



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Gather - Inspire - Transform



## Minister's Column: What Does it mean to be People of The Beloved Community?

This month we will devote most of our worship time together exploring the promises we need to make to each other to be a loving, diverse and inclusive community of faith.

Our relationships make us who we are as individuals and as communities. It's important to make the nature of our relationships clear; to describe them in a covenant. That way we all know the rules of the game. We know what is expected of us, what our community values, and in the worst-case scenario, when to call foul. We can also be clear about who we want to become. Covenants offer offer us an opportunity for growth. They are made to change as new truths and perspectives are revealed. They are created by, for, and of the people and are never written in stone.

Last summer our Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry Team, the Governance Advisory Committee, and a few of our members versed in restorative practice got together and crafted a draft Relational Covenant. Here it is.

### UUCB Draft Relational Covenant

*We build our church on a foundation of love and covenant with one another;*

*To celebrate the joys of discovery, embracing the fullest measure of our humanity*

*To communicate with kindness, respect, and support each other in our struggles,*

*To serve with compassion and commitment,*

*To openly share our laughter and tears and to show reverence for the divine in all that it is,*

*To explore our values and honor our diversity as a source of communal strength.*

*While striving to be respectful of one another, we will honor authentic feelings including hurt and anger.*

*We have a commitment to learn about how others experience the world.*

*We accept responsibility for our individual acts and promote justice and peace.*

*We acknowledge that this is important, challenging work and it takes time and effort to do it well.*

It's a draft. Just a draft. That means there may be lots of re-writing, adding and subtracting to do. Over the next several months you will have lots of opportunities for input. Everyone's voice needs to be heard. This is your Relational Covenant. Does it describe your beloved community? Does it describe the church we want to become?

*Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes*



## Pulpit Previews, Zoom Webinar Worship

(click <https://www.buffalouu.org/zoom-info.html> for Zoom Webinar instructions).

### Feb 7: To be Announced, Julie Taylor

This Sunday an extraordinary Guest Preacher will lead our worship service.

### Feb 14: Our Beloved Community, Joan Montagnes

Our relationships make us who we are. This Valentine's Day we will visit the promises we make to each other as members of a caring church family. We'll begin to explore a possible covenant that makes explicit the ways we love each other as an inclusive, diverse faith community.

### Feb 21: Our Communal Strength, Joan Montagnes

Many threads can be woven into a single garment of power. We are stronger together especially because of our differences.

### Feb 28: Truly Challenging Love, Joan Montagnes

The redemptive journey of transformative love is a struggle. Dismantling oppressive power structures means radical change in society and self. Growing pains can hurt, but we will lovingly carry each other through the pain and struggle to a better tomorrow.

---

## Joys and Sorrows

We send our condolences to Dave Batt and his family. Dave's father died on December 23 at 100 years of age.

Our hearts are with the Mary Lou Hill and her family. Mary Lou's mother, Kathleen Hill Daugherty passed away peacefully on Christmas day.

Beloved congregational member, Ellie Lawson died on New Year's Day. We will miss her sparkling personality at the Music with Michael classes.

Long time church member, Pauline Clay died on January 18. Although Pauline was unable to physically attend church for many years, many in the congregation remember her with much love.



## Religious Education News

### Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education



I'm taking a break for February, but stay tuned for the Spring line-up in the March Newsletter. There will still be R.E. emails, and feel free to contact me anytime at [lifespan@buffalouu.org](mailto:lifespan@buffalouu.org).



## Adult Faith Development

### EAST MEETS WEST: A SURVEY OF ORIENTALISM

Michael Harris, instructor

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

14 Online Zoom Meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

January 27<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Cost: \$75 for Full Course, or \$10 per Session



We look at the Orient through Western eyes: the China of Marco Polo and Pearl Buck, the Japan of Puccini and Gilbert & Sullivan, the India of Rudyard Kipling, and the Middle East of 1001 Arabian Nights and The Rubaiyat of Omar Kayaam.

To register, send your check, made out to UUCB, to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. The church office will send the Zoom meeting number and instructions for logging-in to your email address. For information, call 885-2136, or email at [office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org).

### Course Syllabus:

**Session Two (February 3):** Music *à la Turk* – Janissary Music in the Classical Age – Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven

**Session Three (February 10):** Hafez, Goethe and the East-West Divan

**Session Four (February 17):** Thieves, Genies and Magic Carpets – Sir Richard Burton's The Book of a Thousand Nights and a Night

**Session Five (February 24):** "A Jug of Wine, A Loaf of Bread -- and Thou" – Edward FitzGerald's The Rubaiyat of Omar Kayaam

**Session Six (March 3):** From Haiku to High Modernism – Imagist Poetry

**Session Seven (March 10):** *Japonisme/Chinoiserie* in the Visual Arts

**Session Eight (March 17):** Orchestral Orientalism [Debussy's La Mer, Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, Borodin's "Polovetsian Dances"]

**Session Nine (March 24):** Asiatic Portraits at the Paris Opera House [Lakmé, The Pearl Fishers, Samson et Dalila, Thaïs]

**Session Ten (March 31):** Puccini's Operatic Orient [Madama Butterfly, Turandot]

*Syllabus continues* [HERE](#)

## Music Notes – January 2021

### Daniel Bassin, Music Director



**Charles Mingus. John Coltrane. Billie Holiday. R. Nathaniel Dett. Florence Price. Nina Simone. Blind Tom Wiggins. Stevie Wonder. Jimi Hendrix. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. Bill Withers. Duke Ellington. Tracy Chapman...**

These are some of the Black voices we will be uplifting during the next month of worship we spend together – a month of *Beloved Community*. And it all begins with a beloved hymn. #1007 *There's a River Flowin' in My Soul*, credited to Rose Sanders (b. 1945), who served as Alabama's first Black Woman judge, and who has since 2002 claimed the name Faya Ora Rose Touré. A composer who penned over 40 musicals while also being part of the legal team that won a landmark victory for Black farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture, and the founder of the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Alabama, we are honored to feature Faya Ora Rose Touré's music while welcoming Rev. Rosemary Morrison for her February 7<sup>th</sup> service, *Seeking Holy Ground*. Service music also includes instrumental meditations by John Coltrane (1926-1967), Blind Tom (1849-1908), and Canadian pianist, composer, and choir leader, Robert Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943).

The music of Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) is now quite familiar to us at UUCB, though while her mid-career accolades were astronomic – the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performance of her Symphony No. 1 in E-minor marked the first performance of a symphony composed by a Black woman – the posthumous neglect her music suffered is a sad testament to the lack of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the world of so-called classical music. Her third symphony was the result of a commission by the Works Progress Administration in 1938, however it only received its New York premiere in 2017, by the Buffalo State Philharmonia, conducted by yours truly. Price's *Communion Service* in F-Major, was freshly rediscovered and published when your UUCB Choir performed it on a Thanksgiving Music Sunday more recent still. Yet, her *Adoration* for Organ, has been lovingly played on our Sanctuary Organ by Jonathan Vogtle in service and also recorded for Zoom. This work will open Rev. Montagnes's Valentine's Day service, *Our Beloved Community*. Helen Lowry and friends will treat us to a performance of the Stevie Wonder (b. 1950) hit *Higher Ground*, on a service that will also feature a Cornette-and-Piano rendition of *Angel* by Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970) and the Overture to the only surviving opera Joseph Bolgne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745-1799), *L'Amant anonyme* ("The Anonymous Lover.")

Charles Mingus (1922-1979) composed *Goodbye Porkpie Hat* – our Prelude for Rev. Montagnes's February 21<sup>st</sup> Service, *Our Communal Strength* - as a memorial tribute to the great jazz tenor saxophonist, Lester Young. *Come Sunday* was composed by Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974) for his concert suite, *Black, Brown and Beige*, and first heard at Carnegie Hall on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1943. A 1958 album version of the suite featured the singular gospel genius, Mahalia Jackson in a rendition of the piece, which would subsequently find its way into Ellington's *Sacred Concerts*. The remarkable choral arrangement and synthesis of these pieces by John Høybe and Peder Pedersen allowed for members of our choir to collaborate on a pair of groundbreaking performances in 2018, performing alongside Dr. Ella Robinson's *New Beginning Choral Ensemble*, the *Centennial Big Band* of The Historic Colored Musician's Club of Buffalo, and local jazz rising star, Alex MacArthur. Your UUCB Choir's February recording project of the Høybe/Pedersen version of Duke Ellington's *Come Sunday* will be featured on this service alongside our solo quartet with Jonathan Vogtle on organ in *The Lord is My Strength*, by English composer and conductor, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912). The

music of Mingus also closes out the service, with Jonathan’s rendition of *Nostalgia in Times Square*

Finally, we end the month with a return to the music of Stevie Wonder and R. Nathaniel Dett, presented alongside three powerful works by Black Women: *God Bless the Child*, by Billie Holiday (1915-1959); *Fast Car* by Tracy Chapman (b. 1964); and *Sinnerman* by Nina Simone (1933-2003). This February 28<sup>th</sup> service by Rev. Joan Montagnes, *Truly Challenging Love*, also features the hymn, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* – poem by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), music by J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954).

---

## February Share-the-Plate: [Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers](#)



Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers (BFNC), a community agency with over 125 years of serving the Buffalo community, provides a safety-net of human services to assist residents living in low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods throughout Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Lockport, New York. BFNC strives to assist clients with overcoming and managing life obstacles by providing coordinated and customized programs focused on individuals, families, youth, and seniors, by helping with housing, rehabilitation, financial management, vocational assistance, social development, and other supportive services. Learn more at [www.bfnc.org](http://www.bfnc.org), and on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/buffalobfnc/>

---

## **UUCB 2021 FUN & FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATION !**



**The 1st Edition of UUCB’s Fun and Fellowship  
2021 ROLLING AUCTION Catalogue  
WILL SOON BE HERE !**

## **WELCOME TO THE 2021 UUCB ROLLING AUCTION!**

The auction is not only a major fundraiser for the church but also offers important fellowship opportunities. It’s time to eat, learn and laugh together again, even if we are apart!

It’s not too late to think of a creative way to contribute to the auction! Donations of events, artwork, or culinary treats are always welcomed! Contact Maria Testa at [marialtesta@gmail.com](mailto:marialtesta@gmail.com) or Juli Van Woert at [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com) and we will happily help you brainstorm!

Be on the lookout for the new catalogue in Mid-August. Get ready to Bid! Bid! Bid!

**Don’t miss out on the fun! Thank you for your generosity and support !!**

## **Covenant Group Ministry News**

A Covenant Group May Be Just What You Are Searching For:  
We Will Be Welcoming New Members in March !

**Check the weekly e-blast for details of a  
February Zoom Orientation  
for new members!**

UUCB's twelve Covenant groups have remained strong, with members able to stay well-connected to each other and to the spiritual heart of the church. Groups have continued to meet at least monthly via zoom. Even members who are homebound or have moved away have been able to remain active in their groups. For many, their Covenant group has been a social and spiritual lifeline during these many months apart.

Covenant groups are for both church members, as well as those who are considering whether UUCB may become their church home. Each group meets monthly for one and one-half to two hours, and consists of 8 committed members, with two trained facilitators.

Topics follow the monthly ministry theme and encourage deep reflection and broadening awareness of personal spirituality and connection to others both within the church and in the greater community.

If you are new or not-so-new and would like to experience the connection that our model of "deep listening" inspires, please contact us at [covenantgroups@buffalouu.org](mailto:covenantgroups@buffalouu.org). To be added to the list to receive more detailed Orientation information, contact Juli Van Woert at [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com).

***We look forward to – truly – getting to know you.***

---



### **Widow and Widowers Circle**

At this point we are not meeting at all but I am available by email ([collinsb@buffalo.edu](mailto:collinsb@buffalo.edu)) or by phone (648 4455) or text (867 9628). Rev Joan has offered the church zoom for a meeting if there is enough interest. Let me know by email, phone, or text if you want such a meeting. Stay safe! Namaste, Bonnie



