

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Important Information

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The following staff can be reached by email or by calling the office and leaving a message: 413-253-2848

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CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR: Lea Douville

office@uusocietyamherst.org

Office Hours: Tues, Thurs & Fri 10-3

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Brenda Miller music@uusocietyamherst.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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NEWSLETTER

Copy Editor: Janis Gray

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Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month.

Email them to jsgray@crocker.com.

Please understand we cannot cut and paste PDF files into the newsletter, so submissions should either be Word documents, rich text files or written in the body of the email. 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



Schedule of Services

We are holding our Sunday Services online

to help protect the health of our community through June 2021, or until a vaccine or reliable treatment is found for COVID-19.

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. on Sundays at the bit.ly link provided.

Sunday, July 5, 10:30 A.M. – *Civil Liberties in This Time of Three Pandemics*

Bill Newman

Our country and communities are simultaneously confronted with the pandemics of COVID-19; police violence against communities of color; and assaults on freedom. This talk will reflect on the ability of our institutions and principles to respond to the onslaught. Guest speaker Bill Newman, a civil rights and civil liberties lawyer, has served as the Director of the Western Regional Law Office of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts since 1987.

Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/3dbLCy7> Or call in: 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 926 9607 8764 Password: 539606

Sunday, July 12, 10:30 A.M. – *Confessions of an Avid Gardener*

Sue Kelly

Gardening has taught me about the illusion of control and the importance of acceptance.

Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/3dbLCy7> Or call in: 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 926 9607 8764 Password: 539606

Sunday, July 19, 10:30 A.M. – *Deepening Intimacy in the time of COVID:*

How Small Group Ministry Has Nourished Us

Members of Anne Louise White's Small Group Ministry

Moving from the Old Normal through the No Normal to the New Normal with Grace.

Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/3dbLCy7> Or call in: 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 926 9607 8764 Password: 539606

Sunday, July 26, 10:30 A.M. – *Adversity and Resilience*

Toon Fuderich

Leaning on my previous research on trauma and transformation, I will share personal stories told by Cambodian war child survivors who triumphed against the incredible odds. Gleaned from their stories and stories that I learned from other resilient Individuals whom I met while working in several war torn countries, are lessons learned about the “protective factors” that helped them to fend off the most severe life adversity that they faced, to keep on going during the darkest moments, to keep love and hope intact.

Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/3dbLCy7> Or call in: 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 926 9607 8764 Password: 539606

Texts of some sermons are available to members and friends of UUSA by request. Send email to office@uusocietyamherst.org Many older sermons and readings are posted on www.uusocietyamherst.org. Click on the “SERMON ARCHIVE” button on the right side of the home page.

If you would like help getting to know Zoom for use as a meeting participant, or if you would like help setting up a Zoom meeting for your congregational event, committee meeting, or small group, please reach out to Lea in the office: office@uusocietyamherst.org

Message from the President

A year and a half ago, when Joe asked me to consider being VP, I thought carefully before I said “yes,” because I understood that after a year, I would likely be president. But I never expected to be president at such a critical time. The last few months for me and for all of us have been a time of deep reflection, and of fear; and knowing that I would be president weighed heavily on me. Like all of you, I care deeply about this spiritual community, and I questioned how I could possibly lead our congregation during this pandemic. However, since the horrific murder of George Floyd, the country’s outrage at our systemic injustice, and the continued marches and demonstrations, I guardedly am hopeful.

By the time you read this, the UUA General Assembly will have come and gone. This year, FIVE members of our congregation attended, a first in the history of the UUSA! That speaks volumes to our congregation’s commitment to actively making the world a better place, and it can only mean that amazing things will be happening in the fall for our spiritual community and our larger community.

In the coming months when we are planning how to continue all the things we do, you are likely to be asked to help. Please say “yes.” Please consider joining a committee...all of our committees need new energy, new ideas, new faces. If you are looking for a way to deepen your connection with this community, contact any of us on the board or our office administrator. Lea says that her most important function is to keep us all connected, making sure we all feel a part of this congregation.

In Community,
Susan Rice

2020-21 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Susan Rice

Clerk: Emily Shankle

Treasurer: Peter Lacey

President Emerita: Karen Fisk

Youth Representative: Emma McIntire

At-large: Sue Alexander

At-large: Ben Brau

At-large: Rosie Cowell

At-large: Anne Moore

At-large: Susanne Personette

At-large: Richard Roznoy

Religious Education Ministry



Ready or not – here comes summer! In between staying safe, staycations, vacations and trying to work in the new normal, remember the UUSA continues to provide worship every Sunday. During the summer **Jacy** will be Zooming every Sunday (except the last Sunday of the month) from 9:45 - 10:10 A.M. for children of all ages. (July - 5, 12, 19//August - 2,9,16,23//September - 6). The Children’s Zoom will include an activity using easy-to-find household items and a check-in. Parents, please see your email for the Zoom link and more details. If you are not on the RE list and you would like to be, please contact our Office Administrator or myself.

People wonder what I do during the summer, and I thought I would take a moment to describe my goals for the coming months. I have 25 hours to clean up our RE space and plan our online curriculum for this coming year. Since we will be doing RE online next year, the children will be divided into the following groups: Pre-K, K-5th, 6th-7th and 8-12th. We will be working with Rev. Rachael’s themes as well as some UU curricula. The 6th-7th graders will be doing a Sanctuary Keeper program that I developed a few years ago, and the Youth Group will be meeting on a regular basis.

To help with the planning, parents are encouraged to fill out this survey:

<https://forms.gle/VMtfC3KEnmKN9ATLA>

Please talk to me if you are interested in volunteering online with the RE children. The children in the UUSA are OUR children, and one of the reasons families come is so that their children can get to know a community of people of all different ages. It is meaningful when adults from “upstairs” come to be with the RE group, and I think you will find working with RE is a different form of worship. Please contact me for more information: dre@uusocietyamherst.org or 413-687-8722.

YoUUs,

Rebecca Fricke

DRE

UUSA THE VOTE

UPDATE!

As of early July, UUSA the Vote Volunteers and the Leverett Chorus have mailed 4,800 postcards to voters of color in Georgia, Texas and North Carolina. Donations have been really helpful, and the Core Team is ordering another 6,000 **Vote for Our Lives** postcards to use this summer. Our partner is Reclaim Our Vote Campaign, a non-partisan post carding, phone bank and text banking campaign created by the Center for Common Ground. It focuses on contacting voters of color in voter-suppression states to help them register and vote. Their North Carolina strategy has three purposes:

- Encourage voters of color to vote. Send them to a website to pledge to vote.
- This will update the NAACP voter database.
- Ask them to pass along what they know to five more people. Are you curious about how our own state’s process will work for our next election, the September 1 state primary? Start by finding out if you are correctly registered to vote. Use this link:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

If you have moved or neglected to send in your town census form, this is particularly important. Your registration information will drive where election officials send you information and applications to vote by mail.

Do you have Massachusetts friends and families that you would like to encourage to vote? Copy and paste the connection above, email them and ask if they are preparing to vote. For other states a national non-profit, <https://www.vote.org/>, provides information.

ION Corner

"Standing Up for Racial Justice" Weekly Vigil

Stand with us on Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 P.M. at the center of Amherst at the corner of Amity & S. Pleasant Street.

For releasing the children/immigrants/refugees from the detention camps. For undoing white privilege.

Bring big signs, wear masks, continue social distancing.

Sponsored by Interfaith Opportunities Network

For information. contact info@interfaithamherst.org

Social Events

Women's Circle meets via Zoom at noon on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. It's an opportunity to connect with friends and become better acquainted with other women in the congregation whom you may not know as well. Join Zoom meeting by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/35nW8jB> Meeting ID: 983 8988 5674; Password: 135383 or call in at +1 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID: 983 8988 5674.

Music Notes

Although I miss you all terribly, it is heartening that we have remained together and connected throughout this difficult time. I love seeing your faces and do wish that we could sing together. I am hoping that in the fall there will be some better technology so that the choir can do more projects.

I want to thank you all for the importance you place on the music in our services. Rev. Rachael and I have had a very compatible and pleasant working relationship, and have worked very diligently and thoughtfully to put together music that coincides with the theme of each service. She is so thoughtful and absolutely inclusive of every kind of person and every kind of music. It is sometimes challenging to be certain to come up with relevant and moving music for each service. It is one of the most time-consuming yet interesting parts of my position as Music Director at the UUSA.

I want to wish everyone a pleasant summer, with as many opportunities for connection and outdoor activities as possible. I will be intermittently resting my brain from this work and collecting ideas for our next season together.

With my best wishes for your good health,
Brenda Miller

Brenda Miller
Director of Music, UUSA she/her/hers

Our Caring Ministries



It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words: "And this, too, shall pass away." How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction!

Abraham Lincoln

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, Kate Dahlstedt, Gabriela Horvay, Mary Latham, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Lynn Sussman, and Gordon Wyse**.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Fran Plumer** and **Charlie Atwood**. Other members are the **Rob Fuderich, Gene Herman, Rev. Rachael Hayes, Carol Johnson, Pete Rogers, and Mary Wyse**. Please contact one of them for more complex or personal needs.

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