



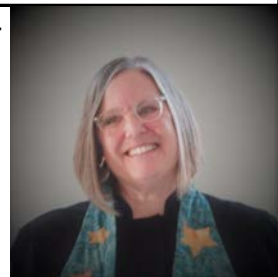
NEWSLETTER

May 2022

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Message from Our Minister Rev. Pam Philips

We haven't had many April showers, but I am ready for May flowers. And what better image for this month's worship theme – **Nurturing Beauty**. I'm inspired by my neighbors as I watch them digging in the dirt, preparing the soil for planting flowers and vegetables. Gardening can be such a satisfying way to nurture beauty – whether you grow showy flowers or hardy vegetables. I'm thrilled that one of the outreach projects that came out of our Outreach Summit includes what Kimberley Homer calls "Hopepunk Container Gardens." Her vision is to hold workshops for people who lack space for bigger plots so they can still nourish beauty on a small scale. I encourage you to get in touch with her if you would like to participate in this effort. Our congregants will also pursue outreach through legislative advocacy, supporting anti-racism through book drives, and working with the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership. Let's nurture these efforts together! The month of May holds many opportunities to appreciate and nurture the beauty of our congregation, particularly in the form of rituals.



On **May 1**, we'll **Cultivate, Nurture and Celebrate Community** - with the end of our stewardship pledge drive "feast" – bagels & cream cheese, fruit salad, veggies/pita chips with hummus - out in the Crescent Garden and picnic area at 11:30 (see page 3 for more info). We are short of our goal and still need to hear from those who have not yet pledged. Let's celebrate our generosity together!

On **May 8**, we'll dedicate children in our congregation (for the first time in over two years!). How delightful it will be to see the faces of the children and their families and to promise to help nurture their young lives! Because many of these children are under five, and because all the children will be joining us for the first part of this service, we ask that everyone in the sanctuary wear masks while the children are present. If you would like to have your child(ren) dedicated, please contact [me](#).

The next Sunday, we'll **celebrate our high school seniors** who are graduating and becoming young adults. How wonderful it will be to hear their voices and the music they love, and to participate in rituals meaningful to them. We'll also have a **new member recognition** that Sunday (see page 4); if you have found that UUC is your spiritual home and are ready to sign the membership book, please contact [me](#).

The next weekend I will be in Virginia Beach, celebrating with the Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists the installation of my colleague, the Reverend Viola Abbitt, as their settled minister. Seminarian Anna Tulou, who will become our Ministerial Intern in the fall, will be in the pulpit.

We'll have our annual **Flower Service** on the first Sunday in June. The past two years, we've celebrated our community with photographs of flowers because we could not gather in person. I encourage everyone to take photographs of May flowers to send me again this year. We'll also invite people to bring flowers to the sanctuary during the service.

In addition to these milestone activities, you'll find other opportunities in the newsletter where you can help nurture beauty in your own life and the life of the congregation. In the words of Unitarian Louisa May Alcott, "The power of finding beauty in the humblest things makes home happy and life lovely."



In faith, Rev. Pam

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Staff Office Hours:

Contact staff to make an appointment.

Message from Our Board

Bob Stimson, Board President



Finally May has arrived with the warm weather, beautiful flora and outside fun. The Board and Finance Committee will be finalizing the 2022-23 budget once the Stewardship Drive ends in early May. The budget will be presented at the Congregational Information Meeting after the service on **May 22**, both in person and via Zoom. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on **June 5**, also in person and via Zoom.

The Board instigated a *Summit Outreach* meeting on April 23 where several high-priority congregation-wide outreach ideas were identified. The need for an increase in outreach activities was a stated priority in our Strategic Plan. The ideas, including legislative advocacy, *Open Book* drives and distribution, sponsorship of a refugee family, popup container garden workshops for those who do not have garden space, and growing food for those in need will be part of upcoming sermons. These projects will be developed by interested volunteers. It was an exciting meeting where those participating contributed to our working towards our mission of INSPIRE, CREATE and TRANSFORM.

Hope to see many at the upcoming Event Auction on **May 7 at 5 PM**. Come and reward yourself with delicious food and beverages, seeing old and new friends, and by bidding on some of the many fabulous items being offered.

Informational & Annual Meetings

All members are asked to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, **June 5** following the service either in person, via Zoom, or via proxy where we will be electing new officers to the Board and voting on our budget for the next fiscal year.

Slate of officers to be voted upon:

President-elect: Fred Piercy (1-year term followed by 1-year term as President)

Treasurer: Wayne Neu (2-year term)

Secretary: Gene Gardner (1-year term filling out Stephen Henninger's term)

Members-at-Large: Rami Steinruck and Laura Robinson (2-year terms)

Officers not requiring a vote as per our Bylaws:

President: Nancy Bodenhorn (serving this current year as President-elect)

Member-at-Large: Alyssa Short (appointed to 1-year term filling out Gene Gardner's term)

All are welcome to participate in the Informational Meeting on Sunday, **May 22** following the service either in person or via Zoom to learn more and get your questions answered.

Watch for more information on both meetings including information on the budget and how we will vote from home.

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

UUC's 2022-2023 Stewardship Campaign

Cultivating, Nourishing, and Celebrating Our Community!



As our 2022 Stewardship Pledge Drive comes to a close, we want to thank everyone for their continued support of our beloved UUC community! As I write this, we have raised \$312,302 towards our goal of \$357,500. To celebrate and come together we, the Stewardship Committee, invite everyone to a **homecoming celebration** next Sunday, **May 1** at 11:30 AM.

We will provide some healthy and tasty snacks and desserts to share – no need to bring anything but yourselves. Come mingle with one other in person. Weather permitting, we will hold the celebration outside and hope that folks that have been mostly attending via Zoom will join us in person (as you are able) as



we greet and celebrate each other and another successful pledge drive!

I have very much enjoyed the 3 stewardship community events that I participated in and hope that many of you also got to enjoy some face-to-face community building. Meeting at Moon Hollow to raise a pint with the ministers, I was able to reconnect with and learn more about some long-time members that I see every Sunday but don't often get the chance to sit down and talk to. We all have interesting and varied lives, and it's fascinating to hear more stories. I also helped with the campfire as many of us wandered our beautiful grounds and enjoyed Jim's singing and music. It did my heart good to hear happy chatter and excited greetings as some of us met in person again for the first time in way too long. Finally, I joined with 5 other congregants on a steep but breathtaking hike up Bald Knob. We nibbled on snacks at the top and enjoyed the view, and I learned about some wildflowers and a bird species. It was so wonderful to connect and chat, enjoy nature, and hear more stories. With every conversation and activity, I felt closer to our congregants as we together wove the fabric of our community.

But we need your help to get to the finish line! Rev. Jaimie McReynolds has offered to dye his white hair **green** to compliment Rev. Pam's beautiful **purple** hairdo **IF** we receive 90% of our pledge goal by **May 1! Go green** for the money he says! Let's make this happen! If you have not yet pledged for fiscal year 2022-23, please fill out the [online pledge form](#) or contact [Lisa Evanylo](#) ASAP. If you have already pledged, please consider increasing your pledge by contacting Lisa to insure that we make our goal of \$357,500. The Board meets with the Finance Committee on **May 5** to determine next year's budget, so we are down to the wire to raise enough money to do all the wonderful things we hope to do for and at UUC. Help us continue to cultivate our community and please come out and celebrate with us on **May 1!**

With Gratitude,
Carol Kern, Stewardship Chair

Upcoming Events and Updates

Ready for a Party? Unmask the Fun!

Spring into UUC Auction Night! Saturday, May 7 from 5-8 PM

Dinners, parties, outings, services, and more available for live bidding.

Submit your fun event donations to Irene Peterson, (540) 239-1420. Help build our community and earn money for UUC!

Check out our [auction website](#) for items that have been donated to date. PLEASE **register NOW** via the same link to avoid having to do so at the event.

Please bring a heavy appetizer or dessert to share. Beverages, including beer, wine, and non-alcoholic options are provided although donations always appreciated.

Childcare provided for the very young and a fun party for the others but please RSVP to [Deb Dickerson](#) to help with the planning.

Can't make it? Send a proxy bid via a friend or make a direct donation at the website above.



Anti-Racist Practice Group

Tuesday, **May 31**, 7-8:30 PM via Zoom. Sponsored by Blacksburg Presbyterian Church & UUC.

Dismantling white supremacy requires a commitment to honest, sometimes painful, self-reflection. Because we all struggle with unconscious bias, we benefit from opportunities to receive feedback and support as we seek to practice anti-racism. This deep, inner work requires a community of accountability where white folks can learn from our mistakes and gain experience in interrupting racism in ourselves and our organizations.

During this last of three 90-minute workshops, we will gather in small groups to discuss case studies of racial microaggressions. Alongside facilitators, we will role-play possible micro-interventions and practice interrupting common examples of racism.

Register to attend via this [link](#). In the days leading up to the workshop, you'll receive an email with the Zoom link and relevant workshop materials. However, no preparation is required prior to the meeting.

EarthSpirit Sisters Beltane Celebration

ALL are welcome to celebrate Beltane on Sunday, **May 1** in our labyrinth. The event will begin with a ritual geared for children at 4:30 PM. The adult ritual starts at 5:45 PM. Childcare will not be available during the adult ritual, but babies are welcome to stay for the adult portion. Please bring cut flowers, a snack to share, and a folding chair/blanket, if needed. Beltane is mid-way between the spring equinox and summer solstice and celebrates the return of summer and fertility to the land.



Contact [Darla Bray](#) for more info.

New Member Recognition Ceremony

We will hold a new member recognition ceremony during the service on Sunday, **May 15**. If you feel ready to be a member of UUC by signing our membership book, please contact [Rev. Pam](#). Participants can be both in the sanctuary or attending the service via Zoom.

If you can't attend this date, let Rev. Pam know, and she can meet with you to sign the book at another time.

UUC Piecemakers

The Piecemakers, a UUC quilting and fiber craft group that makes our paraments (those colorful pieces which cover the podium and the candle table) and quilts for any congregant in need of a tangible item of comfort welcomes newcomers of all skills. The group meets in Elarth on the 1st Thursday of each month (**May 5**) at 6:30 PM and the 3rd Saturday of the month (**May 21**) at 10 AM. From time to time a meeting may be cancelled, so if you are planning to attend for the first time, please contact [Marilyn DuPont](#) to confirm or for more info.



Community Service Team Meeting

UUC's Community Service Team (CST) supports a variety of local social action activities and invites congregants to participate. All are welcome to attend the next CST meeting on Tuesday, **May 3** at 7 PM via this [Zoom link](#). Activities to be discussed are: 1) a UUC team will be organized to help with a *Habitat for Humanity* build, 2) what is *Open Book* and how can UUC be involved, 3) *CROP Walk for Ukraine*, and 4) other ongoing activities. For those who are unable to participate in the meeting but are interested in the activities, check the weekly email announcements or contact [Alison Armstrong](#) or [Pauletta Copenheaver](#).



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 11:30 AM at local restaurants or noon at UUC. Check [online calendar](#) for locations and times for the following weeks.

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.

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 (**May 9**) 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 2nd Tuesdays of each month (**May 10**) 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 (**May 16**) 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 (**May 18**) 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 (**May 5**) from 7-8:30 PM and 3rd Saturdays (**May 21**) 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.

The **Youth & Families Group** meets on the 4th Tuesdays (**May 24**) 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](#).

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 March recipients were:

April 3: Interfaith Food Pantry, \$226

April 10: SEEDS, \$183

April 17: Mont. Co. Animal Care & Adoption Center, \$242

April 24: UU Ministry for Earth, \$188.79.

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.

NEW: Legislative Advocacy Group

Interested in legislative advocacy? Join us in UUC's library on Tuesday, **May 10** at 7 PM as we plan expansion of our congregation's interfaith advocacy efforts in Virginia. Interested but unable to be present at that time, contact [Sara Dalton](#) or [Alyssa Short](#) or stop by the legislative advocacy table during coffee hour in Elarth Hall beginning **May 15**. All are welcome!

Death Cafe



UUC members, Cynthia Luke, Sharon Crane, and Rev. Jamie McReynolds are hosting a [Death Cafe](#) at the Christiansburg Library on Saturday, **May 14** from 10 AM-

noon. For more information on this local gathering, use [this link](#). The public is invited to attend.

The objective of Death Café is to 'increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'. At a Death Cafe people drink tea/coffee, eat cake, and discuss death.

Parent Covenant Group

Parents of young children are invited to join in the fun on Saturday, **May 21** from 5-8 PM in UUC's picnic area (weather permitting) or Elarth Hall.

This is a monthly support group for UUC parents with younger kids (younger than teen). Enjoy a potluck dinner followed by playtime for kids and support group discussion for parents. We also have social gatherings throughout the year. If you're wanting a friendly group of like-minded parents, contact [Deb Dickerson](#).

April Board Mtg. Highlights

- ◆ The Board voted to permit the Choir to sing unmasked during services the rest of the church year. However, congregants must still be masked to sing during services. If children under 5 are present in the sanctuary during a service, congregants should be masked.
- ◆ More chairs will be moved back into the sanctuary.
- ◆ The Board discussed resuming potlucks but did not vote on this.
- ◆ Further changes and updates to the Policies & Procedures Manual were discussed.
- ◆ Delegates to General Assembly will be selected at the May meeting.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, **May 12** at 7 PM. The Board will also meet with the Finance Committee on **May 5** to finalize the budget. The [minutes and reports of meetings](#) for the past two calendar years are available.

Questions, Ideas, Complaints for the Board: Send an email to addresstheBoard@uucnr.org.

Ride Your Bike to UUC

Every 4th Sunday through September is **Bike Sunday**. Ride your bike to UUC, save gas, help the planet, get exercise, and be part of the biking movement.

Bike parking at UUC is available at the bike rack in the parking lot and by the Crescent Garden. Questions—contact [Susan Baker](#).



May Food Pantry Donations

Our Community Service Team is collecting food in the bins located near the accessible entrance to UUC. Suggested donations for May are canned vegetables, cream of chicken soup, and 1-lb. boxes of spaghetti noodles.



Thanks for helping to feed the hungry in our area.

Introducing the “Growth Through Service” Program at UUC

Starting in May, UUC will kick off a new program called “Growth Through Service” (GTS). The Leadership Development Committee and the Board learned about this concept through a UU congregation in Pennsylvania as an approach of encouraging connection, community, leadership, and especially spiritual growth through service within our congregation.

As Unitarian Universalists, most of us already live out our faith through our service to others. True spiritual growth in our congregations often arises through our connectedness with others and through service with a higher purpose that is greater than our own individual needs. In this context, service to our spiritual community becomes a sacred experience, one in which our relationships are defined by a sense of caring, respect, commitment, and responsibility.

At UUC, we encourage everyone to experience service as a way of finding expression for their own spirituality. To do that, we want to work with you to help you understand what service roles would contribute the most to your spiritual growth. That is why we are adopting the GTS program.

The goal is to assist congregants in identifying the characteristics of meaningful service for each of us that will best fit with our individual spiritual growth/journey. These characteristics will be compiled during a private chat (in person or virtual) with specially trained facilitators from the GTS team. We will be encouraging congregants to seek out one of the conversation leaders, or one of the team members may also be contacting you to see if you are interested in having such a conversation, and working to align or better align potential service opportunities with what most feeds your soul.

A website (still under development as of this writing) will have much more information about the program including an introductory video, a link to the database of service opportunities, and contact information for the conversation leaders.

This will NOT be a recruitment process but rather the opportunity for you to seek out the service opportunities and the leaders of those opportunities that have been identified as the best matches for you. Over time, there will be frequent reminders for all to re-visit the opportunities database to keep up with new and available opportunities, and in some cases a leader may reach out to someone who has indicated interests which may be aligned with a certain opportunity. However, the expectation is that this will be more of an avenue for congregants to seek out service opportunities rather than leaders seeking congregants.

Look for more information very soon from the pulpit and in email announcements!

Our Mission

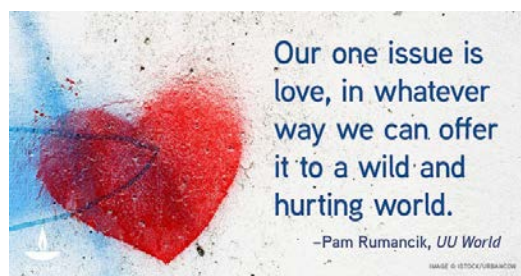
Inspire. Create. Transform.

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.



Round the Grounds

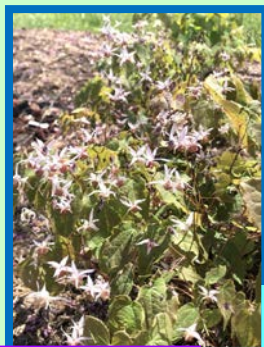
by Susan Baker, co-chair

Spring is a very busy and magical time on UUC's grounds. Our recent workday saw 20+ congregants knocking out mulching, raking, wood chipping, and paint scrapping, and making

improvements and repairs. The following weekend was the awaited VT Big Event – another workday but with the advantage of having 18 VT students from the Corp of Cadets to help. Their enthusiasm, energy, and youth enabled us to get a huge hole dug for a new tree, prepare an area for grass seeding, make improvements to the drainage system in the detention ponds, and greatly diminish our piles of mulch and wood chips.

Monetary donations from the men's Monday morning breakfast group and the Friday women's lunch group along with food donations from congregants made it possible for all workers to enjoy a pizza lunch.

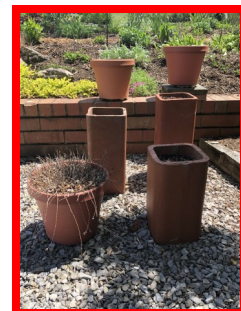
Spring is a magical time of year on our grounds. Seeing buds open to flowers, perennials making their appearance, and insects and birds making their rounds is like a visual dessert after the dormancy of winter. I am amazed when I think of the energy required for a seed, dormant roots, and bulbs to put forth their presence through the earth. If you haven't visited UUC's grounds in the past four weeks, here's what you've missed.



On-going grounds projects include painting the shelter on the upper grounds, putting in metal edging in the Memorial Garden, and maintaining plants, trees, bird houses, etc. Grounds amigos and amigas are loved, so if you can donate several hours to help, we'll give you a huge hug of appreciation. Contact [Susan Baker](#) to help.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

These and other empty and lonely flowerpots are "screaming" for flowers, but we can't put anything in the pots until we have people willing to keep the flowers watered. We need 3 individuals to help with watering – one on Mondays, one on Wednesdays and one on Fridays. This is a 4-5-month commitment, but we'll cover for you when you're unable to water. The watering takes 30-45 minutes weekly. Please make it possible to fill the pots with your offer to water one day a week. Contact [Susan Baker](#) or [Denise Martin](#) to help.



Lifespan Faith Development

Children's RE

We are in the final stretch of our spring semester. The last day of RE classes will be May 22. We will take a short break until summer RE begins on June 12.

Classes continue to take place mostly indoors. Masking at UUC is now optional, but we ask adults and older children to continue to wear a mask when sharing indoor spaces with PreK students, and that unvaccinated children continue to mask indoors.

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 is exploring *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 second graders are focused on *Picture Book UU*. They are learning about each of the eight Principles through reading picture books, thoughtful discussion, and creative hands-on activities.

Grades 3-5: Our third through fifth graders are focused on *Windows & Mirrors*. Their creative and interactive projects encourage self-reflection, as well empathy for other perspectives.

Grades 6-8: Middle school is focused on social justice topics through the lens of *The Simpsons* and *The Twilight Zone*, looking at LGBTQ rights, marriage equality, prejudice, and social conformity.



Save the Dates for Summer RE!

Summer RE will run from June 12 through August 14! No classes on July 3. We will be following the *Holidays & Holy Days* curriculum, with all classes taking place outdoors on UUC's grounds (weather permitting).

Have you ever considered serving as an RE teacher?

Summer is a wonderful time to volunteer with the RE program. You will get to spend time doing creative and meaningful projects with our young congregants while also enjoying warm summer Sunday mornings on the grounds. We are seeking volunteers who can commit to four Sundays. Volunteers can choose PreK or K-5.

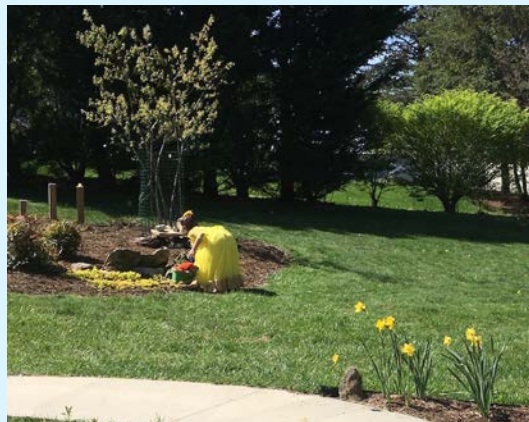
Email dldf@uucnr.org to apply.

The UMC Annual Egg Hunt was Eggs-traordinary!



Thank you to everyone who donated items to the **Montgomery County Animal Care & Adoption Center!** As you can see from the photos above, the dogs and cats will be very happy with their new load of healthy food, yummy treats, and cleaning supplies.

Eggs-tra special thanks to **Deb Dickerson** and **Theodore Dickerson** for volunteering to help hide 450 eggs filled with dog treats. Photos below of just a few of the many happy hunters who joined us!



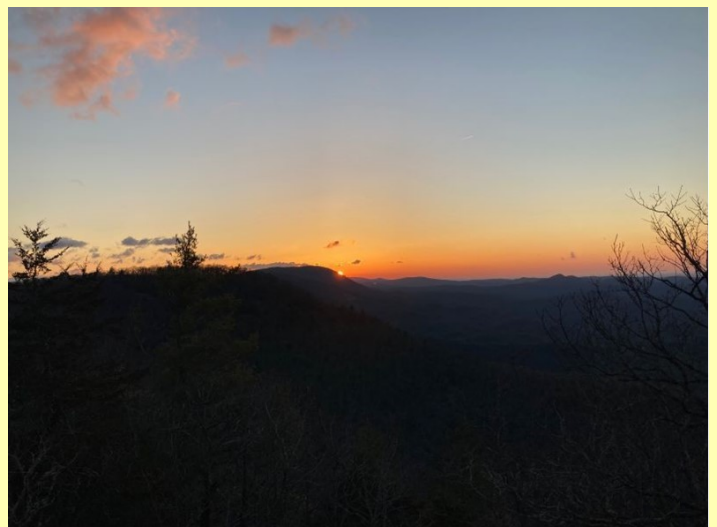
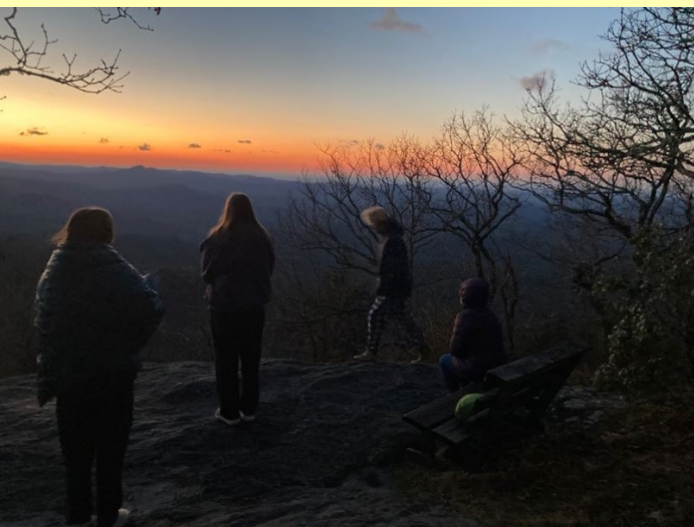
YRUU at The Mountain



Students from YRUU attended **Mountain CON** in Highlands, NC from March 25-27.

A youth CONference is a gathering of Unitarian Universalist youth and advisors from congregations all over the southeastern U.S. for a weekend program filled with a variety of workshops and activities focused on building bonds through reflection, spiritual growth, and fun.

Special thanks to **Jim Kern** and **Rebecca Epperly** for serving as Advisor Chaperones!



On-Going Adult RE Programs

Sunday Circle

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

May 1: *Water and the Defense of Territory in Guatemala*. The global resource rush has met with resistance from indigenous and peasant environmental defense movements worldwide. Water contamination and access are at the crux of poor peoples' struggles against extractive industries. In this talk, Dr. Nicholas Copeland, a cultural anthropologist, describes the significance of water in indigenous movements in defense of territory in Guatemala, drawing on several years of collaborative ethnographic fieldwork.

May 22 (note date change): *Reckoning with 150 Years of Virginia Tech History*. As VT commemorates its 150th anniversary this year, the university community is trying to balance celebration of accomplishments with acknowledgment of more difficult aspects of the institution's history. VT history professor, Paul Quigley, will reflect on VT's renewed efforts to come to terms with the legacies of slavery, Jim Crow, settler colonialism, and other historical injustices--all within the context of nationwide conflicts over the meaning of American history.

Anti-Racism Group

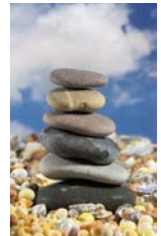
Meets second and fourth Sundays, 1-2 PM via this [Zoom link](#).

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

Meditation Group

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

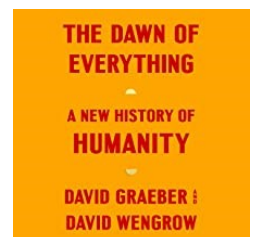
Our meditation group meets weekly for those interested in starting or deepening their meditation practice. Our format is drop-in, so you need not attend all sessions. Open with centering words and basic instruction followed by sitting practice. Meditators from all traditions and all levels of experience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



Conversations on Our Faith

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

Join our conversation as we read the book, *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity* by David Graeber, David Wengrow, et al. All are welcome, even if you have not read the chapters of the book under discussion. To learn more, contact [Tim Pickering](#).



Community Conversation: *Climate Change*

Sunday, **May 15**, 11:30-1 PM at UUC and via this [Zoom link](#). (Note date change from usual 4th Sunday)

All are welcome to join the discussion. It's time to change the climate of our climate conversations by not huddling under our umbrellas with only those who think what we believe is true! Let's be brave enough to listen with curiosity to our fellow citizens' views about the climate. No matter how firmly you stand in your view of climate change, there is a space for you to individually facilitate a change in the climate of our Climate Conversations. Led by [Rev. Jamie McReynolds](#).





Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services May 2022

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

May's Theme: Nurturing Beauty

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

Welcome
to the month of
Nurturing Beauty



May 1: *Nurturing Our Spirits*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Gretchen Luke. We begin our month-long exploration of Nurturing Beauty by considering ways we can cultivate inner beauty and growth. Stay after the service (or come to UUC if you attend the service via Zoom) for our **Cultivate, Nurture, and Celebrate Community** gathering at 11:30.

May 8: *Understanding Beauty*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Tommy Iafate. How might our culture's definitions and prioritization of beauty affect how we see ourselves and others, how we show up in the world? We'll be joined by the children for the beginning of the service for our first **child dedication** in over two years.

May 15: *The Beauty of Bridging*, Rev. Pam Philips and YRUU members. Come celebrate the bridging of our high school seniors into young adulthood, as the youth share their experience of growing up as Unitarian Universalists. We'll also have a **new members ceremony** for those who have found a spiritual home in UUC (see page 4).

May 22: *Eat the Strawberry*, Seminarian Anna Tulou and Worship Associate Victoria Taylor. We'll explore how to find beauty in adversity.

Anna lives in Salem, VA with her three children and is currently a seminarian with Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago studying to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. Next fall, she will become our Ministerial Intern at UUC. A published poet, she also loves to write fiction and essays, sing, cook, hike, and talk to plants.

May 29: *Heeding the Call of Beauty*, Rev. Pam Philips and Worship Associate Ellen Plummer. While creating and appreciating beauty enriches our lives, does it also make demands on us or encourage us to action?

BIKE SUNDAY

Ta dah! The first "Bike Sunday" saw 10 bikers and a group of walkers make the journey to the Sunday service. The bike rack was full! "Bike Sunday" occurs every 4th Sunday, May-September. We hope you will plan on being a part of this activity promoted by the Environmental Justice Committee. Put the dates on your calendar. Let's shoot for 15 bikers in May.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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CALENDAR: May 2022

All times are PM unless noted otherwise

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

κκ indicates a Stewardship Pledge Drive *Opportunity to Cultivate Connections*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>(All Sundays) κ 10:00 AM Worship Service (UUC and Zoom)</p> <p>(All Sundays except May 29) κ 10:00 AM Religious Education classes (UUC) 7:00 YRUU (UUC)</p>	<p>(All Mondays) κ 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast (UUC) κ 7:30 AM Women's Breakfast (UUC)</p>	<p>(All Tuesdays) κ 5:00 Meditation</p>	<p>(All Wednesdays) κ Noon Conversations on Our Faith κ 5:30 Yoga (UUC) 7:00 Choir rehearsal (UUC)</p>		<p>(All Fridays) κ 11:30 AM at a local restaurant or Noon at UUC: check announcements</p>	
<p>1 κ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle κ 1130 AM Stewardship Celebration: Cultivating, Nourishing and Celebrating Community κ 4:30 EarthSpirit Sisters <i>Beltrane Celebration</i> (at UUC in labyrinth)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 κ 2:00 Sages (UUC and Zoom) κ 7:00 Community Service Team</p>	<p>4 6:00 Connections Committee 7:00 Exploring and Reimagining UUism at its Core</p>	<p>5 κ 6:30 Piecemakers (at UUC) κ 7:00 Transgender Support Group 7:00 Joint Board/Finance meeting on Budget</p>	<p>6 5:00 MSYG/RE family/multigenerational movie night</p>	<p>7 κ 5:00 Event Auction (at UUC)</p>
<p>8 κ 10:00 AM "We'll be joined by the children for the beginning of the service for our first child dedication in over two years." κ 1:00 Anti-Racism Group</p>	<p>9 κ 6:00 Parent Bereavement Support Group</p>	<p>10 κ 6:30 Legislative Advocacy group κ 7:00 Caregivers' Support Group</p>	<p>11 6:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Worship Team</p>	<p>12 7:00 Board Meeting (UUC and Zoom)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 κ 10:00 AM Death Café (at Christiansburg Library)</p>
<p>15 κ <i>New Members Recognition Ceremony</i> (during the service) κ 11:30 AM Community Conversations: Climate Change (UUC and Zoom)</p>	<p>16 κ 6:00 NAMI Connections Support Group</p>	<p>17 κ 2:00 Sages (UUC and Zoom)</p>	<p>18 κ 6:00 NAMI Family Support Group 7:00 Exploring and Reimagining UUism at its Core</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 κ 10:00 AM Piecemakers (UUC) κ 1:00 Transgender Support Group κ 5:00 Parents' Covenant Group (at UUC)</p>
<p>22 κ Bike Sunday κ 8:30 AM <i>Sunday Circle</i> κ 11:30 AM Informational Meeting (UUC and Zoom) κ 1:00 Anti-Racism Group</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 κ 6:30 Trans Support Group for Youth & Families</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 9:00 June newsletter deadline</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 κ 7:00 Anti-Racist Practice Group</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The online calendar will be updated to reflect the current reality.</p>			