

Issue

MARCH 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

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MARCH 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.

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 Transformation.

3/3 Here Be Dragons john Snodgrass
We've all heard about the serpent in the Bible, but who are some other prominent snakes in world mythologies? And despite this creature's bad reputation, can it also be a sign of life and peace?

john (the lower case is intentional) is a frequent guest preacher at UU Amherst. He teaches classes in religion at Canisius, has produced several original plays, and is the author of multiple books, including *Supernatural Shakespeare*, *Sun Dance*, and *Thirteenth Moon*.

3/10 through 3/24
Hello! This is Rev. Michelle. Although it is customary to provide a listing of services (a weekly ala carte menu), I've decided to give you the opportunity to come to our Sunday celebration *without knowing what you'll find!* Something could happen here! I guess you'll just have to trust that it will be worth your time to show up and participate in the amazing community that is UU Amherst. What a radical notion! I can't wait to see you!

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.*

3/31 Easter Service Rev. Michelle
There will be fun stuff for kids. There will be meaningful reflection for adults. There will be coffee. You should probably come - and invite your neighbor and your cousin and the person who cuts your hair. It's Easter at UU Amherst!



MINISTER'S CORNER

Just call me radical. I am venturing where few UU ministers have trod. I am setting aside the need to entice you to connect on Sundays with clever sermon titles and descriptions. You may have heard my declaration of independence at the Sunday service on February 11th, where the sermon I was compelled to offer was only slightly connected to the sermon I had semi-promised in the newsletter to deliver.

I've always considered the newsletter and its deadline to be, if not the bane of my existence, at least a challenge. Don't get me wrong, I love to connect with you in this forum - sharing ideas with you and inviting you into a deeper relationship with Unitarian Universalism and with this congregation. This little column makes sense to me.

However, gazing into the equivalent of a crystal ball (ok, browsing the readings suggested in the monthly theme) has never felt good. When did church become an ala carte menu of preferences?

There is a story told about Rev. William Ellery Channing, known in our Unitarian history as the author of the defining sermon "Unitarian Christianity." One Sunday morning, he was crossing the Boston Common on his way to church when he saw one of his parishioners walking towards him. They greeted one another, and Rev. Channing asked the parishioner where they were going since church was about to start within the half hour. The parishioner said, I know what you are going to say about the topic being offered so I am going to do something of more importance. That was the last Sunday in which Rev. Channing offered a title and a blurb on his Sunday morning message.

If the reason for attending church is only for the sake of hearing an interesting topic or lecture, then I think that is a poor purpose for church. There are other venues, especially in a university town, that can meet that important need. (Rev. Fred Hammond)

And so, my friends, with no witty sermon titles to entice you, I look forward to seeing you on Sunday(s) and co-creating the Beloved Community.

Thoughtfully,
Rev. Michelle

Rev. Michelle will be away for denominational business March 18-22.

Rev. Michelle and Les will be away April 9-22 for their first actual vacation since 1988. Volunteers to run tech needed for training in March.

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

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 project to turn the first floor of the Faith Development Wing into useable space for church offices, a meeting room and Amherst Little Free Pantry space is moving along very well. After that is completed, attention will turn to improving the remaining space to be used by Faith Development.

It's very heartening to see the preliminary work being done by so many enthusiastic members of our congregation. It reminds me of many other projects done over the 70 years we have been in existence. Thanks to all who are participating in this project.

The big focus for this year for the BOT and Facilities Team will be our multiple heating systems, of which we have five. Our two largest spaces, the chapel and the house, are heated by separate boiler systems. As you may know we have issues with the circa 1965 boiler system that heats the chapel. The boiler system that heats the house is even older so either one or both could fail at any time. If this occurs during heating season it could result in cancellation of live services and damage to our buildings.

We are currently investigating the possibilities for replacement of these systems. Ideally we would have a new system or systems in place before the heating season begins next autumn. This will be a major project and will involve major expenditures, but as we showed in the conception, design, financing and construction of our new sign, we are up to the task.

A side benefit of our investigation of replacement heating systems was the discovery that a pump responsible for heating our main bathrooms had failed. This pump has been replaced and the bathrooms should be warmer from now on.

The Safety Committee has completed its first project—the preparation of a site plan to better enable first responders, the Amherst Police Dept. & Main and Transit Fire Company, to deal with any situation that may arise at our campus. We have provided them with this plan. Recently we had the Amherst PD's Emergency Response Team conduct an exercise on our campus and we will be making the same offer to Main and Fire Company.

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



“Looking to the Future” Task Force

The Task Force was convened by the Board of Trustees in March for the purpose of developing and researching options for the future of the congregation's campus and facilities.

During 2023, the Task Force determined that professional architectural and engineering input should be sought regarding the potential future of the Mansion and how best the Faith Development wing could be connected to the Chapel & Emerson Room if the Mansion were removed. The Task Force obtained a proposal from Wendel for this input. Following an Information Session in November, a Special Congregational Meeting was held on December 10, 2023, where \$10,000 was unanimously approved to engage Wendel.

Wendel's team of architects and engineers are expected to finalize their findings in approximately two months and a report will be presented to the Board and congregation in the spring.

Don Tucker, Task Force Chair

THEATER LOVERS

The final show of JRT's season is the romantic comedy **Crossing Delancey**, which runs May 9 to June 1. **Save the date Sunday, May 19** for our group outing to the play and dinner.

In the meantime, there is a very limited run of a show from Rochester this month for two days only. We will not be going as a group, but you may purchase tickets for yourself at <https://www.jccbuffalo.org/jewish-repertory-theatre>.

SURVIVORS

March 9- 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm | March 10-2:00 pm
The Maxine and Robert Seller Theater

JRT is honored to present an exclusive and limited run of *Survivors* in conjunction with CenterStage Theatre and the Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester. Crafted from the actual testimonies of WNY-based Holocaust Survivors this new play puts a human face on this important time in history. A cautionary tale on the risks of normalized hate, this inspirational and uplifting play ensures that the voices of our Survivors will never be silenced.

UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

Note the out-of-the-ordinary gathering ate! We will meet **Sunday, March 17 at 12 noon in the Library/Living Room** to discuss *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Readers should know that Mr. McBride is unsparing in his descriptions of oppression and harm while ultimately delivering a hopeful message.



The TOPIC for April 28 is TIME. Choose any book you'd like that reflects that theme. It can be fiction or nonfiction. A few suggestions: *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel, *Kindred* by Octavia Butler, or *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking.

There is a long list of books under consideration for a common read for May (discussion will be 5/26). Contact me if you'd like to see the options prior to the March meeting, during which we'll choose a title

Marie Evans Evans.marie@gmail.com, 716-636-5770



Certified Dream Worker!

After completing a study program at the Haden Institute in North Carolina, Rev. Michelle received her certification as a Dream Worker and Spiritual Director. Be sure to see page 7 for details on an upcoming Dream Workshop in March!

The UU Lending Library

Ever wonder about that book-filled glass cabinet at the back of the Emerson Room? That's our Lending Library - books about ours and other world religions, and spiritual or justice themes. I took the opportunity to reorganize and label categories when the Emerson Room rug was replaced: UU History, Atheism/Humanism, Leadership, World Religions, Theology, Spiritual Practice, Biography & Memoir (including some DVDs), Children's, Written by Congregants, Life Transitions, Social Justice. Sign out books on the honor system by writing the date, your name, and the book you've borrowed in the spiral-bound notebook.

Our most recent donation comes from Diane Bofinger: *ACTIVE HOPE: How to Face the Mess We're In With Unexpected Resilience & Creative Power* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. This book is shelved in the Social Justice section and was the topic of a church book discussion group in February 2023. Macy is a longtime activist, philosopher of ecology, Buddhist, and prolific author whose focus is *The Work That Reconnects*.

Questions? Contact Marie Evans



UU the Vote Kick-off Event March 24, 12 Noon

As part of our support UU the VOTE, we are thrilled to announce that UU Amherst will host a legislative update with State Senator Sean Ryan and Assembly Member Karen McMahon. The program will include a luncheon beginning at 12:00 pm after the service, followed by an update that will include information about the upcoming special election in April, the November election, the New York Equal Rights Amendment, as well as legislation related to justice issues that align with our values. There is no charge for the luncheon that day. This program is open to the public. Please extend an invitation to friends and family.

We are all aware how critical the upcoming November is and are formulating other activities related to our support for UU the VOTE. There will be an organizational Zoom meeting on March 7 at 7:00 pm for those interested in being part of the overall UU the VOTE effort. Watch for link in the *Weekly Update*.

Meet Your NY Legislators



Sean Ryan
NY State Senator
61st District



Karen McMahon
NY Assembly Member
146th District (Amherst)

Join us for a legislative update and Q & A

- Importance of 2024 Voting and New Rules
- Upcoming Special Election
- New York's Equal Rights Amendment
- The NY State Budget
- Justice Issues including Gun Rights, Fair Housing, Reproductive Justice, LGBTQ



Sunday, March 24, 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Amherst

- Celebrating 70 Years of Commitment to Justice and Compassion

6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 716-634-3010

Lunch provided at 12:00 PM; Update begins at 1:00 PM

MARCH 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)

Saturday, March 2nd

10:00 am: Lace Guild BUL

10:15 am: Ministry Train Zoom

Tuesday, March 5th

12:30 pm: Women's Group Lunch EM

Thursday, March 7th

10:00 am: Interfaith Clergy Meeting EM

Saturday, March 9th

12:30 pm: Eckankar Group (rental) LR

Wednesday, March 13th

5:30 pm: Finance Committee EM

Thursday, March 14th

7:00 pm: UU the Vote Organizational Meeting Zoom

Saturday, March 16th

10:00 am: Thomas Memorial Service (private)

Sunday, March 17th

12:00 pm: UU Amherst Book Group LR

Tuesday, March 19th

6:30 pm: Lace Guild BUL

Wednesday, March 20th

7:00 pm: Board Meeting EM

Saturday, March 23rd

11:00 am: Railroad Museum Banquet (rental) EM

Sunday, March 24th

12:00 pm: UU the Vote Luncheon EM

Thursday, March 28th

4:30 pm: John Newman Mission Dinner (rental) EM

Saturday, March 30th

11:00 am: Havurah Chapel & EM

12:00 pm: ALFP Restorative Practice Training BUL

RECURRING:

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

All "tree" names are for Village groups

Saturdays, March 2nd-30th

7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zadmin

Sundays, March 3rd-31st

9:30 am: Choir Rehearsal EM

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

3/3 (1st Sun)

12:00 pm: Amherst Little Free Pantry Meeting LR

3/10 (2nd Sun)

12:00 pm: Poetry as Practice LR

Mondays, March 4th-25th

7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapples Zadmin (weekly)
L. Marcus

7:30 pm: Marvelous Maples (2nd & 4th Mon:
3/13 & 3/27) R. Palmere

Tuesdays, March 5th-26th

12:30 pm: Women's Study Group (weekly) Zoom

3/12 (2nd Tue)

7:00 pm: Connections Meeting Zoom

Wednesdays, March 6th-27th

3/6-3/37

11:00 am: Music Rehearsal Chapel

3/13 (2nd Wed)

1:30 pm: Caring Team Zoom

7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group LR

3/20 (3rd Wed)

1:30 pm: 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group

7:00 pm: Northtowns Village

7:00 pm: Bofinger Covenant Group

Thursdays, March 7th-28th

3/7 (1st Thr)

12:00 pm: Men's Lunch (aka ROMEOS)
(Buffalo Brew Pub)

7:30 pm: Green Justice Team 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 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, 10:15-11:45 am

See *Weekly Update* for link

Meeting ID: 880 8865 9617

Pass Code: MINISTY

Ministry Train Update

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.

Next meeting via Zoom,

Saturday, March 12th, 7:00 pm

Meeting ID: 880 88659617

Pass Code: 854312

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 Hope to see you there.

Tuesday Women's Group

This month our in-person meeting will be Tuesday, March 5th. We will meet in the Emerson Room at 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and a beverage. Other meeting dates via Zoom are: March 12, 19 and 26.

Grace Little Memorial Service

April 6, 10:00 am

All are welcome to come and celebrate Grace's life. Reception to follow.

MINISTRY & MORE

Music at UU Amherst

Choir Call-Out & Rehearsals

If you are a singer in search of a song, join the choir! They meet Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Emerson Room (where the coffee happens). Questions? Contact Linda Delorey (lmcapecod@yahoo.com) (note that the first letter is a lower-case "L") for information and for the rehearsal schedule.

Instrumentalists Wanted

Do you play an instrument? Would you like to be part of a pick-up ensemble or even a soloist? Great! Contact Rev. Michelle (minister@uuamherst.org).

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. (Rev. Michelle is a certified Dream Worker and Spiritual Director.)

Coordination of Caretaker Duties - March

Sun, March 3 - Sat, March 9 - Bruce Becker
Sun, March 10 - Sat, March 16 - Randy Kent
Sun, March 17 - Sat, March 23 - Bruce Becker
Sun, March 24 - Sat, March 30 - Barry Kent
Sun, March 31 - Sat, April 6 - Don Tucker
Sun, April 7 - Sat, April 13 - Dian Tucker

UU World Delivery Changed

UU World, the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association which is provided to all members, is now being distributed twice a year in March and September instead of quarterly. Watch for the last issue coming soon!



ENDOWMENT TRUST

A comprehensive review of the Endowment Trust activities for 2023 has been included in the Annual Report distributed for the February meeting.

As mentioned in previously, the Endowment Trust has committed to contribute to UU Amherst operating budget up to 5% of the total value of unrestricted funds for the operating budget. This is determined by taking an average of the Endowment's past 3 years' total value. As a result, the Endowment has been able to contribute \$51,000 to this year's operating budget.

The next scheduled meeting for the Endowment is April 16th at 6 pm in the Emerson Room. At that time, we will have new officers and a new trustee. If you are interested in attending one of our meetings, please let one of the trustees know.

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

Funding Shared Ministry

Please consider giving to the Minister's Discretionary Fund throughout the month of March (or anytime!). The Fund represents one of the ways we engage in shared ministry as we provide financial assistance to members, friends, and others who need a bit of support. It used to be that a check for \$30 would pay a utility bill or purchase a bag of groceries... We all know that everything costs more these days and that paychecks and contributions simply don't stretch the way they used to. It is one of the many reasons our Little Free Pantry and Clothing Ministry are so busy. If you are experiencing abundance, please consider giving to the Discretionary Fund. Simply make checks payable to UU Amherst with "Discretionary" in the memo line.

Thank you.

Rev. Michelle

Although recipients remain anonymous (there is no reporting), scrupulous records are kept to ensure that monies are distributed responsibly, should there ever be an audit of the Fund.

Writings on Nature and Spirituality

Your UU Administrator, Elaine (Elle) Harrigan, has been appointed as a staff writer for the Religious Naturalist Association, providing regular articles on nature, mindfulness and spirituality. The RNA is a worldwide organization that acts to encourage the development and spread the awareness of the religious naturalist orientation. (You can even find a UU ecospiritual group on their website at religious-naturalist-association.org!)

In 2023, she independently published the book *Seeing Differently: Nature and Art as a Path to Wholeness, Freedom, and a Transformed Life* and is currently at work on a new book (tentatively) titled *Wild Wisdom: Encountering Nature Mindfully, Creatively, and Spiritually*.

She regularly posts articles on nature and spirituality on the story platform *Medium*, (medium.com/@earthforagedart), and hosts the Instagram community [@livingwildwisdom](https://www.instagram.com/livingwildwisdom) which boasts more than 700 followers, and focuses on earth and land art from around the world with a spiritual perspective. To read her stories on the RNA website, go to: religious-naturalist-association.org/members-contributions. Scroll down to Sermons & Articles.



Amherst Little Free Pantry Limited

All are invited to attend **Restorative Practice Training on Saturday, March 30, from Noon to 2 :00 pm, in the Bulfinch Room** (second floor of the Faith Development wing). This workshop will be an introduction to resolving conflicts and addressing breaches of covenant in ways that heal communities, calling in all parties involved to better understand one another and repair the harm. Students from UB's Environmental Advocacy Clinic will be the presenters. (These are the student attorneys who, along with students in UB's Entrepreneurship Law Clinic, have been collaborating with us as we work through the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. A Restorative Practices Policy will be part of ALFP Ltd bylaws.)

THANK YOU to Congregation Shir Shalom, who collected "in-kind" (food and personal care product) donations for us during January. Cheryl Tomasulo and Roger Keeney picked up over \$500 worth of items. **Maria Ceraulo** also made a significant donation of food in February.

Marie Evans Evans.marie@gmail.com, 716-636-5770)

Recycling at UU

Modern Recycling has advised us that we no longer need to sort recycling into separate bins. Please put **CLEAN** recyclables in our blue bins, and help our planet!

Paper, junk mail and newspapers
Aluminum non-returnable cans
Glass bottles & jars
Flattened cardboard
Plastic containers with narrow necks only
Juice & milk cartons

Please DO NOT try to recycle the following in our Blue bins!

Food
Plastic bags & trash
Shredded paper
Scrap Metal
Plastic film
Plastic food containers



Poetry as Practice Resumes

In the previous year, Poetry As Practice met on second Sundays from January through May in-person and by Zoom. The group completed its 8th year with a participation rate of about 5-8 people. It also held a session at the Living Green Festival on September 23rd. Participants contributed poems either by a specific poet or on the church theme of the month. Group participants took turns reading the poems and had lively, thoughtful discussions. The group has taken a break since September and resumed in February 2024. The group will meet next on Sunday, March 10th at 12 noon in the Living Room. We are looking for a new facilitator. All are invited

Diane Bofinger, dpbofinger@gmail.com

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.

Pasta with Roasted Cherry Tomatoes

Based on a recipe from Daniela's.
About 1 hour

2 lbs cherry tomatoes
1/2 cup olive oil, plus 2 tbsp
6 to 8 garlic cloves
1/2 cup grated parmigiano cheese
1 cup tomato puree
fresh burata or ricotta cheese at room temperature, to top
fresh basil
1 lb pasta of choice
salt and pepper



Preheat oven to 425F. Line a tray with parchment paper and place tomatoes on it. Drizzle on a 1/2 cup of olive oil, 1/4 cup of grated parmigiano cheese, 6 to 8 smashed garlic cloves, a handful of torn basil and 3 tsps salt. Roast for 30 to 45 minutes until blistered.

Fill a pot with water and bring to a boil, add salt and add pasta, cooking as instructed on the package. As the pasta is cooking, in a large skillet add 1 tbsp of oil, the tomato purée and the roasted tomatoes, reserving some for finishing the dish. Add the cooked pasta to the skillet and toss pasta in the sauce, ladling in some pasta water. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Place the pasta in a large bowl and top with reserved roasted tomatoes and fresh burata or ricotta cheese, fresh basil and grated parmigiano.

If you want you can serve this with a side of cooked Italian sausage, sautéed shrimp or chicken.

Enjoy!

Note: the original recipe calls for cooking the sauce with n'duja and topping the dish with Stracciatella cheese, but since these are rather hard to find in Buffalo, I've made the changes.

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
6. Don't forget Legacy Giving – in your will

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 dpbofinger@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)

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

CLOTHING MINISTRY/FUNDRAISING TASK GOUP

The Clothing Ministry unofficially started in 2020 and became official a year later. 2023 was a busy year for us; accepting donations, sorting them, sometimes cleaning them, putting them out for our clients to take. We officially moved into the former choir room on the second floor of the FD wing and we have filled that room with clothing, shoes, accessories, and basket raffle/Easter Egg Hunt storage. We have donated items to Haven House during the holiday season. We have a pretty good system to stock the pantry area on an almost daily basis. We have been amazed at the need for clothing in the community. While stocking, we have met some of our clients and have gotten many positive comments about the clothing and the food pantries. We are very grateful to our community for the generous donations to our larger community. Anyone interested in joining us, contact Dian Tucker.

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

GREEN JUSTICE TEAM

The GJ Team is reforming and reorganizing with Wendy Scott taking over from Jeanine Moyer, and Karen Thompson acting as co-chair. The Team will split from the Living Green Festival management and there will necessarily be much overlap.

Green Justice interests such as recycling and renewing the green certification were put on the back burner in 2023 to concentrate on the Living Green Festival; these will be restarted as is feasible.

The 2023 Festival improved in visibility and attendance but is not self-sustaining yet. The one-day format suits the budget and person power better than two or three days and we are sorting out obvious improvements to make, including earlier starts in marketing, better unifying the mission or purpose of the Festival and making it more visible.

The GJ Team will hold its next meeting on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 pm on Zoom. See the WU for log in details. All are welcome.

Wendy Scott, scottw@buffalostate.edu

Save the Date!



**Candy-Free Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 31st**

Easter is coming soon and the bunny is visiting our congregation! We are planning an Egg hunt for Easter Sunday. It will be a family friendly service and an indoor hunt led by the Bunny. Kids will collect eggs and turn them in for prizes at the bunny store. This is a NO CANDY event with toy prizes. The Bunny will hop into our church service and lead the children to the Egg Hunt. Please invite your family, grandchildren, and friends to join us!



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