

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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N E W S L E T T E R

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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!

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Schedule of Services

**Since March 15, 2020, we have been
holding our Sunday Services online
to help protect the health of our community, and we will continue to do so through June 2021,
or until a vaccine or reliable treatment is found for COVID-19.**

Sunday, November 1, 10:30 a.m. – *For All Souls*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <https://bit.ly/34fhroM>, Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261
Passcode: 528648. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261.

Sunday, November 8, 10:30 a.m. – *Breathe In, Breathe Out*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <https://bit.ly/34fhroM>, Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261
Passcode: 528648. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261.

Sunday, November 15, 10:30 a.m. – *First Light*

Annanon Weeden

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <https://bit.ly/34fhroM>, Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261
Passcode: 528648. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261.

Sunday, November 22, 10:30 A.M. – *Memory Mourning Gratitude Resilience*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <https://bit.ly/34fhroM>, Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261
Passcode: 528648. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261.

Sunday, November 29, 10:30 A.M. – *Yoga and the Quest for Truth*

Matthew Andrews

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <https://bit.ly/34fhroM>, Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261
Passcode: 528648. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID: 993 7990 2261.

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

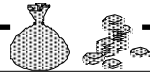
Texts of some sermons are available to members and friends of UUSA by request. Send email to office@uussocietyamherst.org Some of our sermons are also posted on www.uusocietyamherst.org. Click on the "SERMON ARCHIVE" button on the right side of the home page.

Dedicated Offerings

One Sunday every month (except for June, July, and August), we have traditionally scheduled a Dedicated Offering to recognize and financially support worthy organizations engaged in projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian-Universalist principles.

The Dedicate Offering (DO) Committee met last summer, and due to our Zoom only services and lower offerings, we decided on just one DO every three months rather than every month. We chose to fund Amherst's homeless shelter, Craig's Doors, from September through November – a decision made before it was even suggested that the UUSA might shelter some of the homeless guests of Craig's Doors for the upcoming colder months! The DO will be collected again for the third month, November. Please be generous! Craig's Doors needs our donations. Checks can be made to the UUSA, with Craig's Doors listed on the subject line.

The DO Committee will be meeting soon to decide on two more DOs, for January—March, and April - June. If you have a suggestion for a DO recipient, please email **Carolyn Holstein** your suggestion.



UUSA Virtual FUNdraiser a Success!

Well UUSA, we really did it this time! We raised over five thousand dollars and we did it from the comfort and safety of our own homes. Thank you to all of you who made your donations to keep UUSA vibrant and healthy in these challenging times. Your generosity is heart-warming. The Finance committee and other prospective fundraising volunteers are grateful to know that we have surpassed our fundraising goal for the year. Hooray!!

Sadly, we couldn't be together in person to celebrate, but the virtual Variety Show on Saturday, October 17, was a big hit. Many thanks to **Carolyn Cave**, our emcee, for her witty repartee and wonderful and inspiring party hats. She made about a dozen charming and creative head pieces and entertained us by donning a different one before every single act in the show. **Kyle Cave** was our expert and totally competent Zoom master who made the transitions from one act to another seem effortless. We know there was actually a lot of effort involved! Thanks, Carolyn and Kyle!



To our Variety Show participants we say, "Hooray, thank you and great fun!" **Rev. Rachael** reminded us in song to "Enter, Rejoice and Wear Pants." **Lauren Croce** and **Helen Blatz** demonstrated beauty parlor expertise with various shades of makeup, including green lipstick applied with wild abandon. **Chas Stevens** treated us to Lewis Carroll's *The Jabberwocky*. **Janis Gray** sang a parody of Malvina Reynolds's "Little Boxes," written by Paul Kaplan, a local songwriter, about the little boxes we see in our Zoom screens. **Ron** and **Louise Grosslein** wrote and sang a COVID-themed parody based on the Broadway song "Any Dream will Do." They managed to come up with lines

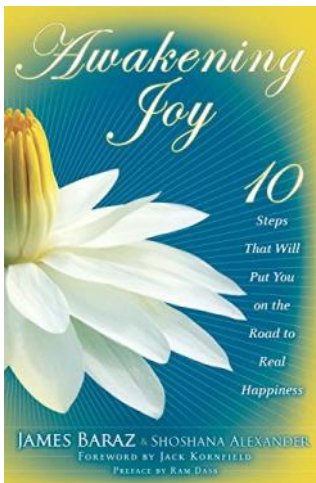
that rhymed, though some of it was a bit of a stretch, like "work" rhyming with "berserk." **Theo Stanforth** sang a song for us, beautifully. **Ron** wrapped things up with some lively fiddle tunes and then we all joined together in a dance party. It was a hoot! We laughed and celebrated and had a wonderful time together.

Thank you all again,

Sue Kelly, Louise Grosslein, and Fran Plumer



Adult Programming



UUSA Women's Spiritual Practice Group All relationships take tending to, including our relationship to our own spirituality. Spirituality points to the essence of who we are and our place of belonging in the greater interdependent web of the universe, seen and unseen. Love, mystery, awe, confusion, doubt and despair are all a part of our journey. In this twice monthly group, we will gather on Zoom to study, practice and share our experiences of tending to our own human consciousness. Come as you are. No previous experience with any particular types of practices are necessary.

We will begin by reading *Awakening Joy: Ten Steps That Will Put You On the Path to Real Happiness* by James Baraz and trying out the suggested practices for ourselves. If you are interested, email **Jess Murphy**. (Contact our office if you do not have access to our directory.) When we have gathered enough interest, she will send respondents a Doodle poll with potential times to meet.

Since 2015, our UU Society has been co-hosting a free weekly community breakfast on Wednesdays with Craig's Doors. Representatives from agency partners are present to assist with needs such as case management, applying for MassHealth, etc. During the pandemic, breakfasts prepared in our kitchen have been brought outside to our guests in individual containers, rather than being served buffet-style in our Social Hall. Many thanks to UUSA member **Chas Stevenson**, one of our breakfast volunteers, for these photos!



Check out **Rebecca Fricke's** Director of Religious Education Blog for past descriptions of Sunday activities. Rebecca's blog includes written descriptions, website links and photos. Any? Ask! Want to get involved? Email Rebecca at DRE@UUAmherst.org.

<https://u2canuu.wordpress.com/>

Social Events

Women's Circle meets via ZOOM at noon on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Next meeting: November 12. This is an opportunity to meet with friends and become better acquainted with other women in the congregation whom you may not know as well.

Join by clicking <https://bit.ly/35nW8jB> Meeting ID: 983 8988 5674; Password: 135383 or call in at +1 646 876 9923 and enter Meeting ID. Please contact **Sophie Rogers** if you want to be in the email notification list.

Our Caring Ministries



We already have everything we need. There is no need for self-improvement. All these trips that we lay on ourselves – the heavy-duty fearing that we're bad and hoping that we're good, the identities that we so dearly cling to, the rage, the jealousy and the addictions of all kinds – never touch our basic wealth. They are like clouds that temporarily block the sun. But all the time our warmth and brilliance are right here. This is who we really are. We are one blink of an eye away from being fully awake.

Pema Chodron

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.

Connecticut River Cleanup 2020



Many UUSA folks turned out to clean up the river on September 26. We divided the land crew into three small groups and wore masks so we could make sure to maintain social distancing. **Steve Rice, Anne Perkins, Rob and Heather Roose** and **Chas Stevens** worked together and cleaned up a big pile of construction debris. **Carolyn Cave, Louise Grosslein** and **Hetty Startup** were a team that hauled out a big metal grating, a tire, many very long metal

pipes, and some metal fencing, among other things. **Sophie and Pete Rogers** and **Polly Peterson** and **Jon Solins** worked on cleaning up an old dump on a fairly steep bank that we found last year. They pulled



out lots of heavy metal, and lots of broken glass. The whole pile was quite impressive, especially since the park actually



looked pretty good when we arrived. We found more than we had expected.

Ron Grosslein used a homemade grappling hook and counterbalance on a canoe to get tires out of the river before cleanup day. Five of them spent several weeks in Ron and Louise's backyard, until Ron could deliver them to a pickup site on cleanup day



Many years ago, Ron found a ravine full of tires off the Deerfield River. He figures this is likely a big source of the many tires that he has pulled out of the Deerfield and CT rivers over the years. This year a company hauled 350 of those tires out of the mud. They filled two dump trucks. The Greenfield Fire Dept. offered to hose them down, but needed people to flip the tires over so they could



clean both sides. **Andy Fisk**, Director of the CT River Conservancy, **Ron**, **Sue** and **Elliot Kelly**, **Jeff** and **Susan Clark**, **Lea Douville** and her son, **Louis**, and **Charlie Atwood** came and flipped tires for several hours. The tires are going to get recycled. There are still probably many, many hundreds of tires in the ravine that will hopefully get pulled out in another year. All in all, our group made a big difference! Thanks to everyone who helped and everyone else who cheered us on.

