

# 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

June Ministry Theme: Celebrating Blessings

In June we expect to continue with our recent COVID-19 protocols, welcoming 60 people to both Sunday services, with overflow space for 15 more. Our mask mandate is still in effect, and we look forward to the day when we can safely offer coffee hour for adults and snacks for kids indoors! Once the BA.2 omicron variant begins to recede, our Emergency Preparedness Team hopes to propose a further loosening of restrictions. The 9:00 service is in-person only. The 11:00 service is in-person and online. Please watch our eblasts for further information. And if you think you've missed an important announcement, 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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### June 5: "Pride, Youth-Style!"

The UUS:E Youth Group and Rev. Josh offer a Sunday service in celebration of Pride Month. With role-playing, reflection, and music, we share our experiences of living in a world that is at once open to GLBTQ people, and yet still painfully intolerant.

**Coordinators:** UUS:E Youth Group and Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### June 12: "Celebrating Blessings?"

Our ministry theme for June is celebrating blessings. Such a celebration is indeed the goal of this service. However, Rev. Josh confesses that due to recent national events, he's not feeling very celebratory. What will he say in his last official sermon of the 2021-2022 congregational year?

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### June 19: "Religious Education Sunday."

It's been a wild ride! Over the past year we've held RE in the parking lot, the field, the sanctuary, the chapel, online, and occasionally we even managed to hold it in an actual classroom! While the pandemic may have dictated where we could safely gather, we didn't let it stop us from learning, loving, and laughing together. Please join us for a celebratory service that includes a "year in review"

slideshow, volunteer recognition, and a bridging ceremony.

**Coordinator:** Gina Campellone

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### June 26: "The Mythical Jesus."

What do you believe about Jesus, the central figure of Christianity? Do you believe in the historical Jesus, or do you believe Jesus is a mythical character? Hear David Klotz present his perspective on Jesus as a mythical person.

**Coordinators:** David Klotz and Marsha Howland

## Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for June 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 June will be split between Mary's Place and Covenant to Care.

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

## "The Glass is Refillable:

### Community Care During Difficult Times"

A Workshop with CB Beal / Saturday, June 4, 9:00 to Noon

(Sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Committee and Rev. Josh Pawelek)

See [uuse.org](http://uuse.org) for registration information



**Who and What:** CB Beal will lead participants in a grounded, thoughtful experience with humor and a light touch about the complex reality of engaging in community care during difficult times.

**Why:** Human physiology—our brains and bodies—reacts to the damaging and dangerous events in our lives such as pandemic, police violence, personal injury, or loss of bodily autonomy in our legal system. Humans can regulate our emotions together, whether by accident of circumstance or with intention. Humans often get upset together and we can ground and calm together. Intentionally co-regulating is a community skill many of us were never taught in families that prioritized pretense or image over emotional presence, or in a culture based on white supremacy and patriarchy that prioritized denial and compliance over emotional processing.

**How:** CB will facilitate an experience that invites us to engage one another, bear witness, and enjoy fun learning activities. Community Care means that we mindfully tell the truth about what is difficult, and that we listen carefully to others and affirm their experiences. We will breathe together, practice slowing down, choose to prioritize need over preference, and then slow down more when needs appear to be in conflict.

**Note:** This will be the first in-person congregational workshop CB has done since before the pandemic. Being in-person will enable us to be present with one another, to be reflective and curious, to move our bodies together in space and

learn together, present and grounded -- practicing community care. For the Sake of Inclusion:

- Please come to this workshop wearing no fragrances (other than the natural scents of some body products such as coconut or jojoba oils.)
- Please come to this workshop wearing a well-fitted N95 quality mask to ensure we are doing everything possible to protect those most vulnerable to Covid. (Two-way high quality masking increases the safety for vulnerable people between 10-100 times—depending on how well fitted they are—over that of a single vulnerable person wearing an N95 quality mask.)
- There is a \$10 donation to attend this workshop. If you are not in a position to make the donation, please contact Rev. Josh Pawelek.

## Help Wanted:

### Sunday Morning Zoom Hosts

The UUS:E Sunday Services, Membership, and Communications & Technology Committees are **still** jointly seeking 5-6 people to serve as Zoom hosts for our 11:00 Sunday services.

What is a Zoom host? It's a very simple, though very important position. The Zoom host welcomes all the online guests to the service; shares important links, such as the link to the visitor welcome card, or to any upcoming events; monitors the Zoom participants for disruptive behavior (Zoom-bombing), which has yet to happen, but is always a possibility; communicates with the tech people at UUS:E if there is a problem online they may not know about; and sets up breakout rooms at the end of the service. The Zoom host may eventually share the online joys and concerns with the congregation in the sanctuary. Best of all—this job can be done from home, or from one of the offices at UUS:E. Each Zoom host will be assigned to work one Sunday a month. Questions? Interested? Contact Rev. Josh at [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org) or (860) 646-5151.

## **GHIAA Statement**

Statement from the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance in response to the May 14 White Supremacist Mass Shooting in Buffalo, NY

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We first lift up the names of those who perished:

Aaron Salter, 55  
Pearly Young, 77  
Deacon Heyward Patterson, 67  
Ruth Whitfield, 86  
Katherine Massey, 72  
Celestine Chaney, 65  
Roberta A. Drury, 32  
Andre Mackneil, 53  
Margus D. Morrison, 52  
Geraldine Talley, 62

Greetings in the Name of all that is Good and Holy:

The Center for Leadership and Justice and GHIAA are heartbroken and angry in the wake of the White supremacist mass shooting in Buffalo this past weekend. Yet again, our nation's complicity with racism and racist violence is on full display, as a young White man steeped in the sinful ideology of Replacement Theory donned tactical gear, drove 200 miles, and carried out a vicious and cowardly attack on a grocery store that is a hub of Buffalo's Black community, massacring people who were shopping for food. The trauma of this act is devastating. It extends far beyond Buffalo, to every place where people of color gather, to every place where people should feel safe but cannot in a society that has yet to behave as if Black lives matter.

We condemn this atrocity. We condemn the communities that nurtured the perpetrator. We condemn the ideology of Replacement Theory that fueled his paranoid and misguided rage. We condemn politicians and pundits who pay lip service to Replacement Theory and then take no responsibility in response to such an atrocity.

We also pray. We pray for the victims, that their senseless deaths will result in a more just and loving society. We pray for their families, that they may find comfort and solace in the difficult days ahead. We pray for the people of Buffalo, that they may emerge from this crisis stronger, more powerful, more resilient. We pray for all people victimized by White supremacist violence or the threat of White supremacist violence. We pray that

our nation will rise up against White supremacy and destroy it once and for all.

We are heartbroken. We are angry. We know it is critical that we offer more than condemnation and prayers. As an intentionally multiracial, multi-religious organization, we know that our members are impacted in various ways by this horrific act. Our hearts are especially with our members of color and our Jewish and Muslim members for whom this atrocity is a deeply visceral reminder that the demons of White supremacy are tenacious and ever-present. Our hearts are also with our White members as they wrestle with complicity and commit to the work of antiracism, unmasking these harmful ideologies wherever they may raise their ugly heads, and challenging the leaders and policies that support them.

We are heartbroken. We are angry. As we wrestle with what impact a faith-based non-profit in Connecticut can have in response to this act of White terrorism, we lift up the organizations in Buffalo who both serve and revolutionize their city. Here is a list of 40 Black-led Buffalo organizations working for justice:

<https://stepoutbuffalo.com/local-charitable-organizations-that-support-the-black-community>.

Please consider supporting one of these groups if you are in a position to do so.

We are heartbroken. We are angry. As we launch our new GHIAA issue slate in the coming months, we pledge to continue our work here in Connecticut, fighting for antiracist social, economic and political transformation, so that people of all races, religions, and God-given identities can live free from the scourge of all manifestations of White supremacy.

We hold Buffalo in our hearts. We are heartbroken. We are angry. And we are more than that. We are committed. We are united. We are powerful. We renew our promise to confront the sin of White supremacy and build peaceful, just, beloved community.

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## The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones:

Our ministry theme for June is **celebrating blessings**. For so many reasons, this is a critical theme for us to reflect on. We ought to take time to celebrate our blessings, lest we forget the good things in our lives! But having said that, I must confess I am not feeling particularly celebratory. Like many of you, I am dreading the demise of *Roe v. Wade* and the coming loss, in so many states, of women's freedom to make decisions about their own bodies. And I am dreading what will likely be attempts at the national level in future years to curtail or end those freedoms in states where they still exist. I am not feeling celebratory. I am preparing emotionally and spiritually for a long struggle. Maybe the blessing I and we need to celebrate is our capacity to know what matters most, and to do whatever is in our power to protect it. Certainly women's freedom to make choices about what happens to their own bodies matters most. Certainly women's health care matters most. Certainly resources for family planning, pre-and post-natal care, and a robust social safety net matter most. Yes, I can celebrate that blessing.

I am deeply saddened, enraged and fearful, in response to the May 14 White supremacist mass shooting in Buffalo. I am in touch with so many colleagues—ministers, rabbis, and imams who are similarly saddened, enraged and fearful. For weeks now, the interfaith clergy conversations have not been about mission, vision, justice, compassion and service as they usually are. The conversation has been about building security, especially for Black churches, synagogues and mosques. In the days following the Buffalo shooting, I had the privilege of helping to write a response on behalf of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance. That statement is included in this newsletter. It features a link where you can donate to Black led organizations in Buffalo who are holding their community together in the wake of this atrocity. Maybe the blessing I and we need to celebrate is our many relationships in the wider community, relationships that serve as a source of strength and mutual aid in difficult times; relationships in which we hold others, and others hold us. Yes, I can celebrate that blessing.

I am not surprised that we've already had 100-degree days in May. I know a few record-breaking

heat waves aren't proof that the planet is warming, but we have the proof 1,000 times over. At the time of writing this column, I am about to meet with my UU clergy study group (our first in-person meeting since the fall of 2019). For this session, we are studying faith-based responses to the climate crisis. I am looking forward to being with colleagues, but I am dreading (there's that word again) that feeling of overwhelm that arises when we learn just how bad the crisis is. Maybe the blessing I and we need to celebrate is that we humans, who have caused this crisis, do still have the capacity to reduce the severity of its inevitable impacts, if we can find the collective, global will. And maybe that is a blessing worth celebrating. There is something in the human spirit that can do this! Yes, I can celebrate that blessing. But it comes with a prayer: may our celebration lead to concerted, sustained, faithful action. There is much at stake.

With love and care,  
Rev. Josh



### Come join us and enjoy the music!

Musicians and listeners are welcome at the June Music Salon Unplugged; June 17, 2022, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. We will meet in-person in the Meetinghouse. Come and play or sing a piece of music, bring a friend...No musician is too advanced or too rusty to share the magic of music with each other. Musicians of all levels are invited to perform. As always, listeners will be welcome. If you would like to participate as a musician or listener, or if you simply want more information, contact Peggy Webbe at [peggywebbe@gmail.com](mailto:peggywebbe@gmail.com) or 860-871-8035. Or contact Mary Bopp at [Marybopp@verizon.net](mailto:Marybopp@verizon.net).

## Green Sanctuary News

### Sun Power

As the weather gets warmer and we head into summer, I've been thinking about something we take for granted: the sun. Plants need sunlight to convert CO<sub>2</sub> to oxygen through photosynthesis. The sun warms the air and dries wet clothes hanging on a clothesline ("magic!" as Paul would say). We can preserve herbs by laying them in the sun to dehydrate. We can make "sun tea" and even cook dinner with a solar oven. The sun can charge a solar lantern that can be used when camping or during a power outage. And if we're fortunate, the sun's energy can be harnessed to produce electricity for our homes.

In the Peas & Love Community Garden we hope for sunny days to warm the soil and damp dewy nights so that seeds will germinate. This year we've planted a Three Sisters garden with heirloom bean, corn, and squash seeds from Baker Creek Seeds. At the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and escalation to war, Baker Creek offered to donate proceeds from seed purchases to [World Help](#), a non-profit organization providing humanitarian aid for Ukrainians displaced by the war. This fundraiser generated \$1.6 million in critical aid.

In the town of Manchester, the Sustainability Commission has established a "Sol-Smart" Designation ("Sol" as in "Solar") to help residents and businesses transition to solar power. The commission will review a list of "trustworthy" solar vendors with the aid of the [Connecticut Green Bank](#) to determine which solar options are feasible. Another idea that was recently proposed was Community Solar Parks that could provide solar for apartments, condos, and houses where it is difficult to implement solar. All of these options are in the works, but if you don't live in Manchester you can also bring these ideas to your town government. You can learn more about Clean Energy initiatives in Connecticut by visiting the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters website here: <http://www.ctlc.org/clean-energy.html>

### Fun Sun(flower) Facts!

Sunflowers are native to the area we call North America and were first grown by indigenous tribes over 5000 years ago. Their scientific name is Helianthus which comes from the Greek words for "sun" (helios) and "flower" (antho). The national flower of Ukraine, the sunflower has become a symbol of solidarity, resistance, and peace.



## Get Connected!

with UUS:E on the Web

**UUS:E WEBSITE** is located at <http://uuse.org>. Here you can find the latest news about our community and upcoming events, basic information about group and committee activities, Rev. Josh's sermons, and much more.

**DIALOGUE FROM HOME** is our ongoing virtual **talkback series** that continues online after each of Rev. Josh's sermons. Whether you want to read along, post your thoughts, and/or engage in dialogue about the topic, you are welcome to join this group. Request a password from Annie, the office administrator, to get access to the discussion. Email [uuse153@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uuse153@sbcglobal.net).

**FACEBOOK!** UUS:E has two Facebook pages where members and friends can share all things UUS:E. Our main site is [www.facebook.com/UUSEast](http://www.facebook.com/UUSEast). You can find out what's going on at UUS:E here. And please share our events to your own page to help spread the word about all of the great things we do!

We also have a second site, UUS:E Happenings, designed specifically to share ideas and events with others in the UUS:E community. Anyone can post here. Is your child going to be in a play? Are you performing a concert? Looking for people to hike with? Post it here! This is a closed group, request to join here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/587066578028806/>

**MEETUP:** We have started a Meetup page! Join our group! Find events, RSVP and more at: <http://www.meetup.com/Unitarian-Universalist-Society-East/>. If you'd like to add an event to the Meetup site, contact Carol Marion at [cmarion333@gmail.com](mailto:cmarion333@gmail.com).

**Rev. Josh** has his own website located at <http://revjoshpawelek.org>

Catch up on his latest writings, community work, and more. You can also follow Rev. Josh on **Twitter @revjoshpawelek**, or connect with him at **LinkedIn** and **Facebook**.

**Weekly eblast** – To sign up, look for the button near the top-right at [uuse.org](http://uuse.org):



Send submissions to [e-news@uuse.org](mailto:e-news@uuse.org)

## The President's Column

Dear UUS:E Friends,

Recently we have focused "beauty" in its many expressions. I took the opportunity to ask several members of the congregation to describe their views on beauty, and I would like to share them with you.

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**from Carol Iczkowski:**

Anything that uplifts me is beautiful—wild flowers and dandelions, Sunday Morning Baroque and Mozart, good wishes, and smiles. And descriptive words that take me into another person's world. An example is one of the daily Facebook messages that my cousin Darlene who lives in rural Wisconsin sends me:

"Oh what a sight. Five female turkeys and one big male struts his stuff in all his glory. What an ego. One of the ladies has extra long legs and a white head. My ladies are back but have not seen the gray lady. One of the five deer went up to a turkey saying "wanta be friends?" "No thank you" was her answer. A new friend just joined the group. A Pileated woodpecker on the suet feeder. It was making a racket all afternoon and decided to come in. A morning dove and black squirrel are here also. This is my world and I love it."

And it is beautiful.

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**from David Lacoss:**

"Two Horses in a Field in Mid-December" by Lance Larsen

These strands of twisting wires keeping horses there and me here is called a fence. Tears form and tears fall from above and we call it rain. If it freezes, as it's trying to do now, we name it snow, even if sun flares from the east as it does in sparkly postcards from Colorado. And this patch of dead grass hurtling through time and tomorrow is part of a blue sphere we call earth. We rarely send earth thank-you notes. It is easier to worry about spiced tea and poinsettias and our cousin's accident and winter solstice and a late mortgage payment and future orgasms and where in the valley one can buy decent focaccia. My left hand is cold, my right hand colder, and I wonder how long can I lean on this fence watching it snow? The wet stuff collects on the back of a white horse, a matching blanket. It falls too on the back of this black mare but immediately melts. This is how mystery and beauty collude, how weather, even the weakest trickle of

sun, fills me with questions. Tonight I will look at the sky and linkwinking stars into creatures and call it astronomy. And I'll look inside and see more broken creatures and call it middle age, call it longing, call it where are all the sweet rivers I used to swim? I'll talk to the dark I'm walking through and call it prayer. I'll chew on it, sing cracked psalms to it, even cough it out, and pretend it has no place in me. But that's for later. Right now, colors are streaming through this camera called the eye, starlings flicking and flirting, flapping and finessing. My hands are still cold, my breath vapor. I'm the only person leaning into this field, this story problem in stillness, one horse white, one black, a little snow, a little sun. How long will earth hold me in its tender mouth? I count backwards from 100. An orange cat weasels by. Robins scrap over a rosehip. I have no idea what I'm counting.

from the journal THE SEWANEE REVIEW

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**from Nancy Walker**

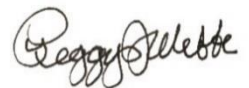
We've all heard that beauty lies in the eye of the beholder. I find objects and people beautiful when they evoke a response within me. Objects of beauty cause me to feel a deep connection to my "better angels," a temporary, tenuous connection to the Divine. Art, music, and poetry move me toward that mystical connection. The deeper the connection, the more beauty I see. My mother's hands were beautiful, although they were knotted with arthritis, because her touch provided a connection to her love. My grandmother's quavering singing was beautiful because her deep faith and joy formed the basis of her songs that reached my heart. Animals and humans can be beautiful. The features of the face do not matter. Beauty resides in the reflection from within, most often shining from beautiful eyes. I find beauty when I experience a connection, however fragile and tenuous, to something greater than my humanity, something closer to the Divine. Beauty lifts us above the mundane. To my way of thinking, beauty travels a soul to soul connection.

And, finally **Larry Lunden** describes beauty in just a few simple words:

Nature, Beautiful birds and Magnificent trees.

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My wish is that we can all find beauty in this wonderful month of June



Peggy Webbe

## 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.

## 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/assembly) 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).

## Duo Guitar Concert

Friday, June 24, at 7:00 PM

Mark and Beverly Davis

will present a duo-guitar concert at UUS:E.

The concert will be outside, weather permitting; otherwise inside with current COVID procedures.

The event is an offering from the UUS:E Music Committee.

Recommended donation of \$15

Works will include compositions by Czech composer Milan Tesar (d.2019); a trio of 18<sup>th</sup> century works by D. Scarlatti, A. Vivaldi, and A. Solar; a work by Fernando Sor; and folksong arrangements by Ed Flower (b.1948).





## Enter, Rejoice, and Come In!

### A Religious Education Message from Gina Campellone

In just about three weeks our 2021-2022 RE year will draw to a close. However, that doesn't mean the end of Religious Education programming. While many UU congregations do opt to put RE on hold during July and August, we believe it's important to provide opportunities for our children and youth to remain connected over the summer. Of course, we also recognize the value of unscheduled, unstructured down time and the need for rest, something few of us get in adequate amounts. (This is true of both adults and kids.) Therefore, the RE Committee's goal this summer is to offer a low key, low stress program that provides opportunities for establishing and deepening relationships, while also honoring the very real need for relaxation and rest. What will this look like? This summer you can expect the following:

- Six fun but simple volunteer-led RE activities held concurrently with Sunday morning worship services
- Two all-congregation (multi-generational) services led by Rev Josh
- Two "R & R" Sundays—days RE will not be offered, insuring that all our volunteers get some time off
- An overarching focus on nurturing friendships and slowing down

A schedule with all the pertinent dates and details will be published soon. Keep an eye out!

Of course, the school year hasn't ended yet. We've got several more weeks of great stuff planned before we officially kick off summer activities. Fairy folklore, drumming, a Pride themed worship service co-coordinated by Rev Josh and the High School Youth Group, and an Affirmation outing to Six Flags are still to come. The year culminates on June 19 with our big RE Sunday Worship Service, an annual tradition celebrating a successful year of love, learning, and community building. The service will include a "year in review" slideshow, volunteer appreciation, a bridging ceremony, and other fun elements. We'd love to have some kid-performed music. If your child might be interested in singing, playing an instrument, or participating in the service in any capacity, please let me know. We may have a role for them!

Finally, the RE Committee and I are in the process of planning next year's RE program. Although the pandemic disrupted RE as we knew it, it's also offered us an opportunity to re-think and re-imagine the program. It's both exciting and liberating to explore new ways of doing things. We're thinking outside the box and discovering that the possibilities for creative programming are endless when we don't limit ourselves to a traditional, classroom-based Sunday school structure. Want to get in on the fun? If you have ideas, opinions, or words of wisdom to share, we'd love to hear from you.

More to come!

With love,

Gina



### We're Going to Have a Picnic!

That's right. After an absence due to "you know what" our all-congregation picnic is returning with gusto ... so save the date.

Sunday, August 28 on the grounds of UUS:E following our 10:00 AM service.

It will be potluck. There will be games. We'll have some surprises.

Plan on bringing the whole family. And, if there's something special you'd like to see included, email us at [membership@uuse.org](mailto:membership@uuse.org) with your suggestions.

## Books, Classes, and Discussions

Adult Religious Education



### Book Lovers

The Book Lovers continue to meet via Zoom every second Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:00. You are welcome even if you haven't finished the book. The link is sent out each month with the meeting reminder, usually the weekend before that Tuesday by Martha Larson or Carolyn Gimbrone. Here are the books, with number of pages, for the next several months.

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)

- June 14, **Becoming**, Michelle Obama, 426 pages
- July 12, **The Four Winds**, Kristin Hannah, 464 pages
- August 9, **Still Life**, Louise Penny, 312 pages
- September 13, **Before We Were Yours**, Lisa Wingate, 352 pages
- October 11, **Klara and the Sun**, Kazuo Ishiguro, 320 pages

### 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.

## "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 in the Sanctuary

June topic/book: **Near Death Experiences**

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 with any questions.

Upcoming topics...

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, 860-268-4636, [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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