

# 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>

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Find us on Facebook at /UUSEast.



## Sunday Services Schedule

January Ministry Theme: Imagination

In January 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](mailto:e-news@uuse.org) or contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office to arrange another method of receiving relevant information.

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### January 3: "Dream a New World Into Being."

As the calendar turns to a new page, we turn to reflect on the year that has passed and dream about the one that lies ahead. In this multigenerational service, you're invited to participate in rituals to release 2020 and clear the way for 2021. **(Please bring 3 small pieces of paper and something to write with for each person in your family.)** We will have an opportunity to meet USNH's newly called minister, the Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich.

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### January 10: "Worship with All Souls New London."

More information to come.

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### January 17: "We Rise for Racial Justice."

On the eve of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, and in light of a year marked by racial justice uprising, UUS:E members reflect on how the deaths of individuals such as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have informed their response to racism. And, in turn, how this has influenced their relationship with local anti-racism organizing efforts.

**Coordinators:** Sandy Karosi, Sheila Foran, Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### January 24: "Got a New Normal?"

The pandemic has changed life for many of us. Out of necessity, we've developed new ways of being, life patterns and rituals. In our isolation, many of us have had insights about ourselves that suggest new ways of living once the pandemic winds down. The pressure to return to life as it was will be intense. How do we resist that pressure and live our best new normal?

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### January 31: "Imagine What Else We Can Do..."

The events of last year forced us to reimagine what life might be like because of the pandemic, racial injustice, threats to our democracy, and climate-related disasters. We discovered that we could have clear skies instead of smog, a multiracial movement for justice, powerful movements for democracy, and a vaccine in less than a year. If we can do all that, imagine what else we can do.... Login to the regular UUS:E virtual Sunday service, or watch on the UCWH YouTube channel at <http://bit.ly/UCWHYouTube>.

**Coordinator:** Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith, Universalist Church of West Hartford

## 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 January 2021

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 January will go to [Moral Monday CT](#) and [Foodshare](#). Both organizations address food insecurity.

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.

For February: [Operation Fuel](#)

## The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones,

Our January ministry theme is imagination. From late December to late January, we will have the opportunity to imagine what it means to be one among many Unitarian Universalist congregations in Connecticut. As we did this past August, we'll be visiting the services of other congregations (Hartford on 12/27, Hamden on 1/3, New London on 1/10, and West Hartford on 1/31.), and they will all be visiting us on 1/24. Not only will this sharing of services provide a wonderful opportunity for us to hear other ministers preach and to experience how other congregations conduct online worship; it will also provide the staff in each of the congregations a much-needed, post-holiday break. All services will be at 10:00 AM. Login information will be provided in our regular eblasts. On some Sundays we will be logging into our regular UUS:E Virtual Sunday Service Zoom room and watching from there. On other Sundays we will join the host congregation in their Zoom room. We will attempt to be as clear as possible with instructions.

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Speaking of imagination... As we enter into 2021, I'm wondering how you imagine life will be different as the worst impacts of the coronavirus pandemic begin to subside. Of course, we can't say with complete certainty that things will improve. However, with the arrival of multiple vaccines, and a new administration in Washington, DC that will be much more unified with public health experts in its approach to fighting the virus, it is reasonable to assume that the worst impacts of the virus will be behind us by late spring or early summer. (Geez, that still feels so far away!)

So I'm curious: how will life be different for you? We've said many times that "we can't go back to the old normal." For me, that statement refers primarily to social, economic and racial conditions in the larger society. The new normal must address fundamental, systemic injustice. Too many lives are at stake. But for the purposes of this column, I'm wondering what you imagine will be different for you specifically? For example, are there new life patterns or rituals you've developed during the pandemic that you plan to continue as it subsides? Are there insights you've had over the last nine

months—about yourself, your family, your work, your down-time, your spiritual life—that suggest new ways of living once the pandemic winds down? The pressure to return to life as it was will surely be intense. How do we resist that pressure and live our best new normal?

When I say I'm curious, I really mean it. I am inviting each of you to share with me your imagining of how life will be different for you because of something you've realized during the pandemic. Send me an email at [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org). Or leave a message on my home office phone, 860-652-8961. I look forward to hearing from you.

And lest I forget to say it, HAPPY NEW YEAR! Given how awful 2020 was, I think it's safe to imagine that 2021 will be better on all fronts! Or here's another way to look at it: If the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine data are accurate, then 2021 will be at least 94.5% better than 2020! I like those odds.

Amen and blessed be.

With love,  
—Rev. Josh



## Membership News

### **We Are UUs!**

#### **UUnpeeling the Layers**

A series to learn more about each other



This is the second column for the Membership Committee's new series highlighting members of our congregation in the hopes that, during the pandemic, we might get to know each other better. This month Membership has asked Jennifer Klee to share some time with us. Jennifer and husband Roland have been members since 2010.

Jennifer was raised a UU, but her story starts when she came home from kindergarten asking, "Who is Jesus?" That's when her parents, both of whom had drifted away from their religious upbringing, decided they needed to find a church to raise their children. A colleague recommended the Unitarian Universalist church in Springfield, MA, and the rest is history.

When asked what might surprise people about her, she replied, "My age; I'm 55. I have a twelve-year-old son and people assume I'm younger because of that. Being in your 50s is very freeing and has given me permission to do more of what I want to do rather than conforming to what's expected of me."

As to Jennifer's passions, she loves being on a plane—meaning she loves to travel. That passion took her to Budapest, Hungary in 1992 after she earned her MBA from Indiana University. She went with the MBA Enterprise Corps, a program inspired by George Soros. Its aim was to aid in transitioning the country's economy one small business at a time after the collapse of the Berlin Wall. It was a fascinating and challenging experience, but she loved living there at that historic time. When she

returned to the US in 1994, she worked in marketing communications in Chicago and Boston before finally ending up in Vernon, CT.

Wherever she lived, she also volunteered, which is another passion of hers. It was her lifeline to meeting new people, building friendships and helping where needed. When she returned to Vernon to take care of her grandmother, she joined the Greater Hartford JCs where she met Roland in February, 2005. They were married in April 2006. When Will was born, they wanted their son to have the same exposure to a liberal religious community that Jennifer's parents gave her, so they started attending UUS:E.

Jennifer has also volunteered at UUS:E, and serves on the membership (also past chair), communications, fair and auction committees. She likes "having a job to do!" But her favorite thing about UUS:E is the people.

## Call for Stewards

The Stewardship Committee is planning our 2021 Annual Appeal for this spring. For obvious reasons, our Annual Appeal will be different this year. Members and friends will receive canvass info in the mail (pledge form, giving guide, EFT form) and asked to return their pledge to Annie in the enclosed envelope. After two weeks, people who have not returned their pledge will be assigned to a steward for follow up. The steward will use email, phone calls, texts, Facebook, etc. to get in touch with people to answer any questions and remind them to fill out their pledge form and return it to Annie.

This is an opportunity to get to know new people, share your passion and commitment for UUS:E and help make our Annual Appeal a success. The time commitment is relatively short with one training session and a few weeks to contact a maximum of four members or friends. The stewardship conversations are a time of fellowship and sharing our dreams and aspirations. Talking about financial commitment is a small part of a much larger conversation about generosity and community. So please consider volunteering to be a steward this year.

We will provide virtual training on a weeknight and Saturday morning. Dates and times to follow.

Please email Phil Sawyer at [psawyer215@gmail.com](mailto:psawyer215@gmail.com) or call 860-633-8655 if you are willing to help or have any questions.

Our Annual Appeal occurs during March 7 – April 8, 2021.

## Stop & Shop Cards

Stop & Shop cards can still be purchased despite the pandemic. Anyone who is interested in buying a card can contact Annie, our office administrator. Cards come in \$50, \$100 and \$250 amounts. The money raised from this effort goes into the general fund. And they make great holiday gifts! If you need any help with this or more information, contact Sandy Johnson at 860-888-9673.

## Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance

### Upcoming Activities



At our congregational meeting on 10/25, UUS:E voted to become a formal member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). UUS:E members and friends are invited to begin participating in GHIAA activities. Here are a few possibilities:

#### Virtual GHIAA Delegate Assembly:

Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM to 8:30 PM. This assembly will prepare GHIAA members for the upcoming legislative session. We will also address other internal issues related to GHIAA. Register by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/JiHugfunr7it89Uh6>

#### Virtual Community Organizing Trainings:

We have a daytime **and** an evening community organizing training (same training; two offerings). They are scheduled to start in January. Please consider participating in one of these trainings. If you've taken it before, but it's been a while, consider taking it as a refresher course. Trainings are open to all who are interested. The two sessions are scheduled for:

- Six Thursday evenings starting January 21 (7 PM to 9 PM).
- Six Tuesday mornings starting January 26 (10 AM to 12 PM).

Registration is required and can be completed here: <https://forms.gle/5cqK7totrxj6vHrGA>

If you have questions or would like more information before registering, please contact Rev. Josh Pawelek at 860-652-8961 or [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org).

# Closed Captioning (CC)

## for Sunday Services is now here!

Live captions show up directly in the Zoom window and caption the speakers in real time. Attendees can decide whether or not to see captions in their own Zoom windows, change the size or turn off the captions.

### Modifying Closed Caption Options

When enabled by the host, closed captions are automatically generated and capture the speakers in real time. And while the captioning is not always perfectly accurate, subtitles enhance the viewers ability to understand the speaker.

### Changing the Caption Font Size

1. Select **Closed Captions**.
2. Click **Subtitle Settings**.
3. Drag the slider next to **Select Closed Caption Font Size to Normal, Medium, or Large**.
4. Close the window.

### Turning Subtitles Off

1. Select Closed Captions.
2. Click **Hide Subtitle**.

Note: To turn subtitles on, go to **Closed Captions > Show Subtitle**.

### Viewing a Full Transcript

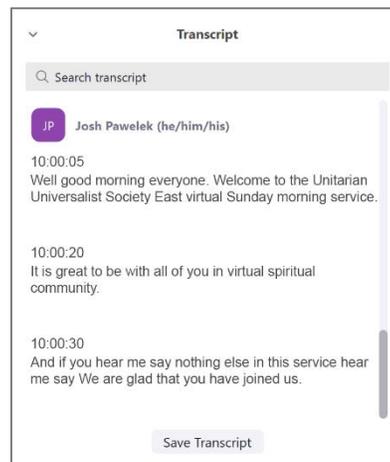
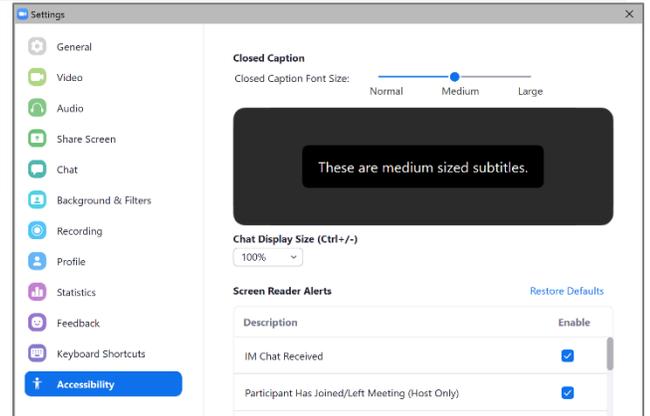
Occasionally the captions will lag behind the speaker or disappear too fast for easy reading. The full transcript view allows the attendee to follow along at their own speed.

1. Select Closed Captions.
2. Click View Full Transcript.
3. The transcript is viewed in a panel to the right.

Note: To turn off the transcript view, go to **Closed Captions > Hide Full Transcript**.

### Saving a Transcript

1. Go to the bottom of the transcript panel and select **Save Transcript**.
2. Navigate to the desired folder and click **Save**.



## Green Sanctuary News

Trapped indoors? Bored? Can't wait for this pandemic to be over? Looking for distractions? Well, here are some possible distractions.

### Monday, December 28 – Sunday, January 4

Equal Exchange Sales at <https://uuseshop.com/>. Place your order by January 4. Pick up will be at UUS:E on Saturday, Jan. 9 or 16.

### Sunday, January 3, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Wellness Webinar: Eating for Personal & Planetary Health

Have you made a New Year's resolution to eat healthier or reduce your impact on the environment? You can do both by switching to a plant-based diet! Join Mary in her kitchen (virtually!) as she shares cooking tips and demonstrates how to make some delicious, quick & easy recipes: Cauliflower Fritters with Sauteed Kale, Roasted Herbed Chickpeas, and Tahini Dijon Dressing. RSVP to [mary@wellonwheels.com](mailto:mary@wellonwheels.com). She will email you an ingredients list and a Zoom link for the class.

### Thursday, January 14, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

IREJN Webinar by Doug Tallamy on his book **Nature's Best Hope**. Tallamy is an award-winning author and professor at the University of Delaware. Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our current standard of living on Planet Earth. The good news is that none of this is inevitable. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can- and must- take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope. <https://naturesbesthopejanuary14.eventbrite.com/>

Free, but donations gratefully accepted!

### Friday, January 15, 7:30 – 8:30 PM

Discuss **The Story of Plastic** movie, which will be available several days before the discussion time. Here is a link to the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37PDwW0c1so>

If you are interested in watching the movie and joining the discussion, please email Chris ([larsonc3@gmail.com](mailto:larsonc3@gmail.com)) and give your name. Later, when we have the link to the movie, she will email it to you and you can view the movie (90 minutes)

anytime up to the discussion date. Viewing is best with one of the following browsers: Firefox 52 and above, Chrome 58 and above, Edge 14 and above, & Safari 10. Later she will email the zoom link to the discussion.

## The Fight Don't Stop:

Open Mic Poetry Night

Saturday, January 9, 7:00 PM



**What:** A virtual open mic to start 2021 with a commitment to social justice! Tickets available from our [Eventbrite Page](#) at:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fight-dont-stop-open-mic-poetry-night-tickets-132684979345?utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=post\\_publish&utm\\_content=shortLinkNewEmail](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fight-dont-stop-open-mic-poetry-night-tickets-132684979345?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail).

**When:** Saturday, January 9, 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

**Who:** All are welcome to attend. All are welcome to perform. To reserve a performance slot, contact Rhona Cohen at [rhoatwork@gmail.com](mailto:rhoatwork@gmail.com). Please limit your performance to three minutes.

**To Attend:** purchase a ticket on our Eventbrite page (see link above). Suggested donation is \$10, though you are welcome to donate any amount. All proceeds go to Power Up Manchester. A Zoom link will be emailed to you after you purchase a ticket .

**Parents Please Note:** While children are welcome, so of the content may be unsuitable for younger children. Poets will provide content warnings prior to performing. Questions: Contact Rev. Josh Pawelek at [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org).

## 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](mailto:marlar@wordshard.com)) for the Zoom sign in.

- January 12: **American Dirt**, by Jeanine Cummins
- February 9: **Talking to Strangers**, by Malcolm Gladwell
- March 9: **The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris**, by David McCullough

### Buddhist Group



The Buddhist Group meets via Zoom at 7 PM Tuesday, Jan. 5, for meditation and discussion of the December ministry theme, **Imagination**. All are welcome; no meditation experience necessary. Contact Nancy Thompson at [nancythompson123@yahoo.com](mailto:nancythompson123@yahoo.com) for the Zoom info.

### The Story of Plastic

Friday, January 15, 6:00-8:30 PM

Virtual Movie Screening of "The Story of Plastic" followed by discussion

This engaging documentary examines the man-made crisis of plastic pollution and the worldwide effect it has on the health of our planet and the people who inhabit it. The film is produced by a non-profit dedicated to changing the way that we make, use, and throw away stuff so that it is more sustainable, healthy, and fair. We hope you will join the Sustainable Living Committee for this free movie screening and discussion. RSVP to Chris Larson ([larsonc3@gmail.com](mailto:larsonc3@gmail.com)) to get the link.

## Wellness Webinar



Eating for Personal & Planetary Health

Sunday, January 3, 1:00-2:00 PM

Have you made a New Year's resolution to eat healthier or reduce your impact on the environment? You can do both by switching to a plant-based diet! Join Mary in her kitchen (virtually!) as she shares cooking tips and demonstrates how to make some delicious, quick & easy recipes: Cauliflower Fritters with Sauteed Kale, Roasted Herbed Chickpeas, and Tahini Dijon Dressing. RSVP: [mary@wellonwheels.com](mailto:mary@wellonwheels.com)

## UUS:E Holiday Fair a Success!

The Fair Committee would like to thank everyone who shopped, donated, and shared the event. A special thanks to the packers, bakers and order runners: Linda Rohlfs, Liz Garmise, Elise Cotrone, Michelle Spadaccini, Sue McMillen, Monica Lee, Gina and Casey Campellone, Pam Fine, Kaitlyn Blesso, Anne Carr, Beth Hudson-Hankins, Paula Baker & Sadie, Edie Lacey, Lesley Schurmann, Anne Vogel, Barbara Vizoyan, Tammy, Rob and Anya Stolzman, Peg Darrah, Jim Adams and Becky Ayers. Thanks to you we are able to raise approximately \$5400 for UUS:E. THANK YOU! I would like to also shout out Michelle Spadaccini, Jen Klee and Kevin Holian-Borgnis because without the three of you this fair would not have been possible. Hopefully next year we will be able to be together for the fair but it was heartwarming to see our community come together to support UUS:E! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

## UU Connect with You

Members of the Pastoral Friends Committee would like to invite you to join us on January 7 at 4 PM for a Zoom gathering just to chat. This is for any members or friends who would like to have a chance to visit. There is no specific topic; we just wanted to reach out. We're doing this once a month on different days and at different times. Please join us.

**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, [minister@uuse.org](mailto: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](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, [uuse.web@uuse.org](mailto:uuse.web@uuse.org)

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

Newsletter Deadline:  
The 20<sup>th</sup> of Each Month

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