

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

March Ministry Theme: Renewing Faith

In March we expect to expand our hybrid Sunday services, welcoming 60 people into the sanctuary for worship. As long as the COVID data continues its February downward trend, this should be possible. Of course, at the time of preparing this newsletter, we have not made any official decisions. Please watch our eblasts for information. And if you think you've missed some information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 860-646-5151 or email at uuseoffice@uuse.org.

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.

March 6: "Annual Appeal Kick-Off: Moving Forward With Hope!"

All Congregation Service. This morning we launch our 2022 Annual Appeal. Rev. Josh, Gina Campellone, and some very special guests, explore the value of UUS:E in our lives.

Coordinators: Gina Campellone and Rev. Josh Pawelek

March 13: "Healing Healthcare."

The healthcare system in this country is badly broken. People with no insurance or poor insurance often delay treatment, eventually ending up in an emergency department; many with diabetes ration their very expensive insulin, risking their health and lives. These are just two examples. Hear more about the problem—and solutions—from members of the UUS:E community and a physician who also is a state senator.

Coordinator: Marsha Howland

March 20: "Hineni: Here I Am."

Today we begin a two-part series on our March ministry theme, Renewing Our Faith. Today's speaker is Penny Field. She will share about her search for truth and meaning when all the traditional theistic forms of God eluded her.

Coordinator: Marsha Howland

March 27: "Faithful."

In this second service in a two-part series on seeking faith in God, Rev. Josh discusses his personal theology and the reasons he identifies as a "believer."

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

April 3: "Awakening."

Our ministry theme for April is Awakening. As spring arrives; as COVID (we hope) recedes; as new, post-pandemic patterns of congregational life emerge, what is awakening in you?

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for March 2022

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 March will go to the [Lutz Children's Museum](#).

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



Annual Appeal

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we wish everyone a healthy and safe transition from winter as we keep "Moving Forward with Hope" into spring's eternal rejuvenation.

As most of you know by now, our Annual Appeal takes place during the month of March, and you soon will receive an important mailing from the Stewardship Committee. (Note: if you have not received it within a week, please call or email the church office). Rev. Josh will kick off the Annual Appeal with a Sunday service on March 6. Each member and friend will receive a letter with information on our accomplishments of the past year and our aspirations for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023) as well as a Giving Guide to help you think about the amount of your pledge.

Our approach this year is to ask each member and friend to fill out the enclosed pledge form and electronic funds transfer (EFT) form, if you chose to use it. Please return them to the church office. The Annual Appeal submission deadline is March 20 and those who have not responded by March 21 will be contacted by a steward. Following the same approach as last year with safety in mind, we hope it will generate the same spirit of generosity that has made UUS:E the thriving, spiritual home for us throughout the year.

If you have any questions after receiving your mailing and pledge forms, please call one of us on the Stewardship Committee. We are all stewards of Unitarian Universalist Society: East and as a congregation, we are responsible, not only to maintain, but to grow, strengthen, and enhance all that UUS:E represents. Thank you as always for making UUS:E the best it can be with your generous time, talent and treasure.

The Stewardship Committee: Jason Corsa, Louisa Graver, Larry Lunden, Stan McMillen and Phil Sawyer

Affirmation Social Action Project

flyer

February 18 – March 27

Home Kit Drive

The Affirmation class is working with Journey Home to collect items for families and individuals moving out of homelessness.

THE KITCHEN KIT	KEEP IT CLEAN KIT
Laundry Basket	Laundry Basket
Pots/Pans	All Purpose Cleaner
Silverware	Paper Towels
Glasses	Toilet Paper
Dish Soap	Shower Cleaner
Sponges	Window Cleaner
Pot Holders	Mop/Broom
Scissors	Shower Curtain & Rings
Can Opener	Toilet Bowl Brush

Drop-off bin at Main Entrance

Unitarian Universalist Society: East

153 Vernon St West, Manchester 06042

For questions call Gianna at 860-208-7345

Medicine Bottles for Haiti

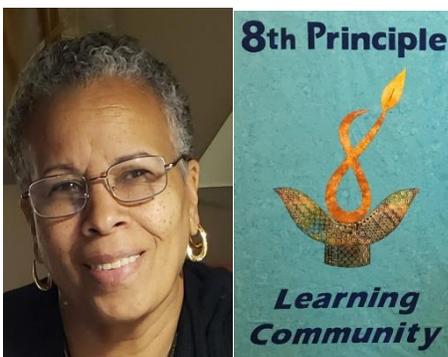


A big thank you to all who contributed medication vials to Haiti. We have sent approximately 1,000 vials so far! However, there has been a glitch because international travel to Haiti has ceased due to COVID restrictions. We already have the second 1,000 vials ready to be shipped but we are asking that going forward you collect and store your vials in your own homes until shipments to Haiti can resume. This project benefits not only the people of Haiti, but the environment as well. It takes 500 years for plastic vials to disintegrate. Thank you for the good work you are doing.

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

Creating a Culture of Inclusion

An Online, All-Congregational workshop with Paula Cole Jones



Sunday afternoon, March 20, 1:00 to 4:30

At its February meeting, at the request of the Social Justice / Anti-Oppression Committee, the UUS:E Policy Board agreed to place a vote to adopt the 8th Unitarian Universalist principle on the agenda for our May 15 Annual Meeting. In order to prepare for that vote, we have invited Paula Cole Jones, one of the principal architects of the 8th Principle movement, to lead us in this compelling workshop.

We Unitarian Universalists are called to build the Beloved Community. The UU Principles will guide us, but do they go far enough, and are they deep enough, to create such a community? Is it time for an 8th principle that directs us to attend to the unfinished business of dismantling racism and oppression in our congregations, our Association, and with our community partners? With a positive vote, UUS:E would be joining more than 140 UU congregations around the country who have answered "yes" to this question and have adopted the 8th principle.

The 8th Principle affirms and promotes "journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Ms. Cole Jones' workshop will introduce the 8th principle and offer new insights for building a congregational culture of inclusion. The workshop will:

- introduce strategies to achieve long term cultural change;
- share a framework for how collaboration and accountability shape the racial and social justice history of institutions in the United States;
- engage participants in an interactive experience of the transformative power of the 8th Principle.

The workshop will take place in Zoom over two 90-minute blocks, separated by a 30-minute break. We are asking people to pre-register and pay a workshop fee of \$20. Please note: nobody will be turned away for lack of money. Please contact Rev. Josh at minister@uuse.org if you would like financial assistance.

Register for the workshop on Eventbrite at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creating-a-culture-of-inclusion-a-workshop-with-paula-cole-jones-tickets-271177117057?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail

New Year, New General Assembly

New Opportunities for Service!



The UU General Assembly (GA) will be held in Portland, Oregon from June 22-26, 2022, as a "hybrid" event. GA is a gathering of UUs from all over the country for worship, planning and fellowship.

Registration for in-person and virtual participation is now open. Interested in volunteering? Many roles are needed. Click here to learn more: [General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting | UUA.org](#) Interested in being a delegate from UUS:E? Contact Carrie Kocher misscarrie29@gmail.com for more information.

Become Our Next Treasurer

flyer

Are you looking for a fulfilling connection to UUS:E?

- Requires 15-20 hours monthly
- Requires organization, resourcefulness and logic, with a focus on facts
- Serves as chair of the Finance Committee
- Knowledge of Excel, Quickbooks & General Accounting procedures preferred

Contact Stan McMillen at Stanley.McMillen@Uconn.edu or 860-603-3961

Restarting the UUS:E Concert Series

"East Meets West"

A special performance of the New World Trio
Sunday, April 10, 7:00 PM
Free and open to the public!



As we slowly make our way out of pandemic restrictions, the UUS:E Music Committee is excited to announce that we are restarting the UUS:E Concert Series with a special in-person, live performance of the New World Trio: **East Meets West**, Sunday, April 10 at 7 PM at UUS:E, 153 West Vernon St., Manchester. The New World Trio features Anahed Stowe, violin, Peter Zay, cello, and David Ballena, piano. They will perform works by Mozart, Brahms, and Chen Yi for piano trio.

The Chinese-American composer Zhou Long says: "For every generation, traditional culture is something already formed. What is crucial is how to rediscover and comprehend it more fully. In this process of understanding and discovery, culture will become a living tradition maintaining its long historical continuity."

In music, this "historical continuity" has evolved to become a wonderful world-wide heritage. Today, we see western classical musicians and composers eagerly presenting Asian and Asian-influenced music, while Asian musicians are already well established in western classical music performance. Composers currently borrow cross-cultural themes and instrumentation liberally for their works. **East Meets West** celebrates this emergent musical universalism with three beautiful pieces.

Please note this concert is free and open to the public. A goodwill offering will be taken in support of UUS:E.

Questions? Contact Rev. Josh Pawelek at minister@uuse.org.

Member Spotlight: Dorothy Bognar

by Jacquie Heintz



March heralds the beginning of spring, a hopeful, joyful time. (The vernal equinox is March 20 this year.) This seems to be a more than appropriate time to spotlight Dorothy Bognar. Music is one word immediately associated with her, but there are so many which come to mind, including style, grace, humor. As her photo demonstrates, she is a proud lover of hats, which she wears well, accompanied by "that smile."

Dorothy met and married Phil Bognar after relocating to Connecticut, having lived in California nearly all of her life. They have one daughter and four grandsons.

Dorothy wanted to study piano long before her seventh birthday, but her parents made her wait. It remains her great passion. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia, where her father was stationed in the army. After the war, he continued in the Army Corps of Engineers, eventually stationed in Sacramento, California when Dorothy was four years old. All of her formal schooling was in California. She earned her bachelor's degree in music at U.C. Santa Barbara and did three years of graduate study at U.C. Berkeley. She earned two master's degrees, in music literature and library science, plus a lifetime teaching credential to teach music and library research at kindergarten to high school level in California

As she was finishing her last year of graduate study, she applied for, and was offered, employment at the University of Connecticut. She was head of the music library in Storrs, retiring after 30 years, in 1998. Dorothy was not about to stay home, so soon explored new options. Hoping to gain knowledge and experience to eventually open her own bookstore, she tried a part time job at Walden Books. It was not what she had hoped. She also took part time employment at a local Y, teaching piano. Eventually she moved on to teach children and adults at the UCONN Community School for the Arts. She also gave private piano lessons from 1998 to 2020. The pandemic ended that. For a number of years, she taught her four grandsons, ages 18, 16, and 11 (twins). Their mother, Dorothy and Phil's daughter, is a certified music therapist and owns her own yoga studio in Massachusetts.

The pandemic did bring sad changes, but also new and joyful opportunities. Dorothy found time to create new arrangements for solo piano of favorite music. She has felt the loss of her 2020 and 2021 musical summer retreats to "Summer Keys" in Lubec, Maine. It has been a great joy to her for years. Lubec is a quiet area, an old fishing village, now a pleasant vacation place. Not far from Canada, it is a short distance from the Canadian island of Campobello. Despite the cancellation of the "Summer Keys", Dorothy and Phil went to Lubec last summer. She performed a private piano concert, with some of her new arrangements, at the home of Peg Richardson, widow of Dorothy's former piano duo partner Bob Richardson. They also discovered a newly created nature preserve, Cobscook Shores, with numerous trails which they loved exploring.

Another pandemic opportunity came for Dorothy: time to spend researching her family ancestry. She was excited to discover that her roots in Scotland include the first ten Lairds of Drum and their ancestors as far back as 1180.

As for when and how she came to UUS:E, she notes that Eileen Driscoll, already a member of our community, encouraged her. She was already looking for a true spiritual home. Raised as a Methodist, she avoided any organized religion for many years. It was when her then eleven-year-old daughter voiced a wish to have a church that she and Phil searched. They joined a Methodist congregation and became active as a family, but eventually felt it was time to explore further.

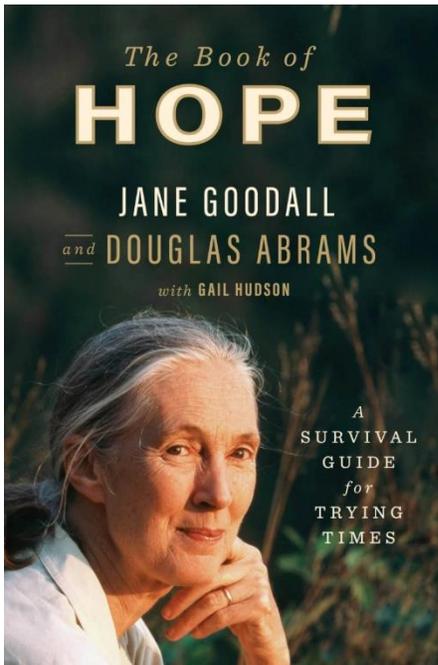
Eileen convinced her to visit UUS:E and after her first Sunday Service, in 2001, she became very involved. Bob Richardson, then our Music Director, was delighted to find another pianist, and since there were two pianos at UUS:E, quickly convinced her to play duo pianos with him. They gave concerts every year for six years and she played memorial concerts after his passing in Pembroke, Maine. She also played duo pianos with Pawel Jura, who followed Bob Richardson as Music Director. Dorothy is currently Chair of the Music Committee at UUS:E.

Dorothy sees herself as having been a transcendentalist for decades. She recalls three especially significant books by her bedside in high school years; they were and are: Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Essays", Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass", and "Gift from the Sea", by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. It is not surprising that the latter is so meaningful to her. There is a famous quote from "Gift from the Sea": "The sea does not reward those who are too anxious, too greedy, or too impatient." Dorothy's devotion to sharing her music, her patience and generosity of spirit, seem worthy of the sea's gift.



Green Sanctuary News

It may not be too late for you to join our two book discussions, first on Sunday, Feb 27 at 1:00 for Jane Goodall's **The book of Hope** and especially not too late for Katherine Hayhoe's **Saving Us** on Sunday, March 27 at 1:00. Just call or email Janet Heller at Janet.Heller@snet.net to get the zoom link! We are reading and sharing ways to help deal with feelings of being overwhelmed by so many crises facing us. These books help us have the kind of hope that leads to taking action and inspiring one another to take steps towards healing the community of Earth we all love and need.



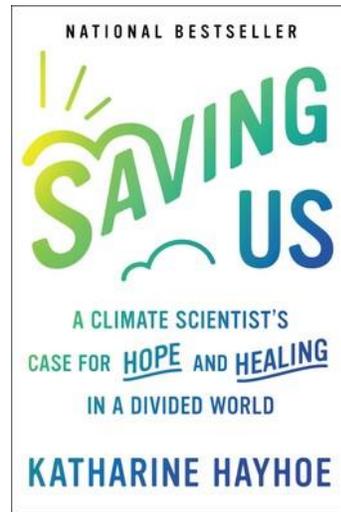
Here is a link to [Global Icons Series—Idea Architects](#). Near the bottom of the page is a beautiful short video of Jane Goodall sharing her understanding of Hope.

"Find your reasons for hope and let them guide you onward."

Here is some praise for Katherine Hayhoe and her book, **Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World**. Called "one of the nation's most effective communicators on climate change" by The New York Times, Katharine Hayhoe knows how to navigate all sides of the conversation on our

changing planet. A Canadian climate scientist living in Texas, she negotiates distrust of data, indifference to imminent threats, and resistance to proposed solutions with ease. Over the past fifteen years Hayhoe has found that the most important thing we can do to address climate change is talk about it—and she wants to teach you how. Watch and listen to her speak about it here for about two minutes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LM16_Gsqckc&list=TLGGicJ8mLzq13gxNzAyMjAyMg&index=2



I am writing this on a warm day in February, and I just got a newsletter and link to re-register for my plot at the MCC Community garden. So spring will soon be in the air and gardens are not too far off. From that newsletter, thanks to Patrick Sullivan, come these quotes:

"February is the border between winter and spring." — Terri Guillemets

"There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer." — Gertrude Jekyll

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."— Barbara Winkler

The sustainable Living Committee at UUS:E welcomes new members and visitors to our monthly meetings and occasional events, second Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 PM, March 8 this month. For now, we meet on zoom. Contact Mary Lawrence at welonwheels@hotmail.com to receive a link and agenda.

The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones:

Our ministry theme for March is **renewing faith**, a very appropriate theme for the month in which we conduct our Annual Appeal. Though the omicron wave is receding, we remain cautious, and will be conducting our appeal similarly to last year. Everyone will receive a small packet in the mail with the annual appeal materials. As always, we ask you to consider the value UUS:E holds in your life and your family's life. Related to our monthly ministry theme, how does your connection to UUS:E inspire faithfulness in you? In what do you have faith? What is your solid ground, your rock? What is ultimately reliable in your life and how does UUS:E help you pay attention to it? I encourage you to share your answers to these questions with me directly at minister@uuse.org or 860-652-8961. I am always interested to hear from you. (Of course, anything you share may end up in a sermon on Sunday morning!!!)

And as always, we ask that you return your pledge form in as timely a manner as possible so the Stewardship Committee can do its work on behalf of the congregation.

The Policy Board's goals for this year's appeal are modest. As always, we continue to insure that we compensate our staff in accordance with the UUA's guidance for our geographic area. Throughout the pandemic our staff has been nothing short of amazing. They have adapted and pivoted in response to changing circumstances. They have been flexible, nimble, patient and compassionate. They have been willing to learn new skills, new ways of working and, more fundamentally, new ways of being. I am truly grateful for them. I hope and trust you are grateful as well. Please take a moment to check out the videos the staff have prepared for the annual appeal. Watch our regular eblasts for links.

Beyond our personnel goals, we are urging a modest increase in our giving so that we can continue to support vibrant programming, such as our March 20 "Creating a Culture of Inclusion" workshop with Paula Cole Jones; or a specialized workshop on trauma later this spring with CB Beal; or re-starting our in-person UUS:E concert series, including a special performance of the New World Trio in early April and a Meeting House concert later this spring at our goods and services auction.

There's so much more to talk about—pastoral care, social justice and anti-oppression work, sustainable living, building relationships in the wider community, growing in our diversity, fulfilling the promise of our faith.

Once again, I encourage you to reach out to me if you want to talk about the value UUS:E holds in your life and how it informs your sense of faith. Thank you for your continued commitment to UUS:E and your generosity toward this year's annual appeal. We can't do what we do without you!!

With love,
Rev. Josh



Wanted: Archivist/Historian For UUS:E

For many years, we were fortunate to have Lynn Chirico as our historian and archivist, but now we are looking for someone who can take over this responsibility.

Most of our historical documents and photos, many in binders, are housed in the new credenza as well as filing cabinets in the back room. However, since Lynn's passing we need someone who is willing to be in charge of 50 years' worth of our historical memorabilia. Unfortunately, over the years much has been lost because members had significant items in their homes and were unaware of who was keeping track of our history, so things were thrown out. Lynn did a great job, but there is much more to do.

If you would like to be considered for this responsibility, please contact Rev. Josh or our President, Peggy Webbe.

Pondering Faith

A Religious Education Message from Paula Baker

Unsure of how to fill the RE Committee's corner of the newsletter this month, I turned to the March worship theme for inspiration. Renewing Faith. Nope. Nothing. Still uninspired. When I think of renewal, I think "chore." Waiting in line at the DMV springs to mind. Membership expirations, my AAA card, a magazine...I want to keep them going, but generally there's a card to fill out or a website to visit. Not necessarily heavy lifting, but just one more thing to add to an already overflowing "to-do" list. Okay, maybe the word faith is more inspiring? No. Still nothing. "Keep the faith!" "Ya gotta have faith!" To my ear, the word has been reduced to a bumper stick or song lyric (although it really worked for George Michael). Despite that though, and no pun intended, I do have faith that it's much more profound than that.

So, I decided to just sit with the words for a moment, let them sink a bit deeper. I have a brief wrestling match with my psyche and manage to let the "to-do" list go for a moment, having faith—there's that word again—that contemplation is actually a very restorative thing to do. Renewing Faith. Renewing Faith. Gradually I started to feel the words rather than just give them a cursory read. Settling into the words, I started to think about the times that I've acted on faith, times that my faith has been shaken or lost, and moments or experiences that helped restore and renew my faith. Now I'm getting somewhere.

I think about the first time my family attended UUS:E. I think about dropping my daughter Sadie off at her first Youth Group meeting and her first RE class. I was really nervous! She didn't know anyone; we didn't know anyone. Well, that's not entirely true—we had met Josh nearly a decade before, when our kids were in day care together as toddlers. We learned he was some sort of pastor or minister, at some sort of church called Unitarian Universalism. We would hear more about it during conversations at day care events or birthday parties, and Josh and his wife seemed very cool. And more importantly, this church of theirs seemed amazing. A place that could actually fit my husband—Jewish yet decidedly anti-organized religion, and me—raised Roman Catholic, with a fond remembrance of family time on Sunday and

the traditions and rituals and hymns, just not so much with the actual teachings. But this UU place seemed to share our values and from what I had learned, was a community that might be the "village" I imagined for our daughter. I had...faith? Nine or ten years passed without me acting on that faith, but as my daughter got older and started to ask the big questions, I felt the time had come. But to walk into a completely unfamiliar place of worship?? Would we know when to sit versus when to kneel? Would there be songs we wouldn't know the words to? What about the gestures—would we be the idiots that crossed ourselves when we were supposed to touch our hearts or something? What if we had to come forward and introduce ourselves? I vividly remember sitting in the pews of our church as a kid, and when the time came to recite the long passage "Glory to God in the Highest..."—that separated the men from the boys—the regulars from the casual visitors. If you could recite it from memory, without looking at the words, you were IN. Would it be like that?? So how did we make it through those doors on the first day? Faith. I knew, more than my husband or daughter I think, that it would be fine. It would be more than fine. We were greeted with open arms, with a "joyful, heartfelt, enthusiastic, ebullient" welcome.

Faith got us through the doors. And every time we attend a service, or I see my daughter with her youth group friends, or I help with an activity or attend a committee meeting, my faith is renewed. The world feels scary right now, the planet is unwell, and raising a teenager, caring for an aging parent, holding a demanding job...these things often shake my faith in myself and humanity. But I am endlessly grateful for that fact that in the UUS:E community, I always find my faith renewed.

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 President's Column

The Joy and Spiritual Work of UUS:E Committees and Teams

Have you ever wondered how UUS:E accomplishes all the things it does? Our paid staff (Rev. Josh, Gina, our Director of Religious Education for children and youth, Mary, our Director of Music, Annie, our Office Manager, Jane, our Building Manager and Heather, our Administrative Assistant to Gina) are the frontline people who direct and manage our many activities and programs. But, behind the scenes are many volunteer members and friends who carry out the nitty-gritty tasks of planning Sunday services, teaching our children, raising the funds necessary to pay our bills, caring for our members and friends when they need help, managing our finances, and playing music and singing in our choir, among much other volunteer work. In fact, our church, as with many non-profit organizations, is fueled by the energy and talent of many unseen folks without whom, our beloved UUS:E would wither.

While volunteers are the lifeblood of UUS:E, their work is not without reward. In fact, many folks find an outlet for their creativity and their expertise, which builds their connection to and understanding of the role Unitarian Universalism plays in making the world a better place. There is a spiritual connection to volunteer work as well, as we see our children adopt and live the values of our seven Principles, hear their voices raised in song, see the glow on people's faces as we engage in community activities like the Fair, the Auction and yes, our Sunday services. This spiritual connection grounds us in our traditions and rituals, asks us to do the inner work of why and how we can be better human beings, be more loving and compassionate, while allowing us to offer our gifts of knowledge, experience and leadership. Volunteer work in our Teams and Committees allows us to faithfully risk new ways of doing things and growing through learning and working with others on common goals.

There are many opportunities to get involved with committees and teams. The first few pages of our Directory list each committee and team and their leaders and members. Most committees now meet virtually and likely will continue to offer virtual meetings to accommodate parents and others not able to always attend meetings in person. Most

committees need new members. We need young and old people, people of all abilities, gender identities, and ethnicities. We want the broadest possible representation of our congregation engaged in realizing the dream of beloved community. It is only with the talent and energy of our volunteers that we can bring the liberating message of Unitarian Universalism to the world that needs us so. Please attend a committee meeting (or two) to see if you can engage in their mission! On behalf of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, Stan McMillen

Goods & Services Auction

Save the Date!

The Annual Goods & Services Auction is set for the afternoon of Saturday, May 14, 2022. We are planning for an outdoor event at the meetinghouse with fun for all ages and featuring a Cookie Competition. Do you have a winning recipe? Enter the competition! It's time also to start thinking about what you want to donate—raffle baskets, dinners, group activities, lessons, services, and select items that need a new home. Interested in joining the committee? We could use volunteers and new ideas. Contact us at auction@uuse.org.

Widening the Circle of Concern

A Six-Month Adult Study Program

Widening the Circle of Concern is the title of the 2020 report from the UUA's Commission on Institutional change. The work of the commission included conducting an audit of the power structures with Unitarian Universalism in an attempt to understand how they perpetuate systemic racism and white supremacy culture. It's not too late to join this 12-session study group. Rev. Josh will be facilitating this group that will meet every other Thursday evening to work through the report's Study Guide. We'll begin on Zoom and hopefully move to in-person meetings. Click [here](#) to read and/or listen to the report. Contact Rev. Josh at minister@uuse.org or 860-652-8961 if you'd like to join this effort.

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

- March 8: **The Warmth of Other Suns**, Isabel Wilkerson
- April 12: **The Parable of the Sower**, Octavia Butler
- May 10: **Clock Dance**, Ann Tyler



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.

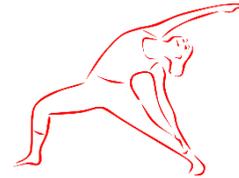


Community Drum Circle

First and Third Mondays
in the Sanctuary
(depending on COVID restrictions)
7:00 – 8:30 PM

Open to all levels of ability and experience. Facilitator Mary Ertel provides djembe drums and other hand instruments, and you may bring your own.

Contact Paul Cocuzzo at pcocuzzo@gmail.com or 978-270-2056 with questions or to reserve a drum. Or even better, check out our [Meetup](#).



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.

We meet on 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.

We meet on 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 more information. January – October meets fourth Thursday at 4:30 PM.

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

Unitarian Universalist Society: East
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Manchester, CT 06042