



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

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 we begin our month of exploring what it means to be a people of **commitment**, my thoughts begin with the commitments we've made to each other as members and friends of this congregation and then move outward to the larger denomination of which we are a part. Here at UUC, we'll be kicking off our annual [Stewardship Campaign](#) mid-March. One way we renew our commitment to the congregation is by making a pledge of financial support. Considering what this community means to us and why we want to invest our time, energy, and money helps us renew that commitment. Making this process intentional—sitting down with family members to talk or taking time to reflect on our own—can deepen the experience of commitment, making it a spiritual practice as well as helping us determine just how generous we want to be in our pledges. I encourage us all to not make these decisions lightly but to recognize them as an important part of our spiritual and religious lives.



This month, we'll also invite people who have not yet become members of UUC to consider whether they believe that they have found a spiritual home and are ready to join. [Becoming a member](#) is usually a simple act—signing the membership book and making a pledge of record—but it signifies a deep commitment to be in covenant with each other. If you feel ready to join, please [contact me](#) and we'll figure out how and when you can sign the book. We'll celebrate new members during the Sunday service on **March 21**.

We have not had a new member recognition ceremony since last February, since we started meeting virtually for Sunday services. Which means we will be observing a somber anniversary this month—one year since we stopped being able to meet in person. While the end is in sight, brought closer by each person who gets vaccinated, it will be good to mark this anniversary. We are all invited to participate in a virtual service—[Lamentation, Gratitude, and Hope!](#)--on **March 12** at 7 PM with Unitarian Universalists across Virginia. This gathering of UUs was sparked by a conversation in the UU religious professionals group, with whom I meet monthly, about what it means for congregations to be in covenant with one another, to be committed to one another. As the pandemic has made abundantly clear, we are all connected. And our transition to virtual gatherings makes it possible for us to widen the circle of our UU community to include many other congregations. The question is, what kind of commitment do we want to make to our sibling congregations?

Speaking of the religious professionals group—formerly known as VACUUM (Virginia Cluster of UU Ministers)—we have recently renamed ourselves the **Joseph Jordan Cluster**. Our new name honors the first African-American to be ordained as a minister by the Universalist denomination and founded the First Universalist Church of Norfolk, VA. (Learn more about him [here](#).) It also acknowledges a commitment to learning more about our past, so that we can create a better future.

In the month ahead, as we explore what it means to be people of commitment, take some time to consider your own commitment to this congregation and to Unitarian Universalism.

In faith,
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

Wayne Neu, President



First of all, I want to extend my hearty congratulations to Rev. Pam for being awarded **Full Ministerial Fellowship** by the UUA – roughly the equivalent of getting tenure as a minister. That status will be officially conferred during the [Service of the Living Tradition](#) at [General Assembly](#) this June. Previously Rev. Pam had been granted Preliminary Fellowship which required an annual review and renewal process. She is now no longer subject to that annual review process. One further interesting possibility that goes along with this is that she can now mentor an apprentice minister who would serve our congregation. I look forward to the day when we can find the financial support to make that happen.

Speaking of financial support, the big task last month for the Finance Committee and Board was setting a budget for the next fiscal year in preparation for our annual **Stewardship Campaign**. In setting the budget, we had three major priorities. The first is giving our staff a much-deserved raise in salary. Last year, after the results of our Stewardship Campaign, we had to eliminate all cost-of-living raises from our budget. (In recognition of having earned her credentialing as a religious educator, Karen Hager got a small increment per UUA guidelines.) Of course, we all know how the advent of the COVID pandemic added so much work for them this past year. In next year's budget, we have included **3.5% cost-of-living raises for all staff** in an effort to make up for the lack of raises last year in some small way. I sincerely hope that we will be able to raise the funding to make this possible!

The second major priority in our budget was putting away money for major expenses we know we'll have in the future. We have savings in two areas, the **Building Maintenance Escrow Fund** and the **Minister's Sabbatical Fund**. Our last major facility expenditure was during the building expansion (completed in 2008). Many things are now reaching the age where they will soon need replacement or repair. Among the major items that will need to be addressed are our heat pumps, the roof, and exterior painting. The heat pumps will cost \$30,000 or more to replace, a new roof will cost \$10,000-\$15,000 or so. I don't know what a paint job will cost or what other items will need replacing soon. The point is that these are all costs of our building ownership and will be a lot easier to swallow in annual installments than all at once when they hit. During Pam's next sabbatical, we will have to pay others to come in and substitute for her in her ministerial duties. Again, this year we had money in our budget for these items which had to be eliminated after our Stewardship Campaign. In next year's budget, we have added \$6000 for the Building Maintenance Escrow Fund and \$2500 for savings toward the sabbatical.

Finally, we recognize that, at some point in the not-too-distant future, we will be transitioning back to in-person services. We recognize that that transition will happen gradually, and we'll want to maintain our online presence for those who choose not to (or are unable to) attend in person. This will require an investment in **new equipment** to make both modes of delivery work together. The budget includes \$5000 for investment in equipment for that purpose.

We have limited our budget goals this year due to the financial realities facing many of our members during these times. Our stewardship goal is \$12,000 less than it was last year. However, our goal is still about 8% greater than pledges for this year. Considering that some of us may not be able to commit as much as last year, I am hoping that those who can will step up and "give until it feels good" to help fill in the gap. I do feel strongly that the additions to our budget are all very important.

In another important bit of Board business this month, we decided to put forward a proposal for changing our bylaws during our annual meeting this

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UUC's 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign

Worship Beyond Walls: Connection, Community, and Service



Our 2021 pledge drive kicked off on February 14 with the **Early Bird** portion of the campaign. As of now, we have **46 pledges for a total of \$120,067** which is over 33% of our goal of \$345,000. Thank you to all who participated in the Early Bird effort so far! This portion of the pledge drive will continue until **March 14** when our more formal pledge activity begins. After the 14th, congregants who have not pledged will be contacted by a steward. Remember that these stewardship contacts are not just to solicit pledges but also to provide the opportunity for congregants to talk about UUC finances and to ask questions about congregational issues. It also provides a personal touch with a warm and friendly voice, which I believe most of us can use right now. I personally know how irritating unwanted solicitous phone calls are, and I think most of us have gotten into the habit of filtering our calls. But please be gracious in these uncertain times and realize that the unfamiliar number ringing on your phone might be your personal steward – one who specifically selected you. If you don't pick up, please consider returning the call.

To address the challenges accompanying our seemingly never-ending Covid plague, we're trying something new in an effort to expand our ability to engage congregants. In addition to the usual UUC media

outlets, phone, and email, we're adding text messaging in the hope of reaching those who do not answer their phone or read email. The Stewardship Committee is well aware that texting is not the most "engaging" format, but it is good for reminders and to perhaps initiate further contact.

We have been living through a frightening and uncertain period in both our personal world at home and the greater world beyond. This time has been challenging for everyone, including for those in our beloved congregation who must navigate the continued operation of UUC. In the next month, the Finance Committee and Board will again have to make hard choices about where and how we can trim our budget. We urge you to think of the value of this congregation particularly in these difficult times – for yourself and for others. As I think back on how our congregation has responded to this unprecedented Covid challenge, I am awestruck at how our leaders have rallied to not just weather this storm but have managed to bring a new sense of warmth and inclusion and purpose to our church. From online services; a very engaged RE program; novel, safe and distanced outdoor activities; remote choir contributions; and the many other UUC activities that have been modified for remote participation, I am amazed at how they have pulled it off!

To those of you who have pledged: Thank you! For those who haven't, we invite you to go ahead and make a pledge via our [online pledge form](#), even if it is a smaller commitment than you've made in years past. No amount is too small. If the economy and your personal financial situation improves in the year ahead, you can always increase your giving. And if things turn out even worse than you expect, let us know that, too, and we'll find a way to help. All of our pledges, no matter their size, are a sign of our commitment and faith in this spiritual community and its ability to thrive, even in these most difficult times. We are grateful for them all.

Again, use this simple [online pledge form](#) to make your pledge now and also check out the [pledge brochure](#), [FAQs](#), and [Stewardship webpage](#). To request a one-on-one meeting with a steward or to join a group gathering where we discuss financial and other UUC issues, use this [link](#).

AND – we are looking for stewards! Stewarding is a great activity for many reasons, and we need many more. Please contact me directly at earoberts01@gmail.com for more info.

In fellowship,
Andy Roberts, Stewardship Committee Chair

Upcoming Events

UUC's Hiking Group News & Events

UUC's new Hiking Group is off to a great start with 31 hiking enthusiasts signed up. The group gathered via Zoom for its first Outdoor Adventure Movie Circle which was a big success and well-attended. See below for upcoming events. To sign up for the UUC Hiking Group listserv, contact [Lisa](#). For more information about Jae's hikes, visit his [website](#) or contact [Jae](#).

Forest Bathing, A Routine Disrupted

Thursday, **March 4**, 12 PM. Shinrin-yoku, otherwise known as forest bathing, is the practice of totally immersing yourself in nature. We will be walking silently to allow a fuller immersion with nature while consciously using all of our senses. The exact location to be determined by Wednesday morning. Contact [Jae](#) if interested. Watch the 18-minute video, [A Routine Disrupted](#), and/or read this article, [About Shinrin-yoku](#).

Hiking Group Virtual Campfire

4th Thursdays of each month (**March 25**) at 7:00 PM (movie discussion & other fun things) via this [Zoom link](#). **Movie for March:** [Forest Bathing: A Routine Disrupted](#) (see above). Watch this 18-minute film anytime on your own during the month. We'll spend the first half of our monthly meeting sharing our thoughts about it. We'll spend the second half (time allowing) sharing trail tails, habitat recommendations, bucket lists, etc.



Identifying Medicinal and Edible Plants

Saturday, March 27, 1:00 PM, Rock Castle Gorge

Clinical herbalist and community educator, Mel Kasting, RH (AHG), will take us on an exploratory botanical walk along the ridge above Rock Castle Gorge. In the first part of the hike, we'll learn to identify a handful of medicinal and edible plants along the trail and chat about how to harvest, prepare and use those herbs. In the second part of the hike, we'll choose one plant each and spend some time learning simple somatic practices to bring our plant connections home with us. We'll be following VA guidelines for COVID safety, e.g., limited number of participants, social distancing, masks when necessary, etc. Contact [Jae](#) to register for this free event.



Weekly Blacksburg Walk - Huckleberry Trail or Pandapas Pond

Get outdoors with other UUC members for a 1-hour fitness hike each week (while maintaining our distance). Meeting location and starting time are TBD based on a survey recently sent to Hiking Group listserv members. If you are interested in a weekly hike and/or taking the interest survey, contact [Jae](#).



Other Hikes

Until the weather is more predictable, these outings will be announced via the Hiking Group listserv 2-3 days in advance based on the forecast. Contact [Lisa](#) to be added to the listserv.

Other Relevant News

The Blue Ridge Mountains make the US News "[50 Most Beautiful Places in the World](#)" list!

Do you love teaching others about nature?

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

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year to add the Director of Lifespan Development (DLFD) as a non-voting member of our Board. As the Board of Directors membership is established by the bylaws, that change must be approved by our members. In recognition of the larger part that religious education and the DLFD have become in our overall ministry, we will be proposing to add a seat at the Board for that position as we do for the minister.

In closing, I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to Linda Powers for agreeing to dust off her treasurer's hat and step in as a temporary Assistant Treasurer while our Treasurer, Meredith Hundley, experiences the joy of her new baby, which is expected to arrive this month.



UUA General Assembly 2021

[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 democratic process. This year's gathering will again be virtual from **June 23-27**. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in person, the UUA retains their dedication to community and making our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable. In 2022, GA will once again be in person in Portland, OR.

Interested in being a UUC delegate to GA? Contact [Wayne Neu](#), Board President.



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

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

As part of our 8th Principle effort, members of our Anti-racism group will present an exercise via this [Zoom link](#) that all are welcome to attend on Monday, **March 15** from 7-8 PM. The exercise helps to answer the question, why is there such a disparity in wealth between Blacks and whites as a whole? Those who have participated in the exercise have found it to be both moving and informative. We hope you'll join us.

WVTF Spring Fund Drive

Support public radio and UUC, and (possibly) get a tax deduction—all with one check! The spring WVTF Public Radio fund drive is now underway. Contributions made through UUC not only help the station but also pay for daily sponsorship announcements about all four area UU congregations: Blacksburg, Roanoke, Lynchburg, and Charlottesville. To contribute, donate by **March 14** via our Vanco donation webpage or use the text option (visit our [Give webpage](#) for more info) or mail a check made out to UUC with "WVTF" on the memo line.



Women's Breakfast

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

Men's Breakfast

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

Women's Lunch

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

Sages

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 usually centers around the worship theme for the month that is also the focus of our Soul Matters Covenant Groups. The 30-minute gatherings include inspirational words and music as well as an opportunity for everyone to share. Watch for the email announcement each Wednesday for the topic and facilitator.

Monday Meet-up

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

Yoga

Yoga is canceled until the weather warms, or we can once again meet in the building.

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 **March 8**. Join the group via Zoom. For more info and the Zoom link, contact [Katherine](#) or [Lisa](#).

NAMI Connections Support

All are welcome on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 PM to attend our community-wide mental health support group for those with a mental illness. Next meeting on **March 15**. Contact [Kimberley](#) for the Zoom link or with questions.

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 **March 17**. 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 on **March 9** at 7-8:30 PM. Join us via this [Zoom link](#). Questions or concerns - contact [Rev. Pam](#).

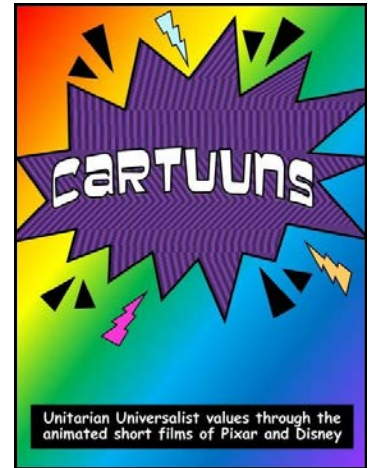
Lifespan Faith Development

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
Mar 7	<i>Boundin'</i>
Mar 14	<i>BURN-E</i>
Mar 21	<i>Riley's First Date?</i>
Mar 28	<i>Day & Night</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
Mar 7	<i>Gruffalo</i>
Mar 14	<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late</i>
Mar 21	<i>Scaredy Squirrel Has a Birthday Party</i>
Mar 28	<i>Big Bunny</i>



Shamrock Hunt this month (next page)

Story Time with Rev. Pam

Wednesdays at 3 PM excluding
4th Wednesdays. [Zoom link](#).



The Fifth Dimension

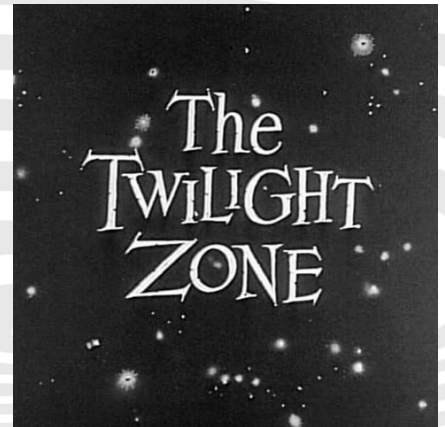
for adults

Tuesday, March 23, 7-8 PM

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

February's episode is "The Shelter" with a discussion on living through potentially horrific events. No registration necessary.

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



Shamrock Hunt



A leprechaun has paid us his yearly visit and hidden shamrocks around the UUC property! Come to UUC and walk the grounds to find them. Find them all, and you'll also find the prize that he's left us!

The hunt lasts through the month of March. Then the leprechaun takes his shamrocks and prizes back and leaves for another year.

All shamrock hunters should wear masks and socially distance from other groups. Please do not try to catch our leprechaun. He's a valued member of our community, and we want him to remain free!



MSYG

Sunday evenings 6-7 PM

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

[Register.](#)

YRUU

Sunday evenings 7-8 PM

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

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

[Register.](#)

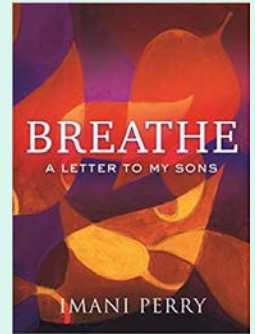
Common Read Discussion Group

Sunday, March 21, 11:30-1:00 PM

The 2020-21 UUA Common Read is *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry. *Breathe* reflects on race, racism, and the hope that one's child will be wholly known and valued by society. It is "an unforgettable lesson in Black resistance and resilience." Join us on Zoom for a discussion of this book. Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97920771040?pwd=SEFzTHc3eXdanKhIZkpwWFg3cEINUT09>.

Led by [Rev. Jamie McReynolds](#).



On-Going Adult RE Programs

Spiritual Aging

Meets the first Sunday of the month (March 7), 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

March 7: Margo Walter and Kristine Reid present NAMI 101, an overview of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Join via this [Zoom link](#).

March 21: Margo Walter, author of "Are You My Father?", shares her adventures in writing and self-publishing a novel and launching a new career through marketing. Join via this [Zoom link](#).

Anti-Racism Group

Meets second and fourth Sundays, 1-2 PM

All are welcome to join our ongoing conversation on white privilege and racism. Topics are announced via email. [Email Karen Hager](#) to join the listserv to receive links to the discussion articles. [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, *Evening Thoughts: Reflecting on Earth as a Sacred Community*, by Thomas Berry. 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](#).

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 February recipients were:

February 7: Bradford UU Community Church, Kenosha, WI, \$111

February 14: Montgomery County Animal Shelter, \$212

February 21: UUA/Side with Love Campaign, \$110

February 28: UUA Disaster Relief Fund, \$175

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.

UUC Yarn Exchange

Knitters, crocheters, needlework enthusiasts, and yarn crafters—are you bored with your yarn collection? Have an extra skein or two you just don't need any more?

Come check out our new Yarn Exchange located outside downstairs next to the entry door. Leave the skeins you don't want and take any that you do want.

Why not use this opportunity to learn to knit or crochet? Contact [Karen](#), and she'll try to hook you up for Zoom lessons with one of our very talented and experienced congregants.

While you're creating, don't forget about UUC's many opportunities to donate handmade items to those in our community in need. Consider knitting a hat, scarf or mittens for next year's Mitten Tree, or make a blanket for Project Linus. We'll take your donations any time of the year!



February Board Mtg. Highlights

- ♦ The Board finalized and approved the [proposed budget for FY 2021-22](#).
- ♦ The DLFD is considered an aspect of the ministries of UUC and as such should be included on the Board. The Board approved to put forth a motion for a vote at the annual meeting to modify the by-laws for the DLFD to become a non-voting member of the Board.
- ♦ Discussion of the Commission on Institutional Change report – governance section. The Board began a discussion of the chapter on Governance from the UUA document, "[Widening the Circle](#)", by considering what structures and practices of UUC may hinder participation in governance by some.
- ♦ The Board approved Pam's nominees for serving on the Committee on Ministries, Jane Keppel-Benson and Ashley Spinks Dugan.
- ♦ The Board is working on a procedure for starting new groups at UUC.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, **March 11** 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@uucnrv.org.

March Food Pantry Donations

*Old Father Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To get the Food Pantry a bone.
But when he got there,
The cupboard was bare
And poor Food Pantry got none.*

by Crosby Houston

The Community Service Team is continuing the monthly food collections for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry during March. Suggested donations for this month are macaroni and cheese, cereal, and dried beans. The collection bins are located near the accessible entrance at UUC. Thank you for your generosity.





Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services March 2021

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

March's Theme: **COMMITMENT**

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

March 7: *Committing to Ourselves*, Rev. Pam Philips with Worship Associate Victoria Taylor. As we begin our exploration of what it means to be a people of commitment, we'll start by looking inward. How are the promises we make to ourselves different from those we make to others?

March 14: *Renewing our Commitment to UUC*, Rev. Pam Philips and Alyssa Short. We'll kick off our annual Stewardship Campaign—***Worship Beyond Walls: Connection, Community, and Service***--by considering why we commit and invest in this religious community. Join us as several members of the congregation share their stories.

March 21: *Fear of Commitment*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Tommy Iafrate. What barriers keep us from working for change? What helps us to begin even when we are afraid? We'll celebrate those who have decided to commit to UUC with a new member recognition ceremony.

March 28: *Commitment to Our Faith*, Worship Associates Stephen Henninger and Ellen Plummer. Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't just an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. Join us for a special service which will incorporate elements of the UUA "loved into being" worship service, including a sermon by UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, that promises to help us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity.



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.

Building & Grounds Use

In-person gatherings are **NOT** permitted in our building at this time. However, up to 10 people are able to gather together in our outdoor space, but the 6-foot distance between people must be maintained. 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.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1301 Gladewood Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060

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

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

CALENDAR: March 2021

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

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
(All Sundays) x 9:00 Pre K RE x 9:30 Grades K-5 RE x 10:00 Worship Service (These are via Zoom or outdoors) x 6:00 Middle School RE/Youth Group x 7:00 YRUU	(All Mondays) x 7:00 AM Women's Breakfast x 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast x 7:00 PM Monday Meet-Up	(All Tuesdays) x 2:00 Sages x 5:00 Meditation	(All Wednesdays) x Noon Conversations on Our Faith x 3:00 PM Story Time with Rev. Pam (Not on March 24) x 5:30 Mid-week Gathering		(All Fridays) x Noon Women's Lunch Bunch (UUC picnic area or Zoom)	
	1	2	3	4 1:00 Adult RE: Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation 7:00 Adult RE: Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation	5	6
7 x 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 11:30 Men's Group x 3:00 Spiritual Aging	8 x 6:00 Parent Bereavement Support Group	9 4:00 Committee on Ministries x 7:00 Caregivers' Support Group	10 6:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Worship Team	11 x 7:00 Board Meeting	12 x 7:00 Lamentation, Gratitude, and Hope!	13
14 Start of Stewardship Pledge Drive AND DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 11:30 AM Stewardship Committee x 1:00 Anti-Racism Discussion Group	15 x 6:00 NAMI Connections Support Group x 7:00 Anti-racism exercise on the proposed 8 th Principle	16	17 x 6:00 NAMI Family Support Group	18 1:00 Adult RE: Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation 7:00 Adult RE: Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation	19	20
21 x 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 11:30 Men's Group x 11:30 UUA Common Read Discussion Group	22	23 x 7:00 Adult RE: The Fifth Dimension	24	25 x 7:00 Hiking Group Virtual Campfire 9:00 April Newsletter Deadline	26	27
28 x 1:00 Anti-Racism Discussion Group	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.