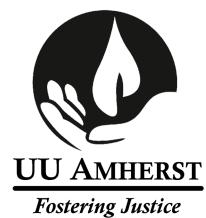
NOVEMBER 2022

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

Rev. Michelle Buhite Office.....x102 Cell....716-499-8343 minister@uuamherst.org

Director of Faith Development

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Office Administrator

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

Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

MINISTER'S HOURS

Rev. Michelle keeps office hours
Tues - Thurs. Contact her directly to
set up an appointment.
Fridays are her study & sermon
writing day and she is off on
Mondays.

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 NOVEMBER AT 10:30 AM

Mask wearing indoors is recommended, but not required. 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.

The Soul Matters theme for November is CHANGE. We change our fashion. We change our minds. Sometimes we even change our religion. Come and be part of this life changing faith!

Nov 6 Changing Our Religion: Speculative Theology Rev. Michelle What do Kurt Vonnegut, Neil Gaiman, Octavia Butler, and Star Trek have in common? They all represent speculative fiction, and I would venture to say, speculative theology. As we approach the 100th anniversary of Unitarian, Kurt Vonnegut's birth (11/11), let's expand our notions of what can be.

Nov 13 Changing our Minds About Money: Sacred Economics Rev. Michelle

As we kick off the 2023 pledge year, let's explore and understand a bit more about sacred economics.

The Leadership Development/Nominating Committee (LDNC) will host the after service coffee hour. Come and see what opportunities are available for deeper involvement in our congregation. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nov 20 Changing our Hearts: The Power of Gratitude Rev. Michelle As a faith that expresses itself in love and acts of service, we pause to express gratitude and encourage engagement.

Nov 27 Changing our Perspective Soul Matters

We learn so much as we listen one another into wholeness. Being heard and hearing another's experience can be transformative.



MINISTER'S CORNER

I adore change. If you've been around here for a while, that should come as no surprise. I like to rearrange furniture, repurpose rooms, and introduce new elements in worship. What's not always evident is *why* I engage in these practices. I'm wired to notice things and to create solutions. Let me offer a concrete example.

Since before the pandemic we offered the Atrium (adjacent to the Chapel) as a kid-friendly place for children and their caregivers to engage in quiet play during services, with the thought that the caregivers could still participate in the

service this way. And if you know anything about children, you know that the phrase "quiet play" is a myth.

As we have begun the rebuilding process in Faith Development, it has become increasingly clear that the Atrium was simply not the space for what we needed. Through the French doors in the Atrium is the Dining Room, and children's activities began to migrate into that space to contain the joyful sound of children playing. The big table was pushed to one side and chairs scattered to make more room for play.

And then one morning as I was walking through the building I noticed how lovely the light fixture in the Atrium is, and I thought, "Wow, that would look great in a dining room." I stopped in my tracks. I opened the French doors and mentally rearranged the furniture. Then I went in search of Angela to test my idea. Together we moved the furniture, creating two functional spaces; functional for what we need at this moment in our return to programming, and creating a lovely and calm meeting place as a happy by-product.

The next time you're in the building, take a look at these new spaces: beautiful and functional. All it took was a little bit of muscle and an openness to change.

Changing every day, Rev. Michelle



Thanksgiving with Friends Thursday, Nov. 24th, 1:00 pm

The holidays can be a lonely time, so why not spend them with friends? Rev. Michelle and Les will host a Thanksgiving meal at the church, 1:00 pm, Thanksgiving Day. Turkey and cider will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

Sign-up at church (glass wall), or email minister@uuamherst.org.

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

We have good news on our new sign: the Amherst Town Board has voted to accept the recommendation of Amherst's Zoning Board to allow the variance we asked for. Work on constructing the sign will begin after the congregation votes on the final language for the sign at the Special Meeting called for Sunday, October 30th at noon.

Speaking of the Special Meeting we will also be voting on a bylaw change to move Church's fiscal year back to it's traditional position as being the calendar year. This is part of the BOT and Finance Committee working to get our financial house back in order after suffering through the first years of the pandemic. We no longer have the support of the Federal "Paycheck Protection Act" and have to get back to only relying on ourselves.

We will explain both our current financial situation, what we have to do and why returning to a calendar year is needed as part of that.

REMINDER ON VOTING RULES FOR THE MEETING -AN ABSTENTION IS COUNTED AS "NO" VOTE. Please vote either yes or no.

PLEDGE DRIVE- As you recall we had a 6 month pledge drive earlier this year to cover us until the end of the calendar year. 2022 is nearing it's end so November will see the kick off of the pledge drive to enable us to operate for the next 12 months. Having run 7 pledge drives, I learned that the more members involved in the drive, the more successful it will be. I ask all of you to VOLUNTEER TO HELP ON THE PLEDGE DRIVE. Not only will we be more successful, the work load is much less for all of us.

Randy Kent, Board Chair



ENDOWMENT TRUST The Endowment Trust's next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Emerson Room. Church members are welcome to attend (please contact a Trustee in advance if you have a specific topic/ question).

> The value of our portfolio continues to be negatively impacted by the current economic turbulence and continues to remain below one million this guarter. Our financial advisor does not recommend changing our 60% stocks 40% bonds investment strategy at this time. However, we will be accumulating end of year dividends as cash rather than reinvesting in anticipation of meeting our commitment to assist with funding the much anticipated digital sign!

The Endowment Trust attended the Board of Trustee meeting on October 19 for the Finance Committee report on the church's current financial status, upcoming special congregational meeting, sign update, pledge drive, and fundraising. Endowment proposed that a gift policy would be beneficial for both the church and the Endowment. This was positively received by the Board and the Endowment will begin preparing a draft. Creating a Legacy Society (recognizing people who include the Endowment/Church to their will) was also proposed as a future joint project.

Endowment received two gifts (Qualified Charitable Distributions) and several donations remembering friends and loved ones during the past 90 days. An AmazonSmile payment also came in! In addition to the preceding ways to support the Endowment, please consider adding the endowment in your will either by a designated amount or percentage of your estate. If you have questions about this, an Endowment Trustee would be pleased to talk to you.

Shopping Online? 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, of 0.5% of your purchases. That doesn't seem like much, but it adds up!

--Lauraine Marcus, on behalf of the Endowment Trustees Elaine Cusker, Recording Secretary; John Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Joe Rautenstrauch, Treasurer; Dorothy Reade, Assistant Treasurer

Is This A Job For The Caretaker?

If you notice something that needs to be done (and that is not a quick clean-up that you can easily do), see if it falls into the list of Andy's responsibilities. If it's something bigger, contact Bruce Becker or Don Tucker with Facilities. Andy's responsibilities include:

- Provide appropriate services & assistance with technical production
- •Open and close the building for scheduled events; ensure all is secured
- Spot cleaning (as needed), replenishing paper products, empty garbage
- •Perform simple maintenance tasks (i.e. changing light bulbs)
- Monitor conditions of facilities and report to appropriate person/group
- Clear walkways of snow, ice, etc.
- •Be trained and familiar with operation of Fire Detection & Alarm Systems

GREEN JUSTICE TEAM

Our debriefing sessions for the First Annual Living Green Festival held in September were well attended and produced a lot of positivity and ideas for our next festival. It is interesting to note that so many of our comments had to do with spending time and "long talks" with one another and with our guests. People were so very pleased that we were able to use our grounds in such a visible way, and that our team had expanded to include fundraising and recycling opportunities through the efforts of the "Basket Cases" aka the Clothing Ministry and helpers.

As we continue the work of Green Justice within this congregation, we will aim to provide opportunities for connection, including programming as part of our regular meetings. We are so excited that storyteller Lorna Czarnota who joined us "under the tent" will be part of the Sunday service on December 11th. Mark Chaffin, who led us in nature meditation and sit spot practice, is excited to return next fall. Dave O'Donnell would like to come again and plan for a larger butterfly release. Who else do we invite into the circle of Living Green, and when will our next festival take place? Join the Green Justice Team at our next meeting on Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 pm via zoom. Look for the link in upcoming Weekly Updates. In the meantime, more ideas? Share them with Jeanine at jeanine.moyer@gmail.com or Angela at agardenmom@gmail.com.





As the grounds team puts our gardens to rest....

Left: Yes, artichokes really can grow in our region! This is an example in the entry garden.

Right: Yield from pumpkin plants that came from friend Ellen Friedman and shared with our youngest friends from Main Street Children's Academy who were enamored with their growth all season.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Dear UU Amherst Members and Friends,

This month's Soul Matters Theme is Change. On Sunday, October 16, I announced to the congregation during service that I will be leaving my position as UU Amherst's Director of Faith Development at the end of the year. Exiting well from this position will be a challenging process. My mother Jane Anne Crump taught me to lead by example, and that is what I will center in my mind as my relationship to this beloved Community changes once again.

Our 3rd Principle of Unitarian Universalism is: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. My experience of this congregation living into



this principle has been vast throughout my membership and employment here. "Spiritual growth" doesn't mean you have to get to the Rainbow Gathering or meditate religiously every single day. Someone who is spiritual need not be religious or run off to the wilderness by themself or with others. Spirituality can be centered in creativity and relationship and need not be practiced in silence or even in song, even though gatherings, meditation, creation, and songs are all paths to "Spiritual growth."

Pictured above from left to right is yours truly, Kimmy, Monica, Madison, Chelsea, Tori, and Ivy. I will speak for all of us in the picture above, even those who don't grace this space anymore, of the importance of UU Amherst in our personal and interpersonal growth. This community in all its variations over the years helped us all grow up, and since we might speak of humans as spirits with bodies, this community has been a large part of our "Spiritual growth."

I call on all of you to continue to create relationships with one another. This is surely the most important way to add to our collective memory and our love and care for this spiritual community as a whole.

As we continue to practice Deep Listening in all of our small group interactions, especially as we practice the Circle Way, we continue to become "A place where the young and the old are renewed in each other's company." When we are called to participate, we will be honest about our capacity for engagement in projects and programs. We will attend to whatever part, small or big, we have offered to the community. When we need help, we will ask. When we see our beloved needs encouragement, we will encourage. When we are held accountable through the encouragement of our friends in this community, we will resist defensiveness, and be grateful that others are looking after us. We attend to and honor our commitments to this beloved community.

It is my greatest hope that the call for this congregation to fund a full time Faith Development Director in the future will be realized; that new faces keep moving through the threshold into this sanctuary and that the new faces find community here; that all of you will stay for as long as you are able. Keep trying. The space will be filled and emptied, filled and emptied, until there is room for this and that you will find someone well suited for the position when the time comes.

In Service,

Angela Warren, UU Amherst Director of Faith Development

NOVEMBER 2022 CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE: Some meetings will continue to be virtual-only; others will be dual platform (Zoom and inperson); 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.

Saturday, Nov 5th

10:00 am: Worship Associate Info Session

Sunday, Nov 6th (monthly 1st Sun)

11:45 am: Little Free Pantry Meeting LR & Zoom

Wednesday, Nov 9th (monthly 2nd Weds)

11:00 am: Staff Meeting1:30 pm: Caring Team Zoom5:00 pm: Finance Committee EM

7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group LR

Thursday, Nov 10th (monthly 2nd Thu) **7:00 pm:** Green Justice Team Zoom

Sunday, Nov 13th (monthly 2nd Sun) 12:00 pm: Poetry as Practice LR & Zoom

Wednesday, Nov 16th (monthly 3rd Wed)

1:00 pm: 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group Zoom

7:00 pm: Board Meeting EM

7:00 pm: Bofinger Covenant Group Zoom

Thursday, Nov 17th (monthly 3rd Thu)

7:00 pm: Ministry Council

Sunday, Nov 20th (monthly 3rd Sun)

11:30 am: FD Team Meeting

Thursday, Nov 24th (monthly 4th Thu) **1:00 pm:** Thanksgiving with Friends

Sunday, Nov 27th (last Sunday of the month)
12:00 pm: UU Amherst Book Group LR & Zoom

Continued

RECURRING:

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

Saturdays, Nov 5th-26th

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

Sundays, Nov 6th-27th

10:30: Church service—in-person and livestream

Coffee Hour following

Mondays, Nov 7th-28th

7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapple Zadmin (weekly)

L. Marcus

7:00 pm: Lighthearted Larches (11/7 & 11/21)

D. Tucker

7:30 pm: Marvelous Maples (11/7 & 11/21)

D. Bofinger

Tuesdays, Nov 1st-29th

12:30 pm: Women's Study Group Zoom

Wednesdays, Nov 2nd-30th

10:30 am: Willow Village Zadmin (2nd & 4th Weds: 11/9 & 11/23 J. Senders **7:00 pm:** Northtowns Village (11/16)

7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group (2nd Weds

11/9) LR

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 (minister@uuamherst.org) for the Zoom link. All new ministry proposals and events go through Ministry Council for approval and support.



UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

Our upcoming books are DEMON COPPERHEAD by Barbara Kingsolver (for November 27) and NIGHT WATCHMAN by Louise Erdrich (for January 29). We decided not to meet in December this year because of the way the holidays fall.

We alternate monthly between picking a general TOPIC for the month (for which participants can choose any relevant book they'd like to read), and choosing one "common read" BOOK. We generally meet on the last Sunday of the month from September through May at noon in the church Living Room. We've been doing hybrid meetings some assemble in person and some join via Zoom. All are welcome to attend our gatherings, even if you haven't "done the reading." Contact Marie Evans or Grace Little if you need the Zoom link 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). Books in this collection include world religions and spiritual topics, both fiction and non-fiction. Sign out whatever you'd like in the spiral notebook, with an approximate return date.

Secular novels and books about social justice issues can be found in the church Living Room on the bookshelves. These are for sale—cost is a free will donation that benefits the Amherst Little Free Pantry.



Adopt-an-Angel returns in November! Wish Lists will be available early in the month with delivery taking place the week of November 28. Gifts should be delivered Sunday, November 27. More details to come in the Weekly Update.

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
- 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

HANDY PERSON NEEDED!

As we prepare for the winter months, we need to make one or more of our shelves "winter proof" so canned goods and milks do not freeze. Previous attempts of putting in insulated boxes have not been successful. We would like to line the shelf with insulation board and cover it with doors to open this insulated cubby in the Pantry. Anyone handy with a saw and drill would be appreciated. Supplies will be provided!

PANTRY ITEMS

As freezing weather approaches we would appreciate the following;
Tuna in oil (does not freeze)
Powdered milk
Soup mixes like Liptons
Meal starters
Cereal
Pasta and pasta sauce
Chef Boyardee with meat
Granola bars

VOLUNTEER STOCKER

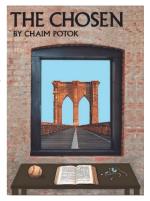
We are looking for a **volunteer** to **stock the Pantry** on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Stocking takes about 1/2 hour and you do it at your own convenience that day.

Contact Cheryl if you would like to help out: cftomasulo@gmail.com

THEATER LOVERS

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

Playgoers should already have their tickets to join us in Getzville on Sunday, November 6, for Jewish Repertory Theatre's production of THE CHOSEN, followed by dinner at Lebro's Restaurant. The play runs through Sunday, November 20, and in support of Buffalo Hadassah, we are able to purchase substantially discounted tickets (\$30 each). If you're interested in attending one of the remaining shows (Thursdays at 7:30 pm, Saturdays at 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm, or Sundays at 2:00 pm), please contact me for the order form. Tickets should be reserved at least a week prior to the performance you plan to attend.



Watch for information in the January newsletter and an all-church email about our group outing to TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, which will run February 2-26, 2023.

Jacque Babka recommends The Niagara Regional Theatre Guild (niagaratheatre.com, 716-564-7709) for an affordable night out. Their ticket prices range from \$15 - 20 for adults, and they perform Fridays at 7:30, Saturday 11/5 & 11/12 at 7:30 pm, Saturday 11/19 and Sundays at 3:00 pm. The current play is NOISES OFF, running November 4 through 20 at Ellicott Creek Playhouse, 550 Ellicott Creek Road, Tonawanda 14150. Shows in 2023 will be HAY FEVER, SOMETHING ROTTEN, and GUYS AND DOLLS.

- Marie Evans

COMMITTEE ON MISSION (CoM)

The Committee on Mission is in the process of setting up meetings with Ministry Teams and Board of Trustees (BOT) Committees to help them establish their mission and goals or to review their progress towards accomplishing goals that they set in the last church year. On Sunday, Oct. 16, we met with the Faith Development Team and helped them to start the process of revising their goals. It was a very productive meeting! Over this church year, we also hope to meet with the Green Justice Team, Connections Team, and Leadership, Development, & Nominating Committee to help them establish their mission and goals. We also hope to meet again with the Caring for One Another Team and Amherst Little Free Pantry Team to see how they are doing with the mission & goals that they established during the last church year. The purpose of our work is to align the mission & goals of all of the ministry teams and BOT Committees with the mission of the church. This written information will also help to inform the rest of our church community about the work of each team and committee and invite other members of our congregation to join these teams and committees and be able to continue their work as leadership changes over the years. If any other teams or committees would like to meet with us during this church year, please contact Diane Bofinger (dbofinge@buffalo.edu).

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Bofinger, CoM Chair, and Committee Members,

Marge Marcille (Scribe), Jeanine Moyer (Board Liaison), and Barbara Brooks (Our Newest Member)

UU YOUNG ADULT AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

After a lag in activity during the pandemic, young adult, Miles Fann, and I are starting 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 and join our Discord Group, send your E-mail and cell phone number to me. We try to keep the group informed about church activities and emerging young adult events. The group can engage in discussion on the Discord group. We plan to hold a Pizza Social (pizza & games) on the University at Buffalo (UB) North Campus (Student Union 210) on Saturday, 10/22, from 1-3 PM. In addition to our current young adult group, we plan to invite twenty-eight UB students who visited our table at Campus Fest on August 27th. Let us know if you would like to attend. 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. If you have any ideas or would like to initiate an activity, 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) Advisor, UU Young Adult & Campus Ministry

CLOTHING MINISTRY

The Clothing Ministry has been very busy this month changing seasonal clothing and making clothing suitable for Halloween costumes available on the rack near the food pantry. We appreciate clean, seasonal appropriate clothing left in our collection bins found on the second floor of the RE wing and in the coat closet off the church lobby. These will be sorted, hung on hangers and placed on the rack during the season. We always have a need during the fall and winter for coats, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and sweaters. Everyone is welcome to explore the clothing rack and take what is needed. The Clothing Ministry Team is thankful for everyone's participation in this endeavor and looks forward to season appropriate donations.

—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.

Polish Plum Cake

cinnamon powdered sugar

1/2 cup unsalted butter plus 2 Tbsp cold butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
2 cups cake flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 tsp vanilla
3/4 cup milk or crème fraiche
about 10 ripe plums, halved and pitted



Grease and line with parchment paper one 9×9 square baking pan and set aside. Set oven at 350 degrees. Beat 1/2 cup butter with 1 cup sugar until smooth. While beating add 2 eggs, one at a time.

Mix 2 cups of flour with 2 tsp baking powder and 1/4 tsp salt. Sift into bowl while beating at low speed to fully combine. Gradually stir in 1/2 tsp vanilla and 3/4 cup milk or crème fraiche.

Transfer dough to prepared baking pan. Top dough with plum halves cut side up and sprinkle on a little cinnamon. Dot with 2 Tbsp cold butter. Bake at 350 for 40 to 45 minutes until an inserted toothpick comes out clean. Sprinkle the top with powdered sugar and let cool. Lift the cake out of the pan by the parchment paper and slide it off the paper onto a serving plate.

The cake has a very fine texture and is not too sweet. You may wish to serve it with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, perhaps.

WORSHIP ASSOCIATE INFO SESSION & TRAINING

Saturday, November 5 10:00-11:30 am In-person, UU Amherst

Are you creative? A good reader? Not afraid of public speaking? Yes? Yay! We need your help to make Sunday services vital and varied. Work together with Rev. Michelle and be part of the team that assist guest speakers. RSVP required by 11/3, minister@uuamherst.org, or sign-up in the lobby.



Help When You Need It

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



UU Amherst Family Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, November 19 - 6:00pm

Let Us Do The Cooking Before You Have To For Thanksgiving!

Chef Salad Bread & Butter
Spaghetti Meatballs Italian Sausage
Dessert Beverages

Bring Your Own Your Favorite Wine Selection

Also Featuring A Basket Raffle & Bake Sale!

Adults \$14.00 Children (5-12) \$9.00 Under 5 Free



Advance Sale Tickets

Now Available!
Scan This QR Code!
Space Is Limited!



Tickets Will Be Available At Coffee Hour Starting October 2nd







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