

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.

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>

Table of Contents

Sunday Services Schedule	2
2020 – 2021 Ministry Themes	2
Community Outreach Ministry	2
The Minister’s Column:	3
The Policy Board Column	5
Sunday Services Crew Needed	5
Green Sanctuary News	6
A Virtual Community Conversation	7
Books, Classes, and Discussions	8
Book Lovers	8
A message for UUS:E Members	8
Young Adults	8
New Contact Info	8
Virtual Piano Bash 2020	8
Care Package Thanks	8
Some Helpful Charitable Tax Benefits!	9
Deepening Connections through Small Group Ministry	9
UU the Vote:	10
Stop & Shop Cards	10
Recycling	10



Sunday Services Schedule

October Ministry Theme: Deep Listening

In October 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.

October 4: "Listen to the Voices."

In these very noisy times, we pause to contemplate deep listening. How do we really listen to people, both friend and "other;" what do the sounds of nature tell us; and when can we hear that still small voice inside?

Coordinator: Martha Larson

October 11: "This Land."

All congregation worship. This morning we reflect on what it means to own land that was once the homeland of indigenous people. In the case of our UUS:E building at 153 West Vernon St., those people were/are the Podunks, and possibly the Wangunks and Nipmucks as well. How do we authentically and gracefully acknowledge the history of "this land?"

Coordinators: Rev. Josh Pawelek and Gina Campellone

October 18: "Learning to Listen."

Alec Gewirtz graduated with a degree in religious studies from Princeton University and was a Fulbright Research Scholar at the University of Toronto. While studying in Toronto, he lived and worked at L'Arche Daybreak, an interfaith community for people with intellectual disabilities that celebrates the unique value of each and every person. Alec will explore the ways in which our October theme, Deep Listening, influences the way in which we communicate with others as he shares the lessons he learned living in this special community.

Coordinator: Sheila Foran

October 25: "Ancestor Day."

All congregation worship. Join us for a celebration of our ancestors. We will build a virtual altar of memory and hope. If you would like to share a memory of a deceased loved-one, we encourage

you to make a brief video and forward it to Rev. Josh. Or contact Josh to have him record you in Zoom. What lesson do you take from their life? Together we will share the ongoing power of our ancestors' lives in our collective life today.

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

2020 – 2021 Ministry Themes

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

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 October 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 month of October, our regular community outreach offering will be dedicated to UUA Disaster Relief Fund. From the UUA website: "The Disaster Relief Fund disburses grants to UU congregations and recognized UU non-profit entities. Disaster Relief Fund grantees report feeling held in care and more connected to other UU congregations and to the UUA as a whole.

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.

November: Manchester Senior, Adult, and Family Services

December: three area homeless shelters (East Hartford, Vernon/Rockville, and Hartford)

The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones,

Our ministry theme for October is deep listening. For me this theme brings many possible questions to mind for personal and collective spiritual exploration. For example, how do we listen deeply to people with whom we disagree radically when it comes to politics and "culture war" issues? We may never agree with them, but can we listen for their deepest fears and anxieties? Their hopes and dreams?

How do we listen deeply to our fellow UUS:E members and friends? Especially in this pandemic time when we must keep our distance, when our regular modes of face-to-face interaction are unavailable, how do we listen to one another?

Then there's the practice of listening to ourselves, to our inner voice, our conscience, our heart, our soul. What conditions are necessary so that we can listen deeply to ourselves?

Somehow I am feeling called right now to listen deeply to the land. This may be because, like so many of us, I love the way the leaves change colors during autumn in New England. (I'm looking forward to singing "Turn Scarlet, Leaves," – words from the late UU minister, Raymond J. Baughan, set to music by UUS:E Director of Music, Mary Bopp.) Being present to the changing seasons—listening deeply—has always been the source of spiritual experience for me, a way to connect with realities greater than myself.

There's more to this call than just the changing seasons. Some of us have been talking about conducting an official UUS:E "land acknowledgement" as a way of honoring the indigenous people who originally lived in our region of Connecticut—Podunks, Wangunks, Nipmucs, and others. In light of this, I've been spending some time walking around UUS:E's property, proud of the way we have taken care of it over the years, but also listening for how things might have been in ages past. Wondering. Imagining. Listening. As of writing these words, I don't know if we'll be able to conduct an official land acknowledgement this month. But we can certainly begin preparing. We can certainly begin listening.

Finally, I am aware that smoke and ash from the west coast wildfires are now passing through the skies over New England. Even here in Connecticut some areas are experiencing serious drought conditions and the risk of east coast fires is growing. We know the ever-increasing destructiveness of fires, hurricanes, floods and other weather-related phenomena is directly related to climate change. Are we listening to the land? Are we listening to the earth? I suppose I am offering a prayer: For the sake of our lives and the lives of all those who are coming after us, may we who live today listen deeply to the land. May we who live today listen deeply and respond well, so that the blessings of the land will not be lost to future generations.

May we listen. Amen and blessed be.

With love,

—Rev. Josh



Enter, rejoice, and come in!

A Religious Education message from Gina

Dear Friends,

When I was a little girl I loved to watch a children's television program called Romper Room. Romper Room was, ostensibly, a preschool where kids got to play, read, dance, and sing under the guidance of their loving teacher, Miss Louise. I was fascinated by the plethora of indoor play equipment painted in cheerful primary colors, and the cool Romper Stomper bucket stilts that those lucky kids got to toddle around on. But my very favorite part of the show came at the end, when Miss Louise would gaze into her "Magic Mirror" and catch a glimpse of all the kids watching at home from their living rooms, a bowl of Cocoa Puffs balanced precariously in their laps. She would say the names of some of the kids she saw through her magic mirror, and it was my greatest wish that one day she would see me and say **my** name. She saw quite a few Johnnies and Suzies, but alas, I don't think she ever saw a Gina.

(Those of you over fifty are likely nodding your heads knowingly, while those under fifty are probably wondering what on earth I'm going on about!)

These days, nearly all of my interaction with the children of our congregation takes place not in person, but virtually, via Zoom. I've heard some people say that Zoom reminds them of The Brady Bunch—all those square framed faces stacked in rows and columns. But when I'm Zooming with the kids, I am transported right back to Romper Room. Of course now I'm the teacher! I'm like Miss Louise, gazing not through a magic mirror but a laptop screen, seeing and naming the children as they watch at home from their living rooms, a bowl of Annie's Organic Cocoa Bunnies balanced precariously in their laps. While virtual RE has plenty of shortcomings, it also has its perks. When I open a Zoom Room to start a class, I always feel a sense of anticipation, wondering who might show up. As the kids arrive, the Zoom Room begins to hum with energy and exuberance, and the screen fills up with the familiar faces I have come to love so dearly. Sometimes I ask everyone to mute themselves, but sometimes I just let everyone talk and laugh and be silly. I make room for what Rev. Josh calls the "holy hubbub." And I really do make

it a point to acknowledge every single child there. Why? Because I can. Because technology has improved a lot over the past fifty years, and through the wonder of Zoom and the power of my laptop, I can do what Miss Louise could not do with her Magic Mirror. I can actually see each and hear every child. I can look into their eyes, greet them warmly, call them by their name, and say, "I see you." And when it comes right down to it, isn't that what we all want and need—to be truly seen?

I look forward to the day when we can all be back together again, worshipping, learning, singing, and playing in person. But in the meantime, I am grateful for the gifts that technology provides us. I am grateful for my laptop and grateful for Zoom. I am also grateful to Miss Louise and her Magic Mirror for igniting in me, all those years ago, the desire to be truly seen, and the resolve to truly see others.

With love,
Gina



The Policy Board Column

A Message from David Luchetti

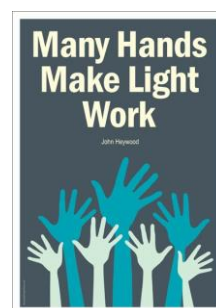
Earlier this year, I attended the virtual UUA GA*. This was my first GA and I was able to attend as an official delegate, representing UUS:E. As a delegate I was able to participate in discussions and vote on UUA policies. In particular the UUA released two important statements called AIWs or Actions of Immediate Witness. The first AIW was passed with a huge majority of votes, over 90%, and it was to "Address 400 Hundred Years of White Supremacist Colonialism" and many of the virtual sessions (both previously recorded and live) were focused around this AIW. The second AIW, "Amen to Uprising: A Commitment and Call to Action" which addressed the current political climate and Black Lives Matter social movement, also passed—though not with quite as much support and there was much discussion around this AIW. The UUA delegates also passes a change to our organization's business practices in a resolution titled, "Embodying Human Rights in Our Investment Decisions." We also accepted a few Responsive Resolutions including a multi-year project called: "Widening the Circle: Establishing Ongoing Intersectional Accountability Commission and Sunsetting the JTWTC**," which is an extensive and sweeping document that looks at institutional issues throughout the UUA down to the congregational level and describes in details ways in which congregations can better live within UUA values and principals. Overall, I loved the experience! Both the live and recorded sessions I attended (and I am still watching) are all amazing! All the recordings are now available for free at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7462757?page=1> and I strongly recommend diving and a watching some of the footage!

-David G Luchetti, UUS:E Board Member at Large

*Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly

**Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee

Sunday Services Crew Needed



How would you like to become involved in the inner workings of our Sunday services from the comfort of your home? Join Rev. Josh and the Sunday Services Committee, in conjunction with the Streaming Advisory Team in continuing to produce high quality virtual Sunday Services.

It takes many hours to put together a UUS:E streaming service each Sunday morning. You would work closely with Rev Josh, Jane, and/or coordinators from the Sunday Service Committee to create and facilitate services.

Can you support the team in the following areas? We will provide training to volunteers and you can do all or most of the work at home in advance.

- Create slideshows to enhance specific services. Software such as Powerpoint, iMovie, etc. can be used.
- Create themed videos to enhance services. iMovie or any video editing app can be used.
- Provide music videos or perform live music for a service in coordination with Mary Bopp, Music Director.
- Assist Gina, with special RE related services.
- Volunteer, in person, at the meetinghouse with both software and hardware setup, and control during a Sunday service. One to two people on a rotating basis are needed. Masks and social distancing protocols are maintained.

If you can help, please call the office 860-646-5151

Green Sanctuary News

TEDx Countdown

Saturday, October 10, 2020—Save the date for this free event!!

The Walden Woods Project will participate in the TEDx Countdown—a global initiative to champion and accelerate solutions to the climate crisis, turning ideas into action. The goal is to build a better future by cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the race to a zero-carbon world—a world that is safer, cleaner and fairer for everyone.

Bill McKibben will begin the Zoom event followed by other leading climate activists and experts, including The Honorable Al Gore and HRH Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge. Registration and more info:

<https://www.walden.org/events/tedxthewaldenwoodsproject/>

Free Home Energy Audits!

EnergizeCT can show you how a smart energy home makes life better. Energy professionals will make improvements that lower your energy bills for immediate and long term-savings. It's now available to eligible customers at no cost for a limited time. You may also receive up to 100% off approved insulation projects. In-home services are being done with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines in place. <https://www.energizect.com/>

Food for Thought

Imperfect produce. A lot of perfectly healthy fruits and vegetables aren't in our supermarkets because most shoppers want their produce to look perfect. This is a problem for the growers, so often that food goes to waste. A few enterprising companies have stepped up to solve that problem. You've seen ads from companies who will deliver this misshapen produce to your doorstep. It seems like a great idea and can be very helpful for the farmers who deserve payment for their crops. Yet, there may be some drawbacks. This article from The Atlantic explains some of the controversy:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/01/ugly-produce-startups-food-waste/581182/>

Rather than having boxes of produce delivered, buying from local farmers, investing in a CSA, and buying at a local co-op helps our local economy, reduces the environmental impact of transportation, and provides us with fresher, healthier food.

Pandemic Thoughts

There are many reasons for concern about CAFO's (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations). One is the obvious cruelty to the animals. As we've seen during this pandemic, workers here and at the related slaughterhouses, work in unsafe conditions. Another aspect is the animal waste. Often, animals are left to wallow in their own waste, and then it is cleaned out and stored in huge lagoons. This is a perfect breeding ground for viruses, and an opportunity for this waste to contaminate water, soil, and wildlife. We've heard about the "wet markets" in China, but these factory farms are also perfect for spreading bacteria and viruses. It seems there may be a link to this current pandemic.

Some of you may be familiar with Dr. Michael Gregor, author of **How Not to Die, How Not to Diet**, and now **How to Survive a Pandemic**.

Here are links to some videos regarding his insight into the current COVID-19 pandemic. His training was in virology, and several years ago he was Public Health Director at the HSUS in Washington DC. His website, Nutrition Facts, has a wealth of information about food, nutrition, and COVID-19. <https://nutritionfacts.org/covid-19/>

There's more information on page 49 in the Fall UUWORLD. You can find UU Animal Ministry online at: <http://uuam.org/>

Webinars

Be sure to check Interreligious Eco-Justice Network's website for upcoming webinars: <https://www.irejn.org>

A Virtual Community Conversation

"This Land is Your Land"

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 PM

(Watch the congregational eblasts for Zoom login and call-in information, or contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office.)

What? All are welcome to participate in a community conversation about the place of the beloved Woody Guthrie song, "This Land is Your Land" in our congregational life.

Why? Rev. Josh Pawelek discussed why he feels this conversation is necessary in his September 20 homily, "This Land is Your Land?" You can read the text to his sermon on the UUS:E website at <http://uuse.org/this-land-is-your-land-uuse-virtual-worship-september-20-2021/#.X2tsF2hKjIU>. In that homily, Rev. Josh asked: "What happens when the institutional practice of centering Black, Indigenous and other People of Color comes into conflict with our favorite traditions, rituals, music?" In the case of "This Land is Your Land," we know Woody Guthrie's intent was good, and we know his commitment to fighting racism and classism was indisputable. Nevertheless, the lyrics, specifically, "this land was made for you and me," unfortunately reflect a settler colonialist mindset and simply don't ring true for many people, especially people of color.

What For? The purpose of this community dialogue is for members and friends of UUS:E to express their views about and their hopes for the song in the ongoing life of our congregation. Our goal is not to make any decisions, but simply to listen to each other. Given that similar questions and controversies may attach themselves to many other beloved songs and readings, holding these kinds of community conversations is an important congregational skill for us to develop.

Get Ready! If you plan to participate in this discussion, we respectfully ask that you review the following resources in advance:

- 1) Read or listen to Nick Spitzer's Feb., 2012 NPR story, "The Story of 'This Land is Your Land'" at <https://www.npr.org/2000/07/03/1076186/this-land-is-your-land>.
- 2) Read indigenous folk singer Mali Obomsawin's June, 2019 (Smithsonian) **Folkways** Magazine article, "This Land Is **Whose** Land? Indian Country and the Shortcomings of Settler Protest" at [https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/this-](https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/this-land-is-whose-land-indian-country-settler-protest)

[land-is-whose-land-indian-country-settler-protest](https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/this-land-is-whose-land-indian-country-settler-protest).

- 3) Read the (un-attributed) August, 2019 commentary on Obomsawin's **Folkways** article, "The misguided attacks on 'This Land Is Your Land'" in **The Conversation**: <https://theconversation.com/the-misguided-attacks-on-this-land-is-your-land-121169>.
- 4) Read this excerpt from the introduction to Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz' **Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States**, where she specifically comments on Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land:" <https://towardfreedom.org/story/archives/americas/an-indigenous-peoples-history-of-the-united-states-an-excerpt/>.

Get Even More Ready (Optional Background Reading):

While Obomsawin's article offers excellent historical background on United States settler colonial history and its impact on Native Americans, we also highly recommend taking the time to read Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's **Indigenous People's History of the United States** in its entirety. You can purchase this book through the Unitarian Universalist Association's bookstore, InSpirit, at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/An-Indigenous-Peoples-History-of-the-United-States-P17699.aspx>.

If you do not have time to read Dunbar-Ortiz' award-winning work, we suggest exploring the resources on the Unitarian Universalist Association's website, especially the 14 minute video about the Doctrine of Discovery at <https://www.uua.org/racial-justice/dod/what-doctrine-discovery>.

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.

- October 13: **Miracle Creek**, a novel by Angie Kim
- November 10: **Eternal Life**, a novel by Dara Horn
- December 8: **Wait Till Next Year**, a memoir by Doris Kearns Goodwin

A message for UUS:E Members

The UUS:E Policy Board is planning a virtual congregational meeting, tentatively scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 25.

We are asking members to take a moment to let us know if you are willing to receive your "Call to Meeting" notification electronically, rather than via postal mail. Electronic delivery saves postage, paper, and labor. To opt out of receiving a paper notification mailed to your home: Send an email Annie Gentile, our office administrator, with subject line "Opt-out of postal notification." Please include in the email whether you are responding on behalf of a spouse or other family members, and what their preferences are. Or phone Annie at 860-646-5151. Even if you have previously opted out, it will be helpful if you opt out again at this time.

The purpose of our fall meeting is to provide updates on our budget, to vote on becoming a formal institutional member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), and to respond to any questions

Thanks

Rob Stolzman,
UUS:E President

Young Adults

We are excited to announce two new Young Adult groups starting in October for 18 – 23-year-olds and 24 – 30-year-olds! Join us for camaraderie and conversation. Zoom meetings will be held twice a month on Sundays at 7 PM (or mutually agreed upon dates and times.) For the 18 – 23-year-old group, contact Michelle Spadaccini at michspad@comcast.net or 860-543-0490. For the 24 – 30-year-old group, contact Kaitlyn Blesso at kaitlyn12308@gmail.com or 860-992-7987.

New Contact Info

Fay Peters has dropped her landline and now has cell phone service only at 860-371-1280.

Virtual Piano Bash 2020

Wednesday, November 18 at 7 PM

This is a special invitation to pianists of all ages, from beginners to professionals. If you want to perform, tell Mary Bopp at music@uuse.org so she can reserve a place for you on the program. All videos must be submitted to Mary by November 13. Whether you play Chopsticks or a Beethoven Sonata you will be included! It's time to get practicing!

Care Package Thanks



Thank you to the many people who donated items or money for our care packages! With your help, we were able to send 8 care packages full of wonderful surprises to our young adults. We have a wonderfully generous congregation!

Some Helpful Charitable Tax Benefits!

The last few months of 2020 are a good time to look at a couple of tax benefits that can help both you and UUS:E.

The first is the Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) for people age 70 1/2 or older who have an IRA. IRA withdrawals are normally taxed as income to the owner. However, if you make a QCD contribution to a charity such as UUS:E from an IRA, those distributions are considered free from income tax. This is especially beneficial to those who use the standard deduction, and don't itemize deductions. QCDs also count toward any annual required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA. So if you don't need your full (and taxable) RMD in any year, you can reduce it by making QCDs. In fact, it can make great sense to make all your charitable contributions through QCDs if you don't itemize and are 70 1/2.

Qualified Charitable Deductions have some conditions. You can make as many QCDs as you want in any amount and to any number of charitable organizations, but the total of all your QCDs in a calendar year can't be more than \$100,000. In addition, a QCD check must be made out to the charitable organization, not the IRA owner, or it will be considered a taxable distribution. And, as mentioned, you must have reached age 70 1/2. If you're that age and still have a 401k or 403b, you could convert all or a portion of that to an IRA in order to take advantage of QCDs

To donate through a QCD you need to contact your IRA administrator or custodian and they will tell you how to go about making one. Since it may take some time to issue a QCD check, you should contact your administrator no later than early December so that such donations count for 2020.

The CARES Act passed earlier this year to provide pandemic relief also contains a provision to help taxpayers. For 2020, even if you don't itemize, you can nevertheless deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions. This isn't a huge benefit, but it will usually save some tax dollars for those who file a return. This \$300 charitable deduction is also available to those who make QCDs, but don't itemize.

It's always best to contact your professional advisor when making tax and financial decisions. Should you have any general questions or comments about

this article, please contact UUS:E member Hal Reed or Annie at the church office.

Deepening Connections through Small Group Ministry

What is Small Group Ministry? A network of small groups (maximum size 8 – 10) whose main objective is to create an open and safe environment for mutual ministry and spiritual growth. Groups meet monthly, have a regular format, develop a covenant, and explore mutually agreed to topics that promote UU principles and spiritual development. This is not just small talk but an opportunity to explore meaningful topics such as trust, compassion, good and evil, or mindful living. Each group has a facilitator, but group members share responsibility by participating fully to deepen their connections to one another, to UUS:E, and to the denomination as a whole.

UUS:E has participated in small group ministry for about twenty years. There are currently groups that meet in the afternoon and evening. There are some spaces available in existing groups. Additional groups could be formed if there is an interest and we can provide training for new facilitators. At this time groups are meeting virtually using Zoom.

For more information contact: Louisa Graver, lgraver163@gmail.com.

UU the Vote:

Why?

Many of you are familiar with UU the Vote and UUS:E's project of writing letters to under-represented voters in swing states, encouraging them to vote. (If you aren't, it's explained below "What's New.")

What's New

As of mid-August, we've already prepared almost 2500 letters. Over twenty-five people at UUS:E have signed up to write letters. Please join us! Why? I've come up with three reasons. What are yours?

1. Most important, this election faces numerous threats. The President of the United States is doing his best to sow distrust in it. In some places officials deliberately make it hard for people to vote, particularly people of color. The pandemic complicates things, and most recently voting by mail is being targeted by the administration.
2. Greater voter turnout sends an unmistakable message that voters are engaged. It signals to our leaders, other citizens, and the world at large that American voters are not to be taken for granted and that we value our democracy.
3. There are many important down-ballot contests in addition to the presidential election.

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 uuthevote.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).

Stop & Shop Cards

UUS:E is still selling Stop & Shop gift cards in increments of \$250, \$100 and \$50.

If you do your weekly grocery shopping or even just occasional shopping at Stop & Shop, buying these cards is a GREAT way to support the church without it costing you a cent. Cards are purchased at face value, and, in return, Stop & Shop gives the church 5 percent of the sales. If you would like to purchase cards, please contact Annie in the office to arrange to drop off payment and pick them up.

Recycling

UUS:E continues to collect and recycle used inkjet cartridges through Planet Green Recycle. Bringing your spent cartridges to UUS:E helps twofold, by both raising cash for the church and keeping them out of the landfill. It's a win-win! If you would like to drop off any of your used cartridges, please contact Annie in the office to make arrangements

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

Unitarian Universalist Society: East
153 West Vernon Street
Manchester, CT 06042