

Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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President: Janet Holt (mjholt@hotmail.com)
Minister: Rev. Mark Walz (minister@uuv.org)



Jerry Offerman '16

July 2019 THEME: UUVC Heritage



Mark's Trail
Rev. Mark Walz

Our UU Heritage

There isn't much I like better than sharing the Good News of our Unitarian Universalist Faith. This summer's monthly themes encourage exactly that. In July and August, I will preach from our UU Heritage. Each original denomination brings us a dynamic history of inquiry and curiosity. Together they sanction the discovery of a new, spiritually fearless religion, designed and built by today's generations.

This month will include Worship sermons on Unitarianism and Universalism separately, and an Insight titled 'Ask the Minister', where you can ask any question that is on your mind (about Church – LOL).

In August, we will explore the lives of those who brought this faith into being, and the issues that drove their quest, what the merger of 1961 has brought to this new version of Unitarian Universalism, and the opportunities that come with it. We will explore more of the historic Church, enumerate our unique values, and the values we share with other religions. We will discuss the ways we can affect the future with our radiant optimism, courageous inquiry, and sacred determination.

With summer comes the new Church Year, and a new Long-Range Strategic Plan. In preparation, we ask that you consider taking a new (revised) spiritual inventory.

"continued on Page 2"



From the President
Janet Holt

Happy New Year!

I'm writing my first post as your incoming president in beautiful Spokane where Warren Searls and I are wrapping up 3 days at the UUA General Assembly. What a wonderful experience! UUs from every corner of the country have gathered to share ideas, engage with and support each other. It would be hard to find a more energized and committed group of people anywhere and it has been an honor to represent our congregation here. We'll be returning home with renewed hope, renewed optimism and the conviction we can make a real difference in the world if we all work together.

There is much to be done but many positive things are already happening at our church. We will earn our Welcoming Congregation status this year. The C4K program continues to expand, our membership is steadily growing and the Green Team is picking up steam as we move toward our goal of becoming a certified Green Sanctuary.

This week the new board will meet to review progress, make plans and set goals. I'll report on that in the next newsletter but something I can tell you now is that this will be an exciting year at UUVC!

~Mark's Trail, Continued from Page 1~

You can do so anonymously. We did this two years ago, and it was vitally important in assessing and choosing our Worship themes. These last two years we have welcomed 47 new members, have all grown spiritually, and have something new to add. Look for the forms starting July 7th.

Vivian and I thank you for two wonderful years here at UUV. We look forward to many more. Mahalo.

See you in church.

UUV WATER CEREMONY

By Meg Koziar

UUV has had a Water Ceremony for almost as long as we have been in the Village. Before we had a building, we often had it at the edge of Lake Cortez. As we had no summer services, it was our "coming back together" event. The idea was to collect a little water from wherever summer travels had taken us, pour in the collective bowl, while stating where the water was collected. Each year we saved some of that mixture for the next year's ceremony.

I remember especially the sparkly blue water that had been collected from a glacier. Even after all these years, there are some of the glacial water molecules among the zillion in the pint we saved from last year. Please collect a small (a couple of table-spoons) sample from wherever you go this summer and save for our Water Ceremony the first Sunday in September.

"I believe God's truth is higher, wider, deeper and longer than all our creeds and includes what is best in each of them."

Horace Greeley



Communications Committee

Patti Dacus

The communication committee is seeking volunteers to join the web management team. Our UUV website contains a lot of great information and we are constantly seeking ways to improve its usefulness and functionality. If you have any web development or management skills and would like to put them to good use, this would be a fantastic way for you to contribute to your church community! Please contact Patti Dacus for additional information.



Finance Committee

Kim Harrison

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for coming through and making our pledge drive a success! You all are the best congregation around!!

The Committee is also looking to re-organize a bit and are looking for people who are willing to help with Sunday collections and counting the collection after the service. These teams will not require any meetings and hopefully we will have enough people so it will only require participation every other Sunday at the most. If we spread the jobs around, no one has to be responsible all of the time! If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

"If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good. Let us endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace."

Hosea Ballou



Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

Thank you to all who met their pledge commitments for fiscal year 2018-2019 as we will end the year with a surplus! Many thanks to those who pledged enabling us to meet our FY19-20 operating drive goal.

Exciting changes in the Treasurer's office...as reported months ago the Finance Committee and Board agreed to a volunteer bookkeeper position. Barbara Mueller, who currently volunteers in our office will now be wearing another hat taking on the bookkeeper responsibilities. Thanks Barbara!

As noted in the June Board minutes, we are going to take a conservative approach to budget management. We have, therefore, reallocated expenses from most committees in an amount equivalent to 5% of pledge commitments. This reduces the budget for those areas, while placing the dollars in the "contingent expense". This will enable us to absorb any pledge shortages that result from people moving, passing on or unable to meet pledge commitments. The reallocated budget is posted on the UUVC website, in the MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS section. Committee Chairs are encouraged to look at their areas...I'll be reaching out to discuss opportunities for expense management. Thanks for your great budget management this past year!



Green Team

Janet Holt

What's New with the Green Team

Got a question about recycling? Composting? Looking for alternatives to plastic bags or toxic commercial products? Ask the Green Team! Maybe you have an idea for how to do something in a more sustainable way or an article you've read you want to pass along. Now you can ask questions and share information on our Facebook page! Come by the Green Team table for instructions on how to join the Green Team Facebook Group. Don't do Facebook? No worries. Our information board is there for you to post your questions and share ideas so check it out.

I hope all of you will visit our table on Sundays to take home some Fair-Trade coffee, tea or chocolate and see what's new. We still have Trolley Bags for sale along with some fun new shopping bags, all sold at cost. While you're there, pick up your Green Sanctuary sticker for your name badge to show your commitment to environmental justice. And if you want to help, we have a place for you. Everyone makes the Green Team! Together we can make a difference.



Library

Kim Traw

The UUVC library currently has 629 books that really want to be read! The list of our books can be found by clicking on this link: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/UUVC>

Also, we have labeled 20 books as being written by UUVC members or friends, and

those volumes can be found on a special shelf in the library. Stop by and take a look! If you know of a book that you think should be part of our UUVC Library, please click on this link and submit the form: <https://tinyurl.com/uuvcbooks>



Social Committee

Dee Offerman and Stephanie Hubbard

Dee Offerman and Stephanie Hubbard are the new co-chairpersons of the Social Committee. We are holding our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, July 9th in the small conference room off the office.

We will be planning the upcoming season and are open to suggestions from the congregation. If you know of an interesting place to visit, or have an idea for a party, please contact us.

We also need more committee members, so if you like a good party, come join us.

Our first event will be picnic on September 20th at 5:00P.M. at the Cortez Pavilion. We will be having a delicious meal and some fun outside games, so save the date!



Social Justice

Sue Loberg

Our ongoing relationship with Jackson House is so fulfilling for our volunteers.

This is part of an email from one of our volunteers: *“What a day! Awesome teamwork that just would not quit! After preparing for 150 lunches, we added a few more and ended up serving 192 nourishing meals to a grateful lot of hungry folks!”*

As the incoming Chair of the Social Justice Committee I’ve got very big shoes to fill. Meg Koziar has done an outstanding job and set the committee up on the right path. We are saddened thou with the passing of our member Bill Spears. He was very committed to our work and we will miss him.

By Pam Harrison

BACK TO SCHOOL BLUE JEAN PROJECT @ JACKSON HOUSE THRIFT SHOP

In 2018 the UUVU Blue Jean project was a huge success. Through your generosity, UUVU donated 80 pairs of blue jeans for needy children.

This year the Social Justice Committee will once again appeal to the caring congregation of UUVU to provide blue jeans for the back to school blue jean project.

Jackson House Thrift Shop is in need of Kids’ Jeans, boys or girls, sizes 6-12, new or gently used. These jeans are distributed to families who request help in clothing their children.

Blue Jean collection bin in the hallway next to the Office.

Contact: Pam Harrison 915-8382 or email me at cliffh2000@hotmail.com. for more information.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

MUSIC NOTES

Special music for July

John Leisenring

Mary Ann Rittenmeyer will sing a solo with Clyde Pound, and either another soloist will emerge, or I will perform with Clyde, which is always such a pleasure.

Then during the last week in July, I will represent the church at the annual UU Music Ministers convention – this year in Denver. I’ll return with many new compositions for the choir to sing during the upcoming year. Stay tuned.

“It’s Impossible,” said pride
 “It’s Risky,” said experience
 “It’s Pointless,” said reason
 “Give it a try,” whispered the heart

-anon



Membership Snippets

Veronica Zuege

The Membership Committee has been blessed with exceptionally dedicated members. Becky Hamilton and Ducky Berkley have been the New Member Coordinators, and Anne Jensen Hagen coordinated Care and Concern and Member Milestones. They are stepping away after serving well, leaving their positions available for others. I thank them for their support, time and talent. Staying on are Bari Searls, Brenda Tirrell, Cindy Nance, Malinda Zarate and Susan Atchley doing all sorts of things wonderful for membership.

Pam Harrison has been an amazing chairman, creating a very well-organized committee, responsible for many new members and friends, and being a quietly passionate leader. Thankfully, she is staying on to coordinate Attendance, Care and Concern, and Member Milestones. Most importantly, she will be my advisor, reminder, back-up and friend. I am grateful for her. I imagine you are too.

Our new members are remarkable and ever so interesting. Get to know them. I hope to have some bios available soon.

“Universalism is more than cushioned seats and no hell.”

Lyman H, Squires



Adult Education

Warren Searls

UUA General Assembly

The UUA General Assembly turned out to be beyond my expectations. There were many take-aways from the GA. The workshops gave me something to bring back to UUVU as did the Minns and Ware lectures. At the Minns Lecture, Rev. Dr. Colin Bossen, First UU Church of Houston, challenged us to ask how Unitarian Universalists can respond to populism and white supremacy in the age of Trump. I look forward to discussing with you what Rev. Dr. Bossen had to say and the challenges we face.

As meaningful and relevant as the Minns Lecture was, the Ware Lecture was as moving and inspirational as anything I have experienced. The Ware Lecture was given by Richard Blanco an American poet, public speaker, author, memoirist, professor and civil engineer. He is the fifth poet to read at a presidential inauguration, having read for President Obama's second inauguration. He is the first immigrant, the first Latino, the first openly gay person and the youngest person to be the U.S. inaugural poet. I hope we add his book, “How to Love a Country” to the UUVU library. It is in my audio library.

Welcome! New Members



Members' Luncheon





Art Wall

Daryl Wedwick

The Midsummer Art Wall changeover is imminent!

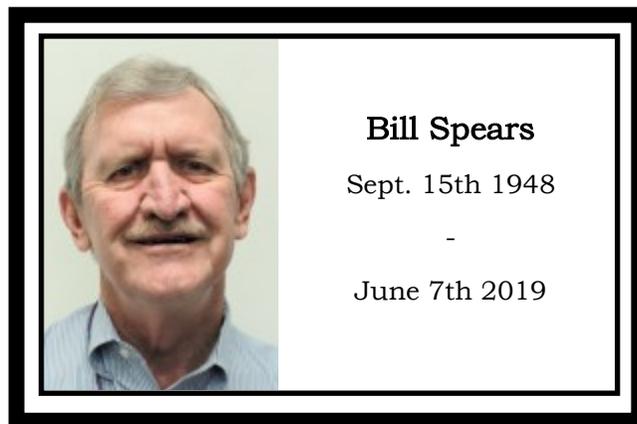
On Friday, July 12, at 11:00 a.m. it will be time for the UUVC artists to retire their current paintings which we have enjoyed since April and to bring new works of two-dimensional art into the Community Room. If that time is not convenient, perhaps the art work might be left in the office at an earlier time. The material presently on display maybe picked up when the new pieces are brought in.

There is room for 16 paintings or photos or stained glass or small quilts or . . . ? Some of the new art will have familiar styles and signatures, but new artists are indeed welcome. UUVC has several new members; surely some of them must be artists!

Each piece must be an original work signed by the artist who must be a UUVC Member or Friend. It must be appropriately framed with a wire hanger; no sawtooth hangers, please. On the back of each piece there must be a tag listing the title, medium, the name and phone number of the artist and the value of the work for insurance purposes.



A gift from the HSV Interfaith Alliance of which UUVC is an important contributing member



Pastoral Care

Court Mathey

The Pastoral Care Ministry is a trained group of people who aid those facing life's crises. We offer compassion and other assistance to those with emotional or spiritual needs. We visit in the home, hospital, nursing homes and rehab facilities.

We have information available on at-home care, assisted living and long term care facilities and other resources in the area. We also arrange rides to and from church.

Grief Recovery meets monthly on the second Tuesday from 9:30-11:00, is open to anyone experiencing grief of any kind.



Dispute Mediation

Steve Rittenmeyer

Having a Problem in Church?

The Dispute Mediation Committee stands ready to assist members and friends in resolving conflicts which affect their life in the church; and can be addressed within the scope of UU Principles, covenants and ethics. Please contact Steve Rittenmeyer at **915-0575**, email SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu. or speak to any committee member: Cloe Bayer, Bud Hearn, Steve Owen, Myra Rustin, Daryl Wedwick. Look for the chalice pin and "Dispute Mediator" on the name tag.

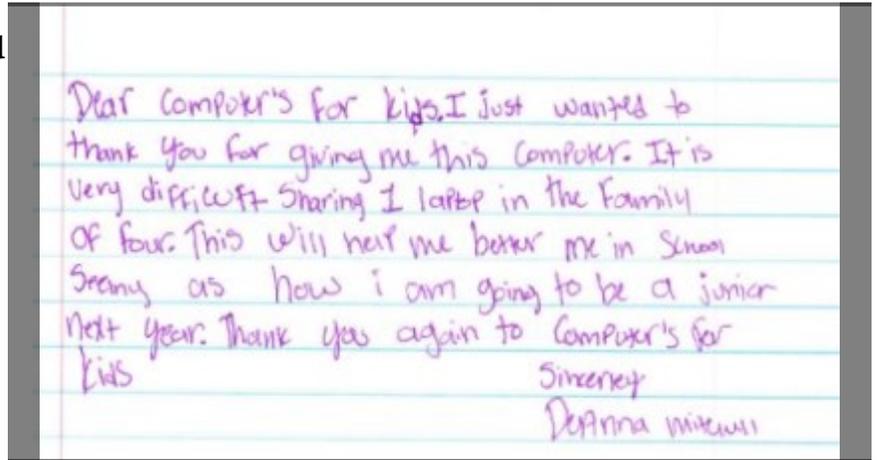


C4K

Bob McCleskey

The C4K team met at Home Plate on May 29th to review the progress to date on the Long Range Plans which had been approved earlier this year. Substantial progress has been made toward implementing some of the LRP goals and objectives. The team lost Bill Spears, one of it's newest member who will be remembered for his hugs and willingness to learn. Terry McCoy has recently joined the team and is off to a good start.

C4K Note of Appreciation (the following note was received from a C4K student recipient (Deanna Mitchell))

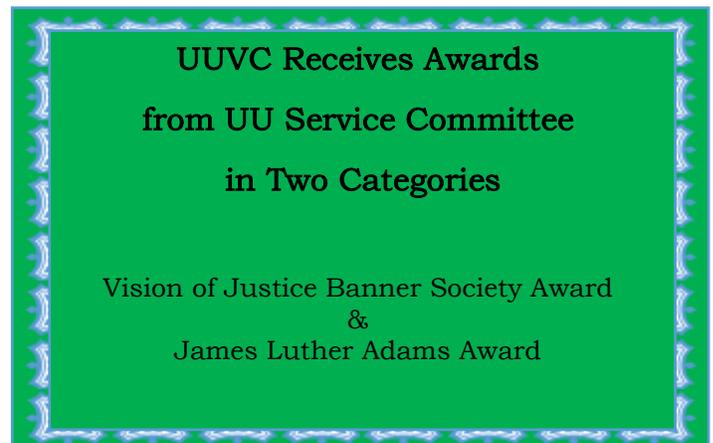


July Celebrations



Marilyn Matzek	07/01
Michele Mendez	07/07
TerryLynne Marx	07/08
Court Mathey	07/14
John Leisenring	07/16
Jerry Fay	07/17
Cindy Spears	07/19
James Anderson	07/20
Phil Simpson	07/25
Wanda Bodemann	07/26
Jim Watson	07/29
Judy Saldino	07/30

Bette & Merrill Clark	07/03
Suzette & Jim Watson	07/08
Sue & Loren Loberg	07/22



Interest Groups (IGs)

Game Night

Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 5:00 PM. We will eat first and play games afterwards. Bring a dish to share. It's always a surprise! For more information contact Marjorie Lakey at 262-8231.

UUVC PICKLEBALL

UUVC Pickleball meets at the Desoto Pickleball Courts on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The group is for novice and experience players. Paddles and balls are provided if you need them.

If you are interested, email Dane at:
dane.nielsen@sbcglobal.net

Fourth Friday Film Fest

"The Upside", with Brian Cranston, Kevin Hart, Nicole Kidman and Juliana Margulies. A comedy rated PG 13, it is perfect light fare for summer viewing. Join us on July 26 at 7 PM. Popcorn provided!

Dinners for Six Become Surprise Social Hours

Our "Dinners for Six" will be morphing into "Surprise Social Hours," at least for a while. These events will be more casual opportunities for Members and Friends to engage and socialize.

Here's how they will work: Several hosts will agree to open their homes for a few hours on a specific date. People who sign up will be asked to prepare snacks/hors d'oeuvres to share and bring their own beverages of choice. Several days in advance, participants will be assigned randomly to one of the hosts' homes. That's the surprise! On the appointed day and time, participants will go enjoy a few hours of fun, food, and conversation!

For more information contact: Janine Bethscheider at jbethscheider1@gmail.com

Mah Jongg

Currently, our mah jongg group is playing most **Mondays at 1:00**. If you would like to join us, or suggest another time to play, leave a message at:

226-5136 (TerryLynn Marx)

Future Newsletter Deadlines

The deadline is the 26th at 10 AM every month except February on the 24th.

Send contributions to: Cindy Perez at
pcindyp55@gmail.com

"There are weapons that are simply thoughts. For the record, prejudices can kill and suspicion can destroy."

Rod Sterling

Find the Quotes in the Church

There are 3 framed copies of the weekly quotes displayed throughout the church. Can you find all three?

About UUVC

UUVC : [Unitarian Universalist Village Church](#)

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

UUVC Website: <http://www.uuvc.org>

Video Sermons: <https://www.uuvc.org/video-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.