



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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President: Warren Searls
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Jerry Offerman

August 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

The John Lewis Bridge

One minute he was alive, the next moment he was gone. A lion. A diminutive, extraordinary lion. As a young adult he was nearly beaten to death on the Edmund Pettus bridge. Still, he rallied to give us another 60 years in the battle for human equality.

Succumbed to pancreatic cancer, yet he left a legacy of strength, determination, and grace. One life, in a pantheon of lives, dedicated to the principle of non-violence in our struggle for racial reconciliation.

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to attend an Interfaith prayer breakfast with dozens of Ministers, Rabbis, Priests, and Imams, where the incredible John Lewis, Representative to the U. S. House of Representatives, shared with us his first-hand account of that day, March 7, 1965, when he marched to secure rights given him by law, yet denied him by the culture he lived in. The right to vote.

After news of his death, my first thought was that we should rename that horrible bridge in his honor. No surprise that hundreds of others already had that same thought and are creating a movement to make it happen. I pray they are successful, not for his sake, but for ours.

See you in (cyber) church, for now.



From the President

Warren Searls

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

In *A Tale of Two Cities* Charles Dickens captured what he saw as true during the French Revolution in 1789, even though he wrote the novel in 1859. It is remarkable to me that what he wrote in 1859 about 1789 might be written in 2100 about 2020.

Before each Worship Service, Insight Service and Committee meeting a Chalice is lit to bring light to the darkness of the time in which we find ourselves. That light means to help us through the worst of times by finding what makes this the best of times. Today is filled with opportunities. Let's light our spiritual chalices and find the light each of us needs to find our way.

Take care of yourself and those around you. Wear your mask and avoid groups of people. Let compassion and redemption be our hallmark.

Warren



Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan



Green Team

Janet Holt

Moving Forward

Our fiscal year ended in June and with healthy financials. Our net income for the year was \$36,574. Actual income exceeded budget by \$20,881 and our expenses were under budget by \$15,693. There was, of course, some expenses which were lower as a result of the church being shut down for three and half months. As is our policy, one-half of the net income from operations will be allocated to our building fund.

Our cash availability position as of June 30 was \$105,241 in our operating account and \$123,346 in our building fund. Building fund income for the year was \$33,956 which included \$10,877 in investment income. Building improvements during the year included our new siding, replacement of three heat pumps, upgrading of the smoke detectors in the sanctuary and restoration of the church sign on Barcelona. We got a lot done...special thanks to Ducky Berkley, Cliff Harrison and Tom Tirrell for leading these projects that keep our church in tip top shape!

Thank you to everyone for their financial support throughout the year and during our recent pledge drive. You make this job much easier!



★ Our share of the plate for June was the Boys and Girls Club. We collected \$1,895. ★

★ Our total share and Guest at your Table donations for FY19-20 was \$34,282. Last year our total was \$26,822. ★



This is no time for a casual faith.
Susan Frederick-Grey, UUA President

Deanna and I thoroughly enjoyed researching and writing the Green Team posts for Plastic Free July. We especially appreciated your questions and feedback. It's encouraging to know that so many of us are taking steps and making changes that can help stop the degradation of our environment. Plastic Free July is over but our commitment to live plastic free continues.

I know moving away from plastic requires lifestyle changes from the way we've always done things. And I know that alternatives are sometimes more expensive, more trouble and may not even work as well. But doing what's right is usually not doing what is easiest. In our profit-driven world, the petrochemical industry will continue to make virgin plastic and manufacturers will continue to use it until it hurts their bottom line. So let's make it our mission to hurt their bottom line by refusing to use it and letting them know why.

Side note: If you haven't already joined the Green Team page on Facebook, I hope you will do that soon. It's a great place to share ideas and find information. Invite your friends to join, too! The world is changed one mind at a time.

National Friendship Day

By Cindy Perez

“Socializing can provide a number of benefits to your physical and mental health. Did you know that connecting with friends may also boost your brain health and lower your risk of dementia? If you need reasons to help justify spending extra time lingering over coffee with a friend, or setting aside time in your busy schedule to connect with family, read on.” Angela K. Troyer Ph.D., C.Psych.

On August 2nd, reach out and connect with a friend.





MUSIC NOTES

John Leisenring

Once again, Clyde and I, along with four or fewer choir members, will be adding music to your virtual Sundays – longing for the time when we can once again provide wonderful music in person by our fabulous choir.

August is another MUSIC ON BARCELONA month and again the concert will be prerecorded and presented on the web site. Watch for the return of the Village Strings – a fine 15 piece string orchestra playing classical favorites and some great arrangements originally intended for the Village 50th celebration – musical favorites from the 70s.

The most exciting rhythms seem unexpected and complex, the most beautiful melodies simple and inevitable.

W. H. Auden

Jazz Concert at UUVC

The John Leisenring Quintet
featuring Fedett “Lady J” Johnson

On Friday August 21st from 7-8 PM the Hot Springs Jazz Society will sponsor a concert at the Unitarian Universalist church lawn . The concert is free but donations will be thankfully received for benefit of the HSJS scholarship fund. Bring your lawn chairs plus food and/or beverage.

Proper spacing and wearing of masks will be observed. Alternatively, you are welcome to park your car and listen thru open windows.



Social Justice

Great news from Jackson House. Paty Dacus is the representative from the Social Justice Committee. This is an excerpt from her monthly report: “We had a good week in the Jackson House kitchen! We were there on both Tuesday and Friday and fed approximately 225 thankful people on those two days. Thank you to Marion Sowka, Dianne Morton, and our newest volunteer - Rhiannon Zerbe, for your hard, but very rewarding work this week! Also, thank you to Dee Offerman for working at the Jackson House thrift store earlier this month...they were very happy to have you there as well”.

We are a generous bunch and gave them \$7815 in May, we also give our time and are very thankful for all our tribe who volunteer in the kitchen and the thrift store. Thanks to all of those volunteers!

Now for a serious subject...the Social Justice Committee needs a vice-chair and it may be a surprise but you don't have to have been or be on the committee to be the vice chair. Why you may ask...well the committee has been around a long time and we have documented the various yearly projects that we take on and there are members who are more than willing to help you out. The committee meets every two months and our next zoom meeting is August 13th @ 10:00 AM. Heads Up Reminder: August Share the Plate is Arkansas Food Bank. Please give as generously as you can.....thank you.

As we are liberated from our own fear,
our presence automatically liberates
others.

Marianne Williamson



Membership Snippets

Veronica Zuege

A very warm welcome to Rhiannon Zerbe and Terry Baumgartner, new Friends of UUVC. Because of the current situation, we have not held a new member orientation or welcomed new members on a Membership Sunday. However, we are trying to safely expedite the process for Friends who wish to become Members.

Many thanks to Tom Calhoun for getting information on our website easily accessible, to Rev Mark and Kim Townsan for their willingness to make arrangements and the Board for their cooperation.

If you are interested in learning more, call Ronnie Zuege (922-3878) or email (vzuege@gmail.com). We would be so happy to have you as a Member. All of our Friends, Members and Visitors are so important to us and we miss seeing each other. Until we get together again, stay safe and find some joy in your every day.

Birthdays

- 8/2 Tom Calhoun
- 8/11 Susie Banks
- 8/11 Bette Clark
- 8/17 Kay Croshaw
- 8/18 Penny Beed
- 8/18 Lisa Clem
- 8/19 Norm Elliott
- 8/19 Laura Nick
- 8/21 Ron Saldino
- 8/22 Pamala Reeder
- 8/22 Lee Zuege
- 8/23 Becky Hamilton
- 8/25 Mike Gold
- 8/26 Roberta Wilson
- 8/27 Darleen Tripcony
- 8/29 Rick Traw

Anniversaries

- 8/11 Mary & Patrick Ransom
- 8/21 Marie and David Welch
- 8/24 Lee and Jack Iafrate
- 8/29 Heidi and Tony Nikodem



Events Committee

Dee Offerman and Stephanie Hubbard



Lately, I find myself reminiscing on the times that we were all meeting at church. I miss the warm smiles and hugs and the good times that we have all shared. I have never been more appreciative of a group of people where I can openly share my beliefs regardless of the topic. Even though we come together from various faith backgrounds we are united in our belief system by the seven principles. Now, more than ever before, am I aware that our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning plays such a vital part in my way of thinking and responding to everything that is happening in our world today. I long for the time that we can once again come together, in church, and resume what was before.

I do, however, have some events to report on. We are in the beginning stages of planning a scavenger hunt that will take place before we are able to resume activities in church with details to follow. In addition, some of the ideas that we are discussing are a tour of Central High School in Little Rock, a chili cookoff, a trip to the fish hatchery, and a Derby Day party. Everything, of course, is contingent on when we will be able to meet again.

Stay Healthy and Safe!

Want what you have.
Be who you are.
Do what you love.

Rev. Dr. Forrest Church



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



About UUVC

UUVC Website: <http://www.uuvc.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>
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

Getting to know you.

The Program Committee is beginning a new Zoom experience. It's called "My UU Journey". We're asking you to tell us of your Journey to Unitarian/Universalist and UUVC. You are asked to prepare a short talk, not over 30 minutes. Participants may ask you questions. We have a document to help you with ideas. Some of the older members of the church might like to repeat the journeys they have given in the past just to get this started. There are so many new members and friends, it would be new to them. Please contact:

Marion Sowka, member at large, Program Committee hhtohsv@gmail.com / 501-922-1722 or
 Lee Iafrate, chairman, Program Committee liafrate@sbcglobal.net / 501-922-6764

Goodness is the only investment that never fails.
Henry David Thoreau



New UUVC sign
Photo courtesy of
Kim Townsan

The angry, hateful soul cannot comprehend the love that pervades the universe.
E.H. Chapin, Universalist Minister

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*

New ZOOM Interest Group

This group is for Instant Pot Enthusiasts and those who have not yet gone beyond taking it out of the box. Learn how to cut time preparing meals, while retaining more nutrients in your foods. For next ZOOM meeting information, contact Janet Holt mjholt@hotmail.com