

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



June 2022



Important Information

STREET ADDRESS:

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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

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

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YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR:

Johnny Williams youthandya@uusocietyamherst.org

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

board@uusocietyamherst.org

[link to board minutes](#)

Co-Presidents:

Clerk:

Treasurer:

Anne Moore and Susan Rice

Louise Grosslein

Peter Lacey

Members At Large:

Carolyn Cave

Sue Alexander

John Gerber

NEWSLETTER

Copy Editor:

Janis Gray

Calendar Creator:

John Foster

Deadline for submissions: 20th of each month.

Email them to Janis Gray (contact Lea in the office if you need her email address).

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 offering our own “hybrid” services (both online and in person) through June 19. 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. Note: We no longer require advance registration for those attending in person; please sign in with a greeter upon entering the foyer (we are also no longer using the “old” front doors).

Sunday, June 5, 10:30 A.M. – *Flower Ceremony*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Bring a flower (or a bunch) to put in the vase, then later receive a flower to take home. If you would like to bring in a flower for our Flower Ceremony but are not able to join us in the sanctuary that day, the sanctuary will be open from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, June 4.

This service will be followed by our Annual Meeting (also offered online and in person).

Sunday, June 12, 10:30 A.M. – *Celebration!*

The RE Ministry, Rev. Rachael Hayes, and DRE Rebecca Fricke

We will celebrate this year’s bridging young adults today.

Sunday, June 19, 10:30 a.m. – *When Pain is Good*

Kate Hart

Kate Hart, our guest speaker this morning, is the Spiritual Counselor at Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst. She has been in that role for four years and has long enjoyed supporting people as they explore issues of faith, and its impact in trying times.

Sunday, June 26, Time TBA – *UUA General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship*

Join the largest annual gathering of UUs in a powerful, communal online worship experience. Watch our weekly announcements for the time and link.



Do you know we have a UUSA YouTube Channel?

Original content from our Sunday services is now uploaded to our website, uusocietyamherst.org, with optional closed captioning! To view them, click [here](#) — and don’t forget to SUBSCRIBE!

Sunday Services Committee

Plans for Summer Services The Sunday Services Committee conducted a survey of the congregation asking about summer services. The greatest number of votes was recorded for reviving the pancake breakfast, and the second highest number of votes was for “no summer services.” Based on the survey and recognizing the

complexity of organizing multi-platform services, there will be no summer services this year. The final UUSA service will be Sunday, June 19. On June 26, we will join the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly Sunday worship, available online.

Many mid-size congregations also are suspending services this summer. However, larger congregations will offer us the opportunity to attend by Zoom. This information will be available weekly on the UUSA web page and announcements.

If anyone is interested in organizing a pancake breakfast or other social events during the summer, please contact **Lea** in the office, or **Carolyn Holstein** about the availability of the social hall or other locations that may be available.

Please watch announcements for UUSA services, which will resume in September, and save a small bit of water from a place in your life for our Water Ingathering Ritual on September 11.

Dedicated Offerings

Our Unitarian Universalist Society devotes each month to a new Dedicated Offering (DO) recipient whose representative speaks to us on the first Sunday. We split every 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 April, we collected \$900 for the **Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) Zero Waste Project**.

For June, we will again be collecting for **Razom for Ukraine**, our May DO recipient. Razom means "together" — it started as a means to support those who gathered for months in Maidan Square in Kyiv in the winter of 2013/2014. Thousands gathered, many died or were injured, culminating in the removal the pro-Russian president. Unfortunately, this prompted Russia to invade Crimea (2/23/2014). In NYC, a handful of organizers with deep ties to Ukraine decided to form the organization to continue the important work started on the Maidan, to build a community — together — for a more prosperous and democratic Ukraine.

The most important effort right now is their Emergency Response: delivering tactical medical supplies through their network of other nonprofits on the ground in Ukraine. They have a number of initiatives, but what is exciting is their effectiveness, and their maintaining up-to-date open communication with the wider community — us — along with volunteers, donors, partners, and governments as well as those most directly affected. You can learn more about Razom for Ukraine at: <https://razomforukraine.org/> If you get a chance, watch these:

- [Winter on Fire](#): Ukraine's Fight for Freedom - (about what happened November 2013 - February 2014) - it's on Netflix
- *Famine-33* (1991), directed by Oles Yanchuk
- *The Guide* (2014), directed by Ukrainian film director, Oles Sanin
- *Mr. Jones* (2019), directed by Agnieszka Holland

Religious Education Ministry



Meet Andrew Coate, our incoming DRE!

Dear Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst,

I am so excited to be joining you this coming fall as your next Director of Religious Education (DRE). I have enjoyed meeting some of the wonderful children, parents and staff at UUSA and I look forward to meeting and working with you all.

My name is Andrew and my family is relatively new to Western Massachusetts. My partner Sarah and I moved here in the spring of 2020 with our two children, Alexa and Julian, and in 2021 we welcomed our third child, Linden. Prior to moving I served as the Director of Religious Education at the First Church Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist in Boston for 4 years after graduating from



Andrew Coate

seminary at the Boston University School of Theology. In the 2018/2019 year I served as the ministerial intern at First Unitarian Church of Worcester.

I love working with children and families to explore what our Unitarian Universalist faith can and does look like in our lives and communities. Some of my favorite activities are scavenger hunts, storytelling, nature walks, games, big craft projects, and knowing exactly the right picture book for any given situation. I am excited to start working with you this fall.

- Andrew

Youth Group: Our Youth Group (shown below) had a successful camping trip at the Mohawk Trail Campground in Charlemont from May 20-22. It was our first camping trip in three years due to the pandemic, and we were joined by several Youth Group alums and members of Coming of Age.



We had midnight worship, lots of s'mores, went swimming in the Deerfield River, and played classic games like Mafia and Spyfall. One member of the Youth Group and one adviser were bridged out.

We took a break for Memorial Day and will meet again on June 5 at our regular time at the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence.

Young Adults: We engaged in some community service by weeding mugwort, an invasive weed, at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst this month. We will have our last meeting of the year on June 12 from 5-6:30 P.M. outside at the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence. We will recap this past year and think about intentions and plans for next year.

- Johnny Williams

Warrant
Annual Congregational Meeting
Virtual Format
June 5, 2022 11:45 a.m.

immediately following service via Zoom and in-person (unless prevented by COVID)

1. Vote to approve the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, held on June 13, 2021 and the Special Congregational Meetings, held on March 13, 2022 and April 24, 2022.
2. Vote to approve a slate of nominees to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst Board of Trustees and to the Leadership Development Committee.

Board of Trustees, Slate of new officers and members:

2022 - 2023:

Co-President: John Gerber (2022-2024)

Treasurer: Eric Murphy (2022-2024)

At Large:

Sue Kelly (2022-2024)

Deeya Pavelle (2022-2024)

With Anne Moore continuing as Co-President (2021-2023)

Louise Grosslein continuing as Clerk (2021-2023)

Carolyn Cave continuing as member at large (2021-2023)

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Leadership Development Committee

Sue Alexander (2022-2023)

Lauren Croce (2022-2023)

Susan Rice (2022-2023)

3. Vote to approve the Budget for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)
4. Vote to approve the adoption of the proposed covenant for one year of study.
5. Update on replacing the siding on the old part of the Meetinghouse.

We need a **quorum** of Active members present at the meeting. If you want to vote, but cannot attend, you can name a proxy by notifying the Clerk at least 3 days before the meeting. The proxy must be present at the meeting. They can vote on your behalf, but proxy votes do not count towards our quorum. **Please attend!**

Respectfully submitted, Louise Grosslein, Clerk

Official language from the UUSA by-laws:

Active Members may vote in any congregational meeting of the Society provided that they have been a member of a Unitarian Universalist church, society, or fellowship for a total of 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the meeting including at least 30 days of membership in the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst.

Proxy Ballots: Members unable to attend any congregational meeting may vote by proxy. Members who wish to do so must notify the Clerk, in writing or by e-mail, of their intention to vote by proxy, naming the individual who will hold their proxy vote and requesting the proxy assignment form for the meeting. Such notice must be given at least three days prior to the date of the meeting. The individual named as proxy must be a member of the UUSA and must be present at the meeting. The proxy-holder should notify the Clerk of his or her intent to act as a proxy by submitting the signed proxy assignment form to the clerk prior to the start of the meeting. Proxy votes do not count toward a quorum.

Quorum: Twenty five percent of the Active Membership constitutes a quorum for conducting business at a meeting of the Society unless specified otherwise elsewhere in these Bylaws



Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet online on Monday, June 13, at 7:15 P.M.

Social Events

Hooray! A congregational picnic is planned for Sunday, July 10. Please put this date on your calendar. Look for more info in the weekly announcements and the July newsletter on the location, time, and what to bring. This will be a fun event, with games, and watermelon, and a good time to be together! Rain date is July 17.

The Women's Circle is a supportive and social group of UUSA women and open to all. We are currently meeting at noon on the second Thursday of the month in person, and at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month online. 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.

The Men's Breakfast is a no-agenda group that meets each Wednesday at 7:00 A.M. at Kelly's Restaurant on Route 9 in Amherst. Please contact **Pete Rogers** for more information. If you do not have access to our UUSA directory (with Pete's contact information), please contact **Lea** in the office.

Child Dedications

On May 15, we celebrated our first child dedication in 2-1/2 years! Here **Rev. Rachael** presents a rose to **Allston Lee Sexauer**, with **Avery John Sexauer** next in line. Their big sister **Aliya** (lower left) would receive a rose, too! The twins were born to **Annie Sexauer** (left) and **Alyson Bull** (right) just a few weeks after our services went virtual in March 2020 because of the pandemic.



Music Notes



Benefit Concert Sunday, June 12, 2022 4:00 P.M. Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College, 123 Elm Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01063

Former United States Artistic Ambassadors Andrew Mark, cello, and UUSA Music Director Brenda Moore Miller, piano, will perform a concert on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Helen Hills Hills Chapel. All of the proceeds from their performance will benefit The Voices of Children Foundation: <https://voices.org.ua/en/> which aids children and families as they try to cope and deal with the trauma of the effects of war in their lives.

As a tribute to the people of Ukraine, they will perform the music of Reinhold Gliere (Ukrainian composer), Sergei Prokofiev (born in Ukraine), American composer William Grant Still, and Ludwig van Beethoven (Germany). Tickets for



this benefit performance should be purchased in advance through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mark-miller-duo-benefit-concert-for-ukraine-tickets-341272634637> Admission is \$30 per person.

Audience members are required to wear masks, per Smith College COVID-19 policy.

Donations in lieu of attendance and additional gifts may be made directly to: <https://voices.org.ua/en/> Please indicate in the comments section that it is in honor of the Mark-Miller Duo Benefit Concert for Ukraine.

UUSA members in Amherst Community Band! On Friday, June 24, at 6:30 P.M. in Sweetser Park (on Main Street across from The Black Sheep Deli), instrumentalists **Louise Grosslein** and **Oliver MacFadden** will help present “The Best of Broadway” in the band’s first concert of the summer.

Writes Ollie, “Bring a blanket or a chair and come enjoy the time outdoors with music. If you play an instrument, our first rehearsal is Monday, June 6th from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Let me know and I can get you more information.” If you do not have access to our UUSA directory (with Ollie’s contact information), please contact **Lea** in the office.

Social Action



Not Bread Alone Whenever there are five Saturdays in a month, our Society is responsible for helping prepare the lunch and packing bags with donated produce. On April 30, **Mary Beth Seminario** helped fill bags with produce donated by Whole Foods. These bags were distributed after lunch boxes were handed out. **The next time our help will be needed is Saturday, July 30.**

Staying Connected

UUSA recently heard from **Luba Reep**, who was a longtime member of our congregation. She wrote:

Hello everybody,

I’m now living in Albany; have been for several years. I am doing pretty well and would like to hear from anybody who would like to correspond with me. I’ll give you my address and if you do write, I will definitely write you back! I miss my UU friends and would love to hear from you. Please write to me at:

Luba Reep
Peregrine Crossgate
140 Washington Avenue Extension, Apt E67
Albany, NY 12203

ION Corner

After our opening prayer/meditation/reading or song, the Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION) has started a specific time for requests for prayers. In these troubling times, prayers offer some solace. At our May meeting, a local representative of the W. Mass. Poor People’s Campaign passionately described the Poor People’s and Low Wage Workers’ Assembly and Moral March on Saturday0, June 18, in Washington, D.C. This is a national call for moral revival to heal and transform American policy. A Zoom broadcast will be available.

There will be a bus to the rally leaving Amherst at midnight and returning the next night at midnight. There is no charge, but donations are gladly accepted. Specific details about the bus will be forthcoming.

- Mary Beth Seminario (UUSA representative to ION)

Our Caring Ministries



“If you seek what is what is honorable, what is good, what is the truth of your life, all the other things you could not imagine come as a matter of course.”

Oprah Winfrey

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

If you are lonely, grieving, or ill, know that we hold you in our hearts. You are not alone. We grieve for the people of Ukraine, who still fight on, and for those here at home who would undermine the democracy the Ukrainians are fighting for.

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 June newsletters from 25 and 15 years ago:

June 1997

Interim Minister found close to home Our Board and Interim Search Committee are pleased to present our Interim Minister for the 1997-98 church year.

Stephen Davies Howard, now finishing a two-year interim ministry in Keene, New Hampshire, lives at 68 McClellan Street in Amherst — just a few blocks from our Meetinghouse. He is married to Ann Howard, who has taught English at Greenfield High School since 1970. The Howards have three grown children Catherine, Elizabeth, and Matthew.

Rev. Howard received his A.R.B. from Harvard Divinity School in 1956 and was ordained in 1957 at First Congregational Church in Binghamton, New York. From 1964 to 1982, he served All Souls Unitarian Church in Greenfield. Since 1982, he has served as an accredited interim minister at a number of churches in New England and elsewhere, and is considered the second most experienced minister in the UUA.

June 2007

New domain name! Thanks to **Kevin Noonan** for giving our Society a “more visible presence” on the world wide web by arranging for a new (and decidedly less unwieldy!) domain name! Our new address on the Internet is: <http://www.uusocietyamherst.org>.

Special thanks to **Kurt Gordon** for his help during the transition and for putting a redirect on our old web site: <http://users.crocker.com/~unitar>.

Interim Director of Religious Education The UUSA RE Committee, members and friends all thank **Maria Racca** for her eight years of dedication to the UUSA RE program. As we say goodbye to Maria, we would like to welcome **Rebecca Fricke** as the Interim Religious Education Director while the committee completes its search for a permanent DRE. Rebecca has a Masters in Teaching, six years of elementary school teaching experience and she directed an ecology camp in Evanston, Illinois for two summers. She has been a member of the RE Committee for three years, a board member for two years and her children are currently enrolled in the UUSA program. Rebecca is energetic, creative, organized and loves to work with children. The RE Committee is excited about working with her in this capacity.

Rebecca will spend the summer writing curriculum and planning Sunday worship for the following year. She will be working closely with Deborah Levering, the Lifespan Religious Education Consultant from the Clara Barton District of UU Congregations, Minister **Alison Wohler, Maria Racca** and the RE Committee to make the transition as smooth as possible. Please feel free to contact Rebecca with any suggestions or questions that you have about the RE program.