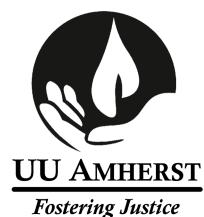
# August 2022

# The Foreword

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



Fostering Justice and Compassion

#### **Our Staff:**

#### Minister (sabbatical May-Sept.)

Rev. Michelle Buhite Office.....x102 minister@uuamherst.org

#### **Director of Faith Development**

Angela Warren Office......x104 C: 716-380-0416 dfd@uuamherst.org

#### Caretaker

Chris Barry

#### Finance Clerk

Camilla Lee.....x103 bookkeeper@uuamherst.org

#### 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 AUGUST 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!

August 7th "Where the Wild Geese Grow: Teaching Spiritual Practice to Children" Rev. Lisa Peterangelo
In this sermon we will look at some famous poems and children's stories as tools for teaching spiritual practice, and hopefully spiritual life, to children. And maybe ourselves as well. See bio on page 11.

**August 14th "When Summer Ends"** Rev. Susan Frawley Rev. Frawley will explore the journey of seasons, both environmental and spiritual. See bio on page 11.

August 21st "Little Things" Rev. Patrick McLaughlin We focus on the big things — but our experience, the arts, and scientific observation affirm that the little things matter more to us. We make mountains out of molehills; perhaps for good reason. See bio on page 11.

#### August 28th "Into The Labyrinth" Les Buhite

What is a labyrinth? Where do they come from? What do they mean (if they mean anything)? What is the fascination? Why does anyone bother? We will consider the history and several possible ways to interpret the enduring mystery of labyrinths. See bio on page 11.

#### A REPORT FROM YOUR SABBATICAL TEAM

Dear Friends.

Our Sabbatical experience is entering its final month. Your team appreciates the support and feedback we have received during this period. We hope that the worship offerings have been restorative, meaningful and joyful. Ralph Baumgartner's Memorial Service was conducted by Rev. Lisa on July 13. It was wonderful to see Cindy and her daughter and granddaughter from Napa, California. Ralph's ashes were interred in the Memorial Garden. Thank you to Linda Gardner and her many helpers who coordinated the reception after the service. During this last month, take time to reflect on your connection with our beloved community, our covenant and mission. The health of UU Amherst depends on our ability to take more ownership for the direction/decision making and ministry of the church. Everyone has a role. What is yours going to be?

We are 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 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 <u>uuca-sabbatical@googlegroups.com</u>. 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, June and July. We look forward to continuing to serve you this month,



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**

Your elected Board of Trustees met for our organizational meeting and elected officers as called for in our By-Laws. They are: Randy Kent (myself), Board Chair; Linda Gardner, Vice Chair; and Bruce Becker, Secretary. We are fortunate to have Jeanine Moyer and new members Tom Langan and Robert Johnson to share the responsibilities.

During the organizational meeting the BOT was informed that after having faithfully served several years as Church Treasurer, Hella Jacob would like to step down. We were fortunate to have Don Tucker volunteer for the position. Hella was pleased to hear that and I understand that she and Don have met to work on the transition.



The BOT will formally vote on Don as treasurer at our next meeting on August 3rd. We all owe Hella a debt of gratitude for handling the treasurer's responsibilities for so long.

Speaking of meetings, since we are operating without a budget, the BOT has to devote our time to creating one. We will have another congregational meeting where it will be presented and voted on. As always, we will need a quorum of 50 members to be able to conduct the meeting and the vote. Enjoy your summer.

Randy Kent, Board Chair

#### **UU AMHERST TECHNOLOGY IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



This item was first published in *The Foreword* in June, but the use of a Chalice Lighter Grant to significantly upgrade our technology to facilitate dual-platform services is worth repeating. Information about becoming a Chalice Lighter is below.

The following comes from the CER (Central East Region) newsletter, Sparks:

"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/cerclsignup



#### **ENDOWMENT TRUST**

The Endowment Officers for the coming year are Lauraine Marcus, Chair; Elaine Cusker, Recording Secretary; John Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Joe Rautenstrauch, Treasurer; Dorothy Reade, Assistant Treasurer; and Tom Langan, Church Board Liaison.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 18, at 6:00 pm in the Emerson Room. Church members are welcome to attend (please contact Trustee in advance if you have a specific topic/question).

#### Three Ways to Include UU Church of Amherst Endowment in your Will

A gift through your will or trust is an ideal way to make UU Amherst a part of your legacy.

You can make:

A Gift of "What's Left." If you do not wish to specify the exact size of your charitable gift (often the size of a future estate is difficult to estimate), you might consider naming UU Church of Amherst Endowment as a residual beneficiary of your estate. You may provide that all, a specific amount or a percentage of the remainder of your estate pass to UU Church of Amherst Endowment after other specific bequests have been fulfilled.

**A Specific Gift.** A gift of a fixed dollar amount or specific property is the simplest. Securities, real estate and other personal property can all be given through a will.

**A Memorial Gift.** To honor a loved one, you can designate a gift of a specific amount, specific asset, percentage or remainder of your estate be given in their memory.

-Lauraine Marcus, on behalf of the Endowment Trustees

#### **GREEN JUSTICE TEAM**

The Living Green Festival is fast approaching! The festival will start with our keynote speaker on Friday, September 9 and end with our Water Ingathering Service Sunday morning. On Saturday, there will be presentations, vendors, activities, nature meditation, storytelling, music, dancing, a "reduce and reuse" basket raffle, and more! Also, all weekend long there will be goats! If you know of any businesses or organizations that would be a good fit for our Vendor Row, please direct them to our webpage at <a href="https://uuamherst.org/wp2/about-2/living-our-values/green-sanctuary-3/living-green-festival/">https://uuamherst.org/wp2/about-2/living-our-values/green-sanctuary-3/living-green-festival/</a> to fill out the vendor application.

We will need many volunteers to make the festival a success. Please reach out to Jeanine Moyer at <u>Jeanine.moyer@gmail.com</u> or DFD Angela Warren if you will be available to help. We'll need people to volunteer for shifts for everything from emptying garbage to goat-watching.

You may have noticed how well the vegetable garden is coming along. The garden will be showcased at the festival with information on earth-friendly gardening practices. If you have an interest in maintaining the garden and/or the church grounds, please reach out to DFD Angela Warren. We look forward to sharing the bounty from our harvest this fall with the Amherst Little Free Pantry.

-- Jeanine Moyer

#### **FAITH DEVELOPMENT**

Dear UU Amherst Members and Friends,

One week each year for most of my life, my family has traveled to a magical wonderland named Brynilson's Viking Village in the central Adirondacks. We were there this July once again, over 20 of us joined by another 50 plus familiar friends who attend the same week each year.

In my younger days, and in fact up until I really delved into the realm of realization of my own White Privilege with members and leaders of this congregation, namely Ivy Yapelli and Rev. Kristina Church, I took it for granted. In fact, I used to think it was quite a meager vacation: rustic crooked cabins, a hotel being held on the hill by a giant yellow birch, simple activities like square dances and campfires, one coffee and donut "get acquainted hour" on Monday morning, less than perfect mattresses and a shortage of really comfortable chairs.

When I was a child, the proprietors of the camp, the late Rolf Brynilson and his wife Jan, had some requirements for attending the camp that were not unspoken. They didn't rent to the unmarried couple or to the divorced single person. The "families" they rented to fit into the box of married or married with children. The only people of color I ever remember attending were our Korean friends. The magical fairytale land feel of the place for those who were invited overshadowed the fact that ALL were not. Some were refused. Fast forward to the evolution of camp. Rolf and Jan had inherited Viking Village from Rolf's parents, all Norwegian Luterans. They built St. Olaf's Chapel across the street. When they were nearing retirement, they considered donating the whole place to their home church in Rome, NY.

Then Andy moved in, Rolf's nephew from the San Francisco Bay area. I will never forget the first time I met Andy. My family was on a break from our yearly attendance, but I had the opportunity to visit camp when my friends were there. He was contemplating taking over the proprietorship at the time. He knew that his ideas about diversity and inclusion were far different than his uncle and aunt, and knew it would be a struggle of ideals as they worked through the transition. Yet, he persisted, and now his niece and her husband have moved in to continue the evolution of camp to be far more inclusive than the camp of the old days.

A few years ago, my father shared this little verse with us at camp. It came from the days that his parents had Labor Day parties at the farm in Glenwood, NY: "Come here any old time, and make yourself at home. Put your hat on the mantle shelf. Open the cupboard and help yourself. I don't care if your friends have left you all alone. Rich or poor, just open the door and make yourself at home." It took him 40 years to share that with us, and my family and the Brynilsons are still practicing the tune. Evolution takes time.

As we strive to welcome and include all people who enter the doors of UU Amherst, won't you sing this little tune with me?

In Service,

Angela Warren, UU Amherst Director of Faith Development

#### **AUGUST 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.

Wednesday, August 3rd (monthly 1st Weds) 7:00 pm: Board Meeting EM

Sunday, August 7th: (monthly 1st Sun) Little Free Pantry Meeting LR & Zoom

Wednesday, August 10th (monthly 2nd Weds)

**11:00 am:** Staff Meeting **1:30 pm:** Caring Team Zoom

7:30 pm: Green Justice Team Zoom

Wednesday, August 17th (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, August 18th (monthly 3rd Thu)

1:00 pm: Ministry Council Zoom

Saturday, August 20th

2:00 pm: Jean Hutchinson Memorial Service

Sunday, August 21st (monthly 3rd Thu)

7:00 pm: FD Team Meeting

Thursday, August 25th (monthly 4th Thu)

7:00 pm: Covenant Group EM

#### Continued

#### **RECURRING:**

UU Universe-ity Sunrise Sessions continue M-F, 8:30 am.

#### Saturdays, August 6th-27th

9:30 am: Shared Caring Circle Zoom Zrev 7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zoom Zadmin

#### Sundays, August 7th-28th

**10:30:** Church service—in-person and livestream Coffee Hour following

#### Mondays, August 8th-29th

7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapple Zadmin (weekly)

L. Marcus

7:00 pm: Lighthearted Larches (8/1; 8/15; 8/29)

D. Tucker

**7:30 pm:** Marvelous Maples (8/1; 8/15; 8/29)

D. Bofinger

Tuesdays, August 9th-30th

12:30 pm: Women's Study Group Zoom

#### Wednesdays, August 10th-31st

10:00 am: Sabbatical Team Meeting Zoom 10:30 am: Willow Village Zadmin (2nd & 4th Weds: 8/10 & 8/24) J. Senders 7:00 pm: Northtowns Village (8/17)

#### REMINDER FOR SEPTEMBER

Rev. Michelle is asking everyone to collect water from their summer adventures to be included in the September 11 Ingathering Service.



# New Study for UU University Sunrise Sessions

The group will begin a new study of Zen and the Art of Saving the Planet by Thich Nhat Hanh.

It will begin mid-August on Thursdays 8:30 a.m. Zoom session.

This study will be different than our previous studies in that we will incorporate videos, podcasts as well the book as fodder for discussion.

For more information, please contact Lauraine Marcus at 716-725-8819.

# Living Green Festival

September 9-11, 2022



Let's Goat Buffalo Returns!

Folk Dancing Storytelling with Perry Ground

Nature Meditation Labyrinth Walk

Tours of the Grounds

**Guest Speakers** 

Campfire & Music, Friday

The Skiffle Minstrels, Saturday

Food Trucks Basket Raffle

Vendors with information about Living Green

Sponsored by the Green Justice Team

# Contributing to UU Amherst

- 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
- 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



#### **UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP**

UU Amherst Book Club next meets at church in the Living Room on Sunday, September 25, at noon. We will be discussing the book *Paradise Falls: The True Story of an Environmental Catastrophe,* by Keith O'Brien. It's described by Goodreads as "The staggering story of an unlikely band of mothers in the 1970s who discovered Hooker Chemical's deadly secret of Love Canal—exposing one of America's most devastating toxic waste disasters and sparking the modern environmental movement as we know it today." Love Canal, for those who aren't familiar, is in Niagara Falls, NY.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie Evans or Grace Little.

#### **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.)

#### 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.

#### AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

As the cost of food has significantly increased, our donations have decreased. The Pantry will no longer employ "Category of the Month," but will gratefully accept **all donations** including cash. Just write a check to UUCA and put "Pantry" on the memo line.

#### Please be mindful of the items that our Pantry clients use the most:

- pasta and pasta sauce in cans or plastic jars
- cereal
- juice and milks
- canned fruit
- baking needs: flour and sugar
- Chef Boyardee products with meat
- personal care products: dental products, deodorant, body wash and soap
- dish soap and laundry pods
- peanut butter in plastic containers

#### REFUND THE PANTRY

The collection bins for recycling are available. PLEASE BAG CLEAN CANS & BOTTLES RATHER THAN PUTTING THEM LOOSE INTO THE BINS TO DISCOURAGE ANTS.

A huge thank you to Judy Churchchill for taking on the Refund the Pantry fundraiser. Judy has been a Pantry volunteer since its inception. She will pick up all the cans and bottles donated in our bins near the garden closest to the trash area. Please rinse your cans and bottles and place then in plastic bags to make Judy's job a little less sticky!

-Cheryl Tomasulo, cftomasulo@gmail.com



FD Ecology Center exploration Sunday, July 24th.



#### **COMMITTEE ON MISSION**

We are happy to announce that Barbara Brooks has been approved by the Board to join the CoM to replace Suzanne Christ. Board appointments are for 3 years with one committee member rotating off each year. Barbara attended her first meeting with us last month and is doing some background reading. Barbara joins Diane Bofinger (Chair), Marge Marcille (Scribe), and Jeanine Moyer (Board Liaison) to round out our committee. Welcome, Barb! We look forward to working with you!

We will be taking July off from meetings. During this time we will continue to support the planning of the Living Green Festival.

We will resume meeting in August to continue planning for the coming church year. Having met with 3 teams over the past year, we are now looking to select 2 teams with whom to begin work in the fall, after the Living Green Festival. As we begin anew with these 2 teams, we will be revisiting the 3 teams with whom we have already conferred to see how their efforts are going in reaching their goals and to offer support. It should be an exciting year!

—Diane Bofinger, CoM Chair

#### **UU YOUNG ADULT AND CAMPUS MINISTRY**

After a lag in activity during the pandemic, I am looking to revitalize the UU Young Adult Group (generally ages 18-35ish). If you are interested in participating and would like to be added to our text and E-mail lists, send your E-mail and cell phone number to me. I try to keep the group informed about church activities. If there is enough interest, we can try to find times to meet again. I will be doing a tabling event at the University at Buffalo (UB) on August 27<sup>th</sup> to let UB students know about us. If you have contact with UU Young Adults at other colleges or in your work environments, let them know about us, too. All young adults (UU or Exploring) are invited to be added to our lists. We would like to see a young adult led activity for the Living Green Festival, Sept. 9th-11th, so if you have any ideas or would like to initiate something, let me know and I will promote it and help to gather a team. I look forward to seeing you soon!

-Diane Bofinger (she/her/hers) (716-418-3272)

#### **CLOTHING MINISTRY**

On June 26, 2022 the members of the Clothing Ministry met to sort and hang donated clothing. At present, we have an abundance of summer and winter clothing, our cups runneth over! We are still in need of skirt and pants hangers, as well as banker's boxes.

We will be making gift baskets for a fundraising raffle during the Living Green Festival in September. If you wish to donate a gift basket or a new item for the raffle, please contact us. We will be working on them in August. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

—Dian and Don Tucker, Pam and Jerry Kent, Barbara Gauger 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.

This is a refreshing summer salad.

#### Shaved Zucchini and Herb Salad with Parmesan

From Christopher Kimball 20 minutes Serves 4

1 pound zucchini (2 medium)

1 ounce Parmesan cheese, finely grated

(about 1/2 cup)

1/2 cup lightly packed fresh mint, torn

1/2 cup lightly packed fresh basil, torn

1/4 cup nuts of your choice, toasted and chopped

(Dressing)

1 tsp grated lemon zest plus 3 Tbsp lemon juice (1 lemon)

3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

1/4 tsp honey

Kosher salt and black pepper

In a large bowl whisk together lemon zest, juice, oil, honey, and 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper. Set aside. Using a potato peeler or mandolins, shave the zucchini from top to bottom into ribbons, rotating as you go. Stop shaving when you reach the seedy cores and compost or discard them. Add the shaved zucchini to the dressing along with the grated cheese, mint and basil and toss until evenly coated. Transfer to a serving bowl, sprinkle with shaved Parmesan and the toasted nuts, and serve. Enjoy!

#### SUNDAY SERVICE OFFICIANTS

#### August 7th Rev. Lisa Peterangelo

Lisa Peterangelo has a soft spot in her heart for the Amherst church having done her Supervised Internship here in 2016-2017. She is a graduate of Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School and the University at Buffalo. Lisa trained as a Chaplain at Sisters of Charity Hospital and was certified by the Association for Professional Chaplains in 2015.

#### August 14th Rev. Sue Frawley

Rev. Susan Frawley is an Amherst resident who works as the Pastor for the Hamburg UU church. Rev. Frawley also does circuit pulpit supply in WNY. She currently works as a legal assistant for the Center for Elder Law and Justice.

#### August 21st Rev. Pat McLaughlin

Rev. Patrick McLaughlin is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, and a former classmate of Rev. Michelle Buhite's. He is a lifelong UU, and a former Trustee of the UUA. He grew up moving around the USA and overseas, and while he thinks of himself vaguely as a "Westerner," he is actually an (adult) third culture kid, having spent his pre-teen and teen years in Australia and Belgium. He currently lives in New Hampshire. He has strong opinions about democracy (it's crucial — and we're doing it wrong).

#### August 28th Les Buhite

Dr. Les Buhite is the resident builder of labyrinths (among other duties) at UU Amherst. He's a mostly-retired teacher and theater technician, and an incorrigible re-arranger of nature in the Waterhouse Ecological Center. He resides in Cheektowaga with Rev. Michelle and five cats.

## Territorial Acknowledgement, Art and Re-Empowerment

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo recently shared the following announcement with their members, which we pass on to UU Amherst members:

"Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo acknowledges that the ground upon which we meet rests on the traditional territory of the Hodinöhsö:ni' people, original nations of this land who continue to call for justice and self-determination. We encourage you to deepen your relationship to the indigenous people of this area by visiting this exhibit at the Buffalo History Museum."

Hodinöhsö:ni' Resurgence: Marie Watt, Calling Back, Calling Forward The Buffalo History Museum July 13 - October 30, 2022

Renowned Seneca artist Marie Watt and a co-creative team are testing the possibilities of Indigenous "resurgence," the action of reestablishing Indigenous power and presence, at our museum. At the center of the exhibit are a selection from Watt's diverse beadworks, textile works, and sculpture, as well as important objects from Seneca history. The exhibit will ask guests to consider the relationship of the museum to Indigenous communities and seek to facilitate Indigenous re-empowerment.

# Ministry Council - Church in 3-D

Our UU Faith is about Sacred Activism. Your UU Amherst Ministry Council is the arm of this Sacred Activism / Service for the church. The Ministry Council has continued to meet during Reverend Michelle's Sabbatical. At our July meeting, instead of handling the usual reporting from FD, from Caring, from the Pantry, from Connections, we used the meeting as an opportunity to focus on Welcoming and Labeling as part of the Discernment phase of Church in 3-D.

We really focused on our name, and wondered whether our new sign should have the word "Church" in it at all. Who do we leave out when we use this word? What are the alternatives, and how can we explore them as we move forward in branding ourselves with a new road sign?

Do you wonder about our name and whether it is a true reflection of what is inside? A spirit of growth and education still remains with this congregation, even in the midst of what we can look at as decline. A decline in membership and therefore in resources.

But a spirit of growing and educating is still with us. It is still is our narrative, and can remain our narrative. Decline brings a sense of urgency and Conflict brings out the values of the community, how can we RE- new, RE - purpose, RE - model, RE - enforce, RE - imagine, RE -invigorate, and RE - act to what is happening? Do we shut down or open our arms wider. The enthusiasm to open our arms wider and welcome better was the true spirit coming through the screen at Ministry Council. We know that all of the "RE" words tell us that we are not starting from scratch, but from a long tradition of service. How can our community Co-mpromise, co-mmunicate, co-operate, and co-mingle to keep Sacred Activism centered now and in the future?

Angela Warren (she / they / ki) Director of Faith Development



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