



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offerman

May 2021 Theme: *Beauty*



Mark's Trail

Rev. Mark Walz

Heaven

We humans seem to obsess about the merits of heaven. I don't begrudge those who believe in heaven, anymore than I begrudge those who believe in oblivion. Belief is a personal matter and it seems just as easy to believe in one as in the other. Although we know we are a part of the animal kingdom, we seem to insist that we are different, more important somehow, than to simply be born, live and then die.

I acknowledge Shakespeare's quote from his play Hamlet, that there are more things in the universe than are dreamt of in our philosophies, but speculation about life after death seems to be a waste of our human time. As I write this, at my advancing age, it seems that my life from birth until now went pretty fast. Not fast while I was living it, but fast when I reflect on it.

When I was younger, I was always anticipating the day ahead, the weeks ahead, the years ahead, and imagining myself in that new future. Constantly planning that new future. I wasn't Buddhist enough yet, to appreciate the now?

As April surrenders to May, I deeply believe that we must enjoy the moments of heaven on earth as best we can. This earth, this paradise, is greening again as it usually does. The trees reach for the sun, the birds (and squirrels) are swarming the feeders we put out, and the rebirth around us implies another moment of hope. Let us enjoy it together. Now.



From the President

Patti Dacus

Inching Back

When UUVC closed its doors to regular Sunday morning services and most other activities in March of last year, who could have imagined that we would still be waiting to get back inside as we approach summer of 2021? I certainly couldn't! I naively thought we would be ready to throw off our masks and, with some caution – perhaps, resume our “normal” activities within a few months. I have learned a lot in the past 14 months about my own needs and desires for “church” and all it entails, and more than I ever wanted to know about Covid 19. (I started to say, “damn Covid 19,” but thought better of it.)

Thankfully, we now have effective vaccines that are being distributed at a remarkable (although slowing) rate and Covid cases are currently at levels that allow us to consider how and when we may actually gather safely in person again. So, a few weeks ago we convened a Re-opening Task Force to help determine criteria for getting us back in church. They did a superb job following the science, collecting data, and employing our UU principles of inclusion and respect. Based upon their research and recommendations, the Board of Directors has taken the first steps toward re-opening the doors of UUVC. (See Article in this issue.)

Where we go from here is very fluid, depending upon future data regarding Covid 19 and the renovations and repairs being made to the church due to the flood damage that occurred in late February. But, please rest assured we are moving in the right direction

“From the President” continued on Page 2

Opening Doors at UUVC

The Board of Directors would like to share the following information regarding the re-opening of UUVC:

Small groups and committees may resume meeting in the church building. If your group would like to meet in the community hall or the board room (for groups of 4 or less), please contact the office at office@uuvc.org. Other meeting rooms, which are currently occupied, will become available as the renovation work is completed.

Our volunteer staff will begin maintaining the office again in the next few weeks (perhaps the second or third week of May). We will relay the exact date and office hours to you as they are confirmed.

Attendance at the first and third Saturday morning recording session of Rev. Mark's worship services has been increased to include up to 25 in the sanctuary. Please contact Kim Townsana at townsaka@yahoo.com to have your name added to the list of attendees until further notice. Insight services will continue to be recorded without an audience.

The target date to reopen the church (with limited numbers in attendance) for Sunday morning services is July 4, 2021. This date is subject to change due to the construction occurring in and around the sanctuary, and to ongoing changes related to COVID-19. We will keep you updated throughout the next couple of months as we move toward our re-opening.

Masks and social distancing will be required for all persons entering the building for the time being.

The Board of Directors would like to express our sincere appreciation of the dedicated ongoing work by the Re-opening Task Force: Todd Carter, Marjorie Lakey, Jerriann Nielsen, Rick Traw, and Rhiannon Zerbe.

STAY TUNED!!

~From the President , Continued from p 1

as quickly as we can. You can help. If you have not yet been vaccinated against Covid 19 and are able to do so, please get vaccinated! This is the most important thing any of us can do to protect ourselves and those with whom we come in contact. Also, take these steps with us as we "inch back" into the church we love and hunger for: begin holding your committee and small group meetings in the community hall again; join us in the sanctuary for the Saturday morning taping of Reverend Mark's worship services; be willing to sacrifice a little now by conforming to mask wearing and social distancing to protect those who may not yet be vaccinated.

We WILL come out of this better than we were before with a new appreciation for what we have in our UUVC family and with hearts that have grown with love and compassion this past year. There are those among us who have suffered great loss during this terrible time and all of us mourn for those who are no longer with us and those who are grieving. Our arms ache for the hugs we have not been able to give or receive and so we must do what we must do in order to get where we want to be. When we finally get to swing the doors wide at UUVC there are new members and friends waiting to join us as we journey on together in LOVE!

Beauty in art is often nothing but ugliness subdued.

Jean Rostand

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.



Green Team

Janet Holt

Recycling Refresher

Now that we are reopening our church building, I'm expecting our recycle bins to start filling again so here are some recycling reminders:

The number in the triangle on the bottom of plastic containers identifies the type of plastic the container is made from. It does not mean the item can be recycled. You will see 1s and 2s on some plastic plant pots, food containers, produce boxes, etc. but please don't put them in our bins. Also, no plastic packing materials. It just makes work for the recycle team to sort them out and dispose of them. Our recycling centers accept only #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs.

Clean items only, please. Thoroughly rinse (and drain!) plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and glass jars before putting them in the recycle bins. And please remove plastic caps.

We can only accept ink cartridges. Toner cartridges (from copiers and laser printers) are not recyclable and they're messy!

A special note on batteries: Always cover the terminals of 9 volt and lithium batteries with tape before placing them in the bin. They can cause fires if they come in contact with other metals.

Thanks from your Green Team!

A thing of beauty is a joy forever.

John Keats



Photos by Cindy Perez

Beauty is not caused. It is.

Emily Dickinson



Adult Education

Salli Forbes

The *Spiritual Practice* group will meet every Wednesday in May at 11:00 AM. Contact Ronnie Zuege at vzuege@gmail.com for information and the zoom link.

The *Humanism Discussion*, led by Meg Koziar, meets the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next session is scheduled for May 11th at 4:00 PM. Contact Meg at office@uuvc.org for information and the zoom link.

The next *Book Sharing* is May 26th at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome. The zoom link will be sent in the UUVC Office eblast.

Getting to Know UUVC has been postponed. Cloe Bayer and Meg Koziar will lead the course in August or September.

There are still 4 copies available of *Let Reason Roll*, the book of poetry by Elmer Beard. Contact Salli Forbes at salli.forbes@uni.edu if you would like a copy delivered to you (with an addressed envelope enclosed for a donation to Elmer Beard).

Walking the Footsteps of the Civil Rights Protesters with Compassion and Inquiry.

Dianne Morton & Salli Forbes

Salli Forbes and I went on a 5-day trip to Montgomery, Alabama to visit the EJI Legacy Museum and Memorial Gardens. From there we went to Selma and visited the Interpretive Center, the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the Selma Voting Rights Memorial Park, Brown Chapel at the A.M.E. Church, the George Washington Carver homes project, and the Live Oak Cemetery. We did a virtual tour of the Rosa Parks Museum, as it was closed due to Covid-19. The next day we drove to Birmingham and toured the Civil Rights Institute, the Kelly Ingram Park, and the 16th Street Baptist Church. On the last day, our stop was Memphis, Tennessee. We visited the National Civil Rights museum and the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King was assassinated.

To learn more about this amazing and sobering journey, please watch the Insight Service on May 9th followed by the coffee hour at 11am for questions and discussion. We look forward to seeing you then.



Events

Dee Offerman & Stephanie Hubbard

We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful place. So many of us moved to Hot Springs Village from another state, but now call Arkansas home. Arkansas is nicknamed The Natural State because of its natural scenic beauty, clear lakes and streams, and abundant wildlife. There are many state and national parks to explore.

In April, a group of us visited Garvan Woodland Gardens, which has a magic of its own. The weather was perfect. There were still a few tulips to enjoy, and the azaleas were blooming. We then went to have lunch at Café 1217. It was a day that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Events Committee has planned a Ladies Day BBQ on May 9th at Cortez Pavilion. The food will be catered by Clampit's Country Kitchen. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy the scenery of Lake Cortez and each other's company.

We are in the planning stages of a field trip in June to have an opportunity to explore our great state. Please stay tuned as more information is revealed. In the meantime, go explore and enjoy the abundance of beauty that our spring season has brought us.



Photos by Stephanie Hubbard

Share the Plate for March

Hope Works
\$2,085



Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

The month of May is a busy one in the financial cycle of UUV. The upcoming fiscal year operating budget will be approved at the May 16 Annual Meeting of UUV members. The budget is presented by the Treasurer first to the Finance Committee for their approval, followed by approval by the UUV Board. UUV's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The proposed budget for FY21-22 is \$147,980, a 2% increase over our current year budget.

Following the budget approval process, we will be initiating the Operating Pledge Drive for funding the upcoming operating budget. Pledge commitments by members and friends are the means by which we run the church. Each year UUV has been successful in receiving pledges each year that meet our budget needs. We are hoping this upcoming year will be no different in the commitment of members and friends pledging their treasure!

Regarding our current fiscal year, we continue to show income exceeding expenses, with net income thru March of \$24,785.

RUG HOOKING RESUMES!!!
MAY 3, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

We are excited to resume our monthly Rug Hooking meetings on the first Monday of each month. Rug Hookers, we would love to have you join us. If you're curious, please stop by and see what we're doing. If you have ever considered trying it, I will be glad to show you the basics and help you get started.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are required to wear masks while attending this meeting. Food is not allowed. Water bottles are permitted.

If you plan to attend, please call Susan Johanson or text me by Sunday at 832-738-5136. We hope to see you on Monday ...





Music Notes

John Leisenring

Your music team keeps on marching, as we perform our way through the pandemic. In that regard, enjoy hymns sung by members of the choir during each of the two May worship services. Clyde and I will be adding our music as well.

The bigger news for May is the upcoming MUSIC ON BARCELONA concert, which will be presented virtually on Sunday May 30. The very well-known Concert Violinist OKSANA will combine with guitarist Matt Treadway, to present a concert of music ranging all the way from Russian concert pieces to the music of Duke Ellington. They are both virtuoso performers and will undoubtedly offer compositions pleasing to all.

“Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart opens.”

Maria von Trapp



Membership Snippets

Veronica Zuege

We are fortunate indeed to keep attracting good people to our UUVC congregation. Welcome to new friends **Linda and John McAteer, Serena and John Gonzales and Linda Griffin Puckett**. And welcome back to UUVC member **Judy Saldino**.

Honoring UUVC Members Membership

10+ Years

Martha Thomson, Bette and Merrill Clark, Elizabeth Foster, Junell O’Hara, Jay Williams, JoAnn Bowen, Lee and Jack Iafrate, Nell Brewer, Wanda Bodemann, Anne Hagen, Brenda and Tom Tirrell, Dennis Abraham, Alana Clegg.

15+ Years

Bobbie Bateman, Phil Simpson, Pat Hearn, Cloe Bayer, Jerriann and Dane Nielsen, MaryAnn and Steve Rittenmeyer.

20+ Years

Kay Croshaw, Bob McCleskey.

25+ Years

Dottie Foehringer, Mayo Stiles, Meg Koziar.

We are looking forward to meeting and celebrating with all of you in person soon. Even though we are still apart, most of us still feel a part of this vibrant, loving community. Keep each other close in your hearts. And spread the joy!

Birthdays

5/3	Liz Miller	5/8	Russ Wright
5/4	Susan Berkley	5/9	Stephanie Hubbard
5/5	Martha Graham	5/12	Mike Holt
5/6	Terry Dacus	5/17	Malinda Zarate
5/6	Georgia Pound	5/18	Nola Abraham
5/6	Linda Rider	5/19	Dee Offerman
5/7	Ted Allen	5/21	Peggy McCoy
5/7	Jan Kincheloe	5/23	Glenn Calloway
5/7	Tom Kohlmeyer	5/30	Barbara Mueller
5/7	Tony Nikodem	5/31	Vivian Walz
5/8	Glen Rider	5/8	

Anniversaries

5/20	Daryl and Catherine Wedwick
5/27	Katherine and Gerald Wheeler
5/31	Janet and Mike Holt

True beauty consists in purity of heart.

Mohatma Gandhi



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

or

Steve Rittenmeyer:915-0575

sd-rittenmeyer@wiu.edu