

Issue

June 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

Our Staff:

Minister (sabbatical May-Sept.)

Rev. Michelle Buhite
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Office Administrator

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

Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

MINISTER'S HOURS

While Rev. Michelle is on sabbatical (May-August), there is a team managing her Pastoral and Sunday Worship activities. See contact information on page 2.

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 JUNE AT 10:30 AM

Due to rising Covid rates, mask wearing indoors is recommended. Sunday Services are continuing as dual platform—both in-person and livestreamed. 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! Remember that coffee hour follows with beverages, only; no food!

June 5th What's Pride Got to Do with It? Rev. Joe Cherry

Join guest minister, Rev. Joe Cherry this Sunday as he shares reflections and some the history of Gay Pride as well as asking theological questions about pride. See bio on page 11.

Next week's Annual Meeting will be Virtual (June 12th). Join your Board of Trustees after service today for an informational meeting followed by a picnic.

Our service today will be ONLINE ONLY due to the Annual Meeting at Noon. June 12th UUA "Woven Garment" Service

"Woven in a Single Garment of Destiny" is a UUA video worship service that explores and celebrates hallmarks of our UU theology. We are an interdependent whole. We make promises about how to be together, and how to be in the world. We also fall short of honoring those promises, inviting us to repair and strengthen the strands of community. The choice to mend broken strands of the web is an act of faithfulness.

June 19th Flower Communion Sabbatical Team

This is a richly meaningful Unitarian Universalist tradition, begun by Norbert and Maya Copek in 1923, and brought to the United States in 1940. Bring flowers to share with those gathered this Sunday. This rite celebrates the gathered community. This service is for all ages.

June 26th Automatic Mannerisms John Snodgrass

An exploration of utterances like "bless you" and "excuse me" - should these be classified as prayer, manners or magic? Have their meanings changed over time? And what value do these phrases have in the modern world? See bio on page 11.

A REPORT FROM YOUR SABBATICAL TEAM

Dear Friends,

The first month of our Sabbatical adventure is behind us – and we did not capsized the boat, whew! You will be glad to know that Rev. Michelle is now in the rehabilitative phase of her knee replacement. Hopefully, this will also leave time for the other restorative activities such as reading, writing and “a little travel.”

Your Sabbatical Team is meeting Wednesday mornings on Zoom. A typical session includes reviewing the previous week, a look at pastoral needs, planning next Sunday’s script, music, and slides, and confirming future guest speakers. We continue to communicate throughout the week via group emails and texts to ensure that our Sunday service is as seamless as possible working closely with Les Buhite, Andy Anderson and Adam Schmidt.

Throughout the Summer, we will be looking for support on Sunday mornings for Greeters, Ushers, and Coffee Hour. It does mean getting to church at 10:00 a.m. instead of 10:30. But how wonderful to have someone to warmly welcome newcomers and to get people settled in the sanctuary! Let us know if you can help!

If you don’t catch us on Sunday with your questions or concerns, you can email the whole team at uuca-sabbatical@googlegroups.com.

As always, administrative questions should be directed to Elaine in the office at administrator@uuamherst.org.

For your reference, your Sabbatical Team and each person’s area of focus:

Rev. Lisa Peterangelo Pastoral Care pete230237@gmail.com
Angela Warren Guest Speaker Contact dfd@uuamherst.org
Nancy Faery Worship Coordinator nancyfaery4@gmail.com
Lauraine Marcus Communication Coordinator cornell_marcus@yahoo.com
Hella Jacob Guest Speaker Honoraria hellajacob@me.com

We have appreciated the positive support and feedback we have received for our efforts in May. We look forward to continuing to serve you during the coming months.



Rev. Lisa Peterangelo



Lauraine Marcus



Hella Jacob



Angela Warren



Nancy Faery



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 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

Dear Friends,

What a ride the last two years have been for all of us....and the COVID adventure continues! Thank you for supporting the church and each other through the tumult. Church is all about community. Although we have had our challenges, from talking with other church chairs from across the country, we have done better than most. This is because of the care and compassion we have for one another. It is the heart of what makes this church a wonderful place to be.



The Chalice Lighter Grant has been a game changer. Our services are professional and they are available all the time on our you tube channel. The online programs have helped us to stay connected and stay engaged. Faith Development has gone above and beyond to provide programs and bring crafts to you. There is so much that we have for which to be grateful.

Your board and its committees have been diligent in their work. We had 3 Foci that we started two years ago. At the Annual Meeting, we will be voting on the sign expenditure. This task force has faced numerous obstacles. The power supply, tree removal and moving the giant rock were unanticipated challenges. The power supply means trenching through bedrock (no easy task).

The Facilities Focus Group worked with Wendell and brought to us a facilities study which will guide us into the future. The future is bright.

The Green Justice Team brought in the goats for managing the invasive plants in the nature preserve. They are in the process of planning a festival in September. It is something we can all look forward to as we reach out to the greater community. There will be speakers, goat landscaping, vendors, a basket raffle and much, much more. This is possible through your generosity and the NYSCU grant that the task force received.

The Finance Committee has been busy with creating the budget, studying and increasing rents, opening a brokerage account to stimulate a capital reserve fund, suggesting some changes that will benefit the church such as, changing to the calendar year, taking 5% of revenue and putting them in a capital reserve fund, assisting on the pledge drive and much more.

Personnel has completed the Personnel Handbook and other practices to standardize our employment practices.

Facilities hired the architect to conduct study of our facilities focusing on usage and the mechanics, after the vote last year. This will guide us to our future decisions regarding our facilities. The Facilities Committee is planning next steps. Additionally, the problem with the day care flooding after a rain has been solved. We are thankful to Chris Cauley, our plow and lawn care man, for coming up and implementing a solution to the long-term problem. This was huge! Along with the Medical Task Force, they have put in air purifiers to keep us as safe as we can be from airborne particulates.

Nominating and Leadership Development Committee has done an amazing job of bringing us a slate of Nominees the last two years. We look forward to being in person and bringing in some educational and leadership development opportunities.

The Medical Task Force has been diligent in making sure we stay informed and safe.

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We have been working hard on policy governance. The Board being responsible for the Committees as above and the Minister guiding all the teams through the Ministry Council. Although there have been bumps along the way, as with most change; the division of labor is working and making us stronger. In essence, the Board manages the business dynamics of church and Rev. Michelle manages the rest. Honestly, I can understand why our management system in the past left many of our projects and issues unresolved. When people are able to focus on defined areas of responsibility, we function more efficiently. In the near future, as we become more skilled, it will become easier like a well-oiled machine. Thank you for your patience as we traverse the pathways of change.

I am personally very grateful for the last three boards of UU Amherst. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with these amazing leaders. Although we have some unfinished projects that Don, Laurie and I leave behind; I am confident the leaders who follow will bring them to fruition. We are blessed to have such passionate and focused leadership.

We have a meeting on June 5th after church to discuss the calendar year and general questions you may have. We will follow that by a picnic. Please bring a chair and a dish to pass. We will be dining outdoors (weather permitting). It will be great for us to be together again!

On June 12th we will have our Annual Meeting. The major votes will be on By-Law changes for the calendar year, the six-month budget, the UUA contribution (in order to keep our tech grant we need to be a fair share donor). Our contribution returned \$20,000 in Chalice Lighter grant, around \$5,000 in NYSCU grants along with great support from Rev. Renee. We are also voting on the expenditure for the sign and the associated costs. We will be voting on and welcoming our board slate, Nominating Committee and Endowment Trust members. We need people to attend the Annual Meeting to have a quorum.

UU Amherst, will be welcoming a new board chair after the June meeting. Thank you for the honor of being in service to the church community. Your support and care are deeply appreciated. Completing their terms are Don Tucker, Laurie Kasnicki and myself. There is much to look forward to in the days, months and years ahead. Your continued support of our leadership is an immeasurable gift.

In shared faith,

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

Candidates for Leadership Positions

As required by the UUCA Bylaws, the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee have submitted to the Board the following list of candidates for the open leadership positions for 2022-23. The board approved the slate of candidates at the March meeting to be presented to the congregation for the vote on June 12th at the (virtual) Annual Meeting.

Board of Trustees (3 openings)

Randy Kent
Tom Langan
Bob Johnson

Nominating and Leadership Development Committee (3 openings)

Jackie Senders
Marjorie Buscher
Marlana Rice

Endowment Trust (1 opening)

Dorothy Reade

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Dear UU Amherst Members and Friends,

Your FD Team has begun to plan fun and educational activities for all through the spring and summer. We will allow ourselves to get into the practice of being in physical proximity to one another again even as we navigate continued pandemic precautions.

So far we have two ongoing projects:

Our **Sunflowers for Ukraine** efforts in conjunction with your Green Justice Team have begun. The kick-off to this project is Big Planting Day on Sunday, May 29th after church services. We are also forming a sign making team with the goal of helping attendees of the Living Green Festival see what our place has to offer. Making fun and informative signage about the place and plants here at UU Amherst will be ongoing through September.

One of our FD for all projects last year was making chalices from found objects. We have a lot of supplies left. This ongoing project will be set up in the Emerson Room for rainy days. You may take a chalice home with you, or donate it back to the church. We can look forward to inviting the wider UU community to our Festival and having them available for sale on September 10th.

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



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

“Friends, as we dream of the season ahead, let’s all sit more with what we believe, what we want, what we are becoming.

Let’s see if our deepest motivations in fact have even deeper motivations. If our deepest needs have even deeper needs. If our dreams have even deeper dreams.”

These words come from our friend Petra Page Mann who will join us to kick off our Living Green Festival on Friday evening, September 9th at 6:00 pm. Let us look to our beliefs, motivations, needs, and dreams as we discern the future of this beloved community through this spring and summer. As you gather in small groups and at church on Sundays, consider these words in the context of June’s Soul Matters theme of Celebrating Blessings. As we remain grateful to be so fortunate to have what we have, consider how our blessings can be shared with the wider community. To whom do we belong, and who do we serve? Remember, as UU’s, Love is our Doctrine. Service is our Prayer. Let us be a place where Peace and Love are centered.

Green Justice Team

Progress continues as we develop the new garden beds in the front of the church. We will be planting food as part of our food justice initiatives; much of the food will be donated to the Amherst Little Free Pantry. Interested in learning more about organic gardening while helping to serve both your church and the wider community? Reach out to Angela to find out how you can help.

The Living Green Festival planned for the weekend of September 9 through 11 is fast approaching! If you have any experience or just an interest in event planning, please reach out to Jeanine at Jeanine.moyer@gmail.com to volunteer. We are currently meeting through Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 pm to both plan the Festival and continue our other Green initiatives. As the date draws nearer, we will be meeting more often. Please keep an eye on the *Weekly Update* for details.

We will be piloting a battery recycling initiative with a Big Green Box (<https://biggreenbox.com/>). A box has been donated and will be appearing in the lobby of the church in the near future. Once the box is in place, you will be encouraged to bring your used batteries to church for recycling. —Jeanine Moyer

JUNE 2022 CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE: In person meetings are now able to resume. Some will continue to be virtual-only; others will be dual platform (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.

Coffee Hour

Our fellowship time over a beverage has returned, but food during coffee hour has not. The potential for exposure to the Covid virus is directly linked to the amount of time we linger at the table. Unless it is a church activity (picnic or special event), we will not be including snacks at coffee hour.

Sunday, June 5th (monthly 1st Sun)
11:45 am: Little Free Pantry Meeting LR & Zoom

Tuesday, June 7th (monthly 1st Tues)
7:00 pm: Talk Back with Board Zoom

Wednesday, June 8th (monthly 2nd Weds)
1:30 pm: Caring Team DR
7:30 pm: Green Justice Team Zoom

Sunday, June 12th
10:30 am: Service Virtual Only
12:00 pm: Annual Meeting Zoom

Tuesday, June 14th (monthly 2nd Tues)
7:00 pm: Board Meeting EM

Wednesday, June 15th (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, June 16th (monthly 3rd Thu)
7:00 pm: Ministry Council Zoom

Sunday, June 19th (monthly 3rd Sun)
11:30 am: FD Team Meeting

Thursday, June 23rd (monthly 4th Thu)
7:00 pm: Covenant Group EM

Sunday, June 26th (monthly 4th Sun)
12:00 pm: UU Amherst Book Group LR & Zoom

Continued

RECURRING:

UU Universe-ity Sunrise Sessions continue M-W and F, 8:30 am. The discussion group, *Way of Integrity* continues on Thursdays at 8:30 am.

Saturdays, June 4th-25th
9:30 am: Shared Caring Circle Zoom Zrev
7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zoom Zadmin

Sundays, June 5th-26th
10:30: Church service—in-person and livestream
Coffee Hour following

Mondays, June 6th-27th
7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapple Zadmin (weekly)
L. Marcus
7:00 pm: Lighthearted Larches (6/6; 6/20)
D. Tucker
7:30 pm: Marvelous Maples (6/6; 6/20)
D. Bofinger

Tuesdays, June 7th-28th
12:30 pm: Women's Study Group Zoom

Wednesdays, June 8th-29th
10:00 am: Sabbatical Team Meeting Zoom
10:30 am: Willow Village Zadmin (2nd & 4th Weds: 6/8 & 6/22) J. Senders
7:00 pm: Northtowns Village (6/15)

Thursdays, June 2nd-30th
8:30 am: *Way of Integrity* Discussion Group Zoom
12:00 pm: Lunch with Friends Zadmin Zoom

MINISTRY COUNCIL

The Ministry Council meets via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you'd like to attend the meeting, contact Lauraine Marcus (cornell_marcus@yahoo.com) for the Zoom link. No proposals for new ministries will be entertained during Rev. Michelle's sabbatical.



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

2022 theme speaker will be author Kazim Ali, who will focus on “Questioning the Unquestionable, Answering the Unanswerable.”

A 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



UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

Book Club meets the last Sunday of the month during the church year (September through May), at noon. (We've been doing hybrid meetings with some participants in person in the church Living Room and others joining by Zoom.) We alternate monthly between a common read title and a topic (where participants choose their own book on a specific theme).

For May 29, we're all reading *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan.

At that meeting, we will be choosing our next topic and discussing summer plans, including an off-site luncheon in July. Please contact Grace Little for further information.

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.

(Secular novels and books about social justice issues can be found in the church Living Room on the Bookshelves.)



Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, June 12th 12 noon

Please join the Annual Meeting Zoom session starting at 11:50 am by following this link (the link will be sent prior to the meeting in an All Church with a clickable link):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82748609332?pwd=WGROcXNvbVVKWjFhQXBwT2k1dWN4Zz09>

No Passcode or Meeting ID is required! You will be admitted to the meeting by the meeting host.

You may also call into the meeting by dialing 929-205-6099. If you are calling into the meeting you must enter Meeting ID: **827 4860 9332**

Questions regarding the Zoom meeting logistics may be directed to Bruce Becker at bbbecker4004@gmail.com in advance of the meeting.

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

AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

"Category of the Month": Canned fruit, cereal and pasta sauce (in cans or plastic jars)

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.



The collection bins for recycling are available. **PLEASE BAG CLEAN CANS & BOTTLES RATHER THAN PUTTING LOOSE INTO THE BINS TO DISCOURAGE ANTS.** Bob & Kathy Wack's granddaughter, Mariel Gousios, will continue to pick up members' CLEAN bottles and cans from their residences. Judy Churchill, one of our pantry volunteers since it's inception, will be taking over Refund the Pantry for Bob Wacks granddaughter, Mariel.

Refund the Pantry has brought in over \$600 dollars for the Pantry over the past 2 years and is a major fundraiser at this time. Please continue to donate your cans and bottles to the Pantry. Two collection cans are located outside. Place your clean cans and bottles in a plastic bag and simply leave them in the cans. Or email refundthepantry@gmail.com for pickup.

—Cheryl Tomasulo, cftomasulo@gmail.com

ENDOWMENT TRUST

At our quarterly meeting on April 19, 2022, the Endowment Trustees discussed a **Request for Distribution of ET Funds** from the church Board of Trustees for unanticipated expenses at church. One portion was for emergency removal of a dangerous tree, disbursed immediately after the Board chose between contractors' estimates, and the balance for additional tree removal and trenching for electrical upgrades necessary to erect a new church sign. That second portion will be disbursed contingent on congregational approval of the Board's plan at this annual meeting.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 19, at 6 pm at church. *Church members are welcome to attend!* At that meeting, the Trustees will determine their roles for the upcoming year. Marie Evans will have completed her term on the Endowment and we will be welcoming a new trustee.

Growing the Endowment Trust insures the financial future of UU Amherst.

Consider adding the Endowment to your will. Smaller financial gifts often given to honor the memory of friends or loved ones who have died are welcome as well. Accumulated donations eventually earn leaves of recognition on the Endowment Tree in the Atrium.

You can also support the Endowment if you use Amazon.com. Sign up for smile.amazon.com, designate Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst Endowment Trust and a percentage of all your purchases will go to the Trust.

Thank you for your continued support of the Endowment Trust.

-Lauraine Marcus, for Trustees Marie Evans, Joe Rautenstrauch, Elaine Cusker, and John Thompson

COMMITTEE ON MISSION

As we complete the church year the members of the Committee on Mission (CoM) are eagerly preparing for the coming year. Having met with three teams over the past year we are now looking at the selection of two teams with whom to begin work in the fall. As we begin anew with these two teams, we will be revisiting the three teams with whom we have already conferred to see how efforts are going in reaching their goals. It should be an exciting year!

Meanwhile we continue to search for a new committee member as Suzanne rotates off at the end of May.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Christ, CoM Chair

CLOTHING MINISTRY

The Clothing Ministry has met a community need for winter warmth and cool summer fashion. In the last year, we have provided over 1000+ pieces of clothing and accessories.

We operate with a zero financial budget from the congregation, and rely upon your generosity. We are looking for clean, seasonal attire in good condition.

We have an urgent need for the following:

- Skirt and pants hangers
- Bankers Boxes (The type used for storing files)
- Children's summer clothing
- Men's summer clothing
- Sandals, Shoes
- Purses, tote bags, wallets, makeup bags, jewelry

Donation bins can be found in the main lobby coat room and upstairs in the RE wing. We can also arrange pickup if you are not coming into the church.

Our mission is to reduce environmental waste, and serve everyone. Browse our rack to see if you can use any of our items.

Thank you again for your support of this ministry.

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



COVID CORNER

COVID Levels are high in our community. We are strongly recommending mask usage in church. Even if you are vaccinated and boosted, you still run the risk of infection. Please do not come to church if you experience any congestion, fever, cough or sore throat.

—Don Tucker

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.

Mediterranean Salad

Adapted from *Practically Vegan* by Nisha Melvani

- 3 large Roma tomatoes, cubed
- 1 English cucumber, cubed
- 1/3 cup pitted and sliced Kalamata olives
- 1 medium avocado, cubed
- 1 can drained and rinsed chickpeas
- 1 cup blanched green beans, asparagus or any vegetable you enjoy (optional)

Dressing

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp lemon pepper seasoning
or 1 tsp lemon zest and 1/2 tsp pepper)
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 garlic clove
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley



Place the first 6 ingredients in a large bowl. In a small bowl combine the next 4 ingredients and finely grate in the garlic. Whisk to combine. Pour over vegetables and mix. Sprinkle on parsley and mix again. Serves four.

Pineapple Cream Pie

from Jacque Babka

- 20 oz can crushed pineapple, well drained
- 1 pint sour cream
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 package vanilla instant pudding mix
- 1 graham cracker crust
- Whipped Cream or Cool Whip



Combine first 3 ingredients. Stir in the pudding mix. Pour into graham cracker crust. Chill well. Top with whipped cream or Cool Whip to serve.

SUNDAY SERVICE GUEST SPEAKERS

June 5th Rev. Joe Cherry

Rev. Joe Cherry serves our sibling congregation in Falmouth, Massachusetts. He is delighted to be visiting with us again. Rev. Joe was born in Detroit, finished his formal education in Chicago (where he went to seminary with Rev. Michelle.) He now lives with his husband, the Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul with their little dog, Toulouse. Rev. Denis serves another of our sibling congregations in Peace Dale, Rhode Island.

Rev. Joe is a life long lover of history and has studied and worked with John D'Emilio who helped to create Queer studies as a formal and accepted discipline in the American Academy.

June 26th John Snodgrass

John Snodgrass teaches courses about myth, ritual and critical thinking at Canisius and Medaille. He is the author of *Chaos and Supernatural Shakespeare: Myth and Ritual in Merry Old England*. He and Elizabeth live in Buffalo with their four children.

UU AMHERST TECHNOLOGY



UU Amherst was recently spotlighted in the CER (Central East Region) newsletter, *Sparks*, for our technology upgrades made possible with a Chalice Lighter grant. Thanks to Eileen McAllister, who is a Chalice Lighter contributor, for sending along the following write-up from the newsletter:

“The UU Church of Amherst is very grateful for the Chalice Lighter Grant we received. It has allowed our congregation to stay connected with professional quality video streaming and YouTube recordings. The congregation has been so enthusiastic over the hybrid services that some are choosing to stay remote, watch at their convenience or go to the watch parties and pre or post service chats. Beyond the services, for

our elder members or those technologically insecure, we have had a tech person to teach them on laptops or iPads so they can be truly connected to Zoom events, lessons, book clubs, women’s group and much more. Our annual meeting will be done remotely so all members can have access. We are so appreciative and hope that others will take advantage of the Chalice Lighter Grant program.”

BECOME A CHALICE LIGHTER



A chalice lighter responds to three calls a year for contributions that are pooled to fund special grants for UU churches in the Central East Region (CER). Contributions can be in any amount-\$20 or more per call is recommended, but whatever you can afford will be thankfully accepted. As our congregation is receiving a grant of \$20,000 to upgrade our technology, you can see how your contributions are valuable. Helping neighboring congregations to realize their dreams is a splendid way to cooperatively grow the faith. To sign up just go on line to: www.uua.org/central-east/programs/chalicelighter/



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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF AMHERST

Fostering Justice and Compassion

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