



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Minister: Rev. Mark Walz (minister@uuv.org)
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Jerry Offerman '16

December 2019 THEME: Multiculturalism/Illumination



Spiritually Fearless

Rev. Mark Walz

I promised my lovely wife that I would watch all the Christmas DVD's this year that I insist on keeping in my collection. What I don't watch she wants me to give away. She thinks I have too many. I don't know who could think such a thing. 36 is too many? Poppycock! Or 'Bah Humbug', as Scrooge would say.

So far, I've watched 'Meet Me in St. Louis' with that extraordinary scene where Judy Garland sings 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'. Gets me every time. 'Home Alone', with the comedic genius of Joe Pesci as an incompetent burglar. Still to go are several versions of 'A Christmas Carol' – each one brilliant in its own way. I wait until Christmas week to watch 'A Christmas Story', when the kid gets his tongue frozen to that pipe.

I save 'It's a Wonderful Life' until Christmas Eve. I've seen it maybe 30 or 40 times, yet I still cry every time the tiny bell on their tree rings and Clarence gets his Angel wings.

I love Christmas. There is magic in the air. We connect with ancient DNA that calls us to light the candles, sing the old carols, bring the scent of pine and cinnamon and clove into our homes. Old recipes are recreated in our kitchens. We gather family and welcome our friends to join in as we share the gratitude that the year has brought and our hopes for the new year beginning. Winter magic. Ho! Ho! Ho!

See you in Church.



From the President

Janet Holt

Choose Gratitude

Each morning I sit with my first cup of coffee and click my phone on where the top news of the day awaits me. "Start your day here!" reads the message. The details of the stories change but the themes are consistent:

- Another climate disaster
- Another mass shooting followed by more thoughts and prayers
- Acts of terrorism, cruelty and depravity
- Political gamesmanship
- A new scientific study has found something else that will kill us

And that's just the headlines. It's easy to get caught up in the problems of our day and forget all the good things that surround us. Why is it so much easier to focus on the bad things that happen and overlook the good?

Turns out there is a theory about that. In a 2001 journal article entitled "Bad is Stronger than Good," the authors concluded there may be an evolutionary basis for this. They posit that people who were more attuned to the negative may have been more likely to survive threats and therefore pass their genes along than their happy-go-lucky brethren. Simply put, we are hard-wired to be pessimists. But thankfully we also have choices. One of the benefits of reaching advanced age is having enough life experience to put things into perspec-

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Green Team

Deanna Tolliver

Waste Not, Want Not

“Waste not, want not.” Remember this saying, maybe from your childhood? With Thanksgiving almost upon us, it seems appropriate to examine how much food we all waste.

The Natural Resources Defense Council reports an unbelievable 40% of food in this country is wasted, “from farm to fork.” The average American throws away 230 POUNDS of food every year. To put this into perspective, imagine you are given \$100 to spend on groceries, but you throw \$40 into the trash.

Why is this happening? It’s due to how we shop, when we shop, what we buy, and to poor packaging options given by supermarkets.

For suggestions on how to combat some of this waste, click [HERE](#).



“Pit race against race, religion against religion, prejudice against prejudice. Divide and conquer!

We must not let that happen here.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

~From the President, Continued from Page 1”

tive. We have lived through good times as well as bad and we have learned we can choose what we focus on.

This holiday season I will focus on being grateful for the gifts in my life. My family. The beauty all around us in this Village we call home and the freedom to enjoy it. A church community filled with people I love. How fortunate I am to get to live with my best friend and our furry animal companion. A safe, comfortable place to live. And my only worry about food is eating too much of it. Thinking about how many people have none of these things, I realize if I ever complain about anything, the universe ought to drop a meteor right on my ungrateful head.

I’ll be turning off my phone and paying attention to what matters. Will you join me?



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.



New Members with Reverend Walz and Membership Chair Veronica Zuege: Steve Owen, Russ Wright, Ann & Don Haase, Lee Duckfield (right photo)



Cloe Bayer receiving the *Meg Koziar Distinguished Service Award* for 2019.



Membership Snippets

Veronica Zuege

A time for giving thanks!

We are thankful to be celebrating membership milestones: Anne Hagan, Tom and Brenda Tirrell – 10 years!

We are thankful for our newest members: Ann and Don Hasse, Steve Owen and Russ Wright.

We are thankful for the warm and loving UUVC family!



Social Justice

Sue Loberg

The Christmas Baskets Project is in full swing and Martha Thompson will need help with the shopping and delivery of the baskets.

Remember to fill your **Guest at Your Table box**. They will be collected **Dec 15th**. Please bring them to the office with the funds or your check in lieu of the money so that we may get the matching funds.

In the coming months you will be hearing about the Arkansas Community Foundation Hot Springs Village organization's volunteer program. This program involves all three local school districts and the Boys and Girls Club.

Newsletter Submission Information

Deadline: The 26th of month prior to publication (except for February the 24th)

Submissions and Inquiries: Cindy Perez at: pcindyp55@gmail.com

"We become not a melting pot, but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams." Jimmy Carter

Building & Grounds

"Ducky" Berkley

By the time you read this, our siding project should be complete. Just in time for our holiday celebrations! Again, many thanks to Cliff Harrison for all his work on getting this major project completed. Kudos, Cliff, on leading the charge on this major change at UUVC. UUVC's looking brighter!

And on to another change ... and expanding our celebrations for a bit longer in the winter season! As we enter the Season of Light, our annual tradition of decorating the Sanctuary, Sanctuary Lobby and Community Hall will be held on **Tuesday, December 3rd**.

For more info on changes in our future, click [HERE](#).



"What 'multiculturalism' boils down to is that you can praise any culture in the world except Western culture--and you cannot blame any culture in the world except Western culture."

Thomas Sowell

WANT ADS

New Column!!!

I have had requests this month for a Want Ad column. If you would like to place an ad in next month's newsletter, send an email to pcindyp55@gmail.com before the **22nd of the month**.

Help Wanted: Someone who knows how to set up a database. One time commitment. Please contact **Ronnie Zuege 922,3878** or vzuege@gmail.com

Free!!! The office has several blank CDs that we will give to anyone that would like them. Repurpose use for art projects?



MUSIC NOTES

John Leisenring

December is our month to celebrate Multi-Culturism, and on December 1, the choir will sing Mark Hayes fabulous composition "I Will Be That Peace," which features the word PEACE in 27 languages, including English. After the IllUmination Celebration on the 15th, we'll warm your holiday spirit with "Calypso Deck The Hall." Finally, on Christmas Eve, the choir will sing "Carol Of The Bells," and "Be Glad This Festive Day." And listen for special music to be sprinkled about.

"Life is an affair of mystery;
shared with companions of
Music, Dance and Poetry"

Shah Asad Rizvi



- 12/3 Dee and Jerry Offerman
- 12/8 Ann and Don Haase
- 12/19 Todd and Barbara Carter
- 12/20 Vivian and Rev. Mark Walz
- 12/28 Sharon and Ted Allen
- 12/31 Marjorie and Bob McCleskey
- 12/31 Bari and Warren Searls



| | | | |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Clyde Pound | 12/3 | Steve Owen | 12/14 |
| John Skeen | 12/3 | Anais Toadec | 12/15 |
| Alana Clegg | 12/5 | Lou Elliott | 12/17 |
| David Welch | 12/8 | Katherine | |
| Joel Unowsky | 12/11 | Wheeler | 12/20 |
| Meg Koziar | 12/13 | Patty Dacus | 12/25 |
| Dawn Groover | 12/14 | Brenda Tirrell | 12/27 |



Events Committee

Dee Offerman and Stephanie Hubbard

The **Christmas Eve Soup Supper**, organized by the Events Committee, will follow the evening church service on **Dec 24th**. This is a well-attended event and a wonderful time to bring family members, friends, and to mingle with your UUVc family. The variety of soups, breads, and desserts brought by our members is always delicious!

Please sign up in the community hall on Sunday mornings and indicate how many people will be with you and what you will be bringing. We hope to see many of you then.



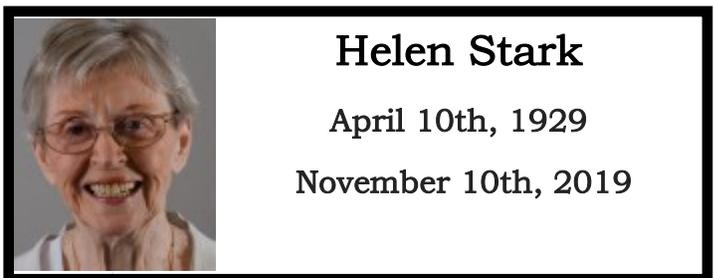
Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

If you can't shop small business & local, a reminder for the gift buying season ... make UUVc your Amazon Smile charity organization ... UUVc will receive .5% of your purchase.

So how about some good news ... we got some from the UUA! As a result of our UUVc members participation in the UUA Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge, UUVc has received its first installment on a total matching fund gift of \$1,620! Takes the sting out a bit from that water bill! The matching funds were donated by the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock. Thank you to those members participating in the challenge!

For the income/expenses report click [Here.](#)



Helen Stark

April 10th, 1929

November 10th, 2019



Interest Groups (IGs)

Marlene Kloack , Coordinator mkkloack@aol.com, 501-915-9494

For current information on any interest group click [here](#).



Social Hours and Dining Out for 6

The Fall 2019 Dining-Out groups should be wrapping up this month or next. We will start the next series of UUV "dinners" groups in the Spring.

In addition, another Surprise Social Hour is being planned for late-January/early February.

Contact Janine Bethscheider at: jbethscheider1@gmail.com

Fiber Arts - Hooks & Needles

Will meet in the conference room on the **2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 1-3 PM** . We welcome any and all forms of "fiber" work.

Contact either Marjorie McClesky at: **915-0237**
or Suzette Watson at: **922-3382**

UUV Pickleball

Meet at the Desoto Pickleball Courts on **Thursday evenings from 3-5 PM**. Paddles and balls are provided if you need them.

Contact Dane at: dane.nielsen@sbcglobal.net

Fourth Friday Film Fest

Meet in the Community Hall at **7:00 PM**. Popcorn provided! Look for E-blast with current movie.

Contact Cloe Bayer at: cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net

Mah Jongg

Mondays at 1:00 in the community Hall.

Leave TerryLynn Marx a message at: **226-5136**

Game Night

2nd Saturday of each month at 5:00 PM. We will eat first and play games afterwards. Bring a dish to share. Contact Marjorie Lakey at: **262-8231**.

Mat Making Group

Meets in the community hall the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 9:00 - 11:00 AM.

Contact Marilyn Matzek at: **922-4909**

Meditation

Contact Toby Hamilton at: tobyhamiltonotr80@gmail.com, **405-919-6253**. if you would be interested in this group.

Sunday Service Information

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Dec 1 | Worship Rev. Mark and Rabbi Levi | "Words that Harm / Words that Heal" |
| Dec 8 | Insight Bud Hearn | "Persona of God. Does God Have a Character Flaw?" |
| Dec 15 | Worship Rev. Mark | Illumination Sunday |
| Dec 22 | Dave Welch | "How UU's Saved Christmas" |
| Dec 24 | Rev. Mark | Christmas Eve Service |
| Dec 31 | Music on Barcelona | Tom Paulz on guitar and Ken Healy providing Photography |

Attendance for October

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Worship Service | 237 |
| Insight | 209 |
| Total | 446 |

About UUV

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

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

Video Sermons: <https://www.uuv.org/video-sermons.html>

UUV 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.

"Where the light is brightest, the shadows are deepest."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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.

