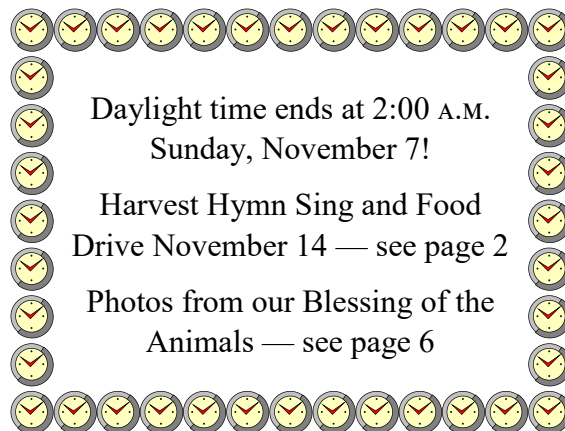


# THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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](mailto: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



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## Schedule of Services

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***Our intention is for all services this month to be “multi-platform” (simultaneously on Zoom and with a small number of attendees in the sanctuary).***

Check your weekly announcements for information on how you can reserve your seat in the sanctuary on a given Sunday! To join any service online, click <https://bit.ly/3bDuwv3> Meeting ID: 988 1332 2308  
Passcode: 866951 Or call in +1 646 876 9923 and enter Meeting ID: 988 1332 2308.

**The theme for Rev. Rachael’s November services is “Banish the Binary”**

**Sunday, November 7, 10:30 A.M. – *All Souls***

**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**

In this season, our thoughts turn to those who have died in the last year and those whose love has made us who we are. Grief isn't linear. You are welcome to honor on our collective altar those recently departed as The sanctuary will be open for you to place a photograph or small object in memory of your loved one on the altar at these times:

Tuesday, November 2, 11:00 A.M. – NOON      Wednesday, November 3, 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Thursday, November 4, 6:00 – 7:00 P.M.      Sunday, November 7, 10:20 A.M., just before the service

*Today is the first Dedicated Offering collection for November.*

**Sunday, November 14, 10:30 A.M. – *Banishing the Binary***

**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**

***Immediately following this service:***



**Sunday, November 21, 10:30 A.M. – *Power, Authority, and Accountability***

**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**

**Sunday, November 28, 10:30 A.M. – *Memory, Gratitude, and Hope***

**The Rev. Nancy Arnold**

Thanksgiving affords us the opportunity to remember the gifts of our lives with gratitude. Among these gifts are the memories of those who have touched us with wisdom and love.

There is also a greater appreciation for the bounty of the earth that sustains us. In this service, we will pause to recall all that has given us birth and give thanks for the gifts of the earth.

*Our guest speaker was a member of our UU Society before pursuing her divinity degree and ordination as a UU minister. She has also served as a mentor to Rev. Rachael!*

## Do you know we have a UUSA YouTube Channel?

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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## Dedicated Offerings

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This year, each month will be devoted to a new Dedicated Offering (DO) recipient whose representative will speak on the first Sunday. We will no longer hold a separate offering for the DO recipient but will split Sunday's offering plate 50/50 with the recipient organization. This move symbolizes the solidarity we feel with the organizations we choose to support, and it gives us all more opportunities to contribute. As always, please specify whether the funds you send to the office or by PayPal are for the Plate, your pledge, or some other purpose.

In September, we raised \$315 for **Abundance Farm**. We will report our October offerings for **Doctors without Borders** in a future newsletter.

The **Dedicated Offerings collected in November will be for the Poor People's Campaign – a National Call for Moral Revival**. Some of us may remember the earlier version of the Poor People's Campaign led by Dr. Martin Luther King. This modern Poor People's Campaign builds on the same principles of non-violence. Led by the Reverend Dr. William Barber, it is an organization that goes into poor communities and lifts up the people there to make change. I urge you to look on the website <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/> to discover their principles, activities, and language. For instance, they talk about this being the third reconstruction, fully addressing poverty and low wages from the bottom up, fighting poverty not the poor. Their agenda is unabashedly moral, based on fundamental rights of all peoples.

In June 2019, the Poor People's Campaign held its first Moral Action Congress in Washington, DC. Over a thousand leaders from across the country came together, along with a congressional hearing on Capitol Hill and the largest presidential candidates forum of the 2020 election cycle.

Currently they will be hosting their second \*virtual\* Moral Action Congress for leaders from all of the state coordinating committees to plan and strategize for the coming year — including building toward the Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers Assembly and Moral March on Washington, June 18, 2022, and the 2022 midterms.

We hope to have a speaker from the organization at the November 7 morning service.

Anne Pekins

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## Music Notes



**Outdoor singing events** Save the date for a Harvest Hymn Sing at noon on November 14 following the Sunday service, as well as for a Candlelit Carol Sing at 4:30 P.M. Sunday, December 12.

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## Religious Education Ministry



First I want to welcome all of our new families —welcome to the UUSA!

RE is off to a great start. Our earlier start time, 9-10 instead of 10:30-11:30, means families have the rest of the day to relax and do Sunday chores. Our children and parents are making connections and parents are enjoying their small group sessions while their kids do RE. However, there are definitely drawbacks to meeting outside the UUSA. The biggest one is that some of our new families have never been to the UUSA and a lot of our kids barely remember the building. Some of the kids only have the vague sense of why they are with our group. Hopefully, as more and more of us get vaccinated, we will be able to gather inside soon.

RE Ministry is planning K-2 and 4-6 OWL sessions that will start late this fall, or perhaps in the new year. This plan is based on our hope that we will stay below the High Risk Covid code and that children 5 and up will be vaccinated soon. We will need to be as flexible as possible to accommodate changes in the virus rates. RE Ministry is planning K-2 and 4-6 OWL sessions that will start late this fall, or perhaps in the new year.

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**Jacy** and I have settled into a good programming routine. During the first 10 minutes we supervise unstructured playtime on the playground. It is wonderful to see the children becoming more comfortable with each other. After about ten minutes we work together to provide two small group activities for mixed ages. Forty minutes in, Jacy takes the preschoolers and I take the elementary children to have circle time. We light a candle, facilitate check in, read a book and have a discussion or play some kind of game that relates to the topic of the morning.

Youth and Young Adult Facilitator [Johnny Williams](#) is settling into their job. [See Youth Group note from **Johnny** below.] They do not have a large group at this time, but they are providing outdoor activities for the youth of the Amherst and Northampton UUs every Sunday and once a month for the Young Adults. They are hopeful that more youth will join over time. The DRE from Northampton and I meet with Johnny once a week to go over tasks and check in about the meetings.

And now for the hardest part of my November message. This will be my last year as DRE. I will do everything in my power to help with the hiring and I made this announcement early in the church year because I know that it takes time to do a search. It has been a privilege to serve this congregation for seven years. I know that **Rev. Rachael**, RE Ministry and the Board will work to find the best possible candidate to take over. My tenure has been long and saying goodbye in June will be bittersweet.

Yours,

Rebecca Fricke, DRE

**Youth Group** has been meeting every Sunday since September 12. This year we have combined the YG programs of the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence (USNF) with the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst. We have been meeting outside each Sunday from 2:00 -4:00 P.M., with face masks on, at various sites throughout the river valley including Park Hill Orchard, Look Park, and Mt. Pollux. We recently had a successful gleaning trip on Halloween with youth from the USNF Coming of Age program and in partnership with local organizations [Rachel's Table](#) and [Not Bread Alone](#). We will be hosting an outdoor bridging-in campout on November 5-6t in a backyard in South Amherst. If you are interested in attending this please contact Johnny at [youthfulusnf@gmail.com](mailto:youthfulusnf@gmail.com). Starting Sunday, November 14, we will be meeting indoors at USNF with face masks on, as long as COVID risk levels remain below severe risk according to [Covid Act Now](#). If you have any questions about this you can contact our YG coordinator Johnny at [youthfulusnf@gmail.com](mailto:youthfulusnf@gmail.com)



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/>



## Fall Scavenger Hunt

See if you can find the following objects on this list. Try to find a separate object to go with each category. You can race to see who can find all of the objects first or you can work in teams or you can all work together. The object is to have fun outside together. Ready, set, go!

1. Something red.
2. Something soft.
3. Something hard.
4. Something that animals eat.
5. Something that moves in the wind.
6. Something that is used by people and animals.

7. Something that dies in the winter and comes back in the spring.
8. Something that is made by people.
9. Something that makes you smile.

**And Last but not the Least....  
A Bonus Object... A leaf!**

BUT not just any leaf — catch a leaf in the air before it hits the ground.



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## Social Events

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**Weekly Men's Breakfast** The Wednesday morning Men's Breakfast held at Kelly's is *postponed until future notice* due to the prevalence of the highly contagious COVID-19 Delta variant in Amherst.

**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 alternating between in-person meetings and Zoom. Please contact **Sophie Rogers** for more information, or to get on the email distribution list. If you do not have access to our UUSA directory (with Sophie's contact information), please contact **Lea** in the office.

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## Finance Committee

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The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, November 8, at 7:15 P.M. on Zoom.

### From our Congregational Conversation October 14



On October 14, board members and members of the Reopening Task Force met with any and all interested UUs to answer questions about the UUSA COVID-19 Building Use Policy. One thing that came out of the meeting was a suggestion by **Louise Grosslein** that people might want to know how to stay more comfortable in cold weather if they chose to meet outdoors. She was kind enough to offer suggestions in an article she wrote and sent for the newsletter that very evening! Thanks, Louise!

### Staying comfortable outside in any weather

*By Louise Grosslein*

Many of us would love to see each other in person, even if we are not yet ready to go inside the Meetinghouse. Let's find ways to see each other outdoors this fall and winter. On October 24, some of us tried gathering for the first time at Kendrick Park (just a block north on Pleasant Street from the Meetinghouse) shortly after the Sunday Service at 11:45 A.M. In the future, some of us might walk over there from the Meetinghouse or from our houses if we live close to the center of Amherst. Others might attend the service by Zoom and then leap into their cars or onto their bikes and come over to Kendrick right after the service ends.

There is a fabulous playground for kids at the park. If you prefer to sit and visit with people, bring a lawn chair with you. If you want a drink, bring a thermos or mug filled with coffee, tea, water, juice or whatever suits your fancy. If it's warm and you want to eat lunch at the park, get it ready before the service so you can grab it and come to the park right after the service.

When it starts getting cold, we might still be able to gather. I taught Environmental Education and Ecology labs

for years. We went outside all year long, in all kinds of weather, unless there was thunder and lightning or high winds. Maybe you already know how to dress for less than perfect weather. (Yay!) If you need a few tips, here are some things that help me. I get cold easily, so I have to plan ahead.

When it's cold, I dress in layers. Synthetic long underwear or running clothes are wonderfully helpful because they wick moisture away from your skin. Cotton is comfy when it's warm, but it's not useful in the cold. A middle and/or top layer of fleece or wool works really well. Wearing a warm hat makes a huge difference. Mittens keep hands warmer than gloves. Boots that are a little too big can be useful so you can put on thick wool socks without scrunching up your feet. Bringing a hot drink is a great idea. If you have a "bean bag," one of those cloth bags filled with dry corn or beans or rice, you can heat it up in a microwave, wrap it in a blanket for the car trip and then slip it inside your coat when you get to the park. For that matter, bringing a blanket is a great idea. When I had to be outdoors for hours and hours in the dead of winter, I brought a big chocolate bar with me for the calories. It made a huge difference.

My Mom used to swim in the ocean well into the fall. She just kept doing it after summertime, and her body got used to the cooler temperatures. Of course, there was a point where she stopped. If she could do that, maybe we can be creative and figure out ways to gather outdoors (without swimming!) even after it gets chilly. Obviously, you would be able to leave if you did get cold. And you could wear a mask if you wanted. Even half an hour of in-person time with friends can be really wonderful. Let's try it!

### Blessing of the Animals

On October 17 after our service on Zoom, a number of us came to the Meetinghouse -- masked and outdoors! -- for the first time since March 2020. **Rev. Rachael** blessed pets on leashes or represented by photos, stuffed animals and drawings. We also helped Master Gardener **Sue Kelsey** plant daffodil bulbs, sang with Music Director **Brenda Miller** . . . and perhaps most of all, enjoyed being with each other in person.





## Our first Multi-Platform service — and a new member!

Most of us attended “Many Roads,” our October 24 service, on Zoom, but about 20 UUs, masked and socially distanced, joined **Rev. Rachael**, Music Director **Brenda Miller**, and our amazing technical team of **Steve Rice**, **Kyle Cave**, **Elliott Kelly** and **Lea Douville** in person in our sanctuary (which evoked its past by using its remaining original pews from 1893 for most of the seating). Our next multi-platform service will be November 7.

Following the service, **Melinda Ewen**, who had joined our UU Society in a “virtual” ceremony in January 2021, chose to add her physical signature and contact information to our Membership Book.



*Melinda Ewen signs our Membership Book*

**Suzanne** continues,

“My first visits to UUSA were right before Covid, but during more than a year of difficult times I turned back to my 25-year friendships and ministry at UU Fellowship of Boca Raton. After many Zoom services at UUFBR, I knew I had to get involved with a new home UU.

“Knowing Rev. Rachael and being involved with a UUSA small group discussion over the spring and summer, the choice was not hard. Attending last week’s in-person service and the Blessing of the Animals, UUSA became my new UU home. Thank all that have made me feel welcome over the last few months.”

Welcome, Suzanne!



*Suzanne Goffredo signs our Membership Book*

### Looking to get more involved at the UUSA?

Many UUSA committees/groups are seeking new membership. If you are interested in learning more or becoming involved with committee and/or ministry-level efforts at the UUSA, please [email Lea](#)

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## Our Caring Ministries



*Wilderness reminds us what it means to be human,  
what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from.*

Terry Tempest Williams

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 the **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.

To any of you facing illness or loss or suffering from loneliness; to those affected in any way by the pandemic, which seems never-ending; and to all who are grappling with the uncertain future of a world divided by politics and race and climate change: we hold you in our thoughts and prayers. May this beloved community sustain you in difficult times.

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## Here We Have Gathered

*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 October newsletters from 25, 15 and 5 years ago:

### November 1996:

**Board News** At the last Board Meeting, which was held on October 8, we discussed the search for a new minister [following the Rev. Bonnie Devlin's announcement that she would depart in summer 1997]. We have various options to weigh, including, but not limited to:

- an interim minister *versus* a settled minister
- a half-time, three-quarter-time, or full-time minister
- a "supply" minister, who may or may not become a settled minister.

The Co-Presidents will be meeting with Nancy Bowen, the Connecticut Valley District Executive, in the near future to further clarify what our options are and how we might proceed. We welcome your opinions in this important matter. Please contact one of the Co-Presidents or any Board Member.

**The Spirit and the Pen** Facilitator: Bonnie Devlin. Come be part of a year-long workshop series on spiritual formation and growth through exploring many styles of spiritual writing, including: spiritual autobiography, poetry, prose, drama, devotional and journaling. In this course we will read inspiring examples of spiritual literature from a variety of writers, saints and mystics, while at the same time exploring our spiritual path through our written expressions.

### November 2006:

**Cultural Event** On Sunday, November 12, at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, the Stained Glass Window Committee will host the first in a series of lectures relating to the Tiffany and La Farge windows. This talk, titled "The American Renaissance: Art, Architecture, and Civilization," will be given by Prof. Paul Staiti,



who has taught courses in American art at Mount Holyoke College since 1979. Prof. Staiti will focus on the “Gilded Age,” the dynamic period in which our stained glass windows were created. He will show how these windows and their creators fit into the larger context of American art and history in the late nineteenth century. Please join us for a fascinating glimpse back in time and learn more about the significance of these beautiful works of art —both then and now. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this event too, so please feel free to invite guests. After the lecture, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and enjoy light refreshments.

**Religious Education** The children in Religious Education have embraced the idea of helping the families at Jessie’s House, a shelter located in Amherst serving homeless families. With the guidance and support of **Lauren Croce**, they have raised \$320 through the Charity Market in which they sold food, lemonade, artwork, and tag sale items. This fundraising event will continue again in the spring.

### November 2016:

**Easy UUSA Fundraiser!** Calling all those who grocery shop! Here’s a way to help the UUSA earn money just by buying your groceries. We will be selling Big Y and Stop & Shop gift cards at Social Hour. The grocery stores sell gift cards to our Society at a small discount and then we sell them to you at face value. Because we buy the cards at a discount, we earn the difference between what we buy them for and what we sell them for.

The hardest part for you will be forming the habit of bringing your checkbook to services! There you can buy \$50 or \$100 gift cards for either store and use them like cash. You don’t have to use the whole value at once.

We will have Big Y cards by the time you read this article, and Stop & Shop cards shortly after, so please plan to participate in this painless fundraiser. Get in the habit of buying all your Stop & Shop and Big Y purchases using gift cards you buy at the UUSA.

Thanks!

### **STONE SOUP BAZAAR & CAFE - December 3rd - DON’T MISS IT!**

Amazing things are happening to make this year’s Stone Soup Bazaar & Cafe better than ever!

- ◊ We have 27 vendors representing a wide variety of arts and crafts, with more than half of them new this year to our event;
- ◊ Gift baskets are being assembled by different congregational groups – so far we have seven;
- ◊ Quilting bees held this fall were a tremendous success (see picture of the quilt top at right);
- ◊ The gift baskets and the quilt will be displayed at the Meetinghouse during November with raffle tickets available for purchase;
- ◊ Teams of soup makers and bakers are ready to prepare a sumptuous lunch;
- ◊ Children’s activities are planned to keep them occupied while parents shop; and,
- ◊ We’ll even have live music to feed the soul.

You really won’t want to miss this event. The social hall and sanctuary will be filled with beautiful things, good food and music, and lots of holiday cheer.

While much is falling into place, the team of people who are making this event happen could still use your support, especially on the day of the event. Please look through the list below and consider signing up to serve one or another of our teams. Contact that team member directly to help out, or let **Sandy Sladen** or **Rachel Peterson** know what you would like to do to make this year’s Stone Soup Bazaar & Cafe a fantastic success.

