



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

NEWSLETTER

May 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

What does it mean to be a **People of Story**?

I am so grateful for the stories my older relatives have shared with me about what their lives were like *way back when*. I remember looking at old black and white photographs with my grandmother as she recalled stories about her adventures with her cousins and her brother. I especially loved hearing her stories about my father's antics when he was a little boy—who knew he was such a troublemaker! Whenever we visited our maternal grandparents, we loved watching Papa's old slides, which sparked memories and reminisces. Pretty soon, the stories we heard about *their* lives became our own.

In the months during my mother's final illness, she dictated stories of her life in response to questions asked on behalf of her grandchildren. Those stories, along with our father's versions of some of the same events, became a cherished booklet compiled by my sister. She was motivated to ask those questions by hearing our mother's regrets—that she hadn't asked *her* mother questions. Whose stories do you most want to hear before it's too late?



As we begin a month-long consideration of what it means to be a *people of story*, one of the spiritual exercises in our Soul Matters packets invites us to ask someone a rich question and listen to the story it elicits. This being the time it is, the suggestion is to ask the question on Zoom (which makes it easy to record for later—definitely one of the advantages of connecting virtually). I am feeling motivated by that suggestion—to ask a question and listen to the story. Now all I have to do is figure out whom and what to ask. Whom and what will you ask?

But this being the time it is also has me thinking – what stories will we tell years from now about this time? When our children or grandchildren, grandnieces or nephews ask, "What was it like to live in the time of COVID?" How will we answer?

I think of the way people talk about this strange time, some bemoaning all the things, great and small, we are missing, while others focus on the silver linings. I am guessing we all tell both kinds of stories, depending on how we're feeling or what's happening on a particular day. And both stories are true. And both stories help shape how we are experiencing this time.

So, what stories are you telling yourself now about life in the time of COVID? Are they stories of quiet times of introspection or of active engagement in a changing world? Stories of isolation or connection? Stories of barriers or opportunities? Are they stories that are serving or stifling you? Are they the whole story?

In the month ahead, as we explore who we are as a people of story, we can ask ourselves these questions and more. And we might want to take time to write the story of NOW so that when we're asked, "What was it like to live in the time of COVID?", we have an answer in real-time. Imagine what it might be like to read your story in a year or five or ten!

In the month of May, we'll be writing a new narrative as a congregation. As the weather improves, we'll have more chances to gather—including a Monday Gathering on the Grounds. We'll have a child dedication during our service on Mother's Day (contact [me](#) if you'd like your child dedicated). We'll celebrate our youth as they make transitions in their lives. And we'll explore how and when we will gather more in the months ahead. And you are all a part of that story.

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



Well, it's budget time again, and the Board is struggling to make it work again. We don't like to talk about money much, but I'm a pragmatist so here goes. As I was thinking about this column, I remembered an old story. A priest was standing in front of his flock one Sunday morning and said, "I have bad news, and I have good news, and I have more bad news. The bad news," he continued, "is the roof is leaking, the windows won't seal, and the furnace is held together with bailing wire and duct tape. The good news is that we have the money to fix all these things!" Then, after a pause, he says, "And the more bad news is that that money is in your pockets right now" as he passed the collection plates.

Well, I have good news, bad news, more good news, and a thoughtful discussion to share here. Get ready for your eyes to glaze over. The first good news is that, as I write this, our Stewardship Campaign has resulted in roughly \$320,000 in pledges for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22! That's about \$2000 more than pledged for this current FY which ends June 30, 2021. Many thanks are due to Andy Roberts and the rest of the Stewardship Committee for their hard work on the campaign.

The bad news is that our pledge goal of \$345,000 was based on an already austere budget. The Finance Committee and Executive Board held a joint meeting in late April to work on the budget for next FY. We predict additional, non-pledge income of about \$33,000 making our total income for the year \$353,000. Unfortunately, after cutting all we dare, our expenses total \$379,000. Of this, "fixed" expenses – payroll, mortgage, utilities, routine building maintenance, and other administrative costs total \$328,000 (this has actually increased from our pre-campaign estimate due to an increase in health care expenses). Other items we are loath to cut, including our Religious Education Program, our UUA dues, landscaping, mowing and snow removal, total \$29,000. We've budgeted only \$22,000 for everything else we want to do – and we've cut that down as much as we feel we can.

Now the other good news. For this year, we have money in savings to cover the projected \$26,000 shortfall. Projecting out our expenses and income for the rest of the year, I'm guessing we will end FY 2020-21 with a deficit of about \$5000. That is better than the \$8500 deficit that our FY 2021 budget projected. Due to the COVID craziness, our expenses have been much lower, but our pledge and half-plate income are also running a bit behind. On the plus side, we had our \$34,800 PPP loan forgiven, boosting our assets, and we've gained about \$9000 on our invested savings. That, I'm projecting, will leave us with unencumbered assets (assets not already earmarked for something else) of about \$82,000. (This does not include our small endowment account.)

The thoughtful discussion is how did we get here, and what do we need do in the future. I'd like to compare our current FY 2021-22 budget proposal to FY 2018-19, the last pre-COVID year. Our total payroll expenses have gone from \$192,000 to \$230,000. Raises have been small. We gave a 2.6% raise in FY 2019-20, eliminated raises last year and are proposing a 3% raise this year. The bigger changes have been annual retirement contributions for our Administrator and DLFD, increased health care costs, and a small bump for Karen Hager having earned her Religious Education Certification. The total "fixed" expenses I mentioned earlier have only gone up about \$28,000, however, because of savings from the refinancing of our mortgage and reduced cleaning expenses while we are not in the building. The "loath to cut" expenses have actually gone down by \$2,000, and we have cut our other

(Continued on page 9)

Upcoming Events

UUC's Hiking Group

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

Hike the Original Appalachian Trail, Rock Castle Gorge

Saturday, **May 8** at 10 AM. This 6-mile route goes through the forests and meadows and along a ridge offering enchanting views. We'll search for signs of homesteads long gone and possibly come face to face with cattle grazing on a hillside. About 3 miles of the hike will be along the original AT before it was moved further west in the 1950s. Hike is limited to 12 participants — contact [Jae](#) to register. Sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Bring water. Rain cancels. For more info, visit [Jae's website](#).

Weekly UUC Hike

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



Additional Hikes

These outings will be announced via the Hiking Group listserv 2-3 days in advance based on the forecast.

Do you love teaching others about nature?

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

Pledge Update

As of this moment, we have received 170 pledges for \$324,467!

Grounds Workday Rescheduled

SHUCKS! Rain changed our plans for the April 24 UUC grounds workday. **The new date is Saturday, May 1, 9:30-noon.** We appreciate those who signed up for the April 24 workday and regret the inconvenience of the date change. We're back at "square one". Please use either this [link](#) or email [Susan Baker](#) to confirm your willingness to help maintain our UUC grounds.



Uncle Sam may need you, but we need YOU even more! Smell the fresh air, get your fingernails dirty, greet your UUC friends, make a difference!



NEW: Monday Gatherings on the Grounds

One Monday per month beginning **May 3** at 7 PM, you are invited to gather with other congregants in the UUC picnic area for in-person conversation and catching up with friends. Members of our Connections Committee will be there. Masks and social distancing required. In the event of rain, you will be notified that the gathering will be rescheduled. This gathering will be limited to 10 people. If more than 10 sign up, we'll schedule another Monday group. Please sign up for the May 3 gathering via this [link](#).

UUC Poetry Group

All are welcome on the 3rd Thursday of each month (next meeting **May 20**) at 6:30 PM via this [Zoom link](#) to bring and share poems they've read and/or written and to talk about what poetry means in their lives. No requirements!



Women's Breakfast

All women are invited to meet for conversation at 7 AM each Monday via this [Zoom link](#). Use passcode 544416.

Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to meet for conversation at 7 AM each Monday via this [Zoom link](#). Note that on **May 3**, attendees are welcome to gather at UUC in the picnic area (or via Zoom). Watch announcements to see if this option will continue weekly.

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.

Yoga

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

Wednesday Worship Gatherings

Gather 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. 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.

Sages

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

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 **May 10**. Join the group via Zoom. For more info and the Zoom link, contact [Katherine](#) or [Lisa](#).

NAMI Connections Support

Persons living with a mental illness are welcome to join this NAMI support group on the 3rd Monday of each month from 6-7:30 PM. Next meeting **May 17**. Contact [Kimberley](#) for the Zoom link or with questions.

NAMI Family Support

Family and friends of persons living with a mental illness are welcome to join this NAMI support group on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6-7:30 PM. Next meeting **May 19**. Contact [Kristine](#) for the Zoom link or with questions.

Transgender Support

[NRV Trans* Support](#) is a peer-led organization whose mission is to offer support, resources, and social activities to all transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in the NRV in a safe, anonymous and affirming environment. Contact [Hayden](#) for more info.

The **Adult Group** meets every other week, alternating between Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons. The next meetings are Saturday, **May 15** at 1 PM and Thursday, **May 27** at 7 PM. The group welcomes all adults who identify under the trans umbrella or are questioning their gender. Contact transsupportinfo@uucnrv.org for the Zoom link.

The **Youth & Families Group** meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM and is for anyone under 18 that falls under the trans umbrella, whether they have started their transition or are just questioning their gender. Next meeting **May 25**. Parents are welcome with or without their children. Contact secretary@heshezewe.org for the Zoom link.

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 **May 11** at 7-8:30 PM. Join us via this [Zoom link](#). Questions or concerns - contact [Rev. Pam](#).

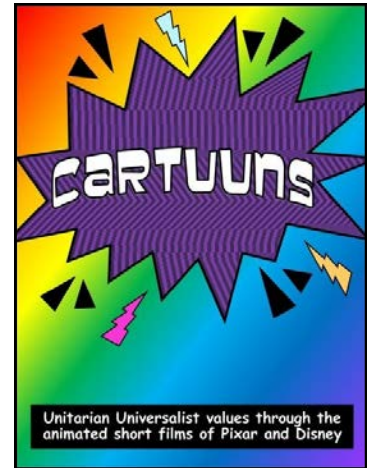
Lifespan Faith Development

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
May 2	<i>The Blue Umbrella</i>
May 9	<i>Lava</i>
May 16	<i>One Man Band</i>
May 23	<i>Forky Asks a Question (Last Day of RE)</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
May 2	<i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i>
May 9	<i>Llama Llama and the Bully Goat</i>
May 16	<i>Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach</i>
May 23	<i>Can I Be Your Dog? (Last Day of RE)</i>



Don't miss our Bridging Service on May 23!

Story Time with Rev. Pam

Wednesdays at 3:00 PM

excluding 4th Wednesdays

[Zoom link](#)



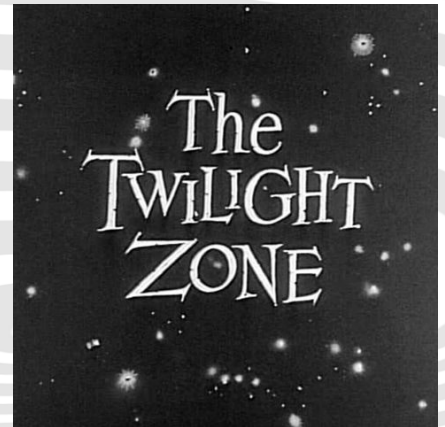
The Fifth Dimension

for adults

Tuesday, May 25, 7-8 PM

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

April's episode is "The Old Man and the Cave" with a discussion on greed, power, and one's faith in forces other than oneself. No registration necessary. Join via this [Zoom link](#).



Fall RE Teacher Recruitment

Our fingers are crossed that we are back together in person this fall! But, to hold RE, we will need teachers to make it happen.

Our teachers agree to teach for one semester, leading 4 classes and assisting in 4 classes, for a total 8 Sunday commitment. We do all the prep required for class, so you can concentrate simply on teaching.

If you are interested in learning more about one of the most rewarding—and fun—volunteer positions you'll ever hold, contact [Karen](#) or [Rachel](#). You will be truly making a difference to a child while helping to grow the next generation of UUs!



MSYG

Sunday evenings 6-7 PM

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

[Register.](#)

YRUU

Sunday evenings 7-8 PM

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

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

[Register.](#)

On-Going Adult RE Programs

Spiritual Aging

*Meets the first Sunday of the month (**May 2**), 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

May 2: Bill Baker discusses *Life in Poland in the 19th Century*, including the story of the brilliance, perseverance and love of family of Maria Skłodowska (Marie Curie) which led to the discovery of radium and polonium. Join via this [Zoom link](#).

May 16: Beth McClellan discusses *From the Mountains to the Coastal Plain: Virginia's Billion Years of Geologic History*. The billion years of Virginia's geologic history include the formation and splitting of two supercontinents, mountain-building and erosion, evolution of life, and modern-day geologic hazards. We'll journey through its five geologic provinces and explore highlights along the way. [Zoom link](#).

Anti-Racism Group

Meets second and fourth Sundays, 1-2 PM

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

Meditation Group

Meets Tuesdays, 5-6 PM

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



Conversations on Our Faith

Meets Wednesdays 12-1 PM

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

Community Conversations

*Sunday, **May 16**, 11:30-1 PM, led by [Rev. Jamie McReynolds](#)*

Join us for a conversation on *Weaving the Social Fabric*. Many people sense that something is broken in society: surveys show about half of young adult Americans are lonely; opioid addiction, suicide, gun violence, ethnic tension and depression have been rising; we face rapid change from a globalized economy, cell phones and social media, and uncertainty about our future health and wealth. Our social fabric seems to be shredding. Others observe that the social fabric of our communities and nation was never really woven to include everyone in the first place. Yet, there have been times when people looked past their surface differences and came together as neighbors to support each other. How might we work together to build connections that allow everyone to feel recognized, respected and valued? [Zoom link](#).

UUC Community News

Update on 1/2-Plate Donations

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

April 4: Humane Society of Montgomery County, \$201

April 11: Women's Resource Center, \$133

April 18: UU Ministry for Earth, \$130

April 25: Linus Project, \$177

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

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

Virtual Informational & Annual Meetings

All members are asked to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, **June 6** following the service where we will be electing new officers to the Board, voting on our budget for the next fiscal year, voting on our acceptance of the 8th Principle and changes to our bylaws.

Slate of officers:

President-elect: Nancy Bodenhorn

Secretary: Stephen Henninger

Members-at-Large: Gene Gardner

All are welcome to participate in the Informational Meeting on Sunday, **May 23** following the service to learn more and to get your questions answered.

Watch for more information on both meetings including information on the budget, the Zoom link, issues up for a vote, and how we will vote from home.

Reminder that only members of UUC can vote at the Annual Meeting although everyone is welcome to attend.

April Board Mtg. Highlights

- ◆ Patrick Feucht provided a synopsis of his **Baseline Solar proposal to install solar panels on our roof**. If approved, we'd have two options: 1) UUC pays the full cost and then owns the panels, or 2) Baseline Solar provides the panels at no cost to UUC, and we then pay Baseline Solar (instead of Apco) for our electricity use. Questions include insurance coverage and the impact of having a different percentage of usage offset (presentation was for 93%), size of array, and payback options. If one of these proposals is approved by the Board, it will be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting on **June 6**.
- ◆ The building will remain closed another month, and the Safety Committee will be consulted for opening guidance and policies.
- ◆ The policy for starting new groups was approved. Read the policy [here](#).
- ◆ A proposal requiring a bylaws change was put forth to allow people who are not physically available to sign the membership book in Blacksburg to submit a letter requesting membership.
- ◆ The Board agrees with the proposed 8th Principle (see page 9 for more info.)
- ◆ Ellen Plummer, Steven Henninger, and Bob Stimson were approved as GA delegates for 2021. We are entitled to two more delegates.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, **May 13** 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@uucnrv.org.

May Food Pantry Donations

*Rub a dub dub
Three cans in a tub.
And who do you think they be?
The corn, the peas, and the pork 'n beans.
Send them to the Food Pantry -- all three.*

Our Community Service Team will continue collecting food in the bins located near the accessible entrance to UUC. The suggested donations for May are corn, peas, and pork 'n beans. Please help feed the hungry in our area.



(Message from Our Board, continued from page 2)

programs by about \$5,000 to help make ends meet. We have reinstated two savings lines in our FY 2021-22 budget that we eliminated last year, one for future expected repairs of our building (our last major investment was the 2008 expansion) and one to fund the extra expenses we will incur during our minister's sabbatical. These are an effort to earmark savings on an annual basis for known large expenditures we will face in the future, so we don't have to find that money all at once. They show up as an expense in the budget and total \$8,500. We also have a one-time investment in technology to allow us to transition to hybrid online and in-person services of \$5,000 in the FY 2021-22 budget. The bottom line is our total expenses from FY 2018-19 to FY 2021-22 have increased from \$344,000 to \$379,000, a \$35,000 increase. Over that time our pledge total has increased from \$311,000 to \$320,000, a \$9,000 increase. The total of our other income (including non-pledge donations, half-plate collections and the auction) has actually decreased by \$20,000 from what we had in FY 2018-19 to what we are projecting in FY 2021-22. If you are keeping score at home, that means that we have gone from a \$20,000 surplus in FY 2018-19 to a projected \$26,000 deficit in FY 2021-22.

So, while we have the savings to cover that deficit this year, we obviously cannot go on this way. Certainly, this is a trying time, financially and otherwise, for many of us but it has become far too easy to just pledge the same amount from one year to the next, and our income has not kept pace with our expenses over the last three years. In order to balance our budget and get back to funding our programs at a level similar to what we did in FY 2018-19, we will need to see an increase in annual pledge income of at least 10%. That's an average (and I hate to use averages) of almost \$200 per pledge unit. If we want to do more, we will need more than 10%. We obviously value what we get out of being members of our UUC because we have close to 170 "pledge units" who cared enough to donate. Let's commit to fully funding it! As our lives get back to whatever the new normal is going to be, we will need to commit to doing this if we are to retain the level of programs we have today. I have faith that we will.

In other exciting news, UUC member Patrick Feucht's company, Baseline Solar, has presented the Board with a proposal to put solar panels on our roof at no cost to us beyond a \$1000 connection fee. He and his partners would set up a separate entity which would own the panels and sell the power they generate to us at a cost similar to what we currently pay our electric company (Apco). While this would not save us money on our power (unless the electric company raises their rates), we would be living our values by buying our energy from a renewable source. We are still working out the details of that proposal but if acceptable to the Board, we will bring it up for a vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Adopting the 8th Principle

As you know, our Anti-racism Group has been studying the [8th principle](#), and we are bringing it to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on June 6. Read [here](#) for an explanation of its origins from our MLK Sunday service. If you have questions, comments, or concerns about the 8th principle, we would like to hear about them in advance. Please send us your questions and comments at anti-racism@uucnr.org.

The 8th principle reads, "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 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."

Virtual [General Assembly](#) (GA) 2021

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

This year's theme: *Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage*

GA is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage.

Check out the [programs and schedules](#) including the Ware Lecture featuring Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade. Rev. Pam Philips and Karen Hager will be honored during the *Service of the Living Tradition* as they have received fellowship and credentialed status respectively in the past year.

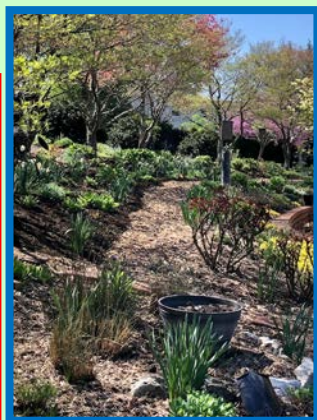
[Registration](#) is \$200. UUC is entitled to 2 more delegates. If interested in serving in that capacity, contact [Wayne Neu](#) for more info. You can also attend without being a delegate.



Round the Grounds

"Round the Grounds" has been on a 3-month hiatus, but not so with the grounds workers. Joe Powers has the lawn mowers up and running. Denise Martin single-handedly cleared the retention pond of brush and trees, and, in other areas, pulled vines off trees and shrubs. George Lally hauled away brush and tree limbs and is currently installing a handrail along some steps ascending a steep slope. Greg Evanylo cleaned out the compost bin (what a mess!). David Warner is back to mowing selected areas. Susan Baker is recovering from a knee replacement but managed to complete mulching the crescent garden. We are fortunate to have other "grounds fairies" who give of their time as they are able.

Spring is our all-time favorite season – watching birds build nests in the bird houses, enjoying the many changes of colors as trees and shrubs bloom, and being awed by the daily changes of perennials popping through the earth searching for sunlight. If you haven't been on our grounds this spring, here's what you are missing.



The grounds are open to all UUC congregants, their friends, and our neighbors. Visitors have been appreciative and respectful of the grounds. The only caveat is to take out what you bring in.

Tah-dah! New garden art has been added in many areas to create interest and color. We move the garden art around so be on the lookout for new locations. Bobbie Littlefield donated whimsical sculptures, and Denise Martin, a stained glass artist, has added some beautiful stained glass pieces.



We are delighted that all 17 trees planted last spring and fall survived their first winter and are showing new growth. Applause for those who sponsored the new trees! The trees are a small, but important contribution to reducing UUC's carbon footprint.

Surprise! You don't have to be a gardener to assist in maintaining and improving our grounds, but it helps if you enjoy being outdoors. There are many, many tasks waiting for volunteers to give a few hours of their time. Every hour given reduces the work load of the primary grounds workers (also volunteers) and contributes to the beauty and health of the grounds. PLEASE contact [Susan Baker](#) to give of your time or just show up. There's usually a worker present Monday-Friday, 11:30-2 or 3.

Grounds wish list: Rocks that can be used for borders, paint brushes, tubeless tire wheelbarrow, rags. Over the years we have received many object and plant donations so, in many respects, the UUC grounds are a reflection of your love for the grounds and for nature. Thank you!!



Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services May 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.

May's Theme: STORY

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

May 2: *The Stories We Tell*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Stephen Henninger. We'll begin the month of considering what it means to be a **people of Story** with the stories we tell ourselves.

May 9: *Nurturing Stories*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Kimberley Homer. Mother's Day calls us to remember stories of mothers, but we know that one need not be a mother to nurture and support others. We will consider all kinds of mothering. We will also celebrate our first virtual child dedication ceremony. (If you would like your child dedicated, contact [Rev. Pam](#).)

May 16: *The Stories of UUs*, Ellen Plummer and Worship Associate Victoria Taylor. As we celebrate the anniversary of the Unitarians and Universalists coming together 60 years ago, how might our collective stories from the past help us navigate our way into the future?

May 23: *Turning the Page*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Alyssa Short. The stories of our lives are punctuated by chapters. This week, we'll recognize and celebrate the transition from middle to high school with our *Coming of Age* youth, and the transition from high school to adulthood with our YRUU (Young Religious UUs) graduating seniors in our annual Bridging Service.

May 30: *Stories of War*, Rev. Pam Philips, *Worship Associate TBA*. On this day before Memorial Day, we will consider stories of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

What does it mean
to be a people of
Story?



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 **25** people are able to gather together in our outdoor space, but the 6-foot distance between people must be maintained and masks worn. Worship services and many groups and committees continue to meet via Zoom. Check the website and calendar for information on events and the Zoom links and updates to this information. Be sure to contact [Lisa](#) to schedule an event on our grounds or via Zoom.

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: May 2021 *activate links*

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
(All Sundays) ⌘ 10:00 Worship Service (All Sundays except May 30) ⌘ 9:00 Pre K RE ⌘ 9:30 Grades K-5 RE (These are via Zoom or outdoors) ⌘ 6:00 Middle School RE/Youth Group ⌘ 7:00 YRUU	(All Mondays) ⌘ 7:00 AM Women's Breakfast ⌘ 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Hybrid starting May 3. Check Sunday announcements)	(All Tuesdays) ⌘ 5:00 Meditation	(All Wednesdays) ⌘ Noon Conversations on Our Faith ⌘ 3:00 PM Story Time with Rev. Pam (not on May 26) ⌘ 5:30 Mid-week Gathering ⌘ 5:30 Yoga Outdoors (UUC grounds)		(All Fridays) ⌘ Noon Women's Lunch Bunch (UUC picnic area or Zoom)	(All Saturdays) ⌘ 8:30 AM Weekly walk/hike at Heritage Park, Bburg 1 ⌘ 9:30 AM Grounds' Work Day (rescheduled because of rain on April 24)
2 ⌘ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 11:35 Men's Group ⌘ 3:00 Spiritual Aging	3 ⌘ 7:00 PM Monday Gathering on the Grounds	4 ⌘ 2:00 Sages	5	6 ⌘ 7:00 Adult RE: <i>Sacred Language and Sacred Tradition</i>	7	8 ⌘ 10:00 AM Hike the Original Appalachian Trail, Rock Castle Gorge See more
9 ⌘ 1:00 Anti-Racism Group	10 ⌘ 6:00 Parent Bereavement Support Group	11 4:00 Committee on Ministries ⌘ 7:00 Caregivers' Support Group	12 6:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Worship Team	13 ⌘ 7:00 Board Meeting	14	15 ⌘ 1:00 Transgender Support Group
16 ⌘ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 11:35 Men's Group ⌘ 11:30 Community Conversations <i>Weaving the Social Fabric</i>	17 ⌘ 6:00 NAMI Connections Support Group	18 ⌘ 2:00 Sages	19 ⌘ 6:00 NAMI Family Support Group	20 ⌘ 6:00 UUC Poetry Group ⌘ 7:00 Adult RE: <i>Sacred Language and Sacred Tradition</i>	21	22
23 ⌘ 11:15 AM Informational Meeting ⌘ 1:00 Anti-Racism Group	24	25 ⌘ 7:00 Adult RE: <i>The Fifth Dimension</i> ⌘ 7:00 Trans Support Group for Youth & Families	26	27 ⌘ 7:00 Adult RE: <i>Sacred Language & Sacred Translation</i> ⌘ 7:00 Transgender Support Group 9:00 June Newsletter Deadline	28	29 5:00 Parent covenant group (outdoor areas)
30 11:30 AM Stewardship Committee	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.