



First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

UUAA September 2020 Newsletter

August 2020 Newsletter - Vol 16, Issue 8



To view the entire *Monthly Newsletter*, scroll down to the bottom and click on "view entire message."

Weaving Worship



Sunday Worship **Sundays, 11:30am**

Join us virtually on Sundays for inspirational music, readings, and reflections. Link for Sunday Services: <http://uuaa.org/Service>

September 6, 2020

A service to celebrate and honor the lives of our LGBTQIA+ communities. As a member of the Interfaith Roundtable of Washtenaw County, we helped to weave a time to lift up these lives with our pride and prayer, and recommit ourselves to the work of freedom made real for all people. This Sunday and always, may the tapestry of love woven with our partners in faith nearby bring warmth, rest, and shelter for all.

September 13, 2020

Our annual in gathering (return from the summer) Water Communion symbolizes the confluence of the gifts we all bring to the congregation. Watch the Weekly E-News for information about how we all can participate.

Welcome UU Back Week (WUUBW)

September 10 - September 21

The Water Communion in gathering launches the new congregational year and Welcome UU Back Week -- a series of Zoom sessions covering important topics like Membership, Stewardship, Music and Congregational Life during virtual times. WUUBW sessions will be facilitated by staff and lay leaders. Look for a schedule and sign up details in upcoming Weekly E-News.

Questions? Quiana@uuaa.org.

To view or listen to past Sunday Services, [click here](#).



If you would like to contribute to the Weekly Offering, [click here](#).

For Your Calendar

Caregiver Support Group * Wednesday, September 2



Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group

The Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by the UUAU Pastoral Care Team in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, meets regularly the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00pm-4:30pm. If you are caring for a loved one and looking for support as you navigate the world of Alzheimer's or dementia, please email Meredith at meredith1888@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Wednesday Meditation * Wednesdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30



Wednesday Meditation Wednesdays, 4:00pm-5:00pm

All are welcome to practice a form of Buddhist meditation with fellow congregants.

[Use this link: www.uuaa.org/meditation](http://www.uuaa.org/meditation)

Are you interested in learning more about meditation?

- Watch Introduction to Meditation produced by Rev. Manish on our UUAU YouTube Channel. [Use this link](#). (Posted 4/9)

Questions? Contact Charley Burleigh at chburleigh@aol.com.

Welcome UU Back * Thursday-Sunday, September 10-20



UUAU is excited to welcome UU back into the 2020-2021 program year! This year will be unique as we move to online formats for much of our programming. During Welcome

UU Back Week (WUUBW), September 10- September 21, we will have a chance to gather, learn, engage, and support each other on this journey.

WUUBW will be a series of zoom sessions covering important topics, including Membership, Stewardship, Music, and Congregational Life. WUUBW sessions will be facilitated by staff and lay leaders and held at various times to accommodate the unique needs of our community.

Some session we have planned:

Thursday, Sept 10- Multicultural Outreach BIPOC Business meeting 6:00 pm

Monday, Sept 14-Social Justice at UUAA 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept 16- Communications 11:00 am

Thursday, Sept 17- Music at UUAA 6:00 pm

Saturday, Sept 19- Chalice Circle Information session 12:00

AND MANY MORE!

A final schedule, registration, and zoom links will be shared in all the regular communication spaces starting the week of Aug 31, 2020 questions? Quiana@uuaa.org

Alpha House Host Week * Monday-Sunday, September 14-20



Alpha House Special Host Week

Alpha House is an emergency shelter for families temporarily experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. UUAA provides dinner each night during our host week, and hot breakfast on weekends. When possible, we also supervise children's activity time after dinner.

In July, August and September, Alpha House doesn't have a host congregation each week. Our UUAA Alpha House Coordinating Committee has agreed to take on a special host week Monday-Sunday, September 14-20, to help with the need. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sign up online at tinyurl.com/AHSep20 to help financially, donate a dish, heat meals, or oversee outdoor activity time.

Food drop-off is contactless and no more than two volunteers are allowed inside at one time. Volunteers who enter the shelter must wear a mask, be checked for temperature upon arrival, and surveyed about COVID symptoms.

As the host week draws near, our committee will be in touch with the staff to get any last-minute updates for our volunteers. If you would like a chance to discuss the updates before your volunteer slot, sign up for the volunteer meeting on Sunday, September 13.

Questions? Contact AlphaHouse@uuuaa.org

UUAA Book Worms * Thursday, September 17



UUAA Book Worms

Do you love to read but haven't had the time to join a book club? A new book club is kicking off on Thursday, September 17 at 7:00pm via Zoom. UUAA Book Worms will be restricted to eight new members and we have two spots left! Our September book selection is *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver. If you have questions or are a committed reader and would like to give it a try, email Liz Hartley at lizzyt48176@gmail.com.

Newcomer Chalice Circle * Saturday, September 19



Newcomer Chalice Circle

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

If you are new to UUAA in the past year or find yourself with the time you always wanted to explore UU, join us in delving more deeply into the seven UU Principles. Experience a small-group, spiritual discussion with fellow inquisitive minds and hearts in this one-time Newcomer Chalice Circle.

Sign up using [this link](#) by Monday, September 14 or email Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.org. You will receive a Zoom link once you have registered.

This group is limited to 6 participants. Hannah will contact you if you are put on the wait list.

Annual Men's Retreat * Saturday, September 19



CHANGE!

2020 is a year of changes and disruptions: a pandemic, police brutality, civil unrest, a divisive election, and the inability to gather with others.

Are we at an inflection point? Can we navigate the disruptions alone? What is needed from us?

Consider these questions at the Men's Retreat -- a mostly virtual

gathering with optional small, in-person gatherings.

The \$25 registration fee covers a tee-shirt and donation to a local non-profit.

Register by September 12 at

<https://forms.gle/TbW4H11hC3FJwpSc8>. Questions? Email Tom Reischl at treischl57@gmail.com.



News and Announcements

Chalice Circles



Are you looking for a way to connect with fellow congregants at UUAA? Are you seeking opportunities to share your truths in a safe/brave space?

The 2020-2021 Chalice Circle season is ready to start on Zoom.

Chalice Circles are a great way to build new connections and discover new ways that UUAA can be meaningful in your life. Find a program that suits your needs--this year's Chalice Circle offerings include:

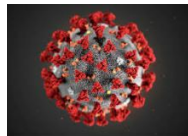
- **Traditional 14-session** Chalice Circle, meeting twice a month, early October through end of April. Registration in September at this [link](#).
- **6-session** Chalice Circles, held weekly. Initial sessions will be held early October through mid-November. Registration in September at this [link](#). Based on this pilot, other sessions may be offered in 2021.
- **Monthly Newcomer Chalice Circles:** Newcomers to UUAA can get to know each other while exploring the Principles. Registration links for these sessions are posted in the *Weekly E-News* and *Monthly Newsletters* or by contacting the

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

- **Monthly One-Time** Chalice Circles, for those who just want to try out a circle or are unable to make a multiple session commitment. Registration will be announced in the [Bulletin\[SS1\]](#) a few weeks before the Circles are held.

For more information, please attend the Welcome UU Back Chalice Circle [Drop-in Information Session](#) on Saturday, September 19, 12:00pm–1:00pm, or email ChaliceCircles@uuaa.org

Covid Update from UUA



Dear Members of our Beloved UUA Community:

As many of you are aware, UUA's COVID-19 Advisory Team has been meeting consistently throughout the summer, following local and national trends, and discerning the best way forward this fall for our UUA community. Guiding us in this work has been Governor Whitmer's Safe Start Plan for Michigan (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI_SAFE_START_PLAN_689875_7.pdf), information emerging from our Washtenaw County Health Department (<https://www.washtenaw.org/3108/Cases>), and guidance from our denomination (<https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/covid-19>), among other resources.

In support of the critical public health needs in our state - and in light of the high percentage of our community members who have age, family or health-related risk factors - UUA will continue its current mode of virtually-focused operations through at least December 31, 2020.

In addition to protecting our community, this plan will allow us to watch and learn from other institutions in the area - including local universities and school districts - as they gradually open up throughout the Fall. Our COVID-19 Advisory Team will continue to closely follow and assess the public health situation in Michigan and what may be permissible under the Michigan Safe Start Plan.

Please note that outdoor gatherings of groups of 15 or less are still permissible on UUA grounds. For more information, please read the [Outdoor Use During the Pandemic Policy](#) and use the [outdoor space reservation form](#) to request a space.

As noted above, there are many members who, due to various risk

factors, will choose not to participate in-person even outdoors. **So it is critical that all UUAA groups and activities continue to plan for and provide virtual modes of participation until all of us can safely gather in-person again.** Our community's commitment to accessibility requires us to do our best to not inadvertently exclude anyone because of health concerns. To reserve one of our congregation's Zoom rooms for online meetings, visit: uuaa.org and click on "request a room" on the bottom of the page.

As lay-led UUAA groups and activities consider their fall plans, please know that there are resources that can be drawn on. Staff member Quiana Perkins, in her new role as Coordinator of Congregational Life, will be working with our lay-led UUAA groups in an advisory and support role. Quiana can be reached at: quiana@uuaa.org.

In addition, the COVID-19 Advisory Team continues to field specific questions from UUAA groups related to pandemic-era health and safety planning. Questions for the COVID-19 Advisory Team can be directed to Executive Minister Cassandra Hartley at: cassandra@uuaa.org. Rev. Cassandra will ensure that your query reaches the Advisory Team.

Please take good care of yourselves – you are each beloved and dear to us and to our whole community. **Our annual ingathering (return from the summer) Water Communion Sunday service will be on Sunday, September 13, 2020.** We hope that you will mark your calendars, as we look toward our community more fully regathering (virtually) in a few weeks.

With much gratitude for your care and support of us,

The Members of the UUAA COVID-19 Advisory Team: Jim Lee, Laura Bauman, Jim Marks, Tom Reischl, Cassandra Hartley, Quiana Perkins, & Manish Mishra-Marzetti

Congregational Life



This is my first newsletter article as the Coordinator of Congregation Life. When I was offered this role, I eagerly said YES! Even when, honestly, I was unsure of what that meant.

In the time since that ask, I have researched this role denomination-wide, asked others who hold this title, and most importantly, listened to the UUAA community.

We have a dynamic and robust community at UUAA. We have no

less than 35 lay lead groups that cover Social Justice, Spiritual + Social Connections, and Affinity Groups.

Our impact is far-reaching; locally we support Farmer Bill's (Mindful Eating), statewide we have various connections to prisons and jail abolition (Prison Books) and nationally, we work in partnership with Black Lives of UU (Black Congregants at UUAA).

This new role is a chance to deep dive and support all of our groups in their goals and ensure they are aligned with the larger congregational goals, mission, and vision.

How will this play out in real time? I will serve as staff liaison for all of these groups. I will be in conversation and offer support to help them thrive. At times, I will be attending group meetings, I can assist groups to generate marketing plans for major events or collaboration building with external partners.

I also get to do amazing congregation-wide events like Welcome UU Back Week, where we come back into the community, showcase the best of UUAA, and joyfully anticipate the year ahead. I am excited about this new role and all the possibilities it holds. I look forward to being in a beloved community with you all.

Quiana Perkins
Coordinator of Congregation Life



Multicultural Outreach Launch



Multicultural Outreach is excited to start the 2020-2021 program year.

We want to share that DRUMM ([DRUMM LINK](#)) is holding a regional online gathering on Saturday, September 12, 2020, from

10:00am-1:00pm ET. Please use the link to learn more and to register.

BLUU ([BLUU Facebook](#)) is hosting weekly Vibe and Lunch events, Worship twice a month and BLUU Berries Jam, youth program will be starting soon. Event details and registration can be found on the closed Facebook page.

Locally, we are excited to announce the first meeting of the year: Thursday, September 10, 6:00pm. Black Congregants at UUAA and POC Gatherings will have a joint business meeting. We will look at leadership roles and events for the next coming months. Youth and young adults are encouraged to attend.

Please note this will be a closed meeting; for those who identify as BIPOC.

The link is shared by request by emailing Quiana@uuuaa.org.

Pastoral Care



Falling Back into Community Care!

UUAA's Pastoral Care network has grown over the past two years. We have a robust network of congregant to congregant care that can respond to a variety of needs. As we head into the Fall, you can anticipate Pastoral Care offering programming that allows for more support and connection. We are considering many options, Fall Q (uarantine) Buddies, topic-based pastoral care hours (ex: Economic Concerns, Parents + Caregivers), and more.

You can join us during Welcome UU Back Week! We will be sharing more details of our Fall offerings on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, Congregational Life session.

Please note if you or someone you know needs care, you can email at pastoralcare.org or call 734-665-6158 ext. 2. Also, a member of the PC Team remains available during Social Hour; alert the host if you need Pastoral Care.

The pastoral care team thanks you for being the Beloved community!

UUCivs



UUCivs: Vote Your Values

Now's the time to prepare for mail-in voting, and UUCivs can help.

Absentee ballots for the November 3 election should be available starting September 24.

Vote early to ensure your ballot is counted--use a dropbox if available.

- **Need to register** or verify you're eligible to vote? Helping someone register or vote absentee? [Use this Non-Partisan Voting Guide](#).
- **Zoom Voting Clinics** will walk you through the process of

getting and using an absentee ballot.

Dates:

Sunday, September 13, 5:30pm

Monday, September 14, 7:00pm

Thursday, September 17, 7:00pm

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/2EiHAsj> Please share this widely!

- **Have a voting question?** Contact the Voting Helpline at 1-855-868-3311 or VotingHelpline@gmail.com.

Outreach & Donation Update:

Thank you!! We've received \$855 in individual contributions, \$500 from UUA's Social Justice Council (SJC), and a \$500 grant from the UUA. The SJC and UUA funds are being used to support Returning Citizens (those formerly incarcerated) with an educational video, Voting Kits, and voting information.

The individual gifts have created over 3000 postcards, posters, and fliers already distributed to community partners, plus 250 Voting Kits to help individuals claim their right to vote. Additional thanks to UUA for in-kind support of photocopying, and to an individual donor for Voting Kit postage.

Requests for voting materials increase daily through word-of-mouth and our partners who are asking for more. Last week, we started providing voter information to 800 Ypsilanti families through a food distribution program, and we have over 20 other organizations interested and standing by. There is clearly a need for voting support in our underserved communities, so our new goal is \$2500 - \$3000 to fulfill these requests.

Time is tight--most of this work needs to be done by the end of September. If you can help us meet our goal, donate to "UUCivs" on the [UUA giving page](#). Or get involved at UUCivs@uuaa.org.



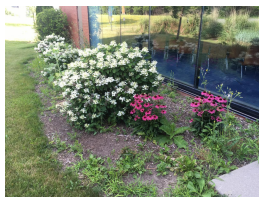
Room Reservations at UUA for 2020-2021 Accepting Reservations Now

With the uncertainty brought on by Covid-19, we ask UUA groups to plan with Zoom in mind for the fall.

We encourage all recognized groups to submit their [Zoom room reservations](#) now. When the building reopens, we can easily convert your Zoom room to an actual room. One bonus while we are meeting virtually, Zoom rooms are available all

Friday and Saturday evenings.

Questions? Email Debita Graham at room@uuaa.org.



Our Land Needs You!

The congregation took a break from the land, but unfortunately the weeds did not! Now that our land is open again, we would love your help - even if it's just a couple of hours. If you're willing to help with weeding flower beds, trimming and pruning trails, repairing trail markers and sign posts, or any other gardening tasks, please contact our Building Manager, Don Hackney, at don@uuaa.org.



UU Scrip Program

Good news from Amazon Smile! Thank you to the thoughtful shoppers who remembered to access Amazon Smile (linked to UUAA) when making online purchases. Our quarterly earnings were almost \$57. At a 0.50% rebate, this translates to \$11,382 in qualified purchases from Amazon. Many thanks to our nameless friends. But just as a reminder, if you had also used Amazon scrip (2.25% rebate) for the purchase, we could have cleared another \$256. Please contact me at 734-665-0884 or cmbarber@umich.edu if you'd like to know how to maximize your contribution to the congregation.



UUSC Coffee Project

Equal Exchange coffee and chocolates are for sale again! This will be a curbside pickup or delivery with no contact program. Orders may be picked up in Ann Arbor (not at UUAA) or delivered to your home. See what we have in stock [using this link](#). Place your order online by emailing uuaaequalexchangeorder@gmail.com or by calling Cathy Whitaker at 419-283-3430 or Ilene Beninson at 248-376-7031. All sales benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and this congregation.



Sharing the Collection Your Contributions Make a Difference!

On the first Sunday of each month, the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor donates our collection to nonprofit community service

organizations in the furtherance of their important work.

The Sharing the Collection committee is happy to share the good news: On July 19 we raised \$1210 for [Michigan UU Social Justice Network](#) (MUUSJN)

Mark your calendar for these upcoming collections:

- Sunday, September 13, to Benefit [Student Advocacy Center of Michigan](#) (SAC): The SAC was established in 1975 to address racial inequities in resources, expectations, discipline and outcomes for Black youth. Today, they serve low- and no-income families, particularly those impacted by foster care, homelessness, trauma, mental health, the criminal justice system and disabilities. As schools prepare to go back mostly online, they are helping families navigate confusing choices, brokering resources, and providing support necessary for students to make progress.
- Sunday, October 11, to Benefit [Liberty Club](#)

While we gather on Sunday virtually, please mail your check to UUA (4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103) with Sharing the Collection and the name of the organization in the memo line. You can also contribute to Sharing the Collection [Online](#).

For more information about what we do on the Sharing the Collection committee, please check our page at uua.org/sharingthecollection to see a list of all of our upcoming 2020 recipients.

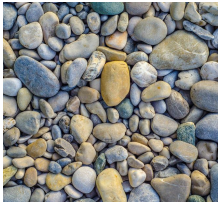
Please contact sharecollection@uua.org with any questions or suggestions.

The Sharing the Collection committee: Jan Duncan, Casey Jackson, Glenn Kime, Fran Lyman, Jim Marks, Mary Phelps, Kate Warner



Programming for Children & Youth

To learn about programming for children and youth, email SGD@uuaa.org.



Submitting to the *Weekly E-News* & *Monthly Newsletter*

All recognized UUAA groups may publicize UUAA events and news in the *Weekly E-News* and *Monthly Newsletter*.

***Weekly E-News/Bulletin* Deadline** **Wednesdays at 5:00pm**

Make submissions of 90 words or fewer to Bulletin@uuaa.org. If your group is advertising an event, please be sure to include the name of the event, date, time, and contact information to field questions. Please make your room reservation or Zoom room reservation before advertising an event. Note that during the stay-at-home order, we are not strictly limited to the 90 word limit; however we do ask that you stay in close range of that.

***Monthly Newsletter* Deadline** **The 21st of the Month at 9:00am**

Submissions of 300 words or fewer can be sent to Newsletter@uuaa.org.

If you have any questions about the *Weekly E-News/Bulletin* or *Monthly Newsletter*, contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at Hannah@uuaa.org.



Getting Started with Zoom

Use this [link for a quick tutorial to get started with Zoom](#).

Quick Links:

[UUAA Website](#) | [Social Justice at UUAA](#) | [Find us on Facebook](#)
[Make Your Pledge](#) | [UUAA Events Calendar](#)

Other Links:

UUA.org | MidAmericaUUA.org
[Side With Love](#) (formerly Standing on the Side of Love)

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Ann Arbor

4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road,
Ann Arbor MI 48103
734-665-6158

[Contact Us](#)

