

Partner Church Program

Our Partnership with Kezdivasarhely, Romania is now 23 years old and has been a source of inspiration, friendship, heightened awareness of who we are as world citizens, and individuals.

Through email and Facebook, we keep in touch with Rev. Istvan Buzogany-Csoma, the current minister of Kezdivasarhely and his wife, and Rev. Maria Pap, (previous minister,) and with the students we've supported. In this time of the Covid-19, we have exchanged caring communications. Our core group is now creating a quilt to send to the minister's new baby, using Zoom to coordinate our efforts.

We continue the minister's salary supplement and the student support program. We are rethinking the timing and focus of reciprocal visit, eliciting feedback to help future planning. We hope for more youth and ministerial presence on our trips!

Over the past year, we have increased the visibility of our Partner Church program:

- * A Transylvanian dinner offered through the Auction
- * A Friday Fun Night focused on our Partnership and Transylvanian culture
- * Transylvanian cuisine oriented Round Robin
- * Monthly Partner Church tables in the Social Hall
- * Frequent planning get togethers for the Core group of Phyllis Valentine, Cathy Muha, Donna Clark, Hajnal Minger, and Lee Boeke Burke

Phyllis Valentine has been chosen to receive the Steward Of Partnership Award by the UU Partner Church Council. This honor is bestowed upon members of UU Congregations who have done the crucial grassroots work of giving the attention, time and loving care to develop and maintain long distance relationships and nurture friendships. Thanks to Phyllis for all she does and to Cathy Muha for nominating her!

Plans:

- * road trip to Milwaukee GA in 2021 when Phyllis will receive her award
- * Develop future travel plans
- * Offer Transylvanian dinners
- * Offer educational opportunities for our Congregation to learn about and celebrate our partnership
- * find ways to work with other UUAA groups interested in the social justice and the environment

Submitted by Lee Boeke Burke