

Issue

**FEBRUARY 2024**

# The Foreword



**UU AMHERST**

*Fostering Justice  
and Compassion*

The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst  
6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221  
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**Office Hours** Tues.—Fri. 9am to 2pm [www.uuamherst.org](http://www.uuamherst.org)

**Our Staff:**

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**Minister Emerita**  
Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

## FEBRUARY 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! Remember that coffee hour follows.

Supervised Care for Littles available in the room adjoining the Atrium.

### Multi Sensory Services for All Ages

Our congregation joins with hundreds of other UU congregations in the exploration of monthly themes from Soul Matters, a resource that is grounded in Unitarian Universalist values. This month we consider the theme of Justice & Equity.

**2/4** Imbolc: A Glimmer of Light in the Darkness Rev. Michelle  
The Celtic Pagan wheel of the year turns as the days grow longer. Let's celebrate the growing light, in and around us.

**2/11** Did UU Know? Rev. Michelle  
This week we will get acquainted with the talented and influential Unitarian, Fannie Barrier Williams (1855-1944). You're going to wonder why her story is new to us!

**2/18** The Gamble Julie Taylor, guest  
The truck rumbles down a road it hadn't been down in years, its bed full of old metal waiting to be recycled. "The universe will provide," the driver says, right as a never before seen scrap metal yard appears on the left.

There exists a gamble between intentionally influencing the arc of the universe and trusting the movement of the universe through meditation and observation. The choice is yours—do you gamble? (See bio on page 11)

**2/25** Attention Must Be Paid Rev. Michelle  
Are you paying attention? Do you feel the tremors of the Great Turning? A new world is emerging and it is up to us to bring it to birth. We are the central actors in this drama.  
**(choir to sing this week)**

### Our Covenant

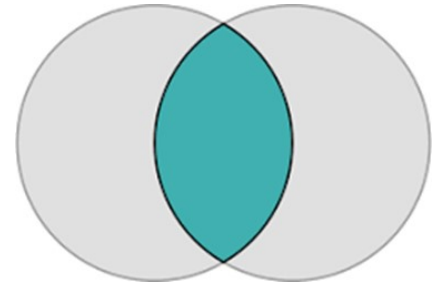
*Together we promise:  
To gather in compassionate  
community,  
To celebrate diversity of thought and  
unity of spirit;  
And to seek wholeness for ourselves,  
our children, and our world.*



## MINISTER'S CORNER

**A meditation on Policy Governance...**  
(Yes, you read that right! A meditation.)

You see, we have been working on shaping our structure as a congregation to *policy governance* for over six years - with some success - and with some frustration. Sometimes it has felt like pounding on a square peg, insisting that it fit into a round hole.



The Hotchkiss model that we have engaged shows two circles (pies); one for Governance and one for Ministry. The areas of congregational life that have been part of the Governance pie are the committees that serve the Board: Finance, Personnel, Campus Support (facilities & grounds), Leadership Development & Nominating; and Committee on Mission.

The Ministry Pie is the relational side of congregational life, and under the purview of the minister: Connections, Worship, Caring, Restoration Circles, Music, Clothing, Green Justice, Social Justice, Publicity & Marketing, Young Adult & Campus Ministry, Faith Development; and by extension, the Little Free Pantry, Fundraising, the Women's Group, and Safety. The Committee on Mission has moved between the pies.

For over six years, we have tried to work in two different spheres - even though there were areas of congregational life that spilled over. We are discovering that communication between the spheres is lacking, and some areas of congregational life don't fit easily into one or the other. Do we need to throw it all away and start over?

No, I don't think so. Recently, in my spiritual endeavors, I have been introduced to the image of the *Vesica Piscis* (see the diagram above). It has spiritual applications, but I think it might have more practical applications as well. There is an area of overlap between two spheres where shared communication happens; intentional shared space. Everything about congregational life is connected to every other part - yet, we get into trouble if everything falls to one side (Governance) or the other (Ministry).

By the way, that middle space is fluid - projects and ideas may pass through and rest for a while in one or the other 'pie'. Oh, and that middle space is not where everything falls to the minister or everything falls to the Board. The only way we can be a truly healthy congregation is to have good boundaries and to respect those boundaries, while enhancing communication. We can do this!

Thoughtfully,  
Rev. Michelle

Rev. Michelle will be on study leave 2/14-19.

### 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](mailto: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

### HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: [administrator@uuamherst.org](mailto: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 will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 25th at 12 noon which you can attend in person or virtually (see the graphic below with instructions to register to join the virtual meeting). In addition to the usual votes on our operating budget and our contribution to the UUA, there are important votes on our by-laws: adjusting our quorum to fit the current membership total and providing clarity to our membership rules.

There will also be a proposal that requires congregational vote for the Endowment Trust regarding their on-going annual contribution to our operations budget. Their 2023 contributions have helped make possible all we have been doing around the church and we look forward to their continuance in 2024 .

Part of “Reimagining Ourselves” in our 70th Anniversary year has led to the formation of a Safety Committee. We recently arranged a visit from members of the Amherst Police Department who were impressed with our new key fob entry and video intercom/door release systems. There is still much to do and I want to thank those who have agreed to serve on this committee with me: Bob Johnson, Sue Gorski, Lauraine Marcus and Kim Diana Connolly.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Randy Kent, Board Chair (linrkent@yahoo.com)



# 2024 Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst

## Sunday, February 25, 2024

Starting At 12:00n

**In-Person & Live Remote Via YouTube**

**Advance Registration Required  
For Remote Participation!**

**Scan This QR Code Or Contact  
The Church Office By 2/23/24!**



## THEATER LOVERS

Our next group outing is **Sunday, February 18**, for the 2:00 pm performance of *Kindertransport* at Jewish Repertory Theatre in Getzville, followed by dinner together (pay your own way) at Lebro's Restaurant at 4:00 pm. Order forms to purchase tickets are available in the church lobby in the manila folder pinned to the bottom of the Church Life bulletin board.

**The discount form is good for shows on any of the Thursdays or Sundays during the run, February 1-25, 2024:**

Thursdays- 7:30 pm

Saturdays- 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm

Sundays- 2:00 pm

*In this powerful audience favorite, nine-year-old Eva, a German Jewish girl, is sent by her parents on the Kindertransport to start a new life with a foster family in Britain just before the outbreak of World War Two. Over forty years later, she has changed her name to Evelyn and denied her roots. When her own daughter discovers some old letters and photos in the attic, she is forced to confront the truth about who she really is and reveal a dark secret that she has done to keep everything hidden.*

Directed by: Saul Elkin Starring: Charmagne Chi, Robyn Baun, Wendy Hall, Ellen Horst and Dave Wysocki

JRT is creating **free events** that tie into each of their plays this season. Consider attending these offerings. You can register attend via their website <https://www.jccbuffalo.org/jewish-repertory-theatre>

**Kindertransport Panel Discussion** on the themes of JRT's production of *Kindertransport*

**Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 PM**

The Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre

Director Saul Elkin, members of the cast, President of Jewish Philanthropies and second-generation holocaust survivor Daniel Kester, and Chair of the UB Department of Jewish Thought Noam Pines will discuss the making of the production, the history behind the play, and the lasting impact and legacy of the real-life Kindertransport. **FREE EVENT, REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

**Stage To Screen: Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport**

**Monday, February 19, 7:00 PM**

The Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre

**Free movie showing** of the Academy Award-winning 2000 HBO documentary *Into the Arms of Strangers*. Judi Dench narrates this extraordinary chronicle of an unparalleled British mission to rescue more than 10,000 children - most of them Jewish - from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia prior to World War II. Popcorn and refreshments are included. **FREE EVENT, REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

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## UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

Due to conflicts with other church events, we will not meet in February. Easter is March 31 and there's an Easter Egg Hunt happening where and when we would regularly meet, so we will gather on March 24 to discuss the book, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Marie will facilitate.

Questions? Contact Marie Evans [Evans.marie@gmail.com](mailto:Evans.marie@gmail.com), 716-636-5770



## CONNECTING THOUGHTS

### Inclusion is My Word of the Year Linda Joy Groat

Inclusion, according to [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com): is the act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (due to race, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, physical/mental ability, etc). I believe it is a mindset. A value. An intentional choice that we nurture, grow, and eventually develop into habit. It aligns with our UU principle that Each and Every Person is Important and deserves to be treated with Dignity and Respect. Closely aligned with Inclusion are the values of diversity and equity.

A synonym for diversity is variety. Variety is what we are hoping for when we invite people into our congregation. We want people of all walks of life to participate in our programs and activities. The more diverse, the better. Additionally, we want all those who feel like “outsiders” or “others” to find Belonging in our community. This aligns with our UU principle; Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence, of which we are each a Part. Remember my [December article on the snowflakes?](#)

Equity, being impartial and fair, is inherent in our UU principles. Not everyone is lucky enough to have their basic needs met, let alone higher level needs. As UU’s (and arguably, as compassionate beings of any group), we must speak for those who have no voice and no ability to advocate for their needs or to improve their circumstances. Recently, I lost my voice for two weeks, due to a cold, and I felt the impact of not being able to communicate verbally. Imagine if I could not write or type my needs - which I was privileged to still be able to do. This is where we need to imagine ourselves, if we are to help others who have no such privilege.

When I look around UU Amherst, I am pleased to see the growing diversity of ages, stages, abilities, genders, races, ethnicities, backgrounds, economic means, religious beliefs, and more that I am sure we don’t even know of, yet. We all have gifts to share with each other and in 2024, I encourage all of us to engage in Daring Leadership (Brene Brown, *Dare to Lead*), and embrace and actively promote Inclusion, by examining our language, written and spoken; our practices and procedures (new and old); our habits, and see how we can change to be more inclusive, to be more welcoming and tolerant. It might be as simple as changing where we sit during service, trying a new thing out of our comfort zone, or introducing ourselves to a person we have never met before.

There’s no blame or shame intended in this, only learning and growing. We cannot change what we do not know is a problem. We must be brave and vulnerable at the same time (again, Brene). We can accept the things we cannot change, summon the courage to change the things we can and have the wisdom to know the difference (Serenity Prayer). And we can do Small Things with Great Love (Mother Theresa).

#### Connections Team News Linda Joy Groat & Laurie Kasnicki

Our team welcomes newcomers, grows membership, develops programming and connects people to meaningful relationships and activities. We would love to have you join us. Please email Linda Joy at [lmgeag@gmail.com](mailto:lmgeag@gmail.com).

The Volunteer Sign Up is our “one stop shopping” portal for all things Volunteer, and includes all of our Sunday service participation opportunities; along with descriptions for each position, linked to the headings in each column of the spreadsheet. A link to the sign up will be included in each *Weekly Update*. Anyone needing help for the spreadsheet access, please email Linda Joy at [lmgeag@gmail.com](mailto:lmgeag@gmail.com). In addition, hard copies of these opportunities are in a rainbow colored binder, labeled Volunteer Job Descriptions, on the coffee table behind the Welcome Center.

We now have a (very old-but quite functional) iPad for use at the Welcome Desk, to use for Volunteer Sign Ups and training members how to access our files. Watch for it to circulate at Coffee Hour.

More and more families with children are coming and we want them to feel welcome! If you are able, please consider being an Extra Pair of Hands once a month to support children and families during service for about 30 minutes. Training is provided.

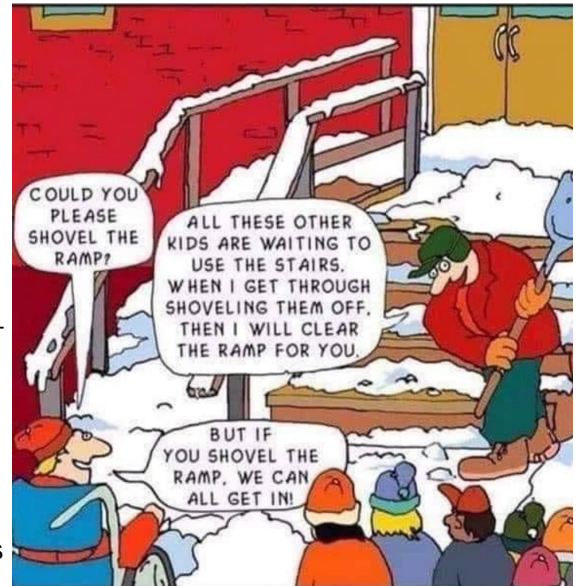


Image credit: © 2002 Michael F. Giangreco. Illustration by Kevin Ruelle. Peytral Publications, Inc.

## FEBRUARY 2024 CALENDAR

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some meetings are virtual-only; others are dual platform (Zoom and in-person); and some in-person only. See the notation after the meeting. Zoom links for general groups are published in the *Weekly Update* unless they are hosted on a private account. Zoom events taking place in the Zadmin or Zrev rooms are identified with the abbreviation.

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

**Friday, February 2nd**

**Time TBD:** Imbolc Bonfire EC

**Saturday, February 3rd**

**10:00 am:** Lace Guild BUL

**Sunday, February 4th**

**12:00 pm:** Little Free Pantry Meeting LR

**Tuesday, February 6th**

**12:30 pm:** Women's Group Lunch EM

**Tuesday, February 13th** (monthly 2nd Tue)

**7:00 pm:** Connections Meeting Zoom

**Wednesday, February 14th** (monthly 2nd Wed)

**4:30 pm:** John Newman Mission Service & Dinner EM

**5:30 pm:** Finance Committee

**Thursday, February 15th**

**6:30 pm:** NRC Meeting EM

**Saturday, February 17th**

**9:00 am:** WNY Gluten-Free Group EM

**Tuesday, February 20th**

**6:30 pm:** Lace Guild BUL

**Saturday, February 24th**

**5:30 pm:** Game Night & Trivia w/Potluck

**Sunday, February 25th** (monthly last Sun)

**12:00 pm:** Annual Meeting

## RECURRING:

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

All "tree" names are for Village groups

**Saturdays, February 3rd-24th**

**7:00 pm:** Birch Bunch Zadmin

**Sundays, February 4th-25th**

**9:30 am:** Choir Rehearsal EM

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

**Mondays, February 5th-26th**

**7:00 pm:** Tulip Crabapples Zadmin (weekly)

L. Marcus

**7:30 pm:** Marvelous Maples (2nd & 4th Mon:  
2/13 & 2/27) R. Palmere

**Tuesdays, February 6th-27th** (weekly)

**12:30 pm:** Women's Study Group Zoom

**Wednesdays, February 7th-28th**

**2/14**

**1:30 pm:** Caring Team (2nd Wed ) Zoom

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

**2/21**

**1:30 pm:** 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group (3rd Wed)

**7:00 pm:** Board Meeting EM (3rd Wed)

**7:00 pm:** Northtowns Village (3rd Wed)

**7:00 pm:** Bofinger Covenant Group (3rd Wed)

**Thursdays, February 1st-29th**

**2/1**

**12:00 pm:** Men's Lunch (aka ROMEOS) (1st Thr)  
(Buffalo Brew Pub)

**2/8**

**7:30 pm:** Green Justice Team (2nd Thr) Zadmin

**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.

## Upcoming Connections Meetings

Please email Linda Joy at [lmgeag@gmail.com](mailto:lmgeag@gmail.com) to join our team. Everyone is welcome. Clickable links are published in the *Weekly Update*,

### Next Connections Meeting Zoom (2nd Tuesday, monthly)

Tuesday, February 13th, 7:00-8:15 pm

See *Weekly Update* for link

Meeting ID: 880 8865 9617

Passcode: 854312

### All Aboard! Next Ministry Train Meeting Zoom:

Team leads and members are invited to come and hear what we are all doing together. It's a great way to get involved and see what opportunities are available.

Saturday, March 2nd 10:15-11:30am

See *Weekly Update* for link

Meeting ID: 854 5343 3514

Passcode: Ministry

## Game Night & Trivia with Potluck

### Saturday, February 24, 5:30-8:00 pm

Come and enjoy one another's company and have some fun. All ages welcome. Bring a favorite game (or several) or just join in and learn some new ones. We're adding Trivia to the mix - which should be hilarious! Invite a friend (or several) to come along.

## Men's Monthly Lunch

The UU Amherst's Men's Lunch (aka ROMEOS) meets every month on the first Thursday at the Buffalo Brew Pub. Come and enjoy good conversation, food, and drink. We meet at 12 noon and stay as long as conversation and schedules guide. We discuss a wide range of topics driven by interests and events of the day. For directions/menu, visit [buffalobrewpub.com](http://buffalobrewpub.com) Hope to see you there.

## Tuesday Women's Group

This month our in-person meeting will be Tuesday, February 6th. We will meet in the Emerson Room at 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and a beverage.

## MINISTRY & MORE

### Choir Call-Out & Rehearsals

If you are a singer in search of a song, join the choir! They meet each Sunday morning at 9:30am in the Emerson Room (where the coffee happens). Questions? Contact Linda Delorey ([Imscapecod@yahoo.com](mailto:Imscapecod@yahoo.com)) (note that the first letter is a lower-case "L").

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### Sunday Speakers Needed

Do you have a sermon in you? An idea to share? Or do you know someone in the community who has a message that aligns with our values? Contact Rev. Michelle to find out more about open dates, potential themes, etc. The next open date is February 18. Can you help? ([minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org))

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### Position Available

We are looking for a part-time Children's Activity Coordinator on Sunday mornings. Do you know someone (age 18 or older) who loves to work with children and has the skills to weave UU values into fun activities? Content and resource support provided. Contact Rev. Michelle for details. ([minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org))

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### Mark Your Calendar - Friday, Feb. 2nd - Imbolc Bonfire

**Weather permitting**, we will hold a bonfire in the Ecology Center to celebrate the growing light. Imbolc is the Celtic celebration of the shift from the dark of winter to the first promise of spring. We'll start with the bonfire and then retreat to the Emerson Room for a bowl of hot soup and friendly conversation. (Watch for email alerts if the weather looks iffy.)

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### Dream Workshop

What are your dreams telling you? Whether you remember every detail or barely remember dreaming, your unconscious has messages for you. Join Rev. Michelle for 4 Dream Group zoom sessions, March 1, 8, 15, 29 (note - skipping 22). Sign up at the Welcome Center at church or email [minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org). (Rev. Michelle is a certified Dream Worker and Spiritual Director.)



## ENDOWMENT TRUST

The Endowment Trust ended 2023 with \$1,088,013.00 (+ 9.29%) total value of our funds with Level Wealth Management with an additional \$5,580 in Citizen Bank. Most of the fund growth has been attributable to its investment in ESG funds which did very well in the stock market this year. ESG stands for Environment, Social and Governance. The public companies included in an ESG fund are evaluated according to how well they safeguard the environment and the communities where they work,

as well as how they ensure management and corporate governance meet high standards. Here's a closer look at the three criteria used to evaluate companies for ESG investing:

- **Environment.** What kind of impact does a company have on the environment? This can include a company's carbon footprint, its abstinence from or mitigation of toxic chemicals involved in its manufacturing and other processes and its pursuit of sustainability throughout its supply chain.
- **Social.** How does the company improve its social impact, both within the company and in the broader community? Social factors include everything from LGBTQ+ equality to racial diversity in both the executive suite and staff overall, and inclusion programs and hiring practices. It even looks at how a company advocates for social good in the wider world, beyond its own limited sphere of business.
- **Governance.** How does the company's board and management drive positive change? Governance includes everything from issues surrounding executive pay to diversity in leadership as well as how well that leadership responds to and interacts with shareholders.

If you're interested in exploring an ESG strategy, there are multiple ways to identify investments including do-it-yourself research and use of robo-advisors as well as financial advisors.

**At the end of our January meeting, Elaine Cusker resigned from the Endowment Trust.** Her vacancy will be filled at the Church Annual Meeting in February. At the meeting, the congregation will be asked to approve the Endowment's October 2023 action for future budget contributions: On an annual basis, the Endowment Trust commits to provide a gift to the UU Amherst up to 5% of the total value of unrestricted funds for the operating budget. (This commitment will be reviewed at each Endowment October meeting.) After the Annual Meeting, the Endowment Trustees will meet to determine officers for the coming year.

During the last quarter of 2023, we received the following donations: Murray - \$100; Moran - \$30 (Brasure), Christ - \$50 (Howells), Cusker - \$200, Stewart - \$500 (Stewart), Jordan - \$500 (Stewart), Moran - \$50 (G. Little), Kubala - \$50 (G. Little). In addition, the Cuskers will be recognized with a \$500 leaf on the Endowment Tree for their cumulative donations to the Endowment.

The next scheduled meeting for the Endowment is April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Emerson Room.

Lauraine Marcus, on behalf of the Endowment Trustees John Thompson; Dorothy Reade; Barry Kent

### 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



# COMPASSIONATE LISTENING CIRCLES FOLLOW-UP

Submitted by Karen Thompson

On January 4th, UU Amherst co-sponsored Compassionate Listening Circles. We brought together about 60 people from outside our congregation and multiple faiths including youth. We facilitated three deep circle conversations with the goal of connecting to the wider community in shared pain and hope. New friendships were created and left those participating with deep appreciation and a desire to do more together. It felt very healing as we explored different beliefs regarding the Middle East crisis and noticed similarly held perceptions as well as diverse viewpoints. In the end new friends were found and the hope of doing more events together. The participants wanted to do more in the future.

Without the help and support of our members, this never would have been possible. So it is with gratitude that I acknowledge the helpers. Please let them know that they are appreciated and that they have built a tremendous foundation for doing more events with multiple faiths: Betty Crump, Ron Palmere, Barry Kent, Jerry Kent, Bruce Becker, Linda Joy Groat, Diane Bofinger, Lauraine Marcus, Pam Kent, Linda Gardner, Suzanne Christ, Don Tucker, Roger Keeney, Dian Tucker, and Barbara Kent.

Facilitators: Rev. Michelle Buhite, Karen Thompson, Rev. Lori Keller Burns, Victory Ross, Beatrice Singh Arnone, Janet Vaughn, Barbara Vaughn, Mary Martino.

Planning Team: Karen Thompson, Rev. Michelle Buhite, Victory Ross, Janet and Barbara Vaughn, Mary Finn, Beatrice Singh Arnone, Rev. Lori Burns, Rene Petties-Jones and Kristy Tyson of the National Federation for Just Communities (NFJC) WNY.

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## MINISTRY TRAIN UPDATE Rev. Michelle

All aboard the Ministry Train! Truly, all are welcome to attend the meetings that bring the various areas of ministry together for mutual support, encouragement, and generating new ideas to enhance our connections and live into our mission as a congregation.

Here are some of the discussion points from the most recent meeting (1/20/24):

- Central East Region (CER) Winter Institute is coming up on Presidents' Day weekend - not too late to register. **Winter Institute 2024 | Central East Region | UUA.org**
- Consider going to CERSI (Summer Institute), July 7-13 **Summer Institute | A Unitarian Universalist all-ages camp | Central East Region | UUA (cersiuu.org)**
- Publicity & Marketing - watch for more changes to website, *Weekly Update*, and other communications. (Lauraine Marcus, Ruth Bowen, Linda Joy Groat)
- Green Justice Team & Living Green Festival - need to separate the two. Wendy Scott taking the lead on the Festival. This is a critical time to get planning, secure vendors, consider funding sources, etc.
- The Caring Team: Ron & Diane saw a free presentation, "What Survivors Need to Know." Would like to see it brought to UU Amherst in spring.
- Sunrise Sessions: Have started the 30 Days of Love. New people welcome. See the calendar or Weekly Update for the Zoom link.
- Connections Team: Linda Joy and Rev. Michelle are working on hiring staff for Sundays to lead activities with children and youth. Application form has been finished, ad posted on Craig's List, and resources for early childhood education students have been gathered. Meanwhile, Extra Pairs of Hands are needed to work with Linda Joy each Sunday. Helpers needed to clean and organize Faith Development office.
- Randy (Board Chair) provided an update on the progress of the Safety & Security Team. He also explained the Bylaw updates and revisions that will be part of the congregational meeting on 2/25.

## 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 UU Amherst 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 slightly different gingerbread recipe from Melissa Clark of *The New York Times*. It has the chewy texture of brownies with wonderful spicy flavor.

### Gingerbread Blondies

Melissa Clark, *The New York Times*

1 hour prep and bake

About 16 squares

1 cup unsalted butter plus more for prepping the pan

1 1/2 cups packed dark brown sugar

2 Tbsp molasses

1 Tbsp finely grated fresh, peeled ginger

2 large eggs

2 Tbsp vanilla extract

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 tsp baking powder

2 tsp ground ginger

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1/8 tsp kosher salt

1/4 tsp ground allspice

1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Pinch of ground cloves

1/4 cup toasted walnuts or pecans (optional) Powdered sugar for dusting (optional)



Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9” X 9” pan and line with parchment paper.

In a saucepan, heat butter over medium heat until melted and flecked with darker brown bits, 5 to 7 minutes. Pour brown butter into a large bowl and add brown sugar, molasses, and grated ginger. Whisk until combined and let cool for a few minutes.

Add eggs and vanilla extract and whisk until smooth and glossy. Add next eight ingredients. Whisk well to combine. Stir in nuts, if using.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake until edges are firm but the center is still slightly damp, about 18 to 25 minutes. (Add 5 to 10 minutes if using a glass or ceramic pan.) Transfer pan to a wire rack to cool.

Once gingerbread is cool, dust with powdered sugar. Makes about 16 squares.

## **COMMITTEE ON MISSION (CoM)**

The CoM meets 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 after the holidays, contact Diane Bofinger at [dpsbofinger@gmail.com](mailto:dpsbofinger@gmail.com), 716-689-8954 (call), or 716-418-3272 (text).

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

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## **UU CAMPUS MINISTRY AND YOUNG ADULT (18-21ish)**

The UB Campus Ministry Advisors, Bob Johnson (main campus contact), Diane Bofinger, and Scott Harrigan welcome ideas for things that we can do on campus for young adults, 18-21ish. Support is not limited to those attending or considering college. Contact Diane Bofinger if you're interested in being involved.

Diane Bofinger (she/her/hers) (text 716-418-3272), Co-Advisor, UB Campus Ministry

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## **CLOTHING MINISTRY/FUNDRAISING TASK GOUP**

The winter is in full swing and we are in need of warm clothing, including coats, boots, hats, mittens, etc. We thought we had plenty, and are very grateful to all who have contributed but it is never enough; winter wear flies off of the rack.

See the annual report for a brief overview of all that our ministry accomplished over the past year. You will be astonished at the need in our community. Thank you all for being a part of this ministry, whatever your involvement.

Clothing Ministry Team, Dian ([diantucker17@gmail.com](mailto:diantucker17@gmail.com)) and Don Tucker, Pam and Jerry Kent, Barry Kent and Barbara Kent Gauger

### **Sunday February 18th Guest Speaker**

Julie Taylor is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo where she volunteers as a worship associate, supporting the worship hour and occasionally delivering sermons. She has been a UU since 1994 when she walked into her first UU church—the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hamburg—and found a spiritual home that she continued in the Buffalo church. She has taught religious education, served on the Nominating Committee, the Personnel Committee, and the Board of Trustees. Her current passion is spreading a spiritual message for Unitarian Universalists. She lives in North Buffalo with her husband, three children, and way too many grandcats.

**WE ARE:**

**ALL CONNECTED**

**STRONGER TOGETHER**

**LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD**

**CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE**

**RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE  
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH**

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*Fostering Justice and Compassion*

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