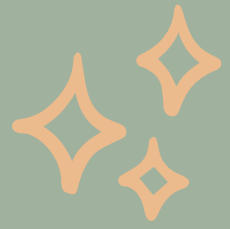


UUCB Newsletter



April 2024

www.buffalouu.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Hello members of UUCB! Members of the Board of Trustees will be submitting highlights of the prior board meeting to the newsletter, with the goal of keeping you informed without your needing to peruse the entire meeting minutes.

The Board of Trustees met on March 20th. We welcomed the Right Relations Team and learned about their proposed process to help the congregation arrive at a church Covenant; the Team will work with the Minister to undertake communication and engagement with the congregation beginning in April, with a plan to adopt a Covenant in June. Look for information on Covenants in the e-Blast through April 14. The Board supports the Covenant initiative. Four additional team members are being sought, to bring the Right Relations Team to a full roster of seven. We are grateful to the Right Relations team for their efforts and encourage upcoming participation by all areas of the church.

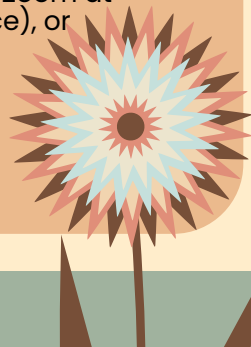
The Board spent most of its meeting discussing the finances of the church, including the pledge drive, an update on the capital campaign, the Finance Committee's report, and the Treasurer's report. We discussed the gap in the budget that exists right now, and strategies to close it. The most palatable solutions are to ensure pledging of our members and support of church events and fundraising opportunities. Pledging helps the church know to what extent your financial support will be contributing to the operations of the community. If you haven't submitted your 2024 pledge yet, please do so; contact Martha in church or via email at office@buffalouu.org, or utilize the online donation options at buffalouu.org/donate. If you or someone you know would like to get on track to becoming a new member, look for news about new member classes being held; the next classes are scheduled to start April 7 and more details can be had by contacting the Director of Religious Education (DRE) Jess Pond at jpond@buffalouu.org. Church events and fundraising opportunities are detailed in the monthly newsletter. The church website at buffalouu.org is another terrific resource, providing access to the weekly e-blast, an Events page, and church Calendar.

Most if not all of us have been enjoying luncheons provided by the new food ministry during fellowship in the Parish Hall after Sunday Services. New tastes for our taste buds, incredibly creative food presentations, and the happy sound of people sharing meals have been hallmarks of these luncheons, and are most welcome. The Board discussed the goals and growing popularity of the luncheons and the food ministry, and how volunteers, staff, kitchen facilities and operation of the kitchen can continue to work together to meet the opportunities provided by luncheon preparation, the luncheons themselves, and clean-up, and how to handle donations made to support the luncheons. Chris Slocum is developing documentation to facilitate handling the donations which will result in improvement in all aspects of the luncheons and ministry.

The agenda also included reports and updates on the much-appreciated activities of the Minister, DRE, the Governance Team, congregational safety, settled minister search, conflict of interest policies, and more. We are a busy, vibrant community. To get in touch with your Board of Trustees:

- reach out to board@buffalouu.org,
- attend Board meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Alliance Room or via Zoom at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97736244745> (if attending via Zoom, please email the Board in advance), or
- visit the church website's information on Governance.

-Bill Parke, *Member-at-large*





Minister's Musings

The Gift of Interdependence

Our Soul Matters theme this month focuses heavily on our interdependence with the earth and our climate crisis, which is good. We need to focus more closely on our relationship with the planet and all living things every single day, doing what we can to preserve and care for our interdependent web of all existence.

But for our time together this April and because we are going to wind up the covenanting process started last fall this month, I was drawn to this quote from Victoria Safford:

Douglas Steere, a Quaker teacher, says that the ancient question, "Who am I?" inevitably leads to a deeper one, "Whose am I?" – because there is no identity outside of relationship. You can't be a person by yourself. To ask, "Whose am I?" is to extend the question far beyond the little self-absorbed self, and wonder, Who needs you? Who loves you? To whom are you accountable? To whom do you answer? Whose life is altered by your choices? With whose life, whose lives, is your own all bound up, inextricably, in obvious or invisible ways?

"So, whose are we?" asks Sara Lammert, "Whose are we in a world that seems upside down, filled with violence and depravation and oppression? Whose are we in world that is at the same time brimming with beauty, potential, freedom, and love?"

On April 14th, I will be joined in the pulpit by Liz Parke and Sharon Walker as we continue our work on creating a covenant for the church. Because we do not have a creed, our church is bound together by its covenant. We are a covenantal faith, and we make sacred promises to each other.

What is a covenant? It has been explained this way: *A covenant, a relationship, formed by love is measured by the way we consent to be transformed by affection, into greater affection.*

Our Unitarian Universalist congregational polity is affirmed by our covenant with one another; to support, to honor, to grow into a greater affection for ourselves and the world. Our vision of becoming better people, better parents, and better citizens of the world, are only made possible by our willingness to walk together on the journey. Having a covenant does not mean we have to agree with one another all the time. A covenant promises that when we disagree, we will stay the course. We will listen, and we will honor and acknowledge one another as we work towards understanding and resolution. "We need not think alike to love alike." ~ Francis David (1510-1579)

In preparation for this important work, we will do together, please watch this beautiful, animated short video created by Unitarian Universalist and graphic designer in Columbus, Ohio, Elliott Cennamo. *In Unitarian Universalism, as we strive to be inclusive and transformative in our covenanting, and as we grow our personal understanding, strengthen and deepen our beloved community, and practice spiritual justice-making in our covenantal faith, we must ask, "What do we promise one another?"*

<https://youtu.be/EmZLK2bEh6Q?si=O3RDEydYJBESHXsB>

April 7: MUUSIC Sunday

Eastman DMA organist Augustine Sobeng will accompany our choir on Gabriel Fauré's Requiem, a meditative half-hour of music that explores the impact of grief. For this special service, our choir will also be joined by 5 guest vocal artists from the Sotto Voce collective – altos Jamie Gangemi and Erin Alexander, tenors Tyler Huk and Zane Merritt, and baritone Ky Ver Hoef. In addition to our group's lush ensemble sound, audiences will also be treated to solos by our Soprano Soloist Taryn Goehrig, and guest baritone Ky Ver Hoef.

April 14: Sacred Promises We Make to Each Other

Covenant is the silk that joins Unitarian Universalist congregations, communities, and individuals together in a web of interconnection. The practice of promising to walk together is the precious core of our creedless faith. I will be joined by Sharon Walker, Liz Parke, and Steve Wixson for a service that demonstrates why we need a covenant. There will be a skit!

April 21: Rediscovering Prayer by Rev. Cathy Harrington

Stories from my experience as a student chaplain at a major trauma hospital in Greenville, South Carolina during the summer of 2001. I was the heretic "liberal" in a conservative Christian Clinical Pastoral Education class; my assumptions and preconceived notions about God, prayer, and life, in general, had to be deconstructed and reconstructed during those intensive ten weeks of training with the harsh realities (and the blessings) of life as a classroom.

April 28: Youth Group Worship Service, Sanctuary

Come support the youth of our Youth Group as they reflect on how the years of online learning and social distancing have impacted them, and share their musical talents!



Greetings from the Religious Education Ministry!

Jess Pond
Director of Religious Education
jpond@buffalouu.org

Religious Education Calendar

Register for Religious Education Classes

We can always use more volunteers in RE, especially for the Youth Group. If you're interested in volunteering, please email me at jpond@buffalouu.org.

New Member Class
April 7 & 14
Alliance Room
12:00-1:30

Want to become a member of UUCB, or learn about UU and UUCB?

Email Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org to register!

UU Elevator Speech Workshop

UU Elevator Speech guides participants through developing a short speech about our Unitarian Universalist faith. It is called an "elevator speech" because, on an elevator ride when someone asks you "what is Unitarian Universalism?" you only have a short time to make a meaningful statement!

We will meet on Tuesday evenings, 7-8PM, in the Alliance Room. Please email Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org to register!

- March 5 It's Not A Credo
- March 26 Writing Your UU Elevator Speech
- April 9 Sharing Your UU Elevator Speech

PUB THEOLOGY

TUESDAY APR. 16, 6:30PM

Grab a drink at a local spot and dive deeply into topics involving faith, meaning, identity, culture, politics and more!

Free Street Tavern
1469 Niagara St

April 17, 24 & May 1
10:00-11:30, Alliance Room

Shakespeare's Enchanted Forest

\$20 for course or \$10 per session

Register with Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org

I hope you'll join us for some of the activities we have going on this month!



Sundays, April
7 & April 14

Tuesday, April 9

Sunday, April 14

Sundays, April 14, April 21
& April 28

Tuesday, April 16

New Member Class, 12:00-1:30

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism or UUCB and want to learn a bit about both, or are you interested in becoming a member? Come to the New Member Class! Contact Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org to register or with any questions. The meeting on April 7 will be in the Alliance Room, and the meeting on April 14 will be in the Emerson Room.

UU Elevator Speech Workshop, Alliance Room, 7:00-8:00

This workshop guides participants through developing a short speech about our Unitarian Universalist faith. It is called an "elevator speech" because on an elevator ride when someone asks you "What is Unitarian Universalism?" you only have a short time to make a meaningful statement! Please email Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org to register.

SuUper Sunday, Parish Hall, after service

Second Sundays are SuUper Sundays! If your children or youth would like to volunteer to see tup, serve soup, or clean up, please let Jess know at jpond@buffalouu.org.

Introduction to Sufism, 12:00-1:00

Harvard and Buff State professor Yunus Kumek will lead this course to examine the practical aspects of Sufism in our everyday life, especially focusing on meditative, philosophical, and psychological practices that have relevance and meaning in personal spiritual journeys. Sufism is generally referred to as Islamic mysticism or Muslim spiritual teachings in popular Western discourses. The meeting on April 14 will be in the Library, and the meetings on April 21 and April 28 will be in the Alliance Room.

Pub Theology, Free Street Tavern, 1469 Niagara St, 6:30-8:00

Grab a drink at a local spot and dive into topics of faith, meaning, identity, culture, and more! Please contact Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org to get updates on locations.

Wednesdays, April 17,
April 24 & May 1

Saturday, April 27

Sunday, April 28

Shakespeare's Enchanted Forest, Alliance Room, 10:00-11:30

In Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, women who are trapped in a patriarchal nightmare manage to gain some control in their lives, assisted by the magic of the forest. John Snodgrass is the author of *Shakespeare's Goddess: The Divine Feminine on the English Stage* and *Supernatural Shakespeare: Magic and Ritual in Merry Old England*. He teaches courses on Native American Religions and Religious Studies at Canisius College and speaks regularly at Unitarian churches in Niagara Falls, Amherst, Hamburg, and East Aurora.

Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary, First UU Society of Syracuse and Online, 9:00-5:00

A place to find community with transgender, nonbinary folx and our allies. A conference for us to gather, learn, and grow. Learn more and register here: <https://shorturl.at/isDJK>

Youth Group Worship Service, Sanctuary

Come support the youth of our Youth Group as they reflect on how the years of online learning and social distancing have impacted them, and share their musical talents!

Shakespeare's Enchanted Forest John Snodgrass, Instructor Wednesdays, April 17, April 24, & May 1 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Alliance Room

Cost: \$20 for course, or \$10 per session. To register, contact Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org or 716-885-2136. Bring or send your check (made payable to UUCB) to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo; 695 Elmwood Avenue; Buffalo, NY 14222. Put 'Shakespeare Course' on memo line of check. There is a minimum number of registrations required for this class to be held, so please register if you're interested!

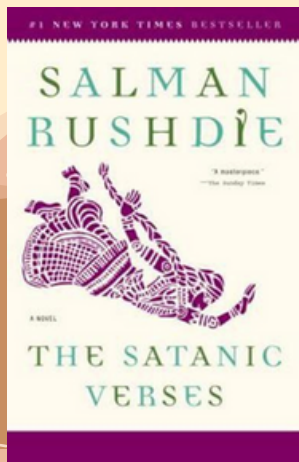
April 17 Shakespeare's Enchanted Forest: In Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, women who are trapped in a patriarchal nightmare manage to gain some control in their lives, assisted by the magic of the forest.

April 24 English Faeries: An exploration of how stories of magical forest-dwellers challenged rigid social rules, and promoted the preservation of British woodlands.

May 1 A Faerie Feud: In Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, a custody dispute between the faerie king and queen threatens to cause an apocalypse. Only by bringing masculine and feminine powers into balance can the world be saved.

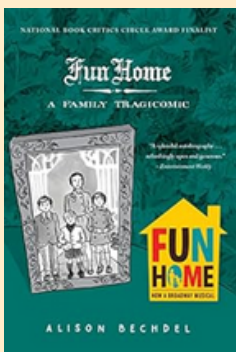
John Snodgrass is the author of *Shakespeare's Goddess: The Divine Feminine on the English Stage* and *Supernatural Shakespeare: Magic and Ritual in Merry Old England*. He teaches courses on Native American Religions and Religious Studies at Canisius College and speaks regularly at Unitarian churches in Niagara Falls, Amherst, Hamburg, and East Aurora. J-snodgrass.com

UUCB Banned Book Club with Mary Lou and Sharon



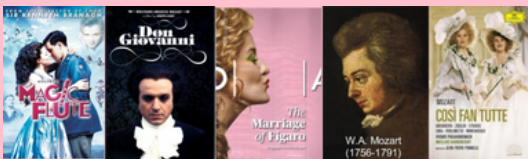
We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Marge Gardner Room, 7:00-8:30pm. All are welcome. Join us at any time. For more information, contact Mary Lou Hill and Sharon Walker at uucbbbc@buffalouu.org or DRE Jess Pond at jpond@buffalouu.org.

In April, we're reading and discussing Salman Rushdie's The Satanic Verses. Alison Our May reading, Alison Bechdel's Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic, wraps up the year.



In the news: The Oscar nominated short documentary, "The ABC's of Book Banning," is now streaming on Paramount+.

Please support UUCB Women's Society used book sale in late April.



ZAUBERMUSIK! MOZART'S MAGIC MUSICAL THEATRE MICHAEL HARRIS. INSTRUCTOR

Session Thirteen (April 3):

The Legendary Seducer Punished – Don Giovanni (1787)

Session Fourteen (April 10):

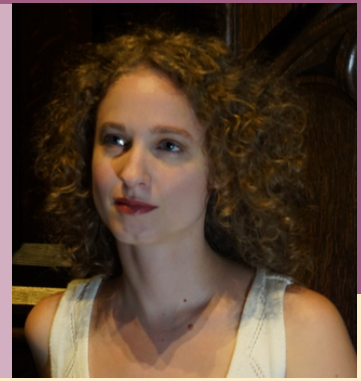
Betting on the Battle of the Sexes – Così fan tutte (1789-90)

From Jan. 10 to April 10, Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Michael Harris will lead a survey course of all of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's operas, from his childhood compositions like Mitridate to his mature masterworks like The Marriage of Figaro and Don Giovanni. The 14 sessions will take place on Zoom.

The cost is \$75 for the full course or \$10 for each session. Send your check made out to UUCB, with 'Mozart Course' on the memo line. Call the Church Office at 716-885-2136 for further information.

Music Notes

Dr. Jessie Downs, Music Director



The month of April kicks off with our Spring 2024 Sunday, a special Sunday morning service centered around a beloved classical masterwork.

On Sunday morning April 7th, Eastman DMA organist Augustine Sobeng will accompany our choir on Gabriel Fauré's Requiem, a meditative half-hour of music that explores the impact of grief. For this special service, our choir will also be joined by 5 guest vocal artists from the Sotto Voce collective – altos Jamie Gangemi and Erin Alexander, tenors Tyler Huk and Zane Merritt, and baritone Ky Ver Hoef. In addition to our group's lush ensemble sound, audiences will also be treated to solos by our Soprano Soloist Taryn Goehrig, and guest baritone Ky Ver Hoef.

On Sunday, April 14th, Cathy will be exploring what it means to make "Sacred Promises to Each Other." To activate our generosity of spirit, pianist Christopher Sierchula will share a soulful Prelude. At the Offertory, Taryn Goehrig and Shaun Doyle will share "What Else Can I Do" from the Disney movie Encanto. As the Postlude, Jessie Downs will share American songbook classic "What the World Needs Now."

On Saturday, April 20th at 2pm, we welcome back flute and guitar Duo Purla to our sanctuary for their second Casual Concert. In addition to classical works by Beethoven, Haydn, Paganini, Piazzolla and others, their sets include newly commissioned pieces and original compositions. Admission is pay-what-you-can and is split between the artists and the music ministry.

For April 21st's service on "Rediscovering Prayer," Chris will open the service with a unique rendition of the prayer of St. Francis. For the Offertory and Reflection, the UUCB Choir will sing spirited arrangements of two traditional songs - "Down in the River to Pray" and "Kumbaya." As the Postlude, Taryn will lead the UUCB Soloists in the groovy "O Bless the Lord my Soul" from the musical Godspell.

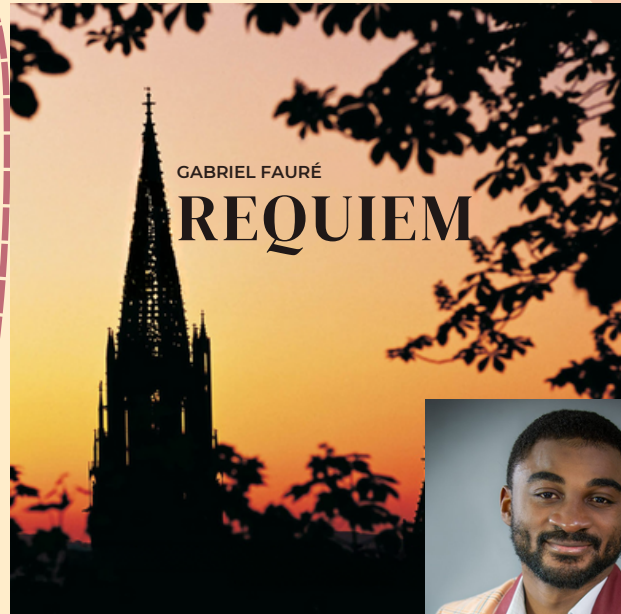
April 28th is this year's youth-led service, featuring youth musicians with support from the music staff. Youth pianist Luca DePietro will share the first movement of Beethoven's piano Sonata in F Major as the Prelude, and flautist Kaitlyn Dissek will provide the Postlude. At the Offertory Jessie and Shaun will share their rendition of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." This song captures the challenges the youth faced during distance learning and the joy they felt when they came back together in community.

As we head out of showers into flowers, get excited for this year's special two-night Cabaret event entitled "It Take Two!!" on Friday, May 10th, and Saturday, May 11th, both at 6:30pm. These fun evenings of food, drink, atmosphere, and entertainment will feature our HoUUse Band performing a variety of musical theatre and pop/rock duets - with the occasional larger ensemble number thrown in for extra pizzaz. The evening will be narrated by emcee and UUCB Tenor Soloist Shaun Doyle, who will lead the audience through a comedic yet insightful exploration of the nature of twoness. Stay tuned for more information about how to purchase tickets or otherwise support these fabulous shows.

Music Events

Music Sunday

UUCB's Spring Music Weekend 2024 will feature a presentation of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem on Sunday, April 7th at 10:30am. Eastman DMA organist Augustine Sobeng will accompany our choir on Gabriel Fauré's Requiem, a meditative half-hour of music that explores the impact of grief. For this special service, our choir will also be joined by 5 guest vocal artists from the Sotto Voce collective – altos Jamie Gangemi and Erin Alexander, tenors Tyler Huk and Zane Merritt, and baritone Ky Ver Hoef. In addition to our group's lush ensemble sound, audiences will also be treated to solos by our Soprano Soloist Taryn Goehrig, and guest baritone Ky Ver Hoef.



Duo Purla

Saturday, April 20th, 2024 at 2pm

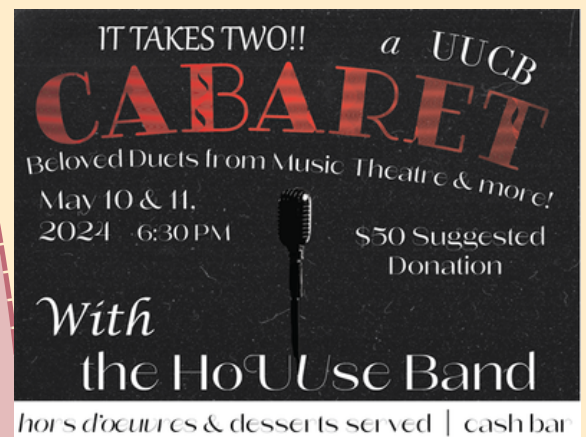
We are thrilled to welcome back Duo Purla! They are a Buffalo-based violin and guitar duo performing classical and contemporary chamber music. They pride themselves on presenting a widely varied and engaging repertoire for any audience. In addition to classical works by Beethoven, Haydn, Paganini, Piazzolla, and others, their sets include newly commissioned pieces and original compositions. They were a featured ensemble at the 21st Century Guitar Conference held in Muncie, IN, and were the resident ensemble for the 2021 Festival virtual conference.

www.duopurla.com



Cabaret

This year, the Music Ministry is expanding its annual Cabaret fundraiser to two nights, with a goal of raising \$10,000 that will go towards the church's operating budget. This year's events are entitled "It Takes Two!!" and will be held on Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th at 6:30pm. These fun evenings of food, drink, atmosphere, and entertainment will feature our HoUUse Band performing a variety of musical theatre and pop/rock duets – with the occasional larger ensemble number thrown in for good measure. The evening will be narrated by emcee and UUCB Tenor Soloist Shaun Doyle, who will lead the audience through a comedic yet insightful exploration of the nature of twoness. Stay tuned for more information about how to purchase tickets for these fabulous shows.



Legacies at UUCB

LEAVING A UUCB LEGACY

There is a lot of talk about finances around UUCB, between the annual stewardship drive, the upcoming Capital Campaign, the annual budget, and even the Endowment Fund. What is it all about? Why is it so important??

It is all tied into what keeps us going day-to-day and moving forward as a UU congregation. It allows us to pay our talented staff and personnel, maintain our beautiful, aging building, keep our in-church programs going, continue our outreach community work, and provide us a means to search for a settled minister.

The stewardship drive provides us with a basis for our annual budget for day-to-day operations. The Capital Campaign, in addition to the Sacred Spaces grant award, will allow the church to focus on completing many longer-term projects that are needed around the church, in terms of safety, accessibility, preservation, and beautification.

That leaves the Endowment Fund, which currently totals \$1,347,500. The majority of this money is invested in the UUCEF account, managed through the UUA. The remainder is invested in a money market account and CD. A portion (4%, approximately \$56,000) of the Endowment Fund makes up an essential part of the operating budget of the church each year.

The Endowment Fund was created from investments and bequests from members of UUCB who chose to leave a monetary gift for future use by the church, upon their passing. Their belief in the principles of Unitarian Universalism and specifically UUCB, to value diversity, and social justice for all, provide an outstanding music program, and provide a safe space for everyone, has ensured the well-being of UUCB for generations. However, the Endowment Fund needs to be replenished to be sustainable. Have you thought about your UUCB legacy? How will you continue to make an impact over time?

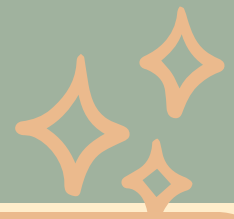
Please consider making arrangements for such a gift to our Endowment Fund. You can help to carry on the history of this unique place and what it offers for future generations. There are many options to make a legacy gift, it can come from anyone, and in any size. Please contact anyone on the Endowment Advisory Committee for more information – Andrea Burke-Harris, Jane Armbruster, Chuck Battaglia, Don Behr, Gerry Evans, Kathy Kubala, and Paul Zanolli.



MEMORIAL PATHWAY

Orders for paver inscriptions in the Memorial Pathway are processed only once a year. They are due by May 7, 2023. It seems like a long time away, but you will miss it if you keep putting off ordering. Inscriptions may be one, two, or three lines long. Each line may have up to 14 letters and spaces. One or two l's allows one more letter per l. The cost of the paver is \$150 each. Ashes may be submitted for placement in the Memorial Garden at no cost or for an offering of \$100 directly under the inscribed paver. Submit text and checks to the office made out to UUCB and the word paver in the For or Memo line. Any questions call Tony Keller at 716-860-0984 or kelleranthony290@gmail.com.

Events at UUCB



SERMON WORKSHOP

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at creating a sermon? Well, now's the time! Summer services at UUCB are mostly led by volunteer lay people who are currently in the congregation. We'd love to get some new voices in the pulpit, and Reverend Fran Manly and Julie Taylor will be conducting a workshop for anyone interested in getting more spiritually involved in the worship process. You'll learn some basics of how a worship service is structured at UUCB, how each of the components can work together to highlight a broader theme and best practices for writing a sermon. We'll share what we've learned through our triumphs and our missteps.

There's no obligation! Take the class because you love to learn, because you love to let your spirit wander, or because you're passionate about worship. So come and join us on Saturday, April 27, from 9am-noon in the Alliance Room! And if that's not enough, we'll have bagels!

To sign up, drop a note to Julie Taylor at julietylr@roadrunner.com. Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 14, COVENANTING SUNDAY

So, What Is a Covenant?

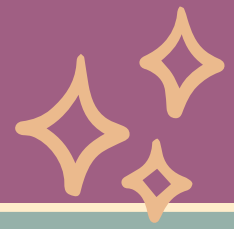
The word "Covenant" is both a noun and a verb. It can be a written agreement among individual community members promising to behave in certain ways, and it can mean to engage in mutual promises with Spirit, with other people, and communities.

A Covenant is different from a rule. If you break a rule, then there is usually a defined consequence, often a punishment, for doing that. If we break a covenant, it's not a matter of punishment. Rather, if we want to stay in that relationship, we need to work with other members of the covenant to heal what has been broken and to reaffirm our commitment to the covenant.

Work to Win 2024

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities but not sure what options are available in our community? We can help! Organize for Action WNY is hosting Work to Win 2024, a tabling event to connect people with non-profit groups in the Buffalo area that are committed to making a difference locally and nationally. People who attend the event will have an opportunity to interact with representatives from the participating organizations so they can decide which one(s) may be a good fit for them. Admission is free. There will be a bake sale and art sale, fun activities, and opportunities to win prizes. Please join us! Work to Win 2024 will be held on April 13, 2024, from 2-5 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 695 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222. For additional information, contact Jane Marinsky: janemarinsky@gmail.com or Darbie Maccubbin: darbiemaccubbin@hotmail.com

Events at UUCB



A TROLLEY TOUR OF FOREST LAWN!

The trolley is fixed and accepting eager passengers!

On Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 10:30 AM begins the guided tour of Forest Lawn, complete with visits from three of its well-known famous long-term residents! We meet for the trip at the main building opposite Canisius University on Main Street. Please make your reservation on Sunday, April 7, or April 14.

TROLLEY TOUR OF FOREST LAWN

WHEN: Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 10:30 AM

WHERE: Meet at the main building of Forest Lawn opposite Canisius University on Main Street

COST: \$20 check to UUCB Women's Society

This is an extremely popular excursion and well-liked by those who have taken it in past seasons. (There are skilled actors who play the parts of the "long-term residents", those buried in the beautiful cemetery.) Tickets are limited, so please make your reservations quickly!

BURNING BOOK RUMMAGE SALE

Donate that stuff you no longer need to help with the Burning Books extension:

The Burning Books Rummage Sale
Will take place at the UUCB on June 1.
They're collecting donations now!

Supported by the UUCB BBC (Banned Book Club)



Turn your unwanted stuff into a bigger and better Burning Books! Drop off 11-7 daily, at 420 Connecticut Street, Buffalo. Call if you need a pickup. (716) 881-0791. Mutual aid!

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

We are reaching out to our generous community to ask for your help in acquiring essential materials for our church. We have created an [Amazon wish list](#) that includes items needed across all our departments. Your support would greatly enhance our ability to serve our congregation and community effectively. Your support would significantly enhance our ability to serve our congregation and community effectively.



SHARE THE PLATE

In April, we support Little Portion Friary as a share-the-plate partner.

The Mission of Little Portion Friary is to journey with our guests experiencing homelessness in a homelike environment and provide temporary shelter, meals, and counseling during their struggle to acquire permanent housing and jobs.



The Little Portion Friary was started in 1982 when Deacon John G. and the Rev. Alexius realized that homeless men and women needed a homelike setting and a sense of personal involvement with individuals who cared about them.

They envisioned a setting in which people from all walks of life would bring their talents and gifts, working anonymously and quietly, to help those in need. They established a Franciscan community to be known as the Little Portion Friary.

To St. Francis, the name represented the poverty, humility, and simplicity that he wished for himself and his followers. For Buffalo's Little Portion, the name reflects a commitment to St. Francis' ideals and hope of allowing our lives, in little ways to touch and be touched by the lives of others.

We depend almost entirely on donations and the efforts of volunteer workers and remain in awe of the generosity that has sustained us this long.

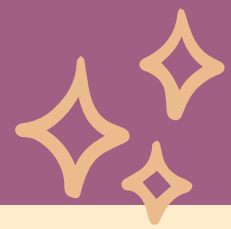
Those who volunteer here work together as a team, without publicity, positions, or titles, so that guests can regain control over their lives. Guests have given of themselves by offering comfort and encouragement to one another in their struggles.

We especially need your prayers and encouragement. Your openness to the causes and effects of poverty and homelessness.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

For more information visit: <https://www.littleportionfriary.com/>

Events at UUCB



HOME AGAIN UPDATE



We have made great progress in our steps toward furnishing an apartment for a newly arriving refugee family! Thank you to all who have contributed needed household items, this is a wonderfully generous congregation! We still need people to help with last-minute preparations and especially with moving day, TBD but probably a weekday in April. We are also collecting monetary donations that will go directly to our family. Please stop by the Social Justice table after service on Sunday to see how you can help. We are in need of a truck to move furniture - please let us know ASAP if you can help.

Home Again is just one of the many projects of the Social Justice Ministry team. In the past year we have coordinated UUCB teams to serve dinner at Friends of Night People, clean up with Waterkeepers on Earth Day, and march in the Pride Parade. We have sponsored educational workshops on the Native American experience and racial justice. And of course, we coordinate monthly Share the Plate donations which often include collection of items (toiletries, baby items) and postcarding relevant to our partner organization. If any of this interests you please stop by our table or contact MarialTesta@gmail.com to get involved.

Here Comes the Sun UUCB Fun & Fellowship Auction (In-person and On-Line) Sunday, April 21st



We're counting down the days to our biggest fundraiser for the church.

Stop by the Auction table after church to pick up a donor worksheet and learn more about the auction. It's time to eat, learn and laugh together. This year we have set our goal at **\$14,000!** It's time for each of us - and for each group that we are a part of - to think of a creative way to contribute! Donations of events, artwork, dinners, hikes, gift certificates, theme baskets, and culinary treats are welcomed!

Don't miss the date: The auction will be both on-line and in-person. **Virtual bidding will be from 4/15- 4/19.** The **in-person event will be on Sunday, April 21st** in the Parish Hall before and after church. Stay tuned for details.

Be a Donor: Deadline for donations is Sunday, April 7 th

Contact the Auction Team ASAP with your donation details: Juli Van Woert JVW61@aol.com and Andrea Burke-Harris aburkeharris@gmail.com.

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

**Chalice BUUffalo!
UUCB Tote Bags and T-shirts**



**Tote Bags available - \$15
Long (\$25) and short-sleeved (\$20) white t-shirts to
order.**

**Designed by Pete Sloan
Stop by the Auction Table**

Or e-mail aburkeharris@gmail.com or JVW61@aol.com

OUR CHURCH HISTORY

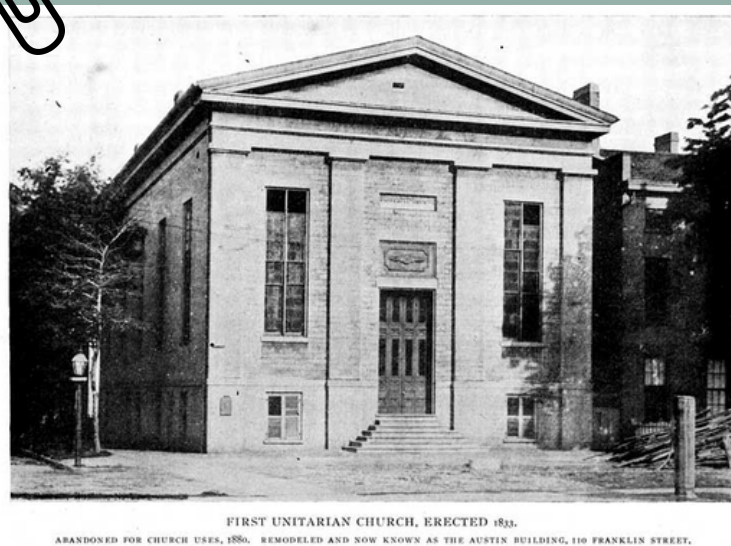
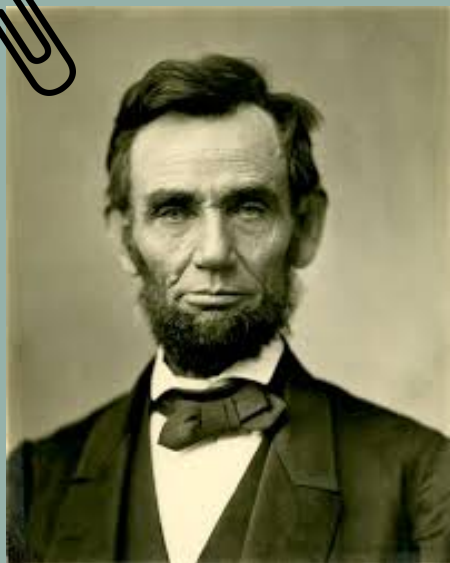
A popular way to assess our nation's leaders is to rate U.S. Presidents. A recent survey of historians and experts on the Presidency has rated Abraham Lincoln as the greatest U.S. President. The fact that Mr. Lincoln as President-Elect worshipped at our former church building, the First Unitarian Church at 110 Franklin St. in Buffalo, on February 17, 1861, en route to his inauguration is very special. It is even more notable when we consider that the building has been the focus of \$5+ million in renovations as part of the county's Covid response, and while doing the renovations, Erie County designated it as the "Lincoln Building."

To allow us to fully appreciate Mr. Lincoln's visit and this designation, a new exhibit has been put in place in the display case in the Parish Hall. The exhibit describes what happened during his visit and the history and changes to the building at 110 Franklin St., and includes a map of his train route, a sketch of the crowd greeting him upon his arrival in Buffalo, a copy of WNY Heritage magazine which features a mural depicting him giving a speech from the balcony of his hotel a day before attending our church service, and a contemporary newspaper account of his church visit.

Mr. Lincoln's First Inaugural Address in Washington, DC, on March 4, 1861, was just 16 days after he sat in the pew as a guest of former U.S. President Millard Fillmore at the First Unitarian Church at 110 Franklin St. in Buffalo. Amazing.

Prior to the most recent renovation, the building at 110 Franklin St. had experienced neglect but thanks to Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz's and the County Legislature's leadership, its rehab, new occupancy, and renaming, the building's future is secure and awareness of its high place in Western New York history is growing. I hope you'll visit the exhibit, and enjoy learning more about our Lincoln connection.

Bill Parke, Church Historian



Ongoing Activities

Pulpit Flowers

Come join the list of UU congregants who have shared beautiful floral arrangements at our Sunday services. We are so thankful to them for adding a touch of Nature's beauty, while honoring a loved one, or simply offering their generous support to make our space more inspiring.

For \$50, you can purchase flowers for our pulpit. You can take them home after the service, or donate them to a local hospital.

Please contact Sandra Bissontz email: smp1127@yahoo.com

Tuesday Morning Coffee Klatch

Paul Zanolli hosts a Tuesday Morning Coffee Klatch each week from 10am to 11am. Coffee and tea are available at the church. No program, no agenda, just a time to get together with good company.

Pastoral Care & Support Ministry Team

We are the Ministry Team that sends cards to members/friends who are experiencing joy, concern, or sorrow. We also write cards twice a year to members/friends who cannot attend service or social events for various reasons. Some of our members have moved to be closer to their families but enjoy receiving cards from UUCB. If you would enjoy being part of the team or would like more information contact Ginny Vaughan at wixsonsg@gmail.com.

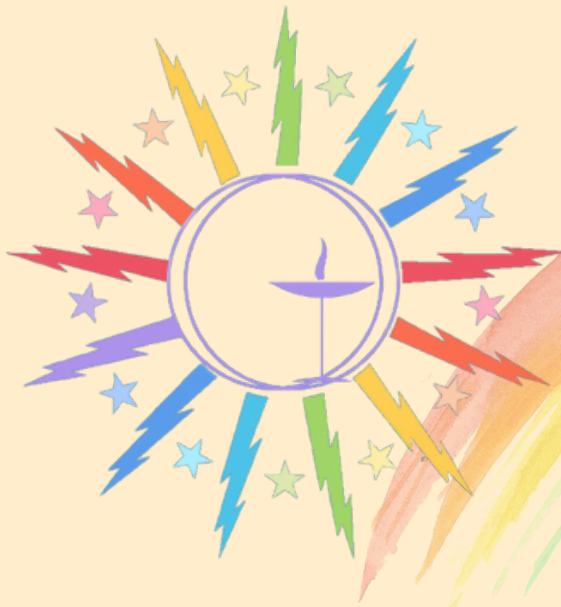
Gathering of Grievers

There is a Gathering of Grievers that meets regularly on the second Sunday of the month. We meet in the Marge Gardner Room (next to the kitchen) at noon. We welcome anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one because we know that grief needs to be shared. For more info, contact Bonnie Collins at 716-867-9628.

WBFO Promotion

If you think promoting UUCB through spot announcements on WBFO was a good idea, here's your chance to put your money where your opinions are. Last year, our promotions of Dido and Aeneas and Prayers for Peace ushered 100s of people into our space. Over the next month, we hope to run a new ad promoting both UUCB more generally and our musical offerings more specifically - highlighting the upcoming performances of Mozart's The Magic Flute. In addition to hosting the performances of the opera, we are also working in conjunction with Sotto Voce to extend the church's educational outreach by holding a free open dress rehearsal for local high school students. We hope that these ads will draw many people to our website and into our building to see that we are truly "the church of what's happening now." Mark your donations "WBFO Promotion" and all of WBFO's listening audience will hear what this church has to offer, thanks to your generosity.

**Check out the UUCB Calendar here for more at
www.buffalouu.org/calendar**



*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

Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Cathy Harrington
charrington@buffalouu.org

Office Manager

Jen Cunningham
jcunningham@buffalouu.org

Director of Religious Education

Jess Pond
jpond@buffalouu.org

Music Director

Dr. Jessie Downs
jdowns@buffalouu.org

Gatekeeper

Sara Kirkland
office@buffalouu.org

Finance Administrator

Donna Sentz
donnasentz@buffalouu.org

Pastoral Care & Support Network

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



Organist/Accompanist

Chris Sierzchula

A chalice alit since 1831

A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places