

The UU Church of Buffalo



Gather

Inspire

Transform

May 2017 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave . Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 www.buffalouu.org



Faith Matters: Embody Your Values!

Rev. Joan Montagnes

In a recent meeting, Jack Kavanaugh, President of our church Board of Trustees, wondered aloud whether we could articulate a unified vision for the church. Hmmm...

Our vision could be to make as my people happy as possible. We might, however, use different words to describe that vision. We might say our vision is to work for a world of Justice, Equity, and Freedom for All!

Unfortunately, there are two problems with this kind of vision. First, we know all too well that you can't make all the people happy all the time. Second, I don't believe the church is here to make people happy. Rather, to borrow an old adage, we are here to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable".

Our society is founded on a power structure that needs a little shaking up. Only when the comfortable wake up to the discomfort of others can we begin to build the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of The Beloved Community. No, happiness alone cannot be our vision.

Could it be that our vision is to provide excellent worship, religious education and social justice programming so our members and friends can search for truth and meaning in a caring community? Perhaps, or is that vision still too narrow? I think so.



Given the political climate in United States, Buffalo and our own denomination, we are urgently called to have a larger, more meaningful and impactful vision for our church. The refugee crisis, the war, climate change, systematic racism, ableism, and the roll-back on women's rights. The stakes are high. I have heard some Buffalo preachers call the rising tide of indifference and aggression a lurking evil in our streets.

My vision for our church is that we become a faith community that boldly and authentically embodies our values.

I am not saying that we should all run out and get tattoos (though I am not opposed). I am suggesting that we live our lives so that our values show – writ large– as individuals and as as a congregation.

I am not sure what that means in a practical sense. It certainly means providing a rich variety of value-laden programming for all ages. It might mean showing up in solidarity for social justice causes outside our church walls. It might mean placing a Black Lives Matter banner on the building. Embodying our values boldly and authentically will definitely mean moving well beyond our comfort zones in a thousand ways until we, as individuals and as a community, are transformed. And if we embody transformation, we will also transform the faith and society in which we move.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes



Joys and Sorrows



Bill Gardner had a pacemaker implant procedure on Friday, April 7, and was in church the next Sunday. He also was honored with a gorgeous article about his precedent setting legal arguments for GLBTQ rights in the University of Buffalo Alumni magazine.

We send healing thoughts and prayers to Bobby Baker who is recovering from a knee replacement surgery.

We share in Beth Ruthenburg's joy about becoming an Aunt.

Many thanks to everyone who chipped away the ice outside the West Ferry door during that last storm. They did a terrific job.

Marion Reslow is very proud to announce that her brother, Dan was elected Mayor of Scarsdale, N.Y.

Jennifer Mernitz, Our choir's soprano soloist and section leader, has been named 2016-17 Buffalo State Vocal Music Educator of the Year!

Our beautiful sanctuary has been included on the list, "These 8 churches in Buffalo will leave you absolutely speechless". <http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/new-york/buffalo/beautiful-churches-buffalo/>

We are deeply grateful to Martha Malkiewicz and nine other volunteers who cleaned the basement this month. They scrubbed, washed, mopped and swept until all the rooms gleamed.

We rejoice with the family and friends of John Rex who is recovering well from shoulder surgery. Hug him gently!



Pulpit Previews

May Worship Theme: Embodiment



This month, in all our ministries, we strive to embody our Unitarian Universalist values

May 7 – Youth Sunday

Our youth have so much to offer our faith community, and will lead this service, and our graduating seniors are looking forward to “crossing the bridge” to adulthood.

May 14 – Body and Soul

Walt Whitman said “If anything is sacred, the human body is sacred.” Rejoice in your embodied spirit.

May 21 – RE Sunday

Our Religious Education Year is coming to a close, and we’re going to celebrate it with our Religious Education Sunday service, “All You Need Is Love”. We’ll explore how our RE program embodies our Unitarian Universalist values, thank our incredible Religious Education volunteers, and most importantly, come together for worship.

May 28 – We Remember All Souls

On Memorial Day, we remember those who lost their lives in battle. We remember all our loved ones who once lived, felt love and saw sunsets glow. All souls shed their mortal coils in the fullness of time. Ours is a sanctuary of memory, caring and hope.



Religious Education and Adult Faith Development

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

Spring is finally happening, and May is one of the busiest months of the year for our Religious Education program. There is so much coming up this month, and I hope you’ll all be able to enjoy it with us!

Tuesday, May 2 - Maypole Event
and Coming of Age Spaghetti Dinner

Please join us at 6:00 pm on May 2, out on the lawn, for our annual Maypole event. There will be dancing, drumming, and fun all around! Then come into the Parish Hall for a delicious spaghetti dinner to support our Coming of Age class on their heritage trip to Boston! We start serving at 6:30 pm.

A spaghetti dinner, bread and salad is \$7/adult, \$5/child, and \$25 for a family of 5! We’ll also offer a to-go option.

Our Coming of Age 8th and 9th Graders have been hard at work this year creating their faith credos, statements that define and articulate what they believe as Unitarian Universalists. They will finish this important year with a June trip to Boston, where they will tour famous UU landmarks, visit the Arlington Street Church, and enjoy Boston Common. They have been fundraising all year for this trip and are hoping the spaghetti dinner will help put them over the top.

Sunday, May 7 – Youth Service



Meanwhile, our 10th-12th Grade youth have been hard at work planning this year's Youth Service. This service is always a congregational favorite. Our youth have so much to offer our faith community, and our graduating seniors are looking forward to saying goodbye. Come out on May 7 and celebrate with them.

Sunday, May 21 – RE Sunday



Our Religious Education Year is coming to a close, and we're going to celebrate it with our RE Sunday service, "All You Need Is Love". We'll explore how our RE program embodies our Unitarian Universalist values, thank our incredible Religious Education volunteers, and most importantly, come together for worship.

Teacher Recruitment for 2017-2018



Does volunteering in our Religious Education program sound like something that might interest you? We are currently looking to fill almost a dozen volunteer slots for teaching teams to start in the fall! Even if you're not certain teaching Religious Education is for you, come sign up for our email list and get some more information. We are looking for volunteers for many different levels of engagement. So if you can only drop in to assist once a month, or if you're able to commit to teaching classes at least twice a month, we've got something for you! You can join the email list through the following link: <http://eepurl.com/cKNmpn>.

**And it's not just children and youth who are having all the fun this May!
Adult Faith Development also has some new and exciting offerings!**

The Third Reconstruction



This discussion group invites participants to explore and examine three important themes in the book: moral dissent, leadership, and building fusion coalitions. It explores Rev. William Barber II's framing of the history of fusion movements in the United States and the centrality of race in those movements.

Tuesdays, May 16, 23 & 30

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Alliance Room

This group will be led by Reverend Joan Montagnes and Jean Ott

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism



Are you ready to take the jump to membership? Just want to find out what we're all about? Even if you've been here forever and just want a refresher course, join us for this fun, fascinating class on what it means to be a UU, our history, and a primer on how the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo functions!

Saturday, May 20

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Alliance Room

Lunch is provided

This class is facilitated by Shaun Doyle and Julie Taylor

May 2017 Music Notes

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



We enter May with two back-to-back powerful music services still fresh in our ears. This year's Spring Music Sunday, "*Verdant Song*", highlighted both the virtuosity and the powerful emotive capacity our Choir can bring to music spanning virtually a thousand years. Then, our musical guests Steve Baczkowski and Ravi Padmanabha treated us to rich musical meditations and the musical epiphanies witnessed in virtuoso improvisation.

Well, the music will continue on into May, beginning with our annual Youth service.

On Sunday, May 7, Paul Zanolli leads the music and musicians of the UUCB Youth Group in their annual service, a highlight of our spring season.

Our May 14 service is entitled "Body and Soul", and of course our Choir will offer up a beautiful arrangement of that eponymous jazz standard.

Moving to a more recent musical hit, the Sunday, May 21, service is Religious Education Sunday, and Director of Religious Education Sarah Martin requested the Beatles classic, "*All You Need is Love*".

Finally, as we end the month preparing for the Memorial Day holiday, our service music on the May 28th will include the powerful anthem from Eleanor Daley's requiem, "*In Remembrance*".

We look forward to sharing this music with each of you this May!



The UUCB Choir performs Aaron Copland's "In The Beginning" with guest soprano soloist Barbara Cooper on April 23

Beyond the Hedge: Denomination and Interfaith Connections

Sharon Walker

General Assembly is Coming - Are you ready?

Unitarian Universalist Association's annual General Assembly will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 21 – 25, 2017.

There will be a pre-GA workshop – “Resist and Rejoice: Undoing Racism” with The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, June 20 - 21 in New Orleans. For details and registration visit www.uua.org/getready.

Prepare your heart, mind, and spirit to enter into the **Resist and Rejoice!** experience in New Orleans, arriving at GA ready to learn what the people, culture, history, and geography have to teach. Check out [these resources to help you prepare](#). Choose at least one activity from each of five categories: *Encountering New Orleans*; *Understanding Intersections*; *Enhancing the Capacity to Build Relationships*; *Centering the Experiences of People of Color*; and *Examining Whiteness*. Before heading to GA, print the READY booklet from the [webpage](#) and tell us what you did. Turn in your list at the UUA Expressway to receive a READY ribbon to affix to your GA name badge!



Learn more about General Assembly, financial aid, registration and housing at the [UUA website](#).

Save the Date!

Regional Sunday at Chautauqua

Join our Unitarian Universalist friends and neighbors July 23, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm, at 1 Ames Ave., Chautauqua, NY.

We will start the day with the UU service at 9:30 am in the Hall of Philosophy. Following the service will be a BBQ chicken lunch (vegetarian options TBA) at the Fellowship of Chautauqua's hospitality space, #6 Bliss. Tours of the grounds will be available and a performance in the Amphitheater at 2:30 pm. Entrance to the grounds will be free as will all other events.

Once in a Lifetime Opportunities

The Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC) is pleased to announce two budget-friendly pilgrimages open to everyone in 2017!

- **The first, our Cross Cultural Transylvania Pilgrimage, is a unique opportunity.** The Unitarian Union of NE India has asked the UUPCC to organize a pilgrimage for its members, and they want to share their journey with you! In August 2017, you can experience Transylvania alongside Khasi Unitarians from India – and for less than \$100/day.
- **The second opportunity is the September 2017 Transylvania Thanksgiving Pilgrimage.** Embark on two life-changing weeks in Transylvania for under \$1,150. This is the same quality pilgrimage that the UUPCC has been facilitating for two decades – but at 60% of the price. This pilgrimage will visit the most significant Unitarian holy sites, then spend the special Transylvanian Thanksgiving weekend with partner congregations, making new friends and revitalizing partnerships.

To find out more about either of these trips, or to register, visit www.uupcc.org/pilgrimages/pilgrimage-opportunities

Three co-presidents to Lead UUA until General Assembly 2017

Elaine McArdle

In a special meeting Monday night, April 10, the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees appointed three people to serve as interim co-presidents of the UUA until a president is elected June 24 by the General Assembly.

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/board-names-three-copresidents>

UUA President Peter Morales resigned on April 1, three months before the end of his tenure, in the face of a [controversy over UUA hiring practices](#), which critics say systematically favor white UU ministers. The Rev. Harlan Limpert, chief operating officer, and the Rev. Scott Tayler, director of Congregational Life, announced [they would also step down](#). (See our [updated guide](#) to this evolving story.)

In an announcement released at 11 p.m. Monday, the board said it had appointed the Rev. Sofía Betancourt, the Rev. William G. Sinkford, and Leon Spencer to serve as co-presidents. The board made its decision in a closed meeting, or executive session, before releasing the letter.

“In making this appointment the Board intends to recognize the significant opportunity before us, to recognize the time constraints involved, and to model a profoundly collaborative approach to shared leadership,” the board said, in a [letter published on the UUA website](#) and on [the board’s Facebook page](#). It noted that at its special meeting the previous Thursday, April 6, the board [unanimously approved a UUA Presidential Transition Plan](#) to “frame the brief tenure of the transition team and help to shape Unitarian Universalism into the future.”

Betancourt, who is assistant professor of theology and ethics at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, will serve as interim co-president for the Commission for Institutional Change. “Her work as a

religious educator, parish minister, and seminary professor provide well-honed leadership qualities [that] will surely enrich the team,” the board said.

Sinkford, who is senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, and who served as UUA president from 2001 to 2009, will serve as interim co-president “for the roles of president as outlined in the UUA bylaws.”

Spencer is professor emeritus in Leadership, Technology, and Human Development at Georgia Southern University*. He will serve as interim co-president for Constituent Outreach, according to the board. “He is a person of broad experience and the [2007 recipient of the UUA’s annual Distinguished Service Award](#) who has been a longtime leader in our journey toward becoming an antiracist and multicultural faith,” the board announced. Spencer formerly served on the UUA Board of Trustees, chaired the Nominating Committee, and held many district leadership roles, the board said.

In an open meeting before entering executive session, Tim Brennan, UUA treasurer and chief financial officer, said the transition would be “costly” for the UUA due to severance packages for those leaving and due to compensation, presumably for the co-presidents. But he said that an unexpected gift from a donor would “help to offset these additional expenses we are incurring.” Brennan said he will have a full accounting for the board at its meeting in Boston, April 21–23.

May's Share the Plate recipient – Buffalo String Works

Share the Plate Ministry Team

UUCB will be sharing our plate with Buffalo String Works during the month of May. Virginia Barron, Executive Director and Co-Founder, will speak to the congregation on Sunday May 22 during the service. She will be joined by a few student musicians from the program!



Buffalo String Works' mission is to provide high-quality music instruction on stringed instruments to children of low-income, refugee and immigrant parents. It

serves the west side of Buffalo, a community that is comprised primarily of recently displaced families from all over the globe. BSW recognizes the significance of music as a universal language and through its programming, offers a creative outlet for children and their families who are searching for a sense of belonging in a new community. Buffalo String Works is inspired by the principles of El Sistema, a best practice program of

music instruction currently offered in many cities around the world, targeting children from low-income, underserved communities. El Sistema studies have shown the great benefit of regular, after-school music programs for children in such underserved communities. Students have been noted to experience increased civic engagement and develop important soft skills such as ambition, motivation, teamwork and work ethic, while experiencing joy and inclusion in their community.

As committed educators, Buffalo String Works also aims to create an environment that transcends its local efforts, by providing a training ground for teachers who will carry on and expand comparable programs. By cultivating its teachers' pedagogical and artistic skills and by affording them the opportunity to connect with Buffalo's refugee community on a deep, personal level, BSW hopes to see leaders emerge to build a socially-aware and sustainable program of musical advancement for our city and beyond.



If you would like to help research and select organizations for our 'Share the Plate' ministry please speak with Brooke Harris (b.simpson.harris@gmail.com) or Charlie Kaars. We are always looking for new ideas!

The Embodiment of Justice

Barbara Kloberdanz, for the Racial Justice Ministry Team

The dictionary tells me that when we talk about Embodiment we are talking about giving a form to ideas that are usually not physical: like love, hate, fear, and justice. It says that a gavel is the embodiment of justice.

I find some difficulty with that image. A gavel can be a harsh thing and does not allow for the measure of understanding and love that I, for one, would like to see when we think about justice. This concept is not an easy one and we on the Racial Justice Ministry Team have been working carefully to formulate how we think our church can embody Racial Justice in our community.

Recently we had an inspiring Pot Luck workshop with Joan. We reviewed our accomplishments for the past year

and discussed what we had learned as we move forward. One of the aspects that I found personally interesting was the understanding of the work that we had done. This is not easy and it was encouraging to many of us to realize that we might have done more than we realized. Our church as a whole has joined in with speakers, movies, and programs with a variety of teams presenting interesting opportunities to address diversity. Thank you to all who have participated with us.

Now we are re-organizing and planning our path. There will be more as we broaden our outlook and exhibit what it means to us to embody racial justice, in all its aspects.

Please join us

Saturday May 13, 2017, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm – The Racial Justice Ministry and Denomination and Interfaith Connections Teams are hosting a showing and discussion of the Oscar-nominated documentary **13th**. This is being publicized throughout our cluster so please pre-register at <https://goo.g1/forms/V1fYL7M0fb9DG13>. Childcare is available.

Saturday May 20, 2017, 1:00pm - 3:00pm – Racial Justice Ministry Team Meeting in the Alliance Room. All welcome.

Any questions – contact bklober@aol.com.





WNY Unitarian Universalist Cluster Event



13TH

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo NY 14222
Saturday, May 13th; 9:30 am to 2:00 pm.

The Racial Justice Ministry and Denomination and Interfaith Connections teams of the UU Church of Buffalo will be hosting a showing and discussion of the Oscar-nominated documentary *13th* by Ava DuVernay; a film that takes an in-depth look at the historical and social connection between slavery and our American prison system.

Check-in at 9:30 am, film at 10:00 am, followed by a luncheon at noon and afternoon discussion.

Pre-registration required - \$8.00 at the door to cover snacks and lunch

Register online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/VlfYL7M0fb9DGoG13>

Registration Deadline: Monday, May 8

Need Childcare? Registration Deadline: Friday, May 5

Suggested donation for Childcare \$5/child, \$10/family

Planned Giving – Gifts to the Endowment Fund

Over the years, many members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo have made arrangements to leave money to it upon their death

Such gifts are commonly called planned or legacy gifts. Many years ago, the church established an endowment fund to hold them for the future use of the church and established a group called the Heritage Society to recognize those who made gifts to it.

That fund has now grown to a little over \$1,300,000 and the principal is only available to be used with the specific approval of the congregation in unusual circumstances when the church needs special funds for repairs and upgrades it could not otherwise afford. In that way, our ancestors have helped us to fix the roof over our heads, repair and replace the heating system that keeps us warm, fix the bell that calls us to worship each Sunday, and other projects, while being able to remain free of debt. Most recently, for example, it was used to help strengthen the financial position of the church during the time we were searching for a new minister. When we sit in a warm church on a cold day, listening to our wonderful new minister, we remember those who continue to sustain us in this way.

In addition, an amount equal to a specified percentage of the value of the fund (commonly 4%) is calculated at the beginning of each year and can be distributed as needed to help defray some of the operating expenses of the church. The use of such a percentage, rather than relying on actual income, was agreed upon to enable the fund to be invested, at least partially, in equities, so that, in times when the market rises, the fund would be able to participate in the increase in value of the assets and provide a needed

source of funds without unduly depleting the principal. Wise use of the endowment fund has sustained us through some difficult times while enabling the church to remain free of debt.

There are many ways in which you can make a planned or legacy gift. Bequests under Wills are the most common but the form that makes sense for each donor, and the tax advantages from it, depend upon the donor's individual financial circumstances and the kind of account from which the gift is made. Therefore a planned gift should be structured in consultation with the donor's attorney, accountant and/or other financial advisor.

To ensure that this church, which has been the spiritual home for many of us for much of our lives, will be able to continue for generations to come, we ask each of you to consider a planned gift to it in connection with your own estate planning. In order to enable the fund to be there when a need arises, it is important to continually rebuild it with current gifts. Planning for such a gift is an opportunity to show your love for our community even when you can no longer be physically present. If you are interested in exploring ways in which you could do so, please contact our minister, Joan Montagnes, or any member of the committee (listed below) if you have questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Bockrath, Richard Leimbach, Andrea Burke-Harris, Sally Metzger, Liz Clark, Phil Nicolai



Wednesday Mornings with Michael

Michael Harris, Instructor

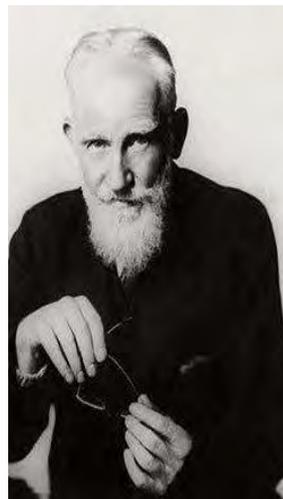
“There’ll Be Some Changes Made!” A Preview of the 2017 Shaw Festival

12 sessions in the UUCB Alliance Room

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 am, from May 2 to July 26

Registration: \$75 or \$10 per session

For more information or to register call the Church Office at 885-2136



HE KNOWS
NOTHING; AND
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THAT POINTS
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GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

New Shaw Festival Artistic Director Tim Carroll says that “I believe in theatre that’s unpredictable, that’s different every night – that talks with you, not at you.”

This fresh, bracing attitude should make the 2017 Shaw Festival like no other, and this course will cover it all. Along with its expected Bernard Shaw productions (“**Saint Joan**” and “**Androcles and the Lion**”) and its big, lavish musical (“**Me and My Girl**”), the accent will be on new work: modern masterpieces like “**The Madness of King George**” by Alan Bennett and “**Dancing at Lughnasa**” by Brian Friel, as well as revisionist takes on “**Dracula**”, tales of Oscar Wilde, “**Our Town**”, and Dion Boucicault’s “**The Octoroon**”. And to celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday will be two plays ripped from Canadian history: Rick Salutin’s “**1837: The Farmer’s Revolt**” and Michael Healey’s “**1979**”. With promises of active audience participation and surprising ‘Secret Theatre’ events popping up all over Niagara-on-the-Lake, you’d best follow Mr. Carroll’s advice to “Fasten your seatbelts!”

::Week-by-Week Syllabus::

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Session One (May 3): | Exit Maxwell, Enter Carrol – A Shaw Festival Turning Point |
| Session Two (May 10): | Joan of Arc among the Literati – Saint Joan , by George Bernard Shaw |
| Session Three (May 17): | Sovereignty and Insanity – The Madness of King George , by Alan Bennett |
| Session Four (May 24): | The English Class System in Song and Dance – Me and My Girl , music by Noel Gay, book and lyrics by Douglas Furber and L. Arthur Rose |
| Session Five (May 31): | Canadian Content, Part One – 1837: The Farmer’s Revolt , by Rick Salutin |
| Session Six (June 7): | Canadian Content, Part Two – 1979 , by Michael Healey |
| Session Seven (June 14): | Irish Memory Play – Dancing at Lughnasa , by Brian Friel |
| Session Eight (June 21): | Christians (and G.B.S.) in the Arena – Androcles and the Lion , by Bernard Shaw |
| Session Nine (June 28): | Oscar Spins a Story – Wilde Tales , Oscar Wilde stories adapted by Kate Hennig |
| NO CLASS ON JULY 5! | |
| Session Ten (July 12): | A Feminist View of the Count – Dracula , by Bram Stoker; adapted by Liz Lochhead |
| Session Eleven (July 19): | Conversing with the 19 th Century on Race – An Octoroon , by Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, adapted from Dion Boucicault’s “ <i>The Octoroon</i> ” |
| Session Twelve (July 26): | An “Our Town” for the 21st Century – Middletown , by Will Eno |

Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry



The full name of the UAIM Ministry team is the Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry. Often the emphasis is on access and inclusion is not considered as high a priority. Our team along with the Fixed Asset team are planning “pew cuts” in the Sanctuary. This also has the support of the Board of Trustees.

When any of us come into the sanctuary we sit wherever we might choose. Some of us may choose the front of the sanctuary, others may choose the back. We may choose the right side, the middle section or the left-hand section. We may choose very consciously because of a sight line, easy access to leave or just by habit. In making our own choices of where to sit we feel included in the congregation. People who use mobility devices such as scooters or wheelchairs don't have the same choices that most of us do. They tend to sit in the front section as you enter from the Parish Hall because there is a shorter pew and room for a wheelchair or scooter there. This may not be where these individuals would feel most comfortable and therefore these folks may not truly feel included in the congregation.

Our goal is to create different spaces within the Sanctuary where individuals using mobility devices can easily sit in seats they have chosen. With the Fixed Asset Team, our UAIM team has identified several possible options for pew cuts.

We are planning to have a Congregational forum after service one Sunday in May. This will be an opportunity for the community to think about the issue of pew cuts as we go forward. We will be announcing the specific Sunday shortly.

Another quick item for those who were able to attend the February 26 service with Eli Clare...

Our team is interested in having a discussion of his interesting and provocative new book, *“Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure”*. If you might be interested please let a UAIM team member know or email us at wixsonsg@gmail.com.

Covenant Group Ministry News



Our Ministry has grown!

In May we will welcome 29 new group members, for a total of 101 participants and facilitators. The February Facilitator training allowed us to create new co-facilitating teams who will be working with three new groups. We now have twelve groups that meet on a variety of days and times, at the church and in members' homes.

Joining a Covenant group is a great way to develop relationships, explore your personal values and beliefs, and support and strengthen our community – one small group at a time. It is a time to talk about what really matters, in a safe sacred space.

Related to this month's theme of “Embodiment”, we would like to offer you the opportunity to consider the following Spiritual Exercise.

Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh speaks of walking meditation as a way to connect the body and soul with the here and now. Through intentional, mindful walking, “We generate peace within our body, our consciousness. We embrace and heal the pain, the sorrow, the fear in us, and that is the ground for helping peace to be a reality in the world.”

This month, spend time walking the UUCB labyrinth. When given our full attention, every step can bring us back to the present moment, so that we can touch the wonders of life that are available. Our bodies give us the means to become one with the world around us. Breathe in peace. Breathe out love.

Covenant groups are for both church members, as well as those who are considering whether this may become your church home. If you are interested in learning more about our Covenant Group Ministry, please contact us at covenantgroups@buffalouu.org.

N4KO: “Not for Knitters Only”



Facilitator: Sharon Walker

This “Not for Knitters Only” group will be meeting on May 9 and May 23. Please join us from about 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Marge Gardner Meeting Room. This is an open group, church membership not required. For more information, email sharonw447@gmail.com.

Baby Blankets and Hats for Newborns of UUCB Families

Knitters and crocheters, looking for a project? Minister to our families and give the gift of a layette for our newborns and at dedications. For more information please email Sharon Walker at sharonw447@gmail.com.

Pulpit Flowers



May Schedule

- 7 Michael Shanahan & Dave Batt
- 14 John Prisaznuk
- 21 Ellen Gibson
- 28 Carol Condon

If you have reserved Pulpit flowers, please be sure to send your payment and text dedication to the church office at least 1 week before your scheduled flower day.

We are now accepting reservations for the 2017-18 program year which begins in September and some good dates are available.

If you are interested in participating in this special ministry, please see us after Sunday services, email joshlayton@buffalouu.org, or call us at 885-2136 ext. 4 for additional information.



#ICantKeepQuiet flashmob, UUCB lawn, April 8



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