

# 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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## Sunday Services Schedule

April Ministry Theme: Awakening

In April we expect to continue expanding attendance at our hybrid Sunday services. As long as the COVID data continues its downward trend, this should be possible. The 9:00 service is in-person only. The 11:00 service is in-person and online. 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](mailto: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](mailto:e-news@uuse.org) or contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office to arrange another method of receiving relevant information.

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### 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 (or re-awakening) in you?

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### April 10: "If I Win, Do You Lose?."

Through stories appropriate for all ages, for this service we will present the concepts of racism, white privilege, and its perpetuation by the belief in the Zero-Sum Bias that many of us hold. There is hope of overcoming this through the power and healing in more diverse communities.

**Speakers and Coordinators:** Stacey Musulin and Alan Ayers

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### April 17: "Lo, the Day of Days is Here."

Join us for our All Congregation Easter music service! Celebrate. This morning we celebrate Easter and the arrival of spring with beautiful music, and a telling of "The Birds' Gift: A Ukrainian Easter Story."

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

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### April 24: "Earth Day: Hope as an Action."

Members and friends of the Sustainable Living Committee commemorate Earth Day by telling their stories about what gives them hope for our planet and how hope is connected to action.

**Contributors:** various members of SLC

**Coordinator:** Beth Hudson-Hankins

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### May 1: "To Be Announced (With Great Enthusiasm)."

This morning's sermon was purchased at the 2022 UUS:E Goods and Services Auction by Stan McMillen. We still don't know what the topic is, but we can assure you that Stan has considered more than 50 possible topics.

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

## Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for April 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 will go to the [CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence](#).

Please contact Louisa Graver at [lgraver163@gmail.com](mailto:lgraver163@gmail.com), David Lacoss, or Nancy Madar at [nancymadar@hotmail.com](mailto:nancymadar@hotmail.com).

Checks made out to UUS:E will be treated as follows. If the memo line:

- ✓ is blank or "pledge" is written, all will go toward your pledge.
- ✓ has "COM" or the name of the charity is on the memo line, all will go to the charity.
- ✓ has "1/2 pledge, 1/2 COM," it will be divided equally.

## 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    |

## Goods & Services Auction



### The 2022 Goods & Services Auction and Cookie Competition

#### Online Silent Auction May 3-13, 2022

Live Auction, Cookie Contest and More Saturday, May 14 from 2-4 PM outdoors at the meetinghouse. (Rain date May 21)

#### Silent Auction Details

- Silent Auction online bidding opens May 3 at 8 AM and runs through May 13 at 10 PM.
- Find Treasure! Bid on a wide assortment of local business & restaurant gift cards, private lessons or services from talented experts, and exciting outings of all kinds. Plus all sorts of unique items you can only find at UUS:E.

#### Cookie Competition & Live Auction Event

- Come socialize! Join us on Saturday May 14 on the meetinghouse grounds for our first ever Cookie Competition. Sample as many as you want and vote for your favorite. There will be fun activities for adults and children in addition to the live auction. It will be so good to gather in beloved community once again. If you would like to enter the cookie competition, click [here](#).
- Exclusive Live Auction Items
- Places at dinners offered by members, the fabulous live auction items like Rev. Josh's sermon, and bidding on baskets will only be available at the live event on May 14.

#### Donate!

- What can you contribute to auction off at this extraordinary event? Could you teach, repair, entertain, bake? Share your talent in other ways? Email [auction@uuse.org](mailto:auction@uuse.org) with the details. To donate, click [here](#).

- Contact merchants to ask for donations. If you love a place, others will, too. Email [auction@uuse.org](mailto:auction@uuse.org) to get a copy of the donation request letter to give to the merchant.

#### Enter the Cookie Competition!

- Who makes the best cookie? Enter your tried-and-true family recipe or a new experiment you've been wanting to try. There will be prizes for the general, vegan and gluten-free categories. Bragging rights and a beautiful UUS:E Master Cookie Baker Apron are up for grabs for the winners! Entry is limited, so contact [auction@uuse.org](mailto:auction@uuse.org) ASAP to reserve your spot in the competition.

#### Lend a Hand!

- The Auction Committee would greatly appreciate an hour of your time to help this event run smoothly! We need help with set up, clean up and during the event. Contact [auction@uuse.org](mailto:auction@uuse.org) if you can take a shift.

#### Thank you from the Auction Committee—

Susan Gabriele, Carolyn Gimbrone, Jennifer Klee, Chris Larson, Stan McMillen & Nancy Pappas



### Trouble Zooming In?

Some UUS:E congregants have reported not being able to sign into meetings either because they aren't receiving the Zoom links or have trouble making the link work. While some of these issues may be with the person's own computer system, there have been instances where someone has been inadvertently dropped from the distribution list of the Company that manages our E-blasts. If you think this may have happened to you, contact Annie Gentile at 860-646-5151.

## The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones:

For this month's column, I am reaching back to a meditation I wrote about April in the early years of my ministry. This mediation appears in the book, **Hear the Earth Call**, which Duffy Schade, Sharon Gresk, and I published in 2017. I find it speaks well to our April ministry theme of **awakening**, and to all the layers of meaning we encounter in spring. It's called "April Rains and Breezes and Muddies." Enjoy!

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April rains and breezes and muddies its way into our New England lives. April's sun shines on our backs, bringing warmth, bringing moments precious, joyful and serene. We proclaim to strangers, Ah, what wonderful weather, finally, though our hearts long to say even more: I feel so alive! I am full of life. I am filled with life. I am alive all over. I am thankful, thankful, thankful for this gift of life.

Like ritual fire April purifies. Like ritual water April cleanses. April wipes our eyes clear of winter grime and grit, winter sand and salt. April wakes us up fresh and alert. Like Passover, April calls us to leave all our states of bondage, to wander, to embrace the wilderness. Like Easter, April releases us from all our blue tombs, releases us from old, outworn anxieties, leaves behind old selves, looks us forward to our lives in new shapes with new challenges.

April is a proclamation. Hear ye, hear ye! It is time to let go of those old, painful ways, those old, unfounded fears, those tired winter bodies, those touching but untenable childhood dreams, those unworkable situations that no longer serve us well. Let go and live again, a new self, a wiser self, a healed self, a truer self. Let go of that which does not matter, and in the new spaces you create, listen as April rain pours down on hard dark pavement. Listen to the rhythm of rain, the voice of Creation—Nature's voice—and know the most important things in life—the eternal things—will always be with you through all your times of letting go, through all your times of change and transition. Listen for a moment to April and blend your spirit with the vastness. Listen for a moment to April and know you belong in this universe. Listen for a moment to April, and know you belong to life.

Listen for a moment to April and know you are home.

Amen and Blessed Be.

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As pandemic restrictions and fears continue to recede, as we continue the slow, bumpy transition to post-pandemic life, as spring arrives fully in New England, my prayer for each of you as that you will experience the spiritual potency of this season, that you will awaken. From winter's rest into spring's rebirth, may you awaken!

With love,

Rev. Josh



### A Little Support...

For people dealing with aging parents, either at a distance or at home. Let's come together to talk about how we negotiate the challenges of our parents' changing abilities. This can affect other family relationships and our own sense of how we want to age. We will gather by Zoom for some informal conversation facilitated by Beth Hankins, who frequently wonders how to help her parents and mother-in-law. Date: Thursday April 21 at 7:00. Please email [bhudsonhankins@hotmail.com](mailto:bhudsonhankins@hotmail.com) with **A Little Support** in the subject line and Beth will send you the link.

## 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 Anhard 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](mailto:minister@uuse.org).

## Attention Lawbreakers:

### "Smile, you're on camera!"

That could well be a sign posted outside the meeting house in just a few months! UUS:E has received a state funded grant to install a video security system. Last winter, the UUS:E Emergency Preparedness Team (EPT) submitted a grant application to the state of Connecticut for non-profit organizations to enhance security of their facilities. Most people don't want to even think about disasters and emergencies, but the EPT had begun to work on a new section of its Emergency Plan. Following national FEMA guidelines, this new "Mitigation Section" deals with putting systems in place that can not only reduce the chance that an emergency can happen, but also reduce the damage and injuries when an emergency does occur. The EPT had already focused on several mitigation projects. One of these projects is the installation of seven video cameras covering the parking lot and all entrances to the building, a small console to monitor and record each of these cameras, and a battery system to allow it to run when and if the power is out. Also included for funding is an electronic buzzer system so Annie can open the locked outside administrative door safely from her desk. On February 9 we were informed that the \$11,500 grant had been approved. We will have a year to complete the installation of the system. But at some time in the months ahead, anyone coming in to do mischief or vandalism not only will be dissuaded spotting the cameras on the roof, but if damage is done, there will be video evidence.

## 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](mailto:Stanley.McMillen@Uconn.edu) or 860-603-3961



## Green Sanctuary News

The Sustainable Living Committee has been hosting a couple of book discussions that deal with Hope for the community of Earth. Our first discussion On Feb 27 was on reading Jane Goodall's **The Book of Hope**, and the second discussion on March 27 will be on Katherine Hayhoe's **Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World**. These are both very readable, eye-opening and optimistic books. Anyone seeing this prior to 1:00 on March 27 is welcome to contact me, Janet Heller [janet.heller@snet.net](mailto:janet.heller@snet.net), for the zoom link and join in the discussion whether you have read the book or not.

Our Earth Day service this year on April 24 will be on Hope is an Action. Reading these two books and helping to plan our service has given me a lot to think about. I come away with the realization that real hope takes action, and action shares hope, and inspires more action. Healing the Earth of all the chaos already happening from climate change takes a lot of hope in action. The first action may be to TALK about it with others. Any action small or large may lead to more actions and give us more hope leading to necessary larger actions in community with others.

Think about actions you are now taking or plan to take. By Earth Day maybe you will be ready to share some Hope in Action. Here are a few ideas:

- Read one or both the books mentioned above, and talk with others about the ideas.
- Be sure all your light bulbs are LEDs - the most energy efficient.
- Figure out ways to drive less. One way is to carpool.
- Have an Energy Audit and then Electrify your home and vehicles wherever possible.
- Replace one older gas appliance with a highly efficient electric or heat pump model.
- Eat a fully or increasingly plant-based diet.
- Break a single-use take-out, plastic-based, throw-away habit.

- Wash clothes in cold water and use a clothesline when possible to dry.
- When replacing a car choose a fully electric or plug-in hybrid model.
- Join a climate, environmental or sustainability group and volunteer.
- Garden organically and grow some of your own food.
- Contact local, state and federal leaders and support needed legislation such as write Biden and your members of Congress

The Sustainable Living Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM on Zoom. Let Mary Lawrence [weltonwheels@hotmail.com](mailto:weltonwheels@hotmail.com) know if you are interested in joining a meeting, and she will be sure you get the link and meeting information. Our next meeting is April 12.

## International Women's Day UU News

If you are like me, International Women's Day almost slipped by on March 8, 2022, without me being fully aware of all the exciting ways that women around the world are being celebrated for their achievements—and how much more needs to be done to foster equality for them. However, an interesting article came across my desk from UUA International re: Celebrating International Women's Day In India . [Celebrating International Women's Day in India | International Unitarian Universalism | UUA.org](#)

This article explains the long ties that Unitarian Universalists have had with India stretching back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the formation of the Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Program (UUHIP) in 1984. ([UU Holdeen India Program | Holdeen India Program | International Justice and Action | UUA.org](#)) The Holdeen India Program provides aid for humanitarian initiatives and social enterprises that advance the prosperity of all of India's people. Hundreds of education, livelihood development, and humanitarian relief projects have received UUHIP support. The UUA article is an interesting read, and I was happy to learn of the efforts that some UUs are making to help women in India via the Holdeen India Program.

—Carrie Kocher

## The President's Column

### Widening Your Own Circle

Have you ever felt "left out?" Like everyone else was more popular? Wealthier? Lived in a more luxurious house? Was more athletic? More attractive?... And the list goes on. Being outside "the circle" is a painful place to be.

Have you ever felt that you were part of a "group" that could never get ahead because of your ethnicity? skin-color? religion? accent? Being prevented from joining the institutionally "advantaged" is a demoralizing place to be.

Discrimination or conscious and unconscious prejudices are common on many different levels. It is part of being human; "I like chocolate ice cream better than strawberry." But there are biases that we may also have towards other people that are unfounded, cruel and create an inequitable society.

We have recently focused on institutional racism and how its existence through generations has cemented in place an unfair societal structure for "non-white" people. Large portions of our population have suffered for centuries now as barriers to accessing the "good life" have systematically excluded them. Indeed, we are currently discussing the adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> principle to address this problem.

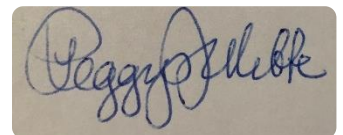
People with disabilities suffer without justification as the "able-bodied" make assumptions about their capabilities and talents that have nothing to do with their disability. If you haven't been to the FDR Memorial in Washington D.C., make sure to put it on your travel list. The great president presides over the park from his wheelchair. He never allowed this to be seen during his lifetime; "how could a wheelchair-bound person lead this country and the world?" Or so the prejudice goes...but he did!

Sexism may be the oldest and most ubiquitous of prejudicial exclusions. Progress has been made but the long-held stereotypes still seem intractable. Those outside of the traditional gender or sexuality norms have and still do encounter unfair and nonsensical bias. In the past, even the psychiatric/psychological professions (whose mission is to alleviate mental suffering) promoted the prejudices.

I recently conferred with one of our wise UUS:E confregants who shared this wisdom with us all:

"For me, widening the circle connotes acceptance and inclusion of marginalized groups (BIPOC, women, LGBT folx, working class citizens, etc.) and centering those margins so all voices can be heard and validated; it means learning from others who may not come from the same background or experience as we do, but appreciating the value that all bring to the table; offering a seat at that table for all."

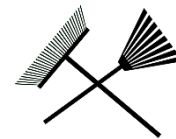
So, how do we bring others into our circle on a personal level and as a congregation? Perhaps by pondering that others may feel as we did when we were on the outside, then we will know how to reach out. As a congregation, maybe we can ask potential or new friends and members how we could help them feel a part of us.



Peggy Webbe

### Musical Pet Memorial

The Music Salon offers the opportunity for members and friends to honor a beloved pet through a musical performance. If your pet has passed away, select a piece of music that you like and the musicians will perform while photos of your pet are projected onto a screen. You may say a few words about your pet as well. We like to have one pet memorial at each salon. Our next Salon is Friday, April 29 at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in participating in the pet memorial, please contact Peggy Webbe or Mary Bopp.



### 2022 Spring Clean-up

Sponsored by Building & Grounds Committee

Where: UUS:E

When: Saturday, April 30

Time: 9:00 AM – noon

Celebrate spring, reconnect, prep the grounds for summer. An outdoor, active, sociable, family-friendly event. Bring gloves and garden tools (we also have some to lend).

Snacks provided!

Contact Cory Clark or Jane Osborn with questions.

## History Group

### Interested in joining us?

Interested in history? Always wanted to be a librarian/archivist? Are you someone who would like a role in UUS:E congregational life that offers flexibility and creativity and in which your organizational skills and attention to detail will be valued and appreciated?

The History Group is brand new and looking for people to join us. No amount of time is too small. UUS:E is over 50 years old, and we have a lot of articles, pictures, memorabilia, records, etc. that need to be organized and catalogued. Moreover, we need to come up with a good system for preserving our history going forward.

This effort was generously started and maintained by late UUS:E member Lynn Chirico with the help of some founding members of the congregation. With Lynn's passing the torch is ready to be passed to a new group of members and friends who love our community and want to keep its history alive for generations to come.

For more information or to join our group please contact either Carrie Kocher at [misscarrie29@gmail.com](mailto:misscarrie29@gmail.com) or Elise Cotrone at [elisecotrone@yahoo.com](mailto:elisecotrone@yahoo.com).

### 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.

## "Safe Streets" for Whom?

Learn About the "Safe Streets CT" Dangerous Disinformation Campaign

Many of us supported the Black Lives Matter movement by appearing at rallies, carrying signs, demanding justice and calling for police reforms. UUS:E, as part of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), is now offering another opportunity for education and action. Connecticut voters are currently the target of a misinformation campaign designed to roll back successful reforms in youth and criminal justice and to unseat politicians who appear weak on crime. "Safe Streets CT" is using a recent increase in car thefts to attribute them to urban youth (code for black and brown young people) in order to pass harsher, more punitive laws. Our commitment to social justice calls us to understand this issue and act effectively. UUS:E is offering two dates to view a video provided by GHIAA and organize against the "Safe Streets CT" political strategy.

Please plan to attend in-person on Tuesday, 4/12/2022 at 2:00 at the UUS:E Sanctuary or by Zoom on Thursday 4/14/2022 at 7:00. Watch for the zoom link in an upcoming eblast.

## Interested in GA?

**June 22-26, 2022 in Portland, OR**

Summer will be here before we know it and with it the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (GA). This year's GA will be a hybrid assembly, meaning it will take place both in-person and online. GA is the annual meeting of delegates from member congregations across the country to conduct denominational business and to enjoy workshops, fellowship, music and worship together. The link [General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting | UUA.org](https://www.uua.org/annual-meeting) offers information about registration, housing and travel, programs and schedules, virtual participation, and other important items. Please note that under the sidebar link for Registration there are further detailed links for those interested in choir participation, volunteering opportunities, and special information for high school youth and children's programs. You are encouraged to learn more about GA and consider participating in this once-a-year event in the life of our UU denomination. For more information you may contact Carrie Kocher, Denominational Affairs, at [misscarrie29@gmail.com](mailto:misscarrie29@gmail.com).



## Planting Seeds of Peace and Hope

### A Religious Education Message from Heather Alexson

"When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope."

-Wangari Maathai

Twelve years ago, in late January, I walked my private, 5-acre wood with an arborist. We were assessing the forest landscape for a managed tree harvest. We carefully considered the broader relationship among the trees, plants, water sources and our goals for growth.

The dense canopy had grown quite tall leaving the sun-starved understory thin and scattered. Tall, robust sugar maples, white oak, ash and hickory had long sheltered young seedlings from the sun's harsh rays, their thick branches and leaves broke heavy rains into gentle drops that moistened the tender roots below. Years of hungry woodpeckers weathered large boughs, weakening their hold on the strong trunks. They cracked under heavy snow and winter winds, crashing through the canopy to the hard crust of snow and ice beneath. Nearby trees barely quivered from the thunderous waves of the fallen; their roots run deep and intertwine under the frozen earth.

We went ahead with the harvest, choosing the tallest and best marketable trees, leaving healthy, strong 'mother' trees to seed their replacements. Our goals were to open the canopy and allow more sunlight into our dark, mossy landscape and encourage the growth of the understory species for increased biodiversity and future sustainable harvests.

More than a decade later, the open canopy has brought more sun, more room to grow, and more opportunity for other native species to move in and thrive. So large was the presence of the trees we harvested that their weathered stumps still dot the landscape today. This is a testament to their hardiness and the depth of their roots. It must seem a sad tale to see the remnants of a stately grove that will no longer sprout branches or bud and shed leaves, nor will they shade birds and tree frogs or pepper the earth with acorns for stockpiling squirrels.

I have watched over these stumps for forty-eight seasons. They crack and crumble under the heat of summer sun, the crisp, dewy mornings of autumn,

the icy chill of winter, and the soggy, warmth of spring afternoons. Mushrooms bloom overnight, their frilly gills bloating below bulbous caps like the bellows of amorous frogs. Moss and lichen cling to the surfaces like barnacles on the broken hull of a boat, stuck in the sand through the ebb and flow of tides. Pill bugs, centipedes and other denizens of rotting wood scurry away from the hammering bill beneath the bright, red crest of a determined Pileated woodpecker who leaves craters in the softened wood. These hollows are cozy dens for the bumpy toad that settles in for the night with a belly full of worms.

The morning dew glistens, hanging onto the tender leaves of an array of jewelweed that sprouts tall within the crevices atop the stump, forming a miniature forest for the tiny spiders that weave a tapestry of silk among the succulent stems and branches. Cuts from the chainsaw are grayed and cracked, a silent scar beneath the broken hickory hulls of a chipmunk's breakfast nook. Among the shadows of the spongy roots, leaning against the trunk and reaching toward the warm April sun, a pale-green, spiral stem and two tender leaves emerge from a splitting acorn shell.

I have observed these stumps through twelve years and have come to a deeper understanding of their integral significance to the life cycle of the forest. This was not the death of stoic giants, but the birth and growth of a community that sustains the life of the forest in perpetuity and generational abundance.

As we awaken from Winter's cold embrace, we rub the sleep from our eyes and look to the horizon with warm and longer days, our hearts freed spirits and full of wanderlust. We're very happy to be gathering in the Garden Level again and exploring our Unitarian principles with the big and small acorns who participate in RE Sundays. These seeds of peace and hope are an integral part of the UUS:E community. Sustenance and strength from all its members are necessary to grow, thrive and make connections to a larger community. As you start putting things on calendars and re-connecting to the wider world, please consider becoming a volunteer for religious education programming. We look forward to reconnecting with the UUS:E community

## Books, Classes, and Discussions

Adult Religious Education



### Book Lovers

The Book Lovers meets second Tuesdays at 3:30 on Zoom. Ask Martha Larson ([marlar@wordshard.com](mailto:marlar@wordshard.com)) for the Zoom sign in.

Goodreads descriptions:

[https://www.goodreads.com/review/list/130686405-paul-cocuzzo?ref=nav\\_mybooks&shelf=uuse-book-lovers](https://www.goodreads.com/review/list/130686405-paul-cocuzzo?ref=nav_mybooks&shelf=uuse-book-lovers)

- 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](mailto: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](mailto:SBarlow627@aol.com). Yoga is one of the UUS:E adult education offerings. For the time being, masks are required inside the building.

### "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](mailto:mininster@uuse.org) for the Zoom link.

We meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 4:30 PM.

## 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](mailto:mininster@uuse.org) for the Zoom link.

We meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 4:30 PM.

## Science and Religion Discussion Group

Fourth Thursdays at 4:30 PM

April topic/book: **Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing**

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](mailto:lindakduncan@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

Upcoming topics...

May: Groupthink/Abilene Paradox

Jun: Near Death Experiences

Jul: Emerging Energy Technology

Aug: Under Your Feet – Panpsychism

Sep: Misogyny and the Roots of Chauvinism – Religion

Oct: Quantum Mechanics

N/D: Creating God



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

**UUS:E GENERAL INFORMATION**

**UUS:E Office Schedule:** Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Meetinghouse Office:** 860-646-5151

**Office Administrator:** Annie Gentile email: [uuseoffice@uuse.org](mailto:uuseoffice@uuse.org)

**Minister:** Rev. Joshua Pawelek 860-652-8961, [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 10 AM to 7 PM and Thursday 10 AM to 4 PM

**President:** Peggy Webbe, 860-871-8035, [peggywebbe@gmail.com](mailto:peggywebbe@gmail.com)

**Director of Religious Education:**

Gina Campellone, 860-875-8468, [redirector@uuse.org](mailto:redirector@uuse.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Paul Cocuzzo, 978-270-2056, [newsletter@uuse.org](mailto:newsletter@uuse.org)

**Website Coordinator:** Carol Marion 860-643-8765, [uuse.web@uuse.org](mailto:uuse.web@uuse.org)

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

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

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