



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offerman

January 2022



Mark's Trail Rev. Mark Walz

Trust

Like many of you, perhaps, I was hoping for a little more clarity as I gaze into the new year. No crystal ball here.

A friend recently gifted me with a new watch. I had admired his for several months. The dial was unique. Instead of numerals its dial merely had the word NOW, in big bold letters. So every time he would check for the time, he was reminded that the only important moment was the immediate one.

If you really need to know the exact hour you have to look intently at it to see the big and Little 'hands'.

The exercise now serves as a reminder for me to stop and reflect on my addiction to the clock. I've begun to pause and appreciate the mystery of just existing. Of breathing and being fully in my body.

It also brings contentment. The knowledge that no matter what happens in the future, I have this community and its values to support me, as do we all. The future will come, ready or not, and we will handle it. Our human adventure continues.

We must not be dismayed by the brokenness in our world. All things can break, and all things can be mended. We are fortunate to be connected to those who love us. Together we will live, extravagantly, intentionally, and in covenant, whatever the year brings.

Our broken world awaits the light that is us. Together we will bravely embrace the new year.

See you in Church.



From the President Patty Dacus

Good Intentions

I'm thinking today about the theme for the month of January, "Live with Intention". The first thing that came to my mind is the saying that, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

So, I think I'd better dig a little deeper; good intentions are no good without action. How do we live a meaningful life with intention? While investigating this question, I came upon a very nice blog called the "loving roots project," by Dr. Shelley Sommerfeldt. In this particular post, she suggests five steps for living with intention.

The first step is to choose activities that matter. Do things that align with your beliefs and values. Then we should work toward betterment. Life-long learning and self-improvement is a way to assure meaning and fulfillment. The third step recommended by Dr. Sommerfeldt is to enjoy the moment. There are many benefits to mindfulness, including deepening relationships and greater self-awareness. Then we should strive toward balance in our lives. Mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of life should all receive attention and care, making us more well-rounded and contented with life. Finally, we should strive to make a difference. Being helpful to others and volunteering in our church and community is proven to be beneficial to our mental wellbeing.

And, this is the point I'd like to make here...I am asking that each of you find a way in the next few months to focus on intention and how you can follow the steps



Events Nancy Baumgartner

The Events Committee planned a joyful and tasty Holiday Soup Supper.

The members and helpers on the Events Committee wish our UUVc community a happy New Year. Safe travels, good food and fond memories is our greatest wish for all.

There will not be an event in January 2022. Our next meeting is January 11 @ 10:30AM. At that time we will finalize events in February and March. If you wish to join our committee or have any ideas for future events please contact an EC member, OR come to a meeting.



Social Justice Martha Thompson

December's big event for the Social Justice Committee was shopping, packing up and delivering Christmas baskets. We received \$3243 from Share the Plate in November for this project. Thank you all for being so generous.

This year we helped 5 families with 12 children. They all received food, clothing, books and gifts on the 16th. The families were very thankful and very much in need.

Any leftover money will go to the Shoe Fund, which gives each child a shoe certificate for a new pair of shoes.

Thank you to all the shoppers and the two teams of deliverers.

Help Wanted

The A/V department needs someone to record, edit and post the YouTube video of the Sunday services to the UUVc website.

Basic computer skills are required. Video operation and editing can be learned. You'll be the primary video operator as part of the A/V team. Once you are up to speed, you can plan on a 3-4 hour a week commitment. This is a gender neutral position. Contact Dane Nielsen at dane.nielsen@sbcglobal.net if you might be interested.

~From the President , Continued from p 1

above in your own life and at UUVc. Our wonderful church does not exist without those who volunteer their services in programs, on committees, as leaders of small groups and in a thousand other ways. There is a place for us all and a real need for each of us to step up, raise a hand and say, "I want to help"! If we could all just reach a bit further than we think is comfortable, we may find that the stretch makes us stronger, healthier, and happier knowing we are making a real difference with good intentions. I am so honored to be with you all as we journey on together in LOVE, in 2022!

Happy New Year!



C4K Bob McCleskey

I am happy to report that two people have volunteered to help with the C4K program, namely, Linda McAteer and Azim Khan. They will be taking on the challenge of finding potential recipients and handling the placement process. Linda's background in Education makes her an ideal candidate for working with both K6-12 schools and colleges and Azim will focus primarily on non-profit organizations and their clients.

What a great way to start the upcoming year. Incidentally, we finished the year at about 260 placements which matches what we placed in 2019 and would have set placement records except for the turmoil in Haiti which has postponed shipments for obvious reasons.



Dispute Mediation Steve Owen

The Dispute Mediation Committee stands ready to assist members and friends in resolving conflicts which affect their life in the church. For more information click [HERE](#). Contact Steve Owen: hsvgolfing@gmail.com or Steve Rittenmeyer: 915-0575 sd-rittenmeyer@wiu.edu



Artwork

Daryl Wedwick

The first Art Wall changeover of 2022 will take place in the Community Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 7. There is space for up to 16 pieces of two-dimensional art.

Paintings and photographs are the most common types. However, the Art Wall has seen drawings, stained glass, quilts and even low-relief carving in the recent past. New art is nice, but anything which has not been exhibited in the past two years is welcome.

Each piece must be signed by the artist who has to be a Friend or Member of UUVC. Each work of art must be appropriately framed and have a wire hanger; no saw-tooth hangers, please. If canvases of any depth are gallery-wrapped, the edges must be painted, too. On the back of each piece, the artist must attach a tag which lists the title, medium, artist's name and phone number as well as the value of the work.

Please bring all artworks to the Community Hall by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 7.

Art which is currently exhibited may be picked up at that time, as well.

Of course, new UUVC artists are welcome!



Safety

Tom Tirrell

Help Wanted

This could be your opportunity to get involved with your UUVC church.

We are still in need of additional members for our Sunday Safety Team. Responsibilities would involve a commitment to one Sunday service per month. Team members greet and guide late comers to our Sunday service so as to minimize any disruptions to our ongoing service.

Training will be provided.

Signup sheets are on the Sunday signup table in the Community Hall

Contact Tom Tirrell: 501-915-2436 if you have questions.



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 UUVC 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 UUVC.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.



Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

We are now at the half-way point of our fiscal year... but the end of our UUVC tax year. For those who made contributions in the final weeks of 2021, we are making a single deposit reflecting payments received as of December 31. This will enable accurate matching of your payments to tax year 2021. So if you see that your check has not yet cleared, no worries! It will show up in the first week of January.

Reports of donations and pledge payments made during 2021 will be generated and available at the church as of January 20th for your tax reporting. Each person's report will be in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside of the envelope. They will be in a box in alpha order on the treats table in the Community Hall.

We continue to show income exceeding expenses with net income through November of \$17,836. A summary of church financials can be found on uuvc.org, see the Members and Friends section (password protected).



Green Team Deanna Toliver

Although the pandemic has slowed some activities at UUVC, several Green Team members have been quietly working behind the scenes. Kudos to the Recycle Team for checking the recycling bins, the recyclable office paper, and cardboard, and taking it all to the transfer station on Hwy 7. We have also re-started selling coffee, tea, olive oil, and honey on Sundays.

One of the aims of The Green Team is to show alternatives to plastic and unsustainable products. That happened recently at the UUVC Thanksgiving Dinner. We encouraged the use of washable dinnerware and silverware, avoiding paper plates and plastic forks, spoons, and knives. We also provided cloth napkins for everyone. Because there were over 90 diners at the dinner, you can imagine how much trash we kept out of the landfill by using these more sustainable products.

If there is a downside to this, it's that considerably more work is created for the kitchen crew, in terms of cleanup: helpers are needed to collect those dirty dishes, carry them into the kitchen, wash and dry them all, and put them away. Please consider volunteering at the next event.

Sometimes being Green can take a little more work than opting for the less sustainable route! Think about incorporating Greener living into your New Year's resolutions.

The Green Team needs more volunteers for future projects. For information, please contact me:

divadog11@gmail.com

HELP WANTED!

Did you ever wonder what happens to your donations after you put them in the collection plate?

Come and join the **Counting Team** and learn the first step in the process.

If you're interested, or you know someone who is:

Contact TerryLynne Marx by:

calling 501-226-5136,

e-mailing tlmarx@live.com, or

sign sheet on the sign-up table.



Adult Education Salli Forbes

The Education Team thanks you for your support this past year, whether you were a facilitator or participant. We turn our attention to the plans for educational experiences in 2022.

At this time, there are no classes scheduled for January, but watch for announcements of future classes in the UUVC Office email and the newsletter in coming weeks and months.

Women's Winter Retreat

Come be refreshed with like-minded women as we share together.

Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Held at UUVC. Open to all UUVC Members and Friends.
Limited to 30 participants.

You must pre-register, [Click here.](#)

Registration will be \$15.00 at the door, benefitting *Share the Plate* program.

*A light lunch of homemade soups will be offered or you may bring your own meal.

* If you came to the Fall Retreat bring the journal you made. A new journal will be provided for those who did not attend in the fall.

* We ask that all participants be vaccinated.



Ann Haase

January 27, 1936

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December 18, 2021

Interest Groups

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

January 3rd in the Conference Room, from 10:00—2:00.
If you plan to attend, please call or text **Susan Johansson at 832-738-5136** on or before the prior Sunday.

Game Night

Due to increases in COVID cases, Game night is canceled until further notice.
For questions please call:
Cindy Nance at 337 278-4004.

Sunday Service Information

- 1/2: Worship Service. Rev. Mark Walz. Remembrance Ceremony.
1/9: Insight Service. Darrel Applewhite. Understanding Hospice.
1/16: Worship Service. Rev. Mark Walz. 2-Cookie Communion.
1/23: Insight Service. Rex Nelson from the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. (In the Community Hall as the Sanctuary is being painted.)
1/30: Music on Barcelona. (In the Community Hall as the Sanctuary is being painted.)



January Birthdays

Rhiannon Zerbe	Susan Johansson
Linda Griffin Puckett	Gerald Wheeler
'Nita Brown	Merrill Clark
Alex Perez	Thomas Lovely
Patrick Ransom	Toby Hamilton
Pam Harrison	Nancy Unowsky
Sue Strayer	

January Anniversaries

1/8 Toby and Mark Hamilton
1/18 Sam and Joe Stout
1/19 Lorraine Ridley and Glenn Calloway
1/21 Nola and Dennis Abraham
1/22 Kandy and Ken Shelton

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.