



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offerman

June 2021 Theme: Possibility



Mark's Trail

Rev. Mark Walz

Relationships

This past week I had a wonderful opportunity to join a training session, provided by the Citizens First Congress, with two dozen members and friends of our church.

Our social justice team is determined to help us prepare for the new chapters of our church. The training was wonderful, packed with good ideas and practical knowledge of what 'Change' requires of us.

We often lament the amount of money that others can raise to influence elections and gain the commitments of legislators. It is common to feel overwhelmed by this.

Our teacher assured us, however, that money is the least important factor. Though helpful, money is never as important, or as successful, as building relationships.

It falls to us to create relationships with both allies and politicians first. Leading with our non-negotiable values, such as Gender, and Economic equity, and persistence in our efforts, can carry the day when these elements are strong and obvious to those who represent us. Let us remember to sustain our journey by building as our base, these loving and determined relationships, here in our own religious community. What a joyful way to open our church and our hearts to each other as we begin again, re-creating Beloved Community for ourselves and for all our neighbors.

See you in church. Soon!



From the President

Patti Dacus

A Spiritual Life

For many of us, one of the things we seek in "church" is a deeper connection to our own spirituality; a search for and connection to something greater than ourselves that is at work in the world and in the universe beyond.

In seeking to live a more "in tune," spiritually aware life I found the guidance offered in the "Spiritual Practices" class from the Faith Forward series at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, to be very helpful. I believe others who have participated in the class would agree; and so, I would like to share with all of you the five areas of focus suggested for living more mindfully and more spiritually aware.

The first area is "daily practice," which means to find something that gives meaning to each day and helps to ground, or center, you. Develop a ritual that has significance for you personally – a meditation, a walk in nature, prayer, a special reading – something that you do every day. The second area is "weekly worship," or keeping the Sabbath. Whether you establish your own worship at home or join in the weekly services at church, find a regular time each week to participate in some sort of Sabbath observance. This is a good time to "turn off" so you can "tune in."

Thirdly, the Spiritual Practices class suggests that we all participate in "monthly service." Join a committee at church, volunteer at Jackson House or some other non-profit service organization, help a neighbor. Offer your service to help improve things in this world

"From the President" continued on Page 2



Social Justice

Sue Loberg

As June approaches; it signals the end of the church year, time to wrap up committee business, and turn over the chairmanship to the current vice chairs.

Three cheers for Dianne Morton as the incoming chair for our committee!!!

That is not all that is happening in the Social Justice Committee. We are embarking on a major endeavor by joining the Citizens First Congress (CFC) The CFC is a multi-issue and non-partisan coalition of organizations who work together for progressive changes in state policy. This is a coalition of grassroots allies working to establish a strong public voice to influence political and policy decisions in our legislature. We had our first training session via Zoom on May 25th and we are ready to move ahead. For any questions or to be part of this new adventure contact Meg Koziar, Nita Brown, Linda McAteer or Anais Troadec.



Green Team

Janet Holt

The Green Team Needs You!

Do you like to garden? Cook? Research? Write? Do you have a creative bent or enjoy inventing new ways to use old things? Are you an organizer, administrator or a have a passion for politics? Perhaps you like to research or teach or have a penchant for retail sales. If any of these things sound like you, there's a place for you on the Green Team.

It feels like forever since we've been separated by the pandemic but with the new CDC guidelines it won't be long until we're together again. It's time to regroup, renew and kick our environmental activities into high gear! If you are looking for a way to get involved in our church, the Green Team is looking for you. There is room for everyone so please call or text me at 501-538-4596 or e-mail: mjholt@hotmail.com and we'll find the perfect fit for your talents and passions. I'll be waiting to hear from you!

~From the President , Continued from p 1

however you can, wherever you can, at least once a month. The forth area of focus is to participate in some sort of "annual retreat." Whether you carve out a week-end at home with your devices all turned off and an inspirational book to read or you travel to a retreat center with a group of like-minded people with planned activities, find some time for rest and renewal each year. This is time spent in meditation and contemplation, not an action-packed vacation!

Lastly, we should aspire to make a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. According to the class guidebook, "To go on pilgrimage is to make a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance." Where would you go to explore and experience something of religious or spiritual significance to you personally? Could you find nirvana in your own back yard or would you travel to some remote, unexplored corner of the earth? Whether we are ever able to make our pilgrimage or not, it is worth the time and thought just to imagine what it may be like as we travel on together in LOVE!

UUVC Members and Friends in Support of Hot Springs Peace Vigil

(Vivian Walz and Kim Townsan even made the evening news!)



About UUVC

Photo by Kim Townsan

Photo by Linda McAteer

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

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.



Music Notes

John Leisenring

It feels like the lull before the good storm. The choir members will continue to record hymns in June, with which you may sing along. And then for July and August, Clyde and I will provide music as always. Everything is pointing toward September and the reemergence of the full choir. And watch for the next MUSIC ON BARCELONA at the end of August, as the Spa City Stompers will return for a concert in front of a live audience. That will be you.

I'll never know what makes the rain to fall
I'll never know what makes the grass so tall
I only know there Ain't no love at all
Without a Song
Vincent Youmans/Billy Rose



Adult Education

Salli Forbes

Stirring the Waters, an exciting new course facilitated by Debbie Bostick, will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 3:00-4:00 pm on June 30th through August 28th. Inspired by the book, *Stirring the Waters* by Janell Moon, the **writing** and **reflective** activities of this class are directed to open each person to the richness of self-discovery. Registration information will be provided in the UUVc Office eblast.

The next *Humanism Discussion* is scheduled for June 8th at 4:00 PM. Contact Meg Koziar at office@uuvc.org for information and the zoom link.

Watch this site for the educational opportunities in 2021-2022! A new Education Team is working with Salli to construct a plan to offer both tried and true classes, as well as new possibilities. Contact team members Penny Beed, Myra Rustin, Patsy Slezak, or Salli Forbes if you want to facilitate a class or if you have ideas for a class.



Events

Dee Offerman &
Stephanie Hubbard



Farewell & Welcome

Dee and I will be completing our two-year term at the end of June and want to thank everyone for your support, positive feedback, and enthusiastic participation. We would like to welcome Nancy Baumgartner and Marge Lakey as the new co-chairs of the Events Committee.

Dee and I began our duties as co-chairs with a picnic at the Cortez Pavilion in September 2019 and are ending with the Ladies Day BBQ in May 2021 at the Cortez Pavilion. The Ladies Day BBQ was a huge success! It was so nice to be with everyone again, welcome our new friends and members, and send Dave and Marie Welch off for their new adventures to Colorado.

All our events have given everyone a chance to get to know the wonderful friends and members of UUVc even better! We have an amazing group of individuals who have chosen UUVc as their church home and are looking forward to the future as Nancy and Marge lead us into the next two years!

Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|----------------|
| 6/2 | Frank Hubbard | 6/14 | Gary Vogt |
| 6/3 | Anne Sara | 6/15 | Junell O'Hara |
| 6/7 | Mark Hamilton | 6/18 | Dianne Morton |
| 6/8 | Colleen Boardman | 6/19 | Sam Stout |
| 6/9 | Ralph Butler | 6/20 | Jeanie Calhoun |
| 6/11 | Mary Ann Rittenmeyer | 6/22 | JoAnn Bowen |
| 6/12 | Barbara Nick | 6/26 | Wade Selph |

Anniversaries

| | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 6/4 | Jan & Todd Kincheloe |
| 6/6 | Anne & Joe Sara |
| 6/11 | Judy & Ron Saldino |
| 6/17 | Jerriann & Dane Nielsen |
| 6/18 | Lou & Norm Elliot |
| 6/20 | Linda & Glen Rider |
| 6/24 | Pati & Alan Trippel |
| 6/25 | Melanie & Jeffrey Cross |
| 6/25 | Salli & Bud Forbes |
| 6/30 | Anne Bowes & Elmer Burrall |

Share the Plate for April
All About Kids \$2,485



Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

We are approaching the end of our fiscal year. Through April 30, our net income continues in positive territory. While revenue is lagging slightly behind budget, lower expenses have resulted in net income of \$32,283. For those with outstanding pledge commitments for our current fiscal year, balances are to be paid by June 30.

Thank you to all who attended our annual meeting; we had 100% in support of our FY21-22 budget which totals \$155,480. Our annual operating fund pledge drive kicked off in May as we look to members and friends for their financial commitment to fund the approved budget. The pledge period ends June 18. UUVC has never not met their operating pledge drive goal...and we are hopeful this year will not be an exception. It takes the time, talent and treasure of our members and friends to support our UUVC family. It's as easy as an email to pledge! So please send your pledge commitment for this year's operating fund pledge drive to treasurer@uuvc.org

UUVC Cortez Picnic

Getting together again after more than a year apart!!!

Photos by Cindy Perez



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

Calling All Artists!



In the April, 2020, issue of the UUVC Newsletter, Page 4 states that the "changeover will definitely happen at 10:00 a.m. on the first Friday that the Community Hall is open." Little did we know . . . !

The Art Wall Changeover will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 9, if possible. It will need 16 new works of art.

For UUVC Art Wall requirements contact Daryl Wedwick at: drswedwick@suddenlink.net

Interest Groups

You need not wear a mask if you have been fully vaccinated but are required if not. If you wish to wear a mask but don't have one with you, they are available near the entry. Please enter at the back door with the ramp until further notice.

UUVC Pickle ball

Meet at the Desoto Pickle ball Courts on **Monday and Friday at 4 PM**. Contact Tom Tirrell at: Tirellt@icloud.com

Mah Jongg

Mondays (Starting July 14th) at 1:00 in the Community Hall. Contact Dee Offerman at: offermanrn@gmail.com

Rug Hooking

First Monday of the month in the Conference Room, from 10:00—2:00.

If you are planning to attend, please call or text Susan Johansson at 832-738-5136 on or before the prior Sunday.