

Unitarian Universalist Society: East

Member of the Clara Barton District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

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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.

Editor’s Note: due to COVID-19 precautions, UUS:E has closed the Meetinghouse for all activities. Only staff members will enter the building until further notice.

Check our website and watch for email eblast notices for updates. <http://uuse.org>

Follow us on Twitter @uuseast. Check out #uuseast.
Find us on Facebook at /UUSEast.



Sunday Services Schedule

August Ministry Theme: none

In August we continue to hold one virtual worship service every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. For the time being our Sunday services will be held using Zoom. Our Zoom login and call-in information will be shared through the congregational eblast. If you are not subscribed to the congregational eblast, please send a message to e-news@uuse.org or contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office to arrange another method of receiving relevant information.

August 2: "Bangor, Maine."

We visit the UU Society of Bangor, ME, where UUS:E member, the Rev. Drew Moeller, serves as the minister. (Rev. Drew and the folks from Bangor visited us on July 26.)

Service Coordinator: Rev. Drew Moeller

Worship Associate: Laurie Cartier

Zoom Technical Coordinator: Kim McKeage

Music: Linda Koehler and Rissa Moore

August 9: "New London."

We visit All Souls UU Congregation in New London, CT. They are offering a service jointly created with the UU congregations in Chelsea and Groton, MA.

August 16: "West Hartford."

We visit the Universalist Church of West Hartford.

August 23: "Hartford."

We visit the Unitarian Society of Hartford.

August 30: "Back Home."

We return to UUS:E, and welcome our friends from the Hartford, West Hartford and New London congregations.

2020 – 2021 Ministry Themes

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

July	none
August	none
September	Renewal
October	Deep Listening
November	Healing
December	Stillness
January	Imagination
February	Beloved Community
March	Commitment
April	Becoming
May	Story
June	Play

Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for August 2020

As always, thank you for your generosity.

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

For the months of June, July and August, our regular community outreach offering will be dedicated to a variety of organizations working to address the problem of food insecurity. These organizations include the Manchester Area Conference of Churches, the HVCC Food Pantry and the East of the River Mutual Aid Society's "Fill the Fridge" program. As a supplement to our fundraising, the UUS:E Social Justice / Anti-Oppression Committee is also organizing food / supply drives. Watch our regular eblast for more information.

Please contact Louisa Graver at lgraver163@gmail.com, David Lacoss, or Nancy Madar at 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.



Virtual Music Salon

There will be a virtual Music Salon Unplugged on Friday August 28 at 6:30 PM! It will be virtual, so recordings of musicians will be presented, but the musician will be there "in-person". Musicians of all levels are invited to perform. We will be on Zoom, enjoying each other's music and having fun. Bring your favorite beverage and relax! As always, listeners will be welcome. If you would like to participate as a musician or listener, or if you simply want more information, contact Peggy Webbe at peggywebbe@gmail.com or 860-871-8035. Or contact MaryBopp@verizon.net. A few days before the event, we will send Zoom sign-in information to those who have contacted us.

Get Connected!

with UUS:E on the Web

UUS:E WEBSITE is located at <http://uuse.org>. Here you can find the latest news about our community and upcoming events, basic information about group and committee activities, Rev. Josh's sermons, and much more.

DIALOGUE FROM HOME is our ongoing virtual **talkback series** that continues online after each of Rev. Josh's sermons. Whether you want to read along, post your thoughts, and/or engage in dialogue about the topic, you are welcome to join this group. Request a password from Annie, the office administrator, to get access to the discussion. Email uuseoffice@uuse.org.

FACEBOOK! UUS:E has two Facebook pages where members and friends can share all things UUS:E. Our main site is www.facebook.com/UUSEast. You can find out what's going on at UUS:E here. And please share our events to your own page to help spread the word about all of the great things we do!

We also have a second site, UUS:E Happenings, designed specifically to share ideas and events with others in the UUS:E community. Anyone can post here. Is your child going to be in a play? Are you performing a concert? Looking for people to hike with? Post it here! This is a closed group, request to join here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/587066578028806/>

MEETUP: We have started a Meetup page! Join our group! Find events, RSVP and more at: <http://www.meetup.com/Unitarian-Universalist-Society-East/>. If you'd like to add an event to the Meetup site, contact Carol Marion at uuse.web@uuse.org.

Rev. Josh has his own website located at <http://revjoshpawelek.org>

Catch up on his latest writings, community work, and more. You can also follow Rev. Josh on **Twitter @revjoshpawelek**, or connect with him at **LinkedIn** and **Facebook**.

Weekly eblast – To sign up, look for the button near the top-right at uuse.org:



Send submissions to e-news@uuse.org

The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones:

I'm very excited to share with you our Sunday Service schedule for August. In short, we will be virtually visiting a number of different congregations in the region. Here's the schedule:

August 2nd: We visit the UU Society of Bangor, ME, where UUS:E member, the Rev. Drew Moeller, serves as the minister. (Rev. Drew and the folks from Bangor visited us on July 26.)

August 9th: We visit All Souls UU Congregation in New London, CT. They are offering a service jointly created with the UU congregations in Chelsea, MA and Groton, MA.

August 16th: We visit the Universalist Church of West Hartford.

August 23rd: We visit the Unitarian Society of Hartford.

August 30th: We return to UUS:E, and welcome our friends from the Hartford, West Hartford and New London congregations.

For each of these services, instructions for logging in will be sent in our regular Wednesday and Saturday eblasts. For most of them, you will be able to log in to the UUS:E Zoom site (as you regularly do on Sunday mornings) and experience the service from there. If there are any changes to this procedure, we will do everything in our power to get the word out in a timely manner!

I'm excited about this sharing of worship services for a few reasons. First, this sharing of services will enable our UUS:E members and friends to experience how online worship looks, sounds and feels at other UU congregations. It's not like having a guest minister visit us in our meeting house for the morning. It's literally having another congregation's entire worship experience for the morning. This will be a different for all of us!

Second, at least for some of the services, we will be able to interact with members of other congregations, either through the Zoom chat or through the breakout rooms following the services.

Finally, this sharing ensures that our staff and lay-leaders who regularly work on our Sunday services will get a break. (It also ensures that the staff and lay-leaders at the other congregations will be getting breaks too!)

For most of us, our primary experience of Unitarian Universalism is through our local congregation. This sharing of online services reminds us that we are part of a larger association of congregations. It reminds us that we can work with other congregations to fulfill our purpose. It reminds us our congregation is not alone, that there are others very much akin to us on the religious landscape. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic we rarely, if ever, would have thought to share services in this way. It just wouldn't have happened. But given that we're all living with the pandemic, and we're all conducting online worship, it makes perfect sense that we would begin to share services on Sunday morning. A pandemic silver lining perhaps....

I am very curious to know what your experience of these other worship services. Please feel free to let me know what you like about the services at other congregations. And please let me know if you'd like to do more Sunday morning sharing as long as we're still conducting services online.

With love,

—Rev. Josh



Books, Classes, and Discussions

Adult Religious Education



Book Lovers

The Book Lovers meets second Tuesdays at 3:30 on Zoom. Ask Martha Larson (marlar@wordshard.com) for the Zoom sign in.

- August 11: **Rising Out of Hatred : The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist** by Eli Saslow
- September 8: **Oil and Marble: A Novel of Leonardo and Michelangelo** by Stephanie Stormy



Yoga News

Yoga during the Coronavirus

Due to the coronavirus, yoga classes will be temporarily canceled. Susan's session, March 11 – April 29, 11 AM – 12 noon, met March 11. When classes resume, seven classes remain in that session.

Jessica DeCarli's last session should have ended March 16. Due to the virus, that March 16 class was canceled. When classes resume, students will have one remaining class from that session.

Jessica is teaching an online yoga class. Interested students may contact her at jess.decarli@gmail.com

You can contact and direct questions to:

- Jessica at jess.decarli@gmail.com,
- Susan at SBarlow627@aol.com, or
- Annie Annie at the church office, 860-646-5151

To read about their classes, visit UUSE.org.

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

Lughnasadh Ritual

Join the UUS:E Pagan Study Group

Saturday August 1, 6:00 via Zoom

All are Welcome!



Please join the UUS:E Pagan Study Group as we celebrate Lughnasadh, the first food harvest of the season, via Zoom. Peggy Gagne will host by casting a circle at her own altar and include in her circle all who wish to join the celebration as the Wheel of the Year turns. We will have a little history, along with a look at what we have harvested this year and what we have to be thankful for.

Please plan on having a small snack and drink of some kind on hand so we can all share in cakes and ale. Also, plan on having on available 2 – 3 squares of paper (about notecard size) and a pen or pencil in order to participate in the ritual.

To join our Zoom Meeting please watch for the link in the weekly E-Blast or contact the UUS:E office for the Zoom link at 860-646-5151

UU the Vote:

Matching Gift Opportunity

Many of you are familiar with UU the Vote and the UUS:E project of writing letters to under-represented voters in swing states, encouraging them to vote.

What's New

First, as of mid-June, volunteers have already prepared over 600 letters! Second, an anonymous gift has been made to match donations up to a total of \$500 to cover the cost of stamps. Why's this important? This effort is volunteer funded. Some people can write letters and easily cover the cost of stamps. But for some, the cost of stamps is prohibitive. Others might not have the time to write but can contribute to cover the cost of stamps. If you want to support someone else writing letters to encourage greater voter participation, please consider donating to the stamp fund. And if you have hesitated to write letters yourself because of the cost of stamps, remember that assistance is available. (For more information, contact Rev. Josh.)

UUS:E Participates in UU the Vote

UU the Vote is the UUA's nonpartisan faith initiative to engage people, educate communities, and mobilize voters to protect our fundamental Unitarian Universalist values in the upcoming decisive election. UUA is supporting congregations working for electoral justice at the local, state and national levels with suggestions about ways to act alone or with partner organizations. For more information, check out the spring edition of UU World and go to uuthethevote.org.

UUS: E is working with Vote Forward (votefwd.org), a nonpartisan organization that is endorsed by UU the Vote as a partner. We're writing letters now to send in late October to people on lists provided by Vote Forward of registered voters who often skip elections. The lists are nonpartisan and include people of all parties and leanings in swing states. Each letter contains standard verbiage encouraging the recipient to vote. The letter begins with, "I'm writing to you today to urge you to vote and to share my story with you. I vote in every election because..." followed by enough space for three or four sentences. Reasons can include issues such as health care or a sense of obligation to vote. However, one shouldn't mention any candidates or

parties by name. The goal is to increase voter turnout, nurture democracy, and elect leaders who will represent the interests of all segments of society. The letters will be mailed close to the election when they will be most effective.

Before COVID-19 turned the world upside down, our plans focused on letter writing parties at church. Now our strategy has changed to one where individuals write letters at home. Volunteers will be instructed on how to access lists of voters on the Vote Forward website (votefwd.org) and complete the letters. For more information on how to be part of UUS:E's project to UU the Vote, contact Maude McGovern (memcgov@aol.com).

Virtual Hymn Sing

At some time in the future we will have our annual Hymn Sing. (It was scheduled for August 9, but the date is now uncertain.) How, you may ask, can there be a virtual hymn sing? With your help, that's how!

You have enjoyed the virtual children's choir, adult choir, and Singing Circle musical contributions to our Zoom services.

(Thanks to Dan Thompson for producing.) You have sung along with Josh on hymns. Now you can participate, too. Here are some things you can do:

1. If you have a favorite hymn or song you would like included, please let Martha Larson and Mary Bopp know what it is.
2. If you would like to share why it's important to you, or a story about the hymn, you can record yourself talking about the hymn. (Or at least send the information so we can include it.)
3. If you have a musical instrument, you can record yourself, or you and your family, playing/singing the hymn.

Because of the corona virus, we are still unable to have groups singing together. But a small group or a strong singer, when Zoomed out to the congregation, makes it easier for you at home to join in and sing. It may be a long time before we can sing together at the Meeting House, but we CAN sing together virtually. But preparing ahead of time is essential so please think about what hymns you want and let us know ASAP. Thank you for participating at least this way, and if you can also do #2 and/or #3, let us know what you are working on and if you need help. I'm excited about coordinating what is probably my 13th Hymn Sing.

—Martha

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

Minister: Rev. Joshua Pawelek 860-652-8961, minister@uuse.org

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

President: Rob Stolzman, 907-268-1871, robandtammylee@yahoo.com

Director of Religious Education:

Gina Campellone, 860-875-8468, redirector@uuse.org

Newsletter Editor: Paul Cocuzzo, 978-270-2056, newsletter@uuse.org

Website Coordinator: Carol Marion 860-643-8765, uuse.web@uuse.org

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

Newsletter Deadline:
The 20th of Each Month

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