



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offermann '16

## DECEMBER 2016

### Rev. David Ruffin's Message

#### Let's Talk Politics



It's no secret that Unitarian Universalists tend toward the liberal side of the political spectrum. Central to our progressive perspective, however, is our choice to be bound together by love in covenant, what we call "the doctrine of our church," rather than by adherence to the same beliefs.

That said, we can certainly struggle to honor our differences while remaining loving. This can show up in big theological differences, to be sure, or differences about how we should run our churches, of course. All to be expected. But at UUVC, the greatest perceived threat to harmony may be *politics*. When I arrived as a new minister in August I was, in fact, lovingly warned to steer clear of this "Third Rail" subject all together, for my own safety as well as the community's.

Last Sunday I suggested we didn't have that option any more. Our country is painfully divided. In the wake of the presidential election, many LGBT individuals, immigrants, Muslims, and peoples of color are fearing for their safety. Many women not only fear the threat on their reproductive health, but have also been re-traumatized by the election of a president who openly boasted of sexual assault. Meanwhile, millions of angry, disillusioned, working class white and evangelical voters, who have felt snubbed by Washington elites for far too long, have made their voices heard....

Whatever your own analysis, it's clear this election has surfaced intense feelings of anger, grief, fear and even hate in people across this nation of supposed neighbors. If any of us are AT ALL still interested in the possibility of loving our neighbors as ourselves, and living into such a world, we have got to care about these painful feelings so many of us are carrying. We need to try to understand why our neighbors are feeling the ways they are. We need to risk sharing our own true feelings with our neighbors. We have got to try to begin to see how we can still *be neighbors* to all with whom we share this land, risking the heart break of being both in conflict and walking together in love at the same time.

Why ever would I risk such a naïvely idealistic call to action, as such a dismally hopeless time of division?! Because I believe the pain around our politics may have helped enough of us to finally "hit bottom," as is said in the 12-step world. That is to say, I believe that many of us liberals, for example, may finally feel we have no choice but to put our trust in the higher power of love we've been celebrating for so long. And I believe, if we do that, we're going to discover just how powerful LOVE can actually be.

As a progressive myself, I admit I was pretty taken aback to discover my own actual neighbor voted for Trump. But damned if he isn't still the most caring, considerate neighborly neighbor I could ever have asked for. We don't see a lot the same, but he isn't the stereotypes I'm tempted to ascribe to Trump voters and, most importantly, we know we're neighbors first. Because of that foundation, we've been risking sharing our feelings and thoughts about our country with one another, and we've each have already begun shifting.

(continued on page 2)

**Rev. Dave's Message, cont.**

Friends I'm not saying it's time to just "Kumbaya" together. But it IS time to get *real* with one another. Love can't do its thing if we don't create the space for it. And we can't afford not to anymore. I will continue to stand with the most vulnerable in our nation, and fight for their rights. But I also am committing to engage my neighbors to the political right in honest conversation, from my own heart to theirs.

Because I'm hurting and I don't want to pretend I'm not. I want my neighbor to know. And if they're in pain, I want to talk about that too.

Won't you join me?

**President's Column**

UUVC President Court Mathey



On November 13 Lynn Blankenship, Director of CCMC in Hot Springs spoke to us about how that entity provides medical and dental clinic for those in need; case management; facilitate long term individual change and facilitate community change. Upwards of 25% of the children and all people in Garland County and the State of Arkansas live in poverty. So many are hungry every day. People in poverty live for each day, middle class for several years, and the wealthy focus on a generation.

When you read this "Thanksgiving Day" will be over; nevertheless we need to be thankful for all the time.

Some of our thanks could be for the Church property that we are stewards of; the sanctuary, community hall, classrooms, the electronics which enable us to better appreciate the messages, the fine kitchen which helps us to enjoy good meals, the improved parking lot AND the people who are involved in making all these things function.

We can appreciate the wonderful amenities and activities and beauty we have here in the Village. We can be thankful for the medical assistance we have through general practitioners, specialists and hospice available in the Village, Hot Springs and Little Rock.

And we should be thankful that we live in the United States, for the freedoms and the safety we have and for the fact that we have three branches of government.

Let us be as generous as we can be for those who are needy.

*This something that we call God is the indwelling idealism of humanity.*

Durant Drake

<b>December Sundays at UUVC</b>
<b>October Attendance: All Souls webcast, 70 UUVC, 395</b>
October Share the Plate: <b>Planned Parenthood: \$1,307.5</b> December Share the Plate: <b>Bridges to Hope</b>
December 4, Worship, Rev. David Ruffin,
December 11, Insight, Rabbi Levy
December 18, Worship, Rev. David Ruffin
December 24 Christmas Service/Soup
December 25 <b>No Service</b>

*Without God we cannot; without us  
God will not.*

St. Augustine

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

## New Member Spotlight

Pam Harrison



UUVC welcomes two new members into its family, Becky and Jerry Fay.

Jerry was born and raised in Springfield, MO. He married Becky Fay in 1972. They celebrated their 44<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary September 24. Becky and Jerry lived in Chicago IL, Fairfax, VA and Metuchen, NJ before moving to Scituate, MA where they lived for 26 years and raised three children. They moved to Hot Springs Village in 2009.



Jerry served on active duty in the U. S. Navy from 1966 to 1970 at the Fleet Intelligence Center Atlantic in Norfolk, VA and the Military Assistance Command Vietnam - Studies and Observations Group in Saigon, RVN. He obtained a BS in Accounting from Southwest Missouri State (now MO State) in Springfield, MO in 1972 and a MA in Management and Supervision from Central Michigan University in 1980.

Jerry is retired from the Commonwealth of MA where he spent his last 11 years as a Deputy Agency Commissioner in the Michael Dukakis and William Weld administrations. He also worked as a consultant with AMS and CGI primarily on State and Federal Government financial software packages.

Jerry is an Amateur Extra Class ham radio operator with the call sign of WU1U and this is his primary hobby interest. He is currently the National Treasurer and Secretary of the Born Free RV brand owners club. He served as Treasurer of the Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village before following Becky to St. Louis and finally back to Boston after she flunked retirement in 2013. He was also active in the UUVC C4K program at that time and intends to return to that next year after some time in AZ and other RV travels this winter. He is a member of the UUVC Technology Committee.

Becky was born and raised in Springfield, MO. After graduating from Burge School of Nursing in Springfield she married Jerry Fay. They celebrated their 44<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary September 24. Becky and Jerry lived in Chicago, IL; Fairfax, VA; and Metuchen, NJ before moving to Scituate, MA where they lived for 26 years and raised three children.

After many years as a Labor and Delivery Nurse, Becky became a Certified Nurse-Midwife in 1993 after obtaining a M.S.N. from Case Western University and a CNM Certificate from Frontier Nursing University. She worked for a couple of OB/GYN private practices where she delivered approximately 1,800 babies in hospital labor rooms.

Becky and Jerry retired to the Village in 2009. After retiring, Becky returned to her old practice and completed the clinical practice hours needed to qualify her to take the women's health nurse practitioner exam for which she is also nationally certified. Becky completed a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in 2013. Before completing the degree, she had opportunity to return to clinical practice as a nurse-midwife. She worked at Mercy St. Louis Medical Center for 18 months. Then an opportunity became available back in the Boston area and she and Jerry moved back to Boston for 18 months.

Becky retired again from clinical practice but continues to work part time as an instructor for Frontier Nursing University. Now that she and Jerry are back in the Village, she hopes to get out on the lakes again in her kayak.

## Social Action Committee

Alana Clegg, Chair



The last meeting was held on 11/7 at 2:00 pm with Rev Ruffin on Skype.

The SAC Policies and Practices were revised and are ready to be presented to the BOD.

Steve Rittenmeyer came to tell us about the newly formed ARUUJM, Arkansas UU Justice Ministry, that was formed at the last UU Cluster meeting. He is the Secretary. There are 6 participating UU churches. There will be more information on this in the near future.

Loren Loberg told us that he delivered 10 computers to the Langston school on November 10.

If you aren't in the habit of checking the big bulletin board in the back hall next to the office please do. It has a wealth of information on it. Items such as thank you letters we receive from our Share the Plate recipients, newsletters from organizations we support like OCC, Jackson House, the Arkansas Food Bank, First Step, and a few newsletters from other UU churches in Arkansas among other things.

The SAC will be returning to their regularly scheduled time of 3:00 pm, the second Wednesday of the month beginning December 14.



Heiffer Day at the Coronado Center, where UUVU members manned a booth displaying the benefits of trees. Several animals were present as well.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Cindy Nance & Bari Searls



Our annual Christmas Eve Soup Dinner is Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> after the 5:00 pm service. Please bring soup ready to serve in a crockpot or other means of keeping it warm and a serving ladle. If you are bringing bread/rolls instead of soup, please have it ready to serve in a basket or on a plate. Be sure to sign-up so that we have a place set for you.

Thanksgiving Dinner at UUVU



*If you hallow this life, you meet the living God.*

Martin Buber



## NEGOTIATING TO GET WHAT YOU WANT

Cloe Bayer

Life is a negotiation. Whether you are haggling over the price of a car or finding common ground with a family member, it pays to know how to get what you want, or settle the issue at hand, without ruffling any feathers. Five smart strategies:



**Repeat the last three words you hear.** You might already know the power of “mirroring” – if you copy the posture, speech patterns and vocabulary of the person with whom you are negotiating, that person is likely to feel in sync with you, trust you, and perhaps offer you a better deal. Simply repeat the last three words that the other person just said (or the most important three-word phrase), then go quiet. Your counterpart will feel in sync with you and often will fill the silence by improving his/her offer, or revealing additional information useful to you. If the person has wiggle room in his position, he will usually expand his description of the terms, adding lots of extra words, have an uncertain tone, and/or quickly lower the demand.

**Expose negative thoughts to daylight.** Most people are afraid to bring up bad news during negotiation or conflict – they fear it will squelch the deal. But if your counterpart is harboring fears, voicing these actually diminishes their negative impact. If you sense hesitation or frustration in your counterpart, bring the likely source to light. In a non-judgmental tone, use sentences that begin with “It sounds like....”, “It seems like”.... “It looks like”. Using “I” or “I’m” in this instance would make it seem like you only care about yourself. A man whose grandfather always seemed grumpy at family gatherings told that grandfather, “It seems as if you feel like we don’t pay much attention to you, so why should you make time for us? Well for us, seeing you is a real treat. We want to hear what you have to say.”

**Think through how you will speak, not just what you will say.** People start to react to you on a subconscious level the moment they hear the tone of your voice. A positive, playful tone is the best choice for most negotiations – it keeps things light, relaxed and friendly. To achieve this tone, smile as you speak. Do this even on the phone –your smile will come through in your voice.

**Ask questions that encourage your counterpart to solve your problem for you.** Well selected questions can inspire your counterpart to reveal important details about his position, and or get him to think up solutions that work for you – all while giving him the illusion that he is in control. The best questions tend to be “what” and “how” questions, such as “What are we trying to accomplish here?” and “How am I supposed to do that?”

**Don’t give up before trying the “look like it’s time to give up” gambit.** Here’s a last ditch tactic worth trying when you cannot reach an agreement—say, “It sounds like there’s just no way we can make this work.” Most people hate to feel that they have failed, so this might prompt your counterpart to improve his offer or position.

*(Excerpted from an article by FBI negotiator Chris Voss, Bottom Line Personal, April 1, 2016)*

## TREASURER’S REPORT

Kim Townsan

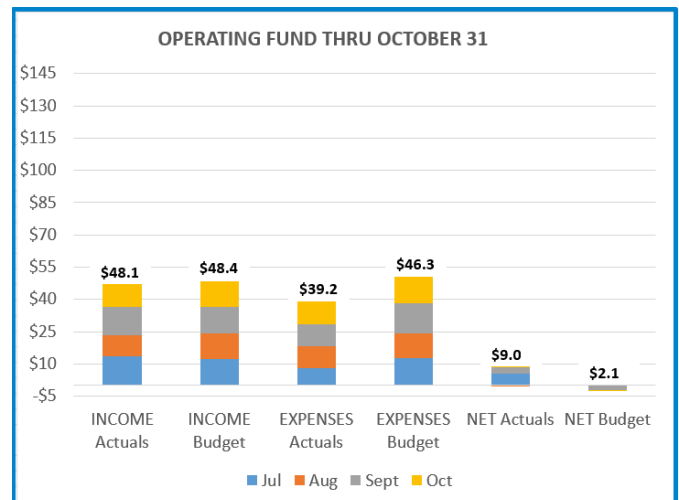
For this month’s newsletter, I thought I go “visual”... is a picture worth a thousand words? The totals at the top of each column are cumulative through October. You can, by month, compare actuals to budget for income, expense and the variance, i.e. net. If “Net” is positive, we have more income than expense, and the reverse if Net is a negative number (it’s a loss).



The numbers are shown in thousands of dollars and the \$145 on the left vertical column represents our total budget for the year... \$145,128. We budget to a net income of zero, i.e. our budget income is equal to our budgeted expenses.

With respect to our expenses, some of the variance is timing related, i.e. we budget for an expense in one month and the actual is incurred in a different month. So while we are showing a positive net of \$9,000 through October, this variance is driven by lower actuals expenses through October.

I welcome feedback and questions... please send to [treasurer@uuvc.org](mailto:treasurer@uuvc.org).



*To seek God by rituals is to get the ritual and lose God in the process.*

Mister Eckhart

# EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

## New Class Announced ...

Rev. Bud Hearn



Rev Bud Hearn announces a forthcoming class, THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: THE MIGHTY CURRENTS OF FREEDOM: STORIES, LEGENDS, AND MISCONCEPTIONS at the McAuley Center after the first of the year. Days and time, TBA later.

History is not so much a recording of facts as it is the telling of stories. As the case of any good story it is oft embellished. Remembrances added. Facts mixed with myth. There is no doubt that the story of the American Revolution is the prime story of our nation's history. It stands alone. Told in good times, and bad. The class will not be a detail by detail telling of the story. Instead, it will revisit some of the stories, legends, and misconceptions that make up the story. A focus on significant people, events, circumstances of the time.



Carol Stanfill, President of the Hot Springs UU Church has invited UUVc members and friends to their Christmas Day service at 10:30.



## Birthdays

12/1	Rick Gremillion
12/5	Alana Clegg
12/8	David Welch
12/9	Cindy Strong
12/13	Meg Koziar
12/15	Anais Troadec
12/20	Katherine Wheeler
12/23	Rocky Peebles
12/27	Brenda Tirrell



## Anniversaries

12/3	Dee & Jerry Offerman
12/8	Ann & Don Haase
12/ 10	Sandy & Fred Garcia
12/26	Anne & Randy Flueckiger
12/28	Sharon & Ted Allen
12/28	Peggy & AC Watts
12/31	Marjorie & Bob McCleskey
12/31	Bari & Warren Searls

## Resolve Your Conflicts

Steve Rittenmeyer

The Conflict Resolution Committee stands ready confidentially to assist members and friends in resolving disputes and misunderstandings with other congregants that affect their lives in church. For more information about the conflict resolution process, please contact:

Steve Rittenmeyer, 915-0575,  
SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu

or

Cloe Bayer, 922-3810,  
cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net

## Poetry Corner

### Winter's Walk Home

Street lights come on, their pale halos fall close to  
my feet.

Wind from the north roughly rouges my face,  
Gusts redden my wrists where mitten and cuff  
don't meet.

Four blocks to go. Wind picking up. I must  
quicken my pace.

Snowsuit clad, buckled boots, mittens tugged  
over my cuffs.

I trudge on home from school quite late, through a  
darkening light.

Cheeks aglow, only my glasses show and my  
breath comes in puffs.

Snow sifts down. My world is now, white on white  
on white.

Brenda Thomas, 2016

### Pre-Digital Photography Exhibit by Jim Watson

Coronado Gallery  
December 2016



For the month of December (2016), Jim Watson will exhibit 80 of his silver halide black and white photographs of southern Louisiana and Mississippi. All prints are archival. Photographed and darkroom processed in 1987-88, each print is mounted on archival mounting board 14 by 18 inches. Each mounted print is for sale at \$30.

A certified professional photographer (Layton School of Art in Milwaukee), Watson is also an emeritus professor of philosophy (Loyola University in New Orleans). He has published many articles on the interplay of text and photographic image, as well as a book *Thinking With Pictures: Photographs & Essays*. The latter is available for \$15.

Photography has always been evolving but each technical shift brings both new and old questions of art and techniques of expression. Digital photography is very different from analog photography, just as Photoshop and other digital programs do what used to be darkroom work in what seem to be analogous ways. But the question remains whether digital and analogic ways of thinking are really analogous or very different ways of thinking and acting. Breaking things into the smallest possible parts is not equivalent to analogs. There is much to be learned from the failure of mathematics and axiomatic, deductive thinking to establish certainty in thought.

The exhibit will be for the month of December. Please come, look and reflect.



Try the UUVVC Website:  
[www.uuvc.org](http://www.uuvc.org)

# Interest Groups (IGs)

Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator



Enjoy the company of people with a similar interest by participating in one of the Interest Groups (IG). Stop by the IG table on Sunday mornings to check out the folders that provide information about each group. It's great to participate in more than one.

Also, if you have a special interest that is not currently represented, contact me (501-922-3878 or email: [vzuege@gmail.com](mailto:vzuege@gmail.com)) to inquire about starting a new group.

## Game Night



Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (December 10.) Game night will be held @ **5:00 PM**. We will eat first and play games afterwards. Bring a dish to share. It's always a surprise! (Marjorie Lakey,

204-2673)

## Fourth Friday Film Fest

Please watch the bulletin for information on the next film night in January after the holidays. (Cloe Bayer)



## Grief Support Group



The Grief Support Group has been meeting since November 2009, providing comfort and support to those who wish to attend. Grief Support meets the second Monday of each month, at 10:00am. (Cynthia Saalfield, 915-8577)

## Social Justice Book Group

Please contact me if you would like to join the group for the discussion. (Meg Koziar, [kozimeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kozimeg@sbcglobal.net))



## DINNERS FOR EIGHT (OR 7, OR 6)



Our next "dinners" series will be starting in a few weeks. Sunday, Sept. 4th will be the cutoff date to sign up. Newer members, and friends are especially encouraged to join us in this Social UU occasion as a way of getting to meet fellow UU'ers in a more relaxed setting in one another's homes.

Food and friendship is the goal of this activity. So sign up and be there, y'hear!

## Meditation Group

This is a new group. We recognize it is sometimes easier to meditate in a group than by oneself, so we are creating a sangha. We are all learning, and welcome anyone who would like to meditate with us.

We meet Monday afternoon 4:30-5:30 and Wednesday mornings 8:30-9:30 in the Church library. You are invited to join either or both times. (Quay O'Hara, 501-984-2030)



## Table Tennis



The group will meet this month. (Jay Williams, 922-1849, [jayw66@gmail.com](mailto:jayw66@gmail.com))

**Find us on Facebook:  
UUVU**