



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offerman '16

July 2020 Theme: UU Heritage



Look for the "flame" symbol throughout the newsletters. These denote hyperlinks that have been added which will send you to the web page for additional information.



Spiritually Fearless

Rev. Mark Walz

Welcome

Never has our culture needed radical hospitality more than now. When many religions are fracturing around the issues of gender equality, our UU Village Church is celebrating being awarded Welcoming Congregation status from our Unitarian Universalist Association of member churches. It is not a distinction easy to obtain.

The designation, Welcoming Congregation, is our signal to the larger community that this church has demonstrated its willingness and more importantly, its capacity to welcome, as Members and Friends, folks who identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Trans-sexual, Queer, Intersexual, and asexual.

It is a promise to share the Church's resources, its rituals, as absolute equals. To extend the 'sacraments' of joy, of covenant, of life, of forgiveness, of communion/community, of marriage, and ministry. Yet, true love sets the bar intentionally high.

Love also requires us to expand our relationships beyond sexual identity to include skin tone and place of birth. We invite you to walk with us who, even in our imperfections, affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all creation. I am proud to serve a church that welcomes this challenge.

See you in church, On-line for now.



From the President

Warren Searls

Even though our physical church is closed, our inner church, the one called love resides in each of us and remains open. We are still a community of peace and love regardless of the Covid-19 pandemic. I recognize that for many of us it is a difficult time not to be able to be together with friends. But this is not the right time to do so. It is not safe. The prediction is that the pandemic will be with us for some time. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of taking precautions and staying safe as the pandemic continues and appears to be worsening.

At this point, we don't know how long UUVC will remain closed to in-person gatherings. Following our Principles calls for us as leaders to make decisions based upon the best available advice from the scientific and medical communities. Staying away at this time is an act of love that we extend to each other. It is a sacrifice that we make now so that no one's life need be sacrificed. Everyone here is precious. Please have confidence that when the time is right, we will come together in person again and celebrate, with great rejoicing.

Peace be with you, Warren



Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

THANK YOU to all who have shown their support to our Congregation by way of an operating fund pledge for fiscal year 2020-21. Our goal was \$134,752 ... and we received commitments of \$151,670! What an amazing Congregation UUVC is. Having a "cushion" enables us to deal with unexpected shortfalls which can result from people moving, passing on, or encountering personal financial challenges.

As for financials through May, we continue to show income exceeding expenses by \$33,975. We will, once again, finish our fiscal year in positive territory. As was adopted several years ago by the Finance Committee, at the end of the fiscal year we reallocate one-half of any operating net income to our building fund.

I had expected that this would be my last newsletter article as the UUVC Treasurer as our bylaws state that the position should only be held for two consecutive terms. But looks like you have me for a bit longer. The Board and Finance Committee will be looking in the future for the next Treasurer...it sure would have been hard to train a new Treasurer with social distancing! Guess it was just meant to be. Thanks for making this job easy and a shout out to Barbara Mueller, handling the bookkeeping side of the Treasurer's office. Having Barbara has been terrific and really helps with the workload. Thanks Barbara!

Share the Plate for May

\$7,815 !!!!!

To Jackson House

Letter from Janie Smith at Jackson House

I am SO EXCITED! You are amazing, really you are, and more appreciated by those we, YOU, serve, than I can ever express - so many are struggling and you are a part of that solution to helping them get through this terrible time!



Green Team

Janet Holt

Plastic Free July

Plastic is everywhere. Plastic that never, ever decomposes. It just breaks into increasingly smaller bits and spreads everywhere on our planet. In our soil. In our oceans. Into animals and birds and marine life. It is found in the most remote corners of the earth, in the deepest trenches of the ocean and even inside us. And still the plastics industry makes more of the noxious stuff. In 2011, one woman in Western Australia named Rebecca Prince-Ruiz decided she'd had enough of plastic so she organized a handful of like-minded people who shared her vision of a world free of plastic waste. This dedicated group started Plastic Free July, an event that challenges people to avoid using all products packaged in plastic for an entire month. In 11 years, this holiday idea has grown into its own independent, non-profit organization and an annual event in over 150 countries.

Recycling is not the answer to plastic pollution. The only real solution is to stop making it. I hope you'll join me and participate in Plastic Free July. Click [here](#) for details. And if you think just one person can't make a difference, talk to Rebecca Prince-Ruiz!



2020 Board Members

President: Warren Searls

Vice-Pres: Patty Dacus

Treasurer: Kim Townsan

Secretary: Debbie Bostick

Members-at-Large: John Swinburn and Mary Ann Rittenmeyer (Mary Ann is filling in for Mark Hamilton)

Past President: Janet Holt

Welcome, New Members!



Membership Snippets

Veronica Zuege

Membership Committee Vice - Chair Opening

The Membership Team is well-organized, smooth running and delightful. We have no glitches in our system. Everyone does their job, so it is EASY for the chairperson. We are in need of a vice chair. The vice chair just needs to attend our very few meetings and learn what needs to be done. I plan to stay on the team when my term ends and I will enjoy working with new leadership. This is a really good opportunity to be involved in a deeper level with our wonderful UUVC congregation. This position could be co-chaired. Think about it. You will not be over-burdened. You will not be disappointed. You will very likely enjoy it. Please give me a call (922-3878) or email me (vzuege@gmail.com).



MUSIC NOTES

John Leisenring

As the pandemic rolls on, various members of the choir will be offering songs to be mounted on the Sunday morning web site, including “We Shall Overcome/Lean On Me,” and “Stand By Me.”

Clyde and I are constantly searching for music appropriate for the times we are forced to live through. So far we are considering “Mask-uerade,” “Raindroplets Keep Falling On My Head,” “Time On My Hand-soap,” “Fever,” “Don’t Fence Me In,” and “I’m Gonna Wash That Virus Right Out Of My Hair.” Stay tuned.

Music washes away from the soul

The dust of everyday life

Berthold Auerbach



Events Committee

Dee Offerman and Stephanie Hubbard



It is wonderful that UUVC had a reason to have an actual event! We were outside celebrating that we are now recognized as a Welcoming Congregation!

It has been such a long time since we were able to have an event indoors, with the last one being trivia night. There was an overwhelming positive response about that night, and we will surely have another one. The members of the Events Committee will be planning many fun and entertaining activities when we are able to meet once again.

In the meantime, stay healthy and safe and continue to find creative and meaningful ways to stay engaged.



Welcoming Congregation Award Ceremony





C4K
Bob McCleskey

Things are happening to and with the UU-Computers for Kids (C4K) program. The “happening to” is because Microsoft is ending the Registered Refurbisher Program under which we have been obtaining Windows and Office licenses for over 10 years. We will still be able to obtain the Windows 10 license but through a large volume refurbisher known as a Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher at roughly the same cost at present. We will be operating as a “Third Party Refurbisher”. The biggest change is a license for Microsoft’s Office is being shifted to a subscription with a monthly cost that is multiples of our current cost. Due to that change, we will no longer install Office on our refurbished units but will install an alternative office suite (Libre) which is open source (free to us).

In addition to the Microsoft imposed change, we will soon be offering computers with an alternative to Windows (and Office), namely Linux-Mint, an open source program that is extremely competitive with Windows and runs better on most computers than Windows. Linux-Mint can be configured with a suite of programs that are competitive with the programs we now install on Windows computers; therefore we expect a high level of acceptance. Most of you are not aware that a few members of UUVC are currently using Linux on their computer, (Bette Clark, Todd Carter, and Paul Lakey). We have been installing Linux-Mint on underpowered computers and have an inventory of over 30 laptops. Should you be curious and like to try a Linux configured laptop, ask a C4K team member and one will be made available.



Social Justice
Sue Loberg

Our committee met via zoom as our yearly agenda was now in question. We normally choose which charities we will pick for Share the Plate and assign them for the whole year. But this time we picked Project Hope Foodbank for July and Arkansas Foodbank for August. We meet again in August to decide what to do next.

With the COVID 19 challenges, and at this point not knowing how the next two months will play out, we will wait and see.

The one thing that we can focus on now is getting out the message that **Everyone** needs to vote. The committee had originally planned to help get people to the polls and do what we could to help anyone (not just our congregation) to vote. That isn’t looking like a good plan at this time. We invite everyone to check out the *UU the Vote* on the web site: <https://www.uua.org/liberty/electionreform> and do what you can.

As you may or may not know, the confederate statue in Hot Springs is on private land. It was the site of two lynchings. It is owned by the Daughters of the Confederacy and the city cannot remove it. The grounds were taken care of by the Master Gardeners of Garland County. They have recently declined to maintain that garden.

Thank your master gardener friends for voting on this issue.

Help Wanted

Religious Education Coordinator
(Technology Savvy)

To coordinate and recruit facilitators to run various UU Religious Education Classes.

Contact Lee Iafrate
liafrate@sbcglobal.net or 922-6764





Dispute Mediation

Steve Rittenmeyer

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 Rittenmeyer at: 915-0575 or email SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu



Birthdays

7/1	Marilyn Matzek	7/26	Wanda Bodemann
7/7	Michele Mendez		
7/8	TerryLynne Marx	7/26	Marcia McMichael
7/14	Court Mathey	7/29	Jim Watson
7/16	John Leisenring	7/30	Sue Loberg
7/17	Jerry Fay	7/30	Judy Saldino
7/19	Cindy Spears		
7/20	James Anderson		
7/23	Kandy Shelton		
7/25	Phil Simpson		

Anniversaries

7/3	Bette & Merrill Clark
7/8	Suzette & Jim Watson
7/22	Sue & Loren Loberg

UUA General Assembly Participation

UUVC had 3 delegates to the UUA General Assembly, and two other participants, who will be sharing what we learned.

Warren Searls, Patty Dacus and Meg Koziar were voting delegates, Kim Townsan and John Swinburn registered to attend workshops.

ZOOM Social Distancing Activities :

Read Along With the Minister

1. A New Earth by Eckart Tolle
2. Skeptics and True Believers by Chet Raymo
3. Conflagration by John Buehrens
4. Time Magazine's Women of the Year...1920 to 2019

UUA Sunday Service

The Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly Sunday service is available to everyone. It will be live-streamed so that churches across the country can use it in place of their usual Sunday Service. To make it available on all time zones, it will be shown twice - at 9 a.m. CT and at 12: 00 CT.

Connect here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2020/sunday-worship>

Road Trip with a Purpose??

Take your plant based waste for a ride to the back parking lot of our church. You will find a new home for your celery tops and carrot peels at the recently completed **Composting Center**.

About UUVC

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

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

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.