

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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NEWSLETTER

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Deadline for submissions: 20th 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

For fuller descriptions of our upcoming online lay-led services, please check our weekly announcements, our [website](#) or our [Facebook page](#) closer to the date! Thank you.

Sunday, July 4, 10:30 A.M. – Voter Suppression

Bill Newman

Bill Newman returns as our guest speaker this morning. A civil rights and civil liberties lawyer, he has served as the Director of the Western Regional Law Office of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts since 1987. Lay leaders: **Carolyn Holstein** and **Chris Pile**.

Join us at <https://bit.ly/3fraeHI> Passcode: 926225 Or call in: 646 558 8656.

Sunday, July 11, 10:30 A.M. – The Spirituality of Caregiving

John Gerber

John, a longtime UU and a recent member of our UU Society, will speak this morning. Lay leader: **Carolyn Holstein**.

Join us at <https://bit.ly/3fraeHI> Passcode: 926225 Or call in: 646 558 8656.

Sunday, July 18, 10:30 A.M. – Teaching in COVID Times

Sue and Elliot Kelly, Tom Fricke, Lauren Croce

Our speakers are all teachers — and our members, too!

Join us at <https://bit.ly/3fraeHI> Passcode: 926225 Or call in: 646 558 8656.

Sunday, July 25 10:30 A.M. – Choir Sunday Revisited

Join us at <https://bit.ly/3fraeHI> Passcode: 926225 Or call in: 646 558 8656.

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### **The UUSA YouTube Channel is launched!**

Original content from some services from this worship year have already been uploaded, and others are on the way. To view them, click [here](#) — and don't forget to **SUBSCRIBE!**

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## From Co-President Anne Moore

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The Annual Congregational Meeting was held after the service on June 13. The meeting focused on three items:

- The slate of officers for the board and leadership development committee
- The FY2022 budget
- Adoption of the 8th Principle.

All three items were approved by a vast majority of the members present.

Of note, a lively discussion expressed some concerns regarding the 8th Principle. The concerns included if the principle is already covered in the existing principles, the language of the principle, and if racism would become the sole focus of the congregation if the principle is passed by the General Assembly. After this discussion the membership adopted the 8th Principle with 50 yeas, 1 nay, and 6 abstentions. The minutes of the June 2020 congregational meeting and the April 25, 2021 special congregational meeting were passed. Susan Rice and Anne Moore gave brief updates on “Centering Our Gifts” and “Beloved Conversations” before adjourning.

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## Religious Education Ministry



**UUSA RE Summer In-Person Funtimes!**  
**Sundays, 9 - 10 A.M. at the Wildwood Elementary School Playground**

**July 11th, 18th**  
**August 1st, 8th, 15th**  
**September 5th**

Parents and children, come and play with your UUSA friends. For our new families, this will be a great way for you to meet UU families and have some informal UU time outside rain or shine, but not thunder. All ages welcome.

Sundays will be run and organized by **Jacy Armenti, Rebecca Fricke** and the **UUSA RE Ministry**. Jacy will be on site. A parent (or assigned adult friend) must stay at the park the whole time. Parents may have a chance to meet in a small group depending on numbers and comfort levels of all involved.

Wear a mask. Bring a water bottle. And remember, no restrooms are available at either site.

Happy Summer!!

Rebecca Fricke  
Director of Religious Education

*Alex (6th grade) participated in the UUSA Sanctuary Keeper program during the 20-21 year. Each Sanctuary Keeper was encouraged to contribute to a service and Alex's Justice poem was read by Rev. Rachael during the 6/13 service.*

### Justice

*We are in one fight  
Together we will show what's right  
We will fight for peace  
Respect for others  
We will fight for equality  
So we are all equal*

*And together we will show what's real  
Again and, again and, again  
We will fight with peace  
By protests with signs and agreements.  
To show what is undying  
Truth over lies  
And peace over war  
We all have one thing in common  
We are all humans  
And that may be our strongest weapon  
The strongest protest*

*Most of all we will fight for each other  
By voting  
We are all equal no matter your  
Skin, race, or gender  
The rights that we should all have are  
Freedom, space, and equality  
Space for your personal bubble  
Freedom for the right to have choices in life  
And equality for equal shots at  
Jobs, medicine, and, housing*

*And finally the right to be heard  
We will do this because  
We want a world that is fair, balanced, and equal  
We are all in one fight for Justice  
Not two  
Nor three  
But one unified struggle*



By Alex - 6th grade

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 questions? Ask! Want to get involved? Email Rebecca at [dre@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:dre@uusocietyamherst.org).

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

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## Social Events

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**The Men's Breakfast is BACK!!** UUSA men meet at Kelly's Restaurant on College Street (Route 9), Amherst at 7 A.M. weekly on Wednesday mornings. Newcomers welcome! Contact **Pete Rogers** for more information, but no RSVP needed.

**The Women's Circle** is a supportive and social group of UUSA women and open to all. It meets at noon on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The group is now trying out meeting both in person *and* on Zoom! Please contact **Sophie Rogers** if you have any questions or comments, or want to get on the email distribution list.

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## Social Action

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**Not Bread Alone** On May 29, four UUs helped with the lunch at Not Bread Alone (NBA), the soup kitchen at First Congregational Church, Amherst. **Suzanne Goffredo** made a huge fruit salad; **Mary Beth Seminario** packaged donated fruits and vegetables; **Mary Lydia Spinelli** and **Gabriela Horvay** packaged and helped distribute cooked food.

On **Saturday July 31**, our UU Society is responsible for helping provide lunch at NBA. NBA follows safety protocols — social distancing, temperatures taken, masks and gloves worn. Bagged/boxed food is distributed outside. It's a fun morning as new dishes are created based on what food has been donated. People are needed to help cook, bag prepared food and be part of the distribution line. We work in shifts under the direction of the kitchen leader. Cooks needed 9:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.; baggers 11:30 A.M. - 1P.M. ; distributors 11:45 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. NBA is located in the lower rear of First Congregational Church with access off the Spring St. parking lot. If you'd like to help, please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**. THANK YOU!

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## Our Caring Ministries

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*Oh, to rise every day  
and let go a miracle  
without notice or applause  
without awe  
but simply because  
the song is inside  
pressing  
and nothing else will do.*

*Kate Dahlstedt*

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, Lynn Sussman, and Gordon Wyse**.

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

As always 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. We also remember those affected in so many ways by the pandemic and by the recent events in the nation's capitol. We send a message of hope that all of us as individuals, and the nation as a whole, can heal from these traumas.

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## Here We Have Gathered

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*Here we have gathered, gathered side by side,  
circle of kinship, come and step inside!*  
(Hymn #360, Singing the Living Tradition)

A look back at UUSA based on July newsletters from 25, 15 and 5 years ago:

### Summer 1996:

**UU “open Mike” Sunday, July 14, 3:00 P.M. Fran Plumer** invites members and friends ages 5-95 to perform solos, duets, group singing, poetry, and story-telling in an informal gathering at the meetinghouse. If you’re willing to share your talents — and have some fun! — call Fran.

**Stand For Children — a report by Betsey Johnson** The newspapers called it a revival meeting and it certainly was inspirational! On June 1, accompanied by several UUs from The All Souls Church in D.C., I made my way by subway and miles of walking to the Arlington Cemetery subway station, where I hoped to join the march across Memorial Bridge to the Lincoln Memorial, site of the Stand for Children rally. The subway was crowded with kids and their leaders from all over the U.S. Colorful T-shirts identified the groups: Head Starters from Abilene, Texas, Girl Scouts from California, and a wonderfully exuberant bunch from the Buffalo Boys and Girls Club.

We arrived too late for the march, but as we walked across the bridge, we could hear a rhythmic and energetic song belted out by the 300-strong children’s choir. Our journey ended far from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for the crowd was too large to get close, but giant TV screens enabled us to see and hear everything. I placed myself in a shady spot and for four hours listened to many (too many) religious leaders of all faiths, pop singers and bands, the great voice of Bernice Reagan of Sweet Honey in the Rock, and testimonies of those who had endured through childhoods of hardship and neglect.

The climax came with a powerful speech by Marian Wright Edelman, head of the Children’s Defense Fund and organizer of the event. She urged us to “put children first” — ahead of Star Wars, ahead of balanced budgets, and ahead of politics as usual. As I left with the thousands who had come to show their support of children, I thought of all the good people in our UU Society who try so hard to make a difference in the lives of children near and dear to them. And I wondered if, as a Society, we might find the will and the way to reach out to those children who need a helping hand in the community outside our doors.

### July 2006:

#### **Social Justice/Action in Religious Education**

The Religious Education program ended with a visit from Colleen Kelley, who is an Educator/Naturalist from The Hitchcock Center in Amherst. The Hitchcock Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the exploration of science and nature. Colleen engaged the K-6 grade group in a conversation about recycling. The children chose recycling materials and talked about how they could reuse each item. Plastic bottles became musical instruments, rocket ships, and parts of towers, boxes became dioramas, and cans became flower pots. Colleen also brought in a number of bugs that naturally recycle in nature for the children to look at and hold, including large millipedes. The children in preschool also held and examined the insects. We hope to have Colleen visit again next year.

At the beginning of May, the children in k – 6 discussed what babies and children need. We came up with a very extensive list, including clothes, toys, love, food, blankets.... . We then looked at the list and came up with ideas of how we could help provide some of these things to the children staying at Jessie’s House (a shelter serving homeless families in Hampshire County). There were a number of fundraising events listed. It was also mentioned that a portion of one’s allowance could be donated. Many children thought that they could be doing things over the summer to raise money—tag (toy) sale, lemonade / baked goods stand, do other chores for money, and a few more. We plan to make quilts for the beds, do fundraising, and write letters to advocate to end homelessness. We are also hoping to make personal connections with the residents from time to time to play and share snack. If you are interested in working with a group of children once a month on this project, please contact **Maria Racca**, Director of Religious Education.



**Green Sanctuary Committee Hosts a Fall Workday** by Anne Perkins On Saturday, October 28 the Green Sanctuary Committee will host a workday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. I have the knowledge to lead us in tightening up the building, but we need at least 12 men and women to help with this work, preferably for the whole day. I'll have the materials there, you will bring some basic tools, and food will be provided. We'll divide into teams, I'll show you what to do, and here is what we will accomplish:

Tightening up the building: As with any old building, there are lots of holes to the outside where heat is leaking out and cold is leaking in. We'd like to fix as much of that as possible. We propose:

1. Almost all of the doors to the exterior and from the hallways into the sanctuary or other heated spaces be sealed with weather stripping and door sweeps. (Two workers)
2. Although the walls and ceilings are insulated, they are not sealed; air flowing over and through the insulation greatly diminishes its effectiveness. We propose to seal the tops and bottoms of any stud bays we can get to (from the basement and attic, as our building is balloon framed). We will cut and staple pieces of Tyvar or equivalent. We'll insulate the trap door to the attic. (Only the agile will work in the attic!) (Four workers)
3. There are some other odd places to seal up (the closet in the entry hall, the tower walls, a huge hole in the furnace room, the space behind the organ, the big round grates in the sanctuary ceiling, the electric chase from the basement office to the tower). (Two workers)
4. Seal the ductwork from the furnace with special mastic. (Two workers)
5. Remove the air conditioner in the office for the season. (Two workers)

Please put this date on your calendar today, and more details will be coming in the Fall.

### **July 2016:**

**Big BIG Tag Sale a HUGE success!** Our final fundraising event of the year, the Big BIG Tag Sale, was a huge success on all counts. Our teams of volunteers representing various ministries did a fabulous job of collecting donations, setting up, selling and cleaning up. We easily had 40-50 volunteers involved in making the Tag Sale a success. Thanks to the following groups that participated: Board of Trustees, Choir, Sunday Services, Caring Circle, Religious Education, and two Small Group Ministries. Special thanks also to **Helen Blatz** and **Lauren Croce** who set up outside and helped steer people inside, **Rachel Peterson** who hosted her own table, donated morning goodies for volunteers and counted all the money, and a very special thanks to **Sue Hanley**, who also set up a lovely display outside with new children's clothes and shoes from her former store. This was a big draw, and income from Sue's merchandise alone accounted for about 1/4 of our total income for this event.

While our fund-raising goal was \$2000, we actually raised a gross total of \$3013.75! After minimal expenses of \$129.66 for signage and advertising, our net income was \$2884.09.

Finally, a very informal survey of some shoppers revealed that people learned about our tag sale from a variety of sources, including friends and neighbors (the most frequent answer), signs, Gazette ad, and Facebook.

Sandy Sladen

**Flower Communion and Celebration** After the service and farewell party for Alison [Wohler, our minister 2005-2016 and now our Minister Emerita], several people inquired about "Sunrise over the Quabbin Reservoir," a large, framed photograph given to Alison through **Mary Beth Seminario** and her husband, photographer **Stephen Gingold**. Interested people can view and order the photo, cards, etc., through Fine Arts America, [www.fineartamerica.com/profiles/stephen-gingold.html](http://www.fineartamerica.com/profiles/stephen-gingold.html) (it is the first photo in his gallery "Quabbin Land and Water" at top left). Meanwhile, here are a few photos by **Ben Brau** and **Julie Cavacco** of the events of the day.



*Left: Alison greets a very full sanctuary.*

*Right: The Choir's view of Flower Communion.*





*Left: Raising flowers high in our UUSA bouquet!*

*Right: Alison models a stole created for her by the children and youth in our Religious Education program.*



*Left: Willie Eaton presents Alison with a plaque from our congregation — noting it must stay here!*

*Right: Lunch in the Willie Eaton Social Hall.*



*Left: At the end of the lunch, attendees were surprised by a choir performance of a parody of “Uptown Funk” by Bruno Mars. The song was directed by Brenda Miller (not shown here, alas), as “the woman in furs” clad in a fur stole, minidress and heels, and written for the occasion by Janis Gray. Here the “UU Funk” backup singers and Bruno (aka Janis) “get down.”*