



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offerman

December 2021



Mark's Trail
Rev. Mark Walz



From the President
Patti Dacus

Hope and Anticipation

Over one hundred of us gathered to celebrate what many claimed to be their best Thanksgiving ever. We gave thanks for the opportunity to gather in person and in peace, and share a wonderful meal. We expressed our gratitude for the amazing spirit in our church. The food was delicious and the company was superb!

Now comes the season dedicated to hope and anticipation. December brings the celebrations of Kwanza, Hanukah, the Winter Solstice, and the anniversary of the birth of a child called Jesus.

One of the stories I always include in my seasonal reading is Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*—the tale of a man who squanders much of his adult life, caught in a spiral of greed and loneliness. With the help of three Christmas spirits – past, present, and future – he learns to become a gift to others. He learns to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every living soul. And he begins a life of service to all. How beautifully Unitarian-Universalist!

Our world, too, can have stories told simply and honestly, with lives that become gifts of profound love. That is the hope I seek. Especially when the road ahead seems uncertain.

So I ask you to remember the words of Charles Dickens when he wrote, "it was always said of Scrooge, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be said of us, and all of us! Happy Holidays. And as Tiny Tim observed, "God bless Us, Every One!"

Joy

Our theme for the month of December is "Opening to Joy." Joy is defined as, "the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying." And, at UUVC we will have many opportunities for exposure to joyous happenings in the coming month! The first Sunday of December, we will have the opportunity to reflect on the many different holidays celebrated at this time of year as we enjoy our annual Illumination Ceremony. The following Sunday we will be honored by a visit from Rabbi Eugene Levy, who will share a message with us entitled, "Holiday Grace and Longing in Pandemic." On the third Sunday, we will recognize our status as a "Welcoming Congregation," and be enlightened and inspired by members of our congregation, who will share their personal stories with us. We will also present the Meg Koziar Distinguished Service Award during that service, recognizing and honoring a member who has shown great commitment and dedication to the service of our church. And, the month's services will be concluded on December 24, with the annual Christmas Eve candlelight service, led by our Rev. Mark Walz, and followed by the traditional soup supper in the community hall. Much cause for joy, indeed!

In addition to the many joyful happenings at the church, many of us will also be busy shopping for Christmas baskets for needy families and seeing that they are ready in time for Santa to deliver. We will make contributions to Jackson House (as our Share the



Treasurer's Report Kim Townsan

We now have a Treasurer in Training! Many thanks to Ducky Berkley, who has volunteered to learn the treasurer's position. The Board is very appreciative with Ducky's dedication to UUVC. Ducky previously served as chairperson of our Building Committee.

As for financials, thru October net income from operations was \$13,740. The most significant driver of our positive income is related to a delay in obtaining a live streaming service. Our numbers for people watching our services remotely have ranged from two to six.

It's December... the end of our personal fiscal year. For those wishing to get contributions in for the current tax year, please be sure to have them received at the church by December 28 to enable processing within 2021. Reports of contributions made in 2021 will be sent out by January 20.



Social Justice Dianne Morton

The Social Justice Committee met on Nov 11 for the final meeting of the year. The Share the Plate for December will be Jackson House. So please make your contributions to this worthwhile agency that helps feed and cloth the many homeless and less fortunate people in Hot Springs.

The Share the Plate for January is CCMC, February is our C4K program and March will be a new organization called Diamonds in the Rough.

Martha is currently working on the Christmas Baskets for 4 families and 12 children. Please contact if you are able to help at 501 915 8551.

The Giving Tree for Lucies Place has been changed due to all the other activities we are involved in at this time of the year. Ducky will be setting up the tree but we will not be doing donations until January so more information will be forth coming. Please contact Ducky if you have questions.

I will be out of the country from Dec 1 till the end of January. Alana Clegg will be covering all the duties while I am gone.

~From the President , Continued from p 1

Plate recipient for December) and to other deserving charities that speak to our hearts, especially at this time of year. Many will also be busy selecting the perfect gifts for friends and loved ones. And, we will spend time together when and where we can, celebrating the season of light. May we all remember to slow down, to find quiet moments for reflection, and to truly find JOY in all our activities this busy month as we journey on together in LOVE! Happy holidays!



Music Notes John Leisenring


Thanksgiving is in the rear-view mirror, and we can turn our attention, musically, toward the festive month of December. First comes the Illumination Service on December 5th. On December 19th, the Service will welcome the Christmas season with hymns from the Rev. Walz list of favored carols, plus a fun anthem entitled "Christmas In About Three Minutes". This will feature the marvelous music of Clyde Pound and his magical piano. Then, on to Christmas Eve, there will be more familiar carols to sing, finishing with the lovely "Silent Night."

Program note: the next MUSIC ON BARCELONA will feature the Silver Strings, who will present a fine concert of string music on Sunday January 30th. Enjoy!!

WHAT'S THIS???



In case you were unable to attend our Thanksgiving Lunch on November 21, these were our "party" favors made by Deanna Tolliver. Deanna, a member of our Green Team, made 90+ fabric napkins which not only added beauty to our tables, but eliminated the use of paper napkins! Everyone got to take their napkins home with them. Many thanks to Deanna!



Adult Education
Salli Forbes

What does it mean to be a “Welcoming Congregation”? UUVU received that designation from the Unitarian Universalist Association in 2020. Being a Welcoming Congregation is a journey, not a destination. The Education Team is offering an opportunity to learn more about LGBTQ+ issues and what it means to be truly welcoming. We’re offering a Sunday Conversation in which a few members and friends will share their own experiences and answer questions you submitted in the rainbow box during November.

UU 101 classes, which explores the rich histories of Unitarianism and Universalism, will continue on December 6, 13 and 20, at 5:00-6:30 pm, meeting in person at the church. Co-facilitators Salli Forbes and Steve Rittenmeyer invite you to join the class if you are interested in learning more about our unique religion. To join the class, email Salli at salli.forbes@uni.edu.

Book Sharing will not meet in December. It is scheduled to return in January.
Please watch the UUVU Office email for future class



Membership
Pam Harrison

As 2021 draws to a close we look forward to a New Year filled with kindness, hope, and love. As a church community we have experienced separation, loss, and movement from the Village by our congregants. Our beloved UUVU Community is once again meeting, holding services, and participating in activities. Thanks to all who kept our connection strong under very trying circumstances.

Please remember to check the Church Directory every month. Changes to phone numbers, addresses, and email happen all the time. Members and Friends will find the Church Directory on UUVU.org under the Member/Friend tab.

Visitors are issued a nametag with an orange lanyard on their second visit. Please spend a few minutes with them when they attend.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, we wish you a Wonderful Safe Holiday Season.
Merry Christmas!

WHAT'S WITH THE SPECIAL CUPS?





Photo by Kim Townsan

We are providing mugs for our visitors as a sign that they are interested in having members/friends engage them in conversation during our coffee time.
So, if you are a visitor interested in a “cup of conversation”, grab a mug to use while in the Community Hall.
And, members and friends, be on the lookout for one of our special green logo mugs ... it means someone would love to have a chat!



C4K
Bob McCleskey

HELP WANTED!

C4K is looking for a person or persons who would like to assist placement of C4K refurbished computers with individuals who are participating in adult education programs sponsored by non-profit organizations. The work will involve contacting non-profit organizations in the tri-county area to determine whether they sponsor such educational programs and have participants who would qualify for a C4K computer. If interested, contact Bob McCleskey [c4k@uuvu.org or 501/226-9426]

October Share the Plate
\$2,256. went to
Meals on Wheels



Voices for Justice

Anais Troadec

“Not the Church, not the State, Women must decide their Fate”

Read the sign carried by 5 UUVC *Voices for Justice* advocates, at the Pro-Reproductive Rights March at the Arkansas Capitol in Little Rock. This March came on the heels of a “Lobbying for Justice” workshop led by Kristin Foster of Citizens First Congress, and Anais Troadec. In preparation for the workshop, 12 *Voices* members met over food and wine, to discuss the six issues that are addressed by our social justice effort.

The workshop focused on “power-mapping”; the identification of all influences that give power to legislators and how to address these influences. *Voices* members are now being mobilized to contact our legislators, Senator Bill Sample and Representative Richard McGrew on such issues as taxes, redistricting and education. Bill Sample has not responded to us, but we have many email responses from Richard McGrew. Meeting them in person is the next step.

The Governor will soon call a Special Session to address taxes. We fear that other issues will be brought up, such as abortion, voting rights and election fraud.

Speak up for justice in Arkansas! Join us (contact anais.troadec@gmail.com) and we will keep you posted!

December Services & Insights

December 5: Illumination Service. Rev. Mark Walz

December 12: Insight Service. Rabbi Eugene Levy.

"Holiday Grace & Longing during the Pandemic"

December 19: Worship Service. Rev. Mark Walz

December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm

December 26: NO SERVICE



Events

Nancy Baumgartner

The November 21st Thanksgiving Meal was attended by more than 80 people. The smoked turkey was prepared by Clampits. Cloe Bayer, Dee Offerman, Kandy Shelton, & Marj Lakey provided the mashed potatoes, sausage dressing, and the mushroom gravy & giblet gravy. The attendees contributed over 40 assorted sides and desserts. The variety was diverse and delicious.

This was our first in-house event in over a year. We had 20 plus volunteers who helped put this together - it takes a village. The festive atmosphere was delightful and felt by all. What a great start to the holiday season! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE DECEMBER 24TH SOUP MEAL!!** Details will be available soon.

December Birthdays

Clyde Pound	Dawn Groover
John Skeen	Steve Owen
Alana Clegg	Anais Troadec
Joel Unowsky	Lou Elliott
Meg Koziar	Katherine Wheeler

December Anniversaries

12/3	Dee and Jerry Offerman
12/8	Ann and Don Haase
12/19	Todd and Barbara Carter
12/20	Vivian and Rev. Mark Walz
12/28	Sharon and Ted Allen
12/31	Margorie and Bob McCleskey



Happy Holidays!
May this season bring you
peace and joy.

Cindy Perez

Interest Groups

Mask are required for anyone not vaccinated and while in the sanctuary.

UUVC Pickle Ball

Outdoor and Indoor play depending on weather. Please contact **Dane Nielsen 915-8750** for an update on the play schedule.

Mah Jongg

Mondays at 1:00 in the Community Hall. Contact Dee Offerman at: offermanrn@gmail.com

Rug Hooking

December 6th in the Conference Room, from 10:00—2:00.

If you are planning to attend, please call or text **Susan Johansson at 832-738-5136** on or before the prior Sunday.

Game Night

2nd Saturday of each month at 5:00 PM in the Community Hall. Bring a dish to share. We play all kind of games from Cards, Pictionary, Dominos, and pretty much whatever players would like. For questions please call **Cindy Nance at 337 278-4004.**

About UUVC

UUVC Website: <http://www.uuvc.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>
Sermons: www.uuvc.org/messages-and-sermons.html

UUVC Principles

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.