



First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

This Week at UUAA August 26 - September 1, 2021

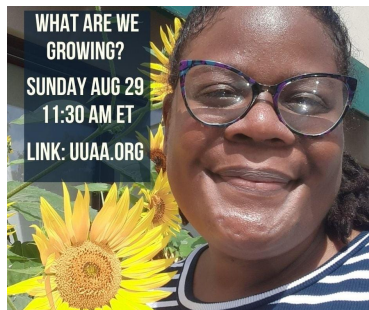
If you are unable to view this entire email, scroll down to the bottom and click "view entire message." The email ends with a "contact us" button and our address.

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

The deadline for the *Weekly News* September 2 - 8 is Tuesday, August 31 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.

[Support the ministries of UUAA: Make an online offering](#)



Join Us on Sunday

Sunday, August 29, 11:30am

Join us this Sunday at uuaa.org/service, when QuianaDenae shares with us "What Are We Growing," the eighth principle. The service will be on Zoom; [you can preregister here](#).

After the service, join our UUAA community for connection and conversation at uuaa.org/socialhour.

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.](#)



UUA Reopening, August Update

Dear Beloved Members and Friends of our UUA Community,

While the news about the Delta variant is very concerning, and we are continuing to carefully monitor the community health situation, we are still hopeful that we can resume in-person Sunday services on September 12 with our annual ingathering Water Communion service. We could not be more excited to return home to our UUA building and experience the warmth of physically gathering in community again.

To ensure we can do this safely, our COVID-19 Advisory Team has updated our [COVID Precautions Policy and Procedures](#). Some of our precautions include: We will offer two services at 9:30am and 11:30am, but services will also be livestreamed for those who are not ready to return in person. Everyone over the age of 2 will need to wear a mask both indoors and outdoors. We will post COVID self-screening questions and ask anyone with recent exposures or symptoms to not enter the UUA building and avoid UUA activities until the risk of transmission subsides. The ventilation system for the entire building has been equipped with UV germicidal lights. Children (who are especially vulnerable since many of them can't be vaccinated yet) will go directly to their classrooms rather than begin in service. Classes for grades K - 5 will be outdoors, and teachers are required to be vaccinated. There will not be any communal singing or full choir performances. Those who do speak/sing in services must have a negative antigen test within 24 hours of the service. We will be hosting a social hour after each service with prepacked foods. Eating will happen outdoors under a large tent. Groups can continue to meet in the building or on the grounds. Some rooms can be equipped with multi-modal meeting capabilities upon request to accommodate those group members who can't meet in person or who don't feel comfortable meeting in person.

To ensure our reopening goes smoothly, please read the full text of our updated [COVID Precautions Policy and 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 September - October and then reassess. Of course, if the community health situation changes and we need to push our reopening date or shut down after reopening, the COVID-19 Advisory Team would immediately inform the community. We recognize that reopening will mean a return to things that are familiar, as well as the beginning of new ways of doing things. This will bring up many different

emotions for each of us: anxiety, joy, grief, anticipation, frustration, relief ... and more. We will need to give one another a great deal of grace and support in the months ahead as we navigate this transition. If you need extra support, our ministers and the Pastoral Care Team at pastoralcare@uuaa.org are here for you.

We hope you enjoy these final days of summer, and we look forward to celebrating the beginning of a new congregational year with you - both online and in person - on September 12!

UUA Mask Requirement

As we prepare to gather in person for the first time in a year and a half, the UUA Covid Team has been keeping abreast of the recommended practices and updating the [UUA Covid Policies and Procedures](#). Masks will be required 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 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.



An Open Call for SGD Teachers!

Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) teachers perform an invaluable service for the UUA community and for our children and youth. We are seeking congregants who have attended UUA for at least one year who are interested in joining a teaching

team.

Our dedicated volunteers are committed to thoughtfully engaging and nurturing the youngest members of our community. Classes meet on Sundays from September through May. All curriculum materials and training are provided. Previous teaching or parenting experience is not required. Additional volunteer opportunities are also available.

Want to know more? Please email stella@uuaa.org.

Please Register for SGD Classes TODAY!

The Spiritual Growth and Development (SGD) Program is excited to welcome back children and youth for 2021/2022! Registration for classes is now open. Please fill out the following Google form as soon as possible at [SGD Registration 2021/2022](#).



Classes meet on Sundays from mid-September through May. The first part of the SGD session will take place primarily outdoors and will include both large-group and small-group learning activities. Class placements will depend on enrollment and volunteer recruitment.

Questions or concerns? Please email Stella at stella@uuaa.org.



Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolates, and Tea Sales help the UUAA and UUSC!

Your favorite Equal Exchange coffees, chocolates, and teas are available now for pickup or delivery. Sip away the last of summer with some good coffee or tea and help the congregation and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (USC) at the same time.

Contact uuaaequalexchangeorder@gmail.com to order or for more information.



Land Acknowledgment

Welcome Ministries and Congregational Life are convening a small group to work on the UUAA land acknowledgment. The group's task will include community education and crafting language for the statement. We are hoping to meet in mid-September and will only convene three or four times.

If you want to join us, please send an email to both Hannah at hannah@uuaa.org and QuianaDenae at quianadenae@uuaa.org.



Memory Loss Support Group

Wednesday, September 1, 3:00pm - 4:30 pm

The September gathering of the Memory Loss Support Group is open to you if you are caring for and/or concerned for a friend, spouse, partner, or parent. A confidential space where you may express your concerns and questions is provided once each month, currently on Zoom.

Contact a facilitator for more information: Joan Burleigh at joburleigh@aol.com, Meredith Ley at meredithl888@gmail.com, or Sandy Kunkle at sandykunkle@gmail.com.



Humanist Discussion

Thursday, September 2 and 16, 2:00pm

Monday, September 13 and 27, 7:00pm

Topics will include: The Four Americas (George Packer), A Guide to Finding Faith (Ross Douthat), and “How an intense spiritual retreat might change your brain” (Andrew Newberg).

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 email list, get the login information, or ask any other questions, send a query to humanistgroupinfo@uuaa.org.



September Sharing the Collection

Sunday, September 12

On Sunday, September 12, we will share our collection with [Community Action Network \(CAN\)](#). CAN “envisions the closing of socio-economic gaps by providing educational and enrichment programs for children and teens, supportive services for families who are under-resourced, and challenging systems rooted in racism and inequality.” It operates community centers in low-income Ann Arbor neighborhoods to carry out its mission. CAN also builds community by facilitating resident council elections, co-hosting community activities, and strengthening parent/school relationships.

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



Newcomer Chalice Circle | The Seven UU Principles

Saturday, September 18, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Registration Deadline: Monday, September 13

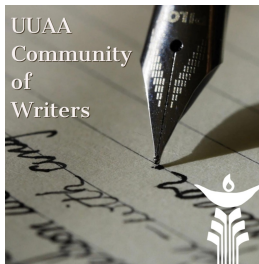
Are you new to UUA? Would you like to explore the tenets of Unitarian Universalism with others who are new? Join us for a Zoom discussion of the Seven UU Principles.

- 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, September 13. 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@uuua.org.



UUA Writers Meeting

Sunday, September 19, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

The Community of Writers September meeting will be facilitated by Bruce Lund. He states, "I've heard it said that every UU can write a sermon, poem, essay, memoir, or story on their relationship to the Creation that surrounds and pervades their lives. Let's get started ... bring your 'creation' on Creation to the September writers group meeting." You are invited to join the writers who will read their own creative writing on this topic or another of their choosing.

For more information and Zoom link, contact Sandy Kunkle at sandykunkle@gmail.com.



Volunteers Needed for Alpha House Fundraiser

Thursday, September 23, 3:30pm - 7:00pm

[Alpha House](#) is an emergency shelter for families temporarily experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. This is a group that UUA supports as a priority for anti-racism/anti-oppression work in the community. This year, Alpha House's outdoor Fall food-truck fundraiser will be held on the Alpha House grounds on September 23. It will feature food trucks that serve Korean, BBQ, and pasta.

Volunteers are needed to work as greeters, food runners, or miscellaneous runners. If you can help, contact volunteer coordinator Mark Hefner at mheffner@alphahouse-ihn.org. Check out the enticing menu [here](#). More to come about attending the fundraiser in future news!



Friday Fun Night—Outdoor Movie Night

Friday, September 24, 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Do you like movies? Then join the Friday Fun Night Team and your UUA community for a movie under the stars on Friday, September 24 at 7:30pm. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and a picnic if you would like. Popcorn and beverages will be provided.

Many suggestions have been submitted by fellow congregants. The top five choices are *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music*, *Shrek*, *Soul*, and *Lion King*. You can help pick the FINAL choice for the movie we will show by [voting here](#). The winning movie will be announced in a few weeks.

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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