

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

SEPTEMBER 2018 THEME: FAITH

Mark's Trail



Rev. Mark Walz

Historically, summer has been a time when many churches trim back their offerings. For scheduling considerations, the Minister(s) and staff may use the summer for retreats and sabbaticals. The choir may disband. In agrarian settings, it is often a time for taking care of crops and livestock. In university settings, most of the students leave for home or travel. Teachers, too. Even in urban settings, schools close, students are home, folks and families take vacations. Some churches even close completely for the summer.

This has led to a tradition in many denominations called *In-Gathering*. It would usually coincide with the beginning of the new school year in early fall. However, schools have been moving their start dates earlier and earlier. In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, we typically select a Sunday in September to re-start the church, to *gather* back in. Most choose Labor Day Weekend or soon after. It often feels like the start of the new church year, especially when the air turns crisper, nature changes her costume, and our rituals and seasonal music returns.

We will begin our new liturgical year with the Water Communion. The original Ritual was created by Carolyn McDade and Lucille Longview at the Women & Religion Continental Convocation of Unitarian Universalists in 1980. We bring a small vial of water as we gather, to add our blessing to the future. We celebrate our connectedness and choose water as our symbol of empowerment. [Come with your water, actual or virtual](#), from your toils or travels of summer. Come and share your water story with friends, both old and new.

~Continued on Page 2

From the President

"The only way that we can live, is if we grow. The only way that we can grow is if we change. The only way that we can change is if we learn. The only way we can learn is if we are exposed. And the only way that we can become exposed is if we throw ourselves out into the open. Do it. Throw yourself."



Dave Welch

~C. JoyBell C.

The Becoming Church

We are a unique church in a unique place. We are a growing church. Take a look at these numbers.

Our members number right at 100. Of those, fully 25 are new to us this year. Every year, we lose about 5% of our membership because life changes – some move to new places; some move to whatever lies beyond. And happily, some new people join us. This year, 70% of the board members are new. This year 50% of our committee chairs are new. Our long range plan was completed at the end of June and so we are in the process of developing a new Long Range Plan right now. Our Minister just completed his first year. So, we are a changing church and in a phrase I borrowed from one of Mark's sermons – we are a Becoming Church. I mentioned in a previous column that the Board is operating with a guiding principle this year—"Honoring the Past; Building for the Future."

~Continued on Page 2

Faith knows no disappointment.

Mahatma Gandhi

This In-Gathering has even more import for Vivian and me. These last few weeks you have blessed us beyond anything we could have imagined. You sustained us as we mourned the loss of both our Mothers. Your outpouring of care and sympathy came in your hugs and personal stories. It came in cards of encouragement. It came in genuine friendship. We get to begin this new church year with dear friends who invest their love life into the journey of this church; and who make it real for the healing of others.

We love sharing our lives with you. We love the depth and richness of being connected to you. You have blessed us. Come with your water, actual or virtual. Come and bless the new church year, too.

See you in church –

-Mark

~From the President, Continued from Page 1

As Lewis Carroll writes in *Alice in Wonderland* "My dear, here we must run as fast as we can, just to stay in place. And if you wish to go anywhere you must run twice as fast as that." Perhaps, it isn't as crazy as that here, but our unique perspective (we've been around a long time!) teaches us that change is the nature of life. No generation in the history of the world has dealt with as much social, cultural, and technological change as this one. The Board established a set of aims to guide us through the year. I wrote about it last time but just a reminder – The "MMMMM" Plan – which includes Mission, Members, Money, M'pact and Maintenance are guiding us as we move forward. Some people say that it is a human truth that as humans we fear and resist change. Maybe that's true, I'm not sure. That hasn't been my way, but even if it is, the pull of the future is so strong that necessity overcomes inertia. So as they say on radio, "Stay Tuned." The board is active, the committees are working, and new folks are coming every week. (and as a sidebar – make it a personal mission to say hello to our visitors – make it a welcoming place by taking a moment to introduce yourself and say "We are glad you are here. We hope you come back." every time you see someone with a visitor's badge standing by themselves!)

And so it is ...

Amen

Dave Welch

Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan



The close of our first month in the new fiscal year had, predictably, actual revenue received exceeding budget. A number of those who pledge like to "take care of business" early by front loading their pledge payments in the first and second months of our fiscal year. I say, "whatever works best for you"! Income exceeded budget by \$3k with expenses under budget by \$4k. We ended July with net income of almost \$8k.

A reminder that if you want to see an overview of our financials, please go to our website, uuvc.org. The budget and most recent financial report can be found within the MEMBERS AND FRIENDS area ... select FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS. You will need the website password to access UUVC financials, along with other sections like Members and Friends Directories and Meeting Minutes.

We have a few more people that have taken advantage of their bank's auto payment process. If you don't like writing checks, or remembering to write checks, you may want to set up an auto pay with your bank to have them issue checks directly to UUVC on a monthly basis. You don't need to have anything other than the UUVC address of 403 Barcelona, HSV, AR 71909.

| |
|--|
| June Sundays at UUVC |
| September 2 , Rev. Walz |
| September 9 , Insight, Bonnie Robertson, "Beyond the Echo Chamber: A Look at the Threat of Tribalism" |
| September 23 , Rev. Walz |
| September 23 , Insight, Gary DeRodriquez "His Life's Faith Journey" |
| September 29 , Music on Barcelona Jazz Service |
| Attendance and Generosity |
| July Attendance: UUVC Total: 388 (205 Worship, 183 Insight) |
| September Share the Plate: Coupon for Shoes for Christmas Basket Families |
| August Share the Plate: Planned Parenthood, \$1630 |
| July Share the Plate: Families Belong Together, \$2763 |

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Please join us on September 9th (after the Insight Service) in the Community Hall to bid farewell to Cynthia Saalfield. Cynthia is moving to Towson, Maryland, to a Senior Living Community near her daughter and son-in-law. Cynthia has been deeply involved with UUVC, has served on various com-

mittees, and is a staunch supporter of Social Justice. She has been our communicator for several years, sending e-blasts and writing articles for the Voice. She will be dearly missed.



Congratulations Hildy!



Hildegard Nyberg celebrates 20 years of UUVC membership on September 20, 2018.

Twenty years ago, the twenty-first century had not yet begun. But Hildy had begun her relationship with UUVC! And now, twenty years later, we celebrate Hildy's many years of involvement in our church!

Congratulations, Hildy, and thank you for your years of participation in and service to UUVC!

Recognizing Time and Talent



Look on Page 7 of this newsletter and you'll see a new name associated with the Dining-In, Dining-Out groups. Janine Beth-



scheider offered to step in to organize these popular activities starting this Fall when Tom and Brenda Tirrell must step aside due to travel plans. Tom and Brenda have been involved with "dinners for eight," "dinners for six," and "dining out" to such an extent that, when UUVC social dining events are discussed, their names automatically come to mind. Thanks to Tom and Brenda for their contributions to the social life of this church in myriad ways, not the least of which has been their efforts that made "UUVC dining groups" such an enjoyable experience. Their time and talent add vibrancy and life to this church and we recognize and thank them for it!

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalist history, governance and commitment to social justice? See Page 9 for info. on UU 101!

My Mayo Story

by Meg Koziar

I'm asked: "Who is this Mayo Stiles on our membership list?" Mayo's mother was a woman who took her small children on a grand adventure. They traveled across the country and when they came to a town she liked they would stay for months, perhaps, or longer and she would start a Unitarian Fellowship and then they would move on to another lucky town.



Mayo Stiles

So it was natural for Mayo (yes, she is named for her relatives, the famous doctors of the famous clinic), to join the small UU church in Hot Springs, when she and her dashing husband Don moved to the Village as pioneers.

Mayo was at every church event, and Don, too, though he let her be the star, and she took part in panels for Insight, and did the newsletter for awhile.

They stopped attending when Don could no longer hear the speakers, but we celebrated Don's 100th birthday in our new building, and his memorial service a year later, too. Mayo kept up with all our activities, and stayed in touch with many.

We should remember this strong woman who still has a lilt in her voice, even at the age of 102, and is part of the DNA of our church, Mayo Stiles.

Committee Updates and Other News of Interest

Social Committee

Cloe Bayer, Social Committee Chair



Hopefully most of you will be able to attend our Annual Ice Cream Social on September 1. Our October event will be a tour of Coleman Mines. Watch for our flyer and sign-up sheet to appear soon, with all the details!

Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Committee Wants You

Meg Koziar, Social Justice Committee Chair



The Social Justice Committee will hold its next bi-monthly meeting on Sept. 13, at 1:00. If you are interested in the social justice aspect of UU, please feel free to join us for that meeting and potentially join the committee.

Our Share the Plate for July sent \$2763, over a third of which was from one person, to "Families Belong Together," a coalition helping reunite families separated at the border. August total for Planned Parenthood was \$1630. The Share for September will be for a coupon for shoes for each child whose family gets a Christmas basket from Village Churches Outreach.

Visit the sign in table to volunteer at Jackson House or Langston reading, and continue donating food and household items for JH and Clarion Call. Thank you for your generosity.

UUVC Social Justice Committee Back to School Blue Jean Project 2018 For Jackson House Thrift Shop



Janie Smith & Pam Harrison

Generosity by our UUVC Members/Friends knows no boundaries. The UUVC "Back-to-School Jean Project" has been successful - we have donated 64 pairs of new jeans for needy children going back to school. I don't know who donated, but from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Movies with Mark & Myra

Myra Rustin



September's film is "Gentlemen's Agreement" starring Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire, and John Garfield. Look for Sunday sign-up sheets in the next few weeks, and be prepared to meet on September 20 at 11 AM. Bring lunch and be prepared to share this great experience.

Denominational Doings

Myra Rustin

The SWUW Women's Conference is being held in Hot Springs from February 22-24 and the planners are looking for vendors and workshop leaders. Please contact Myra Rustin for further information and expect more news during the next few months.

There is a limit where the intellect fails and breaks down, and this limit is where the question concerning God, and freewill, and immortality arise.
Immanuel Kant

Despotism may govern without faith, but Liberty cannot.
Alexis de Tocqueville

Fall Seminar: The Evolutionary Journey of Western Religion

Dr. Bud Hearn, Presenter



Bud Hearn

Theologian Lloyd Geering writes “It is from Western Christendom that the Modern Global Age emerged.” It has been a journey of transformative periods or historical turning points, each period reflecting an historical cultural change. Geering notes the task of the historian is not simply to record and pass along “bare facts,” but to tell a story. As the evolutionary story of Western Religion is told, which is the focus of this Seminar; topics will include: the nature and development of Western religion; the emergence of the modern world; major developments in the 19th and 20th centuries; why secularization came out of the West; the influence of Judaism. Cameo sketch-

es of interpreters in each historical period will form an interconnected succession of thought that influenced religion in the Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment {Age of Reason}, and Secularization – the process of change. Seminar content is based on the work of Lloyd Geering. There is no required text, however recommended reading for those desiring to further explore the above: *Christian Faith at The Crossroads*; *Tomorrow’s God*; and *The World to Come*. A more expansive bibliography provided to attendees.

Classes meet: Tuesday afternoons 1:30 – 3:30 beginning September 18 through October 23, Unitarian Universalist Church. For registration and further information call 204-7191.

New Leadership Class Beginning September 10

We will begin another in our series of leadership classes on September 10. In these 8 interactive classes, we will learn how covenant is the center of UU faith, how our congregational polity works, and how we can create strong, healthy communities. Topics of discussion include:

- Being in Covenantal Community
- Being in Congregational Community: Making Decisions
- Community as a Spiritual Practice (2 classes)
- Participating in a Faith Community
- The Meaning of Membership
- The Interconnected Web: The UUA and Beyond
- The Congregation is the Curriculum: Faith Development

We will meet twice each month on Monday afternoon from 2:00 until 3:30.

Interested? Call or text Janet Holt at 501-538-4596 to reserve your place. Space is limited!

Leadership

September Celebrations



9/3 Paul Lakey
9/4 Robert Stark
9/5 Marion Sowka
9/8 Jay Williams
9/13 Daryl Wedwick
9/14 Pat Hearn
9/15 Bill Spears

9/21 Debbie Bostick
9/21 Ozzie Ramsey
9/21 Cynthia Saalfield
9/24 Debbie Walsh
9/28 Sheila Ford
9/28 Bob McCleskey
9/28 Cloe Bayer

9/3 Patty & Terry Dacus
9/18 Tom Drake & Quay O’Hara
9/20 Alex & Cindy Perez
9/28 Bridget & Franz Van de Kop

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 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 (September 8). 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



Our September movie will be "Murder on the Orient Express", the latest remake starring Dame Judi Dench and a host of other familiar faces. Join us on September 28 at 7 PM, free popcorn.

Meatless Meal Group



Look for the Meatless Meal Group to return when temperatures are cooler and summer travel has slowed. We may make it an evening event. Sue Loberg.

Dining-In and Dining-Out Groups

We will start the next series for our UUVC "dinners" groups in September. This series will run from September through November -early December.



"Dinners for Six" or "Dining In" involves gathering in the homes of others in your group on a once-monthly basis for an evening of food and conversation. Married couples, partners and good friends work together to host when the group comes to their home. However, we encourage UU singles to team up to share hosting duties between them.

"Dining Out" groups were started recently for those who like to venture out for dining and socializing at our numerous nice restaurants, both locally and beyond. As before, each "Dining Out" group will number around six people which keeps the group more intimate while dining. Each couple (or team of singles) will agree to find a restaurant that they like (or wish to explore) and then make the necessary arrangements for the group to dine at that place for their month. This is also a good way to discover more about the local dining scene.

Signup sheets for both groups will be found on the tables in the Community Hall on Sundays, starting September 2, with Sunday, September 16, the cut-off date to sign up. For people who participated last Spring, we will try to place you in new groups to allow you to meet more people. 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 Betscheider 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.

Calling Our Minister

The UUVB Board, and a number of members, have expressed an interest in formally “Calling” Rev. Mark Walz as our minister. There is a difference in “Calling” a minister versus “Contracting” a minister. We currently have a five-year contract with Rev. Walz.

Calling and installing a minister affirms the relationship with the minister in a deeper manner and defines our intent as a church as a lasting, healthy, and robust religious organization. A quick reference is that it is similar to the relationship between “going steady” and being married. The Installation Service is a deeply meaningful ritual in our religious community. We would be declaring that our church is ready to be known in a different way. It demonstrates a deeper commitment to each other as a congregation. It announces to the wider community that we are confident in our choice to be led by a minister as well as being

lay led. Within the Village it will declare that we have reached a higher level and we are truly a “real” church.

UUVB Bylaws require that we have a 2/3 majority vote of the entire voting membership in order to call a minister. However, we would like to see a 90% approval to ensure that we have full support for our minister. (Just as we did in approving the contract to hire Rev. Walz.) To this end we will plan to hold three congregational conversations to hear your thoughts and to answer any questions. These will be scheduled on various days and times beginning the week of September 16 to make it as convenient as possible for members to attend. Watch your weekly eblasts for the available times.

We look forward to this continued progress towards fulfillment of our long-term goals.



Thinking Aloud with my Fingers

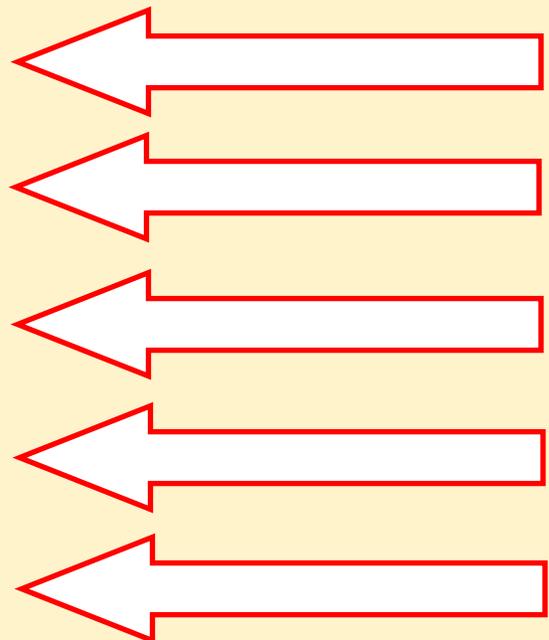
JS

I think there’s a continuum of compassion. At one end of an immense spectrum, one might feel a vague sense of inessential duty to try to help comfort distant and unknown sufferers from an abstract agony. On the other, one is compelled to “move mountains” to mitigate the emotional or physical anguish of loved ones. In the middle sits an infinite range of degrees of empathy. At each spot along the continuum, empathy either morphs into compassionate action or sits, uncomfortably, acknowledging but ignoring the impetus to address others’ suffering. Compassion consumes enormous energy. We must make the difficult decisions about where to spend that energy and where to withdraw into ourselves as a means of self-preservation.

We Need You

We need YOU as Members or Friends to join the Education Team of the Program Committee. Are you interested in learning more about faith and religious education? Would you like to help develop classes or discussions to present religious theory and history— things like how did UU’s get to where we are today or articulating our UU faith? Or are you interested in pursuing the spiritual components of yoga, meditation, or other spiritual pursuits? We need people to help plan, schedule, facilitate, and present these topics and more. Take an active role in our church of the future as we grow!

Please contact Mary Ann Rittenmeyer,
Chair of the Program Committee.



The Seductiveness of Being Right

Cloe Bayer
Dispute Mediators



Cloe Bayer

The desire to be right is deeply seductive and understandable, but it can cause a lot of problems in daily living. If you're feeling criticized, challenged or accused, it is immensely tempting to defend yourself and attempt to prove you're right. Unfortunately, this is a risky pattern that rarely gets you anywhere.

Why doesn't "being right" work? Because when you try to prove you're right, it generally means trying to prove someone else is wrong. They won't want to admit they are wrong any more than you do. Instead they are likely to react in a combative and uncooperative way. They will be too busy defending themselves to listen. They will shut their minds and ears to what you are saying, no matter

how true. Even if you "win" with a particular issue and it feels wonderfully vindicating in the moment, it rarely has a good impact in the long run.

Some thoughts which might help: Your frustration and desire to be right and to fix the problem are totally understandable. It is human to make mistakes and have blind spots. Let go of resentments and the illusion of control. Listen with heart; you can listen to the other person's story and their sense of "right" without making yourself wrong. With willingness and persistence, it is possible for you to improve and transform your relationships and communications with others.



Hear Ye!! Hear Ye! Read All About It!

UUVC is filled with great communicators!! If you are interested in sharing your talents, please think about volunteering for the position of Communications Chair. The Communications Committee is responsible for the internal and external communications for the church. We already have a number of terrific folks who are dedicated to keeping communications flowing: John Swinburn is the editor of the newsletter. Meg Koziar keeps the calendar up to date and sends out e-blasts and reminders. Suzette Watson is our new Webkeeper,

and she also writes the articles for the *Voice*. Kat Wheeler administers the UUVC Facebook page. Now it's time for a new Chair to oversee these activities and to think of fresh ways to feature our wonderful church in the external community. If you would like to volunteer or if you are just interested in learning more about the position, please contact our Vice President, Janet Holt, or President, David Welch. Your talents will be so appreciated!!!

It is strange how much people with simple faith will put up with. It is because of this that religion has become one of the biggest and most paying businesses.
Jawaharlal Nehru

The saddest thing that can befall a soul is when it loses faith in God and woman.

Alexander Smith

Future Newsletter Deadlines

For **October Newsletter**, September 25 at noon
For **November Newsletter**, October 26 at noon
For **December Newsletter**, November 26 at noon

I will be grateful if you would let me know, five days in advance of the deadline, if you plan to submit something for the newsletter. Send contributions to me:
John Swinburn, newsletter editor, jsswinburn@gmail.com

UU 101

UU101 is a 3-part introduction to Unitarian Universalist history, governance and commitment to social justice. Dane Nielson will facilitate. Sessions will be held after Sunday services on the following dates:

- ◆ September 16
- ◆ October 7
- ◆ October 21

These sessions will take place in either the Community Hall or Room 2, depending on the number of attendees. Sign-up sheets are located on a table in the Community Hall.

MUSIC NOTES

John Leisenring



September marks the return of our wonderful choir, and on September 2, we'll be joining in the celebration of our "In-Gathering/Water Communion." Our anthems for the second of September will be an arrangement of the old Shaker Hymn "Simple Gifts," and on September 16th we'll sing "I Am A Small Part Of This World" by Sally Albrecht/Jay Althouse.

Music On Barcelona returns on September 30th - please plan to welcome back the Spa City Stompers for their annual Dixieland concert. We'll have a big time.

*There are two means of refuge from the misery of life—music, and I can't remember the other.
(apologies to Albert Schweitzer)*

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:** Faith (noun): (feyth)—1. confidence or trust in a person or thing; 2. belief that is not based on proof. 3. belief in God or in the doctrines or teachings of religion. e.g. (def. 2), "He has faith that Unitarian Universalist principles intersect with innately human morality."
- ◆ **On Diversity:** I've spent considerable time recently in diverse neighborhoods in a diverse city. When I say diverse I mean a mix of languages, sexual orientations, lifestyles, religious beliefs, socioeconomic statuses...you know, the breadth of humanity. I love going into a grocery store in which I, in my middle class white male identity, am in the minority. On the one hand, I experience some anxiety, the kind of anxiety one tends to feel when he is unlike most of those around him, but on the other I experience a sense that I am in the midst of deep wisdom that naturally arises from a melting pot of cultures. People who are unlike me may not have the same curiosity and appreciation in my presence as I have in theirs, but in an odd ways that's part of the attraction for me.
- ◆ **Of Compassion:** The word means, literally, "to suffer together." It is the feeling that arises when one is confronted by another person's suffering and feels motivated to relieve it. Compassion incorporates empathy and drives it to action.
- ◆ **Trains & Toilets:** I find trains fascinating. Perhaps it's the promise that they might take me to gritty places where survival requires not just existence but determined effort. But I've been told spending time on trains can make the experience seem less exotic. Sort of like forgetting the marvelous innovations represented by indoor toilets, years removed from the outhouse.

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.