



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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

President: Patti Dacus (pidacus@gmail.com)
Minister: Rev. Mark Walz (minister@uuvc.org)
Editors: Cindy Perez (newsletteruuvc@gmail.com)



Jerry Offerman

July 2021



Mark's Trail

Rev. Mark Walz



From the President

Patti Dacus

Returning to church

We have chosen July 4th weekend as the official re-opening of in person worship in our Sanctuary. As the song goes, I'm so excited, I just can't hide it.

My fingers are crossed, trusting that all the repairs will have been completed. And I've heard from some that watching our services on Zoom, in the comfort of their home, in their pajamas, with a cup of coffee, will be missed.

Playfully, I've said they can wear their pajamas to church until Labor Day. We'll wait and see what happens!

Nevertheless, I have a vivid memory of what we are like when we are together on Sunday. I'm looking forward to shaking hands again, and giving and receiving a hug, and the sound of us singing.

It's time to face what has been hard and hurting, and to rise again to what is beautiful and life-giving. To meet this new moment in our church life with our highest humanity. To grow our love together again.

How lucky we are to have this faith, to have each other, once more.

May we continue to be the religion that chooses fearlessness over fear, and the community who welcomes everyone who comes in need of affirmation and care.

See you in church!

Anticipation

If all goes as planned, by the time you read this we will be within days either side of our first "live" Sunday service, back in the UUVC sanctuary since March of last year. We've followed the science, and the guidelines tell us that those who are fully vaccinated can now safely meet indoors in larger groups. And so, believing that most of us who will be eligible to be vaccinated, have had the opportunity to do so, we are confident that the time is right for us to open our doors once again and say, "WELCOME!" to all who are ready to return and some who will be joining us for the very first time.

Wearing masks will be optional for those who are fully vaccinated and will be required for those who are not yet fully vaccinated. For our members and friends who are not yet ready to gather, we are diligently working on ways to offer services remotely so that no one will miss out. One thing we are most in need of to make that happen is volunteers to join our Tech team. If you are willing and able to serve our church in this way, Dane and Ralph would welcome you and teach you all you need to know! Please contact Kim Traw, Program Committee Chair, at kimtraw@gmail.com to get started. Please bear with us as we smooth out the rough spots in re-opening the church and rejoice together that we are finally at this point.

It is our deep desire that all our members, friends, visitors and seekers will find a way to serve and be served at UUVC in the coming months as we grow be-

"From the President" continued on Page 2



Social Justice

Sue Loberg

As I leave my role as Social Justice Chair, I can't help wonder how we did so much during the last 14 months.

We added 4 new charities to our Share the Plate work. When all funds get counted we probably raised over \$30K.

We formed a steering committee for CFC, and many members attended the first training

We are collecting signatures on petitions addressing the recent laws passed by the state legislature. Contact Linda McAteer for further information.

Back to School Blue Jeans for Kids Summer Project is starting July 1st. Last year we donated 80 pairs of jeans to the Jackson House Thrift Store. These are given to needy kids. New or gently used jeans in Boys or Girls sizes 6-12 are needed. There will be a collection bin in the hallway next to the office.

I want to thank all the members and friends of our very generous congregation, but especially the members of the committee for all their work and support.

Three cheers for Meg Koziar, Alana Clegg, Anais Troadec, Colleen Boardman, Dianne Morton-new chair-, Mark Hamilton, Todd Carter, Martha Thompson, Nita Brown, Linda McAteer and of course Rev. Mark. I'm proud to have been a part of this committee and look forward to where it will go next year.

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.

~From the President , Continued from p 1

yond the pandemic period. As we begin this new fiscal year, with a fresh start back in the church again, my hope is that all who are able may find a role to fill within the church. There are many opportunities available and much pleasure and satisfaction to be had in knowing you are an active participant in making UUVC "happen." We will continue to monitor safety conditions and will modify our meeting guidelines if and when it is deemed necessary as we journey on together in LOVE!



Safety & Security

Tom Tirrell

Sunday Safety Team Volunteers Needed

It's so nice to know that we will all be gathering for our Sunday Services once again. This means that your Sunday Safety Team will be back on duty greeting any late arrivals who show up after 10am when our Sunday Service has already begun.

With just a few more volunteers on our team to greet late arriving visitors we could have a schedule where we would all work as greeters for just **one Sunday per month.**

We hope you can join our Sunday Safety team.



Green Team

Janet Holt

Happy News!

I have two reasons to celebrate. Not only are we finally able to reopen our church, it is my great pleasure to announce Deanna Tolliver as the new co-chair of the Green Team! Deanna has been heavily involved in Green Team activities since she first arrived at UUVC but now her leadership position is official. In the coming months she will be the voice behind *The Village Green* and the face of the GT newsletter while I am doing some long-delayed traveling.

The Green Team "store" will be open on Sunday, July 4, with a fresh stock of Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate bars and a selection of eco-friendly merchandise for your green lifestyle. Deanna and I will be there and we hope you'll stop by to shop or just say hello. See you there!



Music Notes

John Leisenring

Happy July fourth and happy to be back in front of a live audience. As of this writing, the services will resume on the Fourth of July, and Clyde and I will be there, to provide music and direction as before the lock down. And of course, we are looking forward to having the full choir back the first Sunday in September. Meantime, sing lustily the hymns and such during the month – we'll all be back soon!!

Membership Snippets

Judith Saldino

A signup sheet for volunteers who will work at our new welcome table will be available on July 4th. There will be just one table at the main entrance near the front of the church.

We have several new friends and I will be taking their photos for our wall gallery. My husband Ron will be printing the photos on his color printer. If there is anyone who would like a new more recent photo of themselves, I will be happy to reshoot their photos. Many of our members are no longer with us and I will be updating the entire gallery.

Many of the families who are moving into HSV are literally a generation younger than most of us. The Christian church has had a 70% decline in their attendance in the last two decades while the UU church has increased its attendance by 15%. I am hoping that any visitors will understand what UU has to offer and perhaps we can entice them to join us. We are an all-inclusive community and we strive to welcome everyone!



Junell O'Hara

June 15, 1928

July 15, 2020



Adult Education

Salli Forbes

We Need Your Input!

Penny Beed, Salli Forbes, Myra Rustin, and Patsy Slezak (the Education Team) are seeking ideas for new classes. We are currently reviewing some possibilities, including one which addresses LGBTQ+ issues. We are also looking for people who are interested in facilitating a class in 2021-2022. Interested? Contact Salli Forbes at salli.forbes@uni.edu.

Stirring the Waters, a new course facilitated by Debbie Bostick, has a full class of 21 participants. Registrations are closed.

Humanism Discussion is continuing for 2021-2022 the second Tuesday each month at 4:00 PM. Contact Meg Koziar at office@uuvc.org for information and the zoom link.



JULY'S ART WALL CHANGEOVER

UUVC will be open for Sunday Services on July 4th. The changeover for the Art Wall will happen at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 9th. Sixteen new works of art will be needed in the Community Hall at 10:00 a.m. on that day. You may drop off your art before the 9th to be stored in room 10 until hung up.

If you haven't painted much in the past year, check your closet, under your bed or in your attic to find your older art pieces which have not been displayed on the Art Wall in the past two years! As far as our members are concerned, they will look new!

For the UUVC Art Wall Requirements, click the hyperlink [\(HERE\)](#).

For more information contact Daryl Wedwick at drswedwick@suddenlink.net.

Share the Plate for April

Saline County Safe Haven Shelter \$1810.

Building Committee

Susan "Ducky" Berkley

In the last 2+ years, UUVC facilities have undergone a lot of improvements. Thanks go to so many people who contributed and worked hard to help in these efforts.

During the last months of Cliff Harrison's tenure as Building Chair, new tile was installed and at least 3 new heat pumps were replaced.

Thanks to the outstanding work by our grounds crew, Kim Harrison, Vivian Walz, Terry Dacus and others, our exterior property has never looked better. If you haven't had a chance to visit the Memorial Garden, you'll truly enjoy your next visit.

The AV team, Dane Nielsen, Loren Loberg, Ralph Butler, Kat Wheeler and Alex Perez have made it possible to enjoy services and conduct meetings while physically apart. They have been a big part of the "glue" that held us together during these difficult times.

Tom Tirrell has led the progress toward safety and ADA compliance issues: 2 new ramps, lighted exit signage, compliant restrooms, accessible first aid stations and more. Tom is also overseeing the restoration of the water-damaged areas of the building.

From the more major projects (new roofing and siding) to the more minor improvements (new energy-efficient blinds in offices, added artwork, new paint and new, MATCHING light globes in the sanctuary, we've done a lot! Thanks to everyone who showed up, rolled up sleeves and pitched in. Good job!

Ralph Butler is taking over the helm as Building Chair on July 1st. I know he'll receive as much support as I have.

Thanks everyone and apologies to anyone I overlooked.

Ducky Berkley



Many thanks to Terry Dacus, who has been installing new door stops throughout UUVC. No one is going to miss those rock and wood shims!

Birthdays

7/1 Marilyn Matzek	7/23 Kandy Shelton
7/7 Michelle Mendez	7/25 Phil Simpson
7/8 TerryLynne Marx	7/26 Wanda Bodemann
7/14 Court Mathey	7/29 Marcia McMichael
7/16 John Leisenring	7/30 Sue Loberg
7/19 Cindy Spears	7/30 Jim Watson
7/20 James Anderson	

Anniversaries

7/1 Serena & John Gonzales
7/3 Bette & Merrill Clark
7/8 Suzette & Jim Watson
7/22 Sue & Loren Loberg

Many Thanks!!!!



The KITT (Keep in Touch Team) did a superb job in keeping the congregation feeling connected during the Covid 19 shutdown. Thanks for your labor of love!



Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan

By the time you are reading this I will no longer be the UUVV treasurer! That responsibility will be in the capable hands of Frank Hubbard, who takes over as Treasurer on July 1. I have enjoyed being Treasurer, which provided an opportunity to meet most of you. I want to again thank you all for enabling us to reach our Operating Fund Pledge Drive goal of \$148,762, exceeding our goal by \$682. Being Treasurer in a financially stable church makes the job much easier. So thank you for making the job easier for me, and our next treasurer!

Our financials through May again reflect lower expenses as the key driver in net income of \$30,815. As we all know, our church was closed for in-person service for the entire fiscal year. This resulted in much lower costs in many areas like facilities and general operations. As per a policy established a few years ago, one half of our net income at year end will be allocated to our building fund.



Dispute Mediation

Steve Rittenmeyer

“Conflict is Part of Congregational Life”

So says *The Congregational Handbook*, published by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The handbook goes on: “All congregations experience conflict. While many people’s stomachs knot up at the idea of conflict, conflict itself is not bad. Actually, conflict can present great opportunities for creativity, growth and transformation. How we handle conflict is the key. If conflict is dealt with in covenant relationships and healthy processes are used, conflict can be a catalyst for exciting change.”

To that end the Unitarian Universalist Village Church Board of Directors approved a Dispute Mediation Policy in 2011. The stated goal is: “To establish an orderly, flexible and confidential process by which UUVV members, friends and church leadership may work to settle disputes and misunderstandings within the bounds of Unitarian Universalist principles, covenants and ethics.”

Since 2012, the UUVV Dispute Mediation Committee (DMC) has stood ready to assist members and friends in resolving conflicts which affect their life in the church. Covid-19 forced a hiatus of the committee’s regular meetings. As it did with most of church activities. But, as detailed in “Membership Snippets” new members and friends continued to join us. Consequently, the DMC will soon resume actively “reintroducing” themselves and the UUVV dispute mediation processes to the congregation. So, watch this space and greet the DMC mediators; Cloe Bayer, Asst. Chair; Steve Owen, Steve Rittenmeyer, Chair; Myra Rustin and Daryl Wedwick.

For more information click [HERE](#)

Contact: **Steve Rittenmeyer 915-0575**

sd-rittenmeyer@wiu.edu

Cloe Bayer 922-3810

cloebayer29@sbcglobal.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.

UUVV Pickle ball

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

Mah Jongg

Mondays (Starting July 5th) 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.