



First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

This Week at UUAA October 28 - November 3, 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 4 - 10 is Tuesday, November 2 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, October 31, 9:30am and 11:30am

Join us this Sunday as we gather in person for two services at 9:30am and 11:30am, "Belief in the Unseen." On this Halloween Sunday, we explore the "unseen" realities that inform our shared journey as Unitarian Universalists. What might The Great Pumpkin and the philosophy/theology of former UUA President Bill Schulz have in common...? Join us this Sunday to find out! All in-person attendees (adults and kids) are invited to wear non-scary costumes (without any prop or toy weapons, please).

There will be a social hour after both services, with eating done outdoors. 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 both indoors and outdoors for everyone over the age of 2, except when eating or drinking.*

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.

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 UUA Calendar](#).



Are You a Trained Middle School OWL Facilitator? We Need You!

Sundays at 11:30am, starting in January (or sooner if possible)

One of the cornerstones of our Spiritual Growth and Development Program is "Our Whole Lives" (OWL), a sexuality education program for youth that models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. It is a holistic program

that moves beyond the intellect to address the attitudes, values, and feelings that youth have about themselves and the world.

We usually offer OWL to 8th graders as a full academic year course; this year we are hoping to put together a teaching team by January. Because teaching OWL requires participation in a comprehensive training, and because those trainings are currently scarce due to Covid, we need to recruit from our existing pool of trained OWL teachers. Two teachers have already committed, so we only need two more.

Please consider helping us bring back this popular and dynamic program!

Interested? Please email stella@uuaa.org.



All-Congregation Climate Engagement Survey

UUAA's "Vision 20/50" asks all of us—kids, teens, and adults—to engage deeply with the pressing climate issues of our times. How can we, as a religious organization, help create a more just and sustainable world?

To help guide our climate action and climate justice work, UUAA is enrolled in the Green Sanctuary 2030 certification program provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association. One of our first tasks is to survey the congregation to get a snapshot of our levels of climate concern and engagement as we begin the certification process. This is NOT a scientific survey, but meant to be a general picture of our congregation today. There are no "right" or "good" or "bad" answers.

We ask that everyone of all ages submit answers to the survey—it usually takes less than ten minutes to complete.

[Click this link to take the climate engagement survey](#)

Thank you for helping with this important work!

The UUAA Climate Action and Justice Group
Jeannine LaPrad, Ruth Mohr, Ed Lynn, Sandy Simon, Priscilla Spencer, and
Kate Hutchens

November Board of Trustees Meeting Will Be Multimodal; Board of Trustees Update and Work Plan

At the Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting on October



19, it was agreed that the BoT would begin meeting in person (third Tuesday of the month) in the Jackson Chapel at the church. Observers are welcome, and all of us will be operating under the current UJAA Covid-19 guidelines, including wearing masks at all times. The meeting will also be accessible to observers via zoom. Zoom links to the BoT meetings are accessible through a [registration process](#) on the UJAA website.

The BoT also finalized a 2021-2022 work plan, which includes:

- Supporting the Vision 20/50 work of the congregation
- Improving communications with the congregation (including two informational meetings open to all, creating a bylaws change/creation process that includes a reliable and transparent process for communicating with the congregation)
- Revise the monitoring reports that serve as a source for assessing the health of the congregation
- Foster beloved community, which includes completing an updated process for congregational meetings that is fair and allows for ample listening.

The work plan will be available on the website once the edits from the meeting are incorporated into the final draft.



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.ujaa.org/pledge.



Centered Leadership Class

Think of all the great things in life that are free. Library books, fresh air, those AOL CDs that used to arrive in the mail, and, of course, grocery store samples. Well, there's one more thing for a few lucky congregants to add to the list—UJAA's Centered Leadership class. The class normally costs \$30.00, but for a limited number of UJAA members who sign up, the Leadership

Development Team (LDT) is paying the class fee.

The class, led by two UU ministers, contains several modules. It includes speakers from within and outside the UU movement. After each module there will be a Zoom gathering with other congregants and LDT members to discuss the class. Topics include governance, congregational polity, how to be a member, and building a beloved community. [Follow this link](#) to find out more about the class.

Interested? Contact Dixie Hibner at Dixiehibner@comcast.net or Janet Callaway at JanetCallaway40@gmail.com.



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, UUAA 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 need new leadership to continue to do this work. There is a team of volunteers waiting for a leader.

If you would like to make a difference by helping with this work, contact Coordinator of Congregational Life QuianaDenae 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



UUAA Halloween Celebration Rescheduled

Sunday, October 31, 12:45pm - 2:00pm

Due to the Friday weather forecast, the UUAA Halloween Celebration has been rescheduled to Sunday, October 31, after the second service, from 12:45pm - 2:00pm. All are invited!

- Join us for donuts, cider, and the UUAA children's costume parade during Social Hour.
- Kids and adults are encouraged to come in costume. (No weapons or scary costumes, please.)
- Drop off your jack-o-lantern at the main entrance as you arrive. We will add it to our
- Pumpkins-on-display/photo-op area. (You can pick up your jack-o-lantern before you leave.)
- Kids' costume parade on the lawn during Social Hour.
- Goody bags to be handed out at the end of the parade.
- Photo-op area: Use the fall scenes, jack-o-lanterns, and costume props for your Halloween photos.

Questions? Email FridayFunNight@uuaa.org.



Memory Loss Caregivers Support Group Zoom

Wednesday, November 3, 3:00pm - 4:30 pm

If you have a friend, spouse, partner, or family member who is experiencing memory loss, you are welcome to join the Zoom meeting of the Memory Loss Caregivers Support Group. Meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month from 3:00pm - 4:30pm. Stories, questions, and experiences are shared in a safe and confidential space.

If you want more information or would like the Zoom link, contact one of the facilitators: Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com, Sandy Kunkle at sandykunkle@gmail.com, or Meredith Ley at meredithl888@gmail.com.



Humanist Discussion

Thursdays, November 4 & 18, 2:00pm

Mondays, November 8 & 22, 7:00pm

The UU Humanist Discussion Group will continue presenting and discussing, over Zoom, *The Scientific Spirit of American Humanism* by Stephen P. Weldon for three more sessions. On Thursday, November 4 at 2:00pm, we will move on to the second chapter, "2. The Birth of Religious Humanism." One review described the book as a "fascinating and profound analysis of American society in the 19th and 20th centuries from a completely different angle: the scientific spirit." Additional chapters to be discussed in November and December are: "3. Manifesto for an Age of Science" and "4. Philosophers in the Pulpit."

Humanism has a long history in our congregation. 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.



November Sharing the Collection

Sunday, November 7

On Sunday, November 7 we will share our collection 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.

Questions? Contact Jan Duncan at janetdunc@gmail.com.



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.



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?

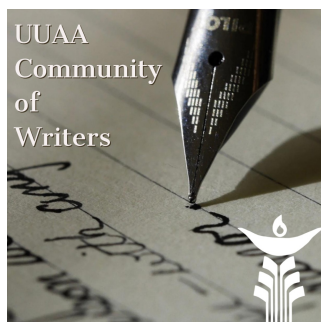
Join us for a Zoom discussion of the Seven UU Principles:

- 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 Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at Hannah@uuaa.org.



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.



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 Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at Hannah@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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