

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

August 2020 Newsletter



Gather ~ Inspire ~ Transform

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Minister's Column: What Does it Mean to be a People of Reverence?



Dear Ones,

Are you trying to accomplish all that you were able to achieve in a day prior to the pandemic? Are you expecting everyone to behave in ways that “makes sense” but they are being completely unreasonable?

Are you fed up with everything taking longer than it did before the age of gloves, masks, hand sanitizers and fear? Are you absolutely baffled and chagrined by the crumbling, tumbling, fumbling, and bumbling of national governance? Are your expectations of life as we once knew it being shattered by new and exciting challenges to our white supremacist culture?



Probably. I hope so. If not, you are hiding from your place in the world. But, if you are feeling a tad stressed-out by everything that’s going on these days, I wouldn’t be the least surprised. In fact, if you weren’t stressed-out, I would be worried.

I believe to not only survive, but also to live sustainably, in good health, honor our neighbors and the earth, keep your cool, and transform the world into the world of which we dream, we need to be People of Reverence.

Being a person of reverence does not mean hiding out in a cave at the top of the mountain eating nuts and berries. It does not mean hiding away from the world in a “safe space” of prayer and reflection and meditation. It does not have anything to do with hair shirts, sitting in ashes, or crawling anywhere on your knees.

A person of reverence honors all that stress, rage, joy, pain, and grief of living in this time, in this place. It means knowing who you are in the great family of all things. Being a person of reverence means understanding the sacred nature of being in relationship with all that is – feeling truly connected with that which is larger than yourself, that which we call the transformative power of Love. And it means harnessing all that wisdom and acting with it in this place, in this time.

That probably means you need to take time for quiet sabbath in your life for your sake and for the sake of all you love. Dear ones, take the time. It is not wasted. Expect less of yourself. Let the burden of perfection go...forever. Sabbath time will energize you and clear your spirit as you continue on the journey.

Maybe your reverence time is shared time with family or friends, but mark it as a time of reverence in your heart if not out loud.

Call out, “Beauty!” “Passion!” “Awe!” “Gratitude!” “Belonging” “Love!” “Joy!” to the universe and the universe will call back to you over and over again.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes

Sunday Morning Worship Online

Join us for worship at 10:30am on Sundays; either by computer at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/367428065> or phone +1 646 876 9923 and use the password 367428065

Pulpit Previews

Aug 2: The Fierce Urgency of Now, Kristina Church

Ours is a time of incredible unrest and upheaval, but also a time of stunning possibility. Never have the stakes been so high and never have the consequences of collective complacency been so clear. In the fierce urgency of now, we cannot sit back and watch history unfold from the sidelines. We are compelled by the vision of the just and beloved community, one that offers a sustainable future for all. How can we find the courage to truly live into the promise of our Unitarian Universalist Principles, and be the people we're called to be?

Aug 9: Women's Spirit, Charlene Montgomery

Women have a spirit of strength and resilience which has grown and strengthened over time. We stand on the shoulders of our "woman ancestors" and encourage the children of today to stand with reverence, strength, and compassion in the world.

Aug 16: Shared Imagination, Ken Manly

Human imagination can be imaginary – fantasy without substance. But imagination shared through language enables us to understand and control the physical world. With shared imagination we have built social worlds that relieve us from dealing with the physical world. We live in both social and physical worlds. How do you divide your time between them?

Aug 23: The Holy and the Broken Hallelujah, Fran Manly

In recent years Leonard Cohen's haunting song "Hallelujah" has had so many different sets of new words inflicted on it that the song itself has become a cliché. Yet if we can wipe away all of that and hear the song as though for the first time, we may find a powerful message for a time when so much has gone wrong that singing hallelujah seems like the last thing we feel like doing. Singer, songwriter, and guitarist Doug Yeomans, a member of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, will provide the special music for this service.

Aug 30: Transformative Promises, Joan Montagnes

Our faith is centered not on creed or doctrine, but on covenant – the promises we make to one another as we journey together. A covenant grows and changes as we grow and change. A shared set of promises can change the world.

Rev. Joan on Vacation

Rev. Joan will be on Vacation until August 18. If an emergency arises, the church staff know how to contact her. If you have a pastoral concern, feel free to contact any of our Lay Pastoral Ministers, Bobbie Baker, Karen Jarvis, Lynn Mancuso, or John Marohn.

Rev. Joan's Identity Used and Abused!

Many emails that look like they are from Rev. Joan have gone out to church members asking for emergency assistance in the form of gift cards. They are not from Rev. Joan. Rev. Joan will never:

- Ask you for gift cards via an email
- Send you an email on an account ending with gmail.com – **trust only her buffalouu.org account**

If you receive one of these emails, block the sender so they will be unable to send you any more requests. Sadly, there is nothing the church can do to stop the emails because they do not come from the church.

Religious Education & Adult Faith Development News



Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

RE families, please keep an eye on your mailboxes in the coming week! You should be receiving a packet from UUCB full of info about late summer and fall programming. For more information on any of our upcoming RE programming, please email lifespan@buffalouu.org, or join our RE mailing list or UUCB Religious Education Facebook page.

SUMMER RE

Chalice Check Ins

We will continue our Monday and Thursday evening Chalice Check Ins at 7:30 pm through August 13.

Family Religious Education

Each Sunday at 1 pm, meet us on Zoom. We'll explore our Unitarian Universalist roots, the values that bring us together as a faith, and create community together. Children are welcome to come by themselves, but we encourage families to attend together!

Join Zoom Meeting, Sundays at 1pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85457907859?pwd=ZDlhQ1dpS3ZwNnJUzB6dW1VRXVwdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 5790 7859

Password: 038746

Coming of Age

Our rising 8th and 9th graders have begun their journey of personal spiritual exploration. This summer, they'll be meeting at 6 pm on Sundays, twice a month, to discover what Unitarian Universalism means to them, create personal faith credos, and beginning planning the fundraising they'll do to support their heritage trip to Boston in June, 2021. If you know an upcoming 8th or 9th grader who would like to participate in this program, please email lifespan@buffalouu.org.

Solar Box Oven Workshop

Saturday, August 15, 1-3 pm, ZOOM (invitation will be posted in weekly RE email)

We'll put together a solar box oven that can make simple treats like s'mores. If you want to build along with us, please refer to the supply list you'll receive in your RE packet.

Backpack/Stuffed Animal Blessing

We may not be entirely sure what school is going to look like in the fall, but we can still bless our backpacks, lunch boxes, or favorite stuffed animals and send them into the school year with all of our hopes, dreams, and good energy! Your backpack or favorite stuffed animal is invited to spend the weekend at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo August 22-23! We'll keep you updated with a photo diary of the weekend's adventures, and every backpack and stuffed animal will be returned with a special UUCB keyring charm!

Drop off for stuffed animals/backpacks will be at the church Thursday, August 20 from 3-7 pm and Friday, August 21 from noon to 3 pm, or by appointment (email lifespan@buffalouu.org).

Pick up will be Sunday, August 23 4-6pm and by appointment during the week.

***Please be sure to send backpack or stuffed animal with a label or tag that has your child's name.**

RE PROGRAMMING FOR 2020-2021

Though we won't be meeting in person at the church on Sunday mornings, we will provide a wide range of programming to fit our families' needs. Most classes will have monthly packets that can be picked up at the church or mailed to you if time/distance is an issue. These packets will include stories, materials that can be used alongside online classes or on their own, and activities for families to engage in religious education together. Because we will offer many of these classes at different times, students will be able to participate in more than one age-appropriate class if they choose.

PLEASE REGISTER NOW FOR 2020-2021 RE! Early registration will make sure we can connect with families and prepare enough monthly packets. It will also help us tailor our programming to best fit the needs of your children and youth. You can register at the following link: <https://forms.gle/4MjbNRKERWRdD2Hr5>

Though we may adjust some of these offerings based on enrollment and interest, here is what we hope to offer for our children and youth programming:

PreK - Online storytime and craft a couple of times a month and packets for families to use offline.

Spirit Play (K-2) - Online class a couple of times a month and packets of stories/manipulatives that can be used during sessions or at home.

Workshops (K-5) - Online classes that engage with monthly themes and rotate through Music, Art, Science, and Social Action sessions, activity packets that can be used alongside classes or on their own.

Graphic Novels (4th-8th Grade) - Online class meetings and take-home packets that will encourage spiritual exploration, deepen knowledge of Unitarian Universalist History, and call us to action based on our UU values, all while creating original graphic novels and stories.

To Be Determined Class for 6th-7th Graders - Based on need, desire, and class size, we are considering alternate programming to fit the needs of our rising 6th and 7th graders.

Coming of Age (8th-9th Grade) - (Already in progress but open to new members) Class meets twice a month online, exploring their journeys as Unitarian Universalists and developing their personal faith credos. This class involves fundraising for an end of the year heritage trip to Boston (June 2021, hopefully!)

High School Youth Group (9th-12th Grade) - Our high school youth meet weekly to check in with one another, have fun together, engage in social justice actions, and plan or participate in local and regional youth conferences with other UU youth. All high school youth are welcome to join. Email lifespan@buffalouu.org to get connected with our high school youth group.

Volunteer Now!

We are actively looking for volunteers to help facilitate several of these classes!

Volunteer requirements are as follows:

- * Consent to a background check
- * Roughly 2-4 hours on Zoom per month leading classes
- * A small amount of planning/prep time, usually carried out over email, during the month

If connecting with our fabulous children and youth over Zoom a couple of times a month sounds like a great way for YOU to serve our congregation, or if you'd like more information about volunteering for RE, please email lifespan@buffalouu.org today!

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

UU and You

Saturday, August 15

10am-12pm

Are you looking to learn more about Unitarian Universalist history, explore your own spiritual journey, or create a deeper understanding of where you fit into our faith? This class is for newcomers and long-timers alike!

Facilitators: Julie Taylor and Shaun Doyle

Class will be held via Zoom (please email lifespan@buffalouu.org for an invitation)

Tuesday Night Memoir Group

Our Tuesday Night Memoir Group is getting the band back together and there's only one thing missing. YOUR stories! If you're interested in joining this group for Zoom meetings, please email lifespan@buffalouu.org.

Facilitators and Tech Assistants Wanted for Online Fall Adult Faith Development Classes

We've gathered some great information about what you're looking for in adult programming at the UU Church of Buffalo, and now we need to facilitators and tech assistants to help make it happen. Do you have an area of expertise in Spiritual Development, UU History, UU Theology, or a skill to share? If you're interested but fear you don't have the experience to make it happen, don't worry, we can provide premade curriculum or Zoom training! If you have an idea for a great class you'd like to offer, we'd love to work with you on that, too! Email lifespan@buffalouu.org for details.

New Class from Michael Harris for the fall!



AND IF I'M ELECTED...!

GREAT RACES FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENCY

Discussions Led by Michael Harris

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

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

September 9th to December 16th, 2020

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

If we compare presidential elections to horse racing, then many have been 'photo finishes' that have been won by a nose. In this course, we'll look at the most thrilling and controversial of America's presidential campaigns, and discover the surprising number of nail-biters in our nation's history. It shows the truth that every vote counts!

Our meetings will take place virtually by computer or phone through the Zoom platform. 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.

Course Syllabus

Session One (September 9): Presidential Nail-Biters – Little Known Closely Contested Campaigns [Elections of 1824, 1844 & 1880]

Session Two (Sept. 16): “The Revolution of 1800” – Jefferson vs. Burr

Session Three (Sept. 23): “Lincoln and Liberty Too” – Election of 1860

Session Four (Sept. 30): Deadlocked! – 1876 Hayes-Tilden Campaign

Session Five (October 7): Grover Cleveland – 3 Presidential Campaigns

Session Six (October 14): Taft, Teddy & Woodrow – Campaign of 1912

Session Seven (October 21): “Dewey Defeats Truman” – 1948 Election

Session Eight (October 28): Rise of the Kennedys – Campaign of 1960

No Class Session on November 4!

Session Nine (November 11): Nixon’s the One – Campaign of 1968

Session Ten (November 18): The Reagan Revolution – 1980 Election

Session Eleven (November 25): Rise of the Clintons – Election of 1992

Session Twelve (December 2): Recount! – Bush/Gore Election of 2000

Session Thirteen (December 9): The Obama Effect – Election of 2008

Session Fourteen (December 16): What Happened?? – Election of 2016



UUCB FUN & FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATION !



The 2nd Edition of UUCB's Fun and Fellowship ROLLING AUCTION Catalogue WILL SOON BE HERE!

WELCOME TO THE 2020 UUCB ROLLING AUCTION!

The auction is not only a major fundraiser for the church but also offers important fellowship opportunities, which many of us are craving.

Our early Fall events involve small, outdoor, socially distanced gatherings for those who want to socialize. In addition to an exceptional four-hands piano concert and a lazy afternoon of sailing, as a winning bidder you can savor Renee's honey baklava and Aunt Mamie's brownies, or gather for a mid-day French picnic beside Rev. Joan's frog pond.

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 or Juli Van Woert at JVW61@aol.com and we will happily help you brainstorm!

If you were a lucky bidder on items from the first catalogue, your payment can be made by check, written to UUCB with "Auction" on the memo line. If you prefer to pay by credit card, go to: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=TBYBC2NA5ZH54&source=url

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!!

Share-the-Plate July - [GLYS of Western New York](#)

GLYS provides a safe and positive environment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ+) youth to learn more about themselves through peer interaction and educational experiences. The organization creates opportunities for emotional growth and community awareness.

Through GLYS outreach, other agencies learn about and increase their sensitivity to the needs of sexual minority youth. GLYS provides LGBTQ+ youth with positive role models. It promotes their self-esteem and the integration of these youth into the larger community. GLYS assists families with resources and referrals.

We provide:

- Safe space
- Interaction with LGBTQ+ peers and adult role models
- A Peer Support Group
- Health & wellness activities

- Opportunities for leadership development
- Access to cultural events and youth development activities
- Information, resources & referrals
- Advocacy

Also – please see the card writing program below and join in supporting a local youth!

Social Justice Ministry

Please join us in writing an inspiring card or postcard to a young person at a local youth in care site! Here is some sample writing:

To: A special LGBTQ+ person. Type of message: "We wanted you to know that you are not alone. There are many people like you - people that we know, right here at UUCB! We also want you to know that how you see yourself as an LGBTQ+ person IS important. That is part of who you are, and part of what makes you unique and with something of value to offer the world! We believe in you and know you have much to offer the world. We care, and, we want you to know that there are so many others that care as well! We hope you meet more and more every day! Yours, (signed whomever)".

Write up your card, email Denise DePietro at depietrocircus@gmail.com to receive an address, and then mail it out! They will be addressed in care of a staff member. Right now there are about 65 youth. We hope for enough participation so each youth can receive a card. Thank you in advance for your help!

The Justice Ministry Team invites you to join our newly formed Advocacy Team. As a member of the team, you will contact legislators, policymakers, friends, family, and neighbors in order to advance a justice cause. This may take the form of phone calls, emails and/or postcards and you will be expected to contribute in only those ways you feel comfortable and have the time to devote.

Please contact Kathy Taylor (ktay0409@gmail.com or 203 605-1544) to join the **Advocacy Team**.

Endowment Committee News

Returning Something to the Soil

This weekend, I will take my 3 ½ year old grandson blueberry picking. It will be his 3rd season – we start them young -- and he'll know just what to do.

Working the land and harvesting its bounty is part of my heritage. Both sets of my grandparents were farmers in north central Ohio. Although my parents engaged in occupations different from their parents, they maintained a reverence for the land and nature in general. In addition to planting huge gardens, whose produce sustained us throughout the year, they taught my brothers, sister, and me how to identify plants and animals found in our nearby woods and how to find morel mushrooms – heavenly! – in the spring.

This season of overflowing, jubilantly-colored mounds of fruits and vegetables found in our local farmers markets reminds me of my beginnings and of the many lessons learned from my ancestors. It offers opportunities to introduce to my kids and grandkids the wonders of nature and of our role in sustaining the

bounty that nourishes us. It also brings to mind parallels to the work in which UUCB's Endowment Committee is engaged.

You see, not all the crops on my grandparents' farms were harvested. Some were intentionally plowed back into the soil. If that soil was to continue to be productive, it was important to enrich it by returning nutrients to the ground.

Likewise, in order to maintain and cultivate the richness of our UU community over time, it's important that we nourish our permanent financial base – our Endowment Fund – by regularly feeding it. It's in that spirit that past and present members of our community have invested in the current and future richness of our UUCB "soil" through their contributions and commitments to our endowment.

If you would like to see our community flourish in perpetuity, please consider joining with the dozens of UUCB members who have already committed to assuring the promise of UUCB's future. Endowment Committee Chair, Diane Bockrath, or any of the committee members, Joel Cohen, Andrea Burke-Harris, Richard Leimbach, Sally Metzger, or I would be pleased to speak with you.

Jane Armbruster, on behalf of the Endowment Committee

Family Promise

If you'd thought of volunteering for Family Promise, but hadn't signed up, or you are one of our treasured, magnificent volunteers who have cooked, or helped in other ways, we have great news. The week of August 3, the Center at 75 Hickory Street will reopen with three more new bedrooms and baths. Our church has volunteered to be the first returning group of cooks, and to be "on call", as needed. FP Executive Director loves UU volunteers because our nonjudgmental, welcoming approach shows "we get it". Your role would be making a simple meal with a co-chef I will provide for you. It a most rewarding volunteer experience!

Although the center will now have a capacity of six families, the Executive Director will start with one family. If you prefer to just drop off the makings of a supper meal, that's OK, too. Our church will offer suppers Monday- Thursday, with different volunteers each night, August 3-6. Interested? Email Nancy Wilkins at <mailto:nlaurienwilkins@yahoo.com>.

Family Promise provides temporary lodging and connections to community agencies for families who are seeking permanent homes, in partnership with a network of a handful of host/support churches. It is one of only two shelters which keeps families together, not separating fathers and mothers. Our church 's magnificent volunteers provide meals and friendship to the families, and meet some courageous and loving parents in the process.

Nancy Wilkins, Coordinator, UUCB Family Promise

Widow and Widowers Circle

At this point we are not meeting at all but I am available by email (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



We gather in loving community, inspiring one another, to transform ourselves, to create a more just and compassionate world

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

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Administrator for Finance: Donna Sentz donnasentz@buffalouu.org	Nursery Care Coordinator: Morgan Silver	Newsletter (submissions due by the 15th) newsletter@buffalouu.org Weekly Announcements (submissions due by NOON Wednesday) announcements@buffalouu.org	



A chalice alit since 1831

A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places

