

Issue

JULY 2024

The Foreword



UU AMHERST

*Fostering Justice
and Compassion*

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
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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, UU Amherst, 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 children ages 3-18 is available in the Faith Development Room located in the Admin Wing, to the right of the lobby when entering the building. Additionally, there a dedicated quiet room adjoining the Atrium for children and caregivers.

7/7 *Walking with Angels*

Lorna Czarnota

How often do we notice the unhoused or needy person in our path? What if they are there as angels to teach us about 'invisible' people in our world? **(Children and youth will remain in the service)**

An award-winning storyteller and author, Lorna MacDonald Czarnota has delighted audiences in schools, libraries, festivals and conferences nationally and internationally with traditional and original stories since 1985. Accolades include the National Storytelling Network Oracle Award for excellence in service and leadership, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters “Women Who Move the City.”

7/14 *A Whale of a Tale*

john Snodgrass

A fish tale gets bigger and better every time you tell it. We'll be looking at some big fish stories from religion and mythology, and wondering if a bigger fish really makes for a better story.

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 his latest release, *Shakespeare's Goddess*.

7/21 *Transitions*

Rev. Michelle

Love ‘em or hate ‘em, they are a fact of life. How we handle them is up to us.

7/28 *Are We There Yet?*

Rev. Michelle

The question of every weary traveler.

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

As I write this, Les is sorting pieces to the biggest jigsaw puzzle we've ever attempted; and by that, I mean he is preparing to put together the kids' playset kit that was just delivered. I helped for a while, but our sorting techniques are not always compatible, so I'm safely inside, writing to you. (I just heard a heavy sigh out my window - uh oh.)

There's some pretty good theology happening outside my window. Sometimes Life dumps a big load of random-looking pieces that don't look like much - or maybe they look like too much - how will we ever sort out our issues and hopes and dreams? How will this jumble ever turn into something good and useful (and fun)?

I think the answer is to have double vision; the ability to see the big picture AND attend to details. It's not something that is natural to everyone, so if it's not a gift you possess, befriend someone who has the missing quality and add them to your team. Finding and creating a team or community or friendship circle or whatever you want to call it, opens the way to new opportunities and to using your own gifts in new and creative ways. Who knows what possibilities might emerge?

And now, if you'll excuse me, I think I'll put on my 'supervisor' hat and see how things are progressing. Don't worry, I'll take my gloves, too, just in case I can be useful in the moment. I've been this carpenter's assistant for a long time. Happy summer!

Stay hydrated!
Rev. Michelle



NOTE: Upcoming Staff Vacations in July

Rev. Michelle will be on study leave (accessible) July 1st-5th and vacation (inaccessible) July 6th-16th. The Office will be closed the week of July 22nd-26th. For those interested, it's Buffalo Day at the Chautauqua Institution, Tuesday, July 23rd. The featured morning speaker will be Margaret Sullivan, former editor of *The Buffalo News*, at 10:45 am in the Amphitheater.

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 mid-June combined opening ceremony for the new Admin Wing and annual congregational picnic were both a great success! The usher counted 92 people in our building, the most in a very long time. We received many positive comments on the transformation of the former MSCA daycare space into new offices for our staff, a new meeting room and a new Faith Development room. The latter is most appropriate as we now have a new Director of Faith Development, Katie Cosgrove, who is already making contributions to our FD programs. An incredible amount of work by our members went into the transformation. It made all the difference and we owe them all a large debt of gratitude. I'd also like to thank the people who worked on the picnic and the opening ceremony as well.



A full house in the Chapel on Sunday, June 9th.

The new Admin Wing was the result of a vision, and we have another vision: that of a new heating system so that we can have a well-heated chapel. Many of you are aware that the boiler that heats the chapel was installed in 1965 and is in terrible shape. We can't rely on it to provide heat next winter. If we can't heat the chapel, we can't use it for services.

The Wendel Architectural and Engineering Study, authorized by the congregation, has recommended a steam boiler housed in the chapel to replace the current system in the 110-year-old basement. We will be obtaining proposals from HVAC contractors for the new

system and will bring the chosen proposal to the congregation for a vote to authorize the needed expenditures. That means a Congregational Meeting, most likely this summer, so we can get the work done before heating season.

We will be asking the congregation for funds to defray the cost. Don Tucker and Wendy Scott will be leading that campaign. I urge you to give generously.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! New York State Convention of Universalists

ANNUAL MEETING
October 24 and 25, 2024

Here at UU Amherst!
The Art of Helping—and Being Helped

Reinvigorating ourselves and our congregations as we work toward justice, compassion, and equity,

Registration information will be available in
August.

Watch for details on volunteer opportunities!

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

FAITH DEVELOPMENT



New Faith Development room located in the Admin Wing.



Infant care room next to the Atrium.

NEW SPACE

The Faith Development department is thrilled to announce the opening of our new space located on the first floor of the Admin wing. Now, we'll have a bigger, brighter space for children ages 3-18 and direct access to the playground!

The previous Faith Development room, which adjoins the Atrium, will now be used for a unsupervised infant care space. There are toys, books, a playpen and more there for your use!

If you didn't see the new space during the picnic, feel free to take a walk down and check it out. I'm always happy to meet with caregivers as well to discuss the mission of our Faith Development program. You can reach me at: dfd@uuamherst.org.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

In other news, I'll be out of town for a few weeks in July and August, which means we have an open space for childcare volunteers! Please reach out to me (dfd@uuamherst.org) if you can help the weeks of July 21st, 28th and August 4th.

OWL PARTNERSHIP

UU Amherst is excited to be partnering with UU Buffalo this upcoming fall to administer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for elementary students. OWL is a secular program dedicated to teaching children about making informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. The elementary guided program will cover topics such as body boundaries, safety and health. The program will be offered on Sundays from October to December. Stay tuned for more information!

In community,
Katie Cosgrove
Director of Faith Development



SAVE THE DATES

Family Game Night & Potluck
October 4, December 7
5:30-8:30 pm
Emerson Room

AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Buy your tickets by July 10 to attend our Midsummer BBQ Fundraiser at One-eyed Cat Brewing, 5893 Main Street, Williamsville. The event is Sunday, July 21, from Noon to 4:00 pm. Food buffet included. Cash bar, raffles, and acoustic rock music. Attend the meeting on Sunday, July 7, or contact Doreen Park if you'd like to help out.

The pantry team has been busy behind the scenes!

- Cheryl Tomasulo spring-cleaned the outdoor pantry and donated a vacuum for the PDC and office.
- Meg submitted both the IRS form 990 and an application with the NYS Attorney General's office to be a Registered NYS Charity.
- Doreen signed us up for GiveButter, another fundraising platform that will be used for ticketed events like the BBQ, and can also support one-time or monthly automated donations (similar to Patreon for creators).
- Marie updated our brochure.

We now have an Amazon Business account for the pantry. Watch for a public Wish List to be released soon - donors can order on Amazon and have items sent directly to UU Amherst.

Our next general monthly meeting will be September 1. There is a fundraising meeting on Sunday, July 7, about the upcoming BBQ.

Marie Evans, ALFP Ltd Chair

One-Eyed Cat Brewing

PORK BELLIES BBQ

Midsummer BBQ Fundraiser for ALFP

Sunday, July 21 Noon to 4pm

One-eyed Cat Brewing, 5893 Main Street, Williamsville

Advance Sale Only - buy your ticket by July 10

<https://givebutter.com/NP1q3l> (last character is lower-case L)

\$25 ticket includes food buffet by Pork Bellies BBQ

Scan me
bit.ly/44ZpCmO

Cash Bar
Music by Chris Squier - Acoustic Rock
50/50, Basket Raffle, Silent Auction

Amherst Little Free Pantry

JULY 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); Murray Meeting Room (MMR)

Tuesday, July 2nd

12:30 pm: Women's Group Lunch EM

Tuesday, July 9th

7:00 pm: Living Green Insight Series:
Tool Library EM

Wednesday, July 10th

5:30 pm: Finance Meeting MMR

Thursday, July 11th

5:00 pm: NRC Peace Circle Potluck EM

Saturday, July 13th

12:30 pm: Eckankar Meeting (rental) LR

Monday, July 15th

6:30 pm: Endowment Trust Meeting EM

Tuesday, July 16th

6:30 pm: Lace Guild Meeting BUL

Wednesday, July 17th

7:00 pm: Board Meeting MMR

Thursday, July 18th

12:00 pm: Book Club Potluck EM/KIT

Sunday, July 21st

12:00 pm: ALFP BBQ Fundraiser at One-Eyed Cat Brewing (see page 5)

Tuesday, July 23rd

7:00 pm: Living Green Insight Series:
Reinstein Woods EM

*Poetry a Practice and the UU Amherst Book Group are on summer hiatus. Look for them to return in September.

RECURRING:

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

All "tree" names are for Village groups

Saturdays, July 6th-27th

7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zadmin

Sundays, July 7th-28th

9:30 am: Church of the Wild EC

9:30 am: Choir Rehearsal EM

10:30 am: Sunday service—in-person and livestream; coffee hour following

7/21 (3rd Sun)

12:00 pm: Faith Development MMR

Mondays, July 1st-29th

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

Tuesdays, July 2nd-30th

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

7/16 (3rd Tue)

7:00 pm: Living Green Fest Meeting Zoom

Wednesdays, July 3rd-31st

7/10 (2nd Wed)

1:30 pm: Caring Team Zoom

7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group LR

7/17 (3rd Wed)

1:30 pm: 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group

7:00 pm: Northtowns Village

Thursdays, July 4th-25th

7/4 (1st Thr)

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

7:00 pm: Living Green Fest Meeting
In-person LR

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.

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. The Ministry Train has left the station and will return in the Fall. Stay tuned!

Did you know that we have a gender-neutral restroom? This private restroom can be found on the second level of the house portion of our building. If you're offering a tour to a newcomer, be sure to mention that we have this accommodation.

Tuesday Women's Group

This month our in-person meeting will be Tuesday, July 2nd. We will meet in the Emerson Room at 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and a beverage. Other meeting dates via Zoom are: July 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. See the Weekly Update for Zoom link and pass code.



The Wreath Babies Are Here!

The robin eggs hatched over the weekend of June 22. You may find signs on the pantry door to take care as the nest is in the grapevine wreath on the door. If you can, please use the parking lot (main) church door for the meantime so as not to disturb the nest.

MINISTRY & MORE

Music at UU Amherst

Choir Call-Out & Rehearsals

If you are a singer in search of a song, join the choir! Regular rehearsals will resume in September. Questions? Contact Linda Delorey (lmscapecod@yahoo.com) (note that the first letter is a lower-case "L") for information.

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).



Church of the Wild Continues on Sundays

Bring a chair, a poem, your wonder of nature. Gather for a brief period of sharing, then go walk the trails or labyrinths or meditate quietly in an area of your choosing. Return for a few moments of shared experiences before moving on with your Day-whether it's the morning service or whatever else that calls you. Lauraine Marcus will meet you at the edge of the Ecology Center at 9:25 am, near the basketball court at the back of the parking lot. Church of the Wild is an all weather event (except a torrential downpour).

UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

We will be gathering for a potluck luncheon on **Thursday, July 18** in the Emerson Room (set up at noon, buffet at 12:30 pm.) To be as environmentally friendly as possible, and ease clean-up, we ask that each attendee bring your own utensils, plate, bowl, cup, and napkin. Wendy will coordinate the food contributions, which should arrive ready-to-serve with whatever kitchen tools are needed. So far, we are expecting several main dishes (some gluten-free and vegan), salads, desserts (including ice cream), sangria, and sweetened green iced tea. Instead of discussion of our own reading, we'll be doing a shared read-aloud of *Two Old Women* by Velma Wallace. We can pass books around that day, but you may want to purchase your own copy (readily available for less than \$5 on Thriftbooks). We'll also be choosing a TOPIC for our next regular meeting on Sunday, September 29.



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

THEATER LOVERS

Marie Evans and Suzanne Christ are organizing an outing to see *The Comedy of Errors* at Shakespeare in Delaware Park, on Thursday, July 25 (opening night). The production will have a 1970's variety and game show vibe, while remaining true to Shakespeare's story. Meet in the UU Amherst parking lot at 5:30 pm to carpool or caravan to the park. Bring your own picnic and a chair or blanket. For those with ambulatory concerns, there is a golf cart shuttle from Rumsey Road and Windsor Ave. to Shakespeare Hill and an accessibility platform at the top of the grassy, sloped venue (first come, first served; seating is not provided). The show begins at 7:00 pm and is free, with a "pass the hat" donation opportunity during intermission.

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

LENDING LIBRARY

The glass curio cabinet at the north end of the Emerson Room is our Lending Library. Books in this collection include world religions and spiritual topics, both fiction and non-fiction. Sign out whatever you'd like to borrow in the spiral notebook, with an approximate return date.

We have a new addition, donated by Sylvia Moran, *New Women in the Old West From Settlers to Suffragists, An Untold American Story*, by Winifred Gallagher. From the book jacket: "In this riveting history of the American West, Winifred Gallagher brings to life the little-known women—the White, Black, and Asian settlers, and the Native Americans and Hispanics they displaced—who played monumental roles during one of the nation's most transformative periods. *New Women in the Old West* affirms the legacy of the persistent individuals who played a vital, unrecognized role in the women's rights movement— forever redefining the 'American woman.'"

If you have questions or would like to make a donation, contact Marie Evans.



NOMINATING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The committee members are searching for the last person they need to complete the Slate of Nominees for 2025. The Slate will then be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

This summer, members will be creating a policy for the committee to serve as a guideline for future persons on Leadership and Development Committee. This will be prepared in accordance with the UU Amherst Bylaws, Article VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.

We thank Rev. Michelle for her May presentation, "Leadership Workshop." This was done in the hope it will help prepare some of our church family in moving forward into leadership roles.

Suzanne Christ, on behalf of Committee members: Jacquelyn Senders, Chairperson; Marlana Rice; Marjorie Buscher; Jacqueline Babka; Linda Gardner, nominee of the Board of Trustees

FUNDRAISING TASK GROUP

Summer is upon us and we are ready for your raffle gift basket donations! Instead of Raindrops on Roses, we want your new or nearly new stuff, including but not limited to candles, toys, kitchen gadgets, decorations, picture frames, wine glasses, unwanted bottles of wine or liquor, and other things you don't need or want. It's time to Marie Kondo your space! We will collect, organize, and rearrange everyone's stuff into beautiful gift baskets for our major fundraiser, the Living Green Basket Raffle.

Find donation baskets in the lobby coat room (use the clothing ministry bin if necessary). We hope to have all baskets done in August. Join us in raising dollars for our beloved community.

Barbara Kent Gauger, bgturbo944@hotmail.com

CLOTHING MINISTRY

We are amazed at the need and generosity in our community. We try to fill up the pantry clothing rack 5-7 times per week and move at least 20-50 items per week. We also keep our cabinet filled with shoes, socks, underwear, and clothing accessories. We are stocking summer wear at present. Shop our rack, contact us for a personal shopping experience after church or donate season appropriate clothing. Contact Dian Tucker, Barbara Kent Gauger, or Pam Kent if you want to be more involved.

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

Coordination of Caretaker Duties—July

Sunday, June 30 - Saturday, July 6 - Dian Tucker

Sunday, July 7 - Saturday, July 13 - Bruce Becker

Sunday, July 14 - Saturday, July 20 - Bob Johnson

Sunday, July 21 - Saturday, July 27 - Randy Kent

Sunday, July 28 - Saturday, August 3 - Barry Kent

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER RECIPES

Provided by Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham

Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham are sisters and dedicated members of our Caring For One Another group. They provide occasional meals to 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.

Grilled Rainbow Peppers with Herb Cream Cheese

30 minutes prep time

- 16 mini peppers, halved and seeded
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 8 oz reduced fat cream cheese, softened
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh dill
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh basil
- 3 Tbsp chopped fresh chives
- Zest of one small lemon



Preheat grill or grill pan on medium heat. Place peppers, olive oil, pinch of salt and pepper in a small bowl. Toss to coat and set aside. In another small bowl thoroughly combine cream cheese, garlic, dill, basil, 2 Tbsp chives, fresh ground pepper, pinch of salt and lemon zest. Transfer the cream cheese mixture to a Ziploc bag and refrigerate until ready to use.

Grill peppers over medium heat until slightly charred, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer to a small plate.

Snip the tip of the Ziploc bag and carefully fill each pepper half with the cream cheese mixture. Top with remaining 1 Tbsp chives or sliced green or black olives.

It makes an elegant, very colorful dish.

JOIN US
DURING COFFEE
HOUR FOR A

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

FOR SHANNA & MEGAN GROAT
SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024 | EMERSON ROOM

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN A PART OF OUR JOURNEY.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT.
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT ALONE.

GIFTS GRATEFULLY DECLINED. IF YOU WISH, A SMALL DONATION TO THE
AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY OR UU AMHERST WOULD BE LOVELY

First Aid Kit Locations

The safety committee has updated the supplies in first aid kits located throughout the building. You can find them in the Administrator’s Office (supply cabinet); Bulfinch Room, and the Kitchen. There is a sign in each room identifying where you can find the kit.

LIVING GREEN INSIGHT SERIES: Journeying Towards Harmony with Nature

The Living Green Insight Series continues in July with speakers who will share their wisdom and experience on a variety of topics that help us celebrate the beauty and resources of WNY and learn to live in harmony with Earth and participate joyfully with one another and the natural world. The sessions will begin at 7:00 pm and light refreshments will be available. Registration is encouraged (see the *Weekly Update* for clickable link).

Tuesday July 9, 2024 7:00 pm

The Tool Library with Q&A

Speaker: TBA (<https://thetoolibrary.org/>)

A tool library is a non-profit program set up to lend tools to community members to help them maintain and fix up their homes and gardens. Tools can range anywhere from hammers, screwdrivers, and shovels to power drills, circular saws, and sanders. Individuals and businesses can donate tools to the program which will then be circulated throughout the neighborhood for a small annual membership fee. This revenue stream helps cover much of the overhead associated with the service.

Tuesday July 23, 2024 7:00 pm

Reinstein Woods with Q&A

Speaker: Jean Kostin (ReinsteinWoods.org)

Jean Kostin is the new Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator for Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve. Jean received a B.S. in Ecology from SUNY Plattsburgh and recently completed four years of coordinating an environmental education program at a private Catholic school. After working at Niagara Falls State Park last year, Jean developed a special interest for bird watching.



ENDOWMENT TRUST

The past month has been one of transition as our new Trustees have become familiar with their respective office responsibilities. Of course, we have all been actively involved in other aspects of church life!

The value of the trust on June 1st was \$1,116,613.44. The music committee value was \$26,304.75

The next scheduled meeting for the Endowment has been changed to Monday, July 15th at 6:00 pm in the Emerson Room. At this meeting, plans for reactivating the Legacy Society will be finalized. We will continue to discuss the feasibility of a leadership succession plan and the current trustee term length. If you are interested in attending our meeting, please let one of the trustees know.

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



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