

# THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**April 2023**



## 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](mailto:revrachael@uusocietyamherst.org)

**CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:**

Lea Douville [office@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:office@uusocietyamherst.org)

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

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

Andrew Coate [dre@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:dre@uusocietyamherst.org)

**Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.,**

**Sunday 10:00 - Noon, evenings as requested**

**YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR:**

Collee Williams [youthandya@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:youthandya@uusocietyamherst.org)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:**

Brenda Miller [music@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:music@uusocietyamherst.org)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

[board@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:board@uusocietyamherst.org)

[link to board minutes](#)

**Co-Presidents:**

John Gerber and Anne Moore

**Clerk:**

Louise Grosslein

**Treasurer:**

Eric Murphy

**Members At Large:**

Carolyn Cave

Sue Kelly

Deeya Pavelle

## 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. 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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We encourage you to join us in person for our hybrid services, understanding that we still wear high-quality masks when we are indoors together. To attend online, Click <https://bit.ly/3eGKxFj> Meeting ID: 998 3789 9241 PW: 432607 Or call in +1 646 876 9923 and enter Meeting ID: 998 3789 9241

**Sunday, April 2, 10:30 A.M. – *Passover: Holy Ground***  
**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**

**Sunday, April 9, 10:30 A.M. – *Easter Sunday***  
**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**

**Sunday, April 16, 10:30 A.M. – *Service title to be determined***  
**Andrew Coate, Director of Religious Education**

*Following this service, Emma Livingston will be bringing back their in-person pronouns workshop that was postponed in February. This is a space to practice and ask questions related to gender and pronouns.*

**Sunday, April 23, 10:30 A.M. – *We Join Our Work to Heaven’s Gift***  
**The Rev. Andrea Ayvazian and the Green Sanctuary Committee**

**Sunday, April 30, 10:30 A.M. – *Service title to be determined***  
**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**



### Check out the UUSA YouTube Channel!

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

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## Dedicated Offerings

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From September through June, our Unitarian Universalist Society devotes each month to a new Dedicated Offering (DO) recipient and splits 50/50 every Sunday's offering plate with the recipient organization. Since fall, our members have generously contributed the following: \$1,025 to **Letcher County** in Eastern Kentucky; \$875 to **Hospice of the Fisher Home**; \$2,100 to **Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts**; \$950 to the **Amherst Survival Center**, and \$1,000 for **Local Energy Advocates**; \$1,000 for **The Ohketeau Cultural Center**.

Our Dedicated Offering Recipient for April will be **The Sojourner Truth School for Social Change Leadership**, which is affiliated and financially sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) in Washington, D.C. Also known as the "Truth School," it offers classes to individuals and groups with the goal of promoting and facilitating the skills required to build a movement. The School teaches the organizing skills necessary to equip people—young, middle years, and old—to be active, effective, and empowered. The School's sole focus is teaching and training. Classes are designed to meet the needs of climate change activists, labor organizers, aspiring political candidates, those considering civil disobedience, people of faith seeking to express their outrage, folks involved in refugee and resettlement work, members of the LGBTQ community, people active in the Black Lives Matter movement, writers and artists who want to use their talents to create change, young people, and seniors seeking a way to be active (or to be active again).

The School is saturating the area from Greenfield to Springfield, MA, with classes occurring several times a week throughout the year (except during July, August and December). Classes range from 90 minutes to several hours and many key classes will be repeated monthly.

It's amazing that such a place exists here in the valley!

**Our Dedicated Offering Recipient for May 2023/June 2023** will be the [Wildflower Alliance](#). The Wildflower Alliance supports healing and empowerment for our broader communities and people who have been impacted by psychiatric diagnosis, trauma, extreme states, homelessness, problems with substances and other life-interrupting challenges. Please let **Mary Beth Seminario**, the lead DOC person for May/June, know if you work with this organization and want to help, or can be available to welcome their representatives when they come to UUSA.

### ***More about the Dedicated Offering Committee***

The Dedicated Offering Committee (DOC) selects non-profit organizations that our Society will support with donations from our Sunday collections September - June. We split our collections 50/50 with them. In turn, our UU Society is enriched by learning about organizations we did not know about that are helping enrich our world.

The DOC meets in August and as needed throughout the year to select the recipients for the coming year. A different organization is chosen for every month. The DOC solicits members for names of specific organizations and asks they complete a specific DO form, which is available in the office or on-line at <https://forms.gle/hypyMGzMJHgeAVf26>. A representative from a chosen organization is asked to speak about it on the First Sunday of its month.

We welcome new members. If you are interested in learning more about or joining the DOC, please contact any of the people listed below.

Members: **Anne Perkins, Linda Honan, Carolyn Holstein, Mary Beth Seminario, Pat Brinkman,** and **Linda Callahan.**



Please join us for  
a Commemoration of the Life of  
**Herschel Shohan,**  
beloved husband of **Jane Shohan,**  
on Sunday, April 2, 4:00 P.M. at UUSA,  
followed by a reception in our Social Hall.



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### ***Talent & Treasures: UUSA Spring Auction Donations***

For the first time in four years, the UUSA is having a service auction. This is a major fundraiser for the UUSA. The *Talent & Treasures Auction* will be a hybrid event with an online catalog and an in-person event on Saturday, April 29. Woohoo! Let's have some fun with each other and raise money for our beloved UUSA at the same time! We are all ready to move beyond COVID. We want to find ways to be together in person and also be mindful about those of us who still want or choose to protect their health.

We need your services, crafts, or skills for the auction. Please think about what you could contribute. Need some ideas? How about one of the following—or any idea YOU may have:

- Help with gardening for 2+ hours
- Host a dinner for 6-8 people in your home (or elsewhere — even outside in summer!)
- Teach singing, painting, pottery, woodworking, knitting, quilting, tutoring, writing
- Offer entertainment for a birthday (or other) party
- Provide tickets to an event—symphony, ballgame...
- Offer a weekend at a vacation home
- Buy a gift certificate to a local business for auctioning

There will be some tangible items in the auction, too. Someone is making gorgeous wooden cutting boards, for example. If you have an item to donate, please make sure it is "BETTER THAN A TAG SALE" item. We are

looking for donations worth at least \$20.

Our goal for this fundraiser is \$5,000 (about \$50 per household). We'd love for you to participate by donating item(s) and bidding on auction offerings—but if you can't any donation would be appreciated. Donations can be made by check (payable to UUSA with "Fundraiser" in the memo line, or online in the drop down menu in this message.

Our Auction will be a little different this year. We plan to hold the Silent Auction on-line in about a month. We will also have an in-person gala. We're hoping that this hybrid event, like our hybrid services will give everyone a chance to participate, regardless of their comfort level with covid policies at this point.

Please [use the Google form](#) to describe your donation. If you have a photo, email it to [auction@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:auction@uusocietyamherst.org) . If you would prefer to have help from one of us to fill out the donation form, email Jeanne Ballantine: [jeanne.ballantine@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.ballantine@gmail.com)

We wait with anticipation for your offers of donations! Thanks for your support!

Your Auction committee:

**Anne Moore**  
**Becky Sheridan**  
**Deeya Pavelle**  
**Eugene Herman**  
**Fran Plumer**  
**Jeanne Ballantine**  
**Louise Grosslein**

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## Shared Ministries

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### **Our Proposed Congregational Covenant**

Last June at the Annual Meeting the Congregation voted on a Proposed Congregational Covenant for this year to see how well it works for us and how well we use it. At this year's Annual Meeting (June 2023) we'll evaluate the covenant and decide whether to keep it the same or alter it to better reflect our collective journey together.

The Committee on Shared Ministries will be hosting two more Covenant Chats, during which we'll use Appreciative Inquiry to reflect on the proposed covenant together. These chats will be held on:

- April 2, IN PERSON at the UU SOCIETY
- May 7 on ZOOM.

Our covenant is never set in stone. It is a group of words for us to gather around in reflection. And It is just one of many tools we can use to help us continue to get to know each other as we grow individually and collectively. Here's the text of the proposed Covenant:

*Love is the spirit of this community,*

*And service its practice.*

*This is our great covenant:*

*To dwell together in peace,*

*To seek truth and justice in love,*

*And to work toward the time and place where everyone's worth and dignity is honored by all in our world's Beloved Community.*

*-Adapted from covenant #473 in our hymnal "Singing the Living Tradition" by James Vila Blakel*

We hope you can join us on April 2 or May 7!

Sincerely,

Jessica Murphy, Bo Mack, Mary Ann Gundersen, Rev. Rachael Hayes

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## Pronouns Workshop

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Following the Sunday service on April 16, **Emma Livingston** will be bringing back their **in-person** pronouns workshop that was postponed in February. This is a space to practice and ask questions related to gender and pronouns.

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## Green Sanctuary

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*Many members of UUSA have already joined the Common Share Food Co-op. Come to the Meetinghouse to learn why you might want to join, too!*

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## Co-President's Letter

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While the world seems to be opening up again following several years of social isolation, the trauma caused by the global pandemic lingers. Many of us remain hesitant to participate in congregational activities. In-person participation in Sunday services is growing, but slowly. And most of our committees, small groups, and book groups continue to meet on Zoom. We are right to be cautious, of course. At the same time, continued disconnection from others has a cost of its own. We are social beings, and most of us thrive when we are interacting with others, working toward some common goal or purpose.

Unitarian Universalists have a history of getting involved. It's a spiritual practice for many of us to work with others to make the world a better place. So as green plants emerge from under the snow cover, hopefully more of our members and committed friends will emerge from their pandemic hibernation. Working with others and contributing to a community activity is a means of healing. And we all need to find ways to heal from the trauma of the past few years.

I want to share a few examples of ways to re-engage with your congregation from our UUSA web pages.

1. [The Green Sanctuary Committee](#) works to support our Society and its members in practices of sustainable living, spiritual connectedness to the earth, and educating the congregation on environmental issues. One of the committee's most significant goals is to support and put into action our belief in the **seventh principle**: We covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
2. Following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by SCOTUS, UUSA members joined hundreds of

Unitarian Universalists who took up the call to organize for reproductive justice. After participating in a Reproductive Justice Training Series for Congregational Teams, we formed the [Reproductive Justice Action Group](#) within the UUSA (RJAG). This group supports the definition of Reproductive Justice offered by Sister Song: *Reproductive Justice is the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.*

3. Small groups consist of about 8 people who meet once or twice a month to engage with each other over spiritual and other issues in ways that are not possible over coffee or tea at Social Hour. [Small Group Ministry](#) strives to deepen and expand the ministry of the congregation by encouraging people to talk, learn, work and play together. Members may tell their life stories, offer support, and engage in service to the larger community.
4. The mission of the [Religious Education program](#) is to foster a nurturing community, to honor the worth of religious thinking, and to celebrate the joy of spiritual exploration. Our RE programs incorporate social justice activities, worship opportunities, service trips, fellowship, and fun. Our youth programs are led by our Director of Religious Education, our Minister, our teachers as well as parent volunteers. Teaching can be a fulfilling way to deepen one's own faith.

And of course . . .

5. **At 10:30 every Sunday morning**, we gather in this spiritual community to remind ourselves of what matters most in life. The world is both beautiful and heartbreaking. In our congregation we are called to be our best selves, with wisdom, compassion, and an ever-increasing understanding of the interdependent oneness of all that exists. Our [Worship Services](#) are weekly reflections that weave together our own thoughts and experiences with music, beauty, poetry, and words that both comfort and challenge. Our programs for all ages inspire us and awaken us to our capacities to make a difference in our own lives and in the world.

We have many other activities, committees, and programs that are calling for your attention. While it is true that having lost some regular volunteers during the pandemic, we need you more than ever. But more importantly, we all need a place to practice and perfect our gifts. We need a place to share our energy, invest our intelligence, contribute our wealth, and enrich our souls by working together. If you're feeling somewhat disconnected from your congregation, you are invited to reconnect and engage in our Beloved Community.

John Gerber  
Co-President

The UUSA board has voted to support the Amherst-Pelham Education Association for Amherst educators (APEA) in their pursuit of a contract. A sign supporting the union has been placed outside of the meetinghouse. The board believes UU values include fair compensation and seeing organizations and their employees in a relationship of respect and fairness. The UUA recently released an updated compensation structure to guide congregations in determining compensation based on the cost of living and inflation rates. It was not surprising that the Amherst area has a high cost of living. The board engaged in a lengthy discussion of how to fairly compensate our employees. We remain committed to achieving this and expect other organizations to also strive for this goal.

For more information on the APEA contract pursuit <https://apea.massteacher.org/>. If you have questions or would like to post a sign on your property (Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, or Shutesbury), please contact UUSA member **Yael Fuerst**.



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## Notes from the Keyboard

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April is just around the corner, and with it, our hope that the choir will be able to expand its numbers as well as its activity!

If you are interested in singing with the choir, or providing some other musical talent for a service, please contact **Brenda Miller** at [music@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:music@uusocietyamherst.org)

We have a few newish recruits to our fold, and if you haven't seen or heard them, tune in! Their names are **Alyson Bull**, **Emma Livingston** and **Greenlee Brown**. We are grateful for their strong voices and willingness to sing!

We also hope to see some of our former regulars return to the sanctuary to sing with us in the choir!!

I will send out a weekly email to choir members each week on Wednesday or Thursday to let you know what music will be sung and the rehearsal time on Sunday mornings. Times may vary depending on the amount of music to be learned and sung on any given Sunday.

Brenda Miller, Director of Music

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## Get to know this New Member

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Our March newsletter included a few words of introduction from **Jennifer Aulbury** and **Kay Flatten**, two of the three individuals who signed our Membership Book in February. This time we hear from **Gwen Oulman-Brennan**.

“Thank you for welcoming me and my son, **Ziah** (6). We first visited a few times before 2020. We were grateful to be included in the Zoom RE gatherings early in the pandemic. When **Jacy** and **Rebecca** began hosting in-person outdoor Sunday school at the Wildwood playground and a parent group, Ziah and I really began to feel connected to the community. Now that we are meeting in the sanctuary in person, I am happy to begin to connect with all ages of the larger community. I am an artist, trained as a painter and metal smith. In the last few years, I have been designing and laser-cutting wooden educational materials for children and have a small business.”

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## Here's looking at yoUU!

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UUSA's Communication Team invites you to *share brief tidings* with our congregation about births in your family, graduations, weddings, changes in jobs, or other significant events in your life. If you have something you'd like to see in a future newsletter, send a note to our editor, **Janis Gray** — with the knowledge that your info will be accessible to the public. since the newsletter is posted on our website. (Reach out to **Lea** in the office if you do not have Janis's contact information.)

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## Finance Committee

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The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, April 10, at 7:15 P.M. on Zoom.

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## Religious Education Ministry

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**Youth Group:** Youth Group just wrapped up a busy month of planning, rehearsing, and leading the Sunday service on March 26 at the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence (USNF). A recording of the service for those who missed it can be found [here](#). Next month we will be taking a break due to Easter and Spring Break and will be having our next meeting on Sunday, April 23 from 2:00-4:00 P.M. at USNF. We will reflect on how the service went and will plan ahead for the annual camping trip the weekend of May 19-21 at Rowe Camp.

**Young Adult Group:** In March the Young Adult Group filled in for the Youth Group and helped cook a meal for the Interfaith Shelter. In April we are invited to help cook for the Interfaith Shelter again on April 9 (Easter

Sunday) from 3:00-5:00 P.M. at USNF. We will also have a more casual time to hangout and go for a walk in town the day before on Saturday, April 8th from 3:00-4:30 P.M.

Collee Williams ([they/them](#)), Youth and Young Adult Coordinator - [why share pronouns?](#)

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If you missed the Congregational Conversation last month, you might enjoy [this \(hilarious\) skit](#) by (from left to right), **Ron Grosslein, Sue Alexander, Anne White** and **Louise Grosslein**, as three Magi and their camel in search of a spiritual home. And a brief discussion of our finances follows for anyone interested.

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## Why do I sit alone near the back?

*by Anne Perkins*

As I get older and more infirm, there are a number of ways in which I am accommodating myself at the UU. I thought I would share them in the hopes that it will help others.

To start with, to get into the building I either hold onto the railings on both sides and come up the stairs or I come up the ramp. The number of accommodations that an old person needs to make to be comfortable in our sanctuary is actually quite easy. I learned from **Kyle Cave** to sit under one of the four speakers to help with my hearing loss. That's why you see me near the back on the right hand side. Usually I use the **ear phones** that the people who run our sound system give me (**one needs to ask for them**) and that helps me to hear, especially people who are not used to speaking into a mic. I can turn it up and usually hear them better. I always hear **Rachael**, I suspect she had some training in using a mic, and enunciating clearly. Sometimes I wear my hearing aids, and that works almost as well as the headphones, but they are particularly frustrating when I wear a mask that hooks behind my ears. When I take the mask off the hearing aids come with the mask! Speaking of masks, as I'm sure many of you have experienced, masks tend to fog up eyeglasses. So I have learned to read the words on the Zoom screen rather than in the hymnal or the hand out. I don't usually need glasses to read the screen. I also always make sure there's a chair in front of me to hold onto when I sit down and stand up, so sitting in the front row doesn't work well for me anymore.

Feel free to ask me about other accommodations when you see me.

Lastly, I sometimes stay home and attend the service on Zoom, which works very well for seeing and hearing, but I don't feel so connected to the other people in the congregation when I do that, so I choose to attend the services in person as much as I can.

I am deeply appreciative of **Kyle, Steve, Emma, Elliott**, and **John**, and anyone I'm forgetting who run the sound system in the back. You have helped me adapt immensely. Thank you so much.



*No, it's not a hanging lamp — it's a speaker! Did you know UUSA's sanctuary has four of them?*



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## Social Events

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**The Women's Circle** is a supportive and social group of UUSA women and open to all. We meet at noon on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, sometimes on Zoom, sometimes in person.; between now and April, all of these gatherings will be on Zoom. If you are not already on the email notification list, please contact **Lea** in the office to request the link — or to ask her to let **Sophie Rogers** know you want to be added to that list!

**The Men's Breakfast** With Kelly's Restaurant temporarily closed as it transitions to a new owner, our no-agenda Men's Group that meets each Wednesday at 7:00 A.M. will be gathering instead at The Stables, 326 Russell St. (Route 9) in Hadley.

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## Social Action

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**Can you help our Afghan friends (and receive much in return!)?** A bit over a year ago, a family of six from Afghanistan was resettled in Amherst. **Hardy** and **Jeanne Ballantine** joined a “Circle of Care” for the family through Catholic Charities, along with other volunteers in the area. Farzana Faqiri (mom) and Ismail Shirzad (dad) and their four children—Husnia (now 10), Osman (9), and 4-year-old twins Setaish and Eiltaf—moved into their apartment after living in a transition house.

These wonderful friends have been through so much—and we admire their resilience as they navigate English, jobs, schools, doctors, concern for their relatives in Kabul . . . they face the struggles with determination as they adapt to their new lives. The children are in school and learning English fast.

Farzana cooks Afghan meals some Saturdays, for sale to those who want to try these delicious dishes. Ismail is incredible with anything that has a motor; he and his father owned an auto shop in Kabul. **To help the family financially, they both welcome requests for their talents: cooking, auto and other repairs.** Farzana will be cooking meat and vegetarian meals at very reasonable prices on **April 1, April 15, and other dates to be announced.** Ismail can do auto and other repairs at individuals' houses or at the Ballantines' house in downtown Amherst. Please contact **Jeanne** or **Hardy** to learn more about how to support this wonderful addition to our community. (If you do not have it, please contact **Lea** in the office for their phone number.)

**Not Bread Alone (NBA)** On Saturday, April 29 our Society's help is needed to provide lunch at this local soup kitchen at the First Congregational Church in Amherst. Volunteers like us help prepare the meal from 9:30 -12:00; serve 11:45 - 1:15; clean up 12 - 2. No experience is needed, but creative ideas are welcome. We work under the direction of the kitchen manager.

NBA is located in the rear lower level of this church with access off the Spring Street parking lot. If you can help, please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**. THANK YOU! (If you do not have access to our directory, please contact **Lea** in the office for **Mary Beth's** email address.)

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## Our Caring Ministries

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Dear friends, Welcome APRIL!

Our Minister **Rachael**, members of the **Caring Circle**, and **Pastoral Care Team** are here for you in Beloved Community.

We are here when you would welcome a phone or in-person visit, a ride, some nourishing soup or a casserole, a listening heart, perhaps a caring fellow parishioner who may ask, “How goes it with your soul?” These are just a few ways we share our lives and our faith with each other in beloved community.

Our **Caring Circle** coordinator is **Catharine Porter**. Please contact her or your own Caring Person for simple needs. Other Caring Circle members are **Jeanne Ballantine, Linda Callahan, Carolyn Cave, Lauren Croce, Kate Dahlstedt, Sophie Hermann, Gabriela Horvay, Mary Latham, Karen Mack, Lynn Sussman, and Gordon Wyse.**

Our **Pastoral Care Team** Coordinators are **Fran Plumer and Rob**

I cannot prove to you that God exists, but my work has proved empirically that the pattern of God exists in every (person), and that this pattern in the individual has at its disposal its greatest transforming energies of which life is capable. Find this pattern in your own individual self, and life is transformed.

Carl Jung

Image by Mona Eendra on Unsplash

**Fuderich.** Please contact anyone on the team for more complex or personal needs. Other members are **Charlie Atwood, Rev. Rachael Hayes, Carol Johnson, Pete Rogers, and Rev. Elizabeth Alcaide.**

**Peace Shalom Salaam Shanti to you all**

During our “What Gift Can We Bring” service on March 19, the Leadership Development Committee invited those of us attending online to share in “the chat,” or on Post-it® Notes if we were in the sanctuary, a few words to describe the gifts we felt we brought to our UU community.



Here’s what those in the sanctuary wrote (some notes said the same things as others!):

*Curiosity Empathy Deep gratitude Care and compassion Listening Joy of being with youngsters  
Knowledge of community resources Knowledge of climate issues Enjoyment Teaching yoga  
Enthusiasm Playful Creativity Idea generation Community building Explaining things clearly  
Networking Vision Fun Problem solving Volunteering time Warmth Teaching/tutoring  
Dependable Love to create fun seasonal events Ready to learn and try new things for this community  
Gift of song Connection Connecting people to each other Comforting the wounded My service to the  
community breakfast Pragmatic Trustworthy Appreciation Physical labor Making others laugh!*

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## ION Corner

Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION) - On March 26 on the Amherst town common, ION sponsored a Remembrance Gathering for people and things lost from COVID these past three years. Clergy and community members offered prayers and readings. Music was provided by several local groups including the Amherst Area Gospel Singers and Journey Home Hospice Choir. That afternoon was also a time to celebrate resilience as people and communities begin to recover from the pandemic.

**Mary Beth Seminario,** UUSA representative to ION.

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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 April newsletters from 25 and 15 years ago.

(Just for fun, how many names of the “old-timers” honored at our March 26, 2023 service for 30+ years of membership — and pictured here — can you find in the old articles below?)



### April 1998

**Religious Education** I would like to thank all of those who helped us to prepare for our Youth Sunday Service March 22. Thank you, **Carol Rothery**, for your research, your kind suggestions and unfailing support through the process, Thank you, **Lynn Sussman**, for rehearsing the flutists and clarinet player, and for writing the special music in a key so the clarinet could play with the flutes. Thank you, **Cynthia Weigal**, for your support and strength. Thank you, **Anne Louise White** and **Louise Grosslein**, for accompanying the choral music, and **Jay Stryker** for helping with the rehearsal. Thank you, **Junior High Class**, for working so diligently and for so long. Thank you, **Senior High Class**, for giving the sermon, for sharing your views with us. Thank you, **Preschool through Sixth Grade Students**, for doing your best. Thank you, **Parents**, for bringing in the kids on a Saturday morning for a special rehearsal. We are all richer for the experience.

Candi Talley, DRE

**Food drive nets nearly a ton.** **Charlotte Kitowski** and **Perry Conley**, who coordinated the annual Food Collection Drive for the Amherst Survival Center, would like to thank the following people who helped collect food and money at the participating stores, or helped drive what we collected to the Center March 7: **Ernest Penchuk, John Foster, Florence Bert, Jean and Willard Bouricius, Luba and Howard Reep, Marilyn Gonter, Marjorie Karlson, Joanne Rella, Courtney Gordon, Charlotte Kitowski, Maureen Kirk, Perry Conley, Sam Moody-Conley, B.J. Moody-Conley, Janis Gray, Lauren Croce, Marianne Lorenzelli.** Special thanks to Ernest and Willard, who created new signs. We collected \$524 and 1,761 pounds of food. It was fun!

### April 2008

**Volunteering at the Cot Shelter** in Northampton on March 6 were UUs **Helen Blatz** and **Carolyn Cave.** They brought a hearty salad prepared by **Jane Shohan** and ever-welcome brownies baked by **Karen Mack.** South Congregational supplied the main dish and other volunteers. Helen and Carolyn helped serve the meal, socialized with the homeless guests at the dinner table and took part in kitchen cleanup afterwards.

**“Aging Well” Workshop April 19** The UUSA Caring Committee will be offering “Aging Well,” their second workshop of the 2007-2008 year, on Saturday, April 19 from approximately 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Exact times to be announced, but the event will include morning coffee/tea and a light lunch. Topics to be addressed will include long term care insurance, downsizing and other housing issues, continuing care communities, financial strategies, assistance and social services in our area, equipment and gadgets for extending independent lives, and more.