

# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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

President: Dave Welch (president@uuvc.org)  
Minister: Rev. Mark Walz (minister@uuvc.org)  
Treasurer: Kim Townsan (treasurer@uuvc.org)



Jerry Offerman '16

## NOVEMBER 2018 THEME: FORGIVENESS

### Mark's Trail



Rev. Mark Walz

Perspective is everything. A few years ago, I lived in a community that was waging a war within itself over the use of its County Hospital. It had become the facility where the most babies were born. And most, but not all of the infants born there were brown. They were the children of the working poor, and of current or recent immigrants. It became a wedge issue during that year's election season.

Critics claimed that the hospital spent too much of its time, talent, and treasure on these undeserving people, especially the non-citizens among them. They were willing to ignore the fact that the federal government reimbursed the hospital district for the births, and that the hospital profited by being good at attracting families to their excellent delivery ward. Facts were no longer relevant. Only the cries of, "Why should we have to pay for them!"

Lost in this screaming match was the thought that, through the funding of this remarkable hospital, we were *blessed* to offer care and protection for these infants and their mothers. How lucky we were to be 'good Samaritans', 'guardian angels', 'loving godparents' to hundreds of children every year. The poet Tagore once wrote, "Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of humankind." How better to judge the value of our own lives than to say we made it possible for a child to enter safely into our world.

We find ourselves arguing the value of others once again. A few thousand souls are making their way north from central America. They travel in search of opportunity for themselves and their families. They are fleeing violence and overwhelming poverty. They search for a chance at a better life. Voices are again at work, demeaning them, declaring their

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### From the President

I'm going to throw a two-parter at you this month. First, we are in the first steps of Long Range Planning. Second, it's November, a time of reflection and thanksgiving.

*To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe. – Anatole France*



Dave Welch

As I write this, we are coming up on Saturday, October 27 – a day we have devoted to a congregation-wide open discussion of the future of our church. We have invited a consultant from the UUA Southern Region, Rev. Carlton Smith, to guide us in our initial planning. Jeriann Nielsen and Bob McCleskey chair the Long Range Planning Committee and will use the outcome of our discussion as the foundation for our next long range plan. So I invite each of us to dream a future and then let us work together to build a foundation under those dreams.

**There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens . . . I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. - Ecclesiastes 3**

#### Gratitude

This is November – a time set aside in our nation as a time of remembering and of thanksgiving.

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists, a part of our Unitarian-Universalist history, and Wampanoag Indians sat down together in what is considered the

~Continued on Page 2

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. *Mahatma Gandhi*

~Mark's Trail, Continued from Page 1

lack of worth, and decrying the danger to us that comes with their mere presence among us. Lies are told in the hopes that we will turn our backs and send them away. It's the same as yelling 'fire' in a crowded theater. It is vile, and it is dangerous.

These are not criminals or terrorists, they are refugees who hope to find protection and safety in numbers. By banding together, they hope to avoid the 'coyotes' who prey on them. And seeing no other solution to their plight, they come here. To the U.S.A. To live with us, a nation born of immigrants.

Here, once again, is an opportunity to become better versions of ourselves. To open ourselves to these neighbors. To save some lives and demonstrate to our own children and grandchildren how we make our values come alive in the world. Mother Teresa famously said that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love. We can do this. We can love. Si, se puede.

See you in church.

~Mark

~From the President, Continued from Page 1

first Thanksgiving in the colonies. But, it wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. Now, in gatherings large and small all across the nation families and friends sit down to give thanks. Sometimes it might get a little testy what with grumpy Uncle Tyrus from Waukegan and his political views but somehow the gratitude of life seeps through and we hold hands as a loving group of family and friends. You might remember an insight service in which the topic was "Five Smooth Stones" and one of the stones is Gratitude. We live in a remarkable place with remarkable people. We share a common characteristic—at least many of us do—we are old. Now because we are old we know that old age isn't for the weak, the timid or the faint. Our little ships, perhaps fragile at one time, have somehow weathered the storms of life and as we look back over the years it may be with a sense of mystery, of awe and, perhaps, even amazement that we have made it through—in that distant gaze it is possible that a sense of gratitude can shine through. Think of that on our national day of thanksgiving.

And so it is ...

Amen

## Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan



So, here's the numbers through our first full quarter of the fiscal year ... Income at \$39k exceeding budget by almost \$7k. Very gratifying to see that this is driven mostly by pledges, but our non-pledge income is also up slightly through the end of September. On the expense side we are slightly under budget, but that is driven by timing of our UUA dues which didn't hit in September. Overall, our net income is \$9k for the close out of our first quarter.

For those not at church on October 21, UUVC has kicked off our next three-year Building Fund Pledge Drive. **Our theme is "Supporting What Surrounds Us"**. After reviewing all potential building related projects with our Building Chair, Cliff Harrison and our Finance Committee, a goal of \$72,000 was set. The three-year plan will provide funding for mortgage principal payments, siding of the building, parking lot improvements, safety/security/ADA updates, landscaping along with funding for anticipated expenditures associated with heat pump replacements, maintenance, roof replacement funding and some monies for contingencies.

A goal of 100 pledges of \$20 a month for the three-year period will enable us to reach our target of \$72,000. As of October 25, twelve pledges totaling \$25,753 have been received...getting us already to 36% percent of our goal! Pledge commitments are requested by November 30 and can be sent directly to [treasurer@uuvc.org](mailto:treasurer@uuvc.org). Building fund pledge payments can be made anytime during the three year pledge period (November 2018 – November 2021).

Thank you to those who have already made their commitment to protecting our 2<sup>nd</sup> most valuable asset. What's our most valuable? All of us!

November Sundays at UUVC	
November 4, Rev. Walz	
November 11, Insight, Jonathan Dunkley, <i>Getting Back to Civility</i>	
November 18, Rev. Walz, <i>Thanksgiving</i>	
November 25, Insight, Robert VanHook	
Attendance and Generosity	
September Attendance: UUVC Total: 337 (193 Worship, 184 Insight, 120 Music on Barcelona)	
October Share the Plate: CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates): \$1778	
September Share the Plate: Coupon for Shoes for Christmas Basket Families: \$1885.91 (versus \$1557 last year).	

# Membership Snippets



Nell Brewer

The New Member subcommittee chairs, Becky Hamilton and Susan Berkley, assisted by Pam Harrison and Nell Brewer prepared materials for the New Member Orientation class scheduled for November 15th.

UUVC is pleased that we have eight people enrolled in the class! The New Member Ceremony is the next step to full membership in UUVC and will be a part of the Worship Service on December 2, 2018.

Brenda Tirrell reports that the UUVC Care and Concern Committee welcomes Peggy McCoy as liaison for the East Balboa Neighborhood.



## Congratulations to Jack & Lee!



Jack Iafrate



Lee Iafrate

On November 2, Jack and Lee Iafrate celebrate ten years of membership in UUVC! Their active involvement in UUVC includes participation in a number of activities over the years, including starting the popular Open Mic Night. Their voices continue to be heard in the UUVC Choir, as well. Outside UUVC, they are fixtures in the Village, as well, through their theatrical and thespian activities. Lee will direct *Mom's Gift* at Coronado Center on November 18, 19, and 20.



### In Memoriam



**Joseph Gaynor Burleigh**  
January 20, 1942 - October 15, 2018

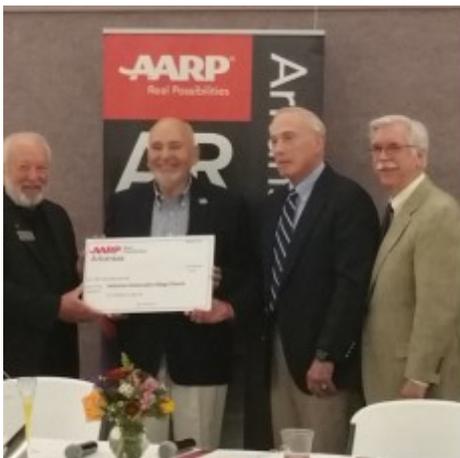
Gaynor Burleigh became a friend of UUVC at the beginning of 2014 and joined as a member on February 15 the following year. He found a place at UUVC where everyone welcomed him, valued his presence, and appreciated him for the man he was.

### New Member Orientation Class

On November 15th at 2:30 PM, a new member orientation class will be held. The class usually lasts about 90 minutes. Light refreshments will be available.

Part of the pathway to UUVC membership is to participate in this class. We will provide you with the information you need to become a member, including a notebook on Unitarian Universalism and UUVC. Please contact Becky Hamilton at 409-789-1634 or [btd4702@sbcglobal.net](mailto:btd4702@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your seat and make sure a notebook is available. Also, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Community Hall.

Congratulations, Warren!



Rev. Mark Walz gratefully accepts a \$1000 check from Warren Searls and AARP officers. Warren named UUVC as beneficiary of the donation awarded in connection to his Andrus Award.



Warren Searls thanks his family for their support as they celebrate his AARP Andrus award, from left: Vader and Clair (grandchildren); Resa and Mark (daughter-in-law and son); Bari and Warren; and son Chris who came from Memphis, TN for the presentation and festivities.

# Religious and Secular Education

Warren Searls



Recently our Board of Directors passed Policy 15.3.1 stating:

“The Education Coordinator will identify secular or spiritual needs and opportunities, schedule and coordinate class and course facilitators, and informally evaluate training conducted. The Coordinator may also establish a team to work with, as needed. Classes may be scheduled during the week depending on the needs and wishes of both attendees and facilitators.”

The Board’s intention is to meet the changing times as our congregation grows. That is a good thing.

I am selecting a small “Education Team” to help make the UUVC Religious and Secular Education programs more dynamic and inclusive. Currently, there are several programs at UUVC that fall under the heading of Religious and Secular Education.

- The Sunday @ 9:00 **Tulsa All Souls Webcasts**
- **Sunday Religious Services** on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays @ 10:00
- **Civil Conversations for Adults @ 11:15** on the

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

- **TED Adventures with Mark Walz** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday
- **UU-101** that is conducted twice a year by Dane Nielsen
- **Reverend Bud Hearn’s classes** that are held several times a year
- **UU Leadership classes** that are held several times a year
- A recently started **Covenant Group on Humanism**
- **Wednesday Discussions @ 3:00 PM** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays (currently on hiatus).

Civil Conversations @ 11:15 and Wednesday Conversations @ 3:00 PM are currently under improvement review. The Education Team will be working on these, but the Team needs input from the Congregation as to subject matter, format, evaluation and participation. Please send me your suggestions and ideas ([wsearls@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wsearls@sbcglobal.net)) or drop in the Listening Post Box on the Community Hall sign-up tables.

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## Care and Concern and YOU

Meg Koziar, UUVC Communicator

Recent events motivate me to clarify the policy on sending "Care and Concern" messages, and to make a fervent request. "Care and Concern" messages can only be sent with the permission of the person or the family. Many in our caring community are upset when they happen to learn after the fact of an illness or surgery, so please give your permission for the communicator (that's me right now) to send out a note when you are hospitalized or quite ill. This can be done with a simple email to [office@uuvc.org](mailto:office@uuvc.org). You can always specify "no visitors" or "no phone calls" but Get Well Wishes from others can't hurt.

When Joseph Gaynor Burleigh died, (some called him Joe, some Gaynor), none of us had heard of his illness, so his death came as quite a shock. Which

brings me to my fervent request. The Memorial Committee and the Pastoral Care Ministry (PCM) would like VERY much for all our members to have on file a Personal Planning worksheet. We need at the very least a person to contact in case of emergency. You can always send a revision when you figure out the rest. The worksheet is available on our website under Members and Friends, Miscellaneous Documents. Scroll down and click on the black bar for the PDF version, and you will get a form you can type right into, print out, and bring to the office. Forms are kept in a locked file and accessed only by the PCM and the Memorial Committee when needed. There are also some blank forms in the Memorial mail slot. Please don't put this off a day longer.

## Social Committee

Cloe Bayer, Social Committee Chair



Our next event is the annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 18th. Once again we will serve smoked turkey furnished by Clampitt's Meats, plus the side dish contributions from the congregation. Look for our sign-up sheet in

the Community Hall, and see what items you would like to contribute to our celebration.

In spite of the rainy weather that postponed our trip for one day, Wednesday October 17 dawned bright and sunny for the scheduled Coleman Mine Tour. The tour started with a video explaining the mine operation, followed by a visit to their incredible Crystal Museum, containing samples of extremely valuable crystals from all parts of the world. Ancient fossils were also on display, still preserved in their original rock formations. The highlight of the tour was a ride into the open mining area in a 5-ton Army vehicle, with the ride down followed by the ride up, in reverse! We all marveled at the skills of the driver, who happened to be a former Navy Seal. We visited their sorting and preparation area, where the crystals are prepared for sale. Some of the group said they would return at a later date, with crystal digging or zip-lining on their minds. After browsing their beautiful store, we left for lunch at Home Plate to finish our tour.

Following the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, our next outing will be to Flyway Brewing Company in North Little Rock, owned by UUVC member Ducky's son. This is the same brewery that provided the beer tasting samples at our Oktoberfest celebration last year. Many thanks to Ducky and Becky for arranging that treat. Hope to see you then.



Forgive thyself little, and others much.  
*Robert Leighton*

## A Few Scenes from the Coleman Mine Tour



## Social Justice Committee

Meg Koziar



Please give generously to our Share-the-Plate for November for Christmas Baskets for needy families in the area. The Village Outreach (made up of a number of HSV churches) gets the names of families in need from local schools. We

have volunteered this year to supply baskets of food, and gifts for the children, for five families with up to 10 children in all (up from 4 and 8 last year). If you would like to help with the shopping in mid-December, or the packing and delivery just before Christmas, please let me or Martha Thompson know.

The more we know, the better we forgive.  
Whoe'er feels deeply feels for all that live.  
*Madame de Stael*

# Computers for Kids (C4K) Update

Bob McCleskey  
C4K Founder



Bob McCleskey

Quite a bit has been happening since the June Newsletter article about the UU-Computers for Kids (C4K) program. Unfortunately, we lost one Volunteer (Jerry Fay and wife Becky moved to St. Louis); however, there is also great news.

At the top of the list, is the fact that we have been qualified as an EPA E-Waste Recycle organization (#EPA ID # ARR00003001). And, before you ask whether this means that we will be accepting all manner of E-waste (TVs, phone, etc.) the answer is **NO**. We have gone through the process of being qualified as a E-Waste recycle site for the sole purpose of being able to “screen and take possession of” refurbishable computers at the 15 E-recycle sites in Garland, Hot Springs, and Clark Counties. Four of our team met with the manager of the Garland County Land Fill early in October and have established a working relationship. Only time will tell how many refurbishable computers we will get from the recycle sites but hopefully enough to justify the time and energy to screen them for refurbishing.

In addition to the above, we have submitted a \$1,200 grant request to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to assist with the financial cost of the C4K program. Since the grant is being supervised by the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, which provided us with a \$3,000 grant about 3 years ago, and Dwayne Pratt (the Executive Director) was on the FL school board during the time I was on the board, I believe



The C4K Volunteer Team

we have a positive likelihood of receiving approval of the grant request. Dwayne has stated we will be given the opportunity to meet with the managers of all 15 E-recycle sites in the 3 counties in the near future, which should enable C4K to divert some of the E-waste from going into landfills, which the E-recycle sites really appreciate.

Before the newsletter is printed, our team will meet with the Computer Club of HSV to talk about C4K and will be setting up a separate page on the UUVc web site which will make it easier for residents to make a computer donation. The URL for the site is [uuvc.org/c4k](http://uuvc.org/c4k) and is viewable by the time you receive this newsletter.

We welcome anyone who is interested in being involved in the C4K. If so, contact Loren Loberg or myself.

## October Celebrations



- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11/2 Marlene Kloack     | 11/21 Dane Nielsen      |
| 11/5 Tracey Arnaud      | 11/22 Jerry Offerman    |
| 11/9 Myra Rustin        | 11/23 Ben Wright        |
| 11/10 Linda Sprague     | 11/24 Elmer Burrall     |
| 11/15 Dave Walsh        | 11/26 Mary Thames Bundy |
| 11/17 Donna Bojus       | 11/28 Sharon Allen      |
| 11/17 Paula Nix         | 11/28 Linda Ragsdale    |
| 11/19 Heidi Nikodem     | 11/29 Nell Brewer       |
| 11/20 Steve Rittenmeyer | 11/29 Dottie Foehringer |
| 11/21 Ed Bayer          | 11/30 Susan Atchley     |

- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 11/4 Dora & Steve Cialone       |
| 11/8 Marion & Michael Sowka     |
| 11/24 Frank & Stephanie Hubbard |
| 11/28 Bud & Pat Hearn           |

## Interest Groups (IGs)



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 at 501-922-3878 or email [vzuege@gmail.com](mailto:vzuege@gmail.com) to inquire about starting a new group. Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator

### Game Night



Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (November 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, 262-8231)

### Mah Jongg



Currently, our mah jongg group is playing most Mondays at 1:00. If you would like to join us, or suggest another time to play, contact Ronnie Zuege at 922-3878.

### Fourth Friday Film Fest



**Fourth Friday Film Fest** is on hiatus for November and December, due to the holidays occurring at the same time as our scheduled dates; join us again in January 2019. Recent additions to our "Wish List" are the new movies *A Star is Born* and *First Man*. Both of them have gotten good reviews, and will be shown as soon as they are available on DVD. See you next year!

### Meatless Meal Group



The Meatless Meal Group is experimenting with monthly evening gatherings at which we share appetizers. To learn more, contact Sue Loberg.

### Dining-In and Dining-Out Groups

Our UUVC "dinners" group series began in September and runs through November-early December.



If you didn't sign up for a group in this series, fear not! We will plan for future UUVC dinner series after the first of the year.

We strongly encourage newer members and friends of UUVC to join in these groups as another good way to meet your fellow UU's in a small, social group setting. Contact Janine Bethscheider for more information.



**What are your interests? How do your interests compare to the interests of other members of UUVC? Consider participating in a UUVC Interest Group or starting your own! Contact Ronnie Zuege for more information.**

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## Listening in Dispute Mediation

Daryl M. Wedwick

Communication is very important in any attempt to resolve the difference(s) between two opposing parties. The speaker for each side must be able to clearly state its point of view and present appropriate evidence to support that position. This should be done in a straight-forward objective manner. Emotional displays, such as shouting, name-calling and tears are not likely to advance the cause of either side in a mediation situation.

Of course, there is the other end of the communication process: the listener, the one who hears. Some would say this is the most important end. After all, we each have one voice but we have two ears! The dictionary definitions of the terms *hearing* and *listening* frequently seem to define one in terms of the other. To perhaps oversimplify, *hearing* is one of our five senses. It is to be understood as the perception of sound in the physical sense which involves the ear and all of its external and internal parts including the auditory nerve. *Listening*, on the other hand, requires mental activity. It is what happens when the brain end of the auditory nerve brings in all of those sounds the ear has perceived and the brain processes that infor-

mation. It requires the listener to concentrate, to make an effort to understand what is heard, to tune in, to pay heed, to pay attention.

Obviously, to be a good listener, one must pay attention. The scholars who study such things indicate that as much as 85% of communication is nonverbal. Eye contact, physical movement and posture all may suggest how interested a listener feels. If one faces the speaker, makes eye contact with the speaker and/or inclines one's posture toward the speaker, that indicates interest. It invites expression and suggests 'tell me more'. However, if one's posture is slouched way down in the seat, or arms are folded or legs tightly crossed, the message that is conveyed to the speaker is negative. Looking elsewhere or fidgeting also sends a message of disinterest. Sleeping is very bad. Snoring is even worse!

The remaining 15% of paying attention involves verbal ways of showing attention to the speaker. Nancy Foster, an attorney and professional mediator, lists four. The first is an open invita-

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## News from the Rev. Bud Hearn Library

Bette Clark



A recent addition to the church library is *Enlightenment Now*. Do you find nearly every bit of current news discouraging? If you think it's time to swim to the surface above our current quagmire of despondence, come read this book. Author Steven Pinker will

open your eyes, not only to rays of hope, but to the conviction that the world is and can continue to be a better place. The book's telling subtitle, "the Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress" is affirmed by Bill Gates ("my new favorite book of all time"). It includes powerful substantiation including seventy-five graphs, and numerous descriptions to support his contention that the world is truly getting better all the time. A safer, easier, friendlier, place to live, not only in the U.S. but worldwide.

Among Pinker's many achievements and accolades are *Time* and *Foreign Policy* magazines naming him one of the world's most influential thinkers.

A cautionary note: Pinker is also chair of the usage panel of "American Heritage Dictionary," and he'll treat you to many multisyllable, four-bit words you've never heard, so keep a current dictionary at hand as you read. Expect to be edified, but especially "enlightened."

We are so grateful to member Jay Williams, not only for all our original library shelves, but also a much-needed new one he recently built. Be sure to drop in both for books and to see the shelves. And please thank Jay when you see him.



To err is human; to forgive, divine.

Alexander Pope

## To Mark, With Love

We are delighted to report the unanimous vote to Call and Install Rev. Mark Walz as the settled minister for UUVC. The installation will take place in May. UU ministers in the Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas area will be invited to participate in this very special installation service.

This step marks a giant leap for the UUVC congregation. We have grown from a small group, content to meet at the Coronado Center, to owning our beautiful church building, to having a settled minister. This has required patience, diligent planning, cooperation and dedication on the part of our congregation members and leaders. We can be very proud of our progress.

The first step to achieving this began during a congregational conversation while we were still meeting at the Coronado Center. We were discussing whether to buy a church building or search for a minister. It seemed to be an “either / or” situation. Rev. Bud Hearn spoke up and said, “Why not have both?” That became the start of a long and winding path, with a steady climb to becoming a growing and successful church. We are still “becoming.” This is just the beginning of our continuing progress.

Congratulations to Rev. Walz and to each and every person in our congregation!

## Rise & Shine UUVC Fall Cleanup, Saturday, 3 November 8:30 – 10:30

Join your fellow church members and friends for a couple of hours on Saturday, November 3 to spruce up and clean up the church! Here’s the plan:

Outside Chores: Some lopping, some digging, lots of trimming and of course, cleanup. Bring gloves, clippers, loppers, spades. Kim Harrison will assign tasks and supervise the action.

Inside chores: Window (and all glass & mirrors) cleaning. Some spot removing, primarily on the carpeted walls of the Community Hall. Mostly “self-monitored”.

UUVC Church inspection, Inside and out; looking for things we can do, things we can’t do but that need doing, things we can put off but have to keep an eye on.

### ~Listening in Dispute Mediation, Continued from Page 8

tion to talk. “You look like something is bothering you. Would you like to talk about it?” is one example. However, if someone does not wish to accept that invitation, respect their privacy and don’t push the issue.

The second method is merely a brief verbal response to encourage talking. “Uh-huh,” “Oh?” “Go on.” “Tell me more,” “And?” etc. are examples which simply mean “Please continue” without implying agreement or disagreement.

A listener’s questions tend to focus the attention on the questioner, so this third method should be used sparingly. When a listener does use this method, the questions should be open-ended: “What did you do?” rather than “Did you tell her mother?” An open-ended question can be thought of as an essay question which allows the speaker to lead the conversation and clarify his own points. The closed-ended question is more like a True/False question and has the effect of narrowing the agenda.

Silence is the final technique and it may be the most powerful tool of verbal communication. It allows the speaker to explore his own information or feelings and to develop his own message in depth at his own pace. Silence may make some listeners self-conscious and they may wish to “break” the silence with a comment or question. That, in turn, may interrupt the speaker’s train of thought and derail his message. Nancy Foster suggests that the best way to handle silence is to study the body language of the speaker and “listen” to what it is saying. Then consider ways in which the listener may respond and choose the most helpful response.

When a speaker receives a positive response from an audience, even an audience of one, the communication experience is enhanced. In a dispute mediation situation, this positive feedback, of course, may go a long way toward promoting an amicable settlement of the disagreement.

*Nancy Foster, “Good Communication Starts With Listening,” Mediate.com, August 26, 2015*

## The Third Place

Just before this newsletter was “put to bed,” a workshop was held to discuss the next iteration of the UUVC Long Range Plan. Carlton Smith, who facilitated the meeting, mentioned the concept of the “third place,” which was introduced by Ray Oldenburg in his 1989 sociology study entitled *The Great Good Place*. It is a place other than home (first place) and work (second place) where people feel comfortable and complete. The attributes of a Third Place (school, church, library, bar, etc.) are:

- It is **neutral**. No one is obligated to be there and there is no financial tie to the place.
- **Conversation is a key** activity, though not necessarily the only one. The Third Place is a place people come to talk and to listen.
- It is **accessible and accommodating**, easy to be there and get there.
- There are **plenty of regulars** who spend time there, people who serve as hosts or guides to those new to the environment.
- The Third Place is low key, relaxed, **absent pretense**. Everyone can feel comfortable.
- The **atmosphere is relaxed**, the mood is playful.
- It is warm, comfortable, and homey. It is a **home away from home**.

Sounds a lot like UUVC, yes?

## MUSIC NOTES

John Leisenring



November's music will honor both El Dia de los Muertos and Veterans Day. The choir will sing "Remember Me" from the movie *Coco*, which celebrates the cultural traditions from South of the border, and later in the month, sing Bob Dylan's "Blowin' In The Wind" combined with "My Country Tis Of Thee." Enjoy.

*“Those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music.”*

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

## Future Newsletter Deadlines

For **December Newsletter**, November 26 at noon

For **January Newsletter**, December 23 at noon

For **February Newsletter**, January 28 at noon

Send contributions to: John Swinburn, [jsswinburn@gmail.com](mailto:jsswinburn@gmail.com)

## Things to Think About & Random Tidbits

- ◆ **UUVC Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianUniversalistVillageChurch/>
- ◆ **UUVC Website:** <http://www.uuvc.org>      **UUVC Video Sermons:** <https://www.uuvc.org/video-sermons.html>
- ◆ **Definition: Forgiveness** (noun)—fer-**giv**-nis: 1. Act of forgiving; state of being forgiven. 2. Disposition or willingness to forgive., e.g., (definition 1): “You are more likely to help him heal by offering him forgiveness than accepting his excuses.”
- ◆ **On Regret:** Regret, a readily available combustible fuel for debilitating despondency, is a form of wishful thinking. “I wish I hadn’t done this or that or I wish I had done something I didn’t do.” As difficult as it might be, we would do best to discard regret and, instead, commit to admitting to and learning from past mistakes of commission or omission in pursuit of a better version of ourselves.
- ◆ **Kindness** is humanity. To be kind is to behave in a manner consistent with being human. To be cruel is to favor inhumanity.
- ◆ **Comfort Zone.** What is our comfort zone? Brené Brown says it is that place “Where our uncertainty, scarcity and vulnerability are minimized—where we believe we’ll have access to enough love, food, talent, time, admiration.” Why would we be encouraged to get out of it? Leaving one’s comfort zone causes a spike in anxiety and stress, sparking greater concentration and focus, generating higher levels of performance.
- ◆ **A smooth surface** can conceal a raging fire or a dying ember turning to ash. If you want to know someone, look beneath the “skin.”

### 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.