



NEWSLETTER

April 2021

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Blacksburg, VA 24060
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Message from Our Minister Rev. Pam Philips

Grass is greening, trees are budding and blooming, peepers and birds are filling the air with their songs. Each day, spring is *becoming* more spring-y. The perfect time of year to consider what it means to be a **people of becoming**. This spring, especially, we look forward to the onset of warmer weather and opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature and the safe company of neighbors, friends, and family. We anticipate becoming less isolated and more connected. And as more of us get vaccinated, we also anticipate life becoming more “normal.” We are more aware of our own becoming because of the unusual circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Times of transition—like spring and autumn—make us more aware of the process of becoming because the changes are more dramatic and happen more quickly. Likewise, we notice the changes and development of children and adolescents; they seem to grow up so fast. But we are all, no matter our age or stage in life, constantly becoming, whether we notice it or not.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are encouraged to be intentional about our becoming. Unlike creedal faiths that require adherence to fixed beliefs, ours is a faith that fosters continual spiritual and ethical growth. The third and fourth principles affirm and promote “acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations” and “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

We ask our youth to begin defining their own beliefs in the *Coming of Age* program, in which they write statements of faith or credos. What a daunting task! But we know that this is only a beginning, and as they grow and learn more about the world and themselves, their beliefs will be refined and reshaped. This spring, adults will have an opportunity to explore and refine their beliefs in a class called “**Sacred Language & Sacred Translation**” which we will be piloting for its authors, Revs. AJ van Tine and Lisa Garcia-Sampson (see page 11 for more info). Register for the class [here](#). Even without taking the class, considering what it means to be a people of becoming invites us to explore how our beliefs are evolving.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are encouraged to be intentional not just about what we believe but also how we live up to our highest ideals. The Anti-racism Group is asking us as a congregation to commit to “working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community” by adopting the [8th Principle](#). This is one way we can live into our mission to “transform our community and the world through courageous love.” If you haven’t attended any of their previous discussions or exercises, consider attending the **exercise on environmental racism** on **April 21** at 7 PM via this [Zoom link](#) (see page 3 for more info). We can be intentional as a congregation, in becoming the change we want to see.

In faith, Rev. Pam



Building & Grounds Use

In-person gatherings are **NOT** permitted in our building at this time. However, up to **25** people are able to gather together in our outdoor space, but the 6-foot distance between people must be maintained and masks worn. Worship services and many groups and committees continue to meet via Zoom. Check the website and calendar for information on events and the Zoom links and updates to this information. Be sure to contact [Lisa](#) to schedule an event on our grounds or via Zoom.

Contact Information

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Staff Office Hours:

Minister:
Tuesdays - Fridays, 9-1

Contact [Minister](#) for appointment or use this [link](#) to set one up online.

Administrator or DLFD:
Contact [Administrator](#) or [Director of Lifespan Faith Development](#) to set up appointments.

Message from Our Board

Bob Stimson, President-elect



Spring is back, so now Nature can show off her colors of new life. Isn't it wonderful to see the flowers popping out?

With every COVID jab received by a congregant, we are getting closer and closer to being able to hold in-person services along with our Zoom services. Won't it be momentous to safely gather together once again? Such a great spiritual lift will be felt by all. Here's hoping my crystal ball view of a late summer/early fall partial opening is correct.

Please, please remember to PLEDGE as soon as possible. In my view, there are three major areas of increased need in next year's budget. First is a salary increase for our minister and the staff, all of whom have had to adapt, adjust and put in much extra work during the pandemic. They did not receive any raises for this current year, so now we need to show them monetarily how thankful we are for all they have done for us. The second is one-time purchases of yet-to-be-determined technology for our anticipated hybrid opening and, possibly, outdoor summer services. Lastly, is our need to add to the Building Maintenance Fund. The "new" addition to our building is 13 years old, so there will be substantial needs for major replacements in the near future. We want to be in a financial position to be able to afford these expenses when they arise.

Time to dream, with a smile, about chatting over coffee, seeing each other at a Sunday service, or sitting outside with friends on a bench enjoying our beautiful grounds.

Stewardship Pledge Drive Continues



Our Stewardship Pledge Drive kicked off with Early Bird Pledging on February 15 and officially on March 14. Thank you to all who expressed your support of UUC with your generous pledges! As of March 30, we have received **98 pledges for \$230,007 or about 67% of our goal of \$345,000**. A special thank you to those who pledged this year for the first time, many of whom have never been inside our building.

For those who haven't yet pledged, you most likely have been contacted by a steward via a phone call, text, or email. We hope you will go ahead and make your pledge via our [online pledge form](#) (or email [Lisa](#)) by **April 11**, even if it is a smaller commitment than you've made in years past. If the economy and your personal financial situation improves in the year ahead, you can always increase your giving. And if things turn out worse than you expected, let us know that, too, and we can easily modify your pledge. All of our pledges, no matter their size, are a sign of our commitment and faith in this spiritual community and its ability to thrive, even in these most difficult times. We are grateful for them all.

Again, use this simple [online pledge form](#) to make your pledge now and for more info, check out the [pledge brochure](#), [FAQs](#), and the [Stewardship webpage](#) which provides additional information and updates.

This has been such a strange year, and we have maintained our sense of love and community by gathering via Zoom for services, meetings, social events, our auction, RE classes for all ages, celebrating joys and sorrows together, and planning for our future. We hope that we will all be together in person in the coming months (although the Zoom option will be available even after that time).

Upcoming Events

UUC's Hiking Group Updates

To sign up for the UUC Hiking Group listserv, contact [Lisa](#). For more information about Jae's hikes, visit his [website](#) or contact [Jae](#).

Hiking Group Virtual Campfire

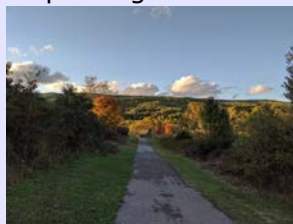
Join the discussion on the 4th Thursdays of each month (**April 22**) at 7 PM via this [Zoom link](#).



Movie for April: *Why Do I Hike*. This award-winning 23-minute film pairs magnificent footage of the Colorado Rockies with thoughtful narration to capture the thru-hiking *zeitgeist*. Watch this film anytime on your own during the month. We'll spend the first half of our monthly meeting sharing our thoughts about it. We'll spend the second half sharing trail tails, habitat recommendations, bucket lists, etc.

Changes to Weekly UUC Hike

Join us each **Saturday at 8:30 AM** for a UUC hike. Meet in the Heritage Park parking lot on Glade Rd. and walk to the Meadowbrook Dr. parking lot (about 1 mile) and if desired, continue on to the Gateway Trail across the road and hike up to the top of Brush Mountain (1.4 miles). Come as often as you are able. Masks and social distancing required.



Additional Hikes

Until the weather is more predictable, these outings will be announced via the Hiking Group listserv 2-3 days in advance based on the forecast.

Do you love teaching others about nature?

If you have a skill or expertise that you would like to share with others on a 2-4 mile hike, please contact [Jae](#). He'll organize and lead the hike, so you can focus on what you're sharing.

Participate in a Special Exercise with UUC's Anti-racism Group

What is environmental racism, and how does it relate to the proposed 8th principle?

As part of our 8th Principle effort, members of our Anti-racism group will present an exercise via this [Zoom link](#) that all are welcome to attend on Wednesday, **April 21** from 7-8 PM. This will be an opportunity to learn about how some of the same structures that have perpetuated racism feed into environmental issues, with a focus on pipelines, both local and national.

The proposed 8th principle is a covenant to affirm and promote ***"journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."***

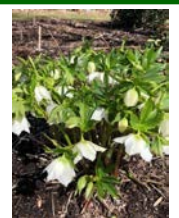
Haiku Is Easier Than You Think

Join us on Saturday, **April 17** from 9-10 AM at UUC to enjoy making a beautiful spring morning even more spectacular. We'll walk UUC's grounds in an immersive meditative manner, absorbing our surroundings, using all our senses, and then write about our experience. Sharing our work with others in the group is totally optional. This is a very easy, enjoyable way to be a poet. Abundant instruction and encouragement will be provided. You are also free to sketch journal style if you'd like. Registration is required so our group can be kept to a COVID-safe size. [Contact Jae](#) to register. [About Haiku](#).



Grounds Workday Help Needed

Come out and help on Saturday, **April 24**, 9:30-11:30 AM to get our grounds in shape for spring. Watch for online sign-up information.



Women's Breakfast

All women are invited to meet for breakfast, coffee and conversation at 7 AM each Monday via this [Zoom link](#). Use **passcode 544416**. If 7 AM is too early, join when able.

Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to meet for breakfast, coffee and conversation at 7 AM each Monday via this [Zoom link](#). If 7 AM is too early, join when able.

Women's Lunch

All women are welcome to join together for lunch every Friday at noon on our UUC grounds to picnic together at a distance. Bring your own lunch and please wear a mask when not eating. If raining or too cold, we'll meet via this [Zoom link](#). Contact [Cynthia Luke](#) for more info.

Sages Update

Join us the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 2 PM for stimulating conversation via this [Zoom link](#) until further notice. Focus on topics facing older adults as well as general conversation.

Mid-Week Worship Gatherings

Since March congregants have been gathering each Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM via this [Zoom link](#) for an opportunity to pause our busy weeks and full lives in a worshipful space. Worship usually centers around the worship theme for the month that is also the focus of our Soul Matters Covenant Groups. The 30-minute gatherings include inspirational words and music as well as an opportunity for everyone to share. Watch for the email announcement each Wednesday for the topic and facilitator.

Monday Meet-up

Join us each Monday at 7 PM via this [Zoom link](#) for socializing with no agenda, no questions you need to think about – simply join in for fun conversation. Each week, a member or two of the Connections Committee will be in the session, so you'll always have a friend to talk to.

Yoga

Weather permitting, join us outdoors on the UUC grounds on Wednesday at 5:30 PM. To get on the email list for weekly status of class, contact [Lori](#).

Monthly Support Groups at UUC

Parent Bereavement Support

We are a community-wide support group for bereaved parents and grandparents who have lost an adult or adolescent child. We come together once a month on 2nd Mondays from 6-7 PM to help one another on our journeys. The next meeting is on **April 12**. Join the group via [Zoom](#). For more info and the [Zoom link](#), contact [Katherine](#) or [Lisa](#).

NAMI Connections Support

Persons living with a mental illness are welcome to join this NAMI support group on the 3rd Monday of each month from 6-7:30 PM. Next meeting **April 19**. Contact [Kimberley](#) for the [Zoom link](#) or with questions.

NAMI Family Support

Family and friends of persons living with a mental illness are welcome to join this NAMI support group on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6-7:30 PM. Next meeting **April 21**. Contact [Kristine](#) for the [Zoom link](#) or with questions.

Transgender Support

NRV Trans* Support is a peer-led organization whose mission is to offer support, resources, and social activities to all transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in the New River Valley in a safe, anonymous and affirming environment. To learn more about NRV Trans* Support, visit their [website](#).

Due to Covid, they are currently not meeting, but please contact nrvtrans@gmail.com for info and resources.

Caregivers Support

UUC hosts a monthly support group for caregivers to share their experiences and challenges. The group meets on the 2nd Tuesdays of each month—next meeting on **April 13** at 7-8:30 PM. Join us via this [Zoom link](#). Questions or concerns - contact [Rev. Pam](#).

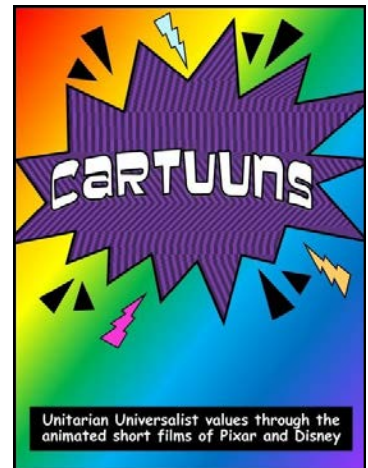
Lifespan Faith Development

Children's RE

CARTUUNS—Grades K-5—9:30-10:00 AM

Unitarian Universalist values through the animated short films of Pixar and Disney. Available as an online class on zoom, or as a homeschool class. Award-winning short films, great discussion and a wide variety of activities combine to make this a fun class for kids! Supply bags are delivered monthly. Children must be registered to participate. [Register](#).

Date	Class
Apr 11	<i>Feast</i>
Apr 18	<i>For the Birds</i>
Apr 25	<i>Marine Life Interviews</i>



Sunday Funday—PreK—9:00-9:20 AM

Story time, coloring and crafts, available as an online class on zoom, or as a homeschool class. Supply bags are delivered monthly. Children must be registered to participate. [Register](#).

Date	Class
Apr 11	<i>Llama Llama Mess Mess Mess</i>
Apr 18	<i>Rhyming Dust Bunnies</i>
Apr 25	<i>The Pigeon Wants a Puppy</i>



April 4: Multi-generational Service Easter Sunday,
no RE classes

Story Time with Rev. Pam
Wednesdays at 3:00 PM
excluding 4th Wednesdays.

[Zoom link](#)



The Fifth Dimension

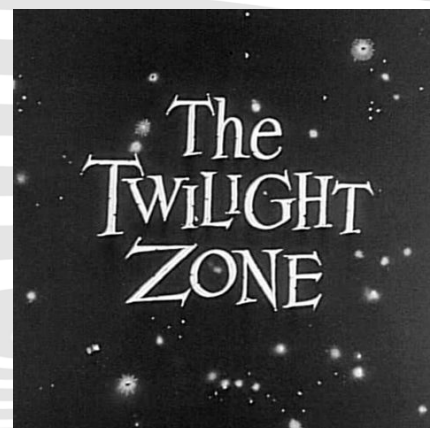
for adults

Tuesday, April 27, 7-8 PM

Why should middle schoolers get all the fun? By popular demand, *The Fifth Dimension* will be held for adults through May. Watch a classic episode of *The Twilight Zone* and discuss its surprisingly still-relevant message in light of our world in 2021.

April's episode is "Four O'clock" with a discussion on the dangers of being judgmental. No registration necessary.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/99626799081>



Virtual Easter Egg Hunt

Join Unitarian Universalist Congregations from across North America for a giant virtual Easter Egg Hunt!

Follow the Easter eggs hidden on UU websites to a prize page at the end.

The hunt goes live on **Saturday, April 3** and remains active through the month of April.

Start the hunt at <https://tinyurl.com/z1p2mwqv>

Feel free to share the virtual egg hunt with others!



MSYG

Sunday evenings 6-7 PM

Middle school youth meet monthly, alternating RE classes with Middle School Youth Group (MSYG). RE class will cover the original *D'Oh, God!* curriculum which uses episodes of *The Simpsons* as the basis for in-depth discussions of a wide variety of religious topics. MSYG will meet for socialization—the emphasis is on fun, with social activities and social action projects that encourage bonding among participants. Youth must be registered to participate.

[Register.](#)

YRUU

Sunday evenings 7-8 PM

Our high school youth group, YRUU, meets weekly for check-ins, games, and more. Youth will determine the meeting content. As safety allows, YRUU may also meet outside in person following UUC safety guidelines.

YRUU is open to youth in grades 9-12, and meets on Sunday evenings. Teens participate in conferences, fundraisers, and fun activities while forming bonds with other teens. Youth must be registered to participate.

[Register.](#)

On-Going Adult RE Programs

Spiritual Aging

Meets the first Sunday of the month (April 4), 3-5 PM

Join Rev. Pam for a workshop that intentionally explores the process of aging. While aging can provide us with free time and the ability to focus on what is important, it can also present us with challenges and losses. Perfect for those who consider themselves spiritual but not religious and are looking to delve deeper into these real human challenges. Join via this [Zoom link](#).



Sunday Circle

Meets first and third Sundays, 8:30-9:30 AM

April 4: Anita Puckett discusses "How to Lose Historic Sites without Even Trying: The North Fork Valley Rural Historic District, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission". Join via this [Zoom link](#).

April 18: Earle Irwin and Bob Lineberry discuss their experiences living and volunteering on Ocracoke Island, NC, an island accessible only by ferry, in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian on Sept. 6, 2019 and through the pandemic. Join via this [Zoom link](#).

Anti-Racism Group

Meets second and fourth Sundays, 1-2 PM

All are welcome to join our ongoing group addressing white privilege and racism via this [Zoom link](#). For meeting topics, contact [Barbara Taylor](#). [Email Karen Hager](#) to join the listserv for group announcements.

Meditation Group

Meets Tuesdays, 5-6 PM

Our meditation group meets weekly for those interested in starting or deepening their meditation practice. Our format is drop-in, so you need not attend all sessions. Open with centering words and basic instruction, followed by sitting practice. Meditators from all traditions and all levels of experience are welcome. Join via this [Zoom link](#).



Conversations on Our Faith

Meets Wednesdays, 12-1 PM

Join our conversation as we read the book, *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know*, by Adam Grant. All are welcome, even if you have not read the chapters of the book under discussion. To learn more, contact [Tim Pickering](#). Join via this [Zoom link](#).

Community Conversations

Sunday, April 18, 11:30-1 PM

Join us for a conversation about "What Is Essential". Essential workers, essential services, essential travel. The global pandemic has affected all areas of our lives and has invited a shift in what we believe to be essential. What is essential to our lives, to our community, and for our planet? What adjustments are we making in the short term and for the long run for our personal safety or for the welfare of others? Perhaps this is a time to consider what is most important to us, to our community and for future generations. Join via this [Zoom link](#). Led by [Rev. Jamie McReynolds](#).



UUC Community News

Update on 1/2-Plate Donations

Thanks to your generosity, UUC continued its practice of helping others in both our community and beyond. The March recipients were:

March 7: Giles County Food Bank, \$246

March 14: NAACP Book Drive, \$195

March 21: WVTF, \$825 (includes other donations made in March)

March 28: Interfaith Food Pantry, \$170

Watch the weekly announcements and website for the coming weeks' 1/2-plate recipients. Have a suggestion—email [Lisa](#).

Check out our [Give webpage](#) for information on donating options.



March Board Mtg. Highlights

- ◆ Barbara Taylor requested that a vote on the **8th Principle** take place at the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ The Board opted to keep the **building closed** at this time but increased the **number permitted to meet on our grounds to 25** provided all are masked and at an appropriate distance apart.
- ◆ The Board discussed a policy for starting new groups at UUC and will vote next month.
- ◆ The budget for 2021-22 will be adjusted to provide one month overlap with the new administrator due to Lisa retiring at the end of the next fiscal year.
- ◆ The **Informational Meeting** will be held following the service on Sunday, **May 23**, and the **Annual Meeting** will be held following the service on Sunday, **June 6**. All members are requested to attend. Watch for more info.
- ◆ Jane Keppel-Benson and Ashley Spinks-Dugan were approved to serve on the Committee on Ministries from 2021-2023.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, **April 8** at 7 PM. The [minutes and reports](#) of meetings for the past two calendar years are available.

Questions, Ideas, Complaints for the Board: Send an email to adresstheBoard@uucnr.org.

Bridge to Digital Learning Initiative Connects Literacy Students with Technology

The Bridge to Digital Learning Initiative connects adult learners and tutors with resources (devices, hotspots, and training) for digital learning. LVNRV (Literacy Volunteers of the NRV) is seeking donations of used devices to give to adult literacy students so they can connect remotely with instructors to learn basic academic and digital skills and participate in this new virtual world.

Portable devices wish list: Ipad, other tablets, laptops (should be able to run windows 10), Chrome-books, and Macbooks. Do not donate devices with cracked screens or that do not hold a charge.

Hardware specifications for PC laptops: RAM - 4GB minimum, 8GB preferred; Processor - Intel i3 (or AMD multi core equivalent) minimum; HDD size - 120 GB or higher; Operating System - Windows 7, 8, 10 machines accepted; Networking - Wi-Fi ready required

Device donation instructions: Contact [Bill Baker](#) (540-552-1727 home, 540-239-2695 cell). Bill will erase all information on the hard drive and install Win 10 and other software and deliver to LVNRV in Christiansburg.

Financial donations: LVNRV is also accepting financial donations to support the purchase of hotspots and infrastructure to support distance education. To donate to the Bridge to Digital Learning Initiative, go to www.lvnrv.org or send a check to LVNRV, 195 West Main St., Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Meet Our Newest Members



Catherine Copeland started attending UUC in March 2019 and felt she'd found her spiritual community. She grew up in Northern Virginia and first came to Blacksburg as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, where she later earned her master's degree and works in the career center. After six years living elsewhere long ago, she is grateful to have lived most of her adult life in Blacksburg and to have raised her two daughters here. She enjoys reading, hiking, biking, running, paddling, kayaking, yardening, teaching yoga (pre-pandemic), friendships (old and new), her own cats, other people's dogs and cats, and visiting her daughters in Richmond.

Sara Dalton lives near Meadows of Dan where she and her husband, Phil, who were both social workers, moved from Roanoke upon retiring in 2008. Sara was a member of the Roanoke UUC. During the pandemic, Sara has been grateful for the opportunity to participate in various Blacksburg UUC Zoom services and groups. She enjoys reading, being in nature and learning opportunities. The Daltons have one daughter who divides her time between Kathmandu, Nepal, and California. Sara and Phil hope to be moving to a Blacksburg retirement community in the near future.



The Fralin family, Devon Johnson, Scott Fralin, and Fox Fralin, began attending UUC in January. Devon and Scott are both alumni of Virginia Tech and live in Christiansburg. They enjoy gardening, reading (especially the work of revolutionary thinkers as well as Pete the Cat), and both public television and public radio. They were very happy to find the UUC community full of like-minded people and are excited to make new friends! Devon grew up in NOVA, Scott grew up in Floyd County, while Fox is from Christiansburg.

Jae Furman moved to the New River Valley from Chapel Hill in summer 2020 and then decided to retire a few months later. As a UU member for the past 20 years, one of the first things he did after settling in was search for the closest UU congregation. He was happy to find UUC with its large offering of online meeting opportunities along with an abundance of warm, thoughtful people. He was also enamored with its charming mountainous location. He has already volunteered to lead a UUC hiking group and looks forward to helping more. Jae enjoys exploring the outdoors, writing, making chocolate-covered strawberries and learning new things which currently include dulcimer playing, watercolor painting, and flatfoot dancing.



Linda Greaver is originally from Staunton, VA. She was a reading specialist and English teacher at Christiansburg High School until she retired in 2010. She loves to read, play bridge, travel and participate in community service organizations. She has served on many community boards like NRV Literacy Volunteers and the Montgomery County Christmas Store. She is very excited to be a part of the Blacksburg UUC family.

Joanne Knowles moved here from Delaware in 2019 to be near family in the area. Having been a UU since 2000, she was happy to find UUC and has joined the choir and a Soul Matters group.



(Continued on next page)

Outstanding Auction Items

Do you have unfinished auction items from our last live auction? Perhaps a dinner, party, or other event that got cancelled when we went into lockdown? Now may be a good time to re-connect with your guests and arrange to make up that event. Let's clear the slate so we can begin planning other fair-weather outings.



Denise Martin moved here from Kirkland, WA about two years ago. She spent the bulk of her career as Associate Registrar at Bastyr University in Kenmore, WA. She loved every minute of her 18 years spent there. The university focused on the natural health sciences such as Naturopathic Medicine and Acupuncture. Before Bastyr, she worked in Admissions at University of Washington and Seattle University. When she decided to retire, she realized that she needed to move to a more affordable location. Her brother very generously offered to let her move into his basement apartment. Denise loves to hike, listen to music, read books, and create stained glass mosaics and other types of art. Finding UUC has given her the opportunity to meet new friends and find an open and welcoming community. She looks forward to meeting more of us!

Amanda Morgan was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and came to Blacksburg via the Appalachian Trail in 1998. With the exception of two years in the New River Gorge of WV, she has lived here ever since. She is a former massage therapist, an RN, and has a BS in Nursing from Radford University. She lives in Prices Fork with her 14-year-old son, Joe, dog, Maybe, and cat, Slinky Pizza. She enjoys keeping bees and chickens and walking into the woods from her front door.



Jenna Nichols & Christopher Crouse have 7 children. Jenna first came to us 7 years ago. She is a web designer, and Christopher works in retail. They live in Christiansburg.

Brenda Philips saw all the signs that UUism was for her back when she read the book "Our Chosen Faith", a gift from sister Pam, and she felt like its UU authors had looked inside her mind and written the book just for her. She got "scientific" confirmation from the online Spiritual Belief System Selector by coming out 100% compatible with Unitarian Universalism. And she enjoyed attending the UU General Assembly with her daughter, Sofia, and Pam and Jamie back in 2015. Unfortunately, there are no UU congregations in Italy where she lives with her husband, Orazio, and two twenty-something kids, but surprisingly (and happily), the Coronavirus pandemic provided a solution. Zoom! While unable to join the many UUC activities and initiatives, she enjoys meeting and getting to know so many interesting, like-minded people at Sunday services and in her Soul Matters group.



A native of Germany, **Barbara Smith** came to the New River Valley after five decades in the greater Kansas City area. She retired in 2019 and joined her daughter and son-in-law in Radford. Barbara enjoys spending time with her family, her cats Boo-boo and Miss Lizzy, and her grand-dog Biggins. She enjoys working with her hands, knitting, gardening, and tinkering with gadgets when she can and is looking forward to further exploring the area with new friends when the pandemic allows. After so many years as a "flatlander" in Kansas, she is enjoying living (and especially driving) in the mountains.



April Food Pantry Donations

*Young poor Cole was a sad thin soul,
a sad thin soul was he.
He called for some soup,
he called for some sauces,
He called for the veggies three.*



Thanks to the generosity of our congregants, approximately 100 pounds of food was donated to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry during the month of March. Our Community Service Team will continue collecting food in the bins located near the accessible entrance to UUC. The suggested donations for April are canned soup, pasta sauce, and canned vegetables. Please help feed the hungry in our area.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services April 2021

Virtual Services at 10:00 AM via [Zoom](#)
Religious Education Classes via Zoom prior to the service
All are invited to share conversation in small groups following the service by staying on the Zoom link.

April's Theme: **BECOMING**

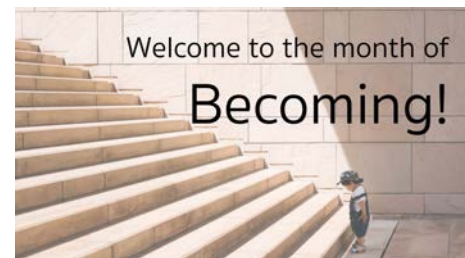
Join us at 10 AM each Sunday via this [Zoom link](#).

April 4: *Becoming Easter*, a multigenerational service with Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Kimberley Homer. We will explore the relationship between the ancient stories of Ostara and Easter and how they might inform our own spiritual stories as people of becoming.

April 11: *Becoming, How Do We Know When We Are?* Rev. Pam Philips with Worship Associates Victoria Taylor and Gretchen Luke. Does a caterpillar know it is becoming a butterfly? What do we know and how do we know it when we are in the middle of becoming more of who we want to be?

April 18: *Pathways to Healing & Regeneration*, Worship Associate Tommy Iafrate with virtual guests from the UU Ministry for Earth including Rev. Yadene Hailu. When you imagine pathways to personal, social and ecological healing and regeneration, what do you see? Who is with you on your journey? What transforms and gives way to new beginnings? Who and/or what are you accountable to along the way?

April 25: *Becoming and Belonging*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Stephen Henninger. We'll explore the role of community in the process of becoming. How does belonging help or hinder our individual processes? What role might we play in the process of communal becoming?



Adult RE: Sacred Language & Sacred Translation

As Unitarian Universalists we are called to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning within the context of a theologically diverse and pluralistic faith community. Using the stories of our own lives, we will explore how we use sacred language to make meaning and navigate how to put our languages of personal belief into dialogue with others. Participants will engage in group activities, write credo statements, partner up for discussion, and more!

This is a 6-session class, with each class building on the last. To accommodate people's schedules, we'd like to offer both afternoon and evening sessions, but this will depend on the number of people who register. Register for the class [here](#).

Thursday Afternoons: 1-2:30 PM. **April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27**
Thursday Evenings: 7-8:30 PM. **April 29, May 6, 20, 27, June 3, 17**

Our Mission

Inspire. Create. Transform.

Inspire spiritual and ethical growth. **Create** compassionate community.
Transform our community and the world through courageous love.

Our Vision

UUC will be a beacon of liberal religion in the New River Valley. We will join with other organizations and faiths to work for just causes.

We will practice generosity and radical hospitality. We will be known as a place of beauty, welcome, joy, and celebration.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1301 Gladewood Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: (540) 552-9716 E-mail: info@nrvc.org
P.O. Box 10116, Bburg 24062-0116 URL: uucnrvc.org

CALENDAR: April 2021

Staff Virtual Office Hours:

Minister: 9-1 Tu - F; [Contact for appointment](#)
Administrator: [Contact for appointment](#)
DLPD: [Contact for appointment](#)

All times are PM unless noted otherwise
κ indicates that there is a write-up in the newsletter

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
(All Sundays except April 4) κ 9:00 Pre K RE κ 9:30 Grades K-5 RE κ 10:00 Worship Service (These are via Zoom or outdoors) κ 6:00 Middle School RE/Youth Group κ 7:00 YRUU	(All Mondays) κ 7:00 AM Women's Breakfast κ 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast κ 7:00 PM Monday Meet-Up	(All Tuesdays) κ 5:00 Meditation	(All Wednesdays) κ Noon Conversations on Our Faith κ 3:00 PM Story Time with Rev. Pam (not on April 28) κ 5:30 Mid-week Gathering		(All Fridays) κ Noon Women's Lunch Bunch (UUC picnic area or Zoom)	(All Saturdays) κ 8:30 AM Weekly walk/hike at Heritage Park, Bburg
				1 1:00 Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation 7:00 Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation	2	3
4 Easter κ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle κ 10:00 Multigenerational service 11:35 Men's Group κ 3:00 Spiritual Aging	5	6 κ 2:00 Sages	7	8 κ 7:00 Board Meeting	9	10
11 Last Day for Stewardship Pledge Drive 1:00 Anti-Racism Group 11:30 AM Stewardship Committee	12 κ 6:00 Parent Bereavement Support Group	13 4:00 Committee on Ministries κ 7:00 Caregivers' Support Group	14 6:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Worship Team	15 1:00 Adult RE: Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation 7:00 Adult RE: Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation	16	17 κ 9:00 AM Walk UUC Grounds with Haiku Writing.
18 κ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 11:35 Men's Group κ 11:30 Community Conversations <i>What is Essential?</i>	19 κ 6:00 NAMI Connections Support Group	20 κ 2:00 Sages	21 κ 6:00 NAMI Family Support Group κ 7:00 Anti-Racism Group Exercise on Environmental Racism	22 κ 1:00 Adult RE: <i>Sacred Language & Sacred Translation</i> κ 7:00 Hiking Group Virtual Campfire 9:00 May Newsletter Deadline	23	24 κ 9:30 AM Grounds Work Day
25 κ 1:00 Anti-Racism Group	26	27 κ 7:00 Adult RE: <i>The Fifth Dimension</i>	28	29 κ 1:00 Adult RE: <i>Sacred Language & Sacred Translation</i> κ 7:00 Adult RE: <i>Sacred Language & Sacred Translation</i>	30	

NOTE: The building is currently closed for inside meetings. Events listed above will be held via Zoom unless otherwise noted. See the write-ups in the pages above for more information. For Zoom gatherings, the [Online Calendar](#) will have the Zoom url. That calendar will be updated as conditions change.