



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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

President: Warren Searls (wsearls@sbcglobal.net)
Minister: Rev. Mark Walz (minister@uuvc.org)
Editor: Cindy Perez (pcindyp55@gmail.com)



November 2020 Theme: Gratitude



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



From the President Warren Searls

Giving Thanks

Will Rogers said, “I guess there is nothing that will take your mind off everything like golf. I haven’t been depressed enough to take up the game myself, but they say you get so sore at yourself you forget to hate your enemies.”

This election season has been particularly nerve-racking, but it is almost over. Fingers crossed. Whichever way it turns out we have a responsibility to use our lives well and enjoy our lives as best we can.

Let’s begin with gratitude. This month brings holidays and Holy Days and cherished events. All Souls Day, All Saints Day, Dios de Los Muertos. National Voting Day, of course, and Veteran’s Day, then Thanksgiving Day, and Black Friday. Let’s celebrate being alive and together in community.

Yay for golf and Pickle Ball, for Nature Trails and our UUVc Events Team, that gives us inventive ways to gather! For our growing, enhanced A/V team that makes it possible to connect virtually on our website, and through ZUUM (zoom). Our Communications Team, Education team, and all our Ministries that help make us whole. For everyone’s generosity that

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Serenity Prayer

American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr wrote and delivered several versions of the “Serenity Prayer.” The one I like the most is:

“Father, give us courage to change what must be altered,
serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and
the insight to know the one from the other.”

“Courage” comes first. A willingness to stand up and be counted. To be willing “to fight the unbeatable foe.” A willingness not to go along just to get along. You may not win a popularity contest, but in the end, you will be able to say, “I was true to myself and what I believed to be true.”

“Serenity”, staying calm when we want some ill corrected, but it is beyond our control. I find that serenity comes when I have done what I could do and do not fester over what is beyond my capability. Maintaining serenity is difficult for me. It seems I am more than willing to get into the fray.

“Insight”, what a marvelous word – “the capacity to gain an accurate and deep

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supports the church and our allies. For C4K and Share-the-Plate.

intuitive understanding of a person or thing.” That capacity demands a willingness to listen to another or to study a subject. Else how does understanding come about?

And for our Building team that continues to improve our campus, keeping us ready to re-unite in our precious church when the ‘all clear’ eventually comes, and it will come.

We are at a time in our history when the need to apply the words of the “Serenity Prayer” to our daily lives has never been more important.

Never forget that our work as Unitarian Universalists continues. Another anecdote from Will Rogers, “People’s minds are changed by observation, not by argument.” That is our strength and our gift for all our days ahead. Namaste.

Mark



Membership Snippets
Veronica Zuege

There is really nothing to report from Membership. I know that there are folks thinking about becoming friends and members, that we all want to be together to celebrate our new friends and members, and that we all keep each other in our hearts. I find a lot of fun, comfort, and wisdom in poetry. Here’s one I like.

To view the poem, click [Here](#).




Adult Education
Salli Forbes

Sunday Conversations
Salli Forbes

There are two classes being offered in November. Dave Welch will teach UU 101 on November 4, 11, and 18 at 5:00 PM. Each class is approximately one hour. This class is an overview of Unitarianism, Universalism, and then, after 1961, Unitarian-Universalism. Register for UU 101 at <https://forms.gle/8jePphUV4jPNBxcv6>

Sunday Conversations are back! In October, Sunday Conversation has been offered on zoom. At 11:00 AM, we start with coffee and chatting and begin the Sunday Conversation at 11:15 AM.

Sunday Conversations will continue to be held after both the regular and insight services. Look for the reminder and zoom link in the UUVC Office email each week.

Come join us in meaningful conversation on Sundays! The people who have participated so far have had some very positive things to say about the experience.

To see their comments click [Here](#).



The Justice, Equity, and Compassion Series is beginning with a 2-session presentation of an initiative which promotes the knowledge, skills, and talents of young people of color. Dr. Shuaib Meacham and students in the Hip Hop Literacy project will lead these sessions. To register, complete the form at <https://forms.gle/XW4JGKJN964ZXH6fA>

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★ Our share of the plate for September ★

★ totaled \$1,945 to the Village Shoe ★

★ Fund. ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Music Notes

John Leisenring

Members of the choir, and John and Clyde, will continue to record hymns and miscellaneous compositions for inclusion in Sunday Services. And November has five Sundays, which means MUSIC ON BARCELONA.

This month's concert will feature the world of electronic and computer-generated music. Mr. Clyde Pound will be featured, with his synthesizer, and a demonstration of "Techno Parade and Ear Candy," after which Dr. John Leisenring will perform "Dialog for Computer and Trombone." If you remember HAL from 2001-2010, and you've ever been frustrated with your computer, you'll love it.

"A painter paints pictures on canvas, but musicians paint their pictures on silence."

Leopold Stokowski



Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

Hi Kim ... I keep forgetting to send in my pledge! Yes, I've heard that a few times! Pledge income is the support and commitment that keeps us going. So each time you flip that calendar to a new month, I hope you will remember your UUVc operating income pledge commitment. Many thanks to those who have their banks issue a check each month!

I want to thank Terry Marx, who has been going in twice a month to process checks and to Barbara Mueller who has been entering the data. These ladies are key to keeping our financial activities in order. As the work only gets done twice a month, rather than weekly, your checks will not be clearing as quickly as in the past. Thanks for being patient!

There is much greatness of mind in acknowledging a good turn, as in doing it.

Seneca



Social Justice

Sue Loberg

The response to our Share the Plate request for Clarion Call has been totally amazing. I've no idea at this point about our financial contributions but so far we have collected more clothing, household items, linens and toiletries than we expected. **YEA!** Alana has made two trips to the houses with her van full each time. I'll bet we now have quite a few tidy closets. If you have items in the future – including furniture that needs a new home, contact Alana Clegg 501-626-1930 and see if Clarion Call can use your used but in good shape items. She will pick up and deliver.

In November we are collecting funds for the *Christmas Baskets* that we sponsor each year. We join with other village churches and sponsor families that need some help at this time of year. Martha Thomson has headed up this project for many years and has the buying, preparing of the baskets and delivery down pat. She will need 12 shoppers, drivers and assistants to deliver the baskets. We have to wait for all the Share contributions to come in before we know how much money we have to work with. So delivery should be about mid-December. Martha's phone numbers are 915-8551 or 501-226-9781. *Let's spread some holiday cheer during these stressful times.*

Congrats to Dianne Morton – Vice Chair – for being selected to be on the board of Jackson Houses' newest homeless program called Hope Works. Besides being on the board she will be working directly with the participants.

Birthdays

11/2 Marlene Kloak
11/9 Myra S. Rustin
11/10 Bud Forbes
11/10 Linda Sprague
11/15 Dave Walsh
11/16 Destiny Kruger
11/17 Nancy Baddaker
11/17 Paula Nix
11/19 Heidi Nikodem
11/20 Steve Rittenmeyer
11/21 Dane Nielsen
11/22 Jerry Offerman
11/23 Ben Wright
11/26 Mary Thames Bundy
11/28 Sharon Allen
11/28 John Baddaker
11/28 Linda Ragsdale
11/29 Nell Brewer
11/29 Dottie Foehringer
11/30 Susan Atchley

Anniversaries

11/1 Susan and Bill Johansson
11/4 Dora and Steve Cialone
11/8 Marion and Michael Sowka
11/18 Nancy and Terry Baumgartner
11/24 Stephanie and Frank Hubbard
11/28 Pat and Bud Hearn

Library

Kim Traw

Your UUVC Library will deliver books to your home! You can search our catalog of books at: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/UUVC> Once you have found the book you want--or have an idea of the kind of book you want--click on the link below and submit the request form. You will be contacted to arrange for the book to be delivered to your home. Book request form: <https://tinyurl.com/uuvcdelivery> . Or you can email Kim Traw at kimtraw@gmail.com or call her at 319-504-2833.

Events

Dee Offerman
& Stephani Hubbard

The Pumpkin Decorating Contest that was held on Sunday, October 25 was a huge success. There was just enough chill in the air to enhance this festive fall event. There were so many creative and artistic pumpkins that lined our brick wall under the porte-cochere. In addition to the Halloween decorations, there were some extraordinary costumes. We all enjoyed hot apple cider, beautifully decorated cookies from Artfully Baked and Brewed and each other's company. I heard that this is one of the few opportunities since the pandemic that we have had to socialize.

The winners were; Funniest—Jack and Lee Iafrate, Scariest—Jerry Offerman, and Most Original—Salli Forbes.

In November, we have planned a Zoom meeting on Sunday, November 22 at 2:00 in the afternoon. Everyone will be asked to share a favorite holiday memory. We are looking forward to seeing many of you on Zoom and hearing your stories.

We have planned an outdoor event at the church on Christmas Eve. The members of the Events Committee are constantly trying to think of fun and creative ways for us to be together during these challenging times. Stay Healthy and Safe!

Masked Greeters:

Do we recognize these masked architects of the macabre?



Pumpkins Galore

Photos by Kim Townsan



Green Team

Janet Holt

Moving Toward Minimalism

Being stuck at home during this pandemic has forced me to slow down and refocus my energies. I've been using this time to systematically declutter our home. With every box or bag that goes out the door I feel a little thrill of in another step toward minimalism.

What does that mean? Minimalism is intentionally living with less so you can enjoy life more. Jonathan Becker, a guru of minimalism, describes it as, "Freedom from the passion to possess." It is also an act of social justice. In the book, "On Fire" about the climate crisis, Naomi Klein writes, "At its core, it is a crisis born of overconsumption by the comparatively wealthy, which means the worlds' most manic consumers are going to have to consume less so that others can have enough to live." Manic consumers—that's us—because that's what our society teaches. But we can change.

There are hundreds of books, websites, You Tube videos and TV shows about minimalism. Here's a start: [Becoming a Minimalist](#). Isn't it time to set yourself free?



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



Volunteers Needed

TURKEY TROTTERS AND ACTIVE ELVES NEEDED

We need volunteers to participate in some special holidays activities we have planned to share UUVVC holiday cheer. So if you are willing to drive and drop off, along with a bit of assembly line activities, we need you! Our Turkey Trotters will be busy in late November, we won't make you trot! And our Elves will get their jingle on around Christmas...NO ELF ON THE SHELF...we need Elves in Sleighs...oops we mean Cars.

We're also hoping for some help decorating the outside of the church. So if you're interested in being a Turkey or an Elf, please send a note to Kim Townsan at townsaka@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR

needed until end of school year:

Familiarity with Word or WPS helpful. The job would mostly entail editing articles for font consistency, length of articles and grammar. Will train.

Contact:

Cindy Perez at pcindyp55@gmail.com

About UUVVC

UUVVC Website: <http://www.uuvc.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sermons>
Sermons:
www.uuvc.org/messages-and-sermons

UUVVC 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.

He who receives a benefit should never forget it; he who bestows should never remember it.

Pierre Charron