



# First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

UUAA E-News | August 30, 2020

## Support UUAA

To view the entire E-News, you may need to scroll to the bottom and click on "view entire message."



### **Sunday Worship Service** **Sunday, August 30, 11:30am**

Josh Berg is an American Humanist Association-credentialed Humanist Chaplain, an aspirant in the process of becoming ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister, and passionate about social justice issues. He intends to speak this Sunday, from a Humanist perspective, about our nation's struggle with issues of racial justice. We (UUAA) are Josh's home UU congregation.

Use this link to join [www.uuaa.org/service](http://www.uuaa.org/service).



### **Virtual Social Hour** **Immediately Following Service**

Join us for a Zoom Social Hour immediately after the service. Use this link to take part:  
[www.uuaa.org/socialhour](http://www.uuaa.org/socialhour).

To view or listen to past Sunday Services, [click here](#).



### **Welcome UU Back Week** **September 10-21**

UUAA is excited to welcome UU back into the 2020-2021 program year! This year will be unique as we move to online formats for much of our programming. Welcome UU Back Week (WUUBW) September 10-September 21, we will gather to learn, engage, and

support each other on this journey. WUUBW will be a series of zoom sessions covering important topics like Membership, Stewardship, Music, and Congregational Life. WUUBW sessions will be facilitated by staff and lay leaders and held at various times to accommodate the unique needs of our community. Look for a final schedule here and sign up details in the coming weeks. Questions? [Quiana@uuaa.org](mailto:Quiana@uuaa.org).



### **Wednesday Meditation** **Wednesdays, 4:00pm-5:00pm**

All are welcome to practice a form of Buddhist meditation with fellow congregants.

**Use this link:** [www.uuaa.org/meditation](http://www.uuaa.org/meditation)

### **Are you interested in learning more about meditation?**

- Watch Introduction to Meditation produced by Rev. Manish on our UUAA YouTube Channel. **Use this link.** (Posted 4/9)



### **Alpha House Special Service Week** **September 14-20, 2020**

Alpha House is an emergency shelter for families temporarily experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. This September we will serve for a special host week September 14-20. UUAA provides

dinner each night during our week and hot breakfast on weekends. We also purchase supplies and supervise children's activities when possible. Sign up online at [tinyurl.com/AHSep20](http://tinyurl.com/AHSep20) to help financially, donate a dish (curbside), heat meals (kitchen-only), or oversee outdoor activity time. We are all working together to keep residents and volunteers safe during COVID. Questions? Contact [AlphaHouse@uuaa.org](mailto:AlphaHouse@uuaa.org).



### **Annual Men's Retreat | CHANGE!** **September 19, 2020**

**CHANGE!** 2020 is a year of changes and disruptions: a pandemic, police brutality, civil unrest, a divisive election, and the inability to gather with others. Are we at an inflection point? Can we navigate the disruptions alone? What is needed from us? Consider these questions at the Men's Retreat -- a mostly virtual gathering with optional small, in-person gatherings. \$25 registration fee covers the tee-shirt and donation to a local non-profit. Register by September 12 at <https://forms.gle/TbW4H11hC3FJwpSc8>. Send questions to Tom Reischl at [treischl57@gmail.com](mailto:treischl57@gmail.com).



### **.Newcomer Chalice Circle**

**Saturday, September 19, 1:00pm-3:00pm**

If you are new to UUAA in the past year or find yourself with the time you always wanted to explore UU, join us in delving more deeply into the seven UU Principles.

Experience a small-group, spiritual discussion with fellow inquisitive minds and hearts in this one-time Newcomer Chalice Circle.

Sign up using [this link](#) by Monday, September 14 or email Hannah Hotchkiss at [hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:hannah@uuaa.org). You will receive a Zoom link once you have registered.

This group is limited to 6 participants. Hannah will contact you if you are put on the wait list.



### **UUCivs: Vote Your Values**

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS** will be available beginning **September 24** and mailed to voters who've requested one. If you haven't already requested a ballot, the information you need to register to vote and/or apply for an absentee ballot is in [A Virtual Voting Kit](#) -- ideal for sharing with friends and family! We recommend requesting an absentee ballot ASAP, but no later than **October 13**.

**ZOOM VOTING CLINICS** now available to provide hands-on help with getting and using an absentee ballot!

**Dates:**

- **Sunday, Sept. 13, 5:30PM**
- **Monday, Sept. 14, 7PM or**
- **Thursday, Sept. 17, 7PM.**

[Use this link to RSVP.](#)

Please contact [uucivs@uuaa.org](mailto:uucivs@uuaa.org) if you're able to help with this project.

**EqUUal Access** is one of the organizations within the UUA, which, with solidarity partners DRUUMM, BLUU and TRUUsT, represents many of the people whose identities are marginalized in Unitarian Universalism.

No one, including UUs living with disability, can be left behind.

EqUUal Access is currently reimagining its purpose, mission, and activities toward identifying the future as an essential organization of UUs living with disability.

We would like feedback from typical UUs affiliated with congregations in different regions who may or may not have heard of our activities; this input will help EqUUal Access to set priorities and actions for moving into the future.

The UUA Commission on Institutional Change Report\* (2020) states: -- *A liberatory faith will remember the mandate from our theological legacy: to privilege those most affected in our justice work, which should follow the voices of those most at risk.*

Please help EqUUal Access effect this liberative work of our UU faith. Complete the 10-question survey found at the link below. Average completion time is about 5-10 minutes. The survey will remain open until August 30.

LINK TO SURVEY <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XGQ9L5T>

\*<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening/appendix-ii>



### UUAA Scrip Program

Good news from Amazon Smile! Thank you to the thoughtful shoppers who remembered to access Amazon Smile

(linked to UUAA) when making online purchases. Our quarterly earnings were almost \$57. At a 0.50% rebate, this translates to \$11,382 in qualified purchases from Amazon. Many thanks to our nameless friends. But just as a reminder, if you had also used Amazon scrip (2.25% rebate) for the purchase, we could have cleared another \$256. Please contact me at 734-665-0884 or [cmbarber@umich.edu](mailto:cmbarber@umich.edu) if you'd like to know how to maximize your contribution to the congregation.



### Congratulations Staff

In June, we announced that our staff would be reorganizing to better meet the needs of our community. The following staff members have now fully transitioned into their new roles, so please join us as we send them our very best for this exciting new chapter:



**Quiana Perkins, Coordinator of Congregational Life** - In this role, Quiana supports all lay-led affinity and justice groups, aligning all groups with our congregation's vision.

**Mark Van Kempen, Director of Spiritual Growth**



**& Development** - In this role, Mark oversees all educational, enrichment and childcare programs within our community, across the lifespan.



**rev. theresa rohlck, Congregational Chaplain/Director of the Chalice Bells Handbell Choir** - In her role as Congregational Chaplain, theresa works directly with our lay pastoral care team and provides pastoral care to UUAA community members in need. theresa is also

providing support for worship and continues to direct the Chalice Bells.



**Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Executive Minister** - In this role, Rev. Cassandra is Head of Operations and oversees the alignment of all of our programming with the congregation's vision.



## Board of Trustees Update

via Zoom.

At the time of the May 31 Annual Meeting, UUAA was in full Covid 19 mode along with the rest of the country, and elected a new slate of Trustees ([see details here](#)) via the first ever UUAA Annual Meeting

Since then, while navigating Covid 19 and the summer schedule, the Board of Trustees (BoT) has still been keeping busy including but not limited to:

- Along with their final report, the Vision 20/50 Leadership Team recommended that the BoT form a task force to explore how best our congregation could execute collaborative action planning around our newly articulated priorities ([see details here](#)), a process for transparent monitoring and reviewing/updating the progress, and what changes may need to be made to policies in order to facilitate the process. The task force was formed and will be reporting back to the BoT by the end of August. The BoT is excited to share the task force findings with you as we move forward on our priorities.
- Orientation – the Governance Advisory Team, one of two standing committees of the Board, held two orientation sessions on responsibilities and policies.
- Scheduled a half-day orientation with Senior Minister Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti.

- Paired new BoT members with standing members for more in-depth orientation.

Next steps for the BoT include:

- Finalization of the 2020-2021 Board Calendar
- Meeting Schedule (congregants invited!)
- Creation of the 2020-2021 BoT Work Plan (will be posted at [uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org))
- Mission and Vision Statements for Congregational Consideration (posted now on UUA.A.org)
- Pending Policy Decisions
- Vision 20/50 Next Steps

There are many other items on the BoT's agenda, so watch for notices of board meetings (all are invited to Zoom in with us), and regular updates in the *Weekly E-News*, *Monthly Newsletter*, and through other communication platforms including the UUA.A website [uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org), and Sunday Services.

The BoT is always accessible to congregants by emailing [BoT@UUA.A.org](mailto:BoT@UUA.A.org).



### **Room Reservations at UUA.A for 2020-2021 Accepting Reservations Now**

With the uncertainty brought on by Covid-19, we ask UUA.A groups to plan with Zoom in mind for the fall. We encourage all recognized groups to submit their [Zoom room reservations](#) now. When the building opens again physically, we can easily convert your Zoom room to an actual room. One bonus of this is while we are meeting virtually, Zoom rooms are available on Fridays and Saturdays.

Questions? Email Debita Graham at [room@uuaa.org](mailto:room@uuaa.org).



### **Signup for Friday Fun Communications**

Be the first to receive signup links for Friday Fun activities and news. Sign up for the Friday Fun mailer. [Use this link.](#)



### **UUSC Coffee Project**

Equal Exchange coffee and chocolates are for sale again! This will be a curbside pickup or delivery with no contact program. Orders may be picked up in Ann Arbor (not at UUA.A) or delivered to your home. See what we have in stock, [click here](#).

Email [uuaaequalexchangeorder@gmail.com](mailto:uuaaequalexchangeorder@gmail.com) to place your order online, or call Cathy Whitaker at 419-283-3430 or Ilene Beninson at 248-376-7031. All sales benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and this congregation.



### **Submitting to the *Weekly E-News/Bulletin & Monthly Newsletter***

All recognized UUAA groups may publicize UUAA events in the news in the *Weekly E-News/Bulletin* and *Monthly Newsletter*.

### ***Weekly E-News/Bulletin* Deadline Wednesdays at 5:00pm**

Send submissions of 90 words or fewer to [Bulletin@uuaa.org](mailto:Bulletin@uuaa.org). If your group is advertising an event, please be sure to include the name of the event, date, time, and contact information to field questions. We also ask that you make your room reservation or Zoom room reservation before advertising an event. Note that during the stay-at-home order, we are not strictly limited to the 90 word limit; however we do ask that you stay in close range of that.

### ***Monthly Newsletter* Deadline The 21st of the Month at 9:00am**

Send submissions of 300 words or fewer to [Newsletter@uuaa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uuaa.org).

If you have any questions about the *Weekly E-News/Bulletin* or *Monthly Newsletter*, contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at [Hannah@uuaa.org](mailto:Hannah@uuaa.org).

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## **Quick Links:**

[UUAA Website](#) | [Social Justice at UUAA](#) | [Find us on Facebook](#)  
[Make Your Pledge](#) | [UUAA Events Calendar](#)

## **Other Links:**

[UUA.org](http://UUA.org) | [MidAmericaUUA.org](http://MidAmericaUUA.org)  
[Side With Love](#) (formerly Standing on the Side of Love)

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## **First Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Ann Arbor**

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## Contact Us

