

Issue
JULY 2023

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

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

Finance Clerk

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

Office Administrator

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

Caretaker

Andy Andersen
c: 310-736-5219
andrew.b.andersen@gmail.com

Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

JULY SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 AM

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.

July 2 Enchantments: Living Creatively Rev. Michelle

This is an all-ages service. Be warned. You might have fun.

July 9 The Power of Nothing: How An Absence of Dogma May Help To Bring Us Together Joe Rautenstrauch

During this service we will explore the possibility that Unitarian Universalist's absence of a dogma may help us play an important role in healing and transforming a "divided" world.

Joe Rautenstrauch is a member of UU Amherst. For many years he participated in the Preaching by Parishioners program and always provides thought provoking reflections.

July 16 "Rabbit on the Moon" john Snodgrass

Is there a rabbit on the moon? And if so, how did it get there? A surprising number of religions share the belief in bunnies as symbols of generosity, trickery, and creativity. And some say they can see a rabbit on the surface of the moon.

John Snodgrass teaches religion courses at Canisius College, and has written numerous books including "Supernatural Shakespeare" and the sci-fi comedy novel "Thirteenth Moon." He lives in Buffalo with his bride and their four children.

July 23 Living Faithful & Principled Lives Rev. Michelle

Unitarian Universalism is defined and shaped by shared values: our UU Principles. The language may change, but these foundational agreements are what weave us together.

July 30 Universalism: We've always already been saved Rev. Michelle

Whoa! What?! Come to church and find out what this statement means.

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.*

MINISTER'S CORNER

Ahh... Summer! After months of being cooped up inside we can finally enjoy the warm days and special activities of the season. Yes, there's work to be done - as always - but the days are longer, hopefully helping us to carve out some special time to relax and revive our spirits. Never underestimate the restorative power of an icy glass of lemonade and a good book.

Although I'm not taking extended vacation time this summer, I am giving myself permission to revisit some oldie-but-goodie sermons from my early days at UU Amherst so that I have time to enjoy that lemonade and that book. Don't worry - I'll just pull from the good stuff! How fun to have eight years worth of topics to pull from and to revisit in light of our experiences together.

What do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life / season?

Always,
Rev. Michelle

NOTE: REV. MICHELLE WILL ATTENDING CERSI JULY 8-16.



We are happy to welcome new members, Jamison Crawford (pictured) and Lynn Usewicz. Both signed the Membership Book following the flower communion service on June 11.

If you've been thinking about becoming a member of this beloved community, see Rev. Michelle or a member of the Board of Trustees. In addition to getting involved and finding an area of congregational life that feeds your soul, becoming a member involves signing The Book and making a commitment of financial support. As a member you will also receive the Unitarian Universalist Association magazine, *UU World*.

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.

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

The NRC dinner took place June 1st. We had two deserving honorees, Mickey Tannehill and Ron Palmeri, as well as a large contingent of our members. (See page 4 of this newsletter for more).

We have seen more people and younger people attending service lately, with two new members signing the book this month.

In other good news Angela Warren has let us know that she will be able to give us some of her time and green expertise but will need volunteers to handle much of the work as she has a full-time job. Please volunteer to help.

We look forward to a great summer at the church with Rev. Michelle breaking up her vacation so we will not have to do without her for a whole month as is customary for UU ministers.

IMPORTANT NOTE - WE CONTINUE TO KEEP THE CHURCH DOORS LOCKED EXCEPT FOR SUNDAYS SO MAKE CERTAIN THE DOORS YOU USE ARE LOCKED AS WE WANT TO AVOID UNINVITED VISITORS.

See you in church.

Randy Kent, Board Chair linrkent@yahoo.com



ENDOWMENT TRUST



Our next scheduled meeting is July 18, 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).

It has been wonderful to see the new digital sign become operational in part due to Endowment's financial contribution to the 3 Foci. This was possible due to the responsible investment of donations to the Trust. To ensure that the Endowment will be able to continue its commitment to church operations, July's agenda includes finalizing a gift policy that applies to both the church and the Trust and moving forward with creating a Legacy Society – a more formal way encouraging and recognizing planned bequests for the Endowment. In addition, because of the change in the church fiscal year and the February election of Barry Kent to the Endowment, the July meeting will also review the current officer positions.

You can help the Endowment by remembering friends and loved ones by making a donation in their name. The family of the person being remembered receives a letter from the Endowment Trust Board saying that Trust received a gift in the name of the deceased person. You receive a letter from the ET Board thanking you for your gift. This can be used as documentation for tax purposes. Consider adding the Endowment in your will either by a designated amount or percentage of your estate. With a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), you may be able to satisfy your traditional IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), lower your taxable income, and maximize your impact on a charitable organization, such as UU Amherst Endowment Trust. If you have questions about this, an Endowment Trustee would be pleased to talk to you.

Lauraine Marcus (cornell_marcus@yahoo.com) on behalf of the Endowment Trustees Elaine Cusker, Recording Secretary; John Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Dorothy Reade, Treasurer; Barry Kent

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

SPECIAL EVENT FOR PANTRY PATRONS, MEAT GIVE-AWAY, SUNDAY, JULY 2ND, NOON-2 PM (or until out of stock)

Donated by our friends in the Turkish Muslim community to celebrate their religious holiday. Supply is limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Pre-packaged in 2 lb. portions.

The Amherst Little Free Pantry is well on it's way to becoming a 501c3 non-profit thanks to Kim Diana Connolly and her UB Law Students from both the Social Justice/Environmental and Entrepreneurial Law Departments. We deeply appreciate all the hard work that is going into this project.

Students and staff from the Williamsville North Chorus and Orchestra donated a large amount of treats, snack foods, and drinks leftover from their end of the year picnic on June 12. All packaged foods went to the Pantry and any that were bakery made were frozen for future use during coffee hours! Thank you, Williamsville North staff and students!

We are experiencing some Pantry Stocker "retirements" due to the cycle of life continuing, despite the continuing needs of our community. Most of our stockers have been with us since the beginning or as least before COVID started.

We are asking for YOUR HELP in stocking the Pantry. You can take one or two or four days a month or share the duties with another person. Everyone will be oriented to the task. The stocking duties involve no more than 1/2 hour of time per session. **We cannot have a Little Free Pantry without people to stock it!** Please contact Cheryl for further info or any questions: cftomasulo@gmail.com

Much needed items for the Pantry in addition to your generous monetary donations:
Pasta and pasta sauce, Chef Boyardee or similar canned meals, tuna/chicken in cans, canned fruit, canned refried beans and baked beans, feminine hygiene esp. tampons, milk in boxes, rice/potato boxes, mac and cheese, granola bars and cereal.

Cheryl Tomasulo; Meg Sabella, Pantry Chair, megsabella712@gmail.com

ECOLOGY CENTER AND TRESPASSING

Over the past couple of months there have been multiple incidents of unauthorized persons entering our campus, including instances of people camping in the Ecology Center.

Accordingly "No Trespassing" signs have been installed along our easterly property line and at the entrance to the Ecology Center. These notices provide us with legal recourse against such unauthorized persons if it becomes necessary in the future. The Amherst police have also stepped up periodic overnight patrols of our campus.

Please be assured that the congregation's members, friends and visitors are always welcome to visit the Ecology Center. Any inappropriate access or use observed in the Ecology Center should be promptly reported to the Church Office or if necessary please call 911. Any questions please contact Randy Kent or Bruce Becker.



CONNECTIONS CORNER

Wow, what a wonderful Flower Communion Service we had. I saw Joy all around me. In the smiling faces of so many people enjoying greeting each other during, in the tiny, perfect fingers of Colleen's baby Vera, and the delight on Joan Sillman's face as she got to hold her. I saw Joy in the energy of our community gathered in front of our sign, as Scott Harrigan beautifully spoke about all the effort, energy and commitment that so many put into the crafting of the incredible sign of UU Amherst. Our picnic was a huge success and I was gratified to see how much abundance there was, in smiles, in food, in fellowship. I saw Joy in the face of newcomer, Steve, who came for a second visit at the invitation of Phil Mann, who both caught a ride with Kim Byham and Ron Canazzi. What a wonderful, interwoven, crazy quilt of Connections. And that is the essence of who we are and what we do. We weave a Beloved Community, One Connection at a Time. And that, my friends, is Joy. It's all around me, and in me, and in you, and all around you.

**I added Joy to my name and shared it during the Flower Communion service. In case you missed it, you can view the entire Flower Communion service on the church's YouTube Channel (a link is on the homepage of the UU Amherst website (uuamherst.org). Go to LIVE VIDEOS. The clip of my "name addition" is at 22:22.

Sunday Greeters

Warmly welcome our visitors and congregants. Training is provided and it's a fun way to meet people. A Google sign-up sheet is available (see the *Weekly Update* for a link). You may also email Linda Joy and she will add you to the schedule.

The Connections Team, led by Linda Joy Groat and Laurie Kasnicki, welcomes newcomers, connects people to meaningful relationships and interests, develops programming and activities for youth, and grows membership in the congregation. Please email Linda Joy to join the team or with questions.

Linda Joy Groat, Team Lead LMGEAG@gmail.com

Upcoming Sunday Youth Services in July:

Child Care for Littles will be provided during service each week from 10:15-11:30 am

July 2 Multi-generation service (all ages)

July 9 Youth begin in general service, then head to the Living Room with Amber and Ravi Sastry to hear a Basket Story* about UU Principles.

July 16 Youth begin in general service, then head to the Emerson Room with Eve Tulbert and Betty Leader for Art & Ecology activities.

Hello Youth of All Ages! This Sunday, join us for an intergenerational Art and Ecology walk to learn about Artificial Intelligences and Image Recognition! What species can a picture find? Stop by our table during coffee hour to learn about what we discovered. Art and Ecology activities are led by environmental educator Eve Tulbert and eco-artist Elizabeth (Betty) Leader.

July 23 Youth begin in general service, then head to the Living Room with Linda Joy and helper to hear a Basket Story about UU Principles and the sources of our inspiration

July 30 Youth begin in general service, then head to the Living Room with Linda Joy and helper to hear a Basket Story, *A House for Hermit Crab*, a story about acceptance and community.

*In our Sunday morning youth program, we start in the service. After the Time for All Ages, our youth and leaders are sung out to the Living Room, for their own service, where they draw on the power of stories told through the use of a basket filled with a mat that serves as "scenery" and manipulative props. Reflective questions are posed and discussed. Youth relate to the stories according to their developmental stage and needs. This Unitarian Universalist program, called Spirit Play, is a powerful way to engage children of many ages with stories and "wondering questions."

JULY 2023 CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE: Some meetings 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.

Room abbreviations: EM (Emerson Room); LR Living Room); Bul (Bulfinch-FD Wing); EC (Ecology Center)

Sunday, July 2nd (monthly 1st Sun)
11:45 am: Little Free Pantry Team Meeting

Wednesday, July 12th (monthly 2nd Weds)
1:30 pm: Caring Team Zoom
5:30 pm: Finance Committee EM
7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group LR

Thursday, July 13th (monthly 2nd Thr)
7:30 pm: Green Justice Team Meeting

Saturday, July 15th
10:00 am: Lace Guild Rental BUL

Tuesday, July 18th
6:00 pm: Endowment Trust EM

Wednesday, July 19th 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, July 20th
6:00 pm: Choir Interest & Potluck EM/Chapel

Thursday, July 27th
12:00 pm: UU Amherst Book Club Lunch

Reminder: Groups please restore rooms before leaving. Return chairs to their places and take any papers (etc) with you or dispose of them properly.

Kitchen Storage: All opened packages must be enclosed in plastic containers or Ziplock bags before placing in cupboards.

Thank you.

Continued

RECURRING:

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

All "tree" names are for Village groups

Saturdays, July 1st-29th
7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zoom

Sundays, July 2nd-30th
9:30 am: Church of the Wild Experience EC
10:30 am: Church service—in-person and livestream
Coffee Hour following

Mondays, July 3rd-31st
7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapple Zadmin (weekly)
L. Marcus
7:30 pm: Marvelous Maples (7/10 & 7/24)
D. Bofinger

Tuesdays, July 4th-25th
12:30 pm: Women's Study Group Zoom

Wednesdays, July 5th-26th
10:30 am: Willow Village Zadmin (2nd & 4th Weds: 7/12 & 7/26) J. Senders
7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group (2nd Weds 7/12) LR
7:00 pm: Northtowns Village (7/19)

Ministry Council

The expanded* Ministry Council will meet in person on **Saturday, August 26** (9:00 am-12 noon), with individual team meetings as needed in the weeks between. Bring any items to the attention of Rev. Michelle (minister@uuamherst.org). All new ministry proposals and events go through Ministry Council.

(* The expanded Ministry Council includes not only ministry team leaders, but all who are interested in mission-driven programming for UU Amherst. All are welcome.)



CHURCH OF THE WILD CONTINUES IN JULY

Join Connections team member, Lauraine Marcus at 9:30 am Sunday mornings in July for a 45-minute *Church of the Wild* meditation experience in the UU Amherst Waterhouse Ecology Center. The entrance to the ecology center is next to the basketball court at the edge of our parking lot.

UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

Book Club meets just once over the summer, for a weekday potluck luncheon on Thursday, July 27, at 12:30 pm. Depending on the weather, we'll be in the Emerson Room or outside. Please contact Wendy Scott to coordinate food contributions. For that gathering, we've chosen to read and discuss the book *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton. It's a dystopian coming-of-age story set in near-future Florida after devastating climate change.

When we return to regular meetings (last Sunday of the month) in September, our topic will be UU HISTORY. We'll gather on Sunday, September 24, at noon in the church Living Room. Suggested books (thanks for the list, Marge Marcille!) include:
Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women by Harriet Reisen (recommended by Ellen Doyno)
The Invention of Air: A Story of Science, Faith and Revolution (about Joseph Priestly) by Steven Johnson
American Bloomsbury by Susan Cheever
The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought by Susan Jacoby
The Life of John Murray by Iain H. Murray

There should be a copy of *Bloomsbury* in the Lending Library in the glass cabinet in the Emerson Room, along with other books that would fit the topic. All are probably available from Amazon, the library or people's favorite sellers. Another good option is inSpirit, the online UUBookstore.org, which features the Skinner House imprint, or Beacon Press (beacon.org), the publishing arm of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

Marie Evans, evans.marie@gmail.com

ECOLOGY CENTER ACTIVITIES



We are a group working together to tend to and improve the Waterhouse Ecology Center. We're looking for volunteers to help the trails in various ways as well as for nature walks and mapping species. On July 17, we will be working on a species identification project and plan for collaborative species management in the Ecology Center. Contact Eve Tulbert at etulbert@u.rochester.edu if you would like to get the training materials, and participate at any time that works for you.

THEATER LOVERS

Thank you to everyone who came out during the 2022-23 theater season to support Jewish Repertory Theatre. We enjoyed the plays "The Chosen," "Tuesdays with Morrie," and "Barefoot in the Park," as well as dinner together afterward. The new season has not yet been announced, but expect shows in October/November, February, and April/May.

“FUN”-DRAISING TEAM IN ACTION

UU Amherst had a wonderful Sunday filled with food and appreciation for the new sign in June. The Blackstone Griddle/Grill worked wonderfully and will come in handy when we have our next event, which will be a Simple Pancake Breakfast after a Sunday service in mid-July (date to be determined).

We are also working with Marlana Rice to sponsor a “Cocktails and Community” party for adults (21+) on August 12 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, in the Emerson Room and, weather permitting, under the tent and on the patio. We are in the planning stages and it looks to be a great summer event. Sign up will start mid-July.

We will be helping with the Living Green Festival and are looking for items for a basket raffle. Donations can be left in the clothing pantry bins located in the lobby coat room and on the second floor of the Faith Development wing or contact one of us (Dian Tucker, Barbara Kent Gauger, Pam Kent, Karen Thompson).

Thank you for supporting UU Amherst; we are so happy that our efforts are appreciated with enthusiasm from the community.

Barbara Kent Gauger bgturbo944@hotmail.com

GREEN JUSTICE TEAM

Goats and chickens! Oh my!

The Living Green Festival on Saturday, September 23 will once again be featuring the goats of Let's Goat Buffalo. They'll be returning to continue their "goatscaping" work in our Ecology Center, eating away at the invasive plants.

Penelope's Place, animal rescue and sanctuary, will also be taking part in the festival as both a presenter and a vendor. Their vendor stall may include some of the chickens that live in their sanctuary.

Our own Elaine Harrigan (UU Amherst Office Administrator) will be leading an activity where participants can create and photograph their own mandalas made from natural materials.



We will also once again be featuring the Reduce & Reuse Basket Raffle! If you have new or like-new items that you would be willing to donate to the basket raffle, please reach out to Dian Tucker.

Lastly, we're hoping for a full and active vendor area. While we have a few vendors signed up, we need more! If you interact with any area businesses or organizations that have an environmental/green related focus, please reach out to them and ask if they'd be interested in being a vendor at the festival.

Keep an eye on the festival website as we continue to add more! You'll find the page on the UU Amherst website (uuamherst.org). Under ABOUT, click on LIVING OUR VALUES, GREEN JUSTICE, and then LIVING GREEN FESTIVAL.

Jeanine Moyer, Team Lead jeanine.moyer@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON MISSION (CoM)

The Committee on Mission (CoM) will be meeting on June 29th to regroup and look ahead to the rest of the church year and the future. If your team or committee would like to meet with CoM to work on your mission and goals, contact Diane Bofinger at dpbofinger@gmail.com, 716-689-8954 (call), or 716-418-3272 (text).

The purpose of our work is to align the mission and goals of all of the ministry teams and BOT Committees with the mission of the church. This written information will inform the rest of our church community about the work of each team/committee and enable these groups to continue their work as leadership changes over the years.

Diane Bofinger, CoM Chair, and Committee Members,
Marge Marcille (Scribe), Jeanine Moyer (Board Liaison), and Barbara Brooks (Our Newest Member)

UU CAMPUS MINISTRY AND YOUNG ADULT (18-21ISH)

The UB Campus Ministry Advisors, Bob Johnson (main campus contact), Diane Bofinger, and Scott Harrigan, look forward to meeting over the summer to brainstorm ideas for the fall. If you have ideas of things that we can do on campus and would like to join our discussion, please contact me.

Are you a young adult 18-21ish looking for connection with others in this age range or life stage? Let me know. You may be in college or considering college, but you don't have to be! There are many other life choices! Perhaps we can get a group together for support & exploration.

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

CLOTHING MINISTRY

Our spring/summer stock is on our racks and it is flying off the rack near the food pantry. We are accepting spring and summer clothing as well as any items that can be used to make gift baskets for the basket raffle at the Living Green Festival in September. We have already received several nice items that will be put to good use for UU Amherst. We appreciate everyone's efforts to keep clothing out of landfills and supply quality clothing to our neighbors in need. Feel free to shop the clothing pantry whenever you are at UUAmherst, we restock almost daily.

Your Clothing Ministry Team, Dian (dianltucker@gmail.com) and Don Tucker, Pam and Jerry Kent, Barry Kent and Barbara Kent Gauger

CONGRATULATIONS MICKEY AND RON

On Thursday, June 1, Mickey Tannehill and Ron Palmere were UU Amherst's honorees at the Network of Religious Communities 40th Annual Appreciation Dinner. There were 278 attendees from multiple religious faiths at the M Hotel near the Galleria Mall. We had 23 friends attend to celebrate our honorees. When you see Mickey and Ron be sure to congratulate and thank them for all their volunteer work on behalf of UU Amherst and the larger community.



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.

Asparagus, Spinach and Leek Soup

Melissa Clark

2 1/2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
3 leeks, white and green parts, thinly sliced
1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 garlic cloves, minced
1 large fennel bulb, trimmed and diced
(reserve fronds)
2 medium zucchini, minced
1 bunch asparagus, cut in one inch pieces
4 cups vegetable stock
1 cup cilantro, mint or parsley leaves and
tender stems, chopped
1 cup dill fronds and tender stems, chopped fine
10 oz baby spinach
1 to 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice



Set a soup pot over medium heat; add 2 tbsp oil. After 30 seconds add leeks, red pepper flakes, 1/2 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp pepper. Saute leeks until golden brown at the edges, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant. Stir in fennel, zucchini, 1 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp pepper. Add asparagus stems (reserve tips). Cook, stirring occasionally until vegetables turn bright green, about 5 minutes. Pour in 3 1/2 cups vegetable stock and bring to a simmer. Reduce heat and simmer until vegetables are very tender, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat a skillet over medium high. Add 1/2 tbsp. Once hot, add asparagus tips and a pinch of salt, and cook until just tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Set aside.

Add herbs and 1cup well chopped fennel fronds to soup, reserving some fronds for garnish. Stir in spinach in batches until wilted. Using an immersion blender, puree until smooth. If too thick , add remaining broth. Stir in lemon juice; adjust seasoning. Divide among bowls, garnishing with asparagus tips and remaining fennel fronds. Serves four.

A dollop of sour cream is a nice addition. You can substitute bone broth for the vegetable stock. It's a lovely meal alone, or served with, perhaps, a toasted cheese sandwich. Enjoy!

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



July 2023 U.U.—U.N.NEWS

12 June 2023

“The Rule of International Law and the U.N.’s Agenda 2030”

The rule of international law is the foundation of the United Nations. On the international level, it is fundamental to international peace and security. All 193 United Nations Member States have an obligation to abide by the United Nations Charter and the wider body of international law. All 193 United Nations Member States are expected to abide by these laws and work to ensure that seeking world peace is the essence of the United Nations work to promote the rule of international law at the international level.

On 24 September 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Declaration emphasizing the importance of the rule of international law. The United Nations provides rule of international law assistance to over 150 United Nations Member States. The United Nations has also developed a large body of universally agreed upon norms and standards. The Declaration builds upon the fundamental formula of the 2005 United Nations World Summit. There is no peace without development; there is no development without peace; and there is no lasting peace and sustainable development without respect for human rights. The United Nations’ challenge now is to implement this Declaration. Promoting the rule of international law is, therefore, an extremely important task for the United Nations. Coordinating this process is very difficult, given the large number of United Nations Member States and their usual intransigence. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres is attempting to promote this process of coordination.

The challenge for the United Nations, therefore, will be to encourage all 193 United Nations Member States to implement the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the U.N.’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations Agenda 2030 is devoted, among other goals, to enhancing the rule of international law and encourages all 193 United Nations Member States to abide by it. At the present time, most U.N. Member States abide by the rule of international law and the U.N. Charter only when it is compatible with their foreign policy objectives. That is why the United Nations is unfortunately of less importance that it ought to be.

The time to implement the U.N.’s agenda 2030 is now. This will help the international community give the rule of international law the central role it deserves in world affairs. The international community must develop new approaches to implement the rule of international law. The United Nations should help all 193 United Nations Member States to strengthen the rule of international law and ensure that abiding by the rule of international law promotes world peace, human betterment, international security, and human rights—the primary purpose of the United Nations and its Charter. This is not an easy or simple task, but it needs to be accomplished if the human family is to endure and have a bright future. There is no time to lose: the United Nations must be made to work now and only intelligent human beings can make this happen.

—David Slive, U.N. Envoy

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

**RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH**

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES



UU AMHERST

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF AMHERST

Fostering Justice and Compassion

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