



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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501-922-1255

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UUVC Values by Jerry Offerman

## March 2022



### Mark's Trail

Rev. Mark Walz



### From the President

Patty Dacus

#### History

February was Black History Month and March is Women's History Month. We are eager, even ravenous, to believe the flattering narratives about ourselves.

Our racist history keeps informing our present. Reconciliation remains unfinished.

It's wonderful that women were extended the right to vote, but horrible that it was withheld from them for a century and a half.

History is not there for us to like or dislike. It is there for us to learn from. If it offends us in some way, even better, because then we are less likely to repeat it.

The histories we love to teach are often distorted, to the point that they would be unrecognizable to the people who actually lived through them.

Teaching the truth can make us unequivocally aware of our personal duty to help keep the dark history from ever repeating itself.

Confronting the facts of our history will not leave us feeling that we are part of the problem, but rather part of the solution. As Mychel Denzel Smith reminds us, a culture that shuts out parts of its identity is in danger of disintegrating into myth.

Truth engenders empathy which our world needs now more than ever. And with truth comes healing.

See you in Church.

Today, as I write this, the world's attention is on Ukraine and the senseless, brutal attack that Russia's reckless, ego-maniacal leader seems to think will help his cause. I am so sad for the people of Ukraine who love their country and are willing to fight to save their fledgling democracy. They are people just like us, who have been living normal lives in a developed country with jobs and homes and families to care for and hopes and dreams for their future and the future of their children and grandchildren. Today, some of them are learning to use AK47s and making Molotov cocktails to defend their very homes while others are standing in long lines to cross to safety in Poland with just what they can carry in their arms, not knowing if they will ever be able to return to the home they are fleeing. I cannot comprehend what that must be like, as much as I try to imagine myself in that position. How can this possibly be a reality in 2022? Will man's inhumanity to man be eternal? I pray not, and I pray for those who are suffering under this barbarian.

So, here is where I am conflicted. As I agonize about the condition of the Ukrainian people, I am preparing to take a long-awaited vacation. We are finally scheduled to leave in just a couple of days for two weeks in Norway; seeing how the Sami lived and searching for the Northern Lights. I am so glad that we have jumped through the Covid hoop (that is another story) and the Covid onslaught. In fact, it seems to be abating somewhat, just in time for our trip. I have gotten Mom safely tucked in with my brother and sister-in-law, along with her little dog. My suitcase is packed with nice winter



## Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

Net income through January 31 was \$24,543. This positive variance reflects expenses that were \$22,166 lower than budget. One major factor contributing to lower expenses is the \$7,000 included in the budget for the engagement of a live streaming service. Currently the church is doing this by way of Zoom. This is managed by a small group of members who are using their phones during the service to host the Zoom session.

Reports of contributions made to UUVC during calendar year 2021, that may be needed for your tax preparation, will be found in the Community Hall. The budget for our next fiscal year will be initiated in March. The process begins with input from each Committee. The proposed budget is presented to the Finance Committee for approval and then moves to the UUVC Board for their approval. The last step is approval by the membership at the UUVC Annual Meeting, to be held on Sunday, May 1.



## C4K

Bob McClesky

### Help Wanted!

The UU-C4K program needs a person(s) to assist with the placement of our refurbished computers. The job involves contacting both K-12 schools and colleges and a variety of non-profit organizations.

Historically, we have placed the C4K refurbished computers with students in several of the local school districts, colleges and non-profits. Examples are: Fountain Lake, Jessieville, Cutter Morning Star, Mountain Pine, Hot Springs, Bismarck, National Park CC, Co-operative Christian Ministries & Clinic, Adult & Teen Challenge, and Habitat for Humanity.

In recent years, many computers have been placed with non-profit organizations who provide adult education. The second highest placements have been with students. If you are interested or know someone who could help with this very worthwhile program, please contact Bob McCleskey (501/226-9426).

~From the President , Continued from p 1

clothes, including a brand new down-filled coat, guaranteed to keep me warm in the Arctic. I am so very fortunate that in MY life today, my biggest concerns are preparing for a fun adventure trip and, of course, seeing to the concerns of our church. My home, my family, and my country are, so far, free from tyrannical rule and barbaric treatment. We'd best stay alert in the midst of carrying on as though all were right with the world. I smile through my tears as we journey on together in love.



## Safety

Tom Tirrell

The Sunday Safety Team has invited a guest speaker to discuss "De-Escalation Techniques" for dealing with a disruptive visitor.

This discussion will take place on Wednesday, March 9th at 11am in the Community Hall.

Interested church members/friends/guests are invited to join us as well.

We hope you will want to attend.



## Events

Nancy Baumgartner

### Plant Based Sunday Snacks

The Events Committee, in conjunction with the Green Team Culinary Team, will be offering a plant-based Sunday Snack Day once every Quarter. In other words, four times a year all the snacks will be plant-based.

Our church community will be encouraged to participate in donating plant based snacks. A Culinary Team member will staff the table to answer questions and share recipes & information.

Remember the Energy Balls from the *Keep In Touch Team* program???? Those delicious goodies were plant-based. We hope to have our first plant-based Sunday Snacks in April. Check the snack table for further information.



## Adult Education

Salli Forbes

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT UUVU

#### Book Sharing

Rev. Walz will lead the conversation on February 23rd, 7:00 p.m. on zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89175217905> or by phone: 312 626 6799.

UU 101: Survey of Unitarian Universalist History  
- **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

Learn about the history of Unitarianism and Universalism from the time of Jesus to the present. Find out how we developed the understandings and practices of Unitarian Universalism today.

FACILITATORS: Steve Rittenmeyer & Salli Forbes

WHERE: UUVU Community Hall

DATES: Tuesdays on March 1, 18, 22, & 29 and April 5

TIMES: 4:00-6:30 PM

REGISTRATION: <https://tinyurl.com/mwsefzyn> or come to class to register

#### DEEPENING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE **NEW COURSE!**

This new course is a ten-session exploration of the role of spiritual practice in our lives and how we can sustain it. It is rooted in two affirmations: 1) There is no one right way to do spiritual practices, and 2) Spiritual life is not always solitary – we need each other.

FACILITATORS: Debbie Bostick & Patti Dacus

WHERE: Community Hall - UUVU

DATES: Wednesdays, March 23-May 25

TIME: 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

REGISTER AT: <https://tinyurl.com/UUVUDeepSpirit>

Everyone is welcome to register, whether you have taken the Spiritual Practice course or not.

### March Anniversaries

Mar 1 Georgia and Clyde Pound

Mar 23 Nell Brewer and George Tatum

Mar 26 Martha and Darrell Graham



## Green Team

Deanna Tolliver

Almost every Sunday, before and after the service, there is someone from the Green Team selling Equal Exchange products in the community hall. In fact, the coffee provided by the church is from Equal Exchange. But what is it exactly?

In 1986, three young entrepreneurs started importing coffee directly from a grower in Nicaragua. That was the first of many relationships between farmers from many countries and the little company that wanted to mutually benefit farmers and consumers. All their products are fair trade, almost all are organic, and Equal Exchange is a cooperative, owned by its workers.

The products the Green Team sell are bought at wholesale prices, and sold at that price, with no markup. The goals are to provide our congregation with Fair Trade food at fair prices, and to support those farmers involved in the cooperative.

Here's what you'll find at the coffee cart: several kinds of coffee (regular, decaf, whole bean and ground); 6 different teas (chamomile, ginger, English breakfast tea, black, green and hibiscus); 2 kinds of chocolate bars; cocoa mix; locally produced (Richard's) honey.

Stop by this Sunday and see what you've been missing!



## Dispute Mediation

Steve Owen

The Dispute Mediation Committee stands ready to assist members and friends in resolving conflicts which affect their lives in the church. For more information click **HERE**.

Contact Steve Owen: [hsvgolfing@gmail.com](mailto:hsvgolfing@gmail.com)

or Steve Rittenmeyer: 915-0575

### Services

Mar 6 Carl Ford *Understanding the Constitution*

Mar 13 Kim Harrison *Community Foundation*

Mar 20 Rev. Mark Walz

Mar 27 Social Justice Sunday



## Social Justice

Dianne Morton

### February 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Discussions

Designation for *Share the Plate* will be: March - *Diamonds in the Rough*, April - *Immigration Arkansas*, May - *Sunshine Therapeutic Riding Center* and June - *Arkansas Food Bank*.

The Unitarian Universal Service Committee (UUSC) *Justice Sunday* on March 27<sup>th</sup> will present a song via a video from the UUSC. It will be one that we hope all in the congregation can sing. Meg will share the importance of UUSC and why we need to join. It will be a joyful presentation with many important issues facing our world at this time.

Ducky has set up a lovely rainbow Giving Tree for Lucie's Place in the foyer of the church. Paper hearts are written with directions on how you can donate money or gifts directly through Amazon. Please take a heart and help in this worthwhile organization.

Also discussed was how the Social Justice Committee can coordinate with, Education, Insight and Program Committees, to set up special presentations for Black History, Hispanic, and Women's Day. Kim Townsan will be aiding in this collaboration.



## Membership

Pam Harrison

### READY! SET! GO!

Are you ready! Are you set! Are you ready to go! We are into the last few months of our church year, ending the last of June. Have you been thinking about becoming a Member of UUVC? If so, we can provide you more information about the meaning, the privileges, and the responsibilities of membership in UUVC. If you are ready to take the next step, to bring your time, talents and support to UUVC please contact the Office at 501-922-1255 or email [office@uuvc.org](mailto:office@uuvc.org). They will forward your request to Membership.

### Visitor to Friend

We try to ensure that everyone who attends UUVC is aware of the progression from Visitor to Friend, and eventually to Member. If visitors are not approached and acknowledged, they may just walk away from us. We consider this a loss to UUVC.

### UUVC Connections

If you have changed your phone number, ditched your landline, changed your email, or have a different address, please let the UUVC Office know, so we can update your record. Thank You.

### 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: [offermanr@gmail.com](mailto:offermanr@gmail.com)

#### Rug Hooking

**First Monday** of the month from **9:30—1:30** in room 2  
If you plan to attend, please call or text:  
**Susan Johansson at 832-738-5136**  
on or before the prior Sunday.

#### Game Night

All are invited to Game Night, the **2nd Saturday** of each month, at **5:00 PM**, in the Community Hall. Bring a dish to share. After our potluck we play cards, Pictionary, Dominos, and pretty much whatever players would like. Hope to see you! For questions please call **Cindy Nance at 337 278-4004**.

### March Birthdays

Jack Iafrate  
Jim Tripcony  
Diane Wagener

Lorraine Ridley  
Cindy Perez  
Alan Trippel  
Patsy Slezak

Heather Ross  
Dennis Abraham  
Cary Drennen  
Terry McCoy

January Share the Plate \$1820

went to

Cooperative Christian ministries and clinic



## About UUV

UUV Website: <http://www.uuv.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

Sermons: [www.uuv.org/messages-and-sermons.html](http://www.uuv.org/messages-and-sermons.html)

### UUV Principles

We covenant to affirm and promote:

- 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.