



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

A liberal religious voice in Ann Arbor since 1865

UUAA December 2019 Newsletter

December 2019 Newsletter - Vol. 15, Issue 12

Congregational Links

UUAA.org | [Calendar of Events](#) | [Social Justice at UUAA](#) | [Make a Pledge](#) | [Find Us on Facebook](#)

RECENT SUNDAY SERVICE ARCHIVE & POSTINGS: To listen/re-listen to a recent Sunday service, please feel free to access our audio archive.

Other Links of Interest

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

Weaving Worship



December | Awe

December 1 | 9:30am & 11:30am **Claiming Contentment, Joy, and Awe**

In a season of anticipation, what does it mean to hold a longing for contentment, joy, and awe? When the world pushes us away from these facets of life, how can we reclaim a sense of grounding and appreciation of the world of which we are a part?"

December 8 | 9:30am & 11:30am **Little Miracles**

Watch a gift of gloves conjure a boisterous hug between strangers. Watch the

tealights noticed, the teacup honored, the t-shirt in the role of third layer (quietly making all the difference). In winter, it seems the miracles find the small places to change the world.

December 15 | 9:30am & 11:30am
Reflections from the Southern Border

Join us this Sunday as we hear initial reflections from our UUAA delegations to the U.S. - Mexico border. What did these delegations experience and learn? Join us this Sunday as we begin the process of sharing and receiving the learnings from these delegations.

December 22 | 9:30am & 11:30am
We Dream in the Darkness

Honoring the Winter Solstice

"Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly."

- from Shelley Jackson Denham's "Dark of Winter" (SLT Hymn 55)

December 24 | 4:30, 7:00pm, 9:00pm
Honoring Christmas Eve

4:30pm

A holiday worship service for all ages. We will re-create the ancient Christian story of Jesus's birth with a "no-rehearsal" pageant! Participants will be chosen during the service and can be any age (no reading or acting abilities are necessary).

PLEASE NOTE: There are no classes for children, nursery and preschool will be closed. We will have plenty of family-friendly seating in the service.

7:00pm & 9:00pm

Carols and stories, old and new. Candles for hope. Warm gifts of companionship, of singing, of presence.

December 29 | 9:30am & 11:30am
Begin with Stillness

We look to a new year of spiritual quest and community building, heeding the wisdom of contemporary UU theologian Kathleen McTigue. We "pause for a moment on the forming edges of our lives, to resist the headlong tumble into the next moment." In this multigenerational service, we will participate in rituals to release the previous year and clear the way for the year ahead.

Peace,

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Director of Worship and Music,
for our community's Worship and Music Team members:

Allison Halerz, Pianist-in-Residence

Rev. Cassandra Hartley, Assistant Minister for Spiritual Growth
& Development

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister for Operations



Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister
t
heresa rohlick, M. Div.



Christmas Eve Usher & Greeter Signup



On Christmas Eve, the UUAU halls and Sanctuary will be bursting with joy. Volunteers are needed to make the celebrations run smoothly and make UUAU a welcoming place to visitors and long-time congregants. If you are interested in ushering or greeting, [use this link to sign up](#), or sign up at the Involvement Table during Social Hours on Sundays November 24, December 1, 8, and 15. Questions? Contact Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Vision 20/50 | Three Things to Know



Last Call for Visioning Sessions Through December 16, Online Survey Available

Close to 200 congregants have shared their wisdom through the [Visioning Session](#)

[small groups](#) and the [online survey](#). (Signups and survey are available at uuaa.org/vision.) Make sure your perspective is heard so that your views are represented as we move on to setting priorities for putting our resources to work to change our world.

There are new opportunities available to [join a small group session](#) through December 16. Small-group participants are reporting the value of doing the work in a group, as the discussion encourages more creativity and inspiration about our future. However, if you absolutely can't make it to a session, please fill in the [online survey](#) by January 10.

Mark Your Calendar for January 26 | All Congregation Planning Session

Instead of the usual second service on January 26, all congregants are asked to serve the UUAU community by taking part in a discernment and planning meeting based on the data collected in the Visioning Sessions. Consultant Elandria Williams will be here to guide us through some creative planning exercises as the next step in building our vision and the action plans that that vision requires.

Questions About the Visioning Process?

The Visioning Leadership Team will hold an open Q&A session at UUAU after the second service on Sunday, December 1. All inquiring minds are welcome! To view some of the raw data collected from the Visioning Sessions, go to uuaa.org/vision. Take a look, but please remember that this is preliminary data that is used for practice and may not reflect the results from the final, much larger, data set.

Learn more at uuaa.org/vision, or contact Board of Trustees Co-chairs Laura Bollettino at laurab@umich.edu or Rick Witten at rawitten@gmail.com.



UUAU Policy Crowdsourcing

In the spirit of collaboration being nurtured at UUAU, you're invited to help craft the policies that help our congregation run well. Policies are part of how this community puts covenant into action.

In support of this crowdsourced process, we might provide you a basic outline of goals for a future policy that we would like your help in drafting, all the way up to and including the possibility of reviewing a nearly finished draft. While all feedback is valued, please be aware that some suggestions may not make it into the final adopted policy.

To participate in the crowdsourcing, you'll need access to Google Drive, where the drafts live. The Google document will track everyone's edits by user name, which helps in case we need more information. (If you don't already have a Google account, please visit <https://www.google.com/drive/> for details.)

Go to <https://forms.gle/qUwjKfuhkWeDMNFJ6> to get started. Thank you for being part of this experiment in collective wisdom!



For Your Calendar



UUAA FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

Friday, December 6

6:00pm - 9:00pm

\$5 suggested donation or \$20 per family

Winter Fun

Featuring

- * Taco bar, salad bar, chocolate cupcakes w/peppermint
- * Visit from Santa Claus
- * All ages karaoke
- * Tom's Game Room
- * Movie: *Ice Age*
- * Documentary: *Who is Dayani Cristal?* Discussion afterward led by UUAA's Immigration Action Coalition
- * Craft: Butterfly tiles and crafts of the season
- * Infant and toddler childcare available

Friday Fun Night regularly serves both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. If you need other dietary accommodations, please email us at fridayfunnight@uuaa.org a week in advance. We also invite everyone to bring their own table setting, if able.

Plant-Powered Family Potluck * Saturday, December 7

Please join us for a vegan potluck in the Social Hall from noon to 2:00pm. Bring a plant-based vegan dish without meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or other animal products. Enjoy the company of fellow mindful eaters, share information, and eat delicious food! Please bring your own table service and serving tools.

Questions? Contact Sheila at sheilasanders@comcast.net.

Community of Writers Winter Reading * Sunday, December 8



On Sunday, December 8, the members of the UUAA Community of Writers invite the congregation to join them for their afternoon Winter Reading, 1:15pm-2:45pm in Jackson Chapel. The writers will read the diverse original writings they have been composing during the past year and presenting to the Community of Writers' group at their monthly meetings. These writings will include poetry, fiction (stories and novel segments), memoir excerpts, prose poetry, song, and creative nonfiction. At the Winter Reading the Writers will be pleased to read their work to family and friends and all congregants interested in writing with a supportive, congenial group who share their writings in confidence and encourage each other in the genre each person is pursuing. Following the reading, everyone is welcome to enjoy a time of coffee and pastries and conversation with the writers.

The Community of Writers' first meeting of the new year will be January 19 (meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month). We have shared leadership that encourages members to lead a meeting if they would like to suggest a theme for everyone to develop in their writing for that session, such as a significant event or social issue; an aspect of the writing craft, such as narrative voice or imagery; the pursuit of publishing; and much more. In 2020, we hope to continue our Summer Reading in June, our participation in the Open House of the Adult SGD activities in the Fall, for which we compiled a sampling of our writings volunteered by 13 members, and a further exchange of visits with the Farmington Hills Unitarian-Universalist Congregation's Creative Writing Group. We welcome all those of the congregation interested in a group who consider every person a writer and share the goal of supporting each other with positive commentary and friendly encouragement.

Questions? Contact Co-Facilitator of UUAA Community of Writers Mary Lund at mlund@mi.rr.com.



Mothers and Others * Saturday, December 14

Mothers and Others | A Group for Caregivers of Young Children



Join our group of caregivers of young children for fellowship, support, and friendship! Mothers, fathers, grandparents, foster parents, and others are all welcome to join! We typically meet for playgroups in the UUAA nursery on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 10:15am. Please note that there will be no playgroup on December 28. For details, join our email list by emailing Charlene Mangi at Charlene.Mangi@gmail.com.



Detroit Handbell Choir Concert * Saturday, December 14

Come experience the joy of handbell music in a free concert performed by the renowned Detroit Handbell Ensemble. The concert will be at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary.



The Detroit Handbell Ensemble will be performing a variety of holiday-inspired music on handbells and handchimes. Come and celebrate the holidays with a joyful concert for friends and family. All are welcome.

Sponsored by the UUAU Music Team. For more information, contact [theresa.rohlick](mailto:theresa.rohlick@uuuaa.org) at theresa@uuuaa.org.



Black Congregants @ UUAU & POC Potluck * Sunday, December 15



Black Congregants @ UUAU (formally BLUU) and People of Color (POC) Gatherings are hosting a Winter Potluck on Sunday, December 15 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. We will use email for meal planning and to share additional event details. Not sure you are on the email list? Send a note to Quiana@uuuaa.org. This will be a closed event. All those who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) are welcome to attend. We are encouraging BIPOC children and youth to attend! Questions? Email Social Justice and Pastoral Care Coordinator Quiana Perkins at Quiana@uuuaa.org.



One-Time Chalice Circle for Newcomers * Sunday, December 15



If you are new to UUAU within the past year and would like to delve more deeply into the UU Principles and experience a small group spiritual discussion, join the December Newcomer Chalice Circle on Sunday, December 15 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up by Sunday, December 8. If you would like childcare for this event, please register by Monday, December 2. [Register online using this link](#) or email Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.org.



News and Announcements

Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Survey Results

Thanks to all of the 87 participants in the Accessibility and Inclusion Survey, which we did at the start of the year. A summary of the results is available online at [AIM Survey Results 2019](#). Many participants felt that we could do more for congregants with disabilities to enable everyone to participate in our spiritual community fully. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 'disabilities' is an umbrella

term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions." It's important to remember that each of us is likely to have a disability at some time or another in our lifetime.

Periodically, we'll highlight an area of the survey to share with you, and we'd love your feedback. AIM will continue its work this year in seeking to help UUAA to become an even more welcoming congregation for people with disabilities.

We invite you to join in this effort. Please come to our monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at UUAA in person or via video conference. If the meeting time doesn't work for you, we hope you'll consider joining the AIM list serve to keep up with projects where you might like to contribute. All you need to do is send an email to AIM@uuaa.org, and you will be added.



Alpha House



Alpha House is a shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. Four times per year, UUAA hosts a service week at Alpha House. As I write this, our Thanksgiving host week is a week away. Thank you in advance to everyone who volunteered and donated financially! Your donations help purchase food needed for breakfast and lunches during our host week, as well as household cleaners and more. When extra money is donated, we are able to fill emergency needs.

Recently some of these funds were used to buy nursing bras and infant onesies for a shelter mom in her ninth month of pregnancy.

There are dates in December that no congregation is signed up to host. Alpha House staff has requested volunteers to provide meals during the week before Christmas. If you volunteer for those dates, you are responsible for the entire meal, not just one dish, for about 16-24 people.

Find the open dates here: <https://tinyurl.com/AHOpenShifts>

Dinners families like: taco bar, baked potato bar, baked or fried chicken with cooked greens, lasagna (some vegetarian option please), or pizza and salad.

Brunches families like: pancakes, eggs, sausage and vegan sausage alternative; customized waffles made with your waffle iron, plus bacon and vegan alternative.

As of November 17, there is one vegan and one vegetarian (with tomato and cinnamon allergies) living at Alpha House. You can find up-to-date details about allergies, the number of people to cook for, and a list of favorite meals here: (<https://tinyurl.com/AHResidents>). You can see the meals served recently here: (<https://tinyurl.com/AHPastMeals>).

You can also call 734-822-0220 to check whether they have pancake mix, dressing, sauces, cheese, etc. that can be used or to ask anything about dietary concerns.

Questions? Contact our coordinators at AlphaHouse@uuaa.org.

Annual Auction 2020 at UJAA | An Evening in Paris



The Auction is in March this Year!

People have been abuzz - asking "When is the auction this year? What is the theme? How do I volunteer?" To be clear, "people" is a broad term encompassed in its entirety by the author of this article but, so defined, "people" have been buzzing like bees.

So, do we have a theme? Mais oui! Our theme this year is "An Evening in Paris." So dig out that beret!

Do we have a date and location? Bien sur! It is Saturday, March 21, 2020, right here at UJAA.

What more do you need to know? The auction is the congregation's largest fundraiser, and also serves as a community builder. As always, there will be food, music, and lots to bid on. Some call the auction "formidable!"

Why are we bothering you so far ahead of the big day? Because, like Uncle Sam (and Frere Jacques), we need you. The auction is full of big and small jobs - from setup to teardown to bartending. Soon we'll be meeting between services in the Sunderland Library to plan out the event, and we hope you can join us. Check the *Bulletin* for dates and times.

If meetings aren't your thing but you have ideas or would like to help, email us at auktion@uuaa.org.

Merci beacoup!

Black Congregants @ UJAA (formerly BLUU)



On Saturday, November 2, members of the UJAA community gathered to watch the Black Lives of UU Jordan Harper Memorial Symposium Worship. This event was open to all and sponsored by Black Congregants @ UJAA (formerly BLUU) and the Challenging Racism Group.

Reese Havlatka offered these reflections on their participation:

I had the privilege of joining a group of UJAA congregants in streaming the live broadcast of the worship service from the BLUU Symposium. It was a morning of firsts: the first time I had participated remotely in a worship service; the first time I had participated in a worship service led by all Black clergy and religious educators; the first time the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism had offered a gathering that was open to all. And what a gathering!

When the congregants in St. Paul passed the candle for the chalice all the way around the sanctuary, every hand touching the light, I felt the power of that sacred space echo through to the Jackson Chapel where we stood in a much smaller circle, our shoulders touching, looking for beloved familiar faces on the screen.

As a still-new UU, I am still learning the history of the church: its (our) failings, its (our) silences, its (our) long legacy of racism and anti-Blackness. The worship service opened my eyes to both the tenacity of white supremacy culture within the church and the resilience and complexity of Black Liberation theology. Even so, in my own free and responsible search for truth and meaning, I must remember that Black UUs were here long before I saw them.

Thank you, Reese, for your open honest sharing!

Black Congregants @ UUAA anticipates hosting other all-are-welcome events in the Spring. Be on the lookout!

Questions? Email Social Justice and Pastoral Care Coordinator Quiana Perkins at Quiana@uuaa.org.



Challenging Racism

Greetings!

Co-chairs of Challenging Racism Group (CRG) Kathy McLean and Margaret Pekarek were part of the UUAA November Delegation to the southern border. We were based in Tucson, traveled to Mexico, and have had it reinforced that racism propels our border policy, reinforcing our overall interest in the intersection of social justice issues. Be sure to attend the Sunday service on December 15, focusing on US Immigration Policy and the experiences of our two delegations at the border.

Join us on Wednesday, December 11 (6:30pm to 8:30pm), for a discussion of the documentary of *Banished* about land stolen from Black families in two southern towns in the early 20th century.

A forum on the Poor Peoples Campaign by three prominent members of the PPC was well attended. Our cosponsor for that event was the Unity Group. CRG will inform its members of PPC events where we can lend our support. If you wish to join our email list to receive these and other announcements, please contact Larry Works, communications lead for CRG at Lawrence.works@gmail.com.

Three members of CRG attended the anti-racism seminar "Doing Our Own Work" this Fall. Information about future seminars can be found on the web site Allies for Change.

Books: Consider delving into *Separated* by William Lopez as part of your holiday reading; we anticipate discussions with Immigration Action. Likewise, please consider the UUA Common Read for this year: *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. CRG will hold discussions in March 2020. Copies of this book are available to borrow in the UUAA main office.

The next meeting of CRG will be Monday, December 2 at 7:00pm in the Brown Room. Please gather with us for socializing at 6:30pm if you wish.

Questions? Contact Co-Chair of Challenging Racism Group Margaret Pekarek at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com.





What are you doing next June? Are you thinking of attending General Assembly (GA) Wednesday, June 24, through Sunday, June 28, 2020? GA, the annual gathering of 4,000+ Unitarian Universalists from around the world, will be in Providence, RI, with the theme of "Rooted, Inspired, & Ready." As usual, those who attend GA will be able to select from many informative workshops, inspiring worship, and an exhibit hall.

Something new this year is that registration is open months earlier than usual. The early bird registration fee is \$400, and this year you can pay your registration in installments over several months, as long as you pay it in full by February 29, 2020. You can register at uua.org/ga/registration. Registration rates will increase on March 16.

Hotel reservations will be available beginning on March 2 at 9:00 am Eastern Time.

If you have any questions, please contact the Denominational Connections Team at denomination@uuaa.org.



Humanist Groups



Are You a Humanist?

Do you believe that we must decide for ourselves what the meaning of our lives is? Do you believe that humans, rather than a supreme being, define morality and ethics? Do you believe that God is created in humans' image? If you answer yes to any of these questions, or if you are unsure of the answers, then consider joining this group that is searching for answers to these questions.

Humanism has a long history in our congregation. A lively group of humanists has been meeting for about 20 years. The current group of about 20 members gathers to discuss topics relating to humanist philosophy, theology, morals, ethics, reasoning, science, and more.

There are two Humanist discussion groups. The Thursday Humanists Group and Monday Humanists Group discuss the same issues, with some of the same participants, and sometimes with the same discussion leaders. Both groups provide varied, lively discussion opportunities.

All are welcome at either or both of these meetings at UUA:

Thursdays, December 5 and 19 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Mondays, December 9 and 23 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Currently 85 people have chosen to subscribe to our email list, receiving interesting articles and commentary, as well as notices about upcoming meetings. Contact Hal to subscribe to our list.

For more information about the Thursday group, contact Bruce Gibb at

blgibb@aol.com.

For more information about the Monday group or to be put on the Humanist email list, contact Hal Breidenbach at hal@breidenbach.net.

Leadership Development Team (LDT)



The Leadership Development Team (LDT) is launching a process of learning and discernment to inform the congregation about how we elect our lay leaders. Although the bylaws do not specify how many nominees should be proposed per elected position, for many years the practice has been to have a single nominee for each position to be filled. Additionally, the bylaws allow for write-in candidates.

The Leadership Development Team, whose responsibility is to develop leaders, has also had the responsibility of selecting who will be the nominee for each position. At the same time, Unitarian Universalists aspire to use the democratic process in managing their congregational politics. Our congregation has grown in membership and in diversity; these are very welcome changes. The LDT would like to determine whether the current process of nominating leaders is democratic and inclusive. If there were more than one candidate for open positions, would this allow for more perspectives and increased diversity? What are the implications of presenting choices to congregants?

The LDT has appointed a committee to lead an investigation on the matter. The committee's members are Bruce Gibb, Pat Herbst, Elizabeth LaPorte, Terry Madden, and Pete Mooney. They will organize activities to solicit input, including a forum, a questionnaire, and a reporting session. The committee will also contact other congregations to learn how they elect their leaders and why they do it in one or another way. If you are interested in sharing your opinion, being involved in some way, or learning more about this, please use the form at <https://forms.gle/xvUwm7X7co4hkHZf7>.

Questions? Email ldt@uuuaa.org.

Multicultural Outreach | Kwanzaa



Have you heard of Kwanzaa?

What is Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa is a pan-African holiday that celebrates family, community, and culture. It was created by Dr. M. Karenga in 1966. The seven-day event starts on December 26 and ends on January 1, 2020.

How is it celebrated?

During the holiday, families and communities organize activities around the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles); one principle per day of celebration.

What are the Seven Principles?

Umoja (Unity)
Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)
Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
[Ujamaa \(Cooperative Economics\)](#)
Nia (Purpose)
Kuumba (Creativity)
Imani (Faith).

One important feature of the celebration is having a Mkeka (mat) in your home where you may place other items such as a [Kinara](#) (candle holder), Mishumaa Saba (seven candles), mazao (crops), Mahindi (corn), a Kikombe cha Umoja (unity cup) for commemorating and giving shukrani (thanks) to African Ancestors, and Zawadi (gifts).

Does Kwanzaa replace other winter holiday celebrations?

No, it does not. Many who celebrate Kwanzaa also celebrate other winter holidays or traditions. Many who celebrate use Kwanzaa as a tool to focus on family and community before starting the New Year.

Will UUAA be hosting a celebration?

We are not hosting one this year. However, during the seven days of Kwanzaa, you can check out the Multicultural Outreach page for daily reflections from a UUAA Community member on the Kwanzaa principles and celebration practices.

Questions? Email Quiana@uuaa.org.

Source: <http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/index.shtml>



Pastoral Care



Happy Winter Greetings from the Pastoral Care Team!

In the last month, we have experienced an increase in pastoral care requests for cards, calls, visits, and meals. In order to meet those requests, we will be calling on the network for support.

In the coming month, you can anticipate more direct asks for your time and care. If you see an email titled: PASTORAL CARE REQUEST open as soon as you can and offer what help you are able.

On Sunday, December 15, 2019, we are hosting a Pastoral Care Card Station in

the Social Hall during Social Hours. We will be making cards for those who have lost someone this past year and those members who are homebound. Lastly, we know this time of year can be hard for many people. Here is how to connect with Pastoral Care:

1. Call UAAA at 734-665-6158 and ask for Pastoral Care. During office hours, you will be directed to Quiana Perkins, Pastoral Care Coordinator. After office hours, call the same number and follow the prompts to reach Quiana in the evening or leave a message
2. Send an email to pastoralcare@uuaa.org. (We will attempt to respond to your call or email within 24 hours.)
3. You can speak directly to Quiana or a member of the Care Team on Sunday during the Social Hour after each service. We can be found at the Pastoral Care/Involvement Table at the east end of the Social Hall.



Poinsettia Orders for Christmas Eve



Each year congregants can donate a poinsettia for Christmas Eve Sanctuary decoration. Give in honor or memory of a loved one, whose name will be printed in an insert to the Order of Service. The cost is \$15 per plant. Place your order by December 15 using [this link](#) or at the Poinsettia Table during Social Hours December 1, 8, and 15. You can pick up your plant(s) after the last Christmas Eve service. Questions? Contact Rick Johnson at rjohnson46@gmail.com.



Sunderland Library Checkout Process and Donation Guidelines

The Sunderland Library is a resource for all to use. To search our adult, children's, young adult, or other collections, open the web browser on the computer in the library, or go to <https://tinyurl.com/UUAALibrary> on your computer.

When you are ready to check out a book, fill out a slip from the clear plastic box next to the computer and leave the slip in the "New Checkouts" sleeve. Please return the book within a month.

The adult collection is organized by category - each category is a Tag in

LibraryThing (number of books in category shown):

Unitarian Universalism (113)
Western Faith Traditions (170)
Eastern Faith Traditions (61)
World Faiths & Philosophy (74)
Spirituality (107)
Humanism Ethics & Science (64)
Social Justice (178)
Earth & Environment (48)
Celebrations & Rituals (29)
Child-raising (32)
Fiction & Poetry (18)
Grief and Loss (14)
Healing & Comfort (32)
Mindful Eating (27)
Nature (57)
Relationships Sexuality & Gender (70)
Religious Current Affairs (40)

The Library Committee has no budget and cannot purchase books. We rely on donations to expand our collection and keep it current, but we are running out of room on the shelves. Therefore if you, as an individual or a group, are considering donating a new or used book, please consider these criteria:

- Only donations in the above categories can be considered.
- Only books published in the last 10 years are accepted, unless the topic is historical (and not changing).
- Please search the catalog before you decide to donate a book. We do not have room for duplicates.

The Library Committee decides which books to accept; books that are not accepted go on a "free" shelf (above the "returns" and "donations" boxes). Eventually those not taken will go to Prison Books.

The Library Committee can always use help. Come join us!

Questions? Email library@uuua.org.



Scrip Program at UUAA

Don't want to be a Grinch, but hate the crowds and the shopping? Take the hassle out of Christmas shopping by using scrip cards. You can use the cards yourself to buy gifts or use them as the gifts themselves.

"Double dip." When you buy scrip cards, UUAA receives a donation from the retailer. If you then gift the card to a charity sponsored by UUAA, such as Habitat for Humanity, Alpha House, Community Action Network- Adopt-a-Family, they get the benefit of the card, and you get a happy feeling for helping out two groups with very little effort, plus you receive a deduction on your income taxes.

We also have a selection of low-denomination "tip" cards in stock, or check out <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/browse/70#?saved> for all available \$5 and \$10 gift cards.

Even better, sign up for a Shop with Scrip account and, with PrestoPay or a credit card, you can purchase e-gift cards often delivered within minutes or at a time of your choosing.

Stop by the Scrip Table for more information, help in setting up your Shop with Scrip account, or to make a purchase. Questions? Contact Carolyn Barber at cbarber@umich.edu.



Sharing the Collection



Your Contributions Make a Difference!

The Sharing the Collection committee is happy to share the good news: On November 3, we raised \$2,471 for [IHN/Alpha House](http://alphahouse-ihn.org) (alphahouse-ihn.org).

So far in 2019, we have raised almost \$28,000 to benefit non-profit organizations in Washtenaw County that are serving the needy and the disadvantaged. Mark your calendar for these upcoming collections:

- On Sunday, December 1, to benefit [SOS Community Services](#).
- On Sunday December 15, to benefit [Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights \(WICIR\)](#)

Are you not able to attend services on the Sunday of Sharing the Collection? You can mail a check to UAAA noting "Sharing the Collection" in the memo line. We are in the process of reviewing the nearly two dozen applications we've received for 2020. Please check our page at uaaa.org/sharingthecollection later in December to see the list of our 2020 recipients.

Contact sharecollection@uaaa.org with any questions or suggestions.

The Sharing the Collection Committee: Bob Dinan, Jan Duncan, Casey Jackson, Glenn Kime, and Fran Lyman



Shared Ministries Team (SMT) Charge



"... this is our covenant with each other: to dwell together in peace, to search for truth in love, and to help one another..."

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the lay-staffed Shared Ministries Team (SMT) is to support and nurture the health of the congregation and its many thriving ministries, with a primary focus on operational policies, processes, and communication.

GOALS:

The primary goal of the SMT is to receive, reflect on, and directly respond to feedback from the congregation related to processes, activities, and communication within the community, with an eye towards supporting and productively enhancing these. Congregational processes, activities, and

communication may include the work of the staff, the lay leadership, or members of the congregation, the congregation's operational policies and processes, and the congregation's activities, programs, and ministries. The SMT honors the confidentiality of its internal reflection and deliberation processes, while committed to the transparency of information sharing and outcomes.

The SMT will serve as an open channel in responding to feedback, questions, or the need for additional information that may arise in our increasingly complex organization, in particular paying attention to areas/issues where it may become apparent that there is a significant critical mass of congregational interest.

The SMT may, at times, proactively survey the congregation and staff to solicit feedback on a particular topic, but it is anticipated that most congregational feedback will be in the form of email, phone calls, and personal communications with the SMT and/or the congregation's staff.

The SMT will work collaboratively with the staff to find a way forward on issues that warrant an adjustment of congregational policies or processes and provide clarifying information to inquiring parties when such would be helpful.

The work of the SMT will reflect UUAA and UU values and the congregation's governing policies, and will seek to strengthen the shared covenant-based fabric of our community.

The SMT members will remain fair and impartial in matters related to congregational life, not serving as advocates for individual congregants, the staff, the ministers, specific program areas of the congregation, or specific subgroups of the congregation. The needs of the UUAA community, as a whole, will always be held first and foremost at the center of all that the SMT does.

Members of the SMT will be selected by the senior minister, who will consult with the leadership of the Board of Trustees and the current Chair of the SMT in the selection process. Committee members will serve three-year staggered terms. The committee will report to the senior minister and will submit an annual report on its activities to the congregation's Board of Trustees. The committee will be composed of members who have broad knowledge of UUAA and its organizational systems, are generally trusted by the congregation and its members, and can be relied on to keep the best interests of the full congregation at the heart of their work. The specific number of committee members will be determined by the senior minister, based on the workload and needs of the team.

COLLABORATIVE ROLES:

While it is anticipated that the SMT will focus primarily on over-arching matters related to healthy processes and policies, it is recognized that there is often no way to discuss processes without also discussing relationships and behaviors within the community, touching on the needs of "right relationship" and the healthy embodiment of our UUAA covenant. As such, while the Living Our Values (LOV) Team has primary responsibility for "right relationship" and covenant-based issues and the Shared Ministries Team (SMT) has lead on operational policies, processes, and communication, it is anticipated that both teams will work as closely together as is needed, modeling healthy, ongoing communication, collaboration, and when appropriate, joint action between the two groups.





Social Justice Council wants to honor and recognize Leah Tame who has served as our note taker for the past two years. Her careful attention to details has served to document our discussion and decisions. She will be stepping down from the council as of the end of the year, and we will miss her sunny presence and the service she has given to the council.

On that note, we are looking for new members to join the council. This is an active working group dedicated to helping facilitate the work of the many social justice groups in our congregation. If you are interested in joining us, contact Sally Preston at sally@pctraining.net or Quiana Perkins at quiana@uuua.org.

Quiana Perkins, Connie McGuire, Sally Preston, Leah Tame, Carolyn Madden, Mary Ann Hergenrother, Lora Girata



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest at Your Table



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is more than coffee!

UUSC's annual fundraising effort is called Guest at Your Table. In addition to raising much-needed funds, this year the campaign is highlighting the work of women leaders: Pelenise Alofa, Marta Velasquez, Wai Wai Nu, and Monica Curca! They organize and support communities to address violence against women, genocide, and climate change. These change-makers are redefining social justice work

and collaborative leadership in their role as UUSC partners.

We are asking UUAA congregants to give what they can to support the work of UUSC:

1. **THE YOUTH:** We have enlisted the 3rd and 4th-grade classes to be our journey partners. They can be found most Sundays in the Social Hall seeking funds. Don't forget to ask about the Women Leaders - the kids have lots of knowledge to share!
2. **THE GATHERED:** In the coming weeks, when many folks will gather for a seasonal meal, leave the Guest at Your Table! box on your table. Share your UUSC story and ask folks to give as they are able.
3. **THE DIRECT GIVE:** If you are ready to give, [here is the link](#).
4. **THE SHARING:** Share this email with others who may benefit from hearing the

UUSC story or want to donate in support of UUSC.

We know that the work of the UUSC has a positive impact on a global level. Their reach can also be felt in our Ann Arbor area community as our own social justice connections continue to grow and expand. Giving to UUSC will help amplify our collective voice and local social justice efforts.

We look forward to making a more just world with you.

Questions? Email Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee ([UUSC](#)) [website](#) suggests many ways that we can take part in raising our voices against the travesty that is our southern border and the issues around immigration.

To stop funding abuse at the border and stop racist immigration bans, please contact our Senate and House Representatives, specifically asking them to back spending bills that lower funding levels for ICE and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and to eliminate all funding for Migrant Protection Protocols, e.g., remain in Mexico protocols) and be sure that these agencies cannot shift or reprogram funds designated for other purposes. Also, be aware of so-called invisible walls: the first, safe third-country agreements the government is working on arrange with Guatemala, Honduras, and el Salvador to agree to accept deported immigrants without ever having had an asylum hearing in the US. The second invisible wall bans asylum for anyone who sought asylum in another country and cannot prove that they were denied.

Please consider a contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the UU international assistance arm.

Questions or comments? Contact Quincy Northrup at qnorthrup@gmail.com.



Becoming a Member



Becoming a Member

Stepping Stones

- ✚ Experience being part of the congregation by attending Sunday services and seeking out groups of interest.
- ✚ Learn about UU faith and history by attending an Introduction to Our Faith Class. (For information about registering for an upcoming Introduction to Our Faith class, check the Sunday Bulletin or contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.)
- ✚ Upon completing Introduction to Our Faith and learning about the rights and responsibilities of membership, arrange with the Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss to sign the membership book and submit paperwork.

Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines * Holiday Schedule

Note Revised December Deadlines Due to the Holidays

Weekly Bulletin Deadline **Wednesdays at 5:00pm**

Submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 90 words or fewer. Send submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

Special December 22, 29, & January 5 Combined Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday, December 17 at 9:00am

There will be one combined issue of the December 22, 29, and January 5 Bulletin. Send submissions of 90 words or fewer to bulletin@uuaa.org.

January Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, December 14 at 9:00am

Please note the earlier deadline due to the holidays. All submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org

Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Change of Contact Information?

If you have had a change in name, residence, email address, or phone number over the past year and would like to update your information with UUA, [use this link](#) or email Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.



Two-Service-Season Hours * Sunday, September 8 - Sunday, May 24

Sunday | 8:30am-4:00pm

Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-9:00pm

1st & 3rd Friday | 5:00pm-9:00pm

Other Fridays | Closed

Saturday | 9:00am-4:00pm

Office: Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-5:00pm

Holiday Opening/Closing:

Closed Wednesday, December 25 through Sunday, December 29 at 9:00am.

Open Sunday, December 29 (9:00am-1:00pm)

Closed Monday, December 30-January 4.

Resume regular schedule Sunday, January 5.



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor | office@uuaa.org | 734-665-6158 | www.uuaa.org

See what's happening on our social sites:

