at First Congregational Church in Amherst**. For further information contact Mary Beth Seminario, [mbsem@comcast.net](mailto:mbsem@comcast.net), 253-0894. Thank you.

**UUSA Community Breakfast Needs You!** The UUSA has been providing volunteers for the free Community Breakfast in the Willie Eaton Social Hall every Wednesday for three years. We serve 80-120 guests a freshly cooked hot meal of eggs, home fries, sausages, pastries, cereal, toast, juice and coffee or tea – all provided by Amherst's Craig's Doors. Our breakfast is important as the Amherst Survival Center, which is open other days, is closed on Wednesday. Our breakfast team works closely with Craig's Doors, which helps people find ways to become empowered and improve the quality of their lives through the creation of safe, respectful shelter and housing. We regularly experience a shortage of volunteers. Dishwashers and cleanup crew are especially difficult positions to fill, but many other jobs are also available. Contact **Clare Bertrand** at [clarebertrand@gmail.com](mailto:clarebertrand@gmail.com). She will send you a weekly email reminder with a link where you can see what positions are available for each week. For questions or more information contact Clare, or **Sophie Rogers**, [sophiesailing@gmail.com](mailto:sophiesailing@gmail.com)

## UUSA Open Studio

Winter 2018-19



**Do you paint?**  
**Would you enjoy some company while you paint and like to get helpful feedback on your work? If so, this is for you!**

UUSA will be holding Open Studio for painters of all media and all levels in our beautiful Social Hall on ten Fridays this winter. You can paint or draw whatever you'd like: bring photo references to paint from, finish something you started elsewhere such as plein air pieces, or just make up something. You can come to one or come to all sessions – it's up to you!

We will paint from 9am to 12pm, then share a bag lunch and friendly critique from 12pm to 1pm on the following first and third Fridays of each month:

Nov. 2	Dec. 7	Jan. 4	Feb. 1	Mar. 1
Nov. 16	Dec. 21	Jan. 18	Feb. 15	Mar. 15

Here's what you need to do:

1. **Please Doodle when you are coming.** <https://doodle.com/poll/tqk4ikku59w3g28e>
2. **Contribute a donation of \$5 to \$10 cash** each time to help cover the cost of heat and lights.
3. Bring your own **plastic shower curtain or drop cloth** to protect the floors and tables around your work area. Or use one of our red ones.
4. Bring your own **paints**, brushes, canvases, portable easel, etc.

Email me with any questions. [SusannePersonette@gmail.com](mailto:SusannePersonette@gmail.com) Hope to paint with you this winter!

Susanne Personette

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# Our Caring Ministries

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Grandfather! Grandmother!  
Look at our brokenness.

We know that in all creation  
Only the human family  
Has strayed from the Sacred Way.

We know that we are the ones  
Who are divided,

And we are the ones  
Who must come back together  
To walk again the Sacred Way.

Grandmother! Grandfather!  
Sacred great spirit!  
Teach us love, compassion,

Thanksgiving and honor

That we may heal our Earth  
And heal each other.

from Native Ojibway of North America

Our Minister, Caring Circle and Pastoral Care Team are all available to help during difficult times.

**Our Caring Circle** coordinator is **Catharine Porter**. Please contact her or your own Caring Person for rides, food, and simple needs. Other Caring Circle members are **Linda Callahan, Carolyn Holstein, Gabriella Horvay, Mary Latham, Martha Nelson, Susan Rice, Lynn Sussman and Gordon Wyse**.

**Our Pastoral Care Team** co-coordinators are **Pete Rogers and Mary Wyse**. Other members are **Rev. Elizabeth Alcaide, Rev. Stephen Cook, Charlie Atwood, Rob Fuderich, Mary Herman, Carol Johnson, and Fran Plumer**. Please contact one of them for more complex or personal needs.

We send love and support to all those who are struggling with illness, bereavement, or difficulties of any kind in your lives or the lives of your loved ones.

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## Small Group Ministry

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### **A New UU Small Group is Forming**

In this group we will reflect on what it means to grow older, with our focus on topics related to elders and aging. We will meet two times a month, on Tuesday mornings, from 10:00 to 12:00, starting in January, for a total of eight sessions. Meetings will take place at the UU Society.

Here are the dates:

**Tuesdays, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. on:**

**January 15, 29, February 12, 26, March 12, 26, April 9, 23.**

Please contact Anne Louise White if you are interested in joining or have any questions.

*Anne's phone: 413-367-9761      Email: annieluigie@gmail.com*

**Please contact Anne Louise White or Mary Wyse (413-549-5406) as well to join either a regular ongoing small group or another kind of time-limited group.**

October 2018

Dear Friends,

We have a long tradition of being an open and accessible community where many people take ownership of our building, projects, and other important initiatives. Since the “new building” opened years ago we have distributed keys to our building to many people, some of whom are no longer associated with our Society. In an effort to gain some oversight of this we would like to change the locks and reissue keys to those who need them. Additionally, we intend to change the 4 digit code for the back door. Again, we will provide this code to all who need it. Lea Douville, our Office Administrator will be in charge of distributing keys and codes. Please reach out to her at [office@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:office@uusocietyamherst.org) to set up a time to meet or call the office at 413-253-2848.

We anticipate making this change by December 1, 2018.

We understand this change may be challenging for some. Please bear with us as we engage in this process to promote safety and security for our Congregation and for renters utilizing the building.

In gratitude,

Your Board of Trustees