



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Year 54, Issue 12

1301 Gladewood Drive
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Message from Our Minister Rev. Pam Philips

It's hard to believe that we are actually entering December. Although stores are full of Christmas decorations and displays, and television commercials have been showing holiday gatherings since Halloween, I'm not yet ready for the holiday season. The leaves on the tree outside my window are hanging on as stubbornly as I am--hanging on to fall. I'm not ready for the colder weather and the shorter days of winter. But time marches on.

It seems I'm not alone in wanting to hang on. Margaret Starkey speaks to this human desire, writing,

*With mounds of greenery, the brightest ornaments,
we bring high summer to our rooms,
as if to spite the somberness of winter come.*

*In time of want, when life is boarding up against the next uncertain spring,
we celebrate and give of what we have away.*

All creatures bend to rules, even the stars constrained.

There is a blessed madness in the human need to go against the grain of cold and scarcity.

We make a holiday, the rituals as varied as the hopes of humanity,

*The reasons as obscure as ancient solar festivals,
as clear as joy on one small face.*



I love the way she explains our need to celebrate at this time of year—to “make a holiday”—whatever the obscure theological reasons. And the image of “joy on one small face” resonates, as well. I think of little ones’ delight in all the decorations and lights this time of year and their looks of awe as they approach Santa Claus—with both fear and wonder.

Awe is our theme this month, defined as “a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder.” A fitting theme, with its tension between fear and wonder, for this time of transition into the cold and dark of winter to which we respond with “a blessed madness” and “bring high summer to our rooms.” As the busyness of the season unfolds, I invite you to take time to notice when you feel awe, in spite of, or even because of the somberness of winter, in spite of, or even because of the celebrations. We’ll have plenty of opportunities here at UUC to experience both the stillness and the light.

This month also marks the “departure” of Karen Hager, our awe-inspiring Director of Lifespan Faith Development, for her well-deserved six-month sabbatical (which officially begins on **January 2**). This is a time for her to step away from her usual responsibilities and engage in personal and professional growth, and it is a testament to this congregation’s commitment to Lifespan Faith Development. While she is away, she will be **away** and should not be contacted for UUC business. Rachel Craine will be taking over her weekly duties for the Children’s Religious Education program. Youth and adult programming have already been set up with volunteers. If you don’t know whom to contact for concerns or questions, please direct them to me.

Wishing you an awe-filled holiday season,
Rev. Pam



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Staff Office Hours:

Minister:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9-1
Contact for appointment or use this [link](#) to set one up online.

Administrator:

Mondays & Fridays, 1-4

DLFD:

Contact for appointment.

Message from Our Board

Wayne Neu, President-elect



As I settle into my role as President-elect, I must admit to feeling a bit that I'm not qualified for this leadership service I've gotten myself into. Do I have the management skills to effectively lead this organization? I do, however, feel a very strong desire to serve this beloved community that has meant so much to (and done so much for) me for so many years. Recently, in the spirit of "when the student is ready, the teacher will appear", I stumbled upon a wonderful little book, "Serving with Grace, Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice", by UU minister and UUA leader Eric Walker Wikstrom. Much of this article is motivated by what I have learned from him. Wikstrom argues that service to the congregation should be seen as a spiritual practice that can produce rewarding returns. Perhaps we will find that our service does more for us than for those we are serving. Further, as opposed to the business world, perhaps in the service of your spiritual community, it matters more that you perform with love and compassion than efficiently and effectively reach a series of strategic goals. In other words, how we do what we do matters much more than what we do. ("What if it really *is* how you play the game?") Of course, completion of tasks, success (however that's defined) and balanced budgets matter but churches are not small businesses – they are first and foremost communities. As such, we rely on members of our community to carry out its work and do so with compassion.

I'm now excited to accept my position in the spirit of compassionate service to this community I love without the anxiety of feeling in over my head. I've realized that you don't need the skills of a Fortune 500 CEO to be an effective congregational leader.

I hope that others will also accept the opportunity and challenge of congregational leadership, using it to further their spiritual journey. You may not know that we have a Leadership Development Committee (LDC), chaired by Jim Flowers, whose mission is identifying and helping those so inclined to grow into leadership roles. If you feel motivated to serve this congregation, as I do, please let Jim or me know.

It should be self-evident that not everyone is suited for every job. Some are good at committee work while others are more comfortable with the nuts and bolts of getting things done or the interpersonal relations of organizing others. You may not consider yourself a leader if you are "just" a member of a task group, but each of these roles is leadership and will be satisfying to those who fit each role. Just because you don't feel you are suited for everything doesn't mean you aren't suited for something. LDC can help you find your ideal position. You may have heard of the 80/20 rule: 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had so many more than 20% sharing the spiritual practice of service to this congregation. I'm sure there is a place for each of us in this work.

Along these lines, you may know that the Board is finalizing the process of putting together a Strategic Planning Committee. In the spirit of "a church is not a business," our version of strategic planning will not be a process of setting measureable productivity goals or defining specific actions to be taken to improve our standing in some ranking, but rather it will be more along the lines of determining the will of the congregation and our appetite to take on various worthy causes. How, specifically, will we live out our mission and vision? We want to know what the congregation thinks is important and is willing to support with their time and fortune. We have a charge for the committee prepared and will be seeking 5 or 6 people to serve as committee members this month.

Upcoming Events

Benefit Holiday Concert

All are invited to join Jared Gibbs and friends on Saturday, **December 14** at 7 PM in our sanctuary for our annual Holiday Music Concert with a program featuring musicians of all ages performing classical, jazz, and holiday favorites. From hand chimes to harmonica, Fauré to Guaraldi, there's something for everyone at this family-friendly event. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted for the [Floyd Friends of Asylum Seekers](#) whose mission is to provide assistance and a warm welcome to asylum seekers during brief bus stops in our region.

The concert will be followed by a reception in Elarth Hall. If you are willing to provide baked cookies, please contact [Valerie Bidwell](#).



Christmas Eve Service

Everyone is invited to join with Rev. Pam for our annual Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, **December 24** at 5:30 PM. There will be stories, music, candlelighting, and more.



As is our tradition, there will also be a special collection during the service for our **Community Assistance Fund**. This fund is used by our minister throughout the year to help those in our congregation and the local community in need of assistance with food, rent, transportation, utilities, etc. Make your check out to UUC with "CAF" on the memo line. Recipients of these funds are kept confidential.

The service will be followed by a potluck for all who would like to stay and share a celebratory Christmas Eve meal together. Bring a large dish to share.

**UUC offices will be closed
December 24 through
January 1 with all staff
on vacation.**

Women's Holiday Lunch

All women are invited to our annual and special holiday lunch buffet at Prestons at the Inn at VT on **December 6** at 11:30 AM. Our reservation must be in by **December 2**, so please contact [Cynthia Luke](#) by that date. You can also enjoy the many decorated trees while there.

ESS Solstice Spiral

All are invited to a multi-generational Solstice celebration gathering sponsored by EarthSpirit Sisters on Saturday, **December 21** from 5:30-7:30 PM. The event will include an evergreen spiral walk, crafts and refreshments, and a fire and making of s'mores in the outdoor picnic area, weather permitting.

We encourage both those without children as well as families to join in celebrating together on this night. As you are preparing your home for the holidays, please bring any greenery trimmings you have to donate for the spiral to the shaded area against the wall near the accessible entrance at the back of UUC. If you can help with set-up, clean-up, crafts, or refreshments, contact [Susanne Sutherland](#).





The Fifth Annual UUC Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **February 15** at 5 PM for a fun night of fellowship and yummy chilis for the whole

family. We'll have hot and mild, vegetarian and meat, and possibly some you've never experienced. There will also be corn bread and other great fixins. **Your help is needed** to make this event a big success. Childcare provided. Needed are:

- ♦ Chili Cooks
- ♦ Chili Tasters
- ♦ Chili Judges (everyone's a judge)
- ♦ Servers for the chilis and other food items
- ♦ Servers for beverages – both alcoholic and non-alcoholic
- ♦ Donations of supplemental foods and beverages
- ♦ Volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up
- ♦ To help or for more info, contact [Franklyn Moreno](#) or better yet, sign up via our [Perfect Potluck webpage](#) to bring chili, cornbread, dessert, finger foods, beverages, and/or to help with set-up and clean-up.

50+ Singles Group

Are you 50+ and single? You are invited to join the group for lunch following the service on Sunday, **December 15**. If the weather cooperates, we'll carpool to the *Swinging Bridge Restaurant* in Paint Bank. If inclement weather is predicted, we'll stay local and gather at *Zeppoli's*. RSVP to [Linda Cherry](#) by December 13 so that reservations can be made either way.



Our wonderful Mitten Tree filled with gloves, hats, mittens, and scarves prior to donation to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Thanks to all who donated items.

Food Pantry Staple of the Month: Canned Soup

Through purchases as needed, the Interfaith Food Pantry provides a number of basic food staples to its clients every month. Rather than UUC congregants donating assortments of food items each month, we are now encouraging the donation of particular items each month. For November, our emphasis was canned vegetables. For December, we are requesting donations of **canned soups** - either condensed or regular. Collection boxes are in both the RE area and the main entryway.

We ask that on your grocery list, you keep in mind the selected UUC staple of the month. Below is the listing for the coming months:

December:	Canned soup
January:	1 lb. bags of dried beans and/or rice
February:	"Mac 'n' Cheese"
March:	Pasta and/or canned pasta sauce
April:	Canned tuna and/or canned meats
May:	Box(es) of cereal
June:	Canned meals like "Spaghetti O's"/ravioli
July:	Instant pudding and/or "Jello" packets
August:	Peanut butter and/or jam/jelly
September:	Canned fruit
October:	"Hamburger Helper"/box foods

Lifespan Faith Development

December 2019

Holiday Multi-Gen

Sunday, December 8

Don't miss our annual holiday multi-generational service featuring our famous No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant. This year's production: *Frosty the Snowman*. Kids of all ages will love this fun, and slightly chaotic, service! Act in our play or just enjoy the performance of others. Melt the snow in your heart and enjoy the magic and mystery of the holiday season!

This is also the Sunday that our Buddies will meet in person! Those in the Buddy Project should check their email for an invite and RSVP. You'll be seated with your Buddy and enjoy our show together. Stay for the potluck and make the fun last longer!

Sunday, December 8 is the last Buddy Project drop-off!



Family Holiday Party

Saturday, November 30, 5 PM

Kick off the holidays with a Family Holiday Party at UUC! We'll decorate our UUC tree, then watch two classic holiday movies together! Popcorn and drinks provided. Attendees are welcome to bring baked goods to share.

All ages are welcome!



MSYG

Friday, December 20, 6:30-8:30 PM

Middle School Youth Group meets this month at UUC to make holiday gifts. Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to come join the fun. Parents, watch your email for more information.

MSYG meets the 3rd Friday of the month with meetings at UUC and offsite locations. Contact dlfd@uucnrv.org to learn more.

[Register online.](#)

YRUU

Sundays, 6-8 PM

Our high school youth group, YRUU, meets on Sunday evenings with some meetings held offsite. Teens participate in fundraisers, fun activities, social action, and conferences, while forming bonds with other teens.

YRUU is open to youth in grades 9-12. Friends are welcome at meetings. Contact dlfd@uucnrv.org to learn more.

[Register online.](#)

**YRUU's free
and fun event
for all ages.**

What is . . .

Friday, December 13 at 6:30 PM

Join your UUC friends as we play the game JEOPARDY! with multi-generational teams. Play on a team or just cheer your friends on. Teams will be drawn that night. Suggested playing age: 5th grade-adult.

This is a **free** event hosted by YRUU. YRUU will also have a Holiday Cookie Sale that evening with donations going to their trip fund. Take home a dozen delicious homemade cookies!



LFD December Calendar Notes

- * No Buddy Project drop-off December 1
- * Buddies meet December 8
- * No Children's RE December 22 or 29
- * No YRUU December 22 or 29

Our Children's Offering benefits the Interfaith Food Pantry
December's collection: canned soup

YRUU Holiday Cookie Sale

Friday, Dec. 13 & Sunday, Dec. 15

Donations benefit the YRUU Trip Fund.



Spiritual Aging

Sunday, December 1, 3-5 PM in library

Join Rev. Pam on the first Sunday of each month 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. We will be exploring what we are gaining, what we are losing, how our identities change and what it means to us. This is perfect for people who consider themselves spiritual but not religious and are looking to delve deeper into these real human challenges.



On-Going Adult RE Programs

Sunday Circle

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

December 1: Mark Benson will discuss "UU Congregations in the Future: Compassionate hubs for Social Justice Transformation." What is the status of religion in American? What trends have occurred in UUism? How are religious institutions adapting to the changing landscape?

December 15: Bill Baker and members of the Citizens Climate Lobby will discuss "Mitigating Climate Change—the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend".

Anti-Racism Discussion Groups

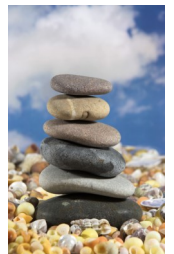
Meets the second and fourth Sundays, 8:30-9:30 AM

All are welcome to join our ongoing discussion group on white privilege and racism. Topics are announced via email. [Email Karen Hager](#) to join the listserv to receive links to the discussion articles.

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.



Conversations on Our Faith

Meets Wednesdays, 12-1 PM

Bring a brown bag lunch and join our conversation as we read the book, *The Knowledge Illusion: Why We Never Think Alone*, by Steven Sloman and Philip Fernbach. All are welcome, even if you have not read the chapters of the book under discussion. To learn more, contact [Tim Pickering](#).

UUC Community News

Update on ½-Plate Donations

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

November 3: Citizen's Climate Lobby, \$334

November 10: UUA Southern Region Chalice Lighters, \$289

November 17: Food Access for Students at VT, \$358

November 24: Mont. Co Christmas Store, \$277

Watch the weekly announcements and website for the coming weeks' ½-plate recipients. Have a suggestion—fill out the form in Elarth Hall and place in the lantern or email [Lisa](#).

Holiday Volunteer Opportunities

UUC's Community Service Team (CST) invites you to participate in 2 holiday volunteer activities which benefit our NRV neighbors. The [Montgomery County Christmas Store](#) is seeking volunteers to assist shoppers **December 3 - 7**. Simply sign up [online](#) and select your preferred date, time, and position.

The [Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program](#) (MCEAP) is seeking volunteers for their *Wrapping for a Reason* program to help wrap gifts at a wrapping station at the NRV Mall **November 29 - December 24**. Donations from shoppers provide assistance to members of the local community. Volunteers may sign up online to select their preferred date and time.

For sign-up links or additional info, contact [Alison Armstrong](#) or [Pauletta Copenheaver](#).

Collecting Items for Women's Resource Center

During the month of December, our Community Service Team (CST) is collecting items for women and children who are being sheltered by the Women's Resource Center. The requested items are new socks for women and children and new kitchen linens. Place your donations in the labeled collection bin located next to the Food Pantry bin in the foyer. For additional information, contact [Pauletta Copenheaver](#).

November Board Mtg. Highlights

- ♦ The Board is working to have the Strategic Planning Committee in place by the end of the year with work beginning in January. Past presidents will gather on **December 1** to provide input on the strategic planning process.
- ♦ Earle Irwin and Fred Piercy were approved to serve on the Committee on Ministries.
- ♦ Board members are encouraged to attend the Sunday Circle presented by members of Citizens Climate Lobby on **December 15**. A policy for endorsing an outside organization needs to be in place.
- ♦ The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, **December 12** at 7 PM. The [minutes and reports](#) of meetings for the past two calendar years are available.

Questions, Ideas, Complaints for the Board:

Simply send an email to addresstheBoard@uucnrv.org.



Many thanks to our talented "Piecemakers" who quilted our newest set of paramenta for the sanctuary. This is our first set featuring a chalice.

Round the Grounds

It was late in the afternoon of July 6, and we were giving thanks for the over 20 congregants who helped make our part in the Friends of the Library Garden Tour a huge success. Behind the garden tour effort were three volunteer workdays, donated plants, garden tenders busy with watering and removing spent flower heads, and on and on... The garden tour is history, but what isn't is the ongoing work of taking care of the almost 6 acres that compromise our grounds. In all seasons, you are welcome to take walks on the grounds, make use of the picnic tables, and appreciate Mother Nature at work.

It took well over 100 volunteer hours to put our grounds to bed for the winter. Thanks to those who did the raking, hauling, lifting and pruning. We absolutely couldn't do it without the help of our volunteers (and donuts from Carol Lee).

We are nearing closure on the **UU Memorial Walkway**, a special spot to honor past and present prominent UUs. The walkway is located near Hardwood Dr. It is beautiful! Though there are many prominent UUs, the in-progress signage will have space to list just 39 honorees. Take a walk and admire the walkway and watch for the completed signage.

Members of the Ground's Ministry are looking ahead to the 2020 gardening season. There are plans to have two hands-on gardening workshops in late March and early April. Learn how to prune trees and shrubs for health and shaping, divide plants and transplant plant material, amend soil, and deadhead spent flowers. We'll also cover fertilization timing and products used and correct mulching techniques. The workshops are geared to those who want to learn more about gardening and landscaping and, hopefully, get invested in our grounds maintenance and improvement.

There will likely be a 3rd annual "plant give-away – sort of" event in April when we give away divisions of plant material and collected seeds from our gardens. In exchange for the plants, we welcome donations that go toward the purchase of colorful annuals that will appear in pots and in the gardens. If you have some particular plant requests, please notify [Susan Baker](#). More about the give-away as the time gets closer.



Core grounds crew: George Lally, Susan Baker, Valerie Bidwell, Joe Powers, David Warner, and Amanda Haynes; Missing: Dean Mook and Bob Stimson

Support Groups at UUC

Parent Bereavement

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 Monday, **December 9**. For more info, contact [Katherine](#) or [Lisa](#).

Caregivers

UUC hosts a monthly support group for caregivers to share their experiences and challenges. The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30 PM—next meeting **December 10**. Questions or concerns - contact either [Rev. Pam](#) or [Dan Kominsky](#).

Transgender

[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 NRV in a safe, anonymous and affirming environment. Contact [Hayden](#) for more info and meeting locations.

The **Adult Group** meets on **December 5 & 19** at 7 PM and welcomes all adults who identify under the trans umbrella or are questioning their gender.

The **Youth & Families Group** meets on **December 17** at 7 PM and is for anyone under 18 that falls under the trans umbrella, whether they have started their transition or are just questioning their gender. Parents are welcome with or without their children.

2 NAMI Mental Health Groups

All are welcome on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 PM to attend the support group for those with a mental illness. Next meeting on **December 16**. A second support group for friends and family of those with a mental illness meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 PM. Next meeting on **December 18**. Contact [Margo](#) for more information.

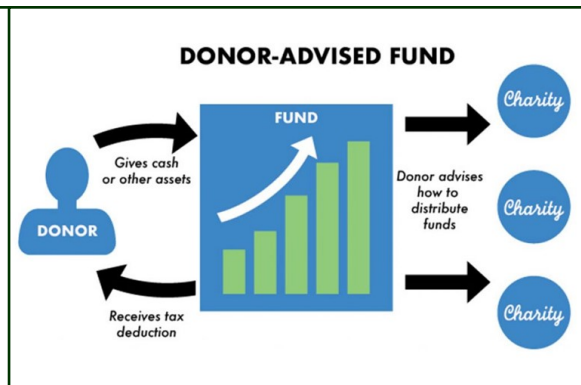
Money Matters

Contribute to UUC and Reduce Your Income Tax with a Donor-Advised Fund

This year the standard federal income tax deduction for married couples is \$24,400 (\$12,200 for single persons and married persons filing as single individuals). For 2019, the **additional standard deduction** amount for those >65 years old or the blind is \$1,300. Personal exemptions have been eliminated. The standard deduction makes it difficult to itemize deductions unless they are greater than \$24,400 for married couples. The additional standard deduction amount increases to \$1,650 for unmarried taxpayers.

If you are charitable-minded, investigate a **donor-advised fund**. The purpose of a donor-advised fund is to support charitable organizations you care about in a tax-efficient way. You may contribute cash, stock or other assets to a public charity (see <https://www.fidelitycharitable.org/>, <https://www.vanguardcharitable.org/> as examples) and achieve an immediate deduction. The funds that you use to contribute to the donor-advised fund can be invested and grow tax free. You can then recommend to the donor-advised fund, grants to the charities of your choice over time. The grants themselves are not tax-deductible because you receive the deduction immediately upon contributing to the donor-advised fund. The advantage of a donor-advised fund is that you can bundle your contributions, let's say every 3 or so years so that the deduction is larger and itemizable. You can donate appreciated assets such as stock and avoid capital gains tax.

For further details on how such a fund might help you, contact any member of the Endowment Committee ([Bill Baker](#), [Dennis Moody](#), [Linda Powers](#)).



The RMDs and QCDs of Retirement

If you are 70 ½ or older, IRS rules require you to take a required minimum deduction (RMD) each year from your tax-deferred retirement account(s). The additional taxable income may change your tax bracket and could reduce your eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions. To reduce the impact of the taxable RMD income, charitable-minded investors may want to consider making a qualified charitable deduction (QCD). A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from a traditional or rollover IRA (not a ROTH IRA) to a qualified charity. The account types that are eligible for QCDs include: traditional IRAs, inherited IRAs, SEP IRAs (inactive plans only), and SIMPLE IRAs (inactive plans only). The deadline for making a QCD this year is December 31, the same time that you must take your RMD (or be subject to a severe penalty).

The maximum amount that can be taken from the RMD and used as a QCD is \$100,000 per year. In the case of a married couple, each person can contribute \$100,000 from their respective IRAs if they file jointly.

If you cannot itemize your deductions this year and must take the standard deduction, the QCD will help you lower taxes because it reduces your income by the amount that you use for the QCD.

A good way to use the QCD is to give to the UUC [Endowment Fund](#) (UUCEF). The fund currently is valued at \$23,332. As the UUCEF grows, the interest can be used for operating expenses, special projects or be an emergency fund. For details about the UUC Endowment Fund see <https://uucnr.org/support/endowment-funds/>.





Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services December 2019

Services at 10:00 AM in the Meeting Hall
Religious Education Classes and Nursery Care
All are invited to share coffee & conversation following the service.

Worship Theme for December: AWE

December 1: Rev. Pam and Worship Associate Victoria Taylor, *Everything Is Awesome!* We'll begin our exploration of what it means to be a *people of awe* with a family service that invites us to discover all the ways we can be inspired by the world around us and each other.

December 8: Karen Hager, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, and Rev. Pam, *Holiday Multi-generational Service*. Join in the fun for our annual multi-generational no-rehearsal pageant, this year based on the holiday classic cartoon, "Frosty the Snowman." Those registered in The Buddy Project get to meet their buddies!

All are invited to our monthly potluck following the service (see below).

December 15: Rev. Pam and Worship Associate Jim Kern, *Awe and Reverence*. If awe evokes reverence, then what does reverence inspire? What might it mean to move through the world with more reverence? We'll explore the role of awe and reverence in a 21st century life.

December 22: Rev. Pam and Worship Associate Kimberley Homer, *In Awe of Stillness*. People for millennia have experienced the moment when the sun seems to hold still in the sky with awe and wonder. We'll mark the Winter Solstice with a special service that will include walking the solstice spiral together.

December 29: Rev. Tiffany Sapp and Worship Associate Ellen Plummer, *Awe-some and Awe-ful*. Moments of awe make us stop. They jar us out of our day to day distractions and duty-filled world and welcome us to pay attention. It's a moment where we touch the sacred. During her work as a hospital chaplain, Rev. Tiffany Sapp has seen awe even in the awful moments of life and has discovered that it is often in the ways that communities come together that make the moment sacred.

Tiffany Sapp is a newly ordained UU minister in Preliminary Fellowship. Having completed her internship at Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Gray, TN last year, she is now a hospital chaplain at Johnson City Medical Center, the only Level One Trauma hospital in the region. She does this work with the support of the UU Congregation of Asheville, where she is one of their Community Ministers. Tiffany grew up a military brat, living all over the U.S., but has spent her entire adult life in the south. Her husband, Jayon, is a tugboat captain, and her daughter, Bridget, is a nine-year-old dancer and girl scout. Tiffany paints and cooks when she finds herself with a day off from the hospital.



Second-Sunday Potluck

Everyone is invited to enjoy lunch together following the service on **December 8**. This month, if your last name begins with **Bal-Bur**, bring a beverage; **Lan-Z** bring a main dish; **A-Bak and Bus-Lam** bring a side dish or dessert. Don't forget your list of the ingredients in your dish to assist those with food allergies. Please be sure to bring a **LARGE DISH** as there are many mouths to feed and to be considerate of those at the end of the line that are also hungry.

As always, bring your non-perishable food donations for the [Interfaith Food Pantry](#). **Note that this month we are requesting everyone bring canned soups.** The donation basket is in the lobby just outside the Sanctuary.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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CALENDAR: December 2019

Staff Office Hours:

Minister: 9-1 Tu - Th; Contact for appointment

Administrator: Mondays & Fridays 1- 4

DLFD: Contact for appointment

All times are PM unless noted otherwise

⌘ indicates that there is a write-up in the newsletter

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
(All Sundays) ⌘ 10:00 AM Worship Service ⌘ 6:00 YRUU (except December 1 and 29)	(All Mondays) 7:00 AM Women's Breakfast & Men's Breakfast at <i>Panera Bread</i> (Bburg)	(All Tuesdays) ⌘ 7:00 Meditation (except December 24 and 31)	(All Wednesdays except December 25) ⌘ Noon Conversations on Our Faith 5:30 Yoga Choir rehearsals: 6:15 chalice 7:00 Adult			
1 (no Buddy-project dropoff) ⌘ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 11:30 Men's Group ⌘ 11:30 Past Presidents' Gathering ⌘ 3:00 Spiritual Aging	2	3 1:30 Creative Writers' Group 2:00 Sages	4 6:00 Connection Committee	5 ⌘ 7:00 Transgender Support Group	6 ⌘ 11:30 Women's Lunch <i>Prestons Inn at VT</i> (Bburg)	7
8 ⌘ 8:30 AM Anti-Racism discussion group ⌘ 11:15 Second-Sunday potluck	9 ⌘ 6:00 Parent Bereavement Support Group	10 4:00 Committee on Ministries ⌘ 7:00 Caregivers' Support Group	11 5:45 Finance Comm 7:00 Worship Team	12 7:00 Board meeting	13 ⌘ 6:30 YRUU Jeopardy	14 3:00 Peer Segelke Memorial Service 5:00 Parents' Covenant Group ⌘ 7:00 Holiday concert
15 ⌘ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 10:00 Children's RE 11:30 Men's Group 11:30 Stewardship meeting Noon Singles Group (<i>Swinging Bridge Restaurant</i> in Paint Bank) 5:00 YAC	16 ⌘ 6:00 National Alliance on Mental Illness Connections Support Group	17 2:00 Sages ⌘ 7:00 Trans Support Group for Youth and Families	18 4:00 Lay Pastoral Care Ministry ⌘ 6:00 NAMI Family and Friends Support group	19 ⌘ 7:00 Transgender Support Group	20 6:30 Middle-School Youth Group (onsite)	21 ⌘ 5:30 EarthSpirit Sisters Solstice Spiral
22 ⌘ 8:30 AM Anti-Racism discussion group	23	24 ⌘ 5:30 Christmas Eve Service & Potluck	25	26 9:00 January Newsletter Deadline	27	28
29	30	31				

Offices are closed December 24 - January 1 and staff is on vacation at that time.