

SPECIAL NOTICE

Dear Congregation -

After consulting with the county, state, and federal COVID-19 guidelines, the Board of Trustees has decided to end the mask mandate for church services on **Sunday, July 3**.

Therefore, on and after this date, we will no longer require masks to be worn inside the building.

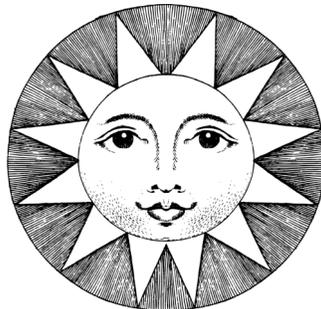


We ask that masks continue to be worn should you meet any of the following circumstances:

- You are not fully vaccinated;
 - You are moderately-to-severely immunocompromised or have discussed the need to mask with your healthcare provider;
 - You feel more comfortable wearing a mask for personal reasons;
 - You have had a known COVID-19 exposure within the past ten days; or
- You have left isolation following a COVID-19 infection within the last five days.

We also ask that if you display any symptoms of COVID-19, please join us virtually until your symptoms subside, regardless of a negative COVID-19 test.

We hope this transition does not cause discomfort for any members of our beloved congregation. With Erie County now in the "low" community spread category and based on the guidance provided by local, state, and federal health organizations, we believe the timing is right to lift the mask requirement and see each other's faces again at last! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to any board member!



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

July 2022 Newsletter

Gather - Inspire - Transform



Minister's Column: What does it mean to be People who Cultivate Growth?



My yard is a grassless jungle. It is elephantine hostas, fluffy astilbes, spikey day lilies, spewy pink spiraea, lush lilies of the valley, and pompoms of hydrangea all densely out of control. There's also this huge tropical looking thing that I've never seen before which cannot be deterred by yanking or shovel.

When moved into our house, the garden had some semblance of structure, but now the bishop's wort has taken over and all the well-landscaped plants are wandering out of their beds and sneaking into secret passages of shadow and soil. The thought of weeding exhausts me so much, I have to sit down to reexamine my life priorities.

It is comforting to know that if you don't get in the way, growth just happens. As long as you keep away from toxins and poisons, growth will come to you. This summer I plan to relax on my porch by doing nothing. Or I may use my energy to root out some of those evil social toxins and poisons we've managed to spread on society. My garden will remain a green oasis for rabbit families and birds. There's a goldfish pond in the back and one time, our little jungle, deep in the heart of Allentown, became a young deer's home for the night.

I suppose, if you try to control your garden, it could be a whole lot more work. If you want certain things or order out of it, you need to put energy into it. Here's a summer reading poem for you called "The Seven of Pentacles" by Marge Piercy:

Under a sky the color of pea soup
she is looking at her work growing away there
actively, thickly like grapevines or pole beans
as things grow in the real world, slowly enough.
If you tend them properly, if you mulch, if you water,
if you provide birds that eat insects a home and winter food,
if the sun shines and you pick off caterpillars,
if the praying mantis comes and the ladybugs and the bees,
then the plants flourish, but at their own internal clock.

Connections are made slowly, sometimes they grow underground.
You cannot tell always by looking what is happening.
More than half the tree is spread out in the soil under your feet.
Penetrate quietly as the earthworm that blows no trumpet.
Fight persistently as the creeper that brings down the tree.
Spread like the squash plant that overruns the garden.
Gnaw in the dark and use the sun to make sugar.



Weave real connections, create real nodes, build real houses.

Live a life you can endure: Make love that is loving.

Keep tangling and interweaving and taking more in,
a thicket and bramble wilderness to the outside but to us
interconnected with rabbit runs and burrows and lairs.

Live as if you liked yourself, and it may happen:

reach out, keep reaching out, keep bringing in.

This is how we are going to live for a long time: not always,
for every gardener knows that after the digging, after
the planting,

after the long season of tending and growth, the harvest comes.

Growth comes to you, even if you do nothing. Change happens, and we respond. Maturing, learning
(sometimes the hard way), strength comes, and wisdom sometimes. We make love that is loving.

Connections are made slowly, unveiled slowly, understood slowly. Heart and soul, body and mind all grow.

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

Rev. Joan on Vacation

Rev. Joan will be on vacation June 30 and July 1. She will also be on vacation from July 15-August 14.

Joys and Sorrows

We send best wishes of happiness to Chris Sierzchula, our Accompanist, who was married this month.

Thaddeus Bieniek not only celebrated another birthday, he also celebrated forty years as our Senior Usher!
Congratulations!

Sending healing thoughts to Paulette Notaro's sister-in-law who is recovering from a serious car accident.

Pulpit Previews

July 3: Cultivating Love, Rev. Joan Montagnes

Its an old story: finding love, heartbreak, and discovering a deeper, truer, more hopeful love in the end. Its
an old story, but it has a catch: you have to be an active participant in the narrative. You need to cultivate
love in your life and the world will change around you.

July 10: Tuning Back In, Rev. Margaret Weis

With all of the noise swirling around us in our day-to-day lives, how do we practice tuning into our inner
selves? For some of us this involves meditation, prayer, or some other internal process. For others of us,
connecting with the outside world is just what we need. Together we will explore what our core beings
need and how we might tune back in to tend to them.

July 17: Life Calls Us On, Rev. Rita Capezzi

Even when times are very bleak, the beauty of the world calls us to live as lively as we can. What beauty is
calling us today?

July 24: Hold On: This is Gonna Hurt like Hell, Julie Taylor

We all have a deep dark truthful mirror, and one day we all have to face it. There is deep pain when opening ourselves to deep truth, and it hurts like hell. Yet we hope that on the other side of the pain is some sort of growth. And many of us want the quick hit that cultivates growth without the pain. Are you ready for your own deep dark truthful mirror?

July 31: Let Freedom Ring, Rev. Fran Manly and Doug Yeomans

Freedom is a core concept of our nation as well as of our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. It's a high-minded ideal, but its meaning is not so clear when we pay attention to how the word is used. Freedom for whom, and freedom to do what? Freedom from what (and maybe from whom?). Weaving together her words and his music, Fran and Doug will tackle these thorny questions.

Religious Education & Faith Development News

Lisa Peterangelo, Acting Director



If you are interested in any of the classes, projects, or other groups that we are starting, please contact Lisa Peterangelo, Acting DRE at lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org

The Spirit Play families are planning a picnic with crafts and games for the children on July 17th after Sunday service. It will take place, weather permitting, outside in the garden.

More information will go out to the Spirit Play families.

From: Lisa Peterangelo:

Dear UUCB Family,

As you probably know, July is my last month with you as the Acting DRE. I want everyone to know what a wonderful experience it has been to meet you all and serve this congregation.

As I move forward in my career, I will take many memories and lessons with me. I do appreciate the opportunity you have given me.

Although I will not have the pleasure of meeting your new DRE, I have no doubt that you will embrace and support her as she begins this new journey.

May the Spirit of Life bless each one of you.

Lisa

Important Message: The Nursery will be closed until children ages 1 to 5 are eligible to be vaccinated. This is to keep everyone safe especially when the older children and teachers come back. We are sorry for this necessary inconvenience.

Stay tuned for future plans for our nursery while we await the vaccine for our littlest ones.

We will need a Nursery teacher for our Infants and Toddlers. We are looking for someone with Infant/Toddler experience who is willing to work Sunday mornings from 9:30am to 1:00 PM. The position pays \$15.00 per hour. We will train the candidate and arrange for CPR training.

Adult Education News!

Enter in Case of Brahms!

Masterworks of a Master Composer

Michael Harris, instructor

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
695 Elmwood Avenue; Buffalo, NY 14222
12 meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
May 4 to July 27, 2022
\$10 per session



The course will start remotely using the Zoom platform, with the option to move to in-person meetings at UUCB. To register, send your check, made out to UUCB, to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo; 695 Elmwood Avenue; Buffalo NY 14222. [Put 'Enter in Case of Brahms' on memo line of check.] For information, call 716-885-2136, or email us at office@buffalouu.org.

Enter in Case of Brahms! – Masterworks of a Master Composer

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) once said: “Without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind,” and it’s the impeccable craft and polish of Brahms’ music that impresses and astonishes us; yet the frequency of his inspired moments makes Brahms a man for all musical seasons. We’ll examine the vast variety of musical high points in Brahms’ career: from symphonies and concertos to songs and chamber pieces. There’s a reason why Brahms is so central to the classical tradition; we’ll hear the results of his search for perfection, how he took infinite pains for our listening pleasure!

Course Syllabus

Session Nine (July 6): Conflict and Reconciliation – The String Concertos

Session Ten (July 13): The Choral Brahms -- A German Requiem

Session Eleven (July 20): The Intimate Brahms – Chamber Music

Session Twelve (July 27): Famous Last Notes – Brahms’ Late Style



Folk Dancing

Folk dancing is a fun experience for all ages. Simple dances are taught or reviewed each week. We do walking dances from 9:30-10:15, regular folk dances from 10:15-11 and more complicated dances from 11-11:30. We laugh a lot and get exercise while learning a bit about the world’s cultures. No experience or skill is needed! All are welcome! Martha Malkiewicz has taught folk dancing for 6 years at the UU Church. Contact Martha at martmalk2@mac.com to confirm schedule.

Mondays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall, \$2.00 per class. Pay at the door.

Registration not required



Music Notes

Dr. Jessie Downs, Music Director



Although July is one of the less actively musical months of our church's year, there are still special guests and soloists lined up for all our Sunday services, as well as a special summer installment of our Casual Concerts series and other opportunities around town to support music-making for a good cause.

On the first Sunday of the month – 7/3/22 - Bass Soloist Michael Harris and guest pianist Charlie DeRose will provide service music for Reverend Joan's service about "Cultivating Love" in one's life. The service will begin and end with solo piano arrangements of pop tunes about loss and love, performed by guest pianist Charlie DeRose. Two vocal solos by Michael Harris - taken from the Harold Arlen songbook donated to the church from the late Beck Brown's music library - will capture both the excitement of believing we are loved, and the anger evoked when we feel that love withdrawn. The storytelling of the service will ultimately have a happy ending, illustrated by Michael's rendition of "What A Wonderful World." Mike, Jessie, and Chris will lead the congregation in the singing of hymns.

Guest pianist Charlie DeRose will be subbing for Chris Sierzchula on several occasions throughout the summer, so he will grace our space again for the Sunday 7/10/22 entitled "Tuning Back In." For this service, Charlie will both provide solo piano music and accompany the congregation in the hymns.

Our July Casual Concert will take place on Saturday 7/16/22 at 2pm on our church's lawn, or inside the sanctuary if it is raining. For this special summer installment of our series, singer-songwriters and multi-instrumentalists Derick Evans and Nick Randall will perform an original 1-hour and 18-minute song-cycle for 2 voices, electric guitar, and electric bass. This new work - entitled "Darryl Donahue: One Day." - paints a musical portrait of a fictionalized, white-collared stranger, with each song dedicated to an hour of that day.

The next day's service on 7/17/22 will feature performances by Helen Lowry, our alto soloist and daughter of that day's guest speaker, Reverend Rita Capezzi. Charlie will again provide the piano components of the service entitled, "Life Calls Us On."

On Sunday 7/24/22, Music Director Jessie Downs, Tenor Soloist Liam Allen, and pianist Chris Sierzchula will offer a selection of pop tunes selected by speaker Julie Taylor in support of her sermon, "Hold On, This is Going to Hurt Like Hell."

Finally, on Sunday 7/31/22, Reverend Fran Manly will be joined by guest musician Doug Yeomans for her sermon "Let Freedom Ring."



July Share-the-Plate: [Jericho Road Community Health Center Vive Shelter](#)



Our share the plate recipient is Jericho Road Community Health Center's Vive Shelter for homeless asylum seekers and refugees. Their vision is for underserved and marginalized individuals, families, and communities in Buffalo and across the world to become healthy and whole. Please click on the above link to learn more about our important work. Also, our [Annual Report](#) details what we've accomplished in Buffalo and globally for our entire organization.



Donate to Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) year-round!

The Women's Society has set up a corral for your donation in the Garden entrance foyer!



Please continue to donate new, twin-size cloth mattress pads, sheet sets, comforters, blankets, and pillows. Just as there is always a need for food donations 365 days a year, there continues to be a year-round need for bedding and bunk beds for the children of the Greater Buffalo area. Thank you for your continuing support and generosity. The kids and their parents really appreciate your gifts. **"No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town"**



UAIM NEWS

If you have been in the church in the last month, you have noticed that there is now a Middle Railing on the stairs from the Parish Hall to the Sanctuary. UAIM believed that the middle rail was an important safety issue. When UAIM explained to the Fixed Assets Team the need for a Middle Rail; the team agreed to pursue a company to do the work. The purchase and installation costs were covered by members of the UAIM team.



Currently, UAIM is working with The Center for Advocacy to develop a workshop to discuss the intersectionality of disabled people and the LGBTQ Community. We are planning the workshop for a Saturday afternoon in October at church.



Calling All Artists!

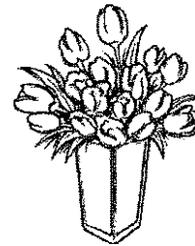
We would like to revive the Theme Art Board in the Parish Hall. We are looking for Artists who would like to design and display their interpretations of the monthly Themes. This isn't restricted to professionals. Embrace your inner child. Get crafty, go beautiful, make a collage, be inventive, interactive, 2-D or 3-D, imaginative, finger paint. It's all good. Probably each Artist would take one or two Themes per year as a super fun, creative project. Maybe your Covenant Group, RE Class or Ministry Team would like to take a on a Theme. Just let Rev. Joan know minister@buffalouu.org.



Congratulations to Beth White! Beth received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service! This award honors professional staff performance excellence "both within and beyond the position." Beth is the director of graduate enrollment, research and graduate education, Jacobs School of Medicine at the University at Buffalo. She is also a soprano in our choir and was a featured soloist in Jessie Down's voice students' recital last week in our sanctuary. Kudos!

Altar Flowers

Purchase an arrangement to honor your loved ones, a dearly departed family member, a birthday, an anniversary, a thank you. The flowers are displayed on the chancel on the Sunday of your choice. Your dedication will be printed in the Order of Service. You may either take the arrangement home after the service or we will donate it to the Veteran's Association.



\$40 per arrangement. For information please contact Sandra Bissontz smp1127@yahoo.com

Message from the Board

UPDATE on the Spring Rescue and the 2nd Ask...

Our fundraising thermometer is inching ever closer! As of last Sunday, the amount left to raise was \$13,563. This is down from an initial shortfall of \$61,000!!! This amount includes our haul during last Sunday's collection. People are giving large chunks and people are giving modest contributions. We will take whatever you will give us!! We will be wrapping up this campaign at the end of June. If you haven't given that 'little extra', it's never too late! We are so grateful!

If you haven't yet made a contribution to the "Spring Rescue," please consider doing so in July! Every dollar counts at a time like this. As a reminder you can:

1. Mail a check to the church office (695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222).
2. Place a check in the Sunday morning worship plate.
3. Place cash in an envelope in the offering plate.

Thank you!

- Bridget Evans, Shawn Sweet, John Petrocelli, Michael Hill, Bobby Withrow, Kate Bell-Schwede

How to be in touch with your Board of Trustees:

- To reach the Board, email board@buffalouu.org.
- Attend Board meetings (3rd Wed at 7pm in the Alliance Room or via Zoom):
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97736244745>.
- To view Current Board of Trustees members click here: [Board of Trustees](#).

Always be aware that Rev. Joan's Identity can be Used and Abused!

Many emails that look like they are from Rev. Joan are not! Rev. Joan will never:

Ask you for gift cards via an email or 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.



**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

695 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo New York 14222
716-885-2136 www.buffalouu.org

<p>Minister: Rev. Joan Montagnes minister@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Administrator of Facilities and Communication: Kaylan Ruiz office@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Acting Director of Religious Education: Rev. Lisa Peterangelo lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Music Director: Dr. Jessie Downs jdowns@buffalouu.org</p>
<p>Care Network: Ginny Vaughan 716-768-1077 wixsonsg@gmail.com</p>	<p>Gatekeeper: Sara Kirkland office@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Administrator for Finance: Donna Sentz donnasentz@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Organist/ Accompanist: Chris Sierzchula</p>
<p>Nursery Care Coordinator: TBH</p>		<p>Monthly Newsletter (submissions due by the 15th) newsletter@buffalouu.org</p> <p>Weekly Announcements (E-Blast) (submissions due by NOON Wednesday) announcements@buffalouu.org</p>	



A chalice alit since 1831

A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places

