

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.

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Find us on Facebook at [/UUSEast](#).



Sunday Services Schedule

November Ministry Theme: Holding History

In November, we continue to hold one virtual worship service every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM in Zoom. 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 uuseoffice@uuse.org or contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office to arrange another method of receiving relevant information.

Also: Although we are still waiting for Connecticut's COVID data to reach the low-risk zone on covidactnow.org, we welcome a limited number of members and friends to join us in the sanctuary for worship! Sign up with our Office Administrator at uuseoffice@uuse.org or 860-646-5151 before Friday at 4:00.

November 7: "Tell Me a Story."

Through shared history and stories, we connect and learn from each other. It's important for those of us who hold history to share it, to teach and give what we remember to younger people. It's equally important for us elders to listen to the questions and concerns of younger people. Some of our young people and some of our elders will come together for questions and answers about the past in this All-Congregation service.

Coordinators: Martha Larson and Stacey Musulin

November 14: "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

November 21: "On Mourning and Celebration."

All-Congregational Worship. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we remind ourselves that many indigenous people and their allies observe the fourth Thursday of November as the National Day of Mourning. We lean into the historical tensions that abound at this holiday time.

Coordinators: Gina Campellone and Rev. Josh Pawelek

4:00 PM, November 21: "Interfaith Thanksgiving Service."

Join us in Zoom for Manchester's annual interfaith Thanksgiving service. This year's keynote speaker is Kate Dias, a life-long Manchester, a long-time Manchester teacher, and the newly elected President of the Connecticut Education Association, the state's largest teachers' union. Watch our November eblasts for information to register for this important community event.

November 28: "Gathering Grace."

Sharing a meal together is the way humans have always bonded. Join us for another in the series of small celebrations as members of the congregation describe their traditions of gathering together for the grace of sharing a meal.

Contributors: Sue and Stan McMillen

Coordinator: Beth Hankins

Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for November 2021

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 November, our regular community outreach offering will be dedicated to Manchester Senior, Adult, and Family Services. The Manchester department of Senior, Adult and Family Services works to improve the quality of life and help maintain the independence of Manchester residents by offering information, referral, outreach, advocacy, assessment of needs and individual consultation on human services benefits and programs.

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.

2021-2022 Ministry Themes

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

September:	Embracing Possibility
October:	Cultivating Relationship
November:	Holding History
December:	Opening to Joy
January:	Living with Intention
February:	Widening the Circle
March:	Renewing Faith
April:	Awakening
May:	Nurturing Beauty
June:	Celebrating Blessings

We Need You!



What do you love to do?

Are you a painter, a quilter, a knitter, a print maker, a collage artist, a cartoonist, or a set designer? Do

you enjoy acting, storytelling, origami, or puppeteering? Perhaps you are a chef, a poet, a scientist, a nature lover, an outdoor enthusiast, or a naturalist? Do you have a passion for music, drumming, activism, meditation, or yoga?

Everyone has a hobby, a talent, a special skill, or a practice that makes them come alive! This year's RE program will use project-based learning in the form of workshops to explore religious themes and concepts. We are seeking members and friends of the congregation to share their passions or gifts with the children. Don't see your hobby or skill listed above? No worries! Those are just some potential activities. We'd love to hear about your own passion.

Reluctant to make a long-term commitment? You're in luck. The commitment is just two or three Sunday mornings in total. That's it! You'll have the support of RE staff and volunteer assistants, so there's no need to worry about managing on your own. And please know that you need not be an expert! Your enthusiasm is what matters most!

To learn more about how you might be involved, please contact Gina Campellone at redirector@uuse.org.

Medicine Bottles for Haiti



Peggy Gagne has set up a yellow collection box for empty medicine bottles in the foyer, near the ink cartridge recycle box, to help Jean Labutis with a project. Jean has a contact in Haiti who has been receiving donations of medicines in very large batches, and they need empty pill bottles to distribute them into. So, we are recycling by collecting pill bottles of all sizes, with the labels removed or with info blacked out. Please drop them in the yellow box in the foyer. Thank you!

Any questions, please contact Jean Labutis, jeanalabutis@gmail.com, or Peggy Gagne, pgagne15@att.net.

Homemade Holiday videos 2021

The December holidays are coming soon. Just like last year, I'm inviting musicians and music lovers to contribute your own holiday music videos. These will be presented at the holiday music service on December 19 and other December services. It can be an instrumental or vocal solo, even just your family singing a holiday song-anything goes! If interested contact Mary Bopp at music@uuse.org

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.



Lara Herscovitch

Returns for Virtual Benefit Concert at UUS:E
December 4 at 7:00 PM

Join UUS:E on Zoom to enjoy a live benefit by Lara Herscovitch, former Connecticut State Troubadour. Revel in meaningful and uplifting music by Lara, while you lift Manchester's youth through donations to **Power Up CTs** youth program, **Empower U**.

Lara Herscovitch, singer-songwriter-poet-performer, leads with authenticity, integrity, humor and heart. **Acoustic Live in NYC** says, "She possesses not only a huge reservoir of musical talent and a voice with a bell-like clarity, but a keen sense of global concern and a fierce intellect... It might seem too good to be true, but true it is." Her decades-long connection with social justice and the needs of disenfranchised youth match perfectly with **Empower U**. (<http://lara Herscovitch.com/>)

Proceeds will be donated to **Power UP CTs** program for Black and Brown Youth in Manchester, **Empower U**, offering our youth a variety of resources and activities as they recover from the pandemic and systemic racism. **Power UP CT** amplifies voices within marginalized communities, fosters positive health outcomes and civic engagement, and advocates for social change in Manchester and Connecticut.

To donate and receive your ticket with Zoom link go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lara-herscovitch-in-concert-a-fundraiser-for-empower-u-manchester-tickets-191746487907>

Suggested donation: \$10.00

For any questions about the concert or Eventbrite, email music@uuse.org



To Love Your Neighbor, Know Your Neighbor

Presentations on the Religions of Our Neighbors
Monday, November 14, 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Flyer

Here is a link to register. Once you register, you will receive a link to the program on Zoom.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsdO2oqjvHdEGFPEo7fHFbFLvzUGRsih1](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsdO2oqjvHdEGFPEo7fHFbFLvzUGRsih1)

Explore different religions in this lively, candid, and highly informative question-and-answer forum.

Three panelists from different faiths answer your questions about what it means to be Hindu, Jain, and Muslim. Our moderator leads this dynamic conversation and encourages audience questions in writing ranging from the very basic to the provocative and challenging.

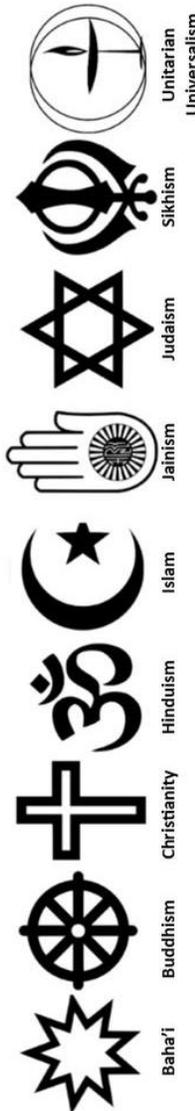
Hosted by: Unitarian Universalist Society: East in Manchester, CT via Zoom

To Love Your Neighbor, Know Your Neighbor

is produced by the...
Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding...

with support from the George and Beatrice Jones Baldwin Fund of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ.

For Questions or More Information, please contact Interfaith@ccfiu.org or 860-566-9556.



The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones:

I hope you are well as we enter into the heart of autumn in New England, 2021. As I write in mid-October, the Connecticut COVID data is spiking. Maybe it's an anomaly, but who knows? During the period between September 15 and October 15 the data had been hovering just above the "low risk" zone on covidactnow.org. We had been looking forward to re-starting our soft re-opening as early as mid-November. But given this new, late October spike in the infection rate and in new cases per 100,000 residents, I don't see that happening. As I write, I frankly have no idea what to expect, as it is difficult to identify any reliable trends after this current spike. I am left with frustration, sadness, anger, tiredness. I know you feel all these things too.

Thank you for your ongoing patience. Thank you for understanding our "covid cautiousness" at UUS:E. Thank you for helping the staff and our leaders prioritize safety for all members of our community, and for the wider community. Thank you for sticking with us! And if you have the opportunity, please take a moment to tell our staff—Gina, Jane, Annie, Mary and Heather—how much you appreciate everything they are doing to keep UUS:E running during the pandemic. I don't have words to name just how hard they are working, day-in and day-out, on our behalf. But please trust me when I say, they are doing an incredible job!

Our ministry theme for November is holding history. I see this as an invitation to wrestle with Thanksgiving. While Thanksgiving is not a specifically religious holiday, it resonates with all the spiritual descendants of the Puritans, who settled in (some say invaded) Turtle Island in the 1620s. Those descendants include the congregational churches of New England; and of course, Unitarian Universalists still practice a version of that "congregational way." In short, we are among those descendants. So, what do we do with that history, that traditional Thanksgiving narrative that speaks of a mutual respect between the indigenous people and the settlers? What do we do when we know the traditional narrative hides a bloodier, deadlier truth? I'll be digging into

this question (with a little help from some of you) in our 11/14 and 11/21 Sunday services.

Indeed, as liberal people of faith in the United States, what do we do with painful historical truths? What do we do when public school teachers address the reality of oppression in US history, and critics accuse them of "indoctrinating" our children? What do we do when politicians claim it is un-American to name the reality of oppression in US history, because the naming contradicts their sense of innocence and purity? What do we do with the painful truths in the history of our own faith?

I say, with conviction, care and love, let us strive to always speak the truth about our history. And in response to the truth, let us strive to improve our communities—church, neighborhood, town, state and nation—so that the pain of the past is not extended into the future. This is, of course, challenging. I believe we have always been, and will continue to be, up to the challenge.

With love,
Rev. Josh



Enter, rejoice, and come in!

A Religious Education Message from Gina

Dear Friends,

When I was a kid, the month of November was defined by waiting. With great excitement I looked forward to Christmas in December, snow in January, and my birthday in February. In November I just waited. And I was surprisingly good at waiting. I had a wild imagination, which meant I was seldom bored. I spent the month of November constructing elaborate make-believe worlds in my head, making lists of all the names I might give my future children, and writing long letters to my grandparents as though they lived far away, rather than just five miles down the road. Perhaps there was even something about the waiting itself that I kind of liked. I don't know that I could have articulated it then but looking back it seems clear to me that I enjoyed the anticipation. At six years old, I didn't yet associate anticipation with dread and fear of all that might go wrong. Instead, anticipation felt magical, it filled me with a delicious, shivery excitement. To be honest, the waiting and anticipation was often far more satisfying than the actual event it led up to. (This probably explains why I spent so many of my childhood birthday parties crying in my bedroom while my friends happily played pin the tail on the donkey in the dining room. Yes, I was **that** kid.)

All these years later, I still experience November as a month of waiting and anticipation. But it's a more complicated kind of anticipation now. I still love giving gifts, singing carols, and baking cookies at Christmas time. But I also know that all of the prep leaves me exhausted. I still love the way freshly fallen snow crunches under boots and glitters in the moonlight. But I also know that snow means slippery front walks, icy roads, and sometimes lengthy power outages. And yes, I'll admit that I still love celebrating my birthday. Eating cake while being serenaded by family and friends—what's not to love about that? But it's also true that getting older, while a privilege, does seem to introduce a few new mysterious aches and pains each year. Just yesterday I hurt my back while brushing my teeth. BRUSHING MY TEETH!

There's another kind of waiting going on this November, and I suspect this waiting belongs not just to me, but to all of us. It's a collective sense of anticipation, the shared experience of a community

desperately waiting for an answer that never seems to come. The question, of course, is when will this thing be over? This thing, meaning the coronavirus pandemic. It's a big question, the umbrella under which so many questions fall. When will vaccines be available to all? When will it be safe for everyone to worship together in the sanctuary? To sing with the choir? To mingle over coffee and banana bread? To hold the hand of the person next to us while reciting our closing words? To hug one another? To learn and play and craft and cook together on the Garden Level?

We've been waiting on this answer for a long time. That we don't have it yet is frustrating, annoying, discouraging, painful, irritating, inconvenient...fill in your adjective of choice here _____. Go ahead, I'm listening. I won't try to convince you things aren't so bad. I won't promise you it will all be over soon. I won't tell you to "turn that frown upside down," or put a bumper sticker on my car that proclaims, "Good vibes only!" I won't even try to wrap up this column with a nice, neat, happy little bow. Performative cheerfulness is just that—a performance. I won't offer platitudes or words of wisdom. (Over the past 18 months of pandemic, I've used up all my words of wisdom. I'm going to need to start recycling them soon. A very UU thing to do!)

I've never considered myself someone who has all the answers; however, I usually manage to have at least a few! These days, I can't even tell you where RE classes will be held from one week to the next. I can't give you answers. I can't give you much. But I can listen. And sometimes that's enough. Sometimes we just really need someone who will listen and hold space for our messy, complicated, uncomfortable emotions. So, I extend that offer to you. And maybe you will extend the offer to someone else. And that person may extend it to another.

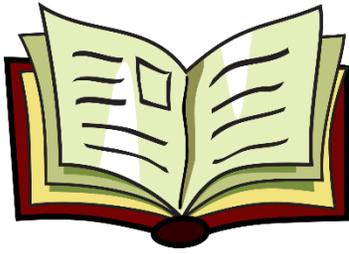
When will this thing be over? Will November be the month we finally get that question answered? Possibly. But I won't hold my breath, and you probably shouldn't either. True to form, I expect to spend the month of November waiting, and I know I'll be in good company. I'm prepared to wait and I'm ready to listen. What about you?

With love,
Gina



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.

Goodreads descriptions:

https://www.goodreads.com/review/list/130686405-paul-cocuzzo?ref=nav_mybooks&shelf=uuse-book-lovers

- November 9: **Friday Black**, by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, led by Jean
- December 14: **The Book of Longings**, by Sue Monk Kidd, led by Martha
- January 11: **Orphan Sky**, by Ella Leya, led by Janet



Buddhist Group

The Buddhist Group meets via Zoom at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of each month, for meditation and discussion. All are welcome, no meditation experience necessary. Contact Nancy Thompson at nancythompson123@yahoo.com for the Zoom info.



Yoga at the Meetinghouse!

All welcome to these gentle-to-moderate yoga classes in the UUS:E Meetinghouse, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM with Susan Barlow. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring a yoga mat or towel and wear comfortable clothes. All welcome, including beginners! Bring a friend or neighbor; you do not have to be a UUS:E member to come to the classes. Yoga provides an opportunity to quiet the mind as well as strengthen and relax the body. Direct questions to: Susan at SBarlow627@aol.com. Yoga is one of the UUS:E adult education offerings. For the time being, masks are required inside the building.

Humanist Group

This ongoing group explores Religious Humanism and its applications to life, both historically and today. All welcome. Contact Rev. Josh at mininster@uuse.org for the Zoom link.

November 16 at 4:30 (3rd Tuesdays at 4:30 PM)

"God Talk"

A discussion group for UU theists

This ongoing group explores how UUs can name and experience God in meaningful, useful ways. All are welcome. Contact Rev. Josh at mininster@uuse.org for the Zoom link.

November 23 at 4:30 (4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM)

Science and Religion Discussion Group

How does science inform our beliefs? Where do science and religion meet? Where are they in opposition? Members of this ongoing group will select and discuss readings covering myriad topics such as evolutionary biology, artificial intelligence, climate change, the brain, genetics...and the way we look at the Big Questions. Contact Linda Duncan at lindakduncan@gmail.com or Annie Gentile at uuseoffice@uuse.org or 860-646-5151 for date and time for November's meeting. January-October meets Fourth Thursday at 4:30pm



UU SpiritLife

UU SpiritLife offers spiritually-focused programs to members and friends of the three Hartford area UU churches.

Fall 2021 Offerings Include:

Daytime

- Spirituality for UUs - This course helps UUs to establish and deepen their spiritual lives in a religion without a creed. 12 weekly Zoom sessions; Sept 7-Nov 23; Tues, 10 AM – noon with Judy Robbins and Rick Tsukada

Evening

- Living Your Faith - participants articulate the tenets of their faith and explore how this faith is manifested in their daily lives. 12 sessions; Tue: 7:00-8:30; dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

—OR—(Either Living Your Faith OR Spiritual Practices for UUs will be offered, depending on the sign-ups for the two programs)

- Spiritual Practices for UUs is a 9-month program in which participants experiment with different spiritual practices to explore how these practices can change how they experience and live life. 16 sessions; Tue: 7:00-8:30; dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais
- Tending Your Spiritual Garden - participants explore how they might reap the bounty of a soulful spirituality. 2 sessions; Thu 7:00-8:30; dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais
- Being a Monk in the World—finding and living from your inner monastery. 4 conversational Zoom sessions, including a review of recent writings on the subject. First Wed 7:00-8:30; Sept-Dec. with David Gonci
- How Your Former Catholicism Can Expand Your UUism - Ex-Catholic? No need to drop it all. 8 Zoom sessions on alternate Thurs starting Oct 14; 6-7:30 PM. With Rev Joy Christi Przeworski and Judy Robbins.

For more complete information including registration visit <http://www.UUSpiritLife.org>

Salon Opportunity- Musical Memorial for your Pet

Many of us have experienced the grief of having a pet die. .

The Music Salon Unplugged is offering a new feature—a musical memorial to your lost pet. Send us a photo or video clip of your beloved pet and we will perform a musical selection set to your pet's photo/video. You may let us know of a favorite piece of music that you would like played, and if possible we will try to use that music. If you would like to send the music as well, that is fine. These few minutes devoted to your dear pet can be profoundly comforting.

Send your photos, musical selections, questions, comments to Peggy Webbe (pwebbe@gmail.com) or Mary Bopp (MaryBopp@Verizon.net).

Outdoor Tag Sale a Resounding Success!

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful volunteers, who all pitched in and made our Outdoor Tag Sale such a success! THANK YOU to:

- organizing/pricing volunteers during the week, who had so much to unpack, price and repack - at times, it was a bit overwhelming...
- early morning set-up crew - some arriving just after dawn - who worked to set-up tables, follow our one-way traffic pattern to bring out all the donations and those who organized the tables
- volunteers who stepped up to be in charge of a booth - working to set-up and make sales
- the break-down crew, helping pack items for donation, get tables back where they belong and load vehicles to take to donate.

It was said a number of times, that day and after, that the fellowship and joy of seeing and catching up with dear friends was a highlight of the event!

Our efforts earned over \$2400 for our beloved UUS:E!

And, as Sandy K. predicted in one of our videos - It **was** fun!

With gratitude and appreciation,
Marcie Brown & Sandy Karosi

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: Peggy Webbe, 860-871-8035, peggywebbe@gmail.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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