

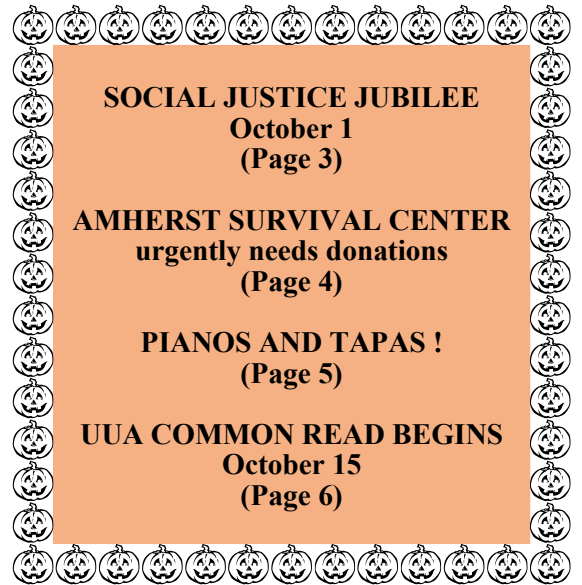
THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



October 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

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:

Eden Richardson

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

We encourage you to attend our Sunday services in person. As of this writing, masks are required, given the rise in COVID numbers in our area (more below*). You may also attend online. Click <https://bit.ly/463gaOt> Meeting ID: 998 5370 0822 PW: 599092 Or call in +1 646 876 9923 and enter Meeting ID: 998 5370 0822.

*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. A “mask required” area will be maintained on the balcony, next to the windows. Masks are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you! *To attend services 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*



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/

Sunday, October 1, 10:30 A.M. – *Come Sing a Song with Me: A Service on Welcome and Belonging*
Alyson Bull with Ministry of Welcome and Membership and The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, October 8, 10:30 A.M. – *Bringing Hell to Paradise*
The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, October 15, 10:30 A.M. – *Justice: For the Turning of the Tide*
The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, October 22, 10:30 A.M. – *Resonance*
Robin Livingston

Sunday, October 29, 10:30 A.M. – *The Ancestors' Voice*
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://www.uusocietyamherst.org), with optional closed captioning! To view them, click [here](#) — and don't forget to SUBSCRIBE!

Dedicated Offerings

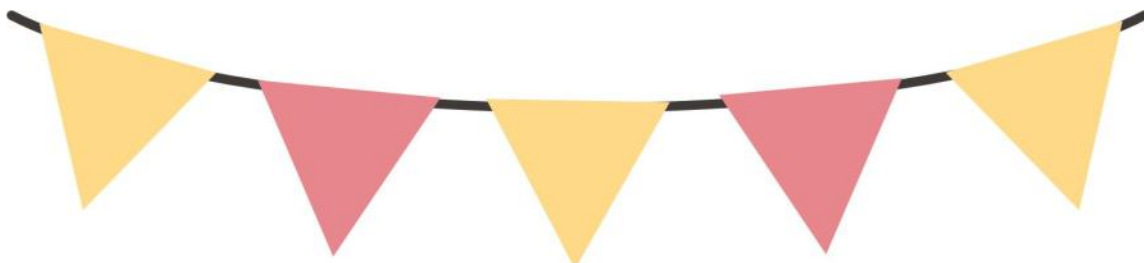
From September to June, our Society donates each month to a dedicated offering recipient and splits 50/50 every Sunday's offering plate with the recipient organization. In August we raised \$625 for local farms impacted by summer floods by supporting the Farm Emergency Fund of CISA, Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. We will report in a future newsletter what we raised in September for **UUA Disaster Relief Fund** to support the Montpelier VT UU congregation, which suffered a great loss when the Connecticut river flooded its building.

The October Dedicated Offerings will go to **Maui Strong**. This fund supports victims of the Hawaii wild-fires which devastated Lahaina in western Maui. It is recommended by the UUA and a UU minister living in Honolulu. The blaze killed at least 115 people, with many still missing, and destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses. It was the fifth deadliest fire in US history and the worst in this century. More information can be learned by going to <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/maui-strong> or Lahaina.

More about Dedicated Offering Committee

The Dedicated Offering Committee 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. Our Society is enriched by learning about organizations previously unknown to us which are working to strengthen the world.

The DOC solicits our members for names of organizations and asks they complete a specific DO form which is available in the office and on-line at <https://forms.gle.hypMGzMJHgeAVf26>. A representative of the chosen organization is asked to speak about it on the first Sunday of the month. We welcome new members. If you are interested in learning more or joining DOC, please contact **Anne Perkins, Mary Beth Seminario, Linda Callahan, Carolyn Holstein, Linda Honan or Brenda Bushouse.**



The Unitarian Universalist
Society of Amherst is celebrating a

*Social Justice
Jubilee!*

Join us for a joyful celebration of the social justice initiatives we have all been doing with and outside of UUSA, and to creatively imagine what we might undertake in a future that needs our energy.

OCTOBER 1ST, 2023 AT 12PM

PIZZA PROVIDED
ALL AGES INVITED



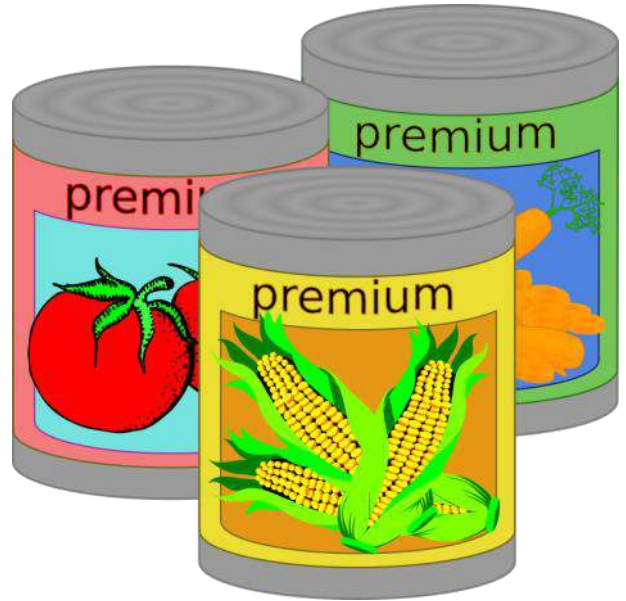
Social Action



At my regular Thursday volunteer shift in the ASC Food Pantry (after a six-week lapse when we were away), I was shocked and saddened to see there were NO small hygiene items and almost NO canned vegetables (except green beans) or fruit. The Pantry provides guests critically needed food and hygiene items.

There is an URGENT need for the following as soon as possible:

- Canned vegetables (#10 or 15 oz.): corn, all tomato products, carrots, peas, and beets
- Canned fruits (#10 or 15 oz.): peaches and fruit cocktail - low sugar if possible, shelf stable single serve beverages
- Hygiene items: single wrapped bars of soap, deodorant, regular sizes (and also SMALL "hotel" sizes) of toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, floss, combs, hair brushes, and disposable razor blades.
- Kids' snacks: granola bars, snack mixes, dried fruits, small apple sauces.



Take them directly to the ASC Food Pantry ,138 Sunderland Rd., Amherst. Tell them the donation is from the UUSA. Preferred donation time: Monday & Friday 8:30am-4pm; Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am -7pm; 3rd Saturday of the month - 9am-noon

Thank you for being so generous.

Pete Rogers

Important PS:

The shortage of canned fruits and vegetables at the Food Pantry is due mostly to the recent move of the Food Bank of Western MA, which disrupted their regular availability of some items. The ASC also regularly purchases food from other sources and collects regular donations from local food stores...please thank the following: ALDI, Atkins Farm, Big Y, Mi Terra, Panera Bread, Starbucks, Stop & Shop, Tandem Bagels, Trader Joes, Walmart & Whole Foods.

Feedback Wanted by the Board of Trustees

The UUSA Board of Trustees would like to hear from you about your thoughts on the leadership, management, and general governance of the UUSA. Governance is a shared responsibility of the Minister, the Board of Trustees, and the many committees, ministries, groups, circles, and teams of the congregation. Please share your thoughts and suggestions using this "[digital suggestion box](#)" (an email).

Our Congregational Administrator will forward your feedback to the Minister, Board of Trustees, and/or committee leader, as appropriate. Members of the Board will also be available during the coffee hour after the services to hear your thoughts. In addition, you are invited to speak directly to the Board at our next meeting. To be included on the board meeting agenda, please contact either of the co-presidents. We'd like to hear from you!

Co-President's Letter

If you have been to a Sunday service this month, you will have noticed that a member of the UUSA Board of Trustees has been offering the welcome. We want you to know who is currently serving on the Board so that you can share your questions and suggestions on the governance of the congregation with us. We are experimenting with several ways to solicit your feedback, including:

- emailing us at board@uusocietyamherst.org,
- speaking to the Board directly at the beginning of our monthly board meeting, and
- talking to Board members during the social hour on Sundays.

We believe listening to the congregation is an important part of our work.

The work of the congregation may be thought of as both; 1) governance and 2) ministry. While there is a tendency to assume the Board of Trustees is the primary group responsible for governance, governance is a shared responsibility of the Board of Trustees, the various committees and ministries of the congregation, as well as the Minister and Staff.

There is also a tendency to look to the Minister as responsible for the spiritual needs of the congregation. And while this is true, ministry is also a shared responsibility for many of our committees, ministries, circles and teams. >>>>>

As soon as we announced this experiment in feedback, suggestions and questions began to arrive by email, during the social hour, and at one of our board meetings. This was very exciting!

But now what? What do we do with your suggestions? Good question!

Whenever possible, one of the co-presidents will try to respond to your feedback directly (if we know the answer). Many times however, your suggestion or question will be best answered by one of the many committees, ministries, circles or teams of the congregation. We will share your input with the appropriate group and ask them to put it on the agenda at their next meeting. This might take a bit of time, but we are committed to engaging the right people in this feedback process. For example, if your suggestion is related to budget, either the Board or the Finance Committee will try to answer your questions. If it is about Sunday services, the Minister, the Worship Collaborative, and/or the Ministry on Welcome and Membership may be involved. The Meeting-house Committee is responsible for the building and grounds, and the Dedicated Offering Committee determines how we share our plate revenue, etc., etc. It truly “takes a village!”

We initiated this formal feedback process because we believe it is particularly important to provide opportunities for our members to ask questions and make suggestions during times of change. And we are indeed changing. One of the lessons gleaned from adrienne maree brown, the author of Emergent Strategies, is “*Change is definitely going to happen, no matter what we plan or expect or hope for or set in place. We will adapt to that change, or we will become irrelevant.*” The UUA and many of our UU congregations are engaged in reflection and review of many of our common practices and norms so that we may continue to adapt and thrive.

Of course, change can be unsettling. We are trying some new things in both ministry and governance at the UUSA. This might feel uncomfortable for some of us, but it is part of the journey. Personally, I feel privileged to be on this journey with you. Please let us know how you are feeling about our journey by sharing your thoughts, questions, or suggestions with us in one of the three ways outlined above. I hope to see you on Sunday!

In shared community,

John M. Gerber; Co-president

Social Events

Come for a melodious Social Time! Piano *salon* and *tapas*, Sunday, November 5. at 4:00 P.M., at 470 Montague Road, the home of **Howard Apley** (in Sunderland! Off Route 47 near Montague town line). Classical piano presented by **Sue Kelsey**, **Howard Apley** and **Fran Plumer**. Bring a *tapas* (finger food appetizer). Beverage provided.

More Social Events on page 6!



Free Community Breakfast, every Wednesday, 8:00 -10:00 A.M. in our Social Hall. Co-sponsored with Craig's Doors. *Volunteers welcome (Questions? contact Sophie Rogers)*, or just come to eat and chat!

The Men's Breakfast, our no-agenda Men's Group, meets each Wednesday at 7:00 A.M. at The Stables, 326 Russell St. (Route 9) in Hadley.

The Women's Circle is a supportive and social group of UUSA women 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!

Finance Committee

The **Finance Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, October 10, at 7:15 P.M. on Zoom.**

Yes, that's right — Tuesday is a departure from our usual second Monday of the month, but Tuesday works better for us in October, due to the Monday holiday.

Religious Education Ministry



This year our elementary school Religious Education class will be using Unitarian Universalist religious educator Katie Covey's curriculum Spirit of Adventure. This curriculum is wonderful for groups with larger age ranges and looks at Unitarian Universalism through a variety of lenses.



We kicked off our sports unit on Sunday with an amazing class on Fencing from Lisa Wolf of Riverside Fencing Club. We discussed why rules are important in fencing, how it's not always a matter of being the biggest or the fastest like in many sports, and then everyone who wanted to try was able to test out some pool noodle fencing. Over the next few months we will be covering a wide range of topics, from medicine and architecture to treasure maps and winter holidays. For our next unit, Medicine, we would love to have a visitor from the congregation who is in the medical field in some way; doctors, nurses, EMTs, public health officials... please email Andrew if you would like to come and speak with our class in November. The more props and tools you can bring the better!

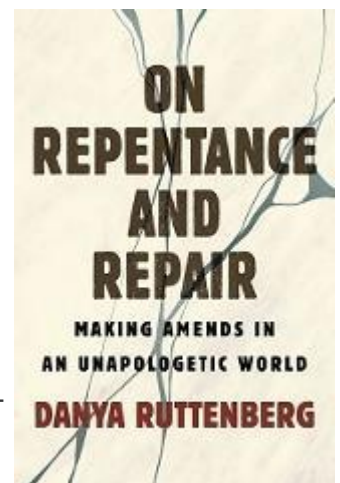
Over the summer we also hired our new youth and young adult coordinator, Eden Richardson. Eden comes to us as a lifelong UU and a staff alum from The Rowe Center summer camp. Eden will join us on an upcoming Sunday morning to introduce herself and get to know us here at UUSA!

Invitation to the 2023-24 UUA Common Read

We hope you will join us for this year's Common Read. Please click here to learn more and to register! <https://www.uusocietyamherst.org/congregation/join-us-for-the-uua-common-read/>

Our first meeting will be on **October 15** (currently planned for the Meetinghouse, but that depends on COVID).

Making mistakes is human and most of us can name a harm we have directly caused another person. Yet, even as people of faith, we can struggle to accept our responsibility. It can be hard! Even when we wish to make amends, we can get stuck on how to make things right.



At a time when Unitarian Universalists are striving to widen our circles, to improve our relationships across the interconnected web of life, and to become better builders of Beloved Community, *On Repentance and Repair* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022) is a powerful choice for the next UU Common Read.

On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World taps 12th century writings from the Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides, for a fresh perspective on how we make ourselves accountable to others. Rabbi Ruttenberg applies Maimonides' five-step process to a variety of modern circumstances. As a UU Common Read selection, this book gives a glimpse into Judaism, one of Unitarian Universalism's foundational sources, and invites us to follow our own faith into practices of transformative atonement.

Our Caring Ministries



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 Fuderich**. Please contact anyone on the team for more complex or personal needs. Other members are **Charlie Atwood, Rev. Rachael Hayes, Carol Johnson, and Pete Rogers**. Bidding you peace and love as we journey toward wholeness.

ION Corner

Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION) After a summer hiatus, ION had our first fall meeting September 20 at our UU Society. Our meetings, held in person and on-line, rotate among different houses of worship. We are very pleased that the Director of Religious & Spiritual at UMass will be a regular participant at our meeting.

On Tuesday, October 3, 4:00-5:00 P.M., North Amherst Common ION is sponsoring a program as part of National Day for Truth & Reconciliation to remember Indigenous children who were forced to give up their language, clothing, customs and beliefs in boarding "schools." For more information visit interfaithamherst.org.

UUSA Representative to ION Mary Beth Seminario