



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

NEWSLETTER

December 2020

1301 Gladewood Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Website: www.uucnrv.org
E-mail: info@uucnrv.org
Phone: (540) 552-9716

Message from Our Minister Rev. Pam Philips

As 2020 draws to an end, considering what it means to be a **people of stillness** seems somewhat ironic. Since March, we've been staying still—sticking close to home, protecting ourselves from potential exposure to the Coronavirus. Don't we already know what it means to be people of stillness? Aren't we sick of it? In any other year, exploring stillness during December would make more sense, as a counterweight to finding ourselves caught up in the whirlwind of holiday happenings—shopping, decorating, baking, traveling, hosting, feasting. But this year. . . ?

Yes, even this year, we can benefit from encouragement to cultivate calm in our lives. Being still is not the same as being stuck. Rather, it is a slowing down, not out of necessity, but with intention. It invites us to make and take the time to listen for the still small voice within and to watch for the wonders all around.

Have you noticed how early holiday preparations started this year? Christmas lights and displays replaced Halloween decorations on November 1st. It seems that people are especially hungry for holidays, given that so many other parts of our lives have been constricted by Covid-19. As I write, many people are participating in Black Friday sales, eager to purchase presents that might make up for the lack of presence.

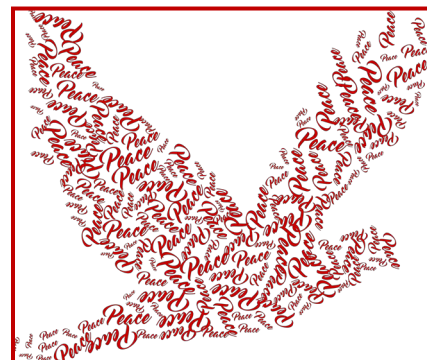
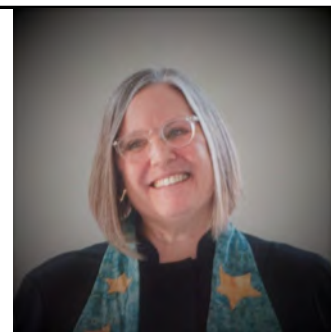
I don't mean to sound like a Grinch or a Scrooge. It makes sense for people to bring color and light into a world that is weary from pandemic and polarized politics. I was delighted when I saw the jewel-colored lights adorning the pasture fence on our way home, and I foresee many evening walks around the neighborhood to see new displays as the season progresses. I'm grateful for people who share their holiday spirit.

If you "deck your halls," please send me a photograph of you and your decorations to share on Christmas Eve. Our Zoom service will begin at 5:30 PM with a telling of the Christmas story that children will enjoy, singing beloved carols, and a message for our time. We'll end with a celebration of stillness--the traditional *Silent Night* sung by candlelight. It won't be the same as in years past, passing the light from candle to candle, but we can be together still.

You'll also have the chance to explore and embody stillness by **walking the labyrinth** on our grounds. We're planning a magical experience with lighting on the labyrinth and seating around the firepit where we can enjoy refreshments and physically-distanced conversation. Our intention is to hold several evening walks from 6-8 PM in the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Consider [signing up](#) to help create what just might become a new UUC tradition and watch for updates on which nights the labyrinth will be open for walking.

As this month unfolds, take time to enjoy all the expressions of holiday spirit—your own or your neighbors'—but also make time for stillness. We all need, we all deserve, both.

With faith and hope for a better new year and love for you all,
Rev. Pam



Contact Information

Minister Rev. Pam Philips
540-252-9156
minister@uucnrv.org

President:
Wayne Neu
540-818-2353
president@uucnrv.org

Director of Lifespan Faith Development:
Karen Hager
540-577-8043
DLFD@uucnrv.org

Administrator/ Newsletter/Website:
Lisa Evanylo
540-257-3612
administrator@uucnrv.org

Pianist:
Jared Gibbs
pianist@uucnrv.org

Choir Director:
Ella Kromin
choirdirector@uucnrv.org

Lay Pastoral Care Ministry:
LPCM@uucnrv.org

UUC Website: uucnrv.org

UUC Office Phone:
540-552-9716



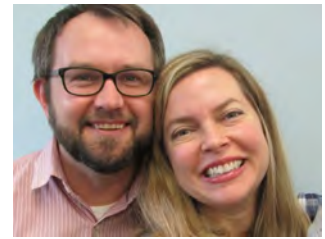
Staff Office Hours:

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

Paul & Mindy Quigley, Member-at-large



As we gave thanks in a smaller, scaled-down version of Thanksgiving, our family challenged ourselves to find silver linings in a year dominated by hardship, illness, uncertainty, and social oppression.

For those able to do it, working from home can be more peaceful and more productive. Grocery shopping online is really easy, albeit more frustrating when there's no substitution available for that crucial dinner ingredient. (If you've ever tried making mashed potatoes without potatoes, you know what we mean.) Holidays are lonelier, but they can be more relaxing, too. Traveling less gives us more opportunity to appreciate our homes, neighborhoods, and the tranquility of nature.

Oh yes—and this one's a transformation surely everyone can embrace as an unalloyed good—we are also finally living in a world where it's okay to wear sweatpants every day.

With vaccines on the horizon, we also began to think about which of these changes might stick around once the dark clouds of this year finally lift.

Living through 2020 has also prompted many people to rethink church. What does church have to offer us? What can we offer in return? How does living in a physically-distanced world change our needs and our ability to give back? Can a spiritual community be formed in only two dimensions? In what ways can our community be enriched by new ways of doing things?

For us, it's not only the pandemic that has generated more reflection on our relationship with the church and the congregation. This past summer, we joined the UUC Board, splitting one spot between us. So as we've been getting used to all the same changes as everyone else, we've also been learning a lot about the inner workings of UUC.

We're learning more about the many ways the church touches the lives of our fellow UUs, and the flabbergasting amount of work, energy, and love that keeps our community going. We're learning about the many different things people look for at church—ranging from the spiritual and the emotional to the social and the intellectual. And we're learning about how the ability of our church to fulfil those many needs is changing.

Of course, much of the Board's business recently has involved practical discussions around COVID policies. While it's been clear to everyone that regular Sunday services won't be resuming for a while, the Board has been engaged in continuous conversation about opening the building and grounds for smaller groups. It's been impressive—inspiring—to see the care, compassion, and responsibility our fellow Board members bring to these discussions. Weighing the imperatives of public health against the immeasurable benefits that can accrue when a small group meets in the building or grounds is not easy.

At our last meeting, November 12, we voted to close the building once again due to the recent upward trend in COVID cases in our area. The rules will change as the pandemic ebbs and flows.

It remains to be seen exactly when and how the pandemic will abate to a level where we can get back to something approaching "normal." And really, at church as in other aspects of our lives, 2020's transformations are bound to endure to some degree. As other newsletter articles have pointed out, some people will prefer to attend services remotely. Perhaps committee meetings will find it more efficient to do at least some of their work in a virtual space. The virtual connections forged with distant activists have surely

Continued on page 9...

Upcoming Events

UUC Holiday Market



Hey you holiday bakers and crafters! Please let us know what holiday delights you will offer in our first ever seasonal marketplace.

Ideas: Bake your favorite cookies to

share with others. Gather the ingredients for a gingerbread house kit. Make a holiday decoration for a table or tree. Offer to hang lights for someone. Bake your favorite holiday casserole. Knit a hat and gloves. Be creative and get in the holiday spirit!!! All items will be a fixed price. The market will run online on our [auction website](#) **December 6-13**. Contact [Molly](#) or [Irene](#) to have your donations put on the website.

Walk the Labyrinth/ Help Needed

All ages are invited to enjoy a magical experience by walking the lighted labyrinth and sitting around the firepit to enjoy refreshments and physically-distanced conversation. Our intention is to hold several evening walks from 6-8 PM in the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, **December 26-January 1**.



Consider [signing up](#) to help create what just might become a new UUC tradition and watch for updates on which nights the labyrinth will be open for walking.

Christmas Eve Service

Join Rev. Pam Philips and members of the Worship Team on Thursday, **December 24** at 5:30 PM for a special service where we'll revisit the *Nativity Story*, consider what meaning it holds for us this year, and sing beloved carols. Be prepared to turn off the lights at home and light candles as we sing *Silent Night* together.



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. Recipients of these funds are kept confidential.

Ways to donate: Mail a check made out to UUC with "CAF" on the memo line. Online donations can be made to CAF via our Vanco mobile app (Give Plus+ or Give+), our Text to Give option, or from our [website](#). Check out our [Give webpage](#) for more information on these options.

We will also have a 1/2-plate offering for the CAF on a Sunday in December.

Join Our Monday Meet-up

Feeling isolated? Missing those stimulating conversations with others at UUC? Join our Monday Meet-up each Monday at 7 PM via this [Zoom link](#). This is a time for socializing with no agenda, no questions you need to think about – simply join in and see where the conversation goes. 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.

Women's Breakfast

All women 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.

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

Join us each Tuesday at 2 PM for stimulating conversation via this [Zoom link](#). 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 themes are topical and have included such inquiries as: "The power of relationships & healing", "Reflection and transformation through deep listening", and "Black Lives Matter". 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.

Yoga

Join us for Yoga outdoors on UUC's grounds each Wednesday at 5:30 PM provided it's not too cold or raining. Meet near the UUC entrance at 5:30 PM. Bring your own mat and whatever else you will need. Contact [Lori](#) to be placed on the email list for updates if the class is canceled.



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 Monday, **December 14**. Join the group via Zoom. For more info and the Zoom link, contact [Katherine](#) or [Lisa](#).

Mental Illness Peer Support

If you are someone who has experienced mental illness and would appreciate the support of peers, join our online meetings on the 3rd Mondays of each month at 6 PM. Next meeting on Monday, **December 21**. Contact [Kimberley](#) for the Zoom link or for more info.

NAMI Family Support

All are welcome on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 PM to attend our community-wide mental health support group for friends and family of those with a mental illness. Next meeting on **December 16**. Contact [Kristine](#) for the Zoom link.

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 **December 8** at 7-8:30 PM. Join us via this [Zoom link](#). Questions or concerns - contact [Rev. Pam](#).

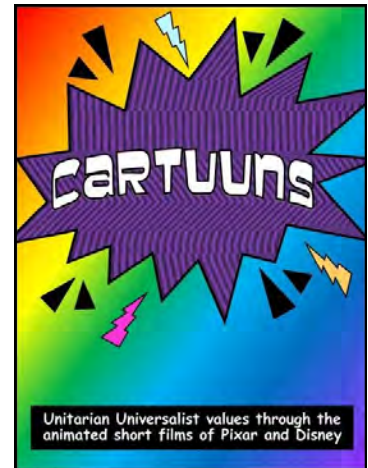
Lifespan Faith Development

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
Dec 6	<i>Toys Story Toons Partysaurus Rex</i>
Dec 13	<i>Olaf's Frozen Adventure</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
Dec 6	<i>Stickman</i>
Dec 13	<i>Llama Llama Holiday Drama</i>



No RE Sunday, December 27

Story Time with Rev. Pam

Wednesdays at 3:00 PM

[Zoom link](#)



NO REHEARSAL HOLIDAY PAGEANT



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, MULTI-GENERATIONAL SERVICE

Meet Your Buddy!

Sunday, December 20, 11:30 AM

Watch your email for an e-vite and Zoom link for our online Buddy Party following the holiday multi-generational service.



MSYG

Sunday evenings 6-7 PM, Dec. 6 & 13

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, Dec. 6 & 13

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.](#)



Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day, add an item to a box. After Christmas, donate the entire box to the Interfaith Food Pantry, or drop it off at UUC and we'll take it there for you.

Total cost of these items is about \$1/day.

- December 1: canned vegetable
- December 2: canned fruit
- December 3: spaghetti sauce
- December 4: pasta noodles
- December 5: cereal
- December 6: canned tuna
- December 7: peanut butter (16 oz)
- December 8: jelly
- December 9: canned soup
- December 10: mac and cheese
- December 11: rice
- December 12: dried beans
- December 13: Hamburger Helper
- December 14: canned vegetable
- December 15: canned fruit
- December 16: spaghetti sauce
- December 17: pasta noodles
- December 18: cereal
- December 19: peanut butter (16 oz)
- December 20: jelly
- December 21: canned soup
- December 22: mac and cheese
- December 23: canned tuna
- December 24: dried beans
- December 25: Hamburger Helper

The Interfaith Food Pantry is located at 706 Harding Ave in Blacksburg.
Donation hours are Mon / Tues 4-6pm and Wed / Thur 10-11:30am. IPF is closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Learn more about IFP at <http://newrivercommunityaction.org/IPF/>



On-Going Adult RE Programs

Spiritual Aging

*Meets the first Sunday of the month (**December 6**), 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

December 6: Mark Benson will discuss "Transformation and Social Justice in UU Congregations". Trends in American culture are shaping the future of religious institutions and UU congregations. The UU principles uniquely position congregations to be caring sanctuaries for members and hubs for social justice transformation. How can social justice concepts of self-interest, problem definition, and critical reflection connect with specific techniques of empathetic agitation, house meetings, and 121's* to build a better world? Join via this [Zoom link](#).

*sit downs with one other to help a person get in touch with one's true self and inherent goals for social justice that lead to personal and community change. It's not an attempt to persuade, but to examine the underlying goals, dreams, and hopes for a better future.

December 20: TBD. Join via this [Zoom link](#).

Anti-Racism Discussion Groups

Meets second and fourth Sundays, 1-2 PM

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. Join via this [Zoom link](#).

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, *CASTE: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. 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, December 20, 11:30-1 PM, led by [Rev. Jamie McReynolds](#)

Join us for a conversation about **Political Dysfunction and Reform**. Politically, these are unhealthy and politically dangerous times for our country. Public trust in government is hovering near all-time lows, and vicious political partisanship is tearing civil society apart. These truths seem as self-evident as any. Where do we go from here? And what is our role as citizens? Join via this [Zoom link](#).

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 1: United Way Mont. Co. Holiday Food Drive, \$173

November 8: Warrior Expeditions, \$139

November 15: National Center for Transgender Equality, \$127

November 22: HSMC Parking Lot Pet Food Pantry, \$137

November 29: Monacan Gifting Program, TBA

Watch the weekly announcements and website for the coming weeks' ½-plate recipients. Have a suggestion—email [Lisa](#).

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

Worship Technicians Needed!

Help the Worship Team by 'driving' the power points for Sunday. No outside commitment required - only needed on Sunday mornings. The Worship Team will share the slides that morning, and the Worship Technician would share the screen accordingly. Reach out to [Stephen Henninger](#) if interested.

Continued from page 2...

laid the groundwork to take our struggle for social justice to manifest itself in new and powerful ways. Perhaps the outpouring of new forms of support that came from members this year, financial and otherwise, will translate into a longer-term rise in appreciation and support for the many different things we all need and receive from church. Surely we will continue to value our beautiful grounds more than we ever did before.

However church ends up changing, we feel fortunate to participate in helping guide the process—working together with our entire community as we continue to reflect on what church needs from us, and what we need from church.

Finally—you guessed it—we feel doubly fortunate to be doing this in the supreme comfort of our sweatpants!

November Board Mtg. Highlights

- ♦ Irene Peterson and Molly McClintock (Auction co-chairs) reported on the auction which consisted of online items for sale and the live event. \$12,909 was raised with more to come! A **Holiday Market** will be held **December 6-13** (see page 3), and a spring event that can hopefully include offerings for physical gatherings.
- ♦ DLFD Karen Hager has been offered a temporary, part-time position supporting the RE program at her old congregation in Cincinnati. She will serve for 6 months as Interim RE Director. This will not affect her obligations and responsibilities at UUC.
- ♦ Treasurer Meredith Hundley will find someone to serve as Assistant Treasurer.
- ♦ The Board voted to close the building due to Covid (see page 10 for more info).

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, **December 10** 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 addresstheBoard@uucnr.org.

Environmental Justice Team Update

An Environmental Justice Team (EJT)-sponsored strategic planning workshop conducted on February 29 resulted in the creation of 6 teams to address climate change through activities associated with (1) Energy, (2) Landscaping, (3) Recycling, (4) Advocacy, (5) Education and Communication, and (6) Spiritual issues. Each team developed multiple proposed actions during the workshop that they have addressed to varying degrees during the past 8 months. A summary of activities by each team during this period is available via this [report](#). We encourage everyone to become involved as we continue to take actions to ameliorate climate change. Contact one of the team leaders to learn more about their activities and/or to join the group.

Strategic Planning Update

UUC's Strategic Planning group (Amy Pruden-Bagchi, Frank Napolitano, Jim Kern, Kim Feucht, Polly Stimson, Rev. Pam, and Stephen Henninger) is meeting diligently, thinking and discussing the future of our congregation. Over the summer, the Strategic Planning group asked the congregation to provide their thoughts on our Congregation via a survey. To the 106 respondents - *thank you!* Your insights and perspective were intriguing and thought-provoking.

We would also like to thank Polly Stimson for her efforts on the Strategic Planning group - Polly was an instrumental member in helping the group get our feet planted, passed on historical knowledge from the previous strategic planning process, and coordinated the prizes for the survey participants. Thank you, Polly!

Over the last three months, the Strategic Planning group discussed the survey results and was struck by how our Congregation shares a similar perspective on the congregation and its potential future. The notable findings of the survey are:

- All three parts of our mission (Inspire, Create, and Transform) are vital to the continued vibrancy of our congregation (the number of respondents that identified Inspire, Create, or Transform as the most important part of our mission were evenly split)
- Our congregation's health stems from our compassionate community - and we must continue our efforts to move towards *Beloved Community*
- As our congregation hopes to be a beacon of liberal religion in the New River Valley, we must identify key community partners, compelling issues, and sustainable advocacy mechanisms to truly be a beacon of liberal religion

These findings left the Strategic Planning group with the following questions:

- How might we continue to live into our mission in ways that draw on our faith?
- Who does not have a seat in our *Beloved Community*? How might we welcome them more radically?
- Whom should we reach out to to begin - and continue - the work of transformation within our community?

In the coming months, the Strategic Planning group will continue this conversation and will be seeking out more voices to help us answer these - and other - questions. Thank you to everyone for your thoughts thus far and for your future help in bending the moral arc of the Universe towards justice.



Update on Building & Grounds Use

- ◆ In-person gatherings are **NOT** permitted in our building at this time. However, up to 20 people are able to gather together in our outdoor space, but the 6-foot distance between people must be maintained.
- ◆ Bathroom room use allowed only if the need is urgent. 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.

Round the Grounds

CHILL!! That's the mantra for UUC's grounds at this time of year. We'll still be hanging out on the grounds to do seasonal maintenance tasks and perhaps get a start on some wish list projects. The grounds are officially "put to bed", but are still a great place to walk, meditate, and visit with friends.



Crescent garden ready for winter



Empty mulch corral



Flower pots waiting for spring planting

Joe Powers and David Warner have been mulching leaves with the lawn mower which has reduced raking time. Joe is getting the mowers ready for winter storage in the newly relocated shed. George Lally is painting the cinder blocks on the Memorial Walkway and will hopefully be finished by 2022 (inside joke). Joe Powers and Walter Pirie have completed putting together a second steel framed picnic table and anticipate getting the third one put together before the snow flies. The framed tables have wood tops and benches but are much more durable and safer than the all wood tables. 15 cubic yards of mulch has been spread, leaving an empty space in the "mulch corral". Susan Baker misses the mulch pile. Moving wheelbarrows of mulch uphill is a great physical fitness activity (better than house cleaning).

Many of the perennials need to be divided. Hopefully in late March or early April, we will have the annual "Plant Give-away, sort of". Cone flowers, black eyed susans, ground cover phlox, ground cover creeping jenny, yellow yarrow, Montauk daisy, candy tuft, and other plants will be available. Plants will be in clumps and will need to go into the ground soon after receiving them.

Many individuals have helped to maintain and improve the grounds during the past 11 months. They are "invisible helpers", but we couldn't do without them. From the mowers, painters, mulch movers, plant waterers, to the tree planters goes well deserved and appreciative applause. Thank you!



Painting the Memorial Walkway



The newly relocated shed



Spreading mulch

We are hopeful that 2021 will be a time when the beautiful grounds can be actively enjoyed by all.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services December 2020

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.

December's Theme: **STILLNESS**

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

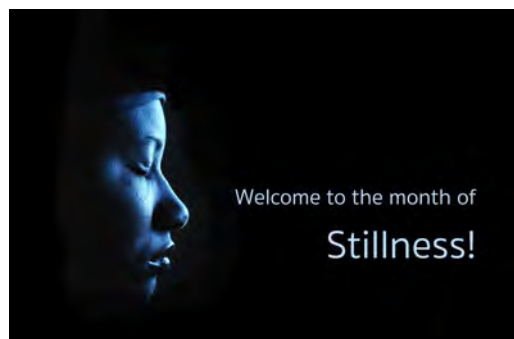
December 6: *Find A Stillness*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Stephen Henninger. Where and how can we find stillness in a culture that encourages and rewards busy-ness?

December 13: *"Be Still and Know . . . That I Am God"*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Kimberley Homer. So says the Psalm. Many religious traditions see stillness as an avenue to knowing the divine. What knowledge, what wisdom, might we gain from being still?

December 20: *Holiday Multigenerational Service*. Join in the fun for the annual multigenerational no-rehearsal pageant, this year based on the spirited, good-natured, family comedy "Elf". Adapted and directed by Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Karen Hager, edited by LFD Assistant, Rachel Craine, and starring UUC members and friends of all ages.

Get to Know UUC: Newcomers are invited to an informal Q&A session with members of our Connections Committee and Board after the third Sunday service each month. Simply stay in the service Zoom session.

December 27: *Sol Stillness*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Ellen Plummer. The word solstice comes from Latin that literally translates to "the standing still of the sun." We'll explore how this time of stillness can prepare us for the beginning of the new year.



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.



Wishing everyone the
best of health,
happiness, peace, and
love in 2021!



Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1301 Gladewood Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Phone: (540) 552-9716 E-mail: info@nrv.org

P.O. Box 10116, Bburg 24062-0116 URL: uucnrv.org

CALENDAR: December 2020

Staff Virtual Office Hours:

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

Administrator: [Contact for appointment](#)

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
(Sundays) ⌘ 9:00 PreK RE (Dec. 6 & 13) ⌘ 9:30 Grades K-5 RE (Dec. 6 & 13) ⌘ 10:00 AM Worship Service (all except Dec. 20: see below) ⌘ 6:00 Middle School RE/Youth Group (Dec. 6 & 13) ⌘ 7:00 YRUU (Dec. 6 & 13)	(All Mondays) ⌘ 7:00 AM Women's Breakfast ⌘ 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast ⌘ 7:00 PM Monday Meet-Up	(All Tuesdays) ⌘ 2:00 Sages ⌘ 5:00 Meditation	(All Wednesdays) ⌘ Noon Conversations on Our Faith ⌘ 3:00 PM Story Time with Rev. Pam ⌘ 5:30 Mid-week Gathering ⌘ 5:30 Yoga (UUC grounds weather permitting)		(All Fridays except December 25) ⌘ Noon Women's Lunch Bunch (UUC picnic area or Zoom)	
		1	2 6:15 Connection Committee meeting	3	4	5
6 ⌘ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 11:30 Men's Group ⌘ 3:00 Spiritual Aging	7	8 4:00 Committee on Ministries ⌘ 7:00 Caregivers' Support Group	9 6:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Worship Team	10 ⌘ 7:00 Board Meeting	11	12
13 11:30 AM Stewardship ⌘ 1:00 Anti-Racism Discussion Group	14 ⌘ 6:00 Parent Bereavement Support Group	15	16 ⌘ 6:00 NAMI Family Support Group	17	18	19
20 (Buddy Project ends) ⌘ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle ⌘ 10:00 Multigenerational Worship Service ⌘ 11:15 Get to Know UUC 11:30 Men's Group ⌘ 11:30 Community Conversations: <i>Political Dysfunction and Reform</i>	21 ⌘ 6:00 Mental Illness Peer Support Group	22	23	24 ⌘ 5:30 Christmas Eve Service 9:00 January Newsletter Deadline	25	26
27 ⌘ 1:00 Anti-Racism Discussion Group	28	29	30	31		

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.