

Issue

April 2022

# The Foreword



**UU AMHERST**

*Fostering Justice  
and Compassion*

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

## Our Staff:

### Minister

Rev. Michelle Buhite  
Office.....x102  
Cell....716-499-8343  
[minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org)

### Director of Faith Development

Angela Warren  
Office.....x104  
[dfd@uuamherst.org](mailto:dfd@uuamherst.org)

### Caretaker

Chris Barry

### Finance Clerk

Camilla Lee.....x103  
[bookkeeper@uuamherst.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uuamherst.org)

### Office Administrator

Elaine Harrigan.....x101  
[administrator@uuamherst.org](mailto:administrator@uuamherst.org)

### Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

### MINISTER'S HOURS

Rev. Michelle continues to work primarily from home. Business hours: Tuesday-Thursday; Monday (off); Friday (writing).

## 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.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES APRIL AT 10:30 AM

Starting with the service on April 3rd coffee hour will resume (coffee, no food). Masks are now optional. The livestream service will continue. A link to our YouTube channel is available on our website. You can view the recorded service anytime on the channel. Invite friends and family to church!

This month we lift up and engage the topic of Awakening... To self, to life, to love, to possibility.

**April 3 Affirming the Path of Foolishness** Rev. Michelle  
Some of our deepest insights can be found in moments of lightness.

**April 10 Emergent Community: It's time to rise and shine!**  
Rev. Michelle  
Church will never again be what it was. How will we emerge into possibility?

**All ages Faith Development Activity and Story Sharing:** Outdoor egg coloring - weather permitting. All ages will begin in the chapel and proceed either outdoors or to the Emerson room during and after service. Please bring your favorite Springtime / Easter story to share with the gathered community.

**April 17 Easter: He Is Not Here** Rev. Michelle  
When Jesus' followers return to the tomb where his body was laid, they discover that he is not there. Resurrection, not resuscitation, has occurred.

**April 24 Earth Day and the Wild Church** Rev. Michelle  
Sharing insights from the *Church of the Wild* by Victoria Loorz.



## MINISTER'S CORNER

Hello Friends,

We are just a month away from my sabbatical leave. During that time I will be unavailable to you - but I leave you in very capable hands. The Sabbatical Team will be coordinating Sunday services, and I have every confidence that they will exceed your expectations. It may very well be a tactical error to have created such an awesome line-up of speakers... hmmm....

The Sabbatical Team includes Hella Jacob, Lauraine Marcus, Nancy Faery, and our Director of Faith Development, Angela Warren. Rev. Lisa Peterangelo will be the on-call pastoral care minister. This is an amazing team and I am so grateful for their willingness to step into the unknown territory of sabbatical leave. And of course, your Board of Trustees will continue guiding our little ship through sometimes turbulent seas, into safe harbor.

My sabbatical will find me mostly at home, reading and studying and writing. The first month or so I will be doing all of that while recuperating from knee replacement surgery. Some of you have noted my limp and I look forward to greater mobility and less pain. I hope to connect with other UUs at CERSI (see the article in this newsletter to find out what those letters mean!) and maybe even squeeze a little travel into the time as well. I know I will return rested and ready to rejoin you in shared ministry.

Warmly,  
Rev. Michelle

### 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](mailto: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. '

### Don't forget to call your minister!

With health privacy laws, hospitals no longer call churches to let us know when someone has been hospitalized - so it is up to you to contact us if you or someone you know is experiencing health challenges and may want to be contacted. When in doubt, call! Rev. Michelle can be reached on her cell at 716-499-8343.

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**STRONGER TOGETHER**

**LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD**

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**RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE  
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH**

 [UUUA.ORG/IMAGES](http://UUUA.ORG/IMAGES)

### HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: [administrator@uuamherst.org](mailto:administrator@uuamherst.org)

For Newsletter: by 10:00 am on the 16th

For Website: two weeks prior to event

For All Church list serve: daily during the week.

For Weekly Update: Fridays by 10:00 am

**Administrator/Office Hours:**

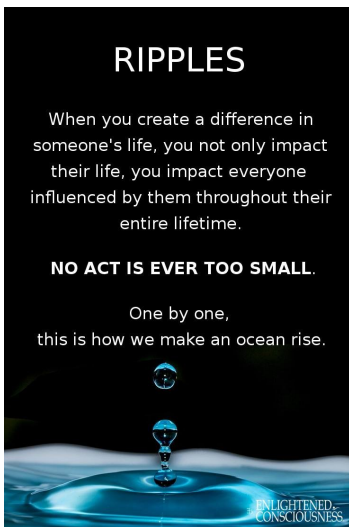
**Tuesday through Friday—9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

## BOARD REPORT

It is so exciting to see new life after a long winter... spring seems to be on the horizon, the geese have returned and the weather is becoming more spring like, I actually got to sit out with our dog, Buddy, to enjoy the spring like day and the sun glistening all around. The exciting news you will read in COVID corner but I'll share. The Medical Task Force feels it is safe for us to open without masks the first week in April. The plan is in-person service with just coffee after the service. It is a start. The finance committee is planning a picnic (outdoors) for the annual meeting in June. Stay tuned. It will be so good to come together. Of course, it is contingent upon no further outbreaks and guidance of the CDC and County Health Professionals. Personally, I cannot wait for us to be together fully again!



I hope that this brings you joy as well Will you be a "ripple" to benefit your church and the greater community? Please know that each drop adds to the ripple that allows us to be/do more in the world. Our Amherst Little Free Pantry and our Clothing Ministry have had an incredible impact in our greater community. There are plans in the works to do even more projects! We have been a well-kept secret and it is time to reach out and let the larger community know that we are here and that we have much to offer.



### Ripples of change:

Did you attend one of the facility reviews? There is much to be done! The sign task force is in the process of soliciting quotes for the electrical, selecting a vendor and putting things in motion. We will be bringing the expenditure to the congregation very soon for a vote of approval. Even though the money has been set aside, our by-laws say that we have to bring any expenditure above 5% of our budget to the congregation for a vote. We received a grant for technology and we are poised to be at the cutting edge for hybrid services, seminars, etc. The Green Team is working diligently to create a community garden, a green living festival and so on. And, so much more. The only limit is our own vision for tomorrow and beyond. We are creating a separate budget for capital improvements

The Board has decided, pending congregational vote, to go with the calendar year versus the fiscal year. The why's are many, but most importantly, it aligns with the tax year, capital gains distributions, vendors' quotes, Mandatory Retirement Distributions, being able to close our books Dec. 31st, making the bookkeeping easier and so on. Our seniors and those who invest will better be able to determine their capacity to give during the Generosity Drive. Hence, we will be doing two Drives: First for a 6 month (July 1 to Dec. 31, 2022) and the second one will be a year-long budget and pledge of generosity and gratitude (Jan.1-Dec.31,2023).

Our current Generosity Drive is under way. You will be contacted by either a Board member or a member of the Finance Committee. What we are asking is to take 60% of your previous year's pledge for the six-month budget. We are asking you to front load the 10% so we can create financial stability. Why an increase? Our basic costs have increased in many areas during the two years of COVID, we were "saved" via the Payroll Protection Program by getting two loans for a total of \$58,000. These loans were forgiven so we do not have to repay them. The program is no longer available. We were not able to have rentals beyond Day Care and there was no fundraising. We have had two years in a row of deficit budgets and have depleted our reserves. There is a plan to create a capital reserve budget so the monies for repairs and or projects will be available depending on our giving, rentals and other revenue producing activities. Looking ahead, this could become the base for a Capital Fund Drive for future building.

Currently, even if the giving is at the current level, there is nothing available for staff raises, creating the music position nor increasing the hours of the Faith Development Director (Angela). You have the power to change this!

continued on next page 4

Continued from page 3

**Feel into your heart...**What aspects of church are you grateful to be a part of? What friends and connections have you made? In what ways has the community helped you to grow (intellectually, spiritually, technically, and other ways? How have you grown through this COVID time? In other words: What does the church mean to you? Will you invest to keep it viable for the present and future generations? You are wanted, needed and valued. Your many gifts are deeply appreciated. This means your active involvement, volunteerism, and your generosity. Will you increase your 6 month pledge?

On a positive note, the tech team has been working diligently! Have you noticed the new screens at the front of the sanctuary. They are so much clearer than the projection screen we had been using. Les Buhite has been leading the charge with the technology grant. He has been an amazing dynamo in keeping us current and relevant as a church. Please be sure to share your gratitude with Les. He does so many incredible things behind the scenes that make church life better.

I'm sure there is so much more to say that I am forgetting... For now, these are the thoughts that are most at the front of my mind. Stay well and I hope to see you in person in April!

Much love,  
Karen Thompson, Chair  
On behalf of the  
UU Amherst Board of Trustees



Karen Thompson



Don Tucker



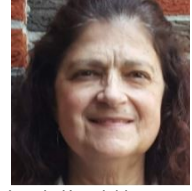
Bruce Becker



Linda Gardner



Emily Garrett



Laurie Kasnicki



Jeanine Moyer

## Contribution Advisories

### **Sending checks for your contributions:**

When mailing in your checks to the church, please write on the check memo line or a note inside the envelope regarding what the check is for (if needed) and not on the front of the envelope. This is a safety precaution so that you are not calling attention to the envelope containing a check.

### **Contributions that do not apply to your church pledge:**

Funds that are contributed to share-the-plate and/or Endowment Trust do not apply to your annual pledge and are not included on year-end statements. Funds that are contributed to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, Little Free Pantry, 3 FOCL, etc., are listed on year end statements.

For tax purposes, we highly recommend keeping your own records of share-the-plate and Endowment Trust contributions.

## Contributing to UU Amherst

1. The **Giving** option on the church website ([uuamherst.org](http://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



The collection bins have been put away for the winter. However, Bob & Kathy Wack's granddaughter, Mariel Gousios, will continue to pick up members' CLEAN bottles & cans from their residences. If interested, contact her at [refundthepantry@gmail.com](mailto:refundthepantry@gmail.com).



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Dear UU Amherst Members and Friends,

It is wonderful to see you all in person again! Throughout this spring and summer, your UU Amherst Faith Development team will be preparing us for a season of outdoor adventures in Family Ministry. Our first one will be somewhat traditional: Spring / Easter Egg decorating, Sunday April 10th during and after service. Are you interested in participating or in helping to plan other fun and or educational activities for the spring and summer? Please join us! Voices of all ages are always welcome!

In Service,  
Angela Warren, UU Amherst Director of Faith Development



### Church in 3-Ds: Discovery, Discernment, Design: UU Amherst Faith Development for All 2022

Our first trimester of Discovery in this year-long process comes to its close at the end of this month. This Discovery has been about looking deeply at your reasons for being part of UU Amherst. Each and every one of us can contribute to the Discovery of our Core Values as a community, and inform how our church community moves forward, Discerning and Designing our future within the larger community. May will move us into the second trimester of Discernment during the time that Reverend Michelle is on sabbatical. Everything has its time and season. We have begun the process of Discovery, Discernment, and Design with regard to our future as a beloved community. We know where we've been, but where are we going? How will we get there? What will we carry forward? What belongs to another time? If you are interested in helping compile our stories as they emerge, please let Angela or Reverend Michelle know. The picture we create will depend on the creativity of those willing and able to be an integral part of this congregational project.

### Green Justice Team

Your UU Amherst Green Justice Team meets regularly on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Jeanine Moyer is the Team lead, and is seeking a co-leader. We are particularly seeking someone who has experience in communications / marketing / event planning during the next few seasons. Planning for our newly re-scheduled Green Living Festival will be a priority. Our new dates are September 9 to 11, 2022. We also have been in communication with our own leadership about expanding our efforts to grow and provide more healthy foods to those in need. Contact Jeanine at [jeanine.moyer@gmail.com](mailto:jeanine.moyer@gmail.com) to volunteer!



## APRIL 2022 CALENDAR

**PLEASE NOTE:** In person meetings are now able to resume. Some will continue to be virtual-only; others will be hybrid (Zoom and in-person); and some in-person only. See the notation after the meeting. Zoom links for general church groups are published in the *Weekly Update* unless they are hosted on a private account. Zoom events taking place in the Zadmin, Zfd, or Zrev rooms are identified with the abbreviation.

**Friday, Apr 1st**

**7:00 pm:** Shared Reading Zoom

**Sunday, Apr 3rd** (monthly 1st Sun)

**12:00 pm:** Little Free Pantry Meeting LR & Zoom

**Tuesday, Apr 5th** (monthly 1st Tues)

**7:00 pm:** Talk Back with Board Zoom

**Friday, Apr 8th**

**7:30 pm:** Adult Story Hour Zoom

**Sunday, Apr 10th** (monthly 2nd Sun)

**10:30 am:** All Ages FD Activity & Story Sharing EM

**11:30 am:** Poetry as Practice LR & Zoom

**Tues, Apr 12th** (monthly 2nd Tues)

**7:00 pm:** Board Meeting EM

**Weds, Apr 13th** (monthly 2nd Weds)

**1:30 pm:** Caring Team Zoom

**7:30 pm:** Green Justice Team Zoom

**Sunday, Apr 17th** (monthly 3rd Sun)

**11:30 am:** FD Team Meeting Zoom

**Tues, Apr 19th**

**6:00 pm:** Endowment Trust Meeting DR

**Wednesday, Apr 20th** (monthly 3rd Wed)

**1:00 pm:** 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group Zoom

**5:00 pm:** Finance Committee EM

**7:00 pm:** Bofinger Covenant Group Zoom

**Thursday, Apr 21st** (monthly 3rd Thu)

**7:00 pm:** Ministry Council Zoom

**Saturday, Apr 23rd**

**10:00 am** Larry Reade Memorial Service

**Sunday, Apr 24th** (monthly last Sun)

**12:00 pm :** UU Amherst Book Group—  
in-person DR & Zoom

**Thursday, Apr 28th** (monthly 4th Thu)

**7:00 pm:** Covenant Group EM

Continued

**RECURRING:**

**UU Universe-ity Sunrise Sessions continue**

**M-F, 8:30 am** Zfd Link provided in Weekly Update

**Saturdays, Apr 2nd-30th**

**9:30 am:** Shared Caring Circle Zoom Zrev

**7:00 pm:** Birch Bunch Zoom Zadmin

**Sundays, Apr 3rd-24th**

**10:30:** Church service—in-person and livestream  
Coffee Hour following starting April 3rd

**Mondays, Apr 4th-25th**

**7:00 pm:** Lighthearted Larches (4/11; 4/25)

D. Tucker

**7:00 pm:** Tulip Crabapple Zadmin (weekly)

L. Marcus

**7:30 pm:** Marvelous Maples (4/11; 4/25)

D. Bofinger

**Tuesdays, Apr 5th-26th**

**12:30 pm:** Women's Group Lunch — Zoom

**Wednesdays, Apr 6th-27th**

**10:30 am:** Willow Village Zadmin (2nd &  
4th Weds: 4/13 & 4/27) J. Senders

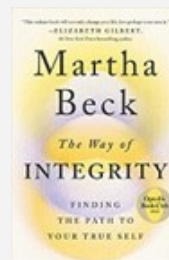
**7:00 pm:** Sage Circle Zfd (2nd & 4th Weds:  
4/13 & 4/27) S. Christ

**7:00 pm:** Northtowns Village (4/20)

**Thursdays, Apr 7th-28th**

**12:00 pm:** Lunch with Friends Zoom Zadmin

**UU Universe - ity: Sunrise Sessions  
Weekdays (M - F) from 8:30 to 9:00 am**



We still gather each weekday morning from 8:30 am to 9:00 am via Zoom. All are welcome to join at any time. Many thanks to Lauraine Marcus, who continues to curate programming for this group. In mid-April, part of the group's focus will be on *The Way of Integrity* by Martha Beck. Stay tuned for more details. See the *Weekly Update* for Zoom link.

## Change in Technology Position

We were very fortunate to have Joce Kofke as our pilot tech person through the pandemic. The board has heard wonderful feedback and we are so happy that it worked well for all concerned. Joce will be leaving the position at the end of March. We will still budget the position and hope to find someone to fill the irreplaceable Joce! If you have a person in mind who could fill the position as an independent contractor, please let Karen Thompson know.

## Adult Story Hour

Friday, April 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm, Via Zoom  
(Note: 2nd Friday)

We resume the relaxing and thought-provoking practice of listening as a story is read. We'll pick up where we left off with the story of *The Incarnation* as creatively shared by David Bumbaugh in his book, *The Education of God*. This will be the last story hour of this church year.

### Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82779773140?pwd=SIBEcmdheGE5OW1aZXhORkYySGtQdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 7977 3140

Passcode: Story

## Ministry Council

The Ministry Council meets via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you'd like to attend the meeting, contact Rev. Michelle for the Zoom link. Any proposals for activities and new ministries should be sent to Rev. Michelle ([minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org)) at least one week prior to the next Council meeting, and a representative from the proposing group must attend the meeting to answer questions and help the Council say 'yes' to your idea.

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UUA.ORG/IMAGES



## UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

On Sunday, March 27, we meet at noon in the church Dining Room AND on Zoom, to discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Marie will facilitate. Bring your calendar as we'll be picking a date in July for a potluck luncheon at Grace's home.

For April, our topic is **Refugees**. We meet April 24, and Wendy will facilitate.

**May book:** *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan. We meet on May 29.

### Lending Library

Check out the Lending Library in the glass curio cabinet at the north end of the Emerson Room (when building is open). Sign out whatever you'd like in the spiral notebook.



## CERSI—CENTRAL EAST SUMMER INSTITUTE 2022 July 10-16, California University of Pennsylvania

2022 theme speaker will be Kazim Ali, focuses on "Questioning the Unquestionable, Answering the Unanswerable."

Registration starts March 1st; 50% deposit is required at the time of registration—the remainder of fees are due on the first day of the SI registration. There are partial week and full week options with a choice of workshop and seminars. Some programs will be available online. UU Amherst's own Kim Diana Connolly will be presenting the topic: "Circling Together: Using the Practice to Enrich and Restore Your Home, Your Church, Your Community, and Our World."

Scholarships available. For more information and to register, go to: [CERSIUU.org](http://CERSIUU.org)

## THEATER LOVERS —Marie Evans

Looking forward, save the date Sunday, May 22, for the next Theater Lovers outing to Jewish Repertory Theatre and Lebros restaurant. I will send an all-church email when discount ticket order forms become available. - Marie Evans

"Modern Orthodox" runs May 5-29.

Directed by Steve Vaughan / Starring: Zachary Bellus, Robyn Braun, Genevieve Ellis, and Adam Yellen  
This hilarious and heartfelt comedy tells the story of Ben Jacobson, an Upper West Side financial consultant ready to propose to his long-time girlfriend Hannah, and Herschel Klein, an Orthodox diamond dealer tasked with selling Ben an engagement ring. After a fateful first meeting Herschel becomes entangled in the lives of Ben and Hannah for better and worse. Initially Ben and Herschel's differing views on their shared religions divides them, but as both men struggle with romantic relationships and faith an unexpected bond is forged between them in their pursuit of love.

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## AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

**"Category of the Month" : Soap and Body Wash; Shampoo and Deodorant**

**Category of the Month means the Pantry has a shortage of those particular items.** However, ALL food and personal care donations are gratefully received **at any time**. We currently have an over abundance of macaroni and cheese, soup, canned beans as well as green beans, carrots, and mixed vegetables.

Have you ever wondered if there is something you could do, to directly impact the lives of those in your community? Maybe you have considered the Amherst Little Free Pantry but you are unable to physically stock the Pantry? During the pandemic the Pantry was "open for business", helping many of our fellow travelers on our "Blue Boat Home." The Pantry Team has come up with goals to help the Pantry not only stay open, but thrive in its mission in serving our community. **But we need your help.**

1. We could use a **Treasurer**. Camilla sends us the expenses and donation every month. Would you be able to track those over a year? What are we spending our money on? From what sources are we getting our money?
2. Join the **Grant Writing Team**. Help find grants. Write grants.
3. Devise a formal **procedure for tracking inventory**
4. Become a member of the **fund raising team**. Work in a team to find ideas and follow up on how to make it happen.
5. **Outreach communicator** to find help/donations/fund raising ideas.

If you are at all interested in exploring new shores, just send me an email.

—Cheryl Tomasulo, cftomasulo@gmail.com



## ENDOWMENT TRUST

Remember that you can contribute effortlessly to UU Amherst's Endowment Trust when you shop online at Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com/>). Choose **Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst Endowment Trust** as the organization you want to support, then just order as you usually would. It costs you nothing extra, but generates a donation for us, 0.5% of your purchases. That doesn't seem like much, but it adds up! We were recently issued a \$36.13 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2021. (Funds are generally received in February, May, August, and November.) The Endowment received \$131.88 from Amazon during 2021, \$91.62 in 2020, \$39.00 in 2019.

Your Trustees next meet on Tuesday, April 19, at 6:00 pm in the church Dining Room. Please let me know if you would like to attend as a visitor.

- Marie Evans (Chair), for Joe Rautenstrauch (Treasurer), Elaine Cusker, Lauraine Marcus, and John Thompson

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## COMMITTEE ON MISSION

We are very pleased that our work with the Amherst Little Free Pantry team was completed on March 6th. This was a delightful team with whom to engage. Team members were enthusiastic, creative, and very caring about the people they serve. They created goals not only to help the food pantry stay open but thrive to fulfill their mission in serving our community. Their goals have opened new avenues for needed help on their team. If you read the "Weekly Update Friday", you can read about these important opportunities. Thank you, all members of the Amherst Little Free Pantry team. It was a joy to create with you!

CoM's next endeavor is a meeting with the Board or Trustees, at their invitation, to learn about and experience The Circle Way of communication while discussing the Proposed Eighth Principle.

Another church year will be coming to a close before we know it! This means that at our end of March CoM meeting we will discuss whom will be asked to join this committee as Suzanne Christ will be rotating off at the end of this church year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Christ, CoM Chair

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## CLOTHING MINISTRY

Spring has sprung and the Clothing Ministry is planning on changing from cold weather to warm weather clothing. In early April we shall sort through our inventory and switch to Spring clothing. **We are planning on having a mini-spring clothing drive on Sunday, April 10th.** We will be available before and after the service to accept clean, like new and gently used warm weather clothing. We are also in need of pants/skirts hangers. There are donation bins in the coat closet off of the main lobby and on the second floor of the RE wing, or you can contact us for a Covid friendly clothing donation. We look forward to seeing you next month.

Dian and Don Tucker, Pam and Jerry Kent, Barbara and Barry Kent

## 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 group. They provide occasional meals to church 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.

### ITALIAN ALMOND COOKIES

(reprinted from May 2021)

Makes 2 dozen. 350 degrees. 2 hours

2 cups blanched almonds (Trader Joe’s has a 15 oz package that is perfect)

2/3 cup sugar

2 egg whites

1/2 tsp almond extract

Powdered sugar, for dusting

Amarena cherries or any dried cherries or raisins or whole almonds for garnish



Put half the almonds and half the sugar in a food processor and process to obtain a coarse meal. Repeat with the rest of the almonds and sugar. Put egg whites in a medium bowl with the almond extract. Using a wire whisk, beat the whites until soft peaks form. Add the almond sugar mixture to the whites and use a rubber spatula to incorporate the egg whites until you obtain a dough like consistency. Use a spoon to make 24 small blobs. Roll each by hand to make smooth balls, then flatten them slightly. Roll each in powdered sugar to coat well and place 1 inch apart on a parchment lined pan. Press a dried cherry, raisin or almond in the center of each or leave plain if you prefer. Leave the tray of unbaked cookies at room temperature, uncovered for 1 hour. Bake at 350 until lightly browned, 30 to 35 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. Store in an airtight container for up to 1 week.



### COVID CORNER

We are beginning to learn to live with Covid19. The local numbers are going down while the numbers in Europe and Asia are rising (due to a new Omicron variant). Two years ago, the world closed down due to Covid19 but now we have 2 years of data with which to base our policy. What we thought at the time did not prove to be accurate, and we now have the medical ability to prevent and treat severe Covid19.

Forty years ago, HIV changed the way medicine was practiced and what became normal for day to day activities. I believe Covid19 will also be a catalyst for major changes in the world. I believe our beloved church will reopen for the warmer weather. Whether or not we wear masks inside will depend on many factors. We will encourage our congregation to get immunized and boosted.

I just read about vaccine developers recently applying to the FDA to approve a second booster for individuals 65+. They must have the data to support this and I expect all will need another booster if a variant “goes viral” in the USA. So, we will try to safely return to an open campus for the warmer weather. We will start with no masks required during our April 3rd service and coffee (but no snacks) after the service. We will encourage a safe environment for gatherings and we will expect everyone to contribute to the safety of our friends and neighbors. And, if the numbers go up, we will evaluate the situation and do what is best for all.

—Barbara Gauger Kent



## **April U.U.—U.N.NEWS**

**7 March 2022**

According to the U.N. Charter, the primary purpose of the U.N. is to eliminate the scourge of war and promote human rights—in a word, the maintenance of international peace and security. However, the U.N. at present does not have the power to maintain world peace. That is because the U.N. does not possess its own effective system of collective security to keep the peace, thereby allowing for universal and complete disarmament under U.N. auspices. The world spends over a trillion dollars a year on armaments. The United States of America spends at least 700 billion dollars per year on such instruments of death and destruction. Other U.N. Member States are not blameless either. The human family needs a change of heart and needs to convert its swords into ploughshares under U.N. auspices; otherwise, the future of humanity is bleak, indeed.

During January 2022, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres addressed the 193 Members of the U.N. General Assembly on this matter. In his first address of the new year to the U.N. General Assembly, he called for action to address threats to world peace in the world's hotspots, action to promote sustainable development and action to protect the Earth. "We are capable of global citizenship and all U.N. Member States must also do their part to empower the U.N. itself." The U.N. should not have to plead with its 193 U.N. Member States to support its main purpose: the maintenance of international peace and security.

U.N. Secretary-General Guterres deplored the continuing violence in Ukraine, Syria, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, etc. "The international community must also focus greater attention on the interrelated threats of organized crime, terrorism, piracy, extremism, and trafficking in drugs, people and arms," he said. This includes continuing to strive towards achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres also emphasized the need to make progress towards achieving the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the U.N.'s Agenda 2030. The current, virulent global pandemic must be eliminated in a scientific manner. This is a matter of the utmost urgency. Too many people doubt the efficacy of the current vaccines and the need to wear masks.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres also warned all 193 U.N. Member States against succumbing to the myth that sustainable development is incompatible with robust action to control climate change and global warming. "Evidence shows that the goals of eradicating poverty, promoting inclusive growth and keeping global temperature increases below two degrees Celsius, are mutually reinforcing," U. N. Secretary-General António Guterres argued. A voluntary climate change treaty (the Paris Agreement on Climate Change) has been adopted by the international community and should be implemented as soon as possible.

Humanity's major problems—world peace, universal disarmament, sustainable development, global warming, war, terrorism, militarism, poverty, natural and manmade disasters, diseases and human rights violations, etc. need an effective U.N. to solve them. Unfortunately, these are the actual problems of our troubled, interdependent world and they have not yet been solved. There is no time to lose. The human family needs to get its house in order or perish. This sad situation may not be pleasant to contemplate, but it is the truth. The insurgency against science, reason, logic and truth must cease. What human beings have created, human beings can change. A more humane and just world is still possible. However, human beings have to make it happen.

David Slive, U.N. Envoy



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