

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, Amherst, MA 01002

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 502, Amherst, MA 01004-0502

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

MINISTER: The Reverend Rachael Hayes

revrachael@uusocietyamherst.org

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR: Lea Douville

office@uusocietyamherst.org

August Office Hours: Most Mon., Tues., Thurs. 11 - 3

Vacation 7/27—8/10

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Rebecca Fricke dre@uusocietyamherst.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Brenda Miller music@uusocietyamherst.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Co-Presidents:

Anne Moore annelouisemoore@gmail.com

Susan Rice scarewrice@gmail.com

Clerk: Louise Grosslein louise.grosslein@gmail.com

Treasurer: Peter Lacey placeyl@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER

Copy Editor: Janis Gray

Calendar Creator: John Foster

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!

Printed on recycled paper



Schedule of Services

Following Rev. Rachael's suggestion, we'll be "visiting" other congregations' Zoom services on August 1 and August 15 at 10:00 A.M. (NOTE EARLIER TIME THAN OUR OWN SERVICES!).

Sunday, August 1, 10:30 A.M. – *Healing from Broken to Whole Together*

The Rev. Jill Cowie, Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church

Seminarian Paloma Callo said to her preaching class recently that “we are a whole, healing, and broken people, a whole, healing, and broken faith, a whole healing and broken world.” She added, “that it is our witness to the cracks and shattered pieces that enables healing.” How do we find the courage to enter the pain? The compassion to help healing? How do we stay open to the grace of our wholeness in the midst of it all? [link to service](#)

Sunday, August 8, 10:30 A.M. – *Service theme to be announced*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

A Re-Opening Task Force Cottage Meeting will immediately follow this service. See article below for other dates for Cottage Meetings.

Join us for the service and the meeting at <https://bit.ly/3xZt8vA>, Meeting ID: 962 3832 8512

Passcode: 957535 (or call in: 646 558 8656 and enter Meeting ID)

Sunday, August 15, 10:30 A.M. – *Walt Whitman's Spiritual Lessons for Democracy*

Kris Comment, Member, Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson

“The sum of all known value and respect, I add up in you, whoever you are:” What spiritual lessons for democracy can we find in the work of Walt Whitman? Join us for an exploration of the poetry and writings of the “father of free verse.” [link to service](#)

Sunday, August 22, 10:30 A.M. – *Service theme to be announced*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us for the service at <https://bit.ly/3xZt8vA>, Meeting ID: 962 3832 8512 Passcode: 957535 (or call in: 646 558 8656 and enter Meeting ID)

Sunday, August 29, 10:30 A.M. – *Service theme to be announced*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us for the service at <https://bit.ly/3xZt8vA>, Meeting ID: 962 3832 8512 Passcode: 957535 (or call in: 646 558 8656 and enter Meeting ID)

Dedicated Offerings

Our Dedicated Offering for the months of May and June raised \$618.54 for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Thank you for your generous support!

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## Update from the UUSA Reopening Task Force

We are grateful for the incredible response rate on the Reopening Survey. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and concerns with us. We will be analyzing the data from the survey over the next several weeks. In order to continue the communication process around reopening planning, the Task Force will host four online "Cottage Meetings" during the month of August. Here is the opportunity to continue to provide input, and listen to others as well. The meetings will take place on Zoom. Please check UUSA weekly announcements and emails for information on the zoom link for these meetings. There is no need to preregister. Here are the dates for the Cottage Meetings:

- Sunday, August 8th immediately following the service. <https://bit.ly/3xZt8vA>, Meeting ID: 962 3832 8512 Passcode: 957535 (or call in: 646 558 8656 and enter Meeting ID)

Link for each of the following three meetings: <https://bit.ly/3zbKdmM> Meeting ID: 944 8954 0351 Passcode: 278958 (or call in: 646 558 8656 and enter Meeting ID)

- Tuesday, August 17th, from 10:30 to 11:30 AM
- Wednesday, August 25th, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM
- Monday, August 30th, from 7:30 to 8:30 PM

Please contact **Anne Louise White**, Chair for the Task Force, with any questions.

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## Social Action



**Saturday, July 31 is our turn at Not Bread Alone!** On the fifth Saturday of months with five Saturdays, our UU Society is responsible for helping provide lunch at our local soup kitchen, Not Bread Alone (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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## Religious Education Ministry



### UUSA RE Summer In-Person Funtimes!

**Sundays, 9 - 10 A.M. at the Wildwood Elementary School Playground**

**August 1st, 8th, 15th**

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 bathrooms are available at either site.

Happy Summer!!

Rebecca

Director of Religious Education

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/>

# BELOVED CONVERSATIONS VIRTUAL: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity

## FALL 2021

It's back! You've seen information in Weekly Announcements. Time to register by 8/14 if you want a 10% discount. Here's the registration link:

<https://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/beloved-conversations/within-phase/within-how-to-register/>

The Beloved Conversations Within Phase includes individual Lessons, using videos, music, and readings, accompanied by personal reflection prompts and suggested conversations with a Critical Friend chosen by the participant; bi-weekly small group conversations in a Learning Pod; and larger, monthly, facilitated Meaning Making Sessions on Zoom.

Did you hesitate to register in 2020? Did hearing Beloved Conversations Alums describe their experiences (May 2, 2021 Sunday Service) inspire you?

*Delight was an understatement when I saw the title of the very first lesson: "Celebration, Joy, and Imagining." This would be a very different approach! No more guilt-inducing "what we've done wrong and how to stop." Imagining – yes, indeed! (Naomi Yanis)*

The timeline as we understand it:

- 8/14/21 Deadline to register with a 10% discount
- 8/31/21 Deadline to register followed by introductory materials
- 9/21/21 Lesson 1 begins

Please register on your own; we are not doing a group registration. But if you have questions feel free to email **Ellen Pile**.

And a note to our Beloved Conversation Alums. Many of us have talked about, and looked forward to, Beloved Conversations Among (Phase II), a curriculum to support institutional and systemic change at the UUSA congregational level. We are learning from the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School that the "Among" Phase requires some getting ready activity. As an example: No one registers for Among; UUSA applies and is accepted. It's that old culture of individualism (I'll sign up) vs. culture of community (we'll do this together) thing again. Let's take some time to talk to each other and UUSA leadership, to encourage others to enroll now in Beloved Conversations Within and to get ready for congregational level work soon.



*We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. —Native American proverb*



*Image by Rene Bernal on Unsplash*

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 Cave, Lauren Croce, Kate Dahlstedt, Gabriela Horvay, Sophie Herman, 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, 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 of you who are struggling with illness, bereavement, or difficulties of any kind in your lives or the lives of your loved ones. We remember those who have suffered in so many ways from the corona virus and from the injustices in the world.

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## Sunday Services

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The Sunday Services Committee was quite active during the month of July, with outstanding lay-led services. Bill Newman, a lawyer and ACLU activist, spoke on July 4th about Frederick Douglass and how his words resonate today. On July 11, UUSA member **John Gerber** powerfully and tenderly spoke about the spirituality of care-giving, and his journey with his wife as they faced her ALS disease. On July 18, three of our members (**Sue Kelly, Lauren Croce** and **Tom Fricke**) opened our eyes to the courage they faced teaching during the Covid pandemic, and July 25 featured our choir as they individually shared their love of music with us in a service first presented on Zoom on April 26, 2020.

For August, following **Rev. Rachael's** suggestion, we'll be visiting other congregations on August 1 and 15. Rev. Rachael will be leading services here on the other three services of August. We look forward to continued very interesting summer services!

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## Social Events

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**Weekly Men's Breakfast** 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 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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## 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 August newsletters from 25, 15 and 5 years ago:

### Summer 1996:

**Volunteers needed for Emergency Cot Program** In the last two winters, houses of worship in Northampton, including prominently the Unitarian Society [of Northampton and Florence], have provided overnight lodging for homes persons turned away from the Grove Street Inn shelter. More than 400 volunteers helped last winter in some capacity, providing seven nights a week of shelter, meals and companionship to homeless people who used the program. To ease the burden on the volunteers from the Northampton houses of worship, the organizers of the Emergency Cot Program are hoping to enlist volunteers from neighboring communities, including Amherst. If you would like to volunteer for, say, one night a week or month next winter, please notify Caroline Mack (afternoons only) at 555-5555, or Diedrick Snoek (any time of day) at 555-5555. There will be orientation sessions for all new volunteers.

Chad Johnson

**Summer Sunday breakfasts** The sixth annual series of summer breakfasts prepared by the men of our Society continues on the last Sundays of July and August. The menu is all you can eat: orange juice, cold cereal, scrambled eggs, pancakes (blueberry, ginger and plain) with real Vermont maple syrup, coffee, tea and milk. All of this is offered for the small price of \$3 (children under 12, \$21). The dining room (the Meetinghouse undercroft) opens at 9:00 A.M. and closes at 10:30 A.M., when a drawing will be held and door prizes awarded. Come, bring your friends and families, connect for summertime doings, and support the efforts of our men! (NOTE: Veteran breakfast makers hope to invite the newer men in our Society to join them in the kitchen — so if you're male and one of our newcomers, you may get a call!)

### Summer 2006:

**Hospitality Committee** Thank you to everyone who graciously provided and served refreshments for our Social Hour (in some cases, more than once!) between January 22 and the end of the year:

**Jane Shohan, Helen Blatz, Barbara Yaukey, Fran Plumer, Helene Lambert, Jan Stevens, Florence Bert, Betsey and Chad Johnson, Lee Pershyn, Audrey and Ed Ritter, Peg McDaniel, Willie Eaton, Lynn Sussman, Betsy Neisner, Clare Bertrand, Lisa Harvey, Mary Barnett, Lauren Croce, Ellen Shaw Smith, Sherry Gelbwasser, Eve Posada, Pat McGarry, Nancy Foster, Anne Perkins, Bo Mack, John Barbaro, Millis Mershon and Susan Rice.**

**Fundraising** Shop at Monkey Business and support UUSA! Monkey Business is a new children's clothing and footwear store in Amherst owned by **Sue Hanley**, a member of this congregation. Sue would like to share 10 percent of the sales made to members of the congregation with the Amherst UU Society.

She writes, "Here's how it works: Tell the person ringing up your purchases that you are a member of the UU Society, Amherst and we will make note of your entire purchase cost. At the first of every month, I will total the purchases made by members and write a check for 10% of the entire purchases to UU Society of Amherst. We will try this for six months and see how it goes. . . . I look forward to seeing more of you soon."

And there's also T-UU-perware! **Lee Pershyn** is conducting an ongoing Tupperware fundraiser for UUSA. All profits will go to the Stained Glass Committee for the express purpose of removing and/or restoring the Tiffany and La Farge stained glass windows in our Meetinghouse sanctuary. Please contact Lee at 253-5925 for catalogs, service, and orders.

### August 2016:

**Thank you** The Rev. Alison Wohler's Committee on Ministry is very grateful to all who pitched in to help with the celebration on June 12 of Alison's time with us. Among the gifts Alison received upon retirement from full-time parish ministry was a check for approximately \$9,000, the sum of donations sent to **Bo Mack** and **Fran Plumer** by individuals answering our invitation to contribute to a monetary gift. Your generous response affirms what we already knew: that this congregation is, indeed, a family, working together with so much love spread among us.

**A Family Reunion for Our Organ** Our historic Steere & Turner organ, built in 1886, was donated to us in 1925 after William Penn Brooks, a long-time member of Unity Church (now Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst), purchased it from Massachusetts Agricultural College (now UMass). Brooks served as President of our Board of Trustees from 1918-1924. In 1924, upon the death of his wife Eva Bancroft Brooks, he stepped down from that position. At his request, the organ was dedicated to his wife for "her life of devotion to the church." The plaque commemorating this event is still attached to the wall next to our organ today – near photos of William and Eva in their time.

This July 21, Cynthia Redman – a great-grandchild of William and Eva Bancroft Brooks – led a group of cousins from many states to our meetinghouse to see the organ and the town and church where their ancestors played prominent roles. **Judy Mitrolka** and **Janis Gray** met them at the door; in the sanctuary, **Jay Stryker** was waiting to talk about the organ, demonstrate its mysterious workings behind the scenes in the "organ room," and play a variety of songs from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Cynthia later wrote from her home in Connecticut, "It was a real treat for all of us to hear it, especially 'America the Beautiful!' Thank you all so much for the lovely visit and mini-concert! It proved to be a delightful day."



