

Unitarian Universalist Society: East

Member of the New England Region 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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Sunday Services Schedule

May Ministry Theme: **Story**

In May we continue to hold one virtual worship service every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM in Zoom (with one addition: note below we are planning a special, in-person flower communion ceremony at 8:30 AM on Sunday, May 9!) Our Zoom login and call-in information will be shared through the congregational eblasts on Wednesdays and Saturdays. To subscribe 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.

May 2: "Telling A New UU Story?"

As we continually look forward to post-pandemic congregational life, let's pause to reflect on the stories we tell about who we are as people of faith. Given what we've been through over the past year, do our older stories still resonate? Might new stories be emerging?

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

Note: This morning we welcome the members of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence and All Souls UU Congregation of New London

May 9, 8:30 AM: "In-Person Flower Communion."

We will gather in-person in the south parking lot at UUS:E (outside the entrance to garden level) for a brief service and flower communion. Participants do not need to bring flowers, but should bring masks, lawn chairs, and a whole lotta "outdoor church" joy! (This event will be cancelled in the event of rain.)

Coordinators: Gina Campellone and Rev. Josh Pawelek

May 9, 10:00 AM: "Virtual Flower Communion."

Join us for our second online flower communion of the pandemic. In preparation, everyone is invited to send photos of flowers, or photos of themselves holding flowers, to carollowbeer@comcast.net with "flower" in the subject line.

Coordinator: Gina Campellone, Mary Bopp, Rev. Josh Pawelek

May 16: "Lighting the Flame of Spiritual Leadership."

This morning's service is a celebration of spiritual leadership, the large and small ways members of

the UUS:E community have adapted, stretched, stepped up, contributed, and supported the work of the congregation. The service participants include the Nominating and Leadership Committee.

Coordinator: Beth Hankins

May 23: "This is What Reopening Looks Like."

After 14 months of pandemic living, with many more yet to come, how do we craft a reopening plan that is guided by science, safe, inclusive, and grounded in our UU principles? Rev. Josh will offer his reflections on UUS:E's reopening.

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

May 30: "Loss, and Love"

In recent years, Memorial Day has been more about cookouts than remembrance. But, as was intended for the holiday, we must remember those who lost their lives in service to our country, from the Civil War to Afghanistan. Members of the UUSE community will share their stories of lives lost and, perhaps, love gained.

Coordinator: Marsha Howland and Sandy Karosi

June 6: "All You Need is Love?"

As religious liberals, we place a lot of our faith in the power of love to solve social problems. But is love enough? Might love at times actually prevent real solutions from emerging? Note: This morning's sermon was purchased by Paul Cocuzzo at the 2020 UUS:E goods and services auction (just prior to the beginning of the pandemic).

Coordinator: 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 May 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 May will be split between MARC, Inc. and MARCH, Inc.

MARC, Inc. of Manchester is an organization which supports people with disabilities, empowering them to live, work, and enjoy all their community has to offer. Through the provision of many support services, their clients become able to live their lives to the fullest according to their individual goals and dreams.

MARCH, Inc. serves people with developmental disabilities in greater Manchester and supports their families in a number of ways. It has a respite program that gives youth the chance to socialize together while giving their families a break.

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.

June: Mary's Place and Covenant to Care-East of the River

Virtual Flower Communion

May 9, 2021



UUS:E will hold its second virtual flower communion of the pandemic as part of its May 9 Sunday service. Please send photos of flowers, or photos of yourself or your family members holding flowers, to

carollowbeer@comcast.net by Monday, May 3. Write "Flower" in the subject line.

The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones,

When is UUS:E going to reopen? I'm hearing this question from UUS:E members and friends with increasing frequency. Given that more and more people are getting vaccinated and, thus, feeling safer with in-person gatherings; and given that the state has granted houses of worship significant leeway to reopen for worship and other activities, the question is completely understandable. When are we going to reopen?

At this moment, I don't have a solid answer to the question, other than to say we are diligently working on it. (Unsatisfying, I know!) Who is working on it? The primary entity within UUS:E that is tracking pandemic data, researching safety measures, studying the UUA guidance, studying the state guidance, and making recommendations to the Policy Board, is our **Emergency Preparedness Team** or EPT. Cressy Goodwin facilitates this team. EPT members include Sue McMillen, Bill Graver, Christina Bailey, Peter Marotto, Annie Gentile, Jane Osborn, Gina Campellone, and myself. Like virtually all UUS:E committees, anyone can participate. If interested, please feel free to contact me. Since late February we've been meeting on an almost weekly basis to formulate a reopening plan. I can assure you that creating a safe, data-driven plan grounded in our UU principles is no easy task.

Most recently, the EPT drafted a revision of the UUS:E policy on outdoor gatherings on church grounds. In short, we recommended allowing gatherings up to 75 people (with masks and social distancing). The Policy Board adopted this revision at its April 8 meeting. You can read the revised policy near the end of this document: [Revised Policy for Holding Outdoor Gatherings](#)

What about indoor gatherings? Here's what we know:

First, **science**. We will base the timing of our return to indoor gatherings on five statewide public health metrics. These metrics include: the percent of the population that is fully vaccinated; the ratio of new COVID cases each day per 100,000 people; the infection rate; the test positivity rate; and the percentage of hospital ICU beds occupied by

COVID patients. Our primary source for tracking these metrics is the Covid Act Now website (covidactnow.org). As I write in mid-April, we have not yet determined levels for these metrics that will be acceptable for us, nor the relative weight we will attach to each one. We do expect to make a recommendation on acceptable levels and the relative importance of each metric to the Policy Board at its May 13 meeting.

Second, **physical plant**. We now know that the ventilation in our meeting house is insufficient to prevent easy transmission of airborne pathogens. This is especially evident in our garden level classrooms and small office spaces. Currently, the UUS:E Buildings and Grounds Committee is researching options for improving ventilation. The EPT will likely recommend that full reopening must wait until upgrades are completed. We will share a project timeline as soon as we have one.

Third, **inclusivity**. Although many members of our congregation have received vaccinations and are feeling more comfortable in public spaces, children under 16 do not yet have access to any vaccine and likely won't until the fall of 2021 or later. Yes, many of them are attending school in person despite not being vaccinated, but there are also a variety of risks associated with such attendance. Furthermore, UUS:E's religious education program for children cannot be easily compared to the typical public school. We don't have adequate space to maintain social distancing during class time, and the majority of our educational activities emphasize group work. While we may not wait to reopen until all children can be vaccinated, we definitely will not reopen without a clear understanding of, and plan to mitigate, the risks associated with the lack of vaccines for children.

Fourth, **accessibility**. The Unitarian Universalist Association strongly recommends that all congregations transition to a congregational life model known as "multi-platform" or "hybrid" church. In short, this means that every program we offer ought to be accessible in both in-person and virtual formats. This recommendation isn't surprising, but to implement it well, we will need to invest in new technologies and training. Since we're not entirely sure what technology we need to conduct hybrid church, we certainly won't hold up reopening based on a lack of sufficient technology. However, we will do our best to make the necessary investments as soon as possible, so that

we can be as inclusive and accessible as possible once we begin reopening.

Finally, **patience**. Whenever and however we reopen, we know it will be a slow process with many "baby steps." We will not all come back at once. We will be strict, especially at first, in our protocols around wearing masks, social distancing, and hand washing. We will likely tie our loosening of restrictions to ongoing improvement in the public health metrics I cited above. I realize that for some of you—especially those who are ready for church in person—this is not the column you wanted to read. You have been extraordinarily patient with, and supportive of, your staff and volunteer leadership through the course of the pandemic. I am now asking for that patience and support to continue as we craft our plans for a reopening that is guided by science, safe, and inclusive. As always, if you wish to speak more about this, you are welcome to contact me or any member of the UUS:E Emergency Preparedness Team.

With love,
—Rev. Josh



Membership News

We Are UUs!

UUnpeeling the Layers

A series to learn more about each other



This month Membership invited Mary Ellen Vigeant to share her experiences as a volunteer in our Religious Education program and to share what keeps her there as a volunteer. As it turns out, she's been involved for over 20 years. More about that later, but first some background on Mary Ellen.

She grew up in Glastonbury, graduating from Glastonbury High in 1977, and now lives in Tolland with her husband, Barry. There, they raised two children, Andrew and Molly, who are now 27 and 25, respectively. Andrew lives in Thompson and works for a small web design company. Molly, who works as a paraprofessional at RHAM High School, lives in East Hartford with her two-year-old daughter—Mary Ellen's pride and joy—Violet.

In college, Mary Ellen majored in English and Education with a minor in Elementary Education. Her first teaching job was at Ellis Tech in Danielson, in 1981. When federal funding for that job dried up the next year, she landed in Stafford where she taught English at Stafford High for 18 years and, since then, has been a reading consultant in that same district. She shared that her most joyful moments as a teacher are watching once-struggling readers find joy in books.

Her volunteering in RE began around 1998 when she enrolled her children in our Religious Education program. At that time, she was still a Catholic Church member, but she wanted her children to experience a different faith to help them decide their own spiritual path as adults. So, for a while, she attended two churches, but over time saw how

the principles of Unitarian Universalism allowed her to question some of the dogma of her original faith and helped her become more involved with UUS:E.

When a program called Spirit Play was offered by the UUA for children ages 5 and 6, again back in the early days when her children were in the RE program, she signed up for the training and has been there ever since, joking that she may never graduate from Spirit Play. She clearly loves this Montessori-based program that in her words, offers an age-appropriate balance of structure and opportunity to explore. The cornerstone of each lesson is telling a story with manipulative pieces to help "act it out," and each story is followed by several "Wondering" questions to help the children reflect on the story. Later in the lesson, they choose their work, which is always an opportunity to be creative or reflective (building with blocks, painting, drawing, using Play-Doh®, and so on.)

Because of her continued dedication to this program, in 2018 the RE Committee honored Mary



Ellen with their Religious Educator of the Year award, which she was humbled to receive.

When not at school or enjoying time with family, Mary Ellen does have one more "happy place," and that is the CSA farm she joined many years ago in

Stafford, called Down to Earth CSA. There she keeps busy as their communications director—taking minutes, sending newsletters, and responding to emails. And ,oh yeah, as it is a working farm, she does indeed get out there into the fields to do the work! Connecting to the earth in that way has become an important piece of her spiritual practice..

General Assembly

Registration for Virtual General Assembly (GA) 2021, June 23 – 27, is now open. Simply go to uua.org and follow the prompts for GA registration.

Only registered attendees will have advanced notice of special events and highlights, like the Ware Lecture. Attendees will also enjoy using a new GA app which promises to make navigating GA easier. Members who have attended GA in the past have always come away enriched and empowered to translate faith to action, having shared in the gathering of our larger community, including stimulating lectures and sessions, and beautiful music.

Beltane Ritual

Join the UUS:E Pagan Study Group
Sunday May 2, 6:00 PM via Zoom
All are Welcome!



Please join the UUS:E Pagan Study Group as we celebrate Beltane. We will celebrate the return of fertility to the earth, life, joy, and youth, 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 and lore, along with an opportunity to remember how to find our inner child.

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 hand a small bottle of bubbles and wand or a pinwheel on a stick to participate in the ritual.

And if children are attending, please let Peggy know at pgagne15@att.net so she can send you Ostara activity pages for the kids!

Please contact the UUS:E office for the Zoom link at 860-646-5151.

Financial Forgiveness

We have some wonderful news to share. Last year, in the throes of the pandemic, our Treasurer, Randy Stewart and the finance team recommended that UUS:E apply for a loan through the Payroll Protection Program that was part of the federal government's response to COVID 19. Randy and the finance team worked with our bank and the SBA to obtain a loan for us which provided a financial cushion, as we were adapting to shutting down all in-person events and completing our 2020 Annual Appeal virtually. Our hope was that we would not need this loan but our plan was to have it ready, so that, if necessary, we could maintain our staff and ensure continuous operations as the pandemic raged. At the beginning of this year, Randy and the finance committee began the important work of applying for forgiveness of this loan. And we are very happy to announce that on March 15, 2021, we received notice that our loan qualified for forgiveness and that it was, in fact, forgiven. Please thank Randy and the entire finance committee for their hard work and efforts on this matter and their dedication and love of our community. We are indebted to them—but no longer to the SBA!

Thank you, Randy, and the entire finance team!

Rob Stolzman, President

Kevin Holian-Borgnis, Vice-President

Josh Pawelek, Minister

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.

The Auction is Back: Here Comes the Sun!



Unitarian Universalist Society: East

HERE COMES THE SUN!

Virtual Goods & Services Auction

Mark your calendars for the terrific all-virtual Goods & Services Auction coming up in June! Silent auction bidding on artwork, meals, outdoor excursions, gift cards, museum passes and more from June 1 – 12. Then the exciting conclusion—the “live” auction of a few choice items with an exclusive online concert by the Meetinghouse Band, at 2 PM on Sunday, June 13!

This annual event is fun and important in so many ways: We get to know other UU’s at each event; we can learn new skills and enjoy delicious foods prepared by other members; and we support our beloved UUS:E community!

What could you contribute? All traditional donations are welcome, and here are some additional COVID-friendly ideas to consider:

- Lessons: What can you teach? Can you show people how to cook, repair, draw, move or try anything else? Donate a Zoom session OR maybe some in-person instruction when it’s safe
- Deliveries: Back door drop-off of homemade goodies or full dinners, bouquets, other treats
- Online Get-Togethers: Shared movie watch parties or multi-household games, with popcorn and beverages dropped earlier in the day
- Outdoor Small Group Activities: Hikes, bike trips, water sports, fire pit gatherings, picnics, etc. Share your new favorite walking route, people are eager to expand their itineraries!
- Services: Yard and garden assistance, from advice to actual sweaty labor; maybe you can water a few gardens while families are away on vacation

- Things: Items of value you no longer use, or new items that you have made (since it’s all online, we have the space for more items than usual)

So put on your thinking caps right away!! Please email your donation details to: auction@uuse.org. If possible, include a photo of the event, object or goodies you’re offering. (Don’t worry—we can fill in with graphics if you can’t take any pix).

What about unused events from last year’s auction? Cancelled events will not be rescheduled. If you bought a meal or activity that couldn’t take place due to COVID-19, you will receive a credit equal to half of what you spent on those purchases. You can use that credit on your 2021 auction invoice, regardless of what you buy this year. If you donated a meal or activity that had to be cancelled, please consider making a new donation this year—something you can share over the summer, fall or winter of 2021.

Questions?

The auction has its own email for all things auction: auction@uuse.org. Contact the committee (Stan McMillen, Nancy Pappas, Susan Gabriele, Chris Larson and Jennifer Klee) there.

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.

- May 11: **The Other Einstein** by Marie Benedict
- June 8: **The Victory Garden** by Rhys Bowen
- July 13: **Henry’s Sisters** by Cathy Lamb

Buddhist Group

The Buddhist Group meets via Zoom at 7 PM Tuesday, May 4, for meditation and discussion of the ministry theme, **Story**. All are welcome; no meditation experience necessary. Contact Nancy Thompson at nancythompson123@yahoo.com for the Zoom info.

Green Sanctuary News

Peas & Love Plant Swap

We held our first ever Seed & Plant Swap on April 18, which was a tremendous success with over a dozen people stopping by UUS:E. Many stayed to help prepare beds and plant seeds in the Peas & Love Community Garden.



Legislation – Federal

The former H.R. 763 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act has been reintroduced as H.R. 2307, now in the House with at least 40 co-sponsors. It has a few small changes from H.R. 763, but still contains all the good stuff. Citizens' Climate Lobby wants to be sure we keep getting the message to Congress. Use this site to reach your representative and both senators using a simple form which you can personalize:

<https://community.citizensclimate.org/tools/write-congress-about-the-energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act>

Legislation – State

- HB06441: An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation.
- HB06551: An Act Concerning Environmental Air Quality.
- SB00356: An Act Establishing An Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grant Program For Affordable Housing.
- SB00999: An Act Concerning A Just Transition To Climate-Protective Energy Production And Community Investment.

For details, see

<https://search.cga.state.ct.us/r/basic/>

No-Till Veganic Gardening

2:00 PM on Sunday, April 25

Celebrate Earth Day by creating a high yield, low-maintenance, instant gratification no-till garden that also benefits the planet! In this webinar, you'll learn how to get started, what materials you'll need, and what to plant. You'll also learn about veganic (vegan organic) growing methods, which means no chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides, and no animal by-products like manure, fish, blood, and bone meal, and learn zero-cost techniques for enriching the soil.

Mary Lawrence will show you how to incorporate native perennials that attract beneficial insects, medicinal and culinary herbs, and annual flowers and vegetables into your garden. In just 3 months the garden will be abundant with peas, radishes, arugula, collard, kale, strawberries, beets, turnips, beans, squash, and tomatoes.

<https://www.wellonwheels.com/events-1/no-till-veganic-gardening-webinar-2>

Painting Party

Time for Art! Painting Party with Side with Love and UU Ministry For Earth

Friday, May 14 at 6 PM

Join together in community to have fun painting an image with Sharon Davis, Artist, Owner and Instructor of Time for Art! This event is child and youth friendly—great for individuals, families, congregational teams or RE programs, everyone!

We will be painting an original image made by Sharon, depicting two human figures underneath a rainbow with the earth and a heart image towards the top. The overarching message of the imagery is one of multicultural, Beloved Community, with love for one another and our shared Earth home. The image is already etched onto a black canvas that will be mailed to all participants. You are responsible for sourcing all other painting party supplies (paints, water and paint containers, brushes, snacks, etc).

Since we are mailing canvasses to participants, please only register if you can make a firm commitment to attend!

Register:

<https://www.uumfe.org/time-for-art-sip-n-paint-registration/>

Annual Meeting

Dear UUS:E Voting Members:

UUS:E's 2021 Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday morning, May 23, shortly after the 10:00 AM service ends. We will again be holding our meeting over Zoom as we will likely not be holding services in person yet at that time.

The agenda for the annual meeting will include the following:

- Approval of the 2021-22 UUS:E operating budget
- Approval of the 2021-22 slate of officers and leaders;
- "Thank you" to outgoing leaders.

If you would like to vote but are unable to attend the meeting, proxy ballots are available in the UUS:E office. If you would like to designate a proxy, please contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office by Wednesday, May 12, if you want an email copy of the form to complete, and May 3, if you want it sent by USPS. All proxies must be returned to Annie no later than Monday, May 17. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this meeting, please contact one of us.

We look forward to seeing you on May 23!

Robert Stolzman, UUS:E President

Kevin Holian-Borgnis, UUS:E Vice President

Rev. Josh Pawelek, UUS:E minister

UUS:E Virtual Choir Rehearsals Return!

Back by popular demand, virtual choir rehearsals are back on Zoom. Join Mary Bopp, pianist Dorothy Bogner, and singer Jeannine Westbrook every Wednesday at 7:15 PM. Through the wonders of Zoom, you can tune in from the comfort of your home. If you love to sing join us! All are welcome. Contact Mary Bopp at music@uuse.org for the Zoom link or any questions you might have.

Book Recommendations?

Please send to Marcie Brown at: marcie1661@gmail.com. Please include title, author, number of pages, summary, your review. Goodreads shelf with previous recommendations: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/list/130686405-paul-cocuzzo?shelf=uuse-recommends&utf8=%E2%9C%93>

Children and Youth Singing

A special message for Children and Youth

Do you enjoy singing? Pat Eaton Robb and Mary Bopp are putting together a virtual choir for children and youth at UUS:E. All are welcome. The only requirement is that you like to have fun.

If interested please email Mary at music@uuse.org and/or Pat at peatonrobb@aol.com to let us know.

Let's Take AIM at Increasing Accessibility



ACCESSIBILITY AND
INCLUSION MINISTRY
AIM PROGRAM

It's been more than a decade since UUS:E last had a fully functioning Accessibility Committee. In those intervening years the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has learned much about how to address ableism in our congregations, and how to expand our accessibility to people with a wide variety of disabilities. Given that UUS:E is now in the midst of planning for reopening following the coronavirus pandemic, this may be a perfect time for us to consider how we enhance our accessibility to people with disabilities. Interested? Read on....

In partnership with the UUA, EqUual Access, a UU disability rights and inclusion organization, has developed the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry or AIM. AIM is a certification program. Its purpose is to guide congregations to better welcome, embrace, integrate, and support people with disabilities and their families in our communities. AIM attempts to meet each congregation where it is and move it forward at a reasonable pace, based on its resources, needs, and abilities, regardless of membership size or type of building.

The UUS:E Policy Board is empowering a team to study the AIM program and make recommendations as to how UUS:E can pursue certification. If you would like to be part of this study team, please contact Policy Board Member at Large, Peg Darrah (pegdarrah6@gmail.com or 603-540-6495).

2021 Spring Clean-up

Sponsored by Building & Grounds Committee

Where: UUS:E

When: Saturday, May 8

Time: 9:00 AM – noon

Celebrate spring, prep the grounds for summer.

Gather outdoors for a COVID-safe, family-friendly event.

Bring gloves and garden tools (we also have some to lend).

Where masked strangers become friends....

Contact Cory Clark or Jane Osborn with questions.



Intro to UU

Would you like to know more about Unitarian Universalism and Unitarian Universalist Society: East?

Attend our virtual Intro to UU class (Zoom)
Sunday, May 2, 2022, 1 to 3:00 PM

Rev. Josh Pawelek and the Membership Committee invite you to an informative seminar where you will learn more about the UU faith tradition, including:

- A brief history and background of our theology
- UUS:E's mission
- Opportunity to meet others interested in Unitarian Universalism
- Sharing of stories about what brings us together

To register, please contact the Membership Committee at membership@uuse.org.

Please RSVP by Friday, April 30, 2021.

Questions?

Please contact Sylvia Ounpuu or Carolyn Gimbrone at membership@uuse.org or Rev. Josh Pawelek at 860-646-5151 or minister@uuse.org.

We hope you will join us!

Revised Policy for Holding Outdoor Gatherings

Policy Board

Unitarian Universalist Society: East

April 8, 2021

Outdoor meetings on the UUS:E's grounds can be allowed with the following provisions:

1. Such gatherings will be limited to UUS:E activities. No outside groups will be authorized to use the grounds for their meetings.
2. The maximum number of attendees for any meeting will be 75 people, including staff.
3. Arrangements for using the grounds must be approved and scheduled with the minister or the office administrator to avoid duplicate meetings, and to allow staff to know that any group meeting outside the building is authorized.
4. While at the gathering, everyone will wear a face mask at all times.
5. Social distancing of 6 feet between people will always be observed, with the following exception: Anyone who is fully vaccinated can sit closer with one or more others who live together in one household.
6. If seating is provided, chairs must be set up 6 feet apart in rows 6 feet apart. (Chalk can be used to mark these locations.) Family members who live together in one household can move their chairs closer together as a group.
7. In advance, attendees for an outdoor gathering should be urged to use their bathrooms before leaving home. If an emergency occurs at the gathering, a staff member should be contacted. The staff person will then open the building and escort the person to the designated bathroom.
8. Evening meetings must end before dark. Leaders might define this as ending by sundown allowing about 30 minutes to safely store the chairs, clean the area and leave the property well before dusk turns to dark.
9. Leaders of these meetings might consider asking those planning to attend to register with them in the event more than 75 people show up.

This policy update was originally drafted by UUS:E's Emergency Preparedness Team, beginning at its April 1st meeting. The Team discussed the current changes in state and federal guidelines for gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Team also considered the current risks from in-person meetings. Team members include Cressy Goodwin, facilitator, Christina Bailey, Bill Graver, Sue McMillen, Gina Campellone, Jane Osborn, Annie Gentile, and Rev. Josh Pawelek.

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