



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offerman

## February 2021 Theme: *Unity*



### Mark's Trail Rev. Mark Walz

#### Let's Dream

February is Black History Month, and it's difficult to think of Black history without remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his *I Have a Dream* speech.

Pope Francis has written a new book *Let Us Dream*, subtitled 'The Path to a Better Future'. He begins by reminding us that the basic rule of any crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same.

We are living in a time of trial. He reminds us that the Universe is always being made. The universe is groaning from birth pangs, and we humans have a mandate to change, to create and to build with it. We are protagonists here. We can create something new.

He adds that there are other pandemics in this world, pandemics of hunger and violence and climate change, and we must allow ourselves to be touched by each other's pain.

Our goals of being kind and working for the common good, our life goals, require courage and vigor. It's time to re-imagine our world and design better ways of living together on this earth.

When this pandemic is over, let us find the others who share our dream, and write a new chapter for this dynamic and spirited church. Let us dare to dream.

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

Helen Keller



### From the President Warren Searls

#### Of Elves and Swans

Today a Zoom meeting caused me to miss an opportunity to answer the door and greet one of what I believe to be one of UUVC's Elves. This Elf was delivering a wonderful sack of delights. Until recently I did not believe in Elves. But they are as real as real little can be. As I write this, I am looking at the sack with the two interlocking hearts drawn on its surface along with a chalice sticker. There is a card poking its top over the edge of the sack. I can read "'Oranges' and Pretzels for New Years?"

I pull out the card and immediately find myself engrossed in reading about Chinese New Year and "Pretzels a German Tradition". How clever these Elves are! On the other side of the card is a "New Year Greetings From UUVC" and a story of "Swans – Symbol of Loyalty, Trust & Devotion" along with a guide to Magnetess Lake in Heber Springs where Trumpeter Swans can be seen. Years ago, while in England, Bari and I took a long hike through hither and yon and came upon beautiful Mute Swans, which by tradition belong to the Crown.

There is more in the sack. Two wonderful bags of miniature pretzels and orange life savers, one of which magically popped itself into my mouth. I best leave the pretzels untouched as pretzels are Bari's favorite snacks, but I am sure she will share.

Oh, I forgot to mention, clipped to the side of the card with the tiniest golden paper clip with a heart shape was an origami swan with UUVC and chalices

*"From the President" continued on Page 2*



## Events

Dee Offerman &  
Stephanie Hubbard

The Events Committee has not planned an event during the month of February. Some of you may have already received your Covid-19 vaccination, while the rest of us are waiting our turn. It should not be long before we can all gather inside our church home. February brings thoughts of love with the celebration of Valentine’s Day. It is also a reminder of our affirmation of covenant where we recite in unison that, “Love is the doctrine of this church.” We are a welcoming church that extends love to everyone. We sing, “Loving kindness all around us.” We will love each other even more and appreciate what each of us brings to the table in unique and talented ways.

The Events Committee has planned a putt-putt golf tournament in March to be held in the village on March 27 at 2:00. More details will follow. It will be wonderful to actually see each other again in person. Until then, Stay Healthy and Safe!



Photo by Nancy Baumgartner

Neither Cold nor Covid kept the Events Committee from meeting in January. Thank you, ladies!!



## Dispute Mediation

Cloe Bayer

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 Cloe Bayer: 922-3810  
[cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net)

or

Steve Rittenmeyer: 915-0575  
[sd-rittenmeyer@wiu.edu](mailto:sd-rittenmeyer@wiu.edu)

~From the President , Continued from p 1

printed on it. That shall remain on my desk where I will look at it each day and remark to myself what wonderful people these Elves are.

To be so creative and caring is beyond anything I can express with my paltry words. I think they are better named the “Swans of UUVC”.



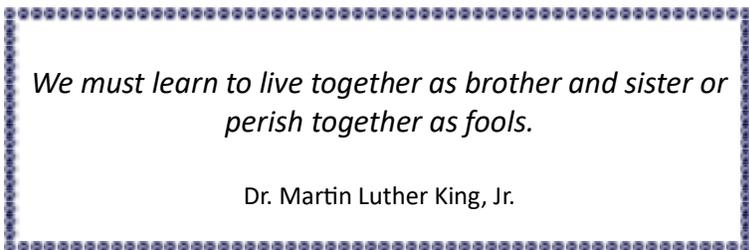
Photo by Kim Townsan

### THE MONTHLY KITT PARADE

By Kim Townsan

By now, members and friends have experienced being “bagged” for several months. That’s the work of the Keep In Touch Team (KITT). KITT metamorphosed from a group wanting to keep us all connected during isolation. For those who have been greeted by a KITT team, members deliver goodie bags wearing signature headgear. E.G. Turkeys, elves, reindeer and happy new year crowns. What will future months bring?

A big shout out to our KITT! The smiles they give and receive (even if it’s eye smiles) are a monthly reminder of the importance of the connection we all have to each other. Thank you to KITT members: Nancy Baumgartner, Ducky Berkley, Jean Campbell, Becky Hamilton, Pam Harrison, Stephanie Hubbard, Susan Johansson, Michelle Mendez, Dee Offerman, Sam Stout, Kim Townsan, Suzette Watson, and to their trusty sidekicks.



*We must learn to live together as brother and sister or perish together as fools.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Music Notes

John Leisenring

February is Black History Month, and the choir will offer lots of music appropriate to the task. We'll sing three hymns with strong African American roots, one of which, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," is a salute to the underground railway, with many words meant to confuse those not familiar with the language of those escaping. The drinking gourd, for instance, refers to the constellation Ursa Minor, or the little dipper.

Special music will include Barbra singing Duke Ellington's composition "Come Sunday," and Brenda singing Billie Holliday's composition "God Bless the Child," both ably accompanied by Clyde. Enjoy!

*The blues tell the story of life's difficulties, and if you think for a moment, you will realize that they take the hardest realities of life and put them into music, only to come out with some new hope or sense of triumph.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



## Membership Snippets

Veronica Zuege

Even though we do not see each other as we usually do, being a member of UUVc gives me comfort. I like knowing that our community is as loving and caring as always and that we have each other in our hearts.

Welcome **'Nita Brown**, a new Friend.

To all our Friends; please know that we have a path to membership during and despite the pandemic. Becoming a Member means a greater commitment to and from UUVc. Call or email me with questions or concerns. (Ronnie Zuege, [vzuege@gmail.com](mailto:vzuege@gmail.com), or 501-209-0425). I hope there is some joy in every day; looking for it is sometimes necessary.

*Kindness is the golden chain by which society is bound together.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



## Adult Education

Salli Forbes

In honor of Black History Month, Elmer Beard will discuss his book *The Challengers* and share his poetry about local African-Americans who changed the system. The session is offered on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

Due to the success of the Book Sharing session, it will be offered on the fourth Wednesday every month. The next session is February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Participating in a Zoom Session: What You Need to Know will be offered again a few times in February, with dates/times to be announced.

Watch for information about all educational offerings in the UUVc Office Eblast.

## Green Team

Deanna Tolliver

### The Whole Enchilada

We can't get together in the church kitchen right now, so the Culinary Team is coming to your kitchen instead!

In keeping with the Green Team philosophy of plant-based meals, the Culinary Team will be sharing their love of sustainable food by demonstrating how to prepare a plant-based meal, **The Whole Enchilada**, via Zoom.

We've written before about plant-based meals, and the menu they'll be showing us is a very good example. In keeping with their theme of the month—Hot and Spicy—the menu includes Vegetable Bean Enchiladas, Salad, and Margaritas (Ole!). The Enchilada sauce will be made from scratch, and there will be a demonstration as to how to assemble the enchiladas. Team member Marj Lakey has donated her kitchen for the day. Other participating Culinary Team members include: Patsy Slezak, Dianne Morton, Rhiannon Zerbe, Sue Loberg, and Nancy Baumgartner.

Watch your email for Zoom instructions. The date is **February 18**, at 10 a.m. A list of items and the recipes will be available prior to the Zoom.

## Social Justice

Anais Troadec

***Alone you go faster; together you go further.***

African proverb

The UUVU Social Justice Committee is interested in joining the CITIZENS FIRST CONGRESS-CFC. It is a multi-issue and non-partisan coalition of over 125 grassroots communities and allies, working together for progressive changes in AR state policy. I was a representative to the CFC Convention in September for AAUW in the education category.

The CFC is an important force in understanding what's going on in the Arkansas Statehouse. It acts as a watchdog and lobbies bills in the categories of Civil Rights/Election Reform, Economic Justice, Education and the Environment. This year the common agenda addresses the opportunity to learn, budget and tax issues. Also, water priorities, prison reform, fair housing and wage theft will be addressed.

Importantly, CFC tracks bills and produces a Legislative guide, scorecard and a directory for coalition members.

The UU Fellowship of Fayetteville and the UU Little Rock are coalition members. A representative (Rich Roy) from UULR is on the Steering Committee.

Let's join!

## About UUVU

**UUVU Website:** <http://www.uuvu.org>

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

**Sermons:** [www.uuvu.org/messages-and-sermons.html](http://www.uuvu.org/messages-and-sermons.html)

### UUVU 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.



## Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

Through December 31, the midpoint of UUVU's fiscal year, lower than budgeted expenses have helped us offset lower than budgeted income. Net income through 12/31 is \$22,291, slightly higher than budgeted. UUVU's budgeting process does attempt to match income and expenses to the month in which they have historically been incurred. For example, we have historically seen an uptick in pledge payments in December, as part of an individual's tax planning strategy, along with an increase in June for those who pay their pledge at the end of the pledge year. To see a snapshot of UUVU's operating, building, liabilities and cash position, see the All Funds Report which can be found on the website.

Tax reporting documents were sent via USPS in January to everyone contributing more than \$50 in total to operating, building, share and memorial. If you did not receive your report, please send a note to:

[treasurer@uuvu.org](mailto:treasurer@uuvu.org).

*Diversity: the art of thinking independently together.*

Malcom Forbes

## Birthdays

- 2/2 Nancy Baumgartner
- 2/2 Leslie Johnson
- 2/2 Ken Shelton
- 2/6 Kim Harrison
- 2/8 Ed Miller
- 2/13 Kim Traw
- 2/16 Terry Baumgartner
- 2/19 Tom Drake
- 2/19 Tom Tirrell
- 2/21 Jerriann Nielsen
- 2/24 Ron Nance

## Anniversaries

- 2/14 Liz & Ed Miller
- 2/15 Penny & Doug Beed
- 2/23 Ronnie & Lee Zuege