



First Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

UUAA May 2020 Newsletter

March 2020 Newsletter - Vol. 16, Issue 5

[Support UUAA](#)

Use of UUAA Grounds



Visiting UUAA's Grounds From UUAA's COVID-19 Advisory Team

In support of and in compliance with Gov. Whitmer's extended stay-at-home order through May 15 and recognizing that many of our congregants fall into the at-risk category, our building will remain closed to in-person gatherings. During our collective absence over the last several weeks, though, the cleaning crew from UUAA's cleaning service, Mr. Spiffy, has been able to complete a deep cleaning that helps prepare us for our eventual reopening.

As the weather becomes warmer, many of us are used to walking the paths on UUAA's beautiful property. However, for the duration of our shelter-in-place order, we ask you to please refrain. Safety is our top priority during this pandemic, and we don't want to risk UUAA becoming a transmission zone. By exercising caution together, we help to keep our circle whole.

in gratitude,

UUAA Covid-19 Advisory Team

Laura Bauman, Rev. Casandra Hartley, Jim Lee, Jim Marks, Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Quiana Perkins, Tom Reischl, Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich.



2020 Slate of Candidates

Submitted by
Leadership Development Team Representative Dixie Hibner

The Leadership Development Team (LDT) is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for election at the May 31 Congregational Meeting. To see more information about each candidate, [click here](#).

Board of Trustees:

Laura Johnstone - Vice President
Rick Witten - Secretary
Kathy Edgren - Trustee At Large
Glenn Harris - Trustee At Large
Gregg Peterson - Trustee At Large

Leadership Development Team:

Dawn Salo - Congregational Elected Position

Thank you to each of the candidates for consenting to take on these positions of responsibility that are so important to our Congregation!

If you have questions, please email ldt@uuaa.org.



Worship



Sunday Services via Zoom Sundays | 11:30am

Sunday Worship Services can be viewed using this link:
www.uuaa.org/service.

Sunday Social Time Follows Immediately After Each Service

Join fellow congregants for a virtual Social Time via Zoom.

Participants will be broken into small chat rooms. So grab a cup of coffee and use this link: www.uuaa.org/socialhour.

NOTE: The links above will activate close to the event time.

View or Listen to Past Sunday Services: [click here](#).

If you missed last week's offertory link and would like to make an offering, [click here](#).



For Your Calendar

Annual Reports Deadline * Friday, May 1



Annual Reports Deadline Friday, May 1, 2020

During this unusual time when we're concerned with the health and safety of our beloved community, we as a congregation are also looking forward to our future. We could not have predicted the length of this health crisis, and we are heartfully and mindfully trying to be as flexible as possible. We do, however, need to honor our bylaw that requires

recognized congregational groups to prepare an annual report in advance of the annual meeting. Please send your group's annual report to annualreport@uuaa.org by Friday, May 1.

[Read more...](#)



Meditation with Manish * Wednesdays, 4:00pm-5:00pm



Meditation with Rev. Manish

As we find ways to be in community without meeting in person, please join an online meditation session with Rev. Manish:

[Use this link and scroll to "Weekly Meditation with Rev. Manish."](#)

Are you interested in learning more about meditation?

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



Pastoral Calls * Mondays 11:00am-Noon & Wednesdays 6:00pm-7:00pm



Pastoral Care Call is hosted twice a week: This space can be used for community and connection for those in need of additional support. On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, the pastoral care call conversation will be focused on the economic impact of COVID-19 -- personal and community. The links are provided in the weekly Pastoral News or by request.

Email quiana@uuaa.org.




Friday Fun Night Via Zoom * Friday, May 8



Friday Fun via Zoom Friday, May 8, 6:30pm-9:00pm

Click into Friday Fun for socializing, Pub Trivia, dancing, and a movie. Watch the Thursday E-News for more details and information on how to get the link to this event. Questions? Email FridayFunNight@uuaa.org.



Black Congregants at UU + POC Gathering * Thursdays, May 14 & 28




Black Congregants at UU + POC Gathering Zoom Meet up Thursdays, May 14 & 28 at 6:30pm

We are creating community space to be heard, heal, and help each other. This inclusive BIPOC event will include a chalice lighting, reading, and space to dialogue.

Families are encouraged to attend!

You must request the zoom link by emailing quiana@uuaa.org.



Congregational Meeting * Sunday, May 31



Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom Sunday, May 31, 11:45am

Save the date to attend this important Annual Congregational Meeting when we vote for new Board and Leadership Development team members, review the past year, and plan for the year ahead. Watch upcoming Thursday E-News and our website UUAA.ORG for more information.

News and Announcements

Restorative Justice

Prison Ministry at Women's Huron Valley Incarceration Facility

Restorative justice is about healing. Healing for the victims of crime and healing for those who have caused the harm. The Women at Huron Valley Correctional Facility, in Ypsilanti Township, are currently undergoing tremendous isolation and fear during the pandemic. They are unable to have visitors, to participate in most programming, and unable to see and communicate with the volunteers who demonstrate that the larger community has not forgotten them -- that we value their thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

Because we are unable to continue this programming, which includes supporting their advocacy work, the National Lifers Association (NLA) newsletter, and peacemaking circles for healing and reflection, we decided to offer an alternative program. Working with Restorative Justice of UUAA and Friends of Restorative Justice of Washtenaw County, we enlisted over 30 people from the community to engage with the women. Some volunteered to write to current and long-term leaders of NLA to find out how they are doing and what might help buoy them through the difficulties of Covid-19 "inside." Some provided financial support toward a SecurePak of toiletries, food, or phone calls to loved ones.

We hope to make direct connections to at least 50 women. At this time of isolation and social distancing, it is challenging to imagine how our friends at Huron Valley are coping. We have heard from a few of the women already who send their gratitude and appreciation to all who are participating. They have always appreciated the work that this congregation and Friends of Restorative Justice have done for them. And a special thanks to Natalie Holbrook from the American Friends Service Committee Michigan Criminal Justice, who continues to search for ways to bring healing to all of our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

Kathy Friedrichs and Carolyn Madden
Co-chairs, Restorative Justice UUAA

Questions? Contact Carolyn Madden at cgmadden@gmail.com.

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.



Mark your calendar for these upcoming collections:

- On May 3, to benefit [Habitat for Humanity](#)
- On June 7, to benefit [Our House](#)

While we gather on Sunday virtually, please mail your check to UUAA with Sharing the Collection and the organization in the memo. 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 uuaa.org/sharingthecollection to see a list of all of our upcoming 2020 recipients.

Please contact sharecollection@uuaa.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.



Social Justice Council (SJC)



Carolyn Madden is stepping down from the Social Justice Council (SJC). This is one of many roles Carolyn has held over the years including President and Vice President of the Board of Trustees, co-facilitator of the committee to support the Rodriguez family in Sanctuary at UUAA, and member of the Denominational Connections Team. Carolyn has served on the SJC since 2011, and acted as co-facilitator for more than five years.

Carolyn has been pleased to share the chair of the council with leaders and friends in supporting over 23 groups in the service of social justice in our congregation. She has been part of the collaboration in creating guidelines for the council and social justice groups; and most recently in successfully advocating for the establishment of the Social Justice/Pastoral Care position. She also helped create and cultivate the Social Justice Connections, a monthly program to bring social justice groups to the pulpit.

Carolyn's dedication to UU principles and social justice has made her a dynamic leader and community voice. We are proud of the work that Carolyn has done on behalf of this community. We are excited to cheer her on for the next phase of her journey. Carolyn anticipates continuing her support of Social Justice Connections and enhancing the prison ministry at UUAA.

Thank you, Carolyn! We are grateful for your service.



Pastoral Care

In this unique time of shelter-in-place, Pastoral Care has been busy.



We are remaining in contact with the most vulnerable in our community through meal trains, phone calls, emails, and cards. As an added layer of support, we have also created a Q (uarantine) Buddies system to connect congregants.

As a way to bind us more tightly and be supportive, we want to encourage reaching out -- to make calls, to send cards, to make movie dates, to attend organized events like Rev. Manish's Weekly Meditation, or to take part in SGD programming for children, youth, and families.

We also host a Pastoral Care Call twice a week: Monday 11:00am-12:00pm and Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm. This space can be used for community and connection for those in need of additional support. The links are provided in the weekly Pastoral News or by request by emailing quiiana@uuaa.org.

On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, the Pastoral Care Call conversation will be focused on the economic impact of COVID-19 -- personal and community.

If you or someone you love, requires additional pastoral care, please reach out. We are here and ready to listen. You can leave a voicemail at 734-665-6158 ext. 2 or you can email: pastoralcare@uuaa.org. We remain a beloved community!



Immigration Action Coalition (IAC)

UUAA Helps Community Members in Crisis

UUAA partnered with Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR) to put cash in the hands of vulnerable members of our community. At its April 11 virtual meeting conducted via Zoom, the Immigration Action Coalition voted unanimously to donate \$14,000 to a WICIR Emergency Fund to help undocumented families who are financially devastated because of Covid-19.

These undocumented families don't qualify for unemployment or stimulus money. Members of WICIR reported at the IAC meeting that the Emergency Fund has already assisted 60 to 70 families in Washtenaw County with grants of \$200 to \$300. The fund was depleted. WICIR is fundraising to support an additional 200 families who have been identified as needing help. WICIR administers the Emergency Fund, and 100% of the money goes directly into the hands of those in need -- primarily single mothers and their children, the sick, and the fragile elderly.

IAC decided to lend its support to two additional projects -- soap for immigrants in detention and an advocacy campaign for their release. Students in the School of Public Health at U of M led a campaign to deliver 200 bars of soap to inmates of Monroe County Jail who didn't have adequate hygiene products to wash their hands and prevent the spread of Covid-19. The campaign collected over a thousand bars of soap and deliveries will be made to Calhoun County Jail as well as Monroe. Thank you to IAC members who contributed. IAC members also contacted state, local, and federal officials to advocate for the release of those

in ICE detention.

May it be a comfort and a blessing to our UUAA family to know we were able to make a positive contribution during these challenging times.

Submitted by Cheryl Valentine for IAC



Habitat for Humanity

Congratulations to UUAA's Sandy Simon, Habitat for Humanity Volunteer of the Year!

Sandy has volunteered with our affiliate for the past 20 years. She is a leader and organizer for the Good News Group, which has built 34 houses. She gives so much time and energy to make sure the GNG is a success every year. Sandy and other volunteers will be formally recognized for their contributions at the Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley Volunteer Appreciation Event in September.



Alpha House



Alpha House is an emergency shelter for families temporarily experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. If you missed our April Host Week, consider visiting the Alpha House webpage to find out how you can help financially or by donating supplies: <https://www.alphahouse-ihn.org/covid-19>.

THANK YOU to all of the financial donors, meal sponsors, and volunteers who helped make our host week a success:

Carol Acitelli, Cheryl Barget, Delphine Benard, Ilene Beninson, Sandra Breck, Ann Brennan, Marci Cameron, Tracy Darrow, Susan David, Melanie Dever, Dee Dishon, K.T. Doud, Audra Eddy, Barron Evans, Sandy Eyl, Diane Baker Fead, Debra Golden, Amy Grant, Gwen Guthrie, Carrie Hatcher-Kay, Aubrey Heffron, MaryAnn Hergenrother, Carli Hildebrandt, Hannah Hotchkiss, Cristine Howe, Amyleigh Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Monica Kmetz Cochran, Bridget & Greg Laundra/Meier, Spencer Lee, Christine LePottier, Judi Lintott, Mary Locey, Arika Lycan, Angela Menegay, Vilma Mesa, Kirsten Mogbo, Cathy Muha, Mike Muha, Carolyn Norton, Alison Paine, Terri Palacios, Sally Preston, Chuck and Betsy Price, Susan Randall, Brandy Sinco, Sandy Simon, Mary Lynn Stevens, Julie Tanguay, Phyllis Tera, Jane Theriault, Susie Thompson, Charissa Urbano, Chelsea Valdes-Pierce, Cheryl Valentine, and Terri Wilkerson

Host Week Recap: on Saturday, April 11, with staff, we made the decision to cancel in-person volunteer slots at Alpha House to keep Alpha House residents and staff healthy. Using donations, we purchased chicken for Monday, April 13, and Chinese food for Thursday, April 16. A generous UU donor purchased pizza for Friday, April 17, and Hello Faz donated additional pizzas and sodas to Alpha House! We received many generous donations of supplies, disinfecting wipes, side dishes, fruits, juice and milk, and more from volunteers. We showed movies on two nights during our host week and later collected kids DVDs to keep movie night going for the near future!

Our next Host Week is June 22-28.

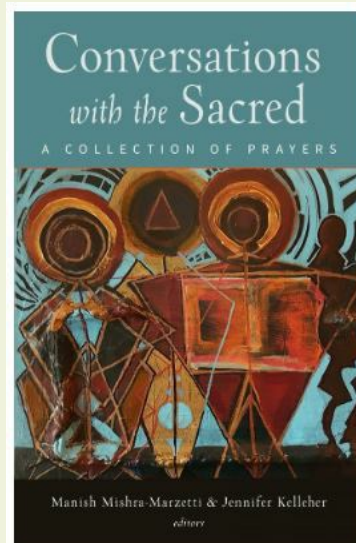
If you have questions about taking part in supporting Alpha House, email AlphaHouse@uuaa.org.

Publications of Interest

Conversations with the Sacred **A Newly Released Book Edited by Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti & Rev. Jennifer Kelleher**

Bringing alive heartfelt words and artwork contributed by creators diverse in spiritual perspective and identity, *Conversations with the Sacred* is a moving testimony to the power of prayer. Prayers of love, lamentation, justice, inspiration, and transcendence -- all are here, thoughtfully selected by editors Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Rev. Jennifer Kelleher.

Whatever your relationship to prayer, whether it comes naturally, you have a complicated history with it, or you have never prayed before, *Conversations with the Sacred* is a powerful and accessible resource for anyone looking to explore or deepen a spiritual practice of reflection or prayer.



Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti serves as senior minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has served as president of the Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) and as a trustee on the UUA Board of Trustees.

Rev. Jennifer Kelleher serves as the Assistant Minister of Lifespan Faith Development and Pastoral Care at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, New Jersey. She has served on several congregation clergy teams, as a hospital chaplain, and in chapter leadership within the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA).



Every Wednesday, Braver/Wiser posts a reflection on the [UUA website](#). A recent reflection is from Rev. Manish.

We Cannot Escape One Another By Rev. Manish-Mishra Marzetti

"In all this madness, even if it kills every single one of us and there's no one left to tell the stories, it matters that we love each other well."

-Paul Richards, who died of AIDS, as remembered by Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie

An invisible virus without any cure; a death sentence for some and not for others. This is all too familiar to me, as a gay man who came out at the age of twenty in the early 1990s, prior to the advent of any treatments for HIV. It felt like the possibility of the disease dominated every aspect of my existence in those tender days.

[Read more...](#)



Office and Building News

Publication Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin/E-News 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@uuuaa.org.

June Newsletter Deadline **Thursday, May 21 at 9:00am**

All submissions should be sent as an attachment in Word format and limited to 300 words or fewer. Send submissions to newsletter@uuuaa.org.

Questions? Contact Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuuaa.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 UUAA, [use this link](#) or email Welcome Ministries Coordinator Hannah Hotchkiss at hannah@uuaa.org.





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](#)



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

See what's happening on our social sites:

