

conditioning at a movie with a new friend. Have fun!

That said, there is something special about Sunday mornings. There is something important about Sunday mornings.

Just imagine you came to church one Sunday and nobody was there. Just imagine you were a newcomer shopping around for a place to call home and the church was empty. Coffee was made. Music was playing. Someone was at the pulpit talking. But our beautiful, glistening, bejeweled community of connection was not evident in any way. Sunday mornings are important. They matter.

Fortunately, the nightmare empty pew scenario never happens at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo. We have a Worship Service every Sunday of the year

and the congregation always attends. We may be in slightly reduced numbers in the summer, but we are a community of rich and welcoming connections and we show up.

We don't just come to church for ourselves, we come for each other. We come for our neighbors. We come for the stranger. We come for the one who is yearning for a place to call home. We come so together we have the transformative power to change the world.

Enjoy the summer! Have a great vacation. Visit with family. Cheer your kids on at sports events. Rejoice in the bonds that bind each to all!

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes



Joys and Sorrows



We wish Liz Clark a speedy recovery from knee surgery. She has had a bumpy road, and is on the other side showing the rehab center what fabulous stuff she is made of.

We are delighted to announce that Helen Lowry has joined our staff as the Alto Section Leader in the choir.

Huge thanks go to Marie Testa, Gigi Tyson, GiGi Helliwell, and Georgia Pooley for lodging a visiting middle school choir from Middletown Christian Church, Louisville, KY. From all reports everyone had a blast!

Our hearts are with Michael Shanahan who is receiving inpatient treatment for acute depression and anxiety. We send thoughts of compassion and strength as he recovers.

Congratulations to Jeff Pack who has a new job!

Our hearts rejoice with Kristina Church who was accepted at Meadville/Lombard Theological School. We wish her well as she begins her journey toward ordained ministry.

We wish years and years of happiness to Laura Sloan and Joshua Gandee who were recently married in Columbus, Ohio.

Carl Granger has been in and out of the hospital this month. We wish him a speedy and uneventful recovery.

We are glad to see Jake Jacobs up and around again. After a period of serious illness, he is back at church and smiling. We're smiling right back atcha!



Pulpit Previews

What does it mean to be a Community of Connection? July and August Worship Schedule 2017



July 2 “Old Time Religion”

Rev. Joan Montagnes

Love gospel music but not so keen on the theology? Then let’s dump the junk and have some fun with a good old-fashioned hymn sing. Suspend your disbelief, skepticism, and criticism just long enough to open your heart to joy. Connect to the past.

July 9 “Our Whole Lives”

Sarah Martin

The birds and the bees may be around for the summer, but understanding and honoring – and reveling in - our innate sexuality is something that can give us joy in all the seasons of our whole lives.

July 16 “Bridging Journeys”

Rita Capezzi

Within a community where you are known and comfortable, you might not have to make many, if any, personal changes. But what if you want to be in community with people whose life experiences are very different from your own? What personal journeys might you have to take in order to be in community?

July 23 “Imagine a World”

Rev. Fran Manly and Doug Yoeman

John Lennon’s “Imagine” invites us to imagine a world where (among other things) all the people live in peace, where all the people live as one. It holds up a powerful vision of connection in a world where people seem more divided than ever. The longing expressed in the song is deep, and goes back centuries. But is imagination enough to take us there? Through story, song, and reflection, we’ll search for the deep connections that the song invites us to imagine.

July 30 “Interdependence”

Rev. John Rex

Consider how our very independent selves might best function as components of the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

August 6 “Prayers of Resistance”

Robert Lavalee

In these anxious times, many UUs are taking part in direct activism for the first time. They are discovering how empowering protest is, but also how challenging and even devastating it can be. How do we sustain ourselves as we do the hard work? Can the way that we connect as a community help us through? In this service, we’ll consider the ideas and relationships that support us in our holy work for justice.

August 13 “Connecting the Dots”

Francis Montgomery

Just as the stars of the night sky form the constellations when we connect them in certain orders, the connection of the events and people in our lives reveal the beautiful person we have become. Understanding the relationships between different ideas, people, and experiences will help us to continue shaping our values.

August 20 “String Theory”

Rev. Joan Montagnes

String theory attempts to unify the forces in the universe into one unified theory. Stephen Hawking famously said that such a theory would be “the ultimate triumph of human reason – for then we should know the mind of God”. Wow.

August 27 “Soul Shine”

Dana Gerace

Connections are manifested in the mind’s eye long before our time here on Earth. Our mother is our connection to our human experience, but does our soul choose the Earth mother to connect us to our spiritual experience?

September 3 “Love's Labors”

Sue Frawley

As UU's we value our energy and efforts toward social justice, compassion and inclusion. Where did this history come from and where is it going?



Summer Religious Education Programming!

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

Summer is here and our regular Religious Education schedule has come to an end! But that doesn't mean our programming is over. All summer long, we'll be offering laid back programming for grades PreK through 6 up in the Alliance Room during the service. There will be no story for all ages during the summer, so please bring your children to the Alliance Room when the second church bell rings at 10:30 am. We'll have games, stories, messy crafts, and sometimes even movies! The nursery will be open as usual throughout the summer.

We're still looking for volunteers to help staff our nursery on Sunday mornings. If you can donate even one Sunday per month, it will make a big difference to our littlest members! Please email Sarah Martin at lifespan@buffalouu.org if you're interested!

This fall, we have a lot of exciting changes happening in our Religious Education program! Because the structure of our Kindergarten through 4th Grade program is changing, we will be offering a "sampler" of classes at this level in August. Check the weekly eblast, or the Religious Education newsletters in July for more information on that! We're looking to recruit new volunteer teachers at most levels. Please email Sarah Martin at the above email address for more information or to sign up!

Pre K – Our PreK class will remain under the most excellent watch of Eileen Katz, Lucy Sloan, and Sarah Anderson. This class spends the year engaging in a UU values-driven curriculum that is loads of fun! Often, our graduating seniors look back fondly at the time they spent in PreK.

K - 2nd Grade : Spirit Play – Spirit Play is a Montessori-inspired program that revolves around stories that help us deepen and explore our understanding of the world around us, and encourage us to wonder. During each lesson, students have the opportunity to engage in child-led work time and share a "feast" together at the

end of class. We are looking for a few more teachers in this class.

3rd and 4th Grade : Toolbox of Faith – Adapted from the Tapestry of Faith Curriculum available online, students in this class will explore a different tool each week. The children discover what aspects of UU faith are helpful to them, developing a toolbox of faith. We need four teachers for this class.

K - 4th Grade : One Room Schoolhouse – This class will be geared for our most active learners, using an experiential educational model in order to connect with our monthly ministry themes. We are looking for four to six teachers for this class.

5th and 6th Grade : Neighboring Faiths – This year we are experimenting with expanding our Neighboring Faiths curriculum to cover two years-worth of material instead of one. We'll begin with a long unit on Unitarian Universalism, then move out into the variety of faith traditions in the world around us. This class takes frequent field trips and often has guest speakers. We need one more teacher for this class.

7th and 8th Grade : Our Whole Lives – Our Whole Lives (OWL) is an award-winning comprehensive sexuality curriculum that was created as a joint effort of the Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of Christ. It helps students navigate relationships of all sorts, practice value-based decision-making skills, and teaches them accurate and positive information about human sexuality. We could use at least one more teacher in this class and special training is required (our program covers the cost).

We hope you'll consider joining one of these groups of amazing volunteers who help keep our program running so successfully each year.

Classes begin on Sunday, September 17!

Summer 2017 Music Notes

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



While our formal 'Choir Season' concluded with *Flower Communion Sunday*, our summer services will begin with a special musical treat: **Sunday, July 2**, Rev. Montagnes and Worship Associate Fran Manly lead a dynamic, sing-along service, *Old Time Religion*. Members of the UUCB Choir will be on hand to encourage each and every one of us to lift up our voices in song, in a service featuring classic spirituals and popular gospel numbers such as "*Amazing Grace*", "*I'll Fly Away*", "*In the Garden*", "*Shall We Gather at the River?*" and others.

July continues with a service led by Director of Religious Education, Sarah Martin, highlighting the work of our lifespan sexuality education, *Our Whole Lives*, training group – look out for some classic offerings from the jazz canon, played by our in-house trumpet-and-piano duo, as well as an instrumental reprise of Fred Small's "*Everything Possible*", last performed by the Choir on Pride Sunday.

Also on July 9, at 7:00 pm, members of our Choir will join the Buffalo Master Chorale and the Clarence Summer Orchestra at Clarence Town Park for "*American Salute*", a free outdoor concert featuring patriotic and orchestral favorites, real cannons joining the "*1812 Overture*", and someone else you may know sitting in the trumpet section.

Rita Capezzi brings us a service on spiritual journey on July 16, and we will have some special musical guests at this service, sharing music from a variety of religious and cultural traditions.

July concludes with two exciting music services – on July 23 retired UU minister Fran Manly returns to the pulpit accompanied by guitarist and songwriter Doug Yeomans in a service highlighting the beloved John Lennon/Yoko Ono ballad, "*Imagine*".

For his *Interdependence* service on July 30, John Rex has arranged a surprise musical collaboration, which will be highlighted alongside a special arrangement of Mark David Buckle's "*Seventh Principle*".

August will begin with songs of protest, defiance, and dignity, with seminarian, Robert LaValee's service, *Prayers of Resistance*.

Francis Montgomery returns to the pulpit on August 13 for her sermon on the power of relational thinking, *Connecting the Dots*.

We will have special musical guests on Rev. Montagnes's August 20 *String Theory* service, as Su Lee is away for the month of August, and Music Director Daniel Bassin will be on a tour of the Pacific Northwest that week, composing, improvising, and observing the solar eclipse.

Finally, our last service for the month of August will be led by Dana Gerace; *Soul Shine* will feature musical works from a variety of spiritual traditions, including the "*Leo*" and "*Virgo*" melodies from 20th century composer Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Tierkreis* – 12 melodies for the Zodiac.

In addition to our regular service music, we have a few concerts and collaborations in the works that will be confirmed after this newsletter has gone to print. Please stay tuned (no pun intended) through our Sunday Order Of Service inserts, weekly email blasts, posters in the Parish Hall, and also our Church, Choir, and Music Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/uuchurchbuffalo>

<https://www.facebook.com/UUCBChoir>

<https://www.facebook.com/UUCBuffaloMusic>

Universal Access and Inclusion News



Soon there will be new parking signage in our parking lot for Sundays. There will be two additional disabled parking spaces, two spaces for visitors, and one space for carpooling. This will be in effect from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm on Sundays.

UAIM has met with a representative from Public Works regarding disabled parking spaces on Ferry Avenue and Elmwood Avenue. We requested the following:

- The two disabled parking spaces on Ferry in front of the church be moved up to align with the sidewalk
- Two disabled parking spaces be made on the opposite side of Ferry to compensate for alternate parking
- A disabled parking space outside the church on Elmwood; this would be a metered space

The Public Works person would request approval from his supervisor and then it goes to the Common Council for approval.

UAIM will be having a book discussion group in the Fall regarding Eli Clare's book "Brilliant Imperfection". More information will be in the September Newsletter.

Kitchen Duty!



The Family Promise team is doing a deep-clean and organization of the church kitchen.

We need a fresh supply of kitchen towels. Who has an abundance of new or gently used kitchen linens? Are your cupboard drawers bulging with too many dish towels, pot holders, and oven mitts?

If yes, we would be delighted to put them to good use. Please bring any items you wish to donate to church and leave them in a box in the kitchen marked "Family Promise". Thanks!

Membership for young adults who have completed Coming of Age (COACH)



Are you a teen or young adult who has completed Coming of Age (COACH), probably in 8th grade? We would like to offer you adult membership in our church, with all of the privileges and responsibilities that this entails. As a member of UUCB, you will have a voice in congregational meetings and be eligible to hold all church offices.

The Membership Study group has discussed this policy at length and decided, in consultation with DRE Sarah Martin, that beginning this year, we will offer adult membership to teens who are at least 16 years old and have completed Coming of Age. Since we have not done this in the past, we are offering Membership to anyone who has completed Coming of Age in the past.

If you would like to join our church, please speak to Rev. Joan about joining and signing the book. We would be enriched by your participation!

UUCB Yarnbusters N4KO



We hope you enjoyed Worldwide Knitting Day. See you in September.

This "Not for Knitters Only" group will be off during July and August but please join us September 12 and September 26. We'll be meeting at the usual time, about 6:30 to 8:00 pm, and in the usual place, the Marge Gardner Meeting Room. 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. Always accepting donations. For more information please email Sharon Walker at sharonw447@gmail.com.

New Member's Potluck

If you joined the church in the last year or two, Rev. Joan and the Membership and Outreach Ministry Team invite you to a delicious potluck dinner. By now you have probably discovered that we Unitarian Universalists are fabulous cooks who cater to all kinds of dietary needs and preferences. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the delicious mix that is our congregation. Childcare will be provided if you give us a week's notice. Friday, July 7, at 6:00 pm.

Minister's Vacation

Rev. Joan will be on vacation from July 11 - August 14. If there is an emergency please call the front office. Josh Layton, our Administrator, will be able to contact Joan.



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The UU Church of Buffalo Staff
695 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222
716-885-2136
www.buffalouu.org

Minister:

Rev. Joan Montagnes
<mailto:minister@buffalouu.org>

Director of Religious Education:

Sarah Martin
lifespan@buffalouu.org

Music Director:

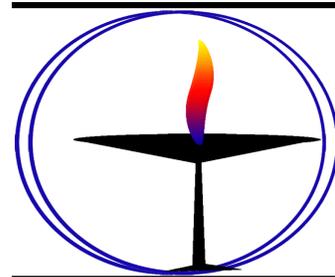
Daniel Bassin
music@buffalouu.org

Organist/Accompanist:

Su Lee
organist@buffalouu.org

Nursery Care Coordinator:

Morgan Silver



Church Administrator:

Joshua Layton
office@buffalouu.org

Bookkeeper:

Donna Sentz
bookkeeper@buffalouu.org

Gatekeeper:

Sara Kirkland
office@buffalouu.org

Wedding Coordinator:

Paulette Notaro
weddings@buffalouu.org

Care Network:

Ginny Vaughan
716-768-1077
wixsonsg@gmail.com