



# NEWSLETTER

## February 2022

1301 Gladewood Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
Website: [www.uucnr.org](http://www.uucnr.org)  
E-mail: [info@uucnr.org](mailto:info@uucnr.org)  
Phone: (540) 552-9716

### Message from Our Minister Rev. Pam Philips

As we enter the month of February, still in the grips of snowy cold winter, we're invited by this month's theme to explore **Widening the Circle**. As I contemplate what that means, I'm struck by the notion that this has been a time not of widening but tightening. With the Omicron variant reminding us how vulnerable we are, many have been narrowing our circles – seeing fewer people, going fewer places, hunkering down. The snowy weather has literally prevented some people from being able to get out and about. I talked to one congregant who hadn't been able to use their driveway for over a week! Even walking outside in the cold, I find myself pushing my hands deep into my pockets and bracing against the wind. I long for the days of spring when I'm not muffled inside my coat, hat, gloves, and scarf and can open my arms wide to the warmth of a sunny afternoon. Such are the dreams of winter.



So, as we embark on this month of widening the circle, what can we do to counteract the effects of winter and the pandemic, even if we are stuck in our houses? One opportunity is to widen our circle by joining the **Anti-Racism Practice Workshop** (on Zoom) with members of UUC and Blacksburg Presbyterian Church on **February 22** (see page 2 for more info). This will be the first of many monthly sessions, but you don't need to commit to more than this event. I'm excited that our two congregations are collaborating on this endeavor, helping us live into our vision to *"join with other organizations and faiths to work for just causes."*

A more fanciful way to widen our circle is to participate in Lifespan Faith Development's second annual "Stuffie Sleepover" (**February 11-13**) (see page 7 for more info). Last year's sleepover was delightful. The stuffed animals represented some of UUC's youngest and oldest members. Watching their escapades, having fun all over the meeting house, whether your stuffed friend participates or not, can warm our hearts from the winter chill.

Speaking of Lifespan Faith Development, I want to express my gratitude to Sara, Brandie, and Alyssa – our fabulous interim LFD team – for starting up the spring semester classes and for adding a Sunday morning Zoom story time before the service for those who don't feel comfortable attending in-person RE. Story time is for the young and young at heart.

I also want to let you know that we have two wonderful search committees starting the process to find candidates to fill the permanent DLFD position (Ally DeHoff, Helen Fotinos, Jane Keppel-Benson, and Dan Taylor) and the administrator position (Jim Flowers, Jane Mahone, and Kristine Reid) when our current administrator, Lisa Evanylo, retires. As difficult as it is to say goodbye to beloved staff members, welcoming new people into these roles will help us widen the circle of our community to new ideas and opportunities.

As you consider how you might widen your own circle, consider looking through the newsletter and the online calendar for some of the many ways to gather at UUC, in person or online, to connect and to serve. Step out of your comfort zone by trying something new. We may not know what new curveballs the pandemic will send our way, but we can be confident that warmer weather is on its way. . . eventually. Let the promise of spring encourage us to explore many different ways of widening our circles.

In faith,  
Rev. Pam

Rev. Pam will be out of the office through **February 7** to attend a workshop in San Diego and visit with family in the area.

If you have a pastoral need, contact [Rev. Jamie McReynolds](mailto:Rev.JamieMcReynolds). For other needs, contact [administrator@uucnr.org](mailto:administrator@uucnr.org).

## Contact Information

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

**President:**  
Bob Stimson  
540-267-5561  
president@uucnrv.org

**Interim Directors of Lifespan Faith Development:**

Sara Catlett  
443-206-8547  
spgcatlett@gmail.com

Brandie Lemmon  
540-808-3364  
brandie.lemmon@gmail.com

Alyssa Short  
401-241-1714  
holland.short@gmail.com

**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:

Contact staff to make an appointment.

## Message from Our Board

Nancy Bodenhorn, President-elect



I am writing this in late January (the month of *Living with Intention*) to be read in February (the month of *Widening the Circle*). Several weeks ago, we learned of the death of Thich Nhat Hanh, a frequently quoted Vietnamese Buddhist monk. Many of his quotes strike me as bridges between intentionality and widening our circle. Here are a few of my favorites:

*Smiling is very important. If we are not able to smile, then the world will not have peace. It is not by going out for a demonstration against nuclear missiles that we can bring about peace. It is with our capacity of smiling, beathing, and being peace that we can make peace.*

*Compassionate listening is to help the other side suffer less. If we realize that other people are the same people as we are, we are no longer angry at them.*

*If you have the chance to be exposed to a loving, understanding environment where the seed of compassion, loving kindness, can be watered every day, then you become a more loving person.*

*When you learn about the teaching and the practice of another tradition, you always have a chance to understand your own teaching and practice.*

Let's continue to smile, listen compassionately, nourish loving kindness, and learn about others' traditions. These are all endeavors that I see practiced in all of our various ministries and that are honored in the practices of the Board. We look forward to the continued work of the Search Committees for the new DLF and Administrator, the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, developing a slate of new Board members, and a new initiative from the Leadership Development Committee on *Growth Through Service*.

## Anti-Racist Practice Group

Join us for this session on Tuesday, **February 22** from 7–8:30 PM on Zoom. Sponsored by Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and UUC. Register [here](#).

As we work to dismantle oppression in our lives and congregations, we need to come alongside others who are practicing anti-racism in order to gain new insights, offer support, and receive feedback on our efforts. During this 90-minute workshop, our congregations will come together with the common goal of identifying, reflecting on, and ultimately, interrupting racism in ourselves and our organizations.

This will be a brave space to reflect, discuss, learn, grow, and most importantly, keep ourselves and our congregations accountable as we continue to work towards dismantling white supremacy in all the spaces that it lives, even (and especially) when that space is inside of us.

It is important to note that a significant focus of this space will be to:

- Raise white consciousness
- Uncover internalized white supremacy
- Learn how one shows up in whiteness
- Identify microaggressions and practice micro interventions
- Work to interrupt racism in ourselves and our communities

We hope you'll mark your calendars now and plan to join us (for what we hope will be the first of many joint practice sessions).

# UUC's 2022-2023 Stewardship Campaign

## Cultivating Community in 2022



Growing up, I used to dread Sundays since we spent the day doing homework or chores. I always felt like something was missing, but I didn't know what. Fast-forward to today when I spend Sunday mornings joining with our UUC community listening to inspiring words, beautiful music, and heartfelt joys and concerns. I still spend the rest of the day preparing for the week ahead, but I am filled with a sense of peace and gratitude that we have found our spiritual home at UUC.

The theme for our Stewardship Drive this year is **Cultivating Community**. Here at UUC, we are all so fortunate to have wonderful worship services that are available both in person and via Zoom for our virtual community. We are reaching many more people all over the country and the world due to our technological capabilities. We love our UUC community and want to support it so it can flourish and grow.

In preparing their proposed budget for next year, UUC's Board has prioritized two new areas: (1) Hiring an **Intern Minister** and (2) Hiring a **full-time Director of Lifespan Faith Development**. Imagine the possibilities of additional classes for all ages, workshops, and inspirational programming these two people would bring to our community.

As the Stewardship Campaign gets underway, we will again offer **Early Bird Pledging** starting **February 13**. Our regular campaign starts **March 6** and will wrap up at the end of April. Our **Celebration Sunday** will be **May 1**. We hope to have all pledges in by then so that our Board will have time to prepare the budget for the next fiscal year which begins **July 1**.

Our campaign will look somewhat different this year as we are planning for many fun, multigenerational events that we hope you will sign up for. This is a way for us to be social, have fun, and reflect on what UUC means to each of us. Some examples are: a campfire, Zoom games, crafts, cookie exchange, and hikes, among others. Look out for a link in our weekly announcements to sign up. We will still hold one-on-one Stewardship meetings for anyone that prefers this way of meeting. Please let us know if this is your preference by emailing me at [cmhkern@gmail.com](mailto:cmhkern@gmail.com).

Thanks in advance for your generosity! I am so grateful that my family found this congregation so that we can experience the spirituality and community that is so important and meaningful to our lives. We hope you are finding it here as well, and we look forward to cultivating a community with you!

**Want to pledge early—use this [link](#) or the link on our [UUC homepage](#).**

Carol Kern, Stewardship Chair



# Upcoming Events and Updates

## Building & Grounds Use

**Sunday services** are offered in a **dual-platform format** with those attending in person required to wear masks, encouragement to attend only if vaccinated, and social distancing measures in place.

**Other groups** can meet inside the building in designated meeting rooms within the COVID capacity for that room. All in the building are strongly encouraged to meet with masks and social distancing.

**Outside gatherings** of any size are permitted. Non-vaccinated people are strongly encouraged to wear masks and/or social distance. Masks must be worn near children.

To schedule an event indoors or outdoors, contact our [Administrator](#).

## Weekly Gatherings

### Women's & Men's Breakfasts

All women and men are invited each Monday at UUC for coffee, breakfast (bring your own), and conversation with the men gathering from 7-9 AM and women from 7:30-9:30 AM. The two groups meet separately. Join in when you are able.

### Women's Lunch

All women are welcome to join together for lunch on Fridays at noon at UUC Bring your own food.

### Sages

Join us on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 2 PM at UUC for stimulating conversation on topics that affect older adults and more. If you choose not to meet in person, you can still join us on Zoom via this [link](#). All ages welcome. **The gathering on February 1 will be in person only.**

### Yoga

Join this free weekly group at UUC on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Bring a mat if you have one. To get on the email list for the weekly status of class, contact [Lori](#).

## Monthly Support Groups at UUC

### Parent Bereavement Support

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 (**February 14**) from 6-7 PM to help one another on our journeys. For more info and the Zoom link, contact [Katherine](#) or [Lisa](#).

### Caregivers Support

UUC hosts a monthly support group for caregivers to share their experiences and challenges. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of each month (**February 8**) from 7-8:30 PM via this [Zoom link](#). Questions or concerns - contact [Rev. Pam](#).

### NAMI Support

**Connections Support:** Persons living with a mental illness are welcome to join this NAMI support group on the 3rd Monday of each month (**February 21**) from 6-7:30 PM. Contact [Kimberley](#) for the Zoom link or for more info.

**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 (**February 16**) from 6-7:30 PM. Contact [Kristine](#) for the Zoom link or for more info.

### 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 NRV in a supportive, anonymous and affirming environment. To learn more, visit their [website](#). Two different support groups meet monthly, and both groups are sponsored by UUC.

The **NRV Trans Adult Group** meets on 1st Thursdays (**February 3**) from 7-8:30 PM and 3rd Saturdays (**February 19**) from 1-2:30 PM and welcomes all adults who identify under the trans umbrella or are questioning their gender. For more information about these meetings, contact [nrvtrans@gmail.com](mailto:nrvtrans@gmail.com).

The **Youth & Families Group** meets on the 4th Tuesdays (**February 22**) from 6:30-8 PM and is for anyone under 18 who identifies under the trans umbrella or who is questioning their gender. The group is also for parents who have trans or gender non-conforming children. Parents are welcome with or without their children. The group provides resources, advice, and support for children and their families. For more information about these meetings, contact [correspondence-nrvtransfamily@gmail.com](mailto:correspondence-nrvtransfamily@gmail.com).

# 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 January recipients were:

**January 2:** New River Valley Agency on Aging, \$246

**January 9:** NRV Literacy Volunteers, \$287

**January 16:** Black Lives of UUism, \$146

**January 23:** Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, \$240.85

**January 30:** Micah's Backpack, \$177.30

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

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

## Follow Our UUC Instagram Account at @uucnr.v.

If you have a picture of a UUC event or activity and want it posted to our Instagram account, do so yourself or send to [Ashley Dugan](mailto:Ashley Dugan), and she'll post it. No identifiable pics of minors, and adults must ok having their pic posted.

## February Food Pantry Donations



Our Community Service Team is collecting food in the bins located near the accessible entrance to UUC. Suggested donations for February are rice, crackers and Hamburger Helper. Thanks for helping to feed the hungry in our area.

## Join Our UUC Facebook Groups

To facilitate more conversation among us, join our private Facebook group - **UUC New River Valley**. To make this a positive experience, we ask that you honor our Congregational Covenant. Ask to join the [group](#) today!

We also have a public Facebook page — **Unitarian Universalist Congregation New River Valley** which can be found at this [link](#). Information on upcoming services, events, articles from the UUA, and more can be found here. Check it out.

## January Board Mtg. Highlights

- ◆ The Board discussed positive progress on Board goals for the year.
- ◆ The Board approved adding \$50,000 to the **Facilities Maintenance Escrow Fund** from funds that have built up over the years including our Vanguard account.
- ◆ Singing will not be permitted in the building due to Covid until further notice. The use of KN95 and higher grade masks is recommended for all in the building.
- ◆ The Board approved members of the search committees for a new Administrator and new Director of Lifespan Faith Development (see Pam's message on page 1).

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, **February 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 [adresstheBoard@uucnr.v.org](mailto:adresstheBoard@uucnr.v.org).

## Coffee Makers Needed

Now that we are serving coffee once again following the service, your help is needed to prepare and serve the coffee and also to clean up afterwards. This would require volunteering once a month. If you can help, contact [Pauletta](mailto:Pauletta).



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process.

This year the gathering will be held both online and in person, **June 22-26** in Portland, OR. Registration is now open for in person attendance. UUC is entitled to send 5 delegates plus our minister. If interested in serving as a delegate, contact [president@uucnr.v.org](mailto:president@uucnr.v.org).

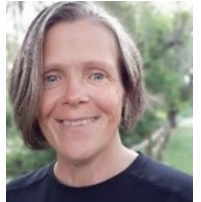
For more info, go to <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

# Meet Our Newest Members

**Anne Arnold** grew up in the First Parish Unitarian Church of Scituate, MA. While she forayed into church life in the Episcopal Church over the years, her Unitarian foundation always directed her path in life. All she ever wanted was to be a mother and has 3 amazing children (shown with her here at middle son's wedding). She became a nurse at 42 and had a long career working in a cardiac office in Florida. At 69 she retired and moved to Pulaski to live near her brother and his wife. She loves the changes of season here and the chance to garden and hike. She has 7 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. Her daughter and her 2 children will be coming to live with her in February, and she hopes to have them come with her to be part of our Sunday RE program.



**Lori Bachman** is the proud mom of 2. She was born in Radford, and as her Dad was military, they lived everywhere else but here for the next 20 years. She returned to the area 30 years ago to be with family. She found UUC in 2018 through many of our wonderful groups. She loves anything outside such as gardening, hiking, and kayaking.



**Cynthia Baute** and her husband, John, relocated to Blacksburg from Atlanta in 2008. Cynthia began participating with the UUC community in July of 2021. She is a "maker of many things" and enjoys experimenting with painting, multi-media, and fiber creations such as crochet. She is grateful for the many opportunities to serve and the wonderful sense of community here at UUC. She looks forward to being able to continue to contribute and participate as a member.



**Pat Bevan** grew up in near Cincinnati, OH and moved to Blacksburg in 1981 by way of Richmond to attend graduate school at VT. There she met Dave, and they married in 1985. Pat has had a varied career – hospital dietician, art department slide curator, university instructional designer, and finally, trainer in nonviolent communication. This last calling led her to begin studying and practicing Buddhism and to attend UUC where she found what she was longing for - a spiritual community focused on compassion, open-heartedness, and open-mindedness. Pat still enjoys teaching nonviolent communication as well as painting, knitting, swimming and, hopefully soon again, horseback riding.

**Dave Bevan** is a native of Ohio and grew up and was educated in the Midwest. He came to Blacksburg in 1980 and served as a faculty member in the Department of Biochemistry at VT until retirement in 2018. The activities he enjoys are strength training, swimming, and Argentine Tango – the history, the culture, the music, and the dance. He began attending services at UUC on Christmas Eve in 2018, lured by his wife with the promise of great music. That promise was fulfilled, and Dave was also attracted by the focus on compassion and community, without judgment regarding belief systems.



**Ally DeHoff** started attending UUC in middle school and fell in love with the RE program so much that she served as a teen assistant all throughout high school. She was also a youth leader for the high school youth group which was a ton of fun. She left for 2 years to go to college in Newport News but has recently transferred to VT where she's studying neuroscience. She's very excited to be back at UUC and to finally have her name in the membership book!



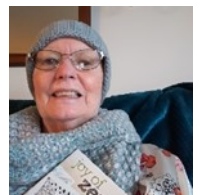
**Seneca Haynes** grew up in Charlottesville and is a VT alumni. He has studied and practiced Ecological Systems Design for over two decades and is now building a farm here in our community. He enjoys campfires with friends, tabletop gaming, mosses and lichens, and afternoons on the river.



**Lucas Machi** is a full-time software developer at the University of Virginia and the new lead of UUC's AV Committee. He can truly say he's grown up with this congregation. In 2004, he started coming to UUC with his mother, Lisa Machi, after moving to Blacksburg from Tennessee. He's gone through RE, was a Teen Assistant, and bridged from YRUU in 2018. His interests include robotics, engineering, AV technology, and of course, being a UU.



**Millie McKinley** was born & raised in Miami, FL. She put college on hold to marry and move to PA where she raised 2 children. She finished college with a BS in Mental Health Technology and spent 28 years as a clinical counselor. She has a 17-year-old grandson graduating from high school and looking at colleges in VA – she's hoping for VT. She loves gardening (been demoted to raised bed & pots), painting, hand-built pottery, and creative sewing.





# Lifespan Faith Development

## Children's RE

Our spring semester began on January 30! We will continue to meet in person AND online on Sunday mornings!

With the cold weather in full effect, classes will take place indoors with mitigation. Masking and distancing are required. Parents should stop at the sign-in table located in the downstairs lobby between 9:45-10:00 AM to sign in children. *Children do NOT go into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.*

**PreK:** Our preschool class will explore *Rainbow Connection*, a curriculum that uses story books to discuss each of the eight Principles that guide Unitarian Universalism.

**Grades K-2:** Our kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will focus on *Picture Book UU* and learn about each of the eight Principles through reading picture books, thoughtful discussion, and creative hands-on activities.

**Grades 3-5:** Our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will focus on *Windows & Mirrors* with creative and interactive projects designed to encourage self-reflection as well empathy for other perspectives.

**Grades 6-8:** Middle school will focus on social justice topics through *Simpson's* and *The Twilight Zone* episodes, looking at LGBTQ rights, marriage equality, prejudice, and social conformity.

**Middle school youth also have MSYG on Friday, February 18 from 6-9 PM at UUC where they will be having a game night!**

**NEW! Online Story Time:** Families who feel safer at home, join us Sundays mornings at 9:00 for an online all-ages story time. Join us through [this Zoom link](#).

*Please note that children do NOT go into the sanctuary first on Sunday mornings.*



## Stuffed Animal Sleepover

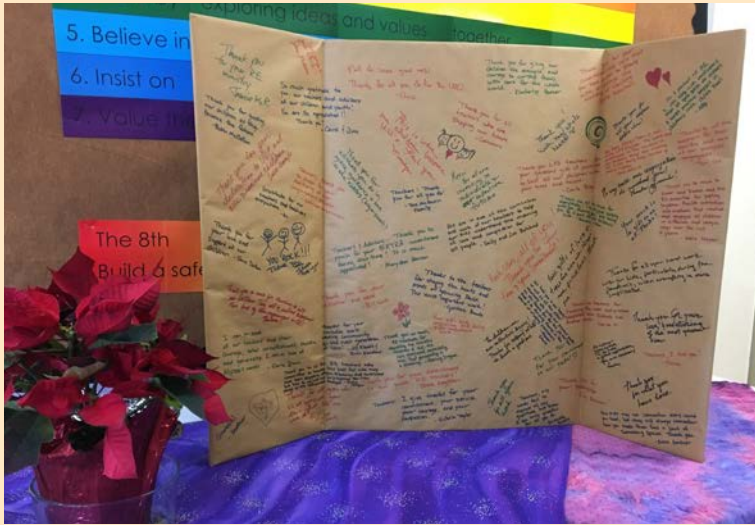


Children of ALL ages are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal to UUC to enjoy a special Stuffed Animal Sleepover on the weekend of **February 11-13**.

Drop off your stuffed friends Friday, February 11 from 4-5 PM and pick them back up on Sunday, February 13 from 1-2 PM. Stuffedies will enjoy fun activities together while you follow their fun online via our UUC Facebook page! Plus, join the Sunday service to see them in attendance with Rev. Pam.

Please register your furry friend [HERE](#) so we will be ready for them!

# Thank You, RE Teachers & YRUU Advisors!



*"I am in awe of our teachers and their courage, total unselfishness, sacrifice, and generosity."*

*"I give thanks for your commitment, your service, your courage, and your compassion."*

*"Thank you for your invaluable work creating community for the next generation of UUs."*

*"Gratitude for our teachers and teachers everywhere."*

*"As a product of RE, I can say with confidence that what you do makes a huge positive impact on children's lives. Thank you!"*

*"The work and commitment of our teachers during non-pandemic times is inspiring, but it has truly been turned up several notches."*

*"YOU ROCK!"*

The quotes above are just a handful of dozens of messages of gratitude and admiration expressed by UUC congregants during our tribute to our RE teachers and YRUU advisors at our Sunday Service on January 9.

**We thank you, teachers and advisors! You are a lifeline to our children, teens, and families, especially throughout the pandemic. We appreciate you!!**

Thank you to everyone who put your gratitude into words. If you missed the service and would like to contribute words of thanks, email them to [dlfd.uuc@gmail.com](mailto:dlfd.uuc@gmail.com), and we will include them on the sign which is currently on display outside of the RE classrooms.



## Weaving Our Community

Look for the UUC Community Loom that congregant and RE teacher, Derek Rountree, is currently building. The loom will be installed near the front doors of UUC, and congregants will be invited to add scraps of fabric and textiles with the intention of **weaving our community** together across the physical divides that Covid precautions have necessitated. We will send an announcement when the loom is installed in February!

## Spring: Save the Dates



### Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt

From **March 6-27** you are invited to follow the clues left by our leprechaun friend and find the treasure at the end of the rainbow. The scavenger hunt will be self-led outside on our grounds.

### Annual Egg Hunt

We are planning to hold our Egg Hunt in person, outdoors on Sunday, **April 17**. Eggs will be filled with donations to a local animal shelter/s.



### Sign Up to Help!

Email [dlfd@uucnrv.org](mailto:dlfd@uucnrv.org) if you would like to help with the Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt or the Annual Egg Hunt.

## Feeling Safer at Home Right Now?



### You can attend RE from your living room!

Check out our new **Online Story Time**. Every Sunday morning at 9:00, RE teachers will lead an online all-ages story time via [this Zoom link](#).



# On-Going Adult RE Programs

---

## Sunday Circle

Meets first and third Sundays, 8:30-9:30 AM via this [Zoom link](#).

**February 6:** *Therapy Dogs:* Rami Steinruck and Josie the therapy dog will discuss *Ways Therapy Dogs Help Community Connectedness and Mental Health Outreach on Virginia Tech's Campus*.

**February 20:** *Is the African Sahel Region the "canary in the coal mine?"* Susan Baker will discuss the problems facing the Sahel that are creating the perfect storm for spreading chaos in other parts of the world. The Sahel is a band of east to west land that is adjacent to the Sahara Desert on the north and the Savannah lands on the south. We'll learn about the Sahel, identify a long list of interconnected problems that are on the verge of going out of control, and note ways the African countries, the international community, and NGOs are working to address the challenges in the Sahel.

---

## Anti-Racism Group

Meets second and fourth Sundays, 1-2 PM via this [Zoom link](#).

All are welcome to join our ongoing group addressing white privilege and racism. Contact [Barbara Taylor](#) for meeting topics. Email [administrator@uucnr.org](mailto:administrator@uucnr.org) to join the listserv to receive links to the discussion articles.

---

## Meditation Group

Meets Tuesdays, 5-6 PM via this [Zoom link](#).

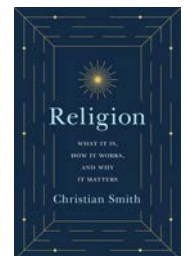
Our meditation group meets weekly for those interested in starting or deepening their meditation practice. Our format is drop-in, so you need not attend all sessions. Open with centering words and basic instruction followed by sitting practice. Meditators from all traditions and all levels of experience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



## Conversations on Our Faith

Meets Wednesdays, 12-1 PM via this [Zoom link](#).

Join our conversation as we begin reading the book, *Religion, What It Is, How It Works, and Why It Is Important* by Christian Smith. All are welcome, even if you have not read the chapters of the book under discussion. To learn more, contact [Tim Pickering](#).



## Community Conversations

Sunday, February 27, 11:30-1 PM via this [Zoom link](#).

Join us for a conversation on **Civic Renewal**. Civic life encompasses the infinite ways that people may connect and contribute to their community and society: from voting in an election or organizing a neighborhood block-party, to standing up for a just cause or supporting arts in our parks. For some time, however, many facets of civic life have been in decline. This conversation is an opportunity to reimagine our civic life. We have a chance now to embrace our interdependence and to create just and productive communities. Success depends on our ability to create spaces that foster relationships of belonging, ensuring everyone has the opportunity and motivation to contribute to a thriving civic life. Led by [Rev. Jamie McReynolds](#).





## Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services February 2022

Services are now in person at UUC and virtual via [Zoom](#) at 10 AM.  
We welcome you to join us.

### February's Theme: *Widening the Circle*

Join our dual-platform service each Sunday at 10 AM - both in person at UUC or via this [Zoom link](#).



**February 6:** *Widening Our Reach*, Worship Associate Ellen Plummer and our virtual guest preacher, Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Learn how the UUSC helps us widen the circle of our care. Rev. Morn's sermon is titled *Power, Partnership, and Change*.

**February 13:** *Widening Our Hearts*, Rev. Pam Philips, Worship Associate Victoria Taylor, and the Stuffed Animal friends of our congregation. We'll celebrate Valentine's Day early as we explore how we might widen the circle of our care by opening our hearts.

**February 20:** *Widening Our Sense of Ourselves*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Kimberley Homer. Sometimes we can become restricted by the roles we've taken on or been assigned in our families, friendships, and other associations. What might we do to have a more expansive perception of who we are and how we act in the world?

**February 27:** *Walking Our Talk*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Stephen Henninger. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has charged a commission to review and revise Article II of our bylaws—the part which includes our [Principles and Sources](#). We'll reflect on these foundations of our faith and explore what Unitarian Universalism is and what it could be.



#### 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@uucnr.org](mailto:info@uucnr.org):

P.O. Box 10116, Bburg 24062-0116 URL: [uucnr.org](http://uucnr.org)

# CALENDAR: February 2022

All times are PM unless noted otherwise

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>(All Sundays)</b> x 9:00 AM Story Time x 10:00 AM Worship Service (UUC and Zoom) x 10:00 AM Religious Education classes (UUC) 7:00 YRUU (UUC)	<b>(All Mondays)</b> x 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast (UUC) x 7:30 AM Women's Breakfast (UUC)	<b>(All Tuesdays)</b> x 5:00 Meditation	<b>(All Wednesdays)</b> x Noon Conversations on Our Faith x 5:30 Yoga (UUC) 7:00 Choir rehearsal (UUC)		<b>(All Fridays)</b> x Noon Women's Lunch Bunch (UUC)	
		<b>1</b> x 2:00 Sages (Zoom only this time)	<b>2</b> 6:00 Connections Committee	<b>3</b> x 7:00 Transgender Support Group	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> x 8:30 AM Sunday Circle	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> x 7:00 Caregivers' Support Group	<b>9</b> 6:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Worship Team	<b>10</b> x 7:00 Board Meeting (UUC and Zoom)	<b>11</b> x Shuffle Sleepover	<b>12</b> x Shuffle Sleepover
<b>13</b> x <b>Early Bird Pledging Begins</b> x 1:00 Anti-Racism Group 11:30 Stewardship Committee	<b>14</b> x 6:00 Parent Bereavement Support Group	<b>15</b> x 2:00 Sages (UUC and Zoom)	<b>16</b> x 6:00 NAMI Family Support Group	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> x 1:00 Transgender Support Group
<b>20</b> x 8:30 AM Sunday Circle	<b>21</b> x 6:00 NAMI Connections Support Group	<b>22</b> x 6:30 Trans Support Group for Youth & Families x 7:00 Anti-Racism Practice Workshop	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00 March newsletter deadline	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> x 11:30 AM Community Conversations x 1:00 Anti-Racism Group	<b>28</b>					

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](#) has the Zoom URLs. Page 5 above has the Covid rules (at the publication time) for Building & Grounds Use. That calendar will be updated as conditions change.