

Issue

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Faith Development Up 111%

You read that right. Our attendance for children and youth throughout 2025 is up 111%. If you love statistics and spreadsheets like I do, you're going to love my findings! And if you love children and families and the evidence of a growing congregation, you're going to love my findings!



Here's the data:

- In comparison to 2024, our FD attendance more than doubled, going from 230 attendees all year to 486.
- We served a total of 47 youth attendees in our new youth program (if youth were combined with children, we did not count them separately).
- We had 0 Sundays without kids present!

And now, the best for last...

- The total number of kids who came to FD increased from 44 in 2024 to 60 in 2025. Since attendance doubled, but the number of kids didn't this means that: **We saw a 111% increase in attendance for children and youth in 2025!**

This is a true testament to what we've *all* created, and keep creating, here and why it's important. I'm so grateful to help build a container for a wonderful community of babies, children and youth to form bonds, explore UU values and have another soft place to land in this world.

This year, we're already looking ahead to growth with the addition of our Buunny Room (nursery) thanks to Candace Inge, who has graciously volunteered to lead it. Kyla Hoffman, our Youth Program Coordinator has been making plans for engaging youth curricula and events to continue to carve out an intentional space for them here. Molly Breen, our Children's Program Coordinator, is continuing to bring support, new ideas and important individualized care to our littles.

Thank you to all who have been instrumental in our growing program. And thank you, in advance, for your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure as we grow Unitarian Universalism in our little corner of the world.

—Katie Cosgrove, Director of Faith Development

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.*



This month we are engaging in an extended conversation of what it means to embody resilience - individually and as a congregation. These are trying times for our country, communities, and us as individuals. With so much uncertainty (and aggravation), it becomes ever more important to create pathways of (and to) resilience.

Pathways may be as simple as creating routines in your life that provide a sense of normalcy and that feed your spirit. Do you have a friend with whom you check in on a regular basis? If not - there's no time like the present! And remember, friends come in many forms... human, pet, literary, even movies and TV shows and characters. It is possible to be quite solitary and still feel like you have rich resources. And of course, Zoom has made it possible to maintain long distance relationships in

ways generations before us could not even imagine.

Being part of UU Amherst can be a pathway of and to resilience. That might take the form of community life, participating in worship (up front or in your seat), or engaging with ideas that stimulate or challenge your thinking.

What pathways of resilience have you already nurtured in your life?

With resilience,
Rev. Michelle

February Services

2/1 "Something About Elephants"

John Snodgrass

How is it that humans can feel so different from their fellow humans, and yet feel a kinship and commonality with creatures of other species? And of all other land-animals, none looks as "other" as the elephant, but we have a strange history of a deep-felt connection with this stony-skinned gentle giant.

John (lower case intentional) Snodgrass is a frequent and popular speaker at UU Amherst. An instructor in Religion at Canisius University, John is also a playwright and author of many books, the most recent being *Shakespeare's Goddess*.

2/8 "Embodying Resilience"

Rev. Michelle

What is resilience and how do we embody it? What is your resilience 'factor'? What practices do you employ (or not) to weave a 'garment' of resilience?

2/15 "Resilience Through Covenant"

Rev. Michelle & Kim Diana Connolly

Our congregational covenant is more than a poetic promise, it is a tool for creating personal and institutional resilience. Let's put hearts and minds together as we prepare to draft/revise a covenant for the present and future. (A workshop will follow at noon)

2/22 "The Music of Resilience"

Rev. Michelle

What better way to prepare for our annual meeting (at noon) than to sing and celebrate this congregation's resilience in good times and bad?

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.

BOARD REPORT

While the New Year has begun, two things are coming to an end: the "Funding Our Future" Generosity Drive and my time as Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Generosity Drive funds the people, programs, utility costs, and maintenance of our facilities as well as all the other items in our operating budget. If you have not yet pledged for 2026 or finished paying your 2025 pledge, you still have time to do it before our annual meeting on Sunday February 22nd at noon. The 2026 budget will be presented to the voting members of the congregation for approval, as will the slate of candidates for our elected offices on the Church BOT, the Leadership and Nominating Committee, and The Board of the Endowment Trust.



At the conclusion of that meeting, myself, Tom Langan and Bob Johnson will have completed terms of 44 months on the BOT as Linda Garner and Bruce Becker did before us. This was due to the need to change the church fiscal year back to the calendar year. They all have my gratitude for serving longer than any of us had expected to. Current and future members will only serve the usual 36-month terms.

I became BOT chair in July of 2022 and thanked the previous BOT and Karen Thompson, who served as Chair two years in a row, for getting us through the worst of COVID. COVID cost us many members and there was no guarantee that our congregational community would survive, let alone thrive. There have been many accomplishments in the past 44 months including the completion of our new sign, the new heating system for the chapel, and the renovations to the first floor of the FD/Admin wing to name a few.

However, the most important accomplishment overall has been that our congregational community is not just surviving but thriving. We have new members and new families with children, and we continue to attract more.

This was not the work of one person, neither the BOT Chair, nor the minister. Even a very good one like Rev. Michelle, can't do all that needs to be done. There are people in our congregation who do a great deal of the work—often the same ones—who also provide much of the financial support we need because they believe in our congregation.

If we are to continue the success we are enjoying, we will need others to step up and do their part. You might well find it to be a rewarding experience!

I have found my time as BOT Chair very rewarding, and I want to thank all of those who provided their support, time, energy and efforts to our congregation during my time in office. I look forward to watching our continued success.

—Randy Kent, Board Chair

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

COVENANT CORNER: Beginning the Work of Renewal

This month marks an important turning point in our covenant renewal journey: **our official drafting phase begins.**

As Rev. Michelle beautifully reflects in her announcement about the February 15th service, entitled “*Resilience Through Covenant*,” covenant is not merely aspirational language. Rather, covenant is a practice that strengthens both personal and institutional resilience. Building on that grounding, we now turn fully toward the shared work of shaping a renewed covenant that can serve UUAmherst in the present moment and into the future. That service, the workshop that day at noon, and subsequent online meetings and opportunities for input will start unfolding this month.

As we have discussed, in Unitarian Universalist congregations, covenants have long expressed not rules we enforce, but promises we make to one another about how we choose to be together. Across our tradition, familiar covenantal words echo shared commitments to love, truth, service, and mutual care:

*Love is the spirit of this church,
and service is its law.*

This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

To seek the truth in love,

And to help one another.

— James Vila Blake

And also:

Love is the doctrine of this church,

The quest of truth is its sacrament,

And service is its prayer...

— Arranged by L. Griswold Williams

These historic covenants remind us that while language evolves, the heart of covenant remains constant: **love at the center, held in community, expressed through action.**

As we begin renewing our own congregational covenant language, we invite you to bring both heart and mind to the process. We need your lived experience of this community, your hopes for how we navigate challenge and change, and your vision for how UUAmherst can continue to grow with integrity, courage, and care.

Our work will not be about crafting perfect words. Instead, together we will strive to articulate shared commitments that can guide us through our days, whether they are easy or hard or frustrating or exhilarating or a wonderful tangle of many things. Together, we will shape a covenant that reflects not just who we are now, but also who we are becoming.

I look forward to continuing this work with you.

In faith and with love, Kim Diana Connolly

Thank You!

Many thanks for our special Christmas Eve offering. We raised over \$600 for UUA Disaster Relief! UU Amherst making a difference!

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Katie Cosgrove, Director of Faith Development

Even with the frigid morning air and gloomy skies, I think it's more natural to feel the motivation to live our values in the morning compared to night. There's something about being in the light of the world that reminds us that we are seen for who we are and what we do in relation to other life around us, and that we are not alone.



This is certainly not to say we set those values down once the sun sets. But it can be easier at night to slip into a feeling of being lost or have a sense of defeat, overwhelm and exhaustion, especially if our days are spent caring for our littles and youth all while keeping them safe and inspiring them.

So, for this month, I'd like to offer an evening blessing. These are some words that I've found that hopefully can help you, and maybe your family, carry less of the weight of the world into your dreams during this short month ahead.

Evening Blessing

I rest in the deep calm of this evening, grateful for the cycle of this day.
As I prepare for sleep, I turn towards stillness and remember peace.
May I release the weight of my thoughts and the tension of my body.
Let me lay down my burdens, my worries, my striving.
May I sleep well, and may I bring this softened heart into tomorrow.
This night is sacred, and so am I.
-Anonymous

Annual Meeting: Childcare

We will be offering supervised childcare in the Faith Development room during the Annual Meeting (12:00 pm-1:00 pm) on Sunday, February 22nd. RSVPs are not mandatory but if you're planning to attend the Annual Meeting and would like to utilize this, it would be helpful to have a headcount by 2/19, thank you! If you are not planning to attend the Annual Meeting and are available to stay and volunteer with our FD staff, please let me know.

Philosophy & Spirituality

Everyone is welcome to join a monthly drop-in conversation group that will use philosophical prompts to explore individual thoughts about morality, ethics, meaning and more, through the lens of spirituality. Facilitated by Katie Cosgrove, we'll be using the book, *This Is Not a Book*, by Michael Picard for puzzles, paradoxes and thought experiments to get conversation and thoughts flowing.

Participants of all backgrounds and beliefs are welcome. No philosophy knowledge or RSVP needed. Just meet us in the **Atrium after service (11:45am) on Sunday, February 8th**, with your morning beverage of choice for some thought-provoking topics!

In community,
Katie Cosgrove (she/her)
dfd@uuamherst.org

FEBRUARY 2026 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)

Sunday, February 1st

12:00 pm: Amherst Little Free Pantry Meeting LR

2:30 pm: Shamanic Journey (rental) LR

Tuesday, February 3rd

10:30 am: Leadership Dev & Nominating Comm EM

12:30 pm: Women's Group Lunch EM

Wednesday, February 4th

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

Friday, February 6th

6:00 pm: Justice Advocacy Team Movie Night EM

Saturday, February 7th

10:00 am: Lace Guild (rental) MMR

Sunday, February 8th

11:45 am: Philosophy & Spirituality Circle Atrium

Wednesday, February 11th

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

Thursday, February 12th

6:00 pm: Justice Advocacy Team Meeting EM

Saturday, February 14th

9:30 am: New 2UU Orientation EM

9:30 am: Holistic Balance Retreat (rental) BUL

1:00 pm: Rainbow Café MMR

Sunday, February 15th

12:00 pm: Covenant Conversation CH

2:30 pm: Shamanic Journey (rental) LR

Wednesday, February 18th

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

4:30-9 pm: John Newman Ash Wed Service EM (rental)

6:00 pm: Finance Committee MMR

7:30 pm: Board Meeting MMR

Saturday, February 21st

9:00 am: Firewall CH/EM

Sunday, February 22nd

12:00 pm: Annual Meeting EM

Wednesday, February 25th

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

Saturday, February 28th

9:30 am: Ministry Train EM

1:00 pm: Havurah (meeting) EM

RECURRING: SUNDAYS

Sundays, February 1st-22nd

9:15 am: Soulful Conversations LR

9:30 am: Sacred Singing Circle MMR

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

Mondays, February 2nd-23rd

7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapples Zadmin (weekly)

Tuesdays, February 3rd-24th

12:30 pm: Women's Group Lunch EM (2/3)

Women's Group Zadmin (2/1, 2/17, 2/24)

2/10 (2nd Tue)

7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group LR

Wednesdays, February 4th-25th

2/18 (3rd Wed)

1:00 pm: 3rd Wed Covenant Group Zoom

7:00 pm: Bofinger Covenant Group Zoom

7:00 pm: Northtowns Village Zoom

Saturdays, February 7th-28th

Coordination of Caretaker Duties — February

Sun, Feb 1 - Sat, Feb 7 - Bruce Becker

Sun, Feb 8 - Sat, Feb 14 - Dian & Don Tucker

Sun, Feb 15 - Sat, Feb 21 - Bob Johnson

Sun, Feb 22 - Sat, Feb 28 - Randy Kent



Soulful Conversations

Looking for connection with others on a deeper level than Coffee Hour? Or simply needing a place to “land” if you get to church early? Join Soulful Conversations in the Living Room starting about 9:15 am. Coffee and tea will be available. An inspirational writing, poem, or music will focus the gathering (feel free to bring one of your own). Conversations will follow. The group will break up in time for service.

Soulful Singing Circle

Come and sing with us every Sunday morning in the Murray Meeting Room from 9:15-10:30 am before service. No knowledge or experience in music is needed.

Tuesday Women’s Group

This month our in-person meeting will be Tuesday, February 3rd. We will meet in the Emerson Room at 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and a beverage. Other meeting dates via Zoom are: February 10th, 17th, and 24th. Zoom link provided by host Marge Marcille or Office Administrator.

Extra Pair of Hands

Looking for a way to help out at UUAmherst? Taking part in our “Extra Pair of Hands” program is a great way to help out and get to know people. You can be a Worship Weaver, Greeter, Kitchen Crew, Coffee Clean-up, or FD* Friend. Get more information at the Welcome Desk.

*FD is Faith Development and Nursery



Ministry Train Update Saturday, February 28th 9:30 am -12 noon

(in-person, weather permitting)

The Ministry Train will arrive at the station and you are welcome to hop on! Be part of the action as the ministry team-leads (and others) come together to consider programming for the coming season. Have a voice and a part in these decisions.

Fall in Love with UU February 14th, 9:30 am-12 noon

Yes, it’s time for another New2UU orientation! If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, to UU Amherst, or simply want a bit of a refresher and to make new friends, you are invited! RSVP to Rev. Michelle by February 10th.

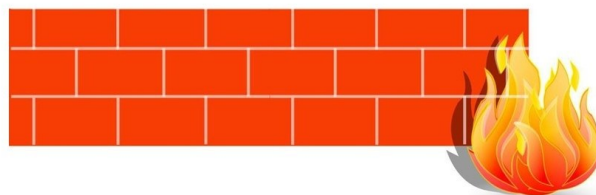


Shared Values graphic created by Tanya Webster for the UUA.

Firewall Meeting

Saturday, February 21st @ 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.

AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Super Bowl Squares Fundraiser: Print-outs of the numbers will be available after the service on February 1, or by email. Good luck to everyone! Go, Bills!

The holidays and year-end brought many donations to the pantry, both physical items and monetary gifts. Our application for a grant from the Junior League was unsuccessful, but we received an unsolicited grant from Foundation 214 in Williamsville. With that and generous contributions from individuals directing a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) or DAF (Donor Advised Fund) to us, we have a healthy bank balance. We were featured in a mailing by NYS Assembly member Karen McMahan, which has helped, too

We're also grateful to an anonymous donor who went grocery shopping with Marie, to Neal Kreher for donating many Tops gift cards, to Debbie Berg for fresh locally-grown potatoes, to WNY Food 4 Paws for pet food, and to PB&J Lockport HQ for peanut butter, jelly, and some Fluff and Nutella.

We consistently still need: cereal, pasta sauce in cans (Hunt's or DelMonte) or plastic bottles (\$1.29 at Wegmans), canned meats (especially tuna in oil), Chef Boyardee, coffee (grounds, K-cups, or instant), and can openers (\$1.25 at Dollar Tree stores).

Looking for an easy way to volunteer? If you come to meetings or events during the week, see one of our directors to learn how to do a mini-restock. Even 5-10 items added when the cupboards are bare is appreciated!

—Marie Evans, Chair, on behalf of Doreen Park and Meg Sabella



ENDOWMENT TRUST

The 2025 Financial numbers for the UUCA Endowment trust are in and the Endowment Committee met already in January and reviewed the numbers with our investment advisor. The year-end market value of the Trust is \$1,295,766. Our 2025 investment performance was +14.73%, which tracked with the overall U.S. and world markets.

Donations for 2025 totaled \$30,534. The net value of Trust has increased 12.5% since the same time last year, even with the quarterly contributions to the 2025 UUCA operating budget.

At February's Annual Meeting you will have the opportunity to vote for a new Endowment Trustee. John Thompson will be leaving the Endowment after completing a 5-year term. The next quarterly meeting will be April 21 at 6 pm. UUCA members are welcome to attend. Please contact me or another trustee in advance if you have any questions.

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



UU AMHERST ONLINE STORE

shop.printyourcause.com/campaigns/uu-amherst-store

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.

Do you have a hambone from the holidays and want a choice of a recipe instead of soup? This is a take on Cuban black beans and a delicious one pot meal that, served with a green salad, makes a warm, nourishing meal. Enjoy your start into the new year. Christine

Black Beans with Rice and Ham

Total time about 1 hour

- 2 Tbsp olive oil, or more, as needed
- 1 meaty hambone, meat trimmed off in chunks
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and chopped
- 1 Serrano or medium jalapeño pepper, stemmed, seeded and chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 15oz can black beans, rinsed
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup white rice
- 2 cups low sodium chicken stock, or more, as needed
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp fresh, chopped cilantro
- 2 scallions, green part only, chopped
- Lime wedges



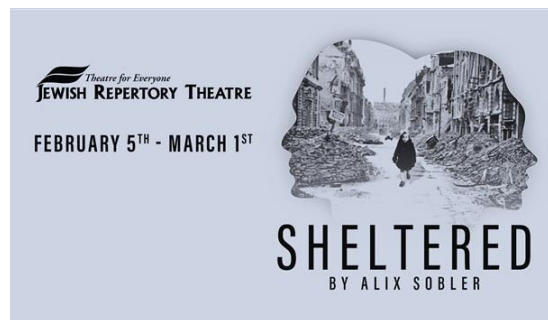
In a large Dutch oven warm 2 Tbsp olive oil on medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper and jalapeño/Serrano pepper and cook about 5 minutes until the onion is soft and starts to change color. Add garlic, cumin, oregano, 1/2 tsp salt and a few grinds of black pepper and stir, cooking for 30 seconds. Then stir in white rice and cook until grains are chalky white, 1 - 2 minutes.

Add black beans, ham chunks and bone, vinegar and chicken broth and stir well. Bring to a boil then turn down heat to low and cover. Stir every 10 minutes, cooking until the rice is soft, 15 - 20 minutes total, adding more broth if the mix is too dry.

Serve with chopped cilantro and scallions as garnish on top and lime wedges on the side. The result is spicy with a little tang. You can dollop on some sour cream to cool the tang from the hot pepper or add hot sauce to increase the tang. Your choice.

THEATER LOVERS

We'll be heading back to Jewish Repertory Theatre in Getzville on Sunday, February 15, for the 2:00 pm performance of SHELTERED. Synopsis follows. Discount ticket order forms are available now. There are paper copies in a folder in the lobby at the bottom of the Church Life bulletin board, or I can email one (by request). Mail your form with a check and a ticket will be held for you at the box office. You may opt to go to dinner together afterward (4:00 pm) at Lebro's Italian Restaurant nearby. Email or call me if you'd like to be included for dinner. Being Valentine's Day weekend, I want to make our dinner reservation by Thursday, February 12, so let me know ASAP if you plan to join the group after the show.



If you're unable to attend on the 15th, know that the discount price is also available to us for any Thursday or Sunday during the run. Tickets should be ordered at least 8 days prior to the show you plan to attend. Sundays do tend to sell out, so don't delay!

Synopsis: This powerful and emotionally charged play delves into a little-known chapter of history, exploring the moral complexities and personal sacrifices involved in rescue efforts during the Holocaust. Set against the backdrop of 1939, just before World War II fully erupts, the play follows Evelyn and Leonard Kirsch, an American Jewish couple who choose not to flee from danger, but to step into it. Their mission: to rescue 40 Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Europe and bring them to safety in the United States.

Highlighting the human cost of heroism and the fragility of moral certainty, this fascinating play questions how far one should go to help others, especially when the personal toll is high and the outcomes uncertain. Through sharp dialogue and complex characters, Sheltered becomes both a historical drama and a reflection on contemporary questions of responsibility, identity, and compassion.

When I mentioned this show to Barb Woodworth, she recommended two books about children being hidden or evacuated during WWII: *A Good Place to Hide: How One French Community Saved Thousands of Lives in World War II* by Peter Grose, and *The German Girl* (a novel) by Armando Lucas Correa.

—Marie Evans: evans.marie@gmail.com, (716) 636-5770

UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

Our book discussion group normally meets last Sundays at noon in the Library/Living Room. Due to the Annual Meeting, our February meeting is postponed until March 1.

- January 25 TOPIC: New Beginnings
- March 1 BOOK: [Theo of Golden](#) by Allen Levi
- March 29 TOPIC: Animals

The Lending Library has received a donation of many gardening books from Ellen Moomaw. Find them in the Annex, the brown shelves in the Library/Living Room, with our collection of social and economic justice books. (Children's books, too!) Sign out the ones you borrow in the spiral notebook. (Books with religious themes are in the glass cabinet in the Emerson Room.)

While browsing, check out the white shelves in Library/Living Room for Used Books for sale. Pay-what-you-can into the cash box or using a posted QR code. Proceeds benefit Amherst Little Free Pantry.

—Marie Evans



JUSTICE ADVOCACY

As 2025 melts into 2026, the Justice Advocacy Team continues to evolve to meet the education and advocacy needs of the congregation and the community. We now have 4 different divisions of mission and outreach including Democracy in Action, Mindful Movies, Rainbow Coalition, and Community Cares. Each of these is featured on the Justice Advocacy Team white board outside the Emerson Room, along with the Team's mission statement.

February will hold many opportunities to become involved in Justice work. February 6th features our Mindful Movies at 6:00 pm in the Emerson Room. This month's movie will be *God & Country*, a look at the January 6, 2024 insurrection and events leading up to that day. On February 12th, join us in rock painting for guerilla warfare or help prepare safety kits for protesters. This will be 6:00-8:00 pm in the Emerson Room. Snacks will be available for both these events. February 14th, we will hold a special luncheon for the Rainbow Cafe to celebrate love on Valentine's Day. And we continue to support the community Firewall group the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00 am in the Emerson Room. Watch also for postings for things needed as the Community Care division expands. We hope to see you at these events. For more info, contact Lauraine Marcus or Mark/Peggy Cook.

—Peggy/Mark Cook

RAINBOW CAFÉ

The Rainbow Cafe hosted on January 10 was attended by 8 folks including some first-timers! It was exciting that the change in schedule did not prevent people from joining us. We had wonderful discussions getting to know the new attendees, kiki (chat) about our commonalities, and collaborating on future activities for The Cafe.



Holiday Hope for Gateway

Thank you to our generous donors who purchased gifts and wrapping materials for children served by our next door neighbors at Gateway Longview. The gifts were dropped off on Tuesday, December 9, and distributed by staff prior to the holidays, prompting at least one parent to send "a very nice message." Thank you letters will be sent out soon by Gateway.



**2026 Annual Meeting
of the
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Amherst**

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Starting At 12:00n

In-Person & Live Remote Via YouTube

**Advance Registration Required
For Remote Participation!**

**Scan This QR Code Or Contact
The Church Office By 2/20/26!**



UU AMHERST

Fostering Justice and Compassion

6320 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
634-3010
www.uuamherst.org