

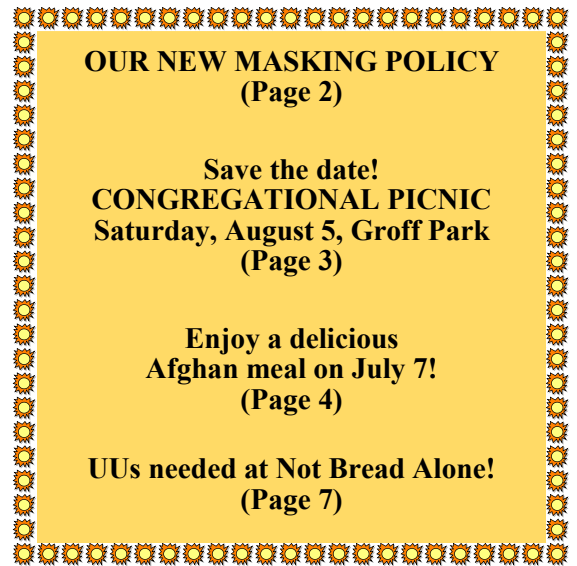
THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

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July 2023



Important Information

STREET ADDRESS:

121 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002

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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

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

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Andrew Coate 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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Brenda Miller music@uusocietyamherst.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

board@uusocietyamherst.org

[link to board minutes](#)

Co-Presidents:

Jeff Clark and John Gerber

Clerk:

Ashley Carter

Treasurer:

Eric Murphy

Members At Large:

Linda Callahan

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



Schedule of Services

Our in-person services resume Sunday, August 6 with our new Masking Policy!

The UUSA Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to change the COVID-19 Building Use Policy to “mask optional” in most of the sanctuary when the risk level is low. The new policy will become effective in August 2023. A “mask required” area will be maintained on the balcony, next to the windows. Masks are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

Our new policy will depend on weekly tracking of wastewater using BioBot Analytics COVID-19 website. If wastewater tests remain below 1000 copies/mL in Hampshire County, the UUSA will remain in Low or Green risk level and continue as “mask optional”. If the risk level increases above that level, we will move to “mask required” or more stringent limits, if necessary. For details, please see the revised policy here: https://www.uusocietyamherst.org/covid_policy/



Check out the UUSA YouTube Channel!

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

Dedicated Offerings

From September to June, our Society donates each month to a dedicated offering 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 KY; \$875 to the Hospice of the Fisher Home; \$2,100 to Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts; \$950 for Local Energy Advocates; \$1000 to Ohketeau Cultural Center; \$1,375 for Rise Above, and \$1,000 for The Sojourner Truth School for Social Change Leadership. We will report in a future newsletter what we raised for the Wildflower Alliance in May and the remaining weeks of our services in June.

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 **Anne Perkins, Linda Honan, Carolyn Holstein, Mary Beth Seminario, Pat Brinkman,** or **Linda Callahan.**



2nd Annual UUSA Congregational Picnic

Saturday, August 5th | 12-3 PM

GROFF PARK | 83 Mill Lane, Amherst



UUSA members, friends and children of all ages invited

Rain or shine! We have a reservation for the covered pavilion

If possible, bring a camp chair or blanket; picnic tables are limited

Potluck (by last name):

A to G - DESSERT

H to M - MAIN DISH

M to Z - SIDE DISH/SALAD

BYO beverages

Kids bring bathing suits for “splash pad”

Help us to make it a zero-waste event! Bring your own plates, cloth napkin and silverware.

Recycling and composting will be available.

July Co-President's Letter

LBGTQ justice, climate change, racial justice, income inequality and reproductive rights. At a Pastoral Innovation Network of New England (PINNE) Symposium on June 12, 2023, Rev. Darrell Goodwin of the UUC said that those were the five issues that members said their congregations should focus on over the next ten years. Those are our issues! Those are issues we have been advocating about for years.

There are many reasons to make these issues a focal point of a congregation. We certainly want to play a part in driving social change in a positive direction. We want to counter voices that want to take away newly gained rights, many coming from other faith-based communities.

We also want to make our local community know that UUSA is a home for fighting for the issues that are on the top of their mind. "Marry your justice work to your faith foundation," said Rev. Goodwin.

If we want our voices to be heard, we need to build strength in numbers. That means growing attendance to services, running programs that welcome the community, growing membership, and building the resources needed to make sure our voices are heard.

The overarching concern participants at the PINNE Symposium expressed is the trend of their declining membership, service attendance, and pledge income. The solution that was mentioned by many speakers was to be innovative in the ways you serve your membership and larger community. "Meet people where they are," was a common refrain at the PINNE Symposium. That not only meant connecting on their concerns, but connecting in the ways that they want to engage.

As I look at next year, I see that we have an opportunity to meet our local community where they are. I am excited about the ideas that have been suggested by members of the congregation to run events that are both education and fun (it doesn't hurt to have a little fun while we're getting serious). I am also excited about building tools that help us communicate our message more broadly, using our website, social channels, and the local media.

If you are interested in talking about ways to amplify your advocating for social justice, please feel free to contact me or Co-President John Gerber.

In community,
Jeff Clark, Co-President

FAQIRI'S KITCHEN: AFGHAN MEALS (July 7th)

Farzana Faqiri, husband Ismail, and 4 children from Kabul, Afghanistan, came to the U.S. over a year ago. After being moved by the government several times, they ended up settling in Amherst. The children are thriving in Amherst schools, and the parents are trying hard to learn English (it's a hard language!). To help the family with finances, Farzana has prepared some meals here; she did lots of cooking for big events in Afghanistan.

Ismail owned an auto sales and repair shop in Kabul, working mostly with Toyota and Subaru; he is in the U.S. because he worked at a U.S. base fixing anything with an engine! Until he improves his English, he is working at low-paid factory jobs. This makes it hard to pay the rent for an apartment for 6 people, plus utilities and food. Farzana helps by occasionally offering Afghan cooking—and that is why you are receiving this note!

On July 7, Farzana will be cooking both chicken and vegetarian meals that you can order (see menu below). The meals will be available for pickup from 5pm to 6pm on Friday, July 7, in Amherst, or from 5:30 to 6:30 in Leverett.

MENU: Chicken= \$18; Vegetarian= \$15 per container

CHICKEN CURRY: white meat, turmeric, garlic, tomato, onion, lemon, curry masala, tomato paste.

VEGETABLE CURRY: green beans, onion, oil, tomato, garlic, tomato paste, turmeric.

Meal comes with: Colored rice, vegetable garnish, hot sauce, Afghan bread.

TO ORDER, CONTACT:

Anne Louise White or Sophie Rogers (See our online directory if you need their contact information)

ORDER PICKUP:

In Amherst, between 5:00 and 6 pm at 90 McClellan Street

From center of Amherst, come down Amity Street hill past Jone's Library and Amherst Coffee and Cinema to first right on Lincoln. Go over 3 speed bumps on Lincoln Street to McClellan Street--only goes right. We are first house on the right, #90, small white house with Little Library in front. Park on street or in driveway to right side of house. Go down driveway to gate and patio where food will be waiting.

In Leverett, between 5:30 and 6:30 pm at 5 Dudleyville Road - Right around the corner from the Leverett Village Coop. (Anne can be reached at 413-658-4859)

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN ENJOYING AFGHAN FOOD AND HELPING TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY! THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WONDERFUL NEW NEIGHBORS

Religious Education Ministry

Youth Group: Youth Group has just finished up another exciting year of programming and will be taking a break for summer vacation. At our last two meetings of the year we did a recap of the year, brainstormed plans for next year, and said goodbye to our outgoing Senior as well as our Youth Group Coordinator, Collee. We also participated in the USNF Community Picnic on June 11 after the flower ceremony.

Young Adult Group: At our May meeting a group of us got together to hang out on the front lawn of USNF and then we walked into town to get smoothies from Haymarket Cafe. Our June meeting will be on Saturday, June 17 from 1-2:30 P.M. We will be meeting at Mt. Tom North Trailhead Park in Easthampton (off of East St.) to go for a hike and talk about summer plans. This will be our second to last meeting with Collee in their role as Young Adult Coordinator, with one more meeting in July (date TBD) before the position turns over.

Social Events

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. 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 still 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.



The regular readers of the blog “Hold My Chal-ice” were treated to a lovely picture of ministers who had recently achieved a mile-stone.

And wasn't it nice to see our own Reverend Rachael among those in the picture at General Assembly in June!

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will not meet in July. Stay turned for an August meeting!

Our Caring Ministries



As you start to walk on the way, the way appears.

By the poet Rumi



Image by Heidi Fin on Unsplash

Members of the **Caring Circle** and **Pastoral Care Team** are still here for you this July! 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 Fuderich**. Please contact anyone on the team for more complex or personal needs. 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.**

Bidding you peace and love as we journey toward wholeness.

Social Action



Not Bread Alone It is our Society's turn to help provide lunch at this local soup kitchen on Saturday, July 29. Working under the direction of the kitchen manager, scrumptious meals are created every week. We work in shifts. Cooks are needed from 9:30 -12:00 (no experience needed); servers 11:45 - 1:15; clean-up 12 - @2:00. NBA is located in the lower rear of First Congregational Church with parking off the Spring St parking lot. If you'd like to help please contact **Mary Beth Seminario.** THANK YOU!

ION Corner

Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION) At this June's meeting ION members learned about an exciting home ownership program that helps make housing in Amherst more affordable. Through the Amherst Community Land Trust, home prices are reduced by up to \$200,000 for income-eligible people. People buy the house; the land trust buys the land for homebuyer's use. To learn more and apply, contact Donna Cabana 586-5855 ext 180, dc@valleycdc.org.

Mary Beth Seminario, UUSA ION representative

Here's looking at yoUU!

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 **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.)