



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

403 Barcelona Road  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909  
501-922-1255  
President: Warren Searls  
(wsearls@sbcglobal.net)



## September 2020 Theme:



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 infor-



### Mark's Trail Rev. Mark Walz

#### Joy

Not many studied the German theologian Schleiermacher, but he taught that humans are hard-wired to seek joy in religious community. Anyone who has experienced the joy that we create when we are together in our Village Church, would agree. Our joy is palpable. He could be our patron Saint?

It hasn't been easy to gather during this pandemic, but we did an abbreviated version when we celebrated earning our Welcoming Congregation designation from the UUA. Everyone who could make it enjoyed it very much.

Thanks to that success, we ventured out again on a recent Friday Evening to experience great music with Dr. John Leisenring's Jazz quartet featuring Clyde Pound, and Lady 'J'. We set up on the lawn of our church much the same as before – masked and safely distanced.

The first weekend in September, Labor Day Weekend, invites us to meet outside again for our In-Gathering service with a water ceremony. It will be abridged, but it will be great to see each other in person again. We will hold those who cannot attend in our hearts as we worship together.

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### From the President Warren Searls

For several years on Insight Sundays, I acted as the program host. In so doing, I led the congregation in the Affirmation of Covenant. While I find the entire Covenant filled with so much meaning, one phrase is always in the back of my mind. "...the quest of truth its sacrament..." So too is the fourth of our Seven Principles. "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

There are many sources of our living traditions including, "Believe nothing merely because you have been told it. Do not believe what your teacher tells you merely out of respect for the teacher. But whatever, after due examination and analysis, you find to be kind, conducive to the good, the benefit, the welfare of all beings – that doctrine believe and cling to, and take it as your guide." Buddha

The other night I heard this, "And going high means unlocking the shackles of lies and mistrust with the only thing that can truly set us free: the cold hard truth." Michelle Obama

In episode 5 of HBO's "Chernobyl" starting at around 50 minutes in, Valery Legasov, in response to the Judge, stands up to the USSR and exposes the truth of what happened at Chernobyl. "I've already trod on dangerous ground. We're on

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*~Mark's Trail, Continued from p 1*

Every day brings a vivid reminder of how much we miss each other. We have created a loving church with very special people, and we will be back together, all of us, even better that we ever were before. I guarantee it.



## Adult Education

Salli Forbes

At this time of “physical distancing” it is so important to continue to meet to learn together. UUVC still offers opportunities for educational classes by using zoom. Classes this year will include focused book studies, such as the current study of *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal* by Naomi Klein. There will also be new class offerings, such as one on spiritual practices. Several classes will be offered again, such as UU 101. There is even a class for learning to use zoom. Be sure to watch for announcements of classes in the UUVC office eblast.



New Members!

Sallie and Bud Forbes with Rev. Mark Walz

*~From the President , Continued from p 1*

dangerous ground right now. Because of our secrets and our lies. They are practically what define us. When the truth offends we lie and lie until we can no longer remember that it is even there. But it is... still there. Every lie told incurs a debt to the truth. Sooner or later that debt is paid.”

For now, I leave you with this, stay safe, be well, wear your mask, seek the truth and speak it loud and clear that you too may be debt free.

On a lighter side, enjoy as I have in reading, “For Small Creatures Such as We: Rituals for Finding Meaning in Our Unlikely World” by Sasha Sagan. Sasha is the daughter of Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan.



## Membership Snippets

Veronica Zuege

We are welcoming new Friends: **Terry Baumgarten, Tom Kohlmeyer, and Vic and Cary Drennen.** **Bud and Salli Forbes** have become new Members. Bud and Salli have been permanent residents of Hot Springs Village for the past year, moving from the Iowa City, IA area. Bud is a retired business consultant, with expertise in business management, including finance and human resources. Salli is a retired professor of literacy education from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). Two of Salli’s former colleagues at UNI are Penny Beed and Rick Traw. Salli is the current UUVC Education Coordinator and Bud is on the UUVC Church Finance Review Committee.

Welcome all.

*Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.*  
Henry Ford

*We are a nation equally afraid of gathering together and being alone.*  
Mira Grant



## Music Notes

John Leisenring

Once again, as we pandemic our way through the calendar, Clyde and I are searching for appropriate music to help you enjoy our virtual Sunday services. We're considering compositions like: Girl With Emphysema, The Summer Nose, and a reprise of Mask-erade.

If you've not already done so, be sure to click on MUSIC ON BARCELONA for a fine concert by the Village Strings, which will stay on the web site for several weeks.

Meantime, wash your hands, wear your masks, and look forward to the time when we can all gather and sing for you and with you, live and in person.

*Use what talents you possess: The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.*

Henry Van Dyke \*



## Social Justice

Sue Loberg

Why would someone want to be on the Social Justice Committee? Why would anyone want to be on any committee? Why would anyone step up even though they weren't sure they could do a good job? Because they know that the committee was important and necessary. Because, maybe it's OK to be out of their comfort zone. That's how I felt going into this volunteer job. I was persuaded to do this job during the first meeting I attended. Everyone there had done it so I became the vice-chair to Meg. I learned that I had to write an article every month during the year. AHHH! I'm good at talking but not so much at writing. I get to delegate our Share the Plate work and found that running the six meetings a year was doable. I had never been involved in this type of work and it turned out to be on the job training. By July I felt confident enough when my year began.

Now the committee needs someone who may be apprehensive but willing to give it a try. Remember that all those long time members have experience and are willing to share and do the necessary work. Rev. Mark also brings years of experience to the table. You couldn't ask for a more helpful group who are willing to help UUVVC attain our **Social Justice Values**. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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★ Our share of the plate for July was ★  
★ \$3035.00 to Project Hope food bank . ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



## Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

We have completed our first month of our new fiscal year. With expenses running under budget, we are showing net income of \$6,772, which is slightly under our budgeted net income of \$7,574. The variance has been driven by lower than budgeted pledge income. I know I forget...forget to make my pledge payment which I usually do on a monthly basis. Maybe it's happening to you too! So I've set up a reminder for myself to keep me on track for my pledge payments. Something others may want to think about...so we all stay on track!



For more financial info, click [here](#):

*Nothing is softer or more flexible than water; yet, nothing can resist it.*  
Lao Tzu

*The Latino in me is an ember that blazes forever.*  
Sonia Sotomayor

## Volunteers Needed Please help out where you can!

**Social Justice Vice Chair**—Contact:  
Sue Loberg at [suecloberg@gmail.com](mailto:suecloberg@gmail.com)

**Office Worker Part Time & Fill In**—Contact:  
Cindy Perez at [pcindyp55@gmail.com](mailto:pcindyp55@gmail.com)

**Events Helpers**—Contact: Dee Offerman at  
[offermanrn@gmail.com](mailto:offermanrn@gmail.com)

**Project Manager for parking lot improvements**—Contact: “Ducky” Berkley at  
[btd4702@sbcglobal.net](mailto:btd4702@sbcglobal.net)

*Alone we can do little; together we can  
do so much.*

Helen Keller

## Birthdays

- 9/3 Paul Lakey
- 9/4 Robert Stark
- 9/5 Marion Sowka
- 9/8 Jay Williams
- 9/13 Daryl Wedwick
- 9/14 Pat Hearn
- 9/21 Debbie Bostick
- 9/21 Mayo Stiles
- 9/24 Debbie Walsh
- 9/28 Sheila Ford
- 9/28 Bob McCleskey
- 9/30 Cloe Bayer

## Anniversaries

- 9/18 Quay O’Hara and Tom Drake
- 9/20 Cindy and Alex Perez
- 9/28 Bridget and Franz Van de Kop

## Events

Dee Offerman  
& Stephani Hubbard

I have become more appreciative and grateful for living in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas since the pandemic began. I have spent many hours exploring our trails, golf courses, and enjoying Balboa Beach. I am aware, more than ever, of our Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.

I enjoy listening to Cedar Creek and the spillway after a heavy rain. I am always delighted when I see deer or the beautiful red foxes. I understand that there have been some bear sightings, however, I am still waiting to see one.

The Events Committee has planned a Trivia/Scavenger Hunt in our beautiful village to give everyone an opportunity to drive around and be reminded of the beauty that surrounds us.

We are having a Tailgate/Awards Ceremony on Saturday, September 19th at 5:00 in the church parking lot. This should be a fun event and a great way to connect with each while we maintain our social distance.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you and wish everyone a fun time as you go out and explore!

## 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](mailto:SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu)





## Green Team

Janet Holt

We're Still Here

We sorely miss seeing all your smiling faces on Sundays at the Green Living Sales table, but just because we aren't meeting at our church doesn't mean we have shut down Green Team operations. We still have Fair Trade coffee and tea for sale along with a small selection of Green Living items. We even have home delivery—such a deal! To order, just contact Janet. And something new. Our Plastic Free July series was such a success we want to continue to share information with you. We've created a weekly column, *The Village Green*, to keep you updated on the latest research, products, and environmental news. Watch for it in an e-blast the first of each week. As always, feedback is welcomed and appreciated.

I know this pandemic makes it more difficult to be as green as we'd like to be. But just remember these words of Unitarian minister Edward Everett Hale:

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

Stay safe (and green) everyone!



Hot Springs Jazz Society Block Party

At UUVC

John Leisenring and  
Fedett "Lady J" Johnson



## Program Committee

Lee Iafrate

During the current the social distancing, the Program Committee is trying to make classes, book discussions, UU Journeys, and meaningful insights available on line. Keep your eyes on announcements from the Office.

Our education Coordinator, Salli Forbes, has several classes, and a book discussion awaiting dates and times. She is always looking for facilitators. Contact her at [salli.forbes@uni.edu](mailto:salli.forbes@uni.edu).

Marion Sowka, UU Journey Coordinator, is looking for people who would like to share the path of their Journey to UU and UUVC. Contact Marion at [hhtohsv@gmail.com](mailto:hhtohsv@gmail.com).

Peggy McCoy, Insight Coordinator, welcomes suggestions and contacts for speakers. She appreciates ideas on current events for future insights. Contact Peggy at [chocolatmccoy@gmail.com](mailto:chocolatmccoy@gmail.com).

Lee Iafrate,  
Chairman UUVC Program Committee  
[liafrate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:liafrate@sbcglobal.net) 501-922-6764

## About UUVC

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

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

## 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, liber-