

Issue

NOVEMBER 2025

# The Foreword

The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst  
6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-634-3010 (x101 for office)  
Office Hours Tues.–Fri. 9am to 2pm www.uuamherst.org



**UU AMHERST**

*Fostering Justice  
and Compassion*

**Our Staff:**

**Minister**

Rev. Michelle Buhite  
Office.....x102  
716-513-0170  
minister@uuamherst.org

**Finance Clerk**

Camilla Lee.....x103  
716-513-0171  
bookkeeper@uuamherst.org

**Office Administrator**

Elaine Harrigan.....x101  
administrator@uuamherst.org

**Director of Faith Development**

Katie Cosgrove....x104  
716-513-0172  
voicemail only  
dfd@uuamherst.org

**Children’s Program Assistant**

Molly Breen

**Youth Program Assistant**

Kyla Hoffman

**Minister Emerita**

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

Join us for a community book sale celebrating the joy of giving thoughtfully. Let’s work together to reduce the stigma of buying reused gifts for loved ones through the holidays.

Despite what we’ve grown to think, not every present needs to come brand new and shiny from the factory. Upcycled, hand-picked books and other gifts often come with more meaning and intention.

So, before you get bamboozled into the Black Friday season (yes, it’s become a whole season now), we invite you and your people to come dilly dally at our various book sale events between November 22nd-24th listed below:

<b>Book Sale</b>	<b>Book Sale w/</b>	<b>Last Chance Bag Sale</b>
<b>Saturday, Nov. 22nd</b>	<b>Children’s Story Time</b>	<b>Monday, Nov. 24th</b>
<b>2-4 pm</b>	<b>Sunday, Nov. 23rd 12-1:30 pm</b>	<b>4-6 pm</b>

We will also have discounted clothing for sale from the Clothing Ministry as well as other goodies to be announced later. All proceeds support UU Amherst. Please spread the word!

We’ll be accepting gently used, like-new books that were published after 2015. We’re asking for any donations to come pre-sorted into the following categories:

- Children’s Books
- Adult Fiction
- Adult Nonfiction

We’ll be officially receiving donations on Sunday, November 16th. If you would like to drop them off sooner, please drop books off on the carts in the Boiler Room (off the lobby near the entrance) in the pre-sorted containers!

**Interested in volunteering?**

We’re currently looking for volunteers to help with all tasks but especially cleaning up and dropping off unpurchased books after the event. Contact Katie if you’re available to help anytime between November 23rd-25th.



**CALL FOR DONATIONS:**

- Gently used
- Like-new condition
- Printed after 2015
- No: textbooks, manuals or instruction guides

*Please pre-sort any donations into: children’s, adult fiction or adult nonfiction.*

**Our Covenant**

*Together we promise:  
To gather in compassionate  
community,  
To celebrate diversity of thought and  
unity of spirit;  
And to seek wholeness for ourselves,  
our children, and our world.*



Dear Friends,

I want to share a thought from this month’s Soul Matters thematic ministry: *When it comes to how we should travel through our lives, our culture and religion are clearly at odds. Culture cries, “Accumulate!” Religion counsels “Appreciate!” The mantras couldn’t be more different: The commercials surrounding us scream, “Go out and grab all you can!” The pulpits before us plea, “Learn to want what you have.”*

*There’s an important reminder here: Gratitude is essential. It’s not simply a nice “extra” to get around to when we can. Or to put it another way, we aren’t built for constant striving and the pursuit of more. Instead, we need moments of pause in which we are filled and replenished by the large and small wonders of this world. As poet and philosopher, Mark Nepo, puts it: “The original meaning of the word “appreciate” means to move toward what is precious. So practicing gratitude reengages our aliveness—they awaken us to what is precious.” The implication here is clear: If we want to be truly alive, we need to pay attention when moments of gratitude arise.*

Wow. Gratitude contributes to our feeling of aliveness.

I’d like more of that - wouldn’t you? More feeling of aliveness?

This month, let’s put our attention to nurturing and cultivating gratitude and bringing ourselves and each other alive!

Rev. Michelle

### Share the Plate through November

We will share the offering with Hearts & Hands this month. UU Amherst has been a partner with Hearts & Hands for eight years as they provide rides, yardwork, and companionship to seniors in the community. You can support their work by volunteering and/or financial contributions. Simply make checks payable to UU Amherst with “Hearts and Hands” in the memo line, or place cash in an envelope and designate for

### HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

This is a reminder that if you are experiencing financial hardship, you can reach out to Rev. Michelle, minister@uuamherst.org, for assistance from the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. This Fund is made possible by the generosity of fellow congregants, and just one more way we demonstrate that no one is alone. We care for one another.

#### HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: administrator@uuamherst.org  
For Newsletter: by 10:00 am on the 16th  
For Website: two weeks prior to event  
For All Church listserv: daily during the week.  
For Weekly Update: Fridays by 10:00 am

**Administrator/Office Hours:**  
Tuesday through Friday—9:00 am to 2:00 pm

#### CONTRIBUTING TO UU AMHERST

1. The **Giving** option on the church website (uuamherst.org)
2. A NEW phone app "**GivePlus+**" for your phone
3. Texting a donation to phone # **833 987 1968**
4. Mailing a check [remember to fill in the Memo]
5. There is the traditional Sunday Plate
6. Don’t forget Legacy Giving – in your will

## BOARD REPORT

The signs of autumn are all around us. We are coming to the end of this calendar year which means we are also coming to the end of UU Amherst's year. As of this writing it looks like it will be another successful year with added membership—especially of families with young children thanks to our Faith Development program—many building renovation projects completed including a new heating system for the chapel, and more social action events, as well.

Fall also means the launch of our Generosity Drive which provides most of the money for our operating budget for 2026. The Generosity Drive is how we will be "Funding our Future" to keep us "Green and Growing." It's also the time of year when we remind everyone to honor their 2025 pledge so we do not increase the deficit we planned for in the 2025 budget. That deficit was the result of the BOT's decision to invest in our Faith Development Program, the positive results of which you see and hear around you on Sunday mornings.

At the BOT's October meeting, we were fortunate to have the three candidates nominated for BOT service beginning in 2026 attend. The meeting went well and we think they will be great additions to the BOT. They will replace three BOT members whose unusually long terms of service—44 months—will come to an end. The new members will serve the usual 3-year or 36-month terms.

—Randy Kent, Board Chair



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## DID YOU KNOW?

So much good is happening at UU Amherst! Here are some accomplishments we've undertaken together:

- Boiler for chapel installed
- TV placed in Murray Meeting Room
- Carpentry placed over pipes in back of chapel
- Architectural drawing done and estimate for stairs to back of carriage house
- Roof repair contract signed
- Closet painted in foyer
- Playground repaired and painted
- Fence around playground repaired
- Wood chips placed in playground
- Solar lights placed along driveway
- Metal edging placed near entrance
- Safety bars placed around doorways to first floor Faith Development wing



**Funding Our Future**

We depend on the generous contributions of Members and Friends to live our faith out loud and keep our buildings and grounds attractive and safe. Your pledges of financial support help us to create a budget, so don't forget to make your sustaining pledge NOW for 2026. You can access the Pledge Form using this link: <https://bit.ly/4gJB7EX>. Pledge Forms are also available in the main lobby.

## CULTURAL EXPLORERS

There will be plays and concerts this holiday season at local schools and we'd like to show our support for student artists by attending. Some who have expressed interest in going to these shows will need transportation. If you would be able to drive for a carpool, please contact Ruth Bowen.

**THEATER.** Theater Lovers attend a Sunday matinee of Jewish Repertory Theatre's three productions each season then go out to dinner together afterward at Lebro's Italian Restaurant, to discuss the show and get to know one another better.

Our first outing is Sunday, November 16, for the 2:00 pm matinee. Dinner reservation will be at 4:15 pm. The first show is an historical drama that resonates politically today: *Conscience* by Joe DiPietro. Discount ticket order forms are available in the lobby at UU Amherst (folder at bottom of "Church Life" bulletin board) or by email request. Those interested in attending send in their own discount ticket order by mail at least 8 days ahead, then notify me that they want to be included in the dinner reservation (by noon on Friday, November 14). If you can't make it on the 16th, the order forms are good for any Thursday evening or Sunday afternoon performance. Our price is \$30 per ticket, which is less than a non-JCC-member subscription, and less than member individual play tickets. Regular box office pricing is \$48 per seat.



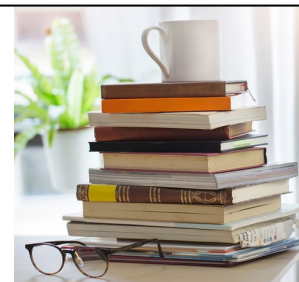
JRT productions are in Getzville (Amherst) at the Maxine & Robert Seller Theatre inside the Jewish Community Center at 2640 North Forest Road. Lebro's is located at 330 Campbell Blvd at Dodge Road. For those who like to plan ahead, given my other responsibilities, it looks like 3rd Sundays will likely be our day to attend each show. The other two outings are tentatively scheduled for February 15 and May 17.

—Marie Evans

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## UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

The UU Amherst Book Group meets the last Sunday of the month (September through May) at noon in the Library/Living Room. We alternate between picking a general TOPIC for the month (for which participants can choose any relevant book they'd like to read), and choosing one "common read" BOOK. All are welcome to attend our meetings, whether or not you've "done the reading."



Our next scheduled meetings are October 26, November 30 and December 28. For October our book to read was a tie, so both will be discussed: *The Flight Girls* by Noelle Salazar and *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. November is a TOPIC month: a recent (written within the past 20 years) book about US History. If you'd like some suggestions, Susanne Sardella found a good list and shared it with me.

—Marie Evans

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## CLOTHING MINISTRY

By the time this is published, all of the Halloween clothing will be taken and we will prioritize sweaters, heavier clothes, and hoodies. By the middle of November we will be putting out coats and boots. If you have any winter clothing to donate, they can be left in the donation bins or contact Dian Tucker for a supervised drop off. As always, thank you for your donations

—Barbara Gauger Kent



## GREEN JUSTICE

The Green Justice Team has a new mission statement! Based on the seventh principle and that of the church, it's a focus for the reconstituted group in their efforts to have an active impact on the local environment. The group (we) pledges:

"To advocate for sustainability that will promote the well-being of the earth and its inhabitants by encouraging our congregation and the wider community to engage in green justice practices."

We'll be taking this to you, the congregation, first by an informative table during coffee hour with our current projects, notably the National Park in Your Backyard movement and the renewal of the church's Green Sanctuary status, granted by the Unitarian Universalist Association. We will survey your own environmental interests and experiences and ask you to join in ours. Over the winter, we will plan and start chosen activities.

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## AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Do you need to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA before year end? Want to avoid taxes on some or all of that income? Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution! One of our donors explains it this way: "If you donate to all your favorite charities BEFORE you actually take out your RMD, you only pay taxes on the part of the RMD you took out minus the contributions. It's a great way to donate money. It comes right out of your retirement fund and you never see the money. It's like you never had it in the first place."

Rosalie Riforgiato reminded me that folks may have health insurance plans with Over-the-Counter (OTC) spending benefits that will expire December 31 (use it or lose it). If you have extra funds available, please consider ordering health and beauty items for the pantry like shampoo, body lotion, or toothbrushes. (We do not accept any medications or supplements).

ALFP is running a Super Bowl pool fundraiser. Look for Vicki Garcia during coffee hour, starting November 2. Squares will be \$50 each and can be shared. Payouts will be \$150-500 each quarter.

Most needed items as we head into colder weather: peanut butter and jelly, soup, tuna in oil, oatmeal, cocoa, coffee

—Marie Evans, Chair

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## It's that time of year again, Gateway Longview is beginning our Holiday Hope Gift Giving Campaign!

We want to thank you for your support of our campaign last year. Each gift leaves a lasting impact for our youth, from preschool through high school, to teens and young adults. We're very hopeful that you will be able to sponsor our families and youth again this year – you do a fantastic job collecting gifts and I know our programs really appreciate your generosity at this special time of year.



**This year we will sponsor 15 wishlists.** Wishlists will be arriving in early November and will be available on a tree in the lobby. Donors are expected to spend \$75-100, so we encourage teaming up with others to fulfill the list. *For many children, this is the only gift they will receive this holiday, so actual presents are encouraged rather than gift cards—if you don't like shopping, the UU Amherst Elves will accept cash donations and do it for you.* Gifts will be transported to Holiday Hope Headquarters in early December.

—Marie Evans

# NOVEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some meetings are virtual-only) and some in-person only. See the notation after the meeting. Zoom links are provided by the group hosts or by request from the Office Administrator.

**Room abbreviations:** EM (Emerson Room); LR Living Room); Bul (Bulfinch-FD Wing); EC (Ecology Center); Murray Meeting Room (MMR)

## Saturday, November 1st

9:00 am: Holistic Balance Retreat BUL (rental)

9:30 am: New2UU Orientation EM

10:00 am: Lace Guild (rental) MMR

## Sunday, November 2nd

12:00 pm: Amherst Little Free Pantry Meeting LR

## Wednesday, November 5th

7:45 am: John Newman Mission (weekly-rental) MMR

1:00 pm: Historical Jesus Series (weekly) EM

## Friday, November 7th

7:00 pm: JAT Movie "1946 - A Mistranslation That Shifted Culture" EM

## Saturday, November 8th

9:30 am: Ministry Train EM

## Thursday, November 13th

1:00 pm: Ministry Steering Comm MMR

## Saturday, November 15th

9:00 am: Firewall CH/EM

1:00 pm: Havurah EM

1:00 pm: Rainbow Café MMR

## Sunday, November 16th

2:30 pm: Holistic Balance program (rental) LR

## Wednesday, November 19th

6:00 pm: Finance Committee MMR

7:30 pm: Board Meeting MMR

## Thursday, November 20th

4:00-8:00 pm: NRC Dinner—Setup & Dinner EM

## Saturday, November 22nd

10:00 am: Slow Retreat EM

## Thursday, November 27th

1:00 pm: Thanksgiving with Friends EM

## Sunday, November 30th

12:00 pm: UU Amherst Book Group LR

## RECURRING: SUNDAYS

### Sundays, November 2nd - 30th

10:30 am: Sunday service—in-person and livestream; coffee hour following

## RECURRING MEETINGS:

### UU Universe-ity Sunrise Sessions

M-F 8:30 am on Zadmin

All "tree" names are for Village groups

### Saturdays, November 1st - 29th

9:30 am: Sharing Circle Zadmin

7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zadmin

### Mondays, November 3rd-24th

7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapples Zadmin (weekly)

### Tuesdays, November 4th-25th

12:30 pm: Women's Group Lunch EM (11/4)

Women's Group Zadmin (11/11, 11/18, 11/25)

11/11 (2nd Tue)

7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group LR

### Wednesdays, November 5th-25th

11/19 (3rd Wed)

1:30 pm: 3rd Wed Covenant Group Zoom

7:00 pm: Bofinger Covenant Group Zoom

7:00 pm: Northtowns Village Zoom

## Coordination of Caretaker Duties — November

Sun, 11/2 - Sat, 11/8 - Barry Kent

Sun, 11/9 - Sat, 11/15 - Dian & Don Tucker

Sun, 11/16 - Sat, 11/22 - Randy Kent

Sun, 11/23 - Sat, 11/29 - Bob Johnson

Sun, 11/30 - Sat, 12/6 - Bruce Becker

**Kitchen Etiquette:** To all groups and individuals that meet at church outside regular Sunday morning hours: Please tidy up and wash any dishes/cups you may have used. We need to keep our kitchen tidy and ready for use. Thanks for your help with this.



## Church of the Wild

Join us each Sunday at 9:30 am in the Debbie Waterhouse Ecology Center. Bring a chair, a poem, your wonder of nature. Lauraine Marcus will meet you at the edge of the Ecology Center at 9:25 am, near the basketball court at the back of the parking lot. Church of the Wild continues as weather permits.

## Tuesday Women’s Group

This month our in-person meeting will be Tuesday, November 4th. We will meet in the Emerson Room at 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and a beverage. Other meeting dates via Zoom are: November 11th, 18th, and 25th. Zoom link provided by host Marge Marcille or Office Administrator.

## Universal Restrooms

We are getting closer to our rest room goals and thank everyone who has already donated. We still need more to complete the restrooms. When we have met our goal we can let the contractor start work. I am told construction should take about 2 weeks, then we will complete painting and any other “small” items to finish the project. The sooner we reach our monetary goal the sooner we can complete this project. Thank you again to all who have already donated and to all who will donate to our universal restroom project.  
—The Universal/Gender Neutral Restroom Task Force

## Dare to Repair Café Coming in December

One of our presenters for the 2024 Living Green Festival Speaker Series was The Tool Library. As an extension of that contact, our congregation will be hosting one of their Dare to Repair Cafes on Saturday, December 13, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Dare to Repair Cafes are pop-up community events where individuals can bring broken items and have a team of volunteer fixers try to repair the item alongside them for free! Look for the flyers with more details or to register.

## New 2UU Workshop November 1st

Are you new to UU or at least UU Amherst? There will be a New2UU workshop on Saturday, November 1st. You can sign up in the Lobby.

## Ministry Train

What on earth is a “Ministry Train”??? Great question! Thanks for asking! Close your eyes and imagine a train. There are cars with all kinds of different functions. Sometimes various cars move to the side while the rest of the train pulls away from the station - ready to bring important things out into the world. The same goes for a Ministry Train.

The various ministry teams make up the Ministry “Train”. Sometimes all of the “cars” are active and sometimes only a few. But it’s still a train, and it still has goodness to bring out into the world.

**The next Ministry Train leaves the station (woot, woot) on Saturday, November 8th, 9:30 am-12n.** Anyone is welcome to come and listen and participate. Ministry Team ‘leads’ are encouraged to attend, as this is the time when ideas for activities and programs are brought before the group for discernment and possible implementation. We have good conversation while we build connections among those who are helping UU Amherst to fulfill our mission of challenging ourselves and the community to foster more justice and compassion in the world. It’s a big task and coming together helps us to decide where to put our energies.

## Lecture & Discussion Series: The Historical Jesus

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (The Great Courses video series)  
Wednesday afternoons, 1:00-2:45 PM,  
Emerson Room. Continues through November 26.

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**Thanksgiving with Friends**  
**Thursday, Nov. 27th 1:00 pm**

Join us for a potluck feast! Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and beverages are provided. Please bring a dish to share (side, salad, or dessert). Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 24th at 3:00pm**

# FAITH DEVELOPMENT

## This Month's Blessing

Goddess, bless this food you have given me.  
Let it be filled with your divine energy  
so that I will be healthy and live a long and happy life.  
Goddess bless! Blessed Be!

- Sirona Knight (Pagan)



## Out of Office Dates

Please note I will be out of town November 5th-13th when I'll be attending the LREDA Fall Conference.

## Slow Retreat

Holiday parties, traveling, snow tire appointments, gift buying... Many of us see quite a few items from that list (and way, way more) on the horizon and it can feel, well, exhausting.

Instead of pushing harder to get through the season—or wishing time would slow down—what if we chose to pause? To slow with intention.

Rev. Michelle and I are hosting a *Slow Retreat* for exactly this purpose. Join us on November 22nd from 10:00 am-2:00 pm to rest, breathe and simply be. Wear your comfy clothes (pajamas are welcome) and bring your favorite blanket. We'll create cozy spaces with light structure, time for meditation, nourishing food, quiet and togetherness. It's a chance to land gently, in community, in the midst of the chaos outside.

RSVP by November 17<sup>th</sup> to Katie by email: [dfd@uuamherst.org](mailto:dfd@uuamherst.org).

## Jetpig Fun

The jetpigs had a very fun camp at UU Amherst! Most of our furry friends have made their way to their humans and are very happy to continue the journey of exploring Unitarian Universalism together. It's hard to put into words the impact this program had but I can say with certainty that it succeeded in its mission to teach our UU values, get the children and youth excited about something forthcoming and help them bring out what they experience here into the world.

Check out the FD board in the lobby to see all of the 2025 UU Amherst Jetpig Camp adventures or take a look at the short timeline below. A special thank you to all who helped make this program possible.



## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER RECIPES Provided by Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham

Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham are sisters and dedicated members of our Caring For One Another Team. They provide occasional meals to UU Amherst members on an as-needed basis. With the meal they generally include a “goodie bag” and a card on behalf of the Caring Group. Each month you’ll find one of their healthy recipes here in *The Foreword* often incorporating fresh vegetables and even gluten-free. These are moist muffins and are tasty with cream cheese. Enjoy!

### Roxie’s Bran Muffins

Time total 40 minutes.

Makes 12 muffins

- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cups bran cereal
- 1 cup whole wheat flour  
(all purpose flour is ok to substitute)
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp melted butter
- 1 apple, cored and shredded
- 1 ripe banana, mashed
- 1/2 cup honey (can substitute molasses)



Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease muffin cups. Plump raisins by covering them with water and microwaving for 1 minute on high and drain.

In a large bowl beat the egg with the milk. Mix the bran cereal into the mixture and let stand until the liquid is absorbed, about 5 minutes. mix in gently, plumped raisins, flour, baking soda, cinnamon, melted butter, shredded apple, mashed banana and honey. Stir a few times to blend.

Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups. Bake about 20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the center of a muffin.

## UU AMHERST ONLINE STORE



[shop.printyourcause.com/campaigns/uu-amherst-store](http://shop.printyourcause.com/campaigns/uu-amherst-store)

## JUSTICE ADVOCACY

"As we approach the 2024 presidential election, the stakes for our democracy couldn't be higher. A coalition of far-right extremists is already working to implement Project 2025—an extremist playbook that would dismantle the progress we've made over the past century—in our courts and in the states. If successful at the federal level too, Project 2025 would strip away our freedoms, roll back hard-won rights, and reshape the federal government in ways that threaten the very foundations of our democracy." These were the words that opened the Democracy Forward newsletter exactly one year ago. Little did any of us suspect that the dismantling of our government would come so fast and so furious. More now than ever, it is vital that we not only cast our votes in this mid-term election, but that we vote straight party lines.



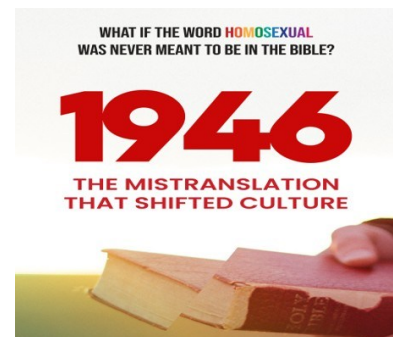
It has been said that one of the reasons the Democrats lose to the Republicans is that they are too cautious. Democrats tend to leave more blanks on their ballots; choosing not to vote for someone they don't know or haven't researched. Republicans tend to vote straight party lines, making sure there is a box checked on each line. We need to learn from this approach when filling out ballots. And that means from the local levels all the way up. The local levels are just as, if not more important at times, than national ones as they directly affect how our communities thrive or die. Judges, school boards, town councils, city halls; all are important elections that shape our future.

So make sure you vote this month, and fill in all the boxes.

**Upcoming JAT event:** November 7th, 7:00-9 :00 pm in the Emerson Room. Screening of the documentary *1946, The Misinterpretation That Shifted Culture*.

**Upcoming Rainbow Coalitions Events;** Rainbow Cafe will be open Saturday, November 15th 1:00-3:00 pm. All members of the LGBTQ+ community and direct allies welcome.

—Peggy/Mark Cook



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## COVENANT CORNER

This fall, we are leaning into the joyful and reflective process of renewing our congregational covenant at UU Amherst. Covenant reflects the promises that hold us together in love and shared purpose. In my October sermon (which you can find on YouTube!), I spoke about how covenant is not a set of rules but a way of being, a living promise we make and remake as a community. I shared stories of village weaver birds from sub-Saharan Africa, each building its own nest while still belonging to a shared grove of trees. They offer us an aspirational image of what it means to live in covenant. Like those birds, we each bring our own gifts, needs, and ways of belonging, then together we create something stronger, more vibrant, and deeply interwoven.

As we move into November, we'll begin gathering your voices to help shape our renewed UU Amherst covenant. We will be using surveys, conversations, and meetings where everyone can share what it means to live our UU Amherst values today. Look for announcements soon about how to take part. Together, we will weave our renewed promises of love, respect, and belonging. Our covenant process will help us rebuild our nests in our sturdy, beautiful small grove of UU Amherst "trees" that can hold us all as we move into our shared future.

In Faith and With Love, Kim Diana

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Leader Lab II Google training was presented on September 27th. Eighteen people across the BOT, Ministry Train, and the LD&NC took part. Rev. Michelle led this tutorial, with help from Linda Joy Groat and April Starr. There was excellent feedback from those who attended.

No new nominations for the BOT, Endowment Trust, and the LD&NC were received from the congregation in September. However, in November, members of the congregation may make further nominations by securing a petition signed by at least ten (10) voting members of the congregation, providing the nominee has consented. Such nominations will be given directly to the Board of Trustees no later than December 15th. This is the list of current nominees:

### Leadership Development & Nominating Committee - two-year term

Laurine Marcus  
Susanne Sardella

### Board of Trustees

Gabe Mighells  
Marlana Rice  
Peter Turhene

### Endowment Trust

Ryan Inge

Julie Marquis, on behalf of Committee Members: Suzanne Christ, Chair; Jacqueline Babka; Ellen Moomaw; Ruth Bowen, BOT Liaison

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## ENDOWMENT TRUST

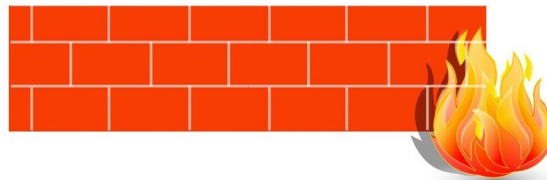
As I write this there are at least a half dozen squirrels in the backyard burying acorns for the winter. It made me smile to think that the oak trees have tricked the squirrels to plant the next generation of oaks. But thinking about it some more, maybe the squirrels are just as wise; the next generation of oaks will keep future legions of squirrels fed through the winters. And it was many years ago the squirrels and the oaks collaborated to plant the trees that provide today.

Such is our Endowment Trust, investments in the present will return benefits for those in the future. In this metaphor, I guess the Endowment is the oak and maybe we are the squirrels?

Please consider a gift to the Endowment Trust and contact any of the trustees for assistance.

—Eric Groat, on behalf of the Endowment Trustees Barry Kent, Tamara Kofke, John Thompson, and Dian Tucker

Firewall Meeting  
Saturday November 15th @ 9:00 am  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst



Firewall is a coalition of Concerned Citizens who support Democracy and the Rule of Law.

Follow us on [YouTube: @FirewallUmbrellaWNY](#)

Check us out on Bluesky by clicking on the QR code. [Firewall451.bsky.social](#)

*Firewall is a Political Action Group that is not affiliated with the UU Church of Amherst.*



Saturday, November 15, 10:00 am-4:00 pm  
Albany UU  
Sliding Scale Registration \$1-\$100  
Join in Person or on Zoom  
<https://bit.ly/NYUUJConvocation>

Join NYUUJ for our annual in-person Justice Convocation. We will worship, network, connect, learn about making change in New York State, and take action on important issues. Our workshops will be interactive and energizing, and our day will inspire and connect us for the work ahead.



**UU AMHERST**

*Fostering Justice and Compassion*

6320 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
634-3010  
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