



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)
Editors: Cindy Perez (newsletteruuvc@gmail.com)



Jerry Offerman

April 2021 Theme: *Renewal*



Mark's Trail

Rev. Mark Walz

The Village Life

I'm watching our beautiful Village come alive again. Even the unsettled winter of a polar vortex and a persistent virus cannot hold back the will of Mother Nature. She is not to be denied.

As Peter Mayer wrote in his brilliant song: "Winds are restless; Trees are patient; you, my child, are Awake. Waves are crashing; Rivers churning; Planets twirling; Stars amaze; Storms are raging; Atoms whirling; You, my child are Awake-To perceive these wondrous things, To count the beats of a blackbird's wings; To tell a story; To dance and sing. All the splendors of creation are very happy that you came."

We, the members and friends of this church, are very happy that you came. May we help you to tell your story; and encourage you to dance and sing.

Poet Langston Hughes, wrote: "Bring me all your dreams, You Dreamer, bring me all your Heart Melodies that I may wrap them in a blue cloud-cloth away from the too-rough fingers of the World."

Like you, I have dreamed of a church where a truly multi-cultural, multi-racial, worship could unfold, and grow, and transform our spiritual journeys. A Sunday so full of promise that it could make us race to get here on Sunday mornings and miss when we couldn't come; make us ache to get back to and connect with each other, and more importantly, re-connect with ourselves in the warm embrace of community.

Patience, it won't be long.



From the President

Warren Searls

Out of Sight

It has been over a year since I've had the opportunity to see most of you face-to-face. There were a few occasions when we had a UUVC get together on the church lawn, when I was able to say, "Hello!" to those there. To say it has been a trying year for us all would be a gross understatement. As wonderful as Zoom has been in these trying times, it's not the same as up close and personal.

We've been in a state of transition since this pandemic struck. We have no choice but to deal with it. It has changed our psyches and will be forever a part of our memories. Through it all, we need to remember that we are in this together. We need more than ever to keep faith in one another.

When the pandemic will end is anybody's guess. When we will be able to reassemble at UUVC, remains a guess as well. Of course, we all hope it is soon. But we need to remember that yesterday has come and gone. The "old normal" will not be the "new normal" with at least one exception. You may be out of my sight but I can love you just the same.

For me, that is what UUVC is all about, faith in and kindness toward one another – it's called love. Stay safe, be well and love yourself so you can love others.

"The work of restoration cannot begin until a problem is fully faced."

Dan Allender



“The blooming spring is the smile of the ever-joyful nature.” *Debasish Mridha.*

Spring is finally here, blooms are everywhere, it’s warming up, and smiles abound. Our UUVC spring lineup includes a putt-putt golf tournament in the Village on March 27 from 2:00-4:00. This should be a fun event and a chance to finally get together after a long and cold winter. We will have both golfers and non-golfers but will respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Golf trivia questions will be asked and there will be prizes awarded. We all know that our golfers will most likely have an advantage here, but all will have fun.

Also, included in our spring lineup is a trip to the Fish Hatchery. If this does not work out due to Covid restrictions for group tours, we have an alternate plan. We will carpool to Garvan Gardens to see the tulips.

Our final event for the spring will be a Ladies Day BBQ on May 9 at 5:00. We have reserved the Cortez Pavilion and are planning to have the food catered by Clampit’s Country Kitchen.

Pictures of these events will be posted as they occur and, of course, the winners of our golf tournament will be announced.

The members of the Events Committee are looking forward to seeing many of you as we move forward into spring. The vaccinations have enabled us to gather more safely and confidence than before.



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

or

Steve Rittenmeyer:915-0575

sd-rittenmeyer@wiu.edu



UUVC has joined the Arkansas Citizens First Congress. Headed up by Meg Koziar and Anais Troadec, this project was underway in record time. CFC was first brought to our attention by Anais as a delegate for AAUW’s membership. In record time they had a survey out to the congregation, teams set up and obtained board approval for UUVC as the joining member. Thanks go out to: David Welch, Steve Owen, Linda Ragsdale, Kim Harrison, Craig Johnson, and Todd Carter for their efforts as our deputies.

We are looking for several people (2 at least) to join each caucus who are willing to learn more about an issue and how to advocate on behalf of UUVC and CFC. If you decide to become a caucus member, you will get training and all the support UUVC can give!

There is a very short time period left during this legislative session. We need to act now, and then we can learn the ins and outs of the legislative process to prepare for the next session and participate in the selection of priority issues with other members of the CFC. Please let us know if you are interested! CFC will hold a special meeting for new caucus members on April 8, and we hope to have a full contingent from UUVC.



Under the banner of our monthly theme: Restoration, plus Earth Day and Easter, we’ll perform music that celebrates Spring, our beloved planet, and of course Easter. Clyde and I will play Irving Berlin’s “Easter Parade,” and the choir will sing hymns with earth day and Spring in mind.

And while I’ve got your attention, please consider joining the choir in the fall. Our first rehearsals will be the last two Friday’s in August, from 3-4:30 in the church. All voices are needed, but especially alto and tenor, as we have lost several members since you last enjoyed the full choir in church.

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

Berthold Auerbach



Green Team

Janet Holt

Becoming Water Wise

With all the rain we get, it may be hard to wrap your head around the need to conserve water. But did you know that only 3% of the earth's water is fresh? And only 0.5% of that is available for drinking. Puts things into perspective, doesn't it? Conserving water, even in an area with plenty, helps build a better defense against future drought years and ensures we have water for recreation. Using excess amounts of water can put a strain on sewage systems which can lead to groundwater contamination. Using less water also reduces energy use and can save you money. Convinced? Then here are some ways to conserve:

- Turn the water off when brushing teeth or shaving
- Check toilets, sinks, and pipes for leaks
- Only use your dishwasher and washing machine with full loads
- Plant drought-resistant plants and trees
- Check for leaks in water hoses and connections
- Mulch around trees and plants
- Water during the cool part of the day to reduce evaporation

March 22 was World Water Day. But every day is a day we should treat our water like the precious resource it is. If we all do our part, everyone benefits.



Adult Education

Salli Forbes

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." John Dewey captured the essence of life-long learning. In April, educational opportunities include the Book Sharing session on April 22nd at 7:00 PM. Watch for the reminder and zoom link in the UUVC eblast.

There are still a few copies left of Elmer Beard's poetry book *Let Reason Roll*. If you would like a copy, contact Salli Forbes at salli.forbes@uni.edu.

If you would like to learn more about using zoom or have a question, please contact Salli Forbes to schedule a date and time to meet with her (salli.forbes@uni.edu).

Getting to Know UUVC will be offered on May 10, 17, and 24 at 10 AM. Watch for the registration information in the UUVC eblast.

"When you hurt, be still! When you're restless, be still! When you feel lost, be still! It's in the stillness that you will find restoration, peace, and ultimately find yourself."

Earl Maree

UUVC Putt-Putt Tournament

Pictures by Kim Townsan



Sudden death playoff, "Ringer" Nancy Baumgartner and "Photogenic" Penny Beed. Nancy took first-place, Penny



Bud "hole in one" Forbes, recipient of 3rd place AND the most hole in one puts...3!



UUVC Events Coordinator and hostess with the mostest, Dee Offerman, with Jerry Offerman, rules chairperson.

Birthdays

4/1	Todd Carter	4/18	Bridgit Van de Kop
4/2	Melanie Cross	4/19	Marjorie McCleskey
4/2	Summer Williams	4/20	Marjorie Lakey
4/4	Ronnie Zuege	4/21	Glenish Gillespie
4/7	Todd Kincheloe	4/23	Suzette Watson
4/11	Anne Hagen	4/27	Anne Bowes
4/13	Linda Shearer	4/27	Tammy Hanks
4/15	Lee lafrate	4/29	Bobbie Bateman
4/16	Don Haase		

Anniversaries

4/4	Sheila and Carl Ford
4/5	Mary Ann and Steve Rittenmeyer
4/12	Susan Berkley and Becky Hamilton
4/18	Nancy and John Baddaker
4/22	Debbie and Dave Walsh
4/24	Cindy and Ron Nance

Share the Plate for February

\$2,985

Imagination Library of the Ouachitas

About UUVC

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

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

Sermons: www.uuvc.org/messages-and-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 which we are a part.

Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

Entering our last quarter of the UUVC fiscal year, lower expenses continue to keep us in positive territory.

Our net income through February was \$21,584, as compared to a budgeted net income of \$20,279.

During the month of April, updates on Operating and Building Pledge balances will be sent to members and friends. Operating pledge payments are due by the end of this fiscal year, June 30. The close date for Building Fund Pledge payments is October 31.

Currently in progress is the budget process for our upcoming fiscal year which begins July 1, 2021. Committee chairs have submitted their requested budget, which is compiled by the Treasurer and presented to the Finance Committee. Upon review and approval by Finance, the budget will then be submitted to the Board at the April meeting for their review and approval. The next step in the budget process is presentation and approval by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Notice of a Congregational Vote for funding approval of a new website was sent to all members on March 25. Members are encouraged to review the website presentation and vote by way of the email they will receive on April 5 in the affirmative for this important project. UUVC's policy is expenditures exceeding \$5,000 require a congregational vote. The website expenditure of \$7,000 will be funded from UUVC's Building Fund, the balance of which as of the end of February was \$157,881.

Rev. Dr. Raymond "Bud" Hearn

**April 12, 1929
March 18, 2021**

Memorial service to be held May 29th.
Location and time to be announced when determined.