



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

403 Barcelona Road  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909  
501-922-1255

President: Dave Welch (president@uuvc.org)  
Minister: Rev. Mark Walz (minister@uuvc.org)  
Treasurer: Kim Townsan (treasurer@uuvc.org)



Jerry Offerman '16

## May 2019 THEME: FREEDOM



### Mark's Trail Rev. Mark Walz

#### Freedom

By our lives, and by our heritage, we stand for freedom. Our existing liberties have been won through ages of struggle, and at enormous cost. If we hope for continued progress in science, a just government, domestic and international peace, and freedom of religion, we must hold fast to civil, intellectual, moral, and spiritual freedom at all costs. There can be no compromise in this.

Nowhere is this freedom exercised more clearly than in the congregationalism of our Unitarian and Universalist traditions. UU scholar James Luther Adams, in his treatise, *The Five Smooth Stones*, states that we must freely choose our relationships. They must not be coerced, but rest upon mutual consent with one another. And, so it is with us.

Unlike most religions, the relationship between a Unitarian Universalist Congregation and its Minister is consensual. Our ministers are not appointed or assigned to a church. We choose the congregation we would serve, and our congregations get to choose who will serve them. Only with mutual consent is a relationship begun.

Here, in our Village Church, we've had the luxury of a full year of working to-

### Installation of Settled Minister

#### Reverend Mark Walz to be Installed as "Settled Minister" at UUVU

Reverend Mark Walz will be installed as a "Settled Minister" by the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Village Church (UUVU) at 10:30 on Saturday, May 18, at the UUVU Church, 403 Barcelona Road, Hot Springs Village. In UU churches, when the minister is "called" by the congregation, a special relationship is formed between the people of the church and the minister they have chosen. This relationship is formalized through an installation ceremony performed by the church members, giving testament to the freedom and heritage important to congregational democracy.

In addition to UUVU President David Welch, participants in this special service will be Past Presidents Bob McCleskey and Penny Beed, Reverend Raymond "Bud" Hearn, Friend of UUVU, Reverend Carlton Smith, Unitarian Universalist Association, Rabbi Eugene Levy, representative of the Interfaith Community, Reverend Jan Nielsen, Minister, Little Rock UU Church, Reverend Jim Parrish, Minister, Fayetteville UU Church, Dr. John Leisenring, UUVU Minister of Music, Clyde Pound, UUVU Pianist, and the UUVU Choir. A reception will follow in the Community Hall.

*"continued on Page 2"*

~Mark's Trail, Continued from Page 1~

gether – an ‘engagement period’ so to speak, before the thought of a greater commitment was fully imagined. And from this successful year, you have decided to install me as your first settled Minister. This year has allowed me to fall more deeply in love with you. It wasn’t simply love at first sight, after all. A mutual bond has been forged.

Saturday morning, May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will enter a Covenanted relationship and place our trust in each other for the foreseeable future. I hope that each of you will attend as able, and participate in the Installation Service – a service that exemplifies the best of our tradition. It is a testament to our freedom and heritage in congregational democracy. It is a seminal moment in the life of this Congregation, and in my and Vivian’s life, too. Thank you.

-See you in Church



## From the President

David Welsh

Two distinctly different messages this May. One is the business of the church. Our Long Range Plan Committee has held two sessions to introduce the congregation to the **LRP** and the **vote will be May 5**. Two other important events are happening as well. One is our Budget for the coming year is being presented and on May 12 the Annual Pledge Drive will be rolled out. All important business events in the life of our church.

The second message is one of which I am sad and angry. Recently, a letter to the editor was published in the Democrat-Gazette entitle Bigotry was displayed.” The writer related an incident which occurred in the Village. An out-of-state couple and their two children were interested in buying a house in a certain neighborhood. However, when they arrived to view the house the neighbor had displayed “Confederate flags prominently in his front yard and a neo-Nazi flag with black swastikas off his back deck.” The couple is Black. The letter writer adds, “It didn't take them long to determine they didn't want to live next door to a racist bigot. . .” It is my hope that the HSVPOA contacts this visiting couple to tell them that while this one bigot has driven them away, there are many of us here who would welcome them as neighbors and that this one church in particular would welcome them as friends and members. Do what you can to make certain this is not the image that visitors take away from our Village. And so it is.

*“My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular.”*

Adlai E. Stevenson

### May Sundays at UUVC

May 5, Rev. Walz, Flower Ceremony

May 12, Millie Lancaster “Banned Books & Freedom to Read”

May 19, Rev. Walz , TBD

May 26, Mary Lou Moran, “Writing Emotional Memories”

### Attendance and Generosity

March Attendance: UUVC Total: 392

(Worship, 222 Insight 170) Music on Barcelona 118

March Share the Plate: Jackson House \$2549.00

April Share the Plate: All About Kids \$2,457.00

May Share the Plate: Bridges to Hope

*“Freedom is power, a concentrated, skillful capacity to act. “*

Max Ascoli



## Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

### UUVC's financial position through March 31 continues to be positive.

Net income of \$12,326 reflects higher than budgeted income with lower than budgeted expenses. With respect to income, pledge income has exceeded budget by \$6,000, reflecting the acceleration of pledge payments by some.

Reminders of outstanding pledge commitments were sent in April. Another round will be sent in May. Operating pledge payments are due by June 30.

The FY19-20 budget was presented and approved on April 28. The \$137,292 budget represents a 4% increase over the current budget, or \$5,219. Key drivers in the budget are:

Compensation related - \$1,755. Minister compensation and cleaning services

Growth Driven - \$1,986. With average attendance up by 18% last year and membership growing by 11%, additional funding for printing, copying, office & kitchen supplies, hospitality, membership.

Expanding Community Presence - \$2,570. Social justice activities, new initiatives associated with long range planning, advertising and promotion.

Anticipated price increases - \$935. POA fees, utilities, insurance, telephone/internet

New Initiatives - \$1,390. UU Tulsa contribution, safety and security projects

Reductions - (\$3,417). Mortgage interest, conference, dues and maintenance

Many thanks to committee chairs' work in compiling budget requirements.



## Green Team

Janet Holt

### Join the Green Team!

Lately there has been a big increase in articles about the climate crisis, almost all of them dark enough to depress even the cheeriest spirit. Some say it's too late for us to stop our downward spiral while others hold out hope. We have 3 choices:

(a) give up and decide the situation is hopeless

(b) stick our heads in the sand and pretend this will all go away

(c) make some lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact.

If you chose option c, come join the UUVC Green Team. The Green Team is not just another committee—it's a way to live our 7<sup>th</sup> principle. Our purpose is to encourage *everyone* in our congregation, members and friends, to get involved. The Green Team has 3 goals:

Encourage environmentally sustainable practices in our congregational life  
Empower each of us to embrace effective stewardship of the Earth in our daily lives

Address climate injustice through activism

There are many ways to participate. Stop by our table on Sunday to learn more and find an activity that fits you. We need you. Earth needs you.

"I cannot do everything but still I can do something."



## 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](mailto: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.



## Social Justice

Meg Koziar

At the May 9th meeting of the Social Justice Committee, we will determine which organizations will be our Share-the-Plate recipients for the coming year. If you are involved in one which you think would be a good candidate, please let me know.

The presentation for April for All About Kids Summer Feeding Program motivated several of our members to volunteer to help with packing the boxes for distribution. Yeah for UUVCers. May Share will go to "Bridges to Hope," a program that helps people out of poverty.

The last day for this school year that UUVC Volunteers will be reading to children at Langston School is May 10. It's not too late to visit the sign-up table and add your name for this fun and rewarding activity.



## Covenant Groups

Myra Rustin

### Covenant Groups

UUVC is looking for more people interested in getting to know one another on a deeper level. This is difficult with our growing membership and limited times at coffee hour or social events. Group size and meetings are flexible and determined by the group itself. If you are interested, contact Myra at: 501-204-4999, or watch for sign-up sheets on Sunday mornings.

*"Something deeper than politics or race is at stake, and that is a human right, the right of a man to think and feel honestly."*

Richard Wright

## About UUVC

UUVC : [Unitarian Universalist Village Church](http://www.uuvc.org)

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.



## Membership Snippets

Veronica Zuege

### Friends Event

Thank you to all whom helped with the Friends' Event on March 27th and a sincere welcome to our friends.

Members, Friends, and Visitors are invited to attend our 5th Potluck Salad and Dessert Luncheon on **June 2nd** after church service. This will be our last membership event before summer begins. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Rolls, drinks, and wine will be provided. We will be celebrating new members who joined UUVC this church year and honoring members with 10 plus years with UUVC - a time to visit, eat, and share the love.

**Sign-up sheet in the Community Hall**

See you there.

### Friends Event Luncheon



## MUSIC NOTES

John Leisenring



John Leisenring

Welcome the month of May, and our theme of "Freedom."

To celebrate "Cinco de Mayo," we'll sing "*De Colores*" plus the anthem for the flower ceremony – Frank Ticheli's arrangement of the old Shaker song "*Here, Take This Lovely Flower*." And we'll have lots of fun on May 18<sup>th</sup>, singing "*Consider Yourself*" to our beloved Minister Mark. And on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the choir will demonstrate their summer assignment, as we prepare to take a well needed (and deserved) break.

*I'll never know what makes the rain to fall  
I'll never know what makes the grass so tall  
I only know there Ain't no love at all  
Without a Song*

Vincent Youmans/Billy Rose

*"We must present to the world a concept of freedom which has not been diluted by the evils of prejudice and discrimination."*

John F. Kennedy





## Pastoral Care

Court Mathey

The Pastoral Care Ministry is an active group of people who are trained to aid those facing life's crises such as death of a loved one, illness, divorce or relocation. 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 would like to expand our size as our church grows in membership. Anyone who has the gift of "caregiving" or is interested in developing this gift, please contact one of our members for more information. Current members are Mike Holt, Court Mathey (chairman), Bob McCleskey, Liz Miller, Mark Walz and Vivian Walz.

We meet bimonthly on the fourth Tuesday at 2:00 P.M. Frequent training in caregiving skills is offered.

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.

Another important part of the Pastoral Care Ministry is Grief Recovery. This group, which meets monthly on the second Tuesday from 9:30-11:00, is open to anyone experiencing grief of any kind.



Rev. Mark Walz & Pam Harrison presenting a check in the amount of \$2,549.00 from the Unitarian Universalist Village Church to Janie Smith, Executive Director of Jackson House.

## May Celebrations



5/3 Liz Miller	5/17 Malinda Zarate
5/4 Susan Berkley	5/18 Nola Abraham
5/5 Martha Graham	5/19 Dee Offerman
5/7 Ted Allen	5/21 Peggy McCoy
5/7 Ann Simpson	5/23 Glenn Calloway
5/8 Tony Nikodem	5/30 Barbara Mueller
5/8 Rus Wright	5/31 Pat Reimann
5/9 Stephanie Hubbard	5/31 Vivian Walz
5/12 Mike Holt	

5/2 Cindy & Bill Spears
5/7 Ann & Phil Simpson
5/15 Wade Selph
5/20 Daryl Wedwick
5/27 Katherine & Gerald Wheeler
5/31 Janet & Mike Holt

## Interest Groups (IGs)



Marjorie Lakey

### 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**.



Myra Rustin

### Movies with Mark and Myra

On **May 23rd** at 11:00 we will be viewing *"Seeking a Friend For the End of the World"*. Bring a sack lunch or popcorn if you like and join us in the conference room near the office. Watch mid-week e-blasts for more movie description.



Dan Nielsen

### UUVC PICKLEBALL

UUVC Pickleball meets at the Desoto Pickleball Courts on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 pm - later as things warm up. The group is for novice and experience players and will be a social (versus competitive) league. The daily fee at Desoto Courts is just under \$6.00 per day. Annual rates are also available. Paddles and balls are provided if you need them.

If you are interested, contact or email Dane at: [dane.nielsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dane.nielsen@sbcglobal.net)



Janine

### Dining In and Out

Our Spring 2019 "Dining In" and "Dining Out" groups should have had their final meals of the season by this time. Thanks to all who participated for making this a successful social activity. We will be taking a dining break over the summer and will start the next series of UUVC "dinners" groups in the Fall.



TerryLynne  
Marx

### 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**.

### 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](mailto:pcindyp55@gmail.com)



*"Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in."*

~Leonard Cohen

Reprint with permission from:  
[TinyBuddha.com](http://TinyBuddha.com)