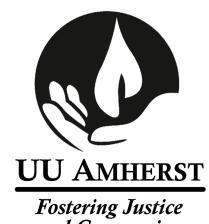
AUGUST 2023

he 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



and Compassion

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

AUGUST 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.

Supervised Care for Littles available in the room adjoining the Atrium. Children & Youth dismissed after Time for All Ages.

"I like where I live " Aug 6

Rev. Susan Frawley An examination of not only location, but where one lives in their faith.

Rev. Susan Frawley is the contract minister at Hamburg UU church. Sue is also employed at the Center for Elder Law and Justice. She does LGBTQ+ trainings for business, education and social services through Niagara Pride. Sue is a proud resident of Amherst and serves on the board for the Amherst Senior Center.

Aug 13 A House for Hope: Progressive Theology Rev. Michelle Unitarian Universalism has been described as a "big tent" religion - a place where it's possible to explore religious ideas.

Aug 20 When God is Gone, Everything is Holy Rev. Michelle You read that right. Experiencing life as holy does not require belief in a supernatural being. We'll explore religious humanism and religious naturalism as pathways to that which is of ultimate importance to us.

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.

He Had a Dream: Sixty Years Later Rev. Michelle This service for all ages invites us into a greater appreciation of the dream that drove Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MINISTER'S CORNER



Shortly after I arrived at UU Amherst I asked a group of people to join me in a book study. The book I brought to them was a bit unusual, as it documented a non denominational Christian church's journey from 'death's door' to revitalization. I wanted us to see what we might glean from their story in service to our congregation. There were some basic differences (beyond theology), not the least of which was their governance structure. I've decided to share in this space some of the decisions that church made to turn themselves around.

The first thing they did was to decide to trust...their minister, their forward-thinking leaders, their capacity for change, and they were willing to toss out the "we tried that once, it didn't work" argument for the status quo. They risked and they engaged. They decided to become a "new generation" church - a church with

attendees whose average age is at least as young as the average age of the community in which the church exists. You'd be amazed how many church systems need to be adjusted when a commitment to age younger is adopted.

What does the music sound like? What day is the main service held and at what time? How willing are we to be a little bit uncomfortable as we move from meeting the needs of the people who are already present to including the anticipated needs of those who need our life-giving message? I think this is going to be an important process of discernment.

A new generation congregation embraces five strategies:

- Adopt a New Mindset
- Identify the Essentials
- Reduce the Distractions
- Elevate Your Standards
- Building a Mentoring Culture

I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Always,

Rev. Michelle

Rev. Michelle will be on vacation August 1-7 and on study leave August 29-September 5

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

More progress has been made on needed repairs and upgrades to our buildings in July. AVA Roofing has completed the project to replace the deteriorating wood on the outside of the Emerson Room. Many thanks to Bob Johnson, Barry Kent, Bruce Becker and Don Tucker for their involvement in the project.

Additionally, Johnson Controls has completed the repairs and updates to our fire alarm system to ensure both our safety and our compliance with NYS rules and regulations. Special thanks to Bruce Becker for his expertise in this area and his direct involvement with Johnson Controls and Main Street Academy to get this done in a timely manner with a minimum of disruption all around.



The BOT is also looking at further necessary repairs for the Emerson Room, the Mansion and the Caretaker's Cottage.

This all takes money and while we look forward to the second quarterly contribution to our operating budget from the Endowment Trust, we also count on the pledges made to balance our budget. We are just over half-way through our fiscal year (the congregation voted to make it coincide with the calendar year last fall), so we ask that those of you who are not on the monthly payment system, or have not yet paid off your pledge, to please do so.

Thanks to Heike Jacob for starting up a Young Adult Group at our church. It's good to see younger people getting involved.

The FUN-draising group is planning two upcoming events: a Pancake Breakfast on July 30th, using the newly donated griddle that worked so well at the picnic, and a cocktail party that has been moved from August to a date in October. Details will be forthcoming.

I hope you all are enjoying your summer.

Randy Kent, Board Chair



ENDOWMENT TRUST

Our next scheduled meeting is October 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).

At our July quarterly meeting, Mike Angelucci reviewed our portfolio performance over the past 90 days. As of June 30th the Endowment's total value was \$1,044,932.76. Bonds have been purchased specifically to mature in time for each installment of \$11,250 for our commitment to the church 2023 -24 operating budget. The final payment of approximately \$6,000 on our wonderful new sign is yet to be made. The BOT approved the Gift Giving Policy proposed by Endowment and we will introduce it to the congregation in the fall. With respect to renewing the Legacy Circle, Elaine Cusker, Barry Kent and Dorothy Reade will develop a plan to touch base with those who previously notified the Endowment that it was included in their wills as well as encouraging new commitments. Finally, to get our officer positions in sync with the new church Annual Meeting schedule, elections were held. New officers are: Chair - Lauraine Marcus, Recording Secretary -- Elaine Cusker, Corresponding Secretary -- Dorothy Reade, Treasurer -- Barry Kent. Next election of officers will take place within one week after the church Annual Meeting.

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

UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

UU Amherst's Book Club alternates 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. All are welcome to attend our discussions, whether or not you've "done the reading."

Book Club is on hiatus for the summer, but will return to regular meetings (last Sunday of the month) in September, when our TOPIC will be **UU HISTORY**. We'll gather on **Sunday**, **September 24**, at **12 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 - Personal stories of the Transcendentalists living in Concord in mid-19th century - all the famous characters (subtitle: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work)

Out of the Flames: The Remarkable Story of a Fearless Scholar, a Fatal Heresy and One of the Rarest Books in the World by Lawrence Gladstone and Nancy Gladstone - It's about Michael Servetus, martyred by Calvin.

The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought by Susan Jacoby - Ingersoll was a resident of New York State - his home is open to the public. Not necessarily a UU but certainly a free thinker and allaround good guy.

The Life of John Murray by Iain H. Murray John Murray left England and established Universalism in the eastern US.

There should be a copy of *Bloomsbury* and of *Out of the Flames* 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 UUAbookstore.org, which features the Skinner House imprint, or Beacon Press (beacon.org), the publishing arm of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.



UU Amherst at CERSI

This picture is of Simon Connolly holding our banner in preparation for the banner parade at CERSI (Central East Region Summer Institute). Nearly 400 UUs gathered at Penn West California (outside Pittsburgh PA) for a week filled with fun and fellowship.

CONNECTIONS CORNER

This spring, I watched a robin carefully weaving her nest in my sour cherry tree. I admired her focus and patience, as she brought tidbits of mud, tiny bits of fluff and lots of long strands of fiber and grass. She wove so carefully, industriously and energetically getting in from time to time to shape it to her body. She was a master engineer, designing her space to accommodate her exact proportions. Later that month, I watched another doing the same thing, visible to me from my seat in the chapel, during service.



I see our congregation doing the same thing through our connections with each other. Every time we bring a new person, idea or activity to our community, we weave in the materials with our values, which is like the mud holding the nest together. We are making a container to fit ourselves into, getting inside once in a while, feeling around to make sure it's comfy and cozy. We want it not too big that we can't manage and not so small that we feel squished. We want it just right, although because we are constantly changing in people and tasks, we also need to be flexible and patient with change. We are the gift. The weaving of the community is the gift. We are weaving the container for ourselves, our children and our world.

Linda Joy Groat, Team Lead LMGEAG@gmail.com

Have you been coming for a while and enjoying UU Amherst?

Maybe you're ready to become a Member. We call it "Signing the Book" because there is an actual book, in which all members make a formal promise to be engaged in the community and make a financial contribution to the congregation. Financial contributions, called pledges, can be of any amount, and are used to support the building and grounds, staff, and programming. Pledges are made annually, renewed during our Generosity Drive. Members can join anytime. Membership shows your commitment to our congregation and is the way we grow and attract more members. Membership also allows each member to vote in our congregation meetings. Since the democratic process is one of our principles, voting is an important way to have a voice in what we do. It's an exciting time to be a UU, especially at UU Amherst.

Sunday Greeters

Warmly welcome our visitors and congregants. Training is provided and it's a fun way to meet people. You can access a link to a sign-up form for September-December in the *Weekly Update*. If you need to review your sign-up for August, or to sign-up without using the Google form, you can email Linda Joy.

R U New to UU??

All Newcomers are welcome to sign up for a free nametag at the Welcome Desk. We put in a new order when we have 10 tags. Also, anyone who lost theirs can get another.

Upcoming Sunday Youth Services in August: Child Care for Littles will be provided during service each week from 10:15-11:30

August 6 Youth begin in general service, then leave with Amber and Ravi Sastry to learn more about UU Principles and work on their rainbow mobiles.

August 13 Youth begin in general service, then leave with Linda Joy and Kendra Vorenkamp to learn about Martin Luther King, Jr. The Story of Martin Luther King Jr. Stories about civil rights for kids. Kids Academy. I Have a Dream speech by Martin Luther King Jr HD (subtitled)

August 20 Youth begin in general service, then head to the Emerson Room with Eve & Betty for UU Art & Ecology Club Activities.

August 27 MULTI-GENERATION SERVICE. The 60th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech.

AUGUST 2023 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.

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

Tuesday, August 1st

7:00 pm: Rental Music Program Chapel

Sunday, August 6th (monthly 1st Sun) **11:45 am:** Little Free Pantry Team Meeting

Wednesday, August 9th (monthly 2nd Weds)

1:30 pm: Caring Team Zoom **5:30 pm:** Finance Committee EM

7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group LR

Thursday, August 10th

7:30 pm: Green Justice Team Meeting

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

Wednesday, August 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, August 17th

7:30 pm: Green Justice Team Meeting

Friday, August 18th

5:00 pm: Private Rental EM

Saturday, August 19th

9:00 am: Lace Guild Rental BUL

Thursday, August 24th

6:00 pm: Dreamer Potluck EM

Saturday, August 26th 9:00 am: Ministry Council Continued

RECURRING:

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

All "tree" names are for Village groups

Saturdays, August 5th-26th 7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zoom

Sundays, August 6th-27th

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

Coffee Hour following

Mondays, August 7th-28th

7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapple Zadmin (weekly)

L. Marcus

7:30 pm: Marvelous Maples (8/14 & 8/28)

D. Bofinger

Tuesdays, August 8th-29th

12:30 pm: Women's Study Group Zoom

Wednesdays, August 9th-30th

10:30 am: Willow Village Zadmin (2nd &

4th Weds: 8/9 & 8/23) J. Senders

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

8/9) LR

7:00 pm: Northtowns Village (8/16)

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.



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Hopefully, August will yield some produce from our garden that we can share with each other and with the pantry visitors. As we get closer, look for opportunities to help with harvest. I think at the very least we will have tomatoes.

Photo by Eric Groat

DASH RECEIPTS

Please deposit your Dash's receipts in the marked container in the coat room. These are turned into funds to support an African village which is a project run for many years by a local woman. For information, contact Jacque B. by phone.

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.)

DREAMER POTLUCK

August 24, 6:00-7:30 pm

Do you wonder what your dreams are trying to tell you? Come to the potluck and learn a few tips! A Dream Group will be offered after the winter holidays. This is your chance to learn what that might look like. All those who participated in the Winter 2023 Dream Group are encouraged to attend for a 'brush up.'

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.

In the meantime, JRT's performance space in the Getzville Jewish Community Center will be hosting "Anthony Chase: My Life in the Audience" on Saturday, August 19 and Sunday, August 20 at 2:00 pm. It's an afternoon of story and song with theater critic, raconteur, and all round bon vivant Anthony Chase, with music director Philip Farugia at the piano!

For 30 years Anthony has kept listeners of WBFO informed of events in the theater world with his popular Friday morning radio segment "Theater Talk." He is senior theater critic for *The Buffalo News*, and for many years, was the theater editor for *Artvoice*. He keeps the region informed of news of the theater in his blog: theatertalkbuffalo.com.

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 and exploration.

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

GREEN JUSTICE TEAM

The Living Green Festival is almost here! Saturday, September 23, 12 noon to 7:30 pm!

We will start the weekend with setup on Friday followed by a potluck and bonfire for our congregation. This will give us time to breathe and enjoy each other's company between the work of setting up and the festival on Saturday. Even if you're not involved in the setup process, please come out and take part in this pre-event gathering.

Saturday is the big day! Expect to be hearing a call for volunteers by the end of August or beginning of September. We'll need many people to help make this event a success. And the more volunteers we have, the less any one individual needs to do!



We're still in need of more talks, activities, and vendors. If you are part of or have contact with a business or organization that's related to "living green," please reach out to them! If you can personally lead an activity that would be well suited for the activities tent (arts and crafts, etc.), the living room (small group discussions, movie screenings, etc.), or the ecology center (nature walks, meditation, etc.), please reach out to Jeanine Moyer.

Please share the website with everyone you know! The easiest way to get to it is to go to our congregation's website https://uuamherst.org and click the link in the big yellow banner at the top. Lastly, we have a QR code that can be scanned by any cell phone.

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



COMMITTEE ON MISSION (CoM)

The Committee on Mission (CoM) met on June 29th to recap its work with the Connections, Green Justice, Food Pantry, and Caring for One Another Teams. CoM will continue to meet with teams and committees as needed to develop missions and goals, and teach the circle way. If your team or committee would like to meet with CoM in the fall, 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.

Finally, we thank Barbara Brooks for serving on our committee this year. Barbara gave much valuable input that we will use going forward. We look forward to working with Barb in other roles in the church.

Diane Bofinger, CoM Chair, and Committee Members, Marge Marcille (Scribe), and Jeanine Moyer (Board Liaison)

CLOTHING MINISTRY/FUNDRAISING TASK GOUP

The Clothing Ministry and the Fundraising Task Force (quite a bit of personnel overlap) are working together to prepare for the Living Green Festival in September. We will be selling food at the event, in lieu of last years food truck. The menu is to be determined but will include vegan/vegetarian and gluten free options. We will be obtaining a permit so we can prepare food for sale from our own kitchen. Come hungry!

We have made a huge dent in the church basement clutter. Some has gone to recycling and trash, some has been earmarked for raffle gift baskets and the Free Room. While cleaning, we have found holiday decorations which need to be removed from the basement. If they are not claimed, they may find their way to a gift basket or the Free Room. Please claim them.

We are still accepting donations of items to be used in gift baskets. Do you have unused candles, a bottle of wine or spirits, bath bombs, greeting cards, gift cards or certificates, etc. that are gathering dust? We have a home for them in a gift basket. The more items we have available the better our baskets will be. Our Living Green Festival will be even more awesome with a phenomenal basket raffle.

Our proposed August fundraiser, Community and Cocktails, is being rescheduled to mid-October. Plan to attend this adults-only event.

The Clothing Ministry will start the changeover to cool/cold weather clothing by mid-August, in time for school shopping and cool autumn evenings. We will soon be needing winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens, boots, etc. We will start accepting winter donations in September. Your generosity is amazing!

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

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.

You've probably been to Greek restaurants and had the Greek potatoes and wanted to do the recipe at home. Well here is the recipe and they go with anything.

Greek Lemon-roasted Potatoes

Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
2 Tbsp olive oil
2 Tbsp water
1 tsp dried Greek oregano
6 medium baking or Yukon gold potatoes,
peeled and cut in half
Sea salt and freshly cracked black pepper
Fresh chopped parsley and marjoram for garnish,
optional



Preheat oven to 375° F

Whisk lemon juice, zest, olive oil, water and oregano in a small bowl to blend.

Toss potatoes with the lemon oil mixture in a small roasting pan. Season with salt and pepper. Roast potatoes in the oven until tender and golden brown, turning occasionally, about 35 minutes. Using a metal spatula, loosen potatoes from roasting pan to prevent sticking.

Sprinkle with freshly chopped parsley and marjoram, to serve.

Note: potatoes can be cut into wedges, if preferred, prior to coating with the lemon oil mixture and roasting.

Enjoy! Christine

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

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

The next meetings of the Amherst Little Free Pantry are as follows:

- 1. 501c3 meeting with law students: Wednesday, August 9th at 4:30 pm.
- 2. General Meeting: Saturday, August 26th from 10:00-11:00 am during the General Ministry Council, which is held the same day from 9:00-12 noon; all from the Pantry Team are welcome to attend all or part of the Ministry Council meeting.

Many thanks to our UB Law Students who have been carefully dissecting/reviewing and explaining the by-laws of our new corporation, Amherst little Free Pantry LTD with our leadership. Thus far, we have completed the following documents on our non-profit journey: Certificate of Incorporation, Records Retention and Destruction Policy, Conflict of Interest, Whistleblower Policy and Dissolution.

Thank you to our Spring law students Jane Kent and Katherine Fierle, both from the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic and Michaela Reisdorf, from the UB Environmental Advocacy Clinic. And much thanks to their mentor, Professor Kim Diana Connolly.

The Amherst Little Free Pantry, LTD's new leadership will be: Marie Evans, Chair; Doreen Park, Administrative Officer; Meg Sabella, Treasurer; Cheryl Tomasulo, Compliance Officer.

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.



Shown left: Pantry members with our Turkish Muslim neighbors who donated prepackaged meat to celebrate their holiday of Eid ON July 2nd. Our Pantry clients were the recipients of this generous community's donation.

Welcome to our newest Pantry volunteers! From left, Kiran, Surya and Anjali who did a fantastic job stocking the Pantry on Saturday, July 22. Their enthusiasm and help is greatly appreciated!







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