



# NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Year 55, Issue 4

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

## Message from Our Minister Rev. Pam Philips



What does it mean to be a people of **liberation**? What a question to ask of a people who have been told to practice physical distancing, sticking close to home and far away from others when they've ventured out to the grocery store or other public places. And yet, that's the theme we're invited to consider in the month of April.

As I write, the sun is shining, the wind is blowing, the trees are blossoming, the pollen is flying. It's easy to think of spring as a time of liberation—from the cold, gray, dreary days of winter. But this spring, we are facing a new way of being in the world—different from any that we have ever known.

One way of thinking about it is that we've been freed from our routines—whether that means going to an office, classroom, café, gym, or other meeting place. Instead, we're establishing new routines—working from home, not working at all, connecting with others on the internet. Some of us have way more time on our hands, while others are working more hours than ever. Few people's lives have been unchanged. If letting go is a form of liberation, then we've all been liberated.

But this has also been a time of captivity. We're held captive by the news—anxious to hear about how many people have contracted the virus in faraway places, but even more so closer to home, and to hear the most recent recommendations from our government officials and the scientists. We want to know how bad it will get and how soon it will affect us more directly. And when it will end. We are held captive by fear.

What does it mean to be a people of liberation? In these times, perhaps the greatest key to our liberation is not looking to the past or the future—reminders of what we miss or forecasts of what we fear—but staying present to now. At this moment, we are ok. The sun is shining, the wind is blowing the trees are blossoming, the pollen is flying. At this moment, we can take a walk, read a book, meditate, or simply take a breath. At this moment, we can reach out to one another—making a phone call, writing an email, joining one of the many online gatherings listed in the newsletter and on our calendar. At this moment, while we may be physically separated from other people, we need not be alone.

We are not alone. All our lives have been and will continue to be affected by this virus—a stark reminder of the interdependent web of which we are a part. But also an urgent reminder that we can cultivate and be nurtured by our connections. In the month ahead, let us practice mutual liberation, helping each other to stay present to the now by maintaining and expanding our compassionate community. Reach out to help, reach out to ask for help, stay connected.

In faith and hope,  
Rev. Pam



**Tech Help Wanted:** We've been learning new ways to stay connected virtually mostly by doing. If you have technical knowledge and experience with Zoom or other on-line platforms that might help us improve or expand what we're already doing, please contact [Rev. Pam](#). Help with video production/editing and closed caption programs would be especially appreciated.

## Contact Information

### Minister:

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

### President:

Steve Keighton  
540-558-8076  
president@uucnrv.org

**Director of Lifespan  
Faith Development** – on  
sabbatical through June

### 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:

**Staff office hours are  
being held virtually  
until the building  
re-opens.**

### Minister:

Tuesdays - Fridays, 9-1

Contact for appointment  
or use this [link](#) to set one  
up online.

### Administrator:

Mondays & Fridays, 1-4

## Special Messages from the Board: Conveying Both the Challenges & Spirit of These Times

By David Hundley, Member-at-Large

We all know what is going on around the world. While we are all staying in isolation reading the news with emotions running high, our family is also preparing to bring a new life into the world. If everything goes as planned, our daughter will be born on March 27. This is a terrifying time to be having a baby, I admit. The panic and sheer emotion level at the hospital on our weekly trips are extraordinary. Our family will not be allowed at the hospital for support. William, almost 4, will not get to meet his sister for several days – a moment he has eagerly been awaiting for months. This is a stark difference from the journey we envisioned. We have been on such a long road to get to this point, now even in these tumultuous times, one of the best moments of my life is about to happen. I believe in making meaning even in hard times, and my take-away is this - even in chaos, beauty is still being born. (Note: Baby Daphne was born on March 27 as planned, and all are home and doing great.)

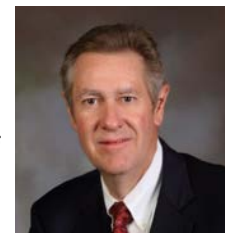


Keeping this in mind, I have been so impressed with Rev. Pam in her handling of the situation. The decision to close down UUC for a month was a very tough one for the Board. I truly believe that if we, as a Board, had walked into our meeting with a guiding voice other than Pam's, we might not have taken the steps we did as quickly as we did. She even provided us with several options for moving forward. Even with Rev. Pam's undeniable sadness of closing the church doors, she met this challenge with enthusiasm to find solutions. We all know she would rather be in front of us on Sundays, but the virtual services are still allowing us all to connect – including some people that may not have been able to otherwise. In our home, being able to tune in weekly means the world to my wife and me as we hold on to anything close to normal.

If you are having trouble seeing any light in this dark situation, I encourage you to look to our congregation, reach out, and see the community around you. Pam and the rest of the staff have banded together to continue as many congregational functions as possible through Zoom and other paths. UUC is continuing to be a place to look to for stability in the midst of challenges. I could not be prouder of our congregation. I believe that if we let this movement inside our church grow, we will truly be stronger together, more prepared to reach and connect with people in our community and beyond with a message of compassionate love, service, and undeniable inter-connectedness.

By Wayne Neu, President-Elect

How strange it is not seeing everyone on Sunday these last few weeks. I know that these are tough times for many of us trying to work from home while caring for children, not being able to visit with friends, go to restaurants, the gym and many other of our favorite places. Times are especially hard for those with health problems and those who live alone. I encourage us all to do what we can to reach out to and support one another in a safe and caring way. Now is the time to remember our mission to create compassionate community and to transform our community through love. For those with significant needs, remember that our Lay Pastoral Care Ministry team is always available for support and encouragement. They can be reached via email at [LCPM@uucnrv.org](mailto:LCPM@uucnrv.org).



continued on page 5

# UUC's 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign Update



## 2020: Vision & Visibility

On March 1, our pledge drive started off with a bang—with 46 pledges for a total of \$136,957 (nearly 40% of the way toward our goal!)—thanks to all those who participated in the early bird effort!

And despite our world being turned upside-down, we find ourselves at the “end” of our annual stewardship campaign but only 76% of the way toward our goal of \$357,000, with 126 out of an expected 165 pledge units having made their commitment for 2020-21.

Given the events of the past month in our own lives and the life of our nation and world, we find ourselves in a glass half-full/half-empty situation. Look at how much has been pledged (\$271,800) despite the economic turmoil and financial uncertainty we've experienced! And look at how much farther we want to go.

This is indeed an unprecedented and scary time in our lives. And it's perhaps the most difficult time to hold a stewardship campaign and plan for our congregation's future. In the next month, the Finance Committee and the Board will have to make some hard decisions about where and how we can trim our budget. Most of us will be facing a similar situation at some point in our own lives, and UUC is no different. We urge you to think of the value of this congregation, particularly in these difficult times – for yourself and for others.

To those of you who have pledged: Thank you! For those who haven't, we understand your reluctance. **And** we invite you to go ahead and make a pledge, even if it is a smaller commitment than you've made in years past. No amount is too small. (See below for ways to pledge.) 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, you can let us know that, too.

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.

In faith,

Rev. Pam  
Andy Roberts, Stewardship Committee Chair

Ways to pledge:

1. Via our [online pledge form](#) (easiest method).
2. Via our [online pledge card](#). Print and mail to UUC's PO Box.
3. Email our [administrator](#) with your pledge.

# Upcoming Events

Many committees, groups, and activities are taking place via Zoom during this time of isolating from one another. See below for some of our current Zoom meetings with links. LFD groups meeting via Zoom can be found on page 7. If you've never tried Zoom, you can see how it works using this link: [Zoom.us/test](https://zoom.us/test). It will give you a chance to explore all the options/features before joining an actual meeting.

Due to our Governor's mandate, our building will be closed until at least June 10. Be sure to continually check the [online calendar](#) and [website](#) for updates about activities as well as our twice-weekly email announcements. If your group's Zoom link is not included, please contact [Lisa](#) to get it on our calendar and publicized to the congregation.

## New! Mid-Week Gatherings, Wednesdays at 5:30 PM

Please join us each week for an opportunity to take a breath, listen to some music, and share some words via this Zoom [link](#).

## Women's Breakfast

All women are invited to meet for breakfast, coffee and conversation at 7 AM each Monday via Zoom until we can once again gather at Panera. Use this [link](#) to join. If 7 AM is too early, join when you are able.

## Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to enjoy breakfast, coffee and conversation each Monday morning at 7 AM via Zoom until we can once again meet at Panera. Use this [link](#) to join. If 7 AM is too early, join when you are able.

## Sages Now Meeting Weekly

Join us each Tuesday at 2 PM for a conversation on topics that affect older adults via this Zoom [link](#).

## Women's Lunch

All women are welcome to join the Women's Lunch Bunch via this Zoom [link](#) on **April 3 & 17**. Contact [Cynthia Luke](#) for more info.

## Newcomers' Orientation and Becoming a Member of UUC

Traditionally, each spring the Connections Committee offers a Newcomers' Orientation session for those who are interested in learning more about UUism and our congregation. Because of the Covid-19 situation, we are unable to offer the session scheduled for May 9 but will hold a session in the fall.

Are you thinking you would like to be an official member of UUC? Only official members (those who have signed our membership book) are entitled to vote at our congregational meetings. This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **May 31**, but the Board will now need to determine if it will happen on this date and how. Because a person must be counted as a member at least two weeks prior to the meeting in order to vote, one would need to sign our membership book by **May 17**. Again, the Board will need to determine how we will approach this issue.

Note that [Rev. Pam](#) is always willing to talk to anyone interested in becoming a member, so feel free to contact her and watch for more information with updates from the Board.

## Join Our Choir for Fall

We are looking for a few good singers – especially basses and tenors. If you have been enjoying listening to the choir on Sunday mornings, think how much more fun it would be to practice with us on Wednesday nights at 7 PM and to be up front yourself! We need YOU!! Contact [Valerie Bidwell](#) to join the fun.

## UUA General Assembly Is Coming!



The [2020 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly](#) will be held **June 24-28** in Providence, RI\*. This year's theme is **Rooted, Inspired & Ready!** Beginning with a banner parade through the Convention Center, thousands of UUs from across the country will participate in 5 exciting days of workshops, plenary sessions, worship services, music, and more. They will witness the presentations, sermons, experiences, thoughts, and wisdom of our denomination's best and brightest. Parallel to and integrated with the adult proceedings is an exciting Youth Program.

UUC is authorized to send up to 5 delegates (delegates' registration fees are reimbursed by UUC). Note that delegates can attend in person or online. Interested in being a UUC delegate? Contact [Steve Keighton](#). The Board will vote **April 9** to choose our delegates. There is no limit to the number of non-delegate attendees that we can send.

Check out this [link](#) to learn more about GA including information on programs, transportation, accommodations, costs, and ways to attend at reduced costs.

\* Due to the challenge of Coronavirus, the UUA is discerning how General Assembly will be shaped to meet the changes and challenges but assure us that GA *will take place* from June 24-28 in one form or another.

continued from page 2

The virtual Sunday services have been very well attended. Rev. Pam's use of Zoom has been very effective in bringing some semblance of normalcy to our Sunday mornings. It is particularly nice to be able to interact with a small group through the use of Zoom's breakout rooms. While not the same as being there, this method of "greeting" one another provides a welcome bit of social contact. If you have not attended a virtual service yet, please do give it a try. Zoom is really quite easy to set up and use.

The Board will be using Zoom to hold our monthly meeting virtually on **April 9**. In addition to the logistical challenges, the Board is also facing significant administrative challenges during this time. First, we will need to discuss implications of a continued building closure in light of the Governor's recent stay-at-home order. We are also facing significant financial challenges. The coronavirus crisis has significantly slowed the response to our stewardship campaign. We will need to make decisions on our next fiscal year's budget in the next few weeks, and we are still very far from the pledge amount that will be necessary. If you have not made your pledge yet, please consider doing so now.

The number of pledge payments coming in has also slowed which is putting a strain on our current cash flow, as our bills and staff still need to be paid. We realize that many of us are facing financial pressures of our own, but if not coming to Sunday services has meant you are not bringing in a pledge check, please consider mailing one in. Our congregation runs on your support, and we need that now more than ever.

Despite all the pressures that the coronavirus has brought, Mother Nature continues her cycle of the seasons. The arrival of spring is bringing all sorts of growing things to life. It is a joy to hear all the birds singing in the morning from the budding trees and to see the spring flowers blooming. As we wait for this health crisis to pass, it is comforting to see what a wonderful world we still have. I can't wait to get outside!

### 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.

# Lifespan Faith Development

April 2020

Easter Egg Hunt for HSMC—

***On hold until further notice***

**Easter Sunday, April 12**

**The original plan:** Once again, our Easter Egg Hunt is going to the dogs—literally! Join the hunt for treat-filled eggs and other items for our furry friends. All items will be donated to the Humane Society of Montgomery County (HSMC). This event is a congregational favorite, with all the fun of an egg hunt wrapped up in a social action project!

**The current plan:** Hopefully we can reschedule a belated Easter Hunt—during the ***Dog Days*** of summer. Families—expect an email regarding a ***virtual egg hunt*** for the kiddos.



*Our Children's Offering would have benefited the Interfaith Food Pantry.*

***Since we are not meeting in person, consider donating on your own. Information on how can be found [here](#).***

MSYG—Cancelled

**April MSYG is cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to have our last meeting of the year in May.**

MSYG meets the 3rd Friday of the month, with meetings at UUC and offsite locations. Contact [rcraine@hotmail.com](mailto:rcraine@hotmail.com) to learn more.

[Register online.](#)

YRUU

**Sundays, 6-8 PM**

**Meet via this [Zoom](#) link.**

Our high school youth group, YRUU, meets on Sunday evenings, with some meetings held offsite. YRUU is open to youth in grades 9-12. Friends are welcome at meetings.

Contact [rcraine@hotmail.com](mailto:rcraine@hotmail.com) to learn more.

[Register online.](#)

Fall Recruitment has begun.

Now recruiting all LFD positions.



# On-Going Adult RE Programs

---

## Spiritual Aging

*Meets the first Sunday of the month, 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. Meeting virtually at this [Zoom link](#).



---

## Anti-Racism Discussion Groups

*Meets the second and fourth Sundays, 8:30-9:30 AM*

All are welcome to join our ongoing discussion group on white privilege and racism via Zoom. The link will be available shortly. For meeting topics, click on the "reading list" on the [Racial Justice webpage](#).

---

## Meditation Group

*Meets Tuesdays, 5-6 PM*

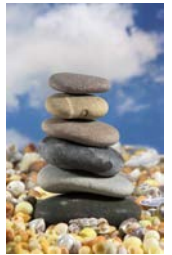
Our meditation group meets weekly for those interested in starting or deepening their meditation practice. Our format is drop-in, so you need not attend all sessions. Open with centering words and basic instruction, followed by sitting practice. Meditators from all traditions and all levels of experience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

---

## Conversations on Our Faith

*Meets Wednesdays 12-1 PM*

Will be meeting virtually at this [Zoom link](#). Join our conversation as we read the book, *The Knowledge Illusion: Why We Never Think Alone*, by Steven Sloman and Philip Fernbach. All are welcome, even if you have not read the chapters of the book under discussion. To learn more, contact [Tim Pickering](#).



### Join our conversation on Sunday, April 26!

Bridging Conversations are a conversational bridge across issues that divide and separate us. They provide an easy structure for engaging in friendly yet meaningful conversation with those with whom we may not agree. These conversations increase understanding, reveal common ground, and sometimes even allow us to discuss possible solutions.

This month's topic: *Coronavirus (Life in the Time of Corona)*

In the past few weeks, our experience of the coronavirus has shifted from "What's that?" to "What is this going to mean for my life?" The rapidly-spreading virus is touching all aspects of our personal and community life. Our health, civic, social, work, academic, faith and financial systems are struggling to cope with uncertainty and the need for rapid readjustment. We are physically distancing ourselves from each other to prevent being infected or spreading the infection. As we move forward in this changing environment, it can be helpful to share our experiences and to consider the potential outcomes from our shared national challenge. Join the virtual conversation at this [Zoom link](#). The conversations are led by [Rev. Jamie McReynolds](#).

# 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:

**March 1:** Planned Parenthood, \$385

**March 8:** Dialogue on Race, \$285

Watch the weekly announcements and website for the coming weeks' 1/2-plate recipients. Have a suggestion—fill out the form in Elarth Hall and place in the lantern or email [Lisa](#).

## Coming to UUC:

### E-giving Via Text & Mobile App

We are in the process of setting up the capability for all to donate to UUC using a **Vanco texting service or their mobile app called Give Plus+**.

This will enable us to hold our Sunday 1/2 plate donations during a virtual service. It will also allow for donations during Sunday services for those who don't bring checks to the service or simply want to use these methods to pay pledges or donate to other areas such as YRUU, the Community Assistance Fund, etc., and even to pay for auction purchases. It will require entering a credit card or bank account info one time.

Watch for more info coming soon.

## Appointments with Rev. Pam

A reminder that you can make an appointment with Rev. Pam using this [link](#). Currently, all appointments will be via Zoom, but you can choose to meet by phone when you make the appointment. She's added Friday to her office hours, but, as always, if those times won't work for you, [email](#) to set up another time.

## New UUC Facebook Group

To facilitate more conversation among us, we have set up a Facebook group -- **UUC New River Valley** -- where everyone can post. To make this a positive experience, we'll continue to honor our Congregational Covenant. This is a private group (only members can see who's in the group and what they post) but it is visible (anyone can find the group). Ask to join the [group](#) today!

## March Board Mtg. Highlights

- ◆ The Board is working to develop a policy on allowing animals in the building.
- ◆ The Board voted to close the building through April 9 when they meet again (thanks to Linsey Marr for her valuable input into the discussion). Note that we must now remain closed through at least **June 10**. Services will be held virtually with committees and groups meeting virtually as able. Staff will continue to be paid as they are working from home.
- ◆ The Board was glad to learn that Lisa Evanylo, Administrator, will not be retiring as planned at the end of June. The budget (salary and retirement) will be adjusted accordingly.
- ◆ The Board approved the purchase of a blood pressure cuff but will hold off on purchase of a defibrillator at this time.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, **April 9** at 7 PM. The [minutes and reports](#) of meetings for the past two calendar years are available.

### Questions, Ideas, Complaints for the Board:

Simply send an email to [adresstheBoard@uucnr.org](mailto:adresstheBoard@uucnr.org).

## Need Help and/or Volunteer to Help

Use our online Google form at [UUC Volunteer and Assistance Request Signup](#) whereby one can volunteer to serve as a chat or video buddy, to provide meals, to pick up and deliver meds or non-Kroger groceries, provide technical support, be an online game buddy, etc. plus info on how to get home delivery or store pickup (now FREE) via Kroger for your groceries and prescriptions from CVS. There is also a place to request help with these same activities plus a space for other. Please volunteer to help others in our congregation AND don't hesitate to request help as you need it. We are here to help!





## Round the Grounds



Jill Kiecolt and Rich Gandour washing picnic tables in preparation for staining.

You get the idea – taking walks on UUC’s grounds will lift your spirits. Blossoms, smells, birds, bees, plants poking their sun-seeking stems through the earth, peacefulness, a labyrinth, benches – it’s all there for your enjoyment and renewal.

The March work week welcomed 13 volunteers who successfully knocked off most tasks on the spring to-do list. Volunteers do all of the behind-the-scenes work and without them, we’d be (I’m looking for the right word, but it sounds like “screwed”). My regret is that we had so few workday volunteers under the age of 60. “Young blood” is needed! We sadly had to cancel our April 4 workday but for those wanting to help, we can easily find you solo work including staining, painting outdoor railings, and moving mulch and wood chips that you can do at a time that suits your schedule. PLEASE contact [Susan Baker](#) to sign on.

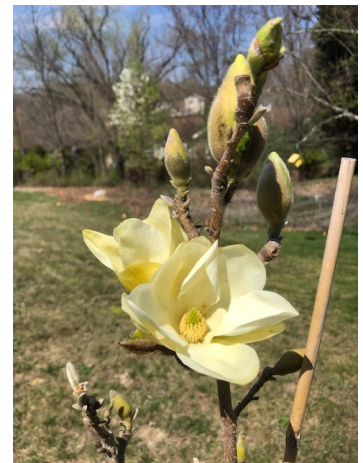
April is the month we start putting annuals in the flowerpots. Alyssa Short and her daughter, Noemi, have volunteered to do the weekly watering of the potted plants, but volunteers are also needed for Mondays and Wednesdays – any takers? The watering takes about 45 minutes.

## Tree Sponsors Made a Difference!

Our goal was soliciting donations for the addition of 5-6 new trees on our grounds to aid in reducing our carbon footprint. Who would have thought it possible that we would be adding 12 new trees? Thanks to the generous folks who sponsored a tree. Tree selection was based on the priority goal of using native species that would provide a food source for wildlife. Consultations with tree experts, tree vendors, and congregants and our own research culminated in the following tree additions: 2 Northern Red Oaks, 1 White Oak, 2 Serviceberries, 3 Fringe Trees, 1 Redbud, 1 Tulip Poplar, 1 Magnolia Virginiana, and 1 Elizabeth Magnolia.

Applause to the tree sponsors and co-sponsors!

- \* Co-sponsors Isabel Berney and Kathy & Doug Sewall
- \* Sponsor Pauletta & Jim Copenhaver
- \* Sponsor Sally & Doug Pfeifer
- \* Co-sponsors Victoria Taylor, Kimberly Homer and Sharon Witonsky
- \* Sponsor Bobbie & Jim Littlefield
- \* Sponsor Melanie Brussard
- \* Co-sponsors Steve & Debbie Keighton, Jim & Carol Kerns, and Mark & Jane Benson
- \* Sponsor Jennifer Jen in honor of her husband, Peer
- \* Sponsor Sally & Jim Bohland in honor of the UUC sisterhood of breast cancer survivors
- \* Sponsor Chris & Margo Walter
- \* Sponsor Alan & Gloria Heath
- \* Co-sponsors Linda & Carl Pfeifer, Dick Bauman, Stephanie Gilmore, Di Ross, Crosby Houston, and Tim Pickering in honor of Johnny McCord



Elizabeth Magnolia

We are still looking for a \$100 co-sponsor. If interested, contact [Susan Baker](#).

Oh, wait! These trees required humongous holes! Energetic tree diggers arrived at the scene, and despite encountering gravel, heavy clay, an unmarked cable, and water filling several dug holes, they persevered. Thanks to Amanda Haynes and Joe, Valerie Bidwell and McKenzie, and Susan Baker. Joe Powers delivered the trees.

## UUC Is in Touch with the BEES

Wow! It takes 2 beehives, or 60,000 bees, to pollinate 1 acre of an orchard. And, 1/3 of the world's food crops, including the superfoods we love, depend on honeybees and other pollinators (information from EARTHJUSTICE). Our Grounds' Ministry, with help from beekeeper, Richard Reid, is playing a part in promoting healthy bees. Richard is loaning 3 of his hives to UUC, and George Lally and Bob Stimson are putting the finishing touches on construction of a fence to protect the hives. We anticipate the 3 hives to arrive by mid-April.

Conscious efforts have been in progress to increase the footage of natural areas on our grounds to promote the growth of flowering weeds for the bees. Additionally, flowering trees have recently been added to our grounds, and these will augment the enlarged pollinator garden and the existing flowering plants. Declines in honeybee populations have been linked to the use of systemic insecticides. Despite the negative evidence, the EPA has approved the use of harmful pesticides. Note: We do not use any systemic pesticides on UUC's property.



## Your Life, Your Legacy, and the UUC Endowment Funds

by Bill Baker



We are living in uncertain times, but two things remain certain—

death and taxes. There are many in our congregation who have fewer years to live than they have already lived, myself included. You have likely supported UUC throughout your UU lifetime, but now is the time to consider your legacy—the values you want to support and be identified with after your death. A wonderful way to formalize your legacy is to include UUC in your estate plan by giving your estate, or a portion of it, to UUC via contributing to one or more of our UUC Endowment Funds. You can specify whether you would like your gift to go to the General Endowment Fund or to a Restricted Endowment Fund. Should you decide to give to the Restricted Endowment Fund, you can specify the ministry where you want your gift to go, e.g. music, LFD, grounds, social justice, etc. Visit the Endowment Committee [webpage](#) for specific forms, pamphlets, and other important information.

The Endowment Funds were established in 2017 with Board and congregational approval. The monies are invested in the [Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund](#) (UUCEF). The key characteristics of the UUCEF are:

- Long-term investment fund
- Diversified portfolio
- Managed by specialist professional investment managers
- Managed to reflect UU values while achieving financial goals— "Risk, Return, Justice"

The current value of the General Endowment Fund is \$23,071, and a just-received generous contribution will be deposited April 1.

Those most likely to consider giving to the UUC Endowment Funds are in the later years of life who 1) are thinking about their life in the UUC community and what it has meant to them, 2) who are making estate plans and, 3) who want to leave a lasting legacy to the UUC community that they love.

If you would like to discuss this matter further with one of the Endowment Committee members, please contact [Bill Baker](#), [Linda Powers](#), or [Dennis Moody](#).



## Monthly Support Groups at UUC

### Parent Bereavement via Zoom

We are a community-wide support group for bereaved parents and grandparents who have lost an adult or adolescent child. We come together once a month on 2nd Mondays from 6-7 PM to help one another on our journeys. The next meeting is on Monday, **April 13**. Join the group via Zoom. For more info and the Zoom link, contact [Katherine](#) or [Lisa](#).

### Caregivers via Zoom

UUC hosts a monthly support group for caregivers to share their experiences and challenges. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of each month—next meeting **April 14** at 7-8:30 PM (note new time). Join us via this [Zoom link](#). Questions or concerns - contact [Rev. Pam](#).

**The 2 NAMI Mental Health Support Groups** are not meeting in April. They plan to meet in May via Zoom. Watch for updates.

**The 2 Transgender Support Groups** are not meeting again until the building re-opens in June or beyond. Watch for updates.

### Worship Weavers Wanted by David Lally

One of my favorite things about being a part of our beloved UU community is the opportunity to serve as a worship associate. It didn't start out that way. In fact, I admit that I felt a little perplexed (and even a bit frightened) when Rev. Dara Olandt asked me to be a Worship Associate. "Why me?" I thought, as the idea of standing in front of the congregation grew into a buzzing ball of anxiety in my stomach. But it only took one worship meeting for me to become hooked. Now, I look forward to our monthly meetings in eager anticipation of the joy of fellowship and deepened sense of meaning that it brings to my life. Here are just a few of the reasons why I find it such a fulfilling experience:

**The Worship Associates' Program is inclusive.** Rev. Pam has made a genuine commitment to the idea of "shared ministry" and clearly demonstrates it by carefully listening to the contributions of her Worship Associates and the other members of the Worship Team. The term "worship weaving" is a very apt description of the way she solicits input from everyone in the room and allows it to become a part of the worship services that she creates. Her capacity to include the many diverse voices within our community is a celebration of our mutual striving to achieve our mission, vision, and values together.

**Being a Worship Associate has become a central component of my reflective practice.** Considering the monthly worship themes does not stop at the end of the monthly worship meetings, but rather they continue on as ongoing internal dialogues that I engage in for weeks to come, and serve as lenses that deepen my understanding of the other events in my life.

**Being a Worship Associate fosters the cultivation of reverence, compassion, and kindness.** The first time that I climbed the steps of the chancel and approached the microphone of the dais, it nearly took my breath away. Looking out at your combined luminosity was one of the most beautiful, miraculous things I had ever seen, and I suddenly realized that the task at hand was much larger than me. I also recognized that this was what growth feels like, so I persevered. I pushed past my self-doubt, my judgements, and my ego and worked to become a person that was worthy of the shimmering faces before me. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be a Worship Associate.

If you think you might be interested in becoming a Worship Associate, please fill out the online [application](#).

continued on page 12



## Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services April 2020

### Once our building re-opens:

Services at 10:00 AM in our Sanctuary  
Religious Education Classes and Nursery Care

All are invited to share coffee & conversation following the service.

### Worship Theme for April: Liberation

Please note that with our new ways of doing worship and the uncertainty of when or whether we will be able to gather at the meeting house, descriptions of upcoming worship services are a guess, not a promise. Expect to be surprised as we continue to learn how to worship virtually. Join us at 10 AM each Sunday at this [Zoom link](#).



**April 5:** Rev. Pam Philips, *Liberated from the Bonds of Space*. Gathering virtually means that we are not bound by time or space—people can record videos and music to share at a later time, and we are joined by people from across the globe. We'll take advantage of this liberation by worshipping with Unitarian Universalists in Charlottesville, VA. (This begs the question, "Can Hokies and Cavaliers overcome their competitive spirits?") The theme of the service is undetermined, but it will be a wonderful opportunity to create connections between our two congregations.

**April 12:** Rev. Pam Philips, *Easter in Our Time*. Easter Sunday can be a theological and liturgical challenge for Unitarian Universalist congregations filled with people for whom the most holy of Christian holidays has varying degrees of meaning. Some have fond memories of palm crosses and pansies, others of egg hunts and bunnies, still others have no connection at all. We'll explore what Easter might come to mean for us as UUs.

**April 19:** Rev. Pam Philips, *Liberation from Expectations*. Considering worship themes three weeks in advance seems an exercise in futility. So much has changed so quickly over the past month. This week, we'll practice being liberated from expectations and trust in our worship team to create a vibrant and compelling service, sure to engage and surprise.

**April 26:** Rev. Jon Coffee, *Bigger Boat Theology*. We've been sailing all our lives now, never a time like this have we known. In the era of Covid-19, the task of social justice and mercy require creatively re-imagining the work before us. "We're gonna need a bigger boat." We will be joined by the Reverend Jon Coffee who shares a message about making sure there's enough room in our boat for everyone. Rev. Coffee serves as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid and Student Services at Meadville Lombard Theological School and will join us from his home in Knoxville, TN.

continued from page 11

### Be a Worship Team Member by Kristine Reid

Service on this committee involves supporting the minister in providing quality worship services that nurture, inspire, and challenge the congregation to grow spiritually and intellectually.

This support includes both looking backward and forward. Reflecting back, we evaluate the Sunday services, providing feedback on service elements, and thoughtfully engage in discussions of problem solving as needed. Looking forward, the support involves creative thinking regarding the next month's services: proposed themes are explored, personal perspectives shared, and ideas offered for how to build services around these themes.

Committee members are also called upon to recommend potential guest speakers for Sundays when our minister is not in the pulpit.

Interested in serving on this committee? Fill out this online [application](#).



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1301 Gladewood Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Phone: (540) 552-9716 E-mail: [info@uucnr.org](mailto:info@uucnr.org):

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

# CALENDAR: April 2020

## Staff Virtual Office Hours:

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

Administrator: Mondays & Fridays 1- 4

**DLFD:** On sabbatical leave through June 2020

All times are PM unless noted otherwise

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>(All Sundays)</b> ⌘ 10:00 AM Worship Service ⌘ 6:00 YRUU	<b>(All Mondays)</b> ⌘ 7:00 AM Women's Breakfast & Men's Breakfast	<b>(All Tuesdays)</b> ⌘ 2:00 Sages ⌘ 5:00 Meditation	<b>(All Wednesdays)</b> ⌘ Noon Conversations on Our Faith ⌘ 5:30 Mid-week Congregational Gathering			
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ⌘ 11:30 Women's Virtual Lunch	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 11:40 Men's Group ⌘ 3:00 Spiritual Aging	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:45 Finance Committee 7:00 Worship Team	<b>9</b> ⌘ 7:00 Board meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> ⌘ 8:30 AM Anti-Racism discussion group 11:30 Stewardship committee	<b>13</b> ⌘ 6:00 Parent Bereavement Support Group	<b>14</b> 4:00 Committee on Ministries ⌘ 7:00 Caregivers' Support Group	<b>15</b> 4:00 Lay Pastoral Care Ministries / Synergy meeting	<b>16</b> 5:30 Leadership Development Committee	<b>17</b> ⌘ 11:30 Women's Virtual Lunch	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 11:40 Men's Group 5:00 YAC	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 May Newsletter Deadline	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> ⌘ 8:30 AM Anti-Racism discussion group ⌘ 11:30 Bridging Conversations	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

**NOTE:** As a result of the March 30 Governor *Stay-At-Home Executive Order*, the UUC Meeting House is closed until June 10. Events listed above will be held via ZOOM. See the April UUC newsletter (this file) for details. For virtual/ZOOM gatherings, the Online Calendar will have the ZOOM url. The calendar will be updated as conditions change.