

# Unitarian Universalist Society: East

Member of the Clara Barton District of the Unitarian Universalist Association



**Unitarian Universalist Society: East** is a welcoming, open-minded, spiritual community seeking truth and meaning in its many forms. We share responsibility for building a more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world.

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## Sunday Services Schedule

December Ministry Theme: Awe

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

(Exception: Single 10:00 AM service 12/29)

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### December 1: "Preparing, Waiting, Anticipating."

We come fully into the holiday season. We prepare for festivity and fun, which is challenging enough for the party planners and the gift buyers. Yet, how well do we prepare to receive the spiritual gifts this season offers?

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

Stop & Shop 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

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### December 8: "What About Jesus."

Jesus is the central figure in Christianity and one of the great prophets and teachers of the world's religions. How do his life and teachings inform the lives—including spiritual lives—of Unitarian Universalists? Hear members of UUS:E reflect on the role Jesus has played in their lives.

**Coordinator:** Marsha Howland

Equal Exchange 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

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### December 15: "Night of Silence."

Our annual holiday music service! All are welcome as we honor the holiday season with beautiful music and compelling reflections.

**Coordinators:** Mary Bopp, Gina Campellone, Rev. Josh Pawelek

**Note:** This service takes place one week earlier than usual.

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### December 22: "And So the Light Returns."

This morning's service takes place just a few hours after the 2019 Winter Solstice, and on the same day our Jewish siblings begin the celebration of Hanukkah. The light returns in this dark season. What special meaning does returning light hold for us?

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh. [**PS:** Don't miss the UUS:E Pagan Study Group's celebration of Yule this same day at 2:00 PM. All are welcome!]

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### December 24, 7:00 PM: "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Join us for Christmas Eve worship. One service at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

**Coordinators:** Gina Campellone, Mary Bopp, and Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### December 29: "Winter Hymn Sing."

#### One Service at 10:00 AM

If you always miss the summer Hymn Sing because you're on vacation, here's a chance to sing your favorite hymns. We'll briefly look back at 2019 and ahead to 2020, but mostly we'll just sing, sing, sing!

**Coordinator:** Mary Bopp and Martha Larson

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### January 5: "Reclaiming Integrity."

Our ministry theme for January is integrity. In this era of political polarization, impeachment hearings, corruption allegations, fake news, and institutionalized denials of truth, personal integrity seems less and less meaningful. What is the role of the liberal religious church in reclaiming integrity?

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

## 2019 – 2020 Ministry Themes

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/themes.html>

July	none
August	none
September	Expectation
October	Belonging
November	Attention
December	Awe
January	Integrity
February	Resilience
March	Wisdom
April	Liberation
May	Thresholds
June	Play

## Sunday Service Flowers

The signup sheet for flowers is in a binder in Annie's office. Please make sure you check off the box, indicating whether you want to take the flowers back home with you or have them donated. The contact person for delivering donated flowers is Cyndi Krupa, 860-986-1957, [cyndikrupa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cyndikrupa@sbcglobal.net)

## Recorded Services Available

Many of the Sunday Services at UUS:E run on the three community access channels (Cox in Manchester, Community Voice Channel in Bolton, and Charter Communications in Windham). The DVDs are available at UUS:E, and you can sign out the programs you were unable to see. Audio CDs are available one week after each service, and as a download from Jane, our sexton, if you provide a flash drive (USB port).

## Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for December 2019

As always, thank you for your generosity.

"We do not gather our gifts only for ourselves, but to share with the larger community."

Continuing our practice of sharing our gifts with the community beyond our walls, fifty percent of our Sunday plate collections for the month of December will go to three area shelters: McKinney Men's Shelter (Hartford), East Hartford Community Shelter, Cornerstone Shelter (Rockville).

Please contact Louisa Graver at [lgraver163@gmail.com](mailto:lgraver163@gmail.com), David Lacoss, or Nancy Madar at [nancymadar@hotmail.com](mailto:nancymadar@hotmail.com).

Checks made out to UUS:E will be treated as follows: If the memo line:

- ✓ is blank or "pledge" is written, all will go toward your pledge.
- ✓ has "COM" or the name of the charity is on the memo line, all will go to the charity.
- ✓ has "1/2 pledge, 1/2 COM," it will be divided equally.

## 2019 – 2020 COM Recipients

July	Three area food banks (Manchester, Vernon, East Hartford)
August	Kado Pet Foundation and STRIVE
September	KIDSAFE CT
October	Free at Last Players
November	Manchester Senior, Adult and Family Services
December	Three area shelters McKinney Men's Shelter (Hartford), East Hartford Community Shelter, Cornerstone Shelter (Rockville)
January	Moral Monday CT and Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)
February	Operation Fuel
March	Rebuilding Together (Manchester) and Communitas
April	CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence and Covenant to Care for Children
May	MARC and MARCH, Inc
June	Mary's Place and True Colors

## Equal Exchange

Fair-trade, sustainably-grown, **organic coffee, tea, chocolate and now olive oil** are available for purchase in the lobby after each service on the **second Sunday of every month**. These products are good for the growers, good for the Earth, and offered at a very good price. And did you know that the coffee served on Sunday mornings and at other UUS:E events is also **Equal Exchange** brand?

## Stop & Shop Cards for Sale

We're looking for people who would be willing to sell Stop & Shop cards on the first Sunday of the month especially after the 11:00 AM service. Many folks who volunteered in the past can no longer help out. It's easy and fun and a good way to meet fellow UUs. Please contact Sandy Johnson if you would like to help out (860-888-9673).

## The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones:

When I explain Unitarian Universalism to people who have no familiarity with our faith, it is predictable that those who have at least some exposure to Christianity will ask some version of this question: If you do not believe Jesus is the son of God, why do you celebrate Christmas? It might also be this question: If you do not believe in the virgin birth (or the star, or the wise men etc.,) why do you celebrate Christmas? A corollary question, which is even more difficult to answer: If you do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus, why do you celebrate Easter?

I am not sure why, but this year, I am finding these kinds of questions frustrating. It is not the people who ask them—they are usually genuinely curious. What is frustrating is the uncritical assumption that a full-on, heart-felt embrace of Christmas requires a very specific set of beliefs. I am frustrated at having to explain (or at anticipating having to explain) that belief is only one pathway into Christmas. So much of what happens at Christmas has nothing to do with belief. It has to do with culture, family traditions, and the survival of ancient pre-Christian rituals. And it has to do with hope. The earth begins tilting its northern latitudes back toward the sun on the winter solstice. For millennia that phenomenon inspired hope in human hearts. Christianity came along relatively recently in the grand scheme of human history, and grafted its stories and beliefs onto a more ancient and diffuse set of celebrations.

I do not read the Biblical stories about the birth of Jesus through the lens of belief. I read them as stories of hope—hope for peace on our planet. And that is all I am going to say when people ask me this year. I am a hopeful person. Moreover, our Unitarian Universalist faith is a hopeful faith. We celebrate

Christmas—we worship on Christmas Eve—because we are hopeful people. And like everyone else, we hunger for hopeful messages, hopeful stories, hopeful visions. Like everyone else, we need that reminder that love keeps breaking into the world, repeatedly, bringing healing, transformation, and peace.

Yes, that is what I am going to say this year. We are hopeful people. We celebrate Christmas as, among other things, a way to affirm hope, to instill hope in our hearts, and to spread hope into a hurting world.

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On another note: A friend of UUS:E is looking for housing, preferably an apartment with one bedroom that can accommodate two twin beds in the Manchester, Vernon or Rockville area, and preferably on or near a bus line. She can afford a maximum \$700. If you know of any leads, please let me know, and I will forward the info.

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Friends: I wish you the very best holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a very happy new year.

With love,  
—Rev. Josh



## Ladies At Lunch

All UUS:E women—members and friends—welcome!

Second Friday of the month (usually noon)



RSVP by 9 AM on the day of the event to: Chris Joyner or text a message to 860-205-1509.

## Helping Verplanck Families

Thanksgiving will be so much better for 20 families at Verplanck Elementary, thanks to 40 generous UUS:Easters who provided everything needed for a holiday feast! And speaking of generous ... the Shop Rite in Manchester converted our \$200 in cash donations into 20 turkeys and 20 pumpkin pies! Thank you one and all!!

So now we're on to the next holiday – Christmas! We are buying and wrapping gifts for 40 children. Parents have told us what the kids want or need, and no one should spend more than \$25. Unfortunately the time is short—we need your contribution by Sunday December 15!! Look for the display in the lobby starting on December 1. But if you want a head start on your shopping, just email Diana Sherman at [dcreamer12@aol.com](mailto:dcreamer12@aol.com).

**Our friends at Verplanck thank you!**

## Thank you, Amuse Blues Jazz Trio!

Many thanks to the members of the Amuse Blues Jazz Trio—Paul Shumsky, Ryan Ford, and Steve Dauphinais—for a terrific benefit concert on November 3. **And**...thanks to the audience for their support. We raised \$913 for UUS:E!



## Save the Date!

For the UUS:E Goods & Services Auction + Chili Cook-Off on January 18, 2020!

Mark your calendar to join in the fun at this multi-gen evening of fun and community!

It's time to start thinking about the wonderful things you might contribute. Here are a few ideas—Unique services like home repair, personal training, instruction, garden assistance; Outings such as picnics, tours, musical/theatrical performances; Meals in your home or other meaningful location; Valuable objects that you are willing to donate.

Are you a member, a volunteer or a docent at a cultural institution? Please ask for a contribution ASAP!

Watch for more news about this fun and profitable event. And consider working joining the fun right away, by working on the planning group! Contact Nancy Pappas ([nanapap338@aol.com](mailto:nanapap338@aol.com)) or Jennifer Klee ([jenduv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jenduv@sbcglobal.net)).

## Caroling

Like Christmas music? 'Tis the Season for Carols! Join us on Saturday, December 14 to spread some holiday cheer! We'll meet at UUS:E between 4:30 and 4:45 PM, then head out to share a few holiday songs with folks who live nearby. This is for **all ages** and all singing capabilities. No registration required, just



show up ready to sing along! Questions? Contact Tammy Stoltzman, [tammystoltzman@gmail.com](mailto:tammystoltzman@gmail.com) or Desirée Holian-Borgnis, [desiree.holian@gmail.com](mailto:desiree.holian@gmail.com).

## Green Sanctuary News

### Climate Strikes Continue



Photo by Li-An Lim on Unsplash

On Nov 29 and Dec 6, young people and adults will strike all across the United States and the world to demand transformative action is taken to address the climate crisis. The strikes build on the momentum of September 20 Climate Strike, the largest youth-led climate mobilization in US history. With over 650,000 people in the United States striking across over 1,300 events, and 7 million worldwide, September 20 was a call for elected officials to rise up and address the climate emergency urgently. Info from the UU Ministry for Earth website: <https://www.uumfe.org/global-climate-strike/>.

### Citizens' Climate Lobby Update

The Greater Hartford chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is up and running again under new leadership, although Ellen Castaldini and Janet Heller are actively involved. The chapter meets every second Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. CCL is the organization promoting the climate policy known as carbon fee and dividend, which UUS:E studied and endorsed at our congregational meeting last May. The policy is now a bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. It has at present 73 co-sponsors in the House. CCL just hosted a November conference and lobby day in DC. UUS:E members sent 29 personal comment forms that were hand-delivered to our Representatives and Senators (for when it is raised in the Senate) asking for their support and co-sponsorship. Ellen and Janet led the November 10 meeting in Hartford while our new leaders were in DC for the conference. Our next meeting is on Sunday, December 8, from 2:00 to 4:00. Anyone is welcome to come, and we can carpool from UUS:E. Please join us!



### Trinity Solar Update

David Luchetti reports that Trinity Solar has had 19 survey appointments. From those appointments, 6 have installed while some who qualified have not yet moved forward. That's about \$7,900 in donations to UUS:E so far and about 36,000 kilowatt hours of energy from the sun. The program is continuing for a while longer, so go ahead and make that appointment. You can reach David at [David.Luchetti@trinity-solar.com](mailto:David.Luchetti@trinity-solar.com).

### Save the date for a Vegan Brunch

January is the time many of us make that resolution to finally get more fit, lose those extra pounds, eat healthier, etc. So what could be more timely than our Vegan Brunch on Sunday, January 5? Please join us at 1 PM for a delicious Pot Luck Brunch where you can taste new foods, eat some favorites, and get info and menu plans for healthier eating. Reducing or eliminating meat and dairy is healthier 1) for people, 2) for the Earth, and 3) for the animals!



Photo by Glenn Carstens-Peters on Unsplash

### Fun Food Fact

Did you know Nebraska is the largest producer of popcorn? However only 1% of Nebraska's corn is for human consumption, while 99% is for livestock feed and ethanol. Neighboring Iowa is the largest corn producer.

## Books, Classes and Discussions

brought to you by...

### The Adult Religious Education Committee

(Youth are welcome at all workshops. Childcare is available with one week's notice.)

#### Science and Religion

4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays\* 4:30 – 6:00 in the Chapel

**\*Exception:** November and December meetings will be combined into one on 12/5/19.

How does science inform our beliefs? Where do science and religion meet? Where are they in opposition? Members of this ongoing group will select and discuss readings covering myriad topics such as evolutionary biology, artificial intelligence, climate change, the brain, genetics...and the way we look at the Big Questions. For information contact [LindaKDuncan@gmail.com](mailto:LindaKDuncan@gmail.com).

#### Community Drum Circle

Third Tuesdays and Fourth Mondays  
in the Sanctuary  
7:00 – 8:30 PM

Open to all levels of ability and experience. Facilitator Mary Ertel provides djembe drums and other hand instruments, and you may bring your own.

Contact Paul Cocuzzo at [pcocuzzo@gmail.com](mailto:pcocuzzo@gmail.com) or 978-270-2056 with questions or to reserve a drum.

#### Book Lovers

We meet every second Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:00, downstairs in the chapel area. Everyone is welcome—including friends from outside UUS:E. Even if you haven't finished the book, you are invited to the discussion. Books are selected by participants, and we try to choose books that are old enough to be available in paperback, or at least in public libraries.

- December 10, Essays of E.B. White
- For information: [marlar@wordshard.com](mailto:marlar@wordshard.com)

#### UU Buddhists

First Tuesdays, Room 2

The Buddhist Group meets at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month, for meditation, dharma, and discussion.

Contact Nancy Thompson  
[nancythompson123@yahoo.com](mailto:nancythompson123@yahoo.com) with questions.

#### Women's Sacred Singing Circle

Every Thursday from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, we will be singing in the sanctuary. All women and girls eight years and older are welcome to join our circle regardless of musical training or ability. Come when you are able, stay as long as you wish.

Sing, laugh, and be in community.

For more information, contact  
Jane Osborn: [janeosb3@gmail.com](mailto:janeosb3@gmail.com)



#### Yoga News

Come enjoy yoga at UUS:E!

The current yoga session with Susan Barlow is November 6 – January 8, 11 AM – 12 noon (no class 12/25, 1/1). The current yoga session with Jessica DeCarli is November 25 – January 13, 5:45 – 6:45 PM. If the weather is iffy, email the yoga teacher or call the church office.

Come enjoy physical strengthening and the opportunity to quiet the mind. Bring a yoga mat or towel and wear comfortable clothes. All welcome, including beginners!

\$6 drop-in fee or \$40 for the eight-week session. If the fee is an issue, please contact Linda Rohlf at [rohlf26@comcast.net](mailto:rohlf26@comcast.net) or at 860-872-2526.

You can register with, and direct questions to:

- Jessica at [jess.decarli@gmail.com](mailto:jess.decarli@gmail.com),
- Susan at [SBarlow627@aol.com](mailto:SBarlow627@aol.com), or
- Annie Annie at the church office, 860-646-5151

To read about their classes, visit [UUSE.org](http://uuse.org).

<http://uuse.org/religious-ed/adult/yoga-classes>

## Books, Classes and Discussions

continued

### Honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 20, 2020, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

(snow date January 27, 7 – 9)

“The Arc of the Universe Bends toward Justice.”

From the Rev. Theodore Parker to Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The nineteenth century Unitarian minister Theodore Parker believed that the main function of a democratic government was to promote and assure fairness and justice for all people. He influenced the thinking and writing of Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In this class we will focus on the ways these three extraordinary men created our modern understanding of the nature of justice through the beauty and power of their sermons and speeches.

Led by UUS:E member Carol Lacoss, retired high school English and American Studies teacher



Wondering how you're going to get it all done this holiday season?

We can help!

The UUS:E Youth Group is offering

### Parents Day Out

a child care and gift wrapping fundraiser!

Saturday December 7,  
1 – 5 PM

Shop, clean house, or take a nap while we entertain your little ones (age 3 & up) and even wrap your gifts!

\$10 per hour for the first child; \$7 per hour for each additional child. \$3 per gift wrapped.

For more info contact Michelle Spadaccini at [michspad@comcast.net](mailto:michspad@comcast.net).

All proceeds will help fund the Youth Group trip to General Assembly in June 2020.

## Sanctuary Guest Update

11-14-19

As many of you know, on October 26, Rocky moved out of the church and into his own small apartment near downtown Manchester. This was made possible by the support of the Policy board who pledged to provide him financial assistance, to augment the monies raised by the sanctuary committee. Although Rocky is currently attending the Goodwin College Manufacturing Readiness program, has secured a seasonal part time job and continues to look for additional employment, he is not yet able to fully support himself. To offset the financial burden to the congregation, the Sanctuary Team is continuing to request donations.

Donations to the Sanctuary Team may be made by writing a check to Unitarian Universalist Society: East and putting the word Sanctuary on the memo line and mailed to 153 Vernon St. West, Manchester, CT 06042. If you desire to pay by Credit Card or PayPal, please go to our GoFundMe page <http://www.gofundme.com/help-a-sanctuary-family-in-crisis>. All donations, no matter how small are appreciated.

If you have further questions, please contact [judi.durham@gmail.com](mailto:judi.durham@gmail.com).

**UUS:E GENERAL INFORMATION**

**UUS:E Office Schedule:** Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Meetinghouse Office:** 860-646-5151

**Office Administrator:** Annie Gentile email: [uuseoffice@uuse.org](mailto:uuseoffice@uuse.org)

**Minister:** Rev. Joshua Pawelek 860-652-8961, [revpawelek@gmail.com](mailto:revpawelek@gmail.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 10 AM to 7 PM and Thursday 10 AM to 4 PM

**President:** Rob Stolzman, 907-268-1871, [robandtammylee@yahoo.com](mailto:robandtammylee@yahoo.com)

**Director of Religious Education:**

Gina Campellone, 860-875-8468, [redirector@uuse.org](mailto:redirector@uuse.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Paul Cocuzzo, 978-270-2056, [newsletter@uuse.org](mailto:newsletter@uuse.org)

**Website Coordinator:** Carol Marion 860-643-8765, [uuseweb@gmail.com](mailto:uuseweb@gmail.com)

**World Wide Web address:** <http://uuse.org>

**December Newsletter Deadline:  
November 20**

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