



First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

UUAA E-News | September 6, 2020

Support UUAA

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



Worship Service **Sunday, September 6, 11:30am**

A service to celebrate and honor the lives of our LGBTQIA+ communities. As a member of the Interfaith Roundtable of Washtenaw County, we helped to weave a time to lift up these lives with our pride and prayer, and recommit ourselves to the work of freedom made real for all people. This Sunday and always, may the tapestry of love woven with our partners in faith nearby bring warmth, rest, and shelter for all.

Use this link to join 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.

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



Water Communion | September 13 **Send Us a Photo**

As we approach our annual in-gathering Sunday, September 13, on which we have typically held an in-person Water Communion service, this year we will join in a virtual honoring of our shared human connection to/with water. In

support of that, the Worship Team invites you to send in pictures of WATER that you feel close to or find special. There can be people and/or pets in the pictures, but each picture should feature water in some way. Examples could include: pictures of you with water from your home faucet, pictures of our local Ann Arbor reservoirs and/or the Huron River, pictures of your summer travel to Lake Michigan, etc. The common theme is water that means something to you, personally, as an individual or family.

Please email any photos/images no later than Wednesday, September 9, preferably sooner to worshipteam@uuaa.org.

THANK YOU for helping us create a beautiful UUA water communion photo collage!

Love and gratitude, Manish



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.



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

Are you interested in learning more about meditation?

- Watch Introduction to Meditation produced by Rev. Manish on our UUA 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. UAAA 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 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.



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.



Newcomer Chalice Circle Saturday, September 19, 1:00pm-3:00pm

If you are new to UAAA in the past year or find yourself with the time you always wanted to explore UU, join us in delving deeply into the seven UU Principles. This one-session Chalice Circle specifically geared to newcomers, lets you experience a small-group, spiritual discussion with fellow inquisitive minds and open hearts.

Sign up using [this link](#) by Monday, September 14 or email Hannah Hotchkiss at 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.



Community of Writers Zoom Sunday, September 20, 1:00pm-3:00pm

From March to August, UAAA Writers exchanged writings and appreciative comments by email. We

are going forward with Zoom to share our writings with appreciative response. Writers will meet by Zoom on the 3rd Sunday of every month beginning September 20, 1:00pm-3:00pm. Members of the congregation interested in joining the Community of Writers may contact Mary Lund, Co-Facilitator, at mlund@mi.rr.com or 248-344-4877 by Wednesday, September 15. A link and invitation to join will be sent prior to the start of the Zoom gathering.



Our SGD Program Needs Teachers!

Our SGD program is looking for teachers for kids of all ages.

This year, we are drastically restructuring our program to meet the needs of our community of children and families. Our SGD program will offer smaller classes that run for a maximum of 6 weeks, on a variety of topics chosen by individual teachers.

This is a perfect opportunity to get involved. If you have a skill, passion, or expertise, this is a chance to share it with the children of the congregation.

- For more details, [check out this document](#).
- To sign up to teach, [use this form](#).

Questions? Email SGD@uuaa.org.



2020-2021 Chalice Circle Registration Now Open

Are you looking for a way to connect with fellow congregants at UJAA? Are you seeking opportunities to share your truths in a safe/brave space?

Register online [here](#) for Chalice Circles forming now and beginning in October (Bi-monthly for seven months or weekly for six weeks). For more information, please attend the Welcome UU Back Drop-in Chalice Circle Information Session on September 19 from 12:00pm–1:00pm, or email ChaliceCircles@uuaa.org. All circles will be held on Zoom.



UUCivs: Vote Your Values

September's here - our voting window opens in three weeks! September 24 is the day that Early Voting begins via absentee ballots for the General Election.

Are you, your family, and friends ready? Use and share:

1. Know how: check the [Virtual Voting Kit](#)
2. Clear up your lingering questions: ask the Voting Helpline by phone or email: 1-855-868-3311 or votinghelpline@gmail.com
3. Come to one of our Zoom clinics on September 13, 14, or 17 to go over the ballot and ballot return rules: no surprises! [Use this link to RSVP.](#)

Questions? UUCivs@uuua.org.



PICK UP A HAMMER AND GET TO WORK!

The summer Habitat for Humanity Good News House build is going strong.

We have two houses to work on:

- The Good News house: 2754 Appleridge St., Ypsilanti
- The Thrivent House: 1622 Wiard, Ypsilanti

We still need workers:

- Saturday, September 19 (6 of 10 slots filled)
- There will be additional work days in October and maybe November. Details will be published at uuua.org/h4h.

Safety is a primary concern:

- Safety guidelines are reviewed on-site before any work is done
- A COVID 19 Volunteer Waiver is required
- Social Distancing is enforced
- Masks are required

*As part of the safety guidelines we will not be providing lunches to volunteers this year. **Volunteers need to bring their own work gloves, mask (you must wear a mask on site), lunch and water.***

You are welcome to bring your own tools if you would like. If you need help getting a mask or gloves, email habitat@uuua.org.

More details and updated information is available on

<http://uuua.org/h4h>

SHORT NOTICE VOLUNTEERS

If the number of volunteers is low for an upcoming build date, Habitat reaches out to this list to notify you that there is an opportunity for you to work on a house. Several UUAA members are on the Short Notice Volunteer list already. To be added to the list email habitat@uuua.org.



UUAA Scrip Program

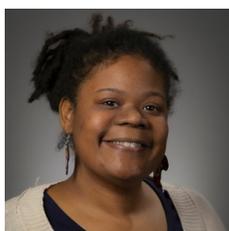
Good news from Amazon Smile! Thank you to the thoughtful shoppers who

remembered to access Amazon Smile (linked to First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor) 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 if you'd like to know how to maximize your contribution to the congregation.

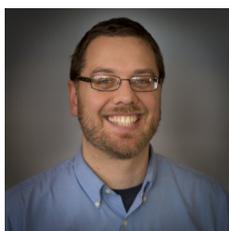


Congratulations Staff

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

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 UUA Annual Meeting via Zoom.

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)
- Mission and Vision Statements for Congregational Consideration (posted now on UUA.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 website uuaa.org, and Sunday Services.

The BoT is always accessible to congregants by emailing BoT@UUA.org.



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>



Room Reservations at UAAA for 2020-2021 Accepting Reservations Now

With the uncertainty brought on by Covid-19, we ask UAAA 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.

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 UUAA) or delivered to your home. See what we have in stock, [click here](#).

Email 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.

Quick Links:

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

Other Links:

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

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Contact Us

