



First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

This Week at UUAA November 4 - 10, 2021

If you are unable to view this entire email, scroll down to the bottom and click "view entire message." The email ends with a "contact us" button and our address.

The *Weekly News* is distributed each Thursday. Deadlines for submissions are Tuesdays at 5:00pm.

The deadline for the *Weekly News* November 11 - 17 is Tuesday, November 9 at 5:00pm Eastern [through this form](#).

Questions? [Watch this video](#) on how to submit to the *Weekly News*, or email Communications Ministry Specialist Amber Beland at communications@uuaa.org.

Please note the following holiday deadlines for the upcoming *Monthly Newsletter* and the *Weekly News*:

Monthly Newsletter Deadlines

December newsletter—Deadline Sunday, November 14, to be sent out November 22/23.

January newsletter—Deadline Sunday, December 12, to be sent out December 20

Weekly News - Holiday repeat weeks

November 25—information will repeat

December 30—information will repeat

Support the ministries of UUAA: Make an online offering



Join Us on Sunday

Sunday, November 7, 9:30am and 11:30am

Join us this Sunday as we gather in person for two services at 9:30am and 11:30am,

“We Remember Them.” Through ritual, music, song, words, and silence we will honor, in this

annual Service of Remembrance, those from our beloved community who have died over the past two years. We will also collectively create a memory altar, connecting us to those who have gone before us. Please feel free to bring a photo or object to represent loved ones you have lost.

We will be sharing the collection this Sunday with [IHN/Alpha House](#). IHN was established in 1992 to provide shelter and support to homeless and at-risk families. The group serves over 40 families a year—up to six at a time—in their shelter, Alpha House, and an additional 20 to 30 families in their home-based support program. IHN provides intensive support services to address each family's individual needs and barriers to securing permanent housing.

There will be a social hour after both services. We will be serving grab-and-go doughnuts at the main entrance for you to take with you as you leave UUAA on Sunday morning. With the onset of winter and the removal of the tents outside the Social Hall, we no longer have an outdoor space for gathering to eat. We will return to serving beverages once we can be inside unmasked safely.

We will also be livestreaming the service if you prefer to attend from home. You can join us at uuaa.org/service.

Please note that masks will be required for everyone over the age of 2.*

If you have questions or concerns about the mask requirement, please contact Hannah Hotchkiss, Coordinator of Welcome Ministries and Membership, at hannah@uuaa.org.

*Exception to the mask requirement: members of the worship team who are actively speaking can remove their masks. The first row of chairs in the sanctuary will be removed to ensure proper distancing.



The Return of the Social Hall Tables

Sundays after each service starting November 14

Starting on Sunday, November 14 we will resume having congregational tables in the Social Hall after each service. We will still have UUAA fundraisers (i.e. the Scrip Program and Fair Trade Coffee Sales),

groups announcing events and meetings (i.e. Social Justice Council, Mindful Eating, etc.), and fellowship opportunities (i.e. Fiber Arts, Kaleidoscope, etc.).

- November 14: Bookstore Going Out of Business Sale, Scrip Program, Coffee Sales, Gathering Table
- November 21: Bookstore Going Out of Business Sale, Scrip Program, Coffee Sales
- November 28: Scrip Program, Coffee Sales

To ensure we can gather indoors again safely, the number of tables will be limited. We ask that there be no more than 2 people per table at a time and that people be mindful of others who are waiting.

Need more worship in your life? Watch past services, music, and stories in [our website archive](#).

Upcoming Events
For a full list of events, [visit the UUAU Calendar](#).



Sunday, November 7, Pastoral Care after each service

This Sunday's worship will be our service of remembrance and a time to co-create a memory altar. In honor of the last 18 months of transitions and change, we will be offering dedicated Pastoral Care space in the Social Hall after each service. Congregants are invited to join a small supportive circle or a silent meditation space. Social Hour will adhere to the UUAU Covid-19 safety policy for indoor mask wearing. If you need additional care email pastoralcare@uuua.org.



Updated COVID Precautions

It's been such a joy to gather in person and online these past two months. Countless community members - adults, children and youth - have commented that our shift into multi-modal gatherings has given them the support they need during this continuing time of pandemic. We also continue to welcome new visitors each week who are looking for a spiritual home. Of course, we've only been able to gather again because of our community's commitment to health and safety. On that front we have cause for celebration: since the start of the pandemic through to today, there has not

been a single known COVID case linked to participation or attendance at a UUAA event. That's amazing, and we thank you for your continued and deep commitment to our community's collective well-being! As we move now into the colder winter months and outdoor gatherings are no longer a reliable option, our COVID-19 Advisory Team has updated our [COVID Precautions Policy & Procedures](#) accordingly.

Highlights of our updated policy include:

- Universal masking indoors and outdoors will continue (with limited exceptions). This is in keeping with the latest science, which continues to show that masking is one of the most effective ways to prevent COVID.
- Our Social Hour will move indoors. No food or drinks will be served so that we can remain masked. However, individually packaged donuts will be available outside for community members to take as they leave.
- Social hall tables for groups, fundraisers, and events will return, but the number of tables will be limited to prevent crowding.
- SGD classes for children/youth will move indoors (although children/youth should still come prepared to go outside in case the weather allows). Like the public schools, we strongly encourage children/youth who are eligible to get vaccinated to do so and we require our staff and volunteer teachers to be vaccinated.
- We are increasing the number of singers that can perform in an ensemble from 5 to 10. We feel safe making this change because our masking policy combined with our required COVID antigen tests, prior to appearing before the community, have proven to be effective.
- We continue to strongly encourage all community members who are eligible to get vaccinated and we ask that everyone entering the building [complete the self-screening questionnaire](#).

Please read the full text of our updated [COVID Precautions Policy & Procedures](#) carefully. If you have questions or feedback for the COVID-19 Advisory Team, please contact Executive Minister, Rev. Cassandra Hartley at cassandra@uuaa.org.

It's our intention to use this policy as our guide for November and December, and then reassess what adjustments may be warranted. Of course, if our local health circumstances change significantly, we may make adjustments sooner. As always, we encourage all our members and friends to determine for themselves what level of health and safety risk is appropriate for you and/or your family. We hope and trust that UUAA's multi-modal programming (which includes in-person, live-streaming, and 'on demand' modes of interaction) will continue to give the vast majority of our community meaningful ways to stay connected. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the many different needs of a large, multigenerational community. May our time together continue to be a source of joy and renewal, especially as we move into the holiday season ahead.

BUILDING OUR VISION



#RoadTo2050

A sincere thank you to all who have made their pledge of financial support for 2022. We are well on our way to meeting our goal of \$1.15 million. If you have not yet made your commitment, please consider doing it today. It is vital to our proposed budget to hear from members and friends who want to support the good work of social justice, radical welcome, anti-racism /anti-oppression, financial stability, open communications, strengthening our beloved community, and so much more.

Find out more at www.uuaa.org/pledge.



PASTORAL
CARE

Mindful Aging Series—Request for Help

The Pastoral Care Team has been planning a series of sessions to be presented starting in 2022 on various aspects of aging. We would like to hear first from experts, as well as people with real life experience, within our own congregation. The early sessions will focus on the physical and cognitive aspects of aging, wellness practices for aging, preparation of legal documents, and how to modify your current home to better serve you as you age.

If you would like to offer your own experience, expertise, or that of someone you know, please contact Sandy Breck at sbreck@umich.edu.



Sharing the Collection (STC) Leader Needed

Once a month, UUA shares the weekly collection with a community-based service organization such as Alpha House, Habitat for Humanity, or UUSC. Jan Duncan has served as the chair of STC for two years and is stepping down to direct her energy into her work as an AAPS educator. We are so grateful for Jan's leadership and dedication! Now we have a team of volunteers who are looking for a new leader.

If you would like to make a difference by helping with this important work, contact Coordinator of Congregational Life, QuianaDenae Perkins, to learn more: quianadenae@uuaa.org.

Sunday Welcome Team Seeks New Members



The Sunday Welcome Team is looking for new members for 2021-2022! The monthly time commitment is 40 to 90 minutes, but the work you do is invaluable. We need greeters, ushers, and welcomees. We are especially in need of first Sunday ushers.

Interested? Please contact: Hannah@uuuaa.org.



UUAA Veterans for Peace Is Back!

Open to all veterans and others who support peace and justice, we are a subgroup of local Veterans for Peace chapter 93. Veterans for Peace is a non-profit, global organization of military veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace and justice by using our military experience and lifting our voices. A potential project involves investigating the need for Restorative Justice for veterans who have committed crimes.

For details or to join: in Realm, under Groups, find UUAA Veterans for Peace, or contact Mike Muha at: vets4peace@uuuaa.org.



What Is a Gathering Table?

During the October 24 service, Vision Steering Committee Co-Chairs Rick Witten and Kathy Edgren **presented the concept of “Gathering Table” events** as a way for our congregation to connect, focus, and reflect on our three Vision 20/50 priority areas.

These metaphorical “tables” will be open gatherings that inform people about the ongoing efforts of our social justice groups and provide ways to share ideas and get involved—in ways big or small.

Three gathering table events are planned for this church year—one for each Vision priority area. Everyone is invited and welcome!

Questions? vision@uuuaa.org



Fair Trade Coffee to resume on-site sales November 14

We will be returning to sales on-site after both Sunday services at the UUAA beginning on November 14! Until then, sales will continue out of members' homes.

You can order for pickup or delivery by emailing us at UUAAsqualexchangeorder@gmail.com.

After our return to the building, we will still take orders for remote pickup or delivery. As always, sales benefit the UUA and UUSC.



Humanist Discussion

Thursdays, November 4 & 18, 2:00pm

Mondays, November 8 & 22, 7:00pm

Thursday's topics will be chapter 2 of *The Scientific Spirit of American Humanism: The Birth of Religious Humanism* plus *Woke Racism*. Monday's topics will be *Woke Racism* plus "The New

Puritans" from the *Atlantic Monthly*.

Humanism has a long history in our congregation, and a lively group of Humanists has been meeting for over 20 years, gathering on the second and fourth Monday evenings and/or first and third Thursday afternoons to discuss topics relating to Humanist philosophy, theology, morals, ethics, reasoning, science—the list is long and varied. All are welcome, regardless of theology or philosophy.

All meetings are still virtual. To get on our mail list, get the login information, or any other questions, send a query to humanistgroupinfo@uuaa.org.



North Ann Arbor UU Monthly Meeting

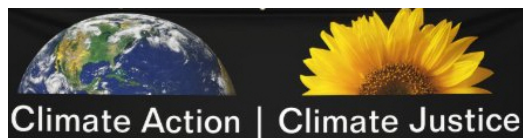
Tuesday, November 9, 7:00pm

The North Ann Arbor UU is a casual social group that meets the second Tuesday of each month. Topics of conversation vary widely, with the November meeting examining those things we would like to leave behind and those toward which we would like to move. Newcomers and visitors are

welcome.

To receive notices of future meetings, contact us at:

NorthAA_info@uuaa.org.



First Annual UUA Climate Gathering Table

Sunday, November 14, 10:30am - 1:00pm and 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Please come to the first annual UUA Climate Gathering Table on Sunday, November 14:

- Come visit us in the Social Hall between services: fun give-aways, lots

of information and opportunities to get involved.

- Join an interactive Zoom Gathering from 2:30pm - 4:00pm and hear about current UUAA Climate Action / Climate Justice activities. Give your input on what actions we can be taking as individuals and as a community to address the climate crisis and work toward climate justice.

You can pre-register for the Zoom Gathering Table [using this link](#). All are welcome -- all ages, members, friends, staff, ministry, anyone interested in learning about or giving feedback about our Climate Action / Climate Justice work.



1948: Creation and Catastrophe

From now until November 14

The documentary film tells the story of the establishment of Israel and the destruction of Palestinian society as seen through the eyes of the people who lived it. It is not possible to make sense of what is happening in Palestine/Israel today without understanding 1948. 10 years in the making, the film includes archival film with context provided by respected historians. Watch online for free until Sunday, November 14. [Register here](#) to access the film.

[Film trailer](#) for 1948: Creation and Catastrophe. On Sunday, November 14 at 3:00pm Voices From the Holy Land Film Salon featuring co-director/producer Ahlam Muhtaseb and Israeli-American author and human rights activist Miko Peled.

Understanding the history is essential as we consider a congregational resolution supporting Palestinian rights. UUs for Justice in the Middle East meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm via Zoom. Contact Mark Jagner at mjagner@yahoo.com or Ruth Vail at ruthvail43@gmail.com for more information.



Newcomer Chalice Circle | The Seven UU Principles

Saturday, November 20, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

[Registration Deadline](#): Monday, November 15

Are you new to UUAA? Would you like to explore the tenets of Unitarian Universalism with others who are new?

Join us for a Zoom discussion of the Seven UU Principles:

- What do they mean to you?
- Which ones resonate strongly?
- How do they inspire?

You will receive the principles and reflection questions in advance. We will practice a deep-listening format during the discussion. [Please register](#) by Monday, November 15. We ask that when you sign up you commit to attending and log into the Zoom room by the start time.

Questions? Email Coordinator of Welcome Ministries and Membership, Hannah Hotchkiss at: Hannah@uuaa.org.

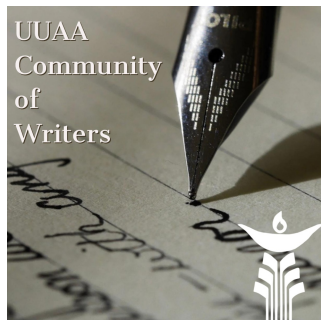


Transgender Day of Remembrance Observance

Saturday, November 20, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Kaleidoscope invites all to their observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance, an internationally-recognized day honoring the lives of transgender, nonbinary, agender, and gender expansive people lost to transphobic violence this year. There will be a short memorial ceremony open to all. After the memorial portion concludes, we invite trans, nonbinary, agender, and gender expansive folx to remain for an in-group processing and conversation space. This event will be held on Zoom (link available closer to the event).

Please reach out to KaleidoscopeInfo@uuaa.org for additional information.



Community of Writers Zoom Gathering

Sunday, November 21, 1:00pm - 3:00 pm

The Community of Writers will gather on the Sunday of the beginning of Thanksgiving week. Appropriately, the suggested writing topic is "Thanks." Original creative writing can be any interpretation of the topic, in any genre of the writer's choosing or any other original writing the writer chooses to read. Readings are limited to five minutes. Anne Ramsey will guide the readings and solicit appreciative comment.

If you would like the Zoom link to attend, contact Kathy Friedrichs at: kamf@umich.edu or Anne Ramsey at: anneramsey2910@comcast.net.



Thanksgiving Host Week

Monday, November 22 - Sunday, November 28

Alpha House is an emergency shelter for families temporarily experiencing homelessness

in Washtenaw County. Our next host week is November 22 - 28. Sign up online at <http://UAAA.org/AlphaSignup> to help financially, donate a dish (curbside or in-person), heat meals (in-person), or oversee activity time (outdoor option if weather allows). Everyone at Alpha House wears a mask and washes hands frequently, regardless of vaccination status. Find links for volunteer guidelines in our signup.

Questions? Contact: AlphaHouse@uaaa.org.



Community Walks Are Back

Friday, November 26, various times

Join your UAAA family for a post-Thanksgiving Community Walk/ Roll/ Stroll that adheres to all COVID safety precautions (masks / limited group size) and takes place at various times and locations throughout Washtenaw County.

Use this link to sign up: www.uaaa.org/walksignup.

- Go to the sign-up list and find a community walk that suits your style. Some are family friendly, some dog friendly, some well suited to walkers and wheelchairs, some for more rugged hikers.
- We are limiting walks to 6 people per group for safety.
- Watch for an EMAIL with the walk leader's name, contact number, parking information, and any updates to COVID health precautions.

On November 26, grab your mask, meet your UAAA friends and take a walk!



Introduction to Our Faith via Zoom

Thursdays, December 2 and 9, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

This two-session Zoom class launches you on your way toward membership and a deeper understanding of this congregation and faith. We will share our spiritual journeys, cover the history of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, explore your calling and how to get involved, and discuss the meaning and responsibilities of membership.

This class is a prerequisite to official membership. [Registration is required.](#)

Questions? Email Coordinator of Welcome Ministries and Membership, Hannah Hotchkiss, at: Hannah@uaaa.org.

Sponsor A Child for the Holidays 2021

Sunday, December 5



UUA is excited to be a community partner for [Community Action Network \(CAN\)](#) Sponsor A Child for the Holidays Program. This program works with faith communities like UUA to bring holiday cheer to families in need. COVID-19 safety has created some new steps for this year's project.

Congregants wanting to sponsor a child need to register on [CAN's online system](#). Look Up: Holiday Wishlist in the Search Box to get to the form * If you need technology help, please email sponsorachild@uuaa.org.

After registering, congregants will receive the child's wish list response from CAN, with 2 needed items and 2 wanted gifts. Please spend the equivalent of \$100. SHOP! December 5, 2021, drop off your items at UUA.

* We will only have ONE drop-off day; if you need to make arrangements outside of this set time, you will need to work with CAN directly.

Questions about Sponsor a Child can be sent to sponsorachild@uuaa.org.

Links

[Reserve a Zoom room](#) | [View past services](#)
[Log in to Realm](#) | [Make your pledge](#)



[UUA.org](#) | [MidAmericaUUA.org](#)
[Side with Love](#) | [UUCSJ](#) | [DRUUMM](#) | [BLUU](#)

Contact Us

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