

Issue

August 2020

# The Foreword



**UU AMHERST**

*Fostering Justice  
and Compassion*

The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst  
6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221  
634-3010 (x101 for office)  
Office Hours Tues.—Fri. 9am to 2pm [www.uuamherst.org](http://www.uuamherst.org)

## Our Staff:

### Minister

Rev. Michelle Buhite  
Office.....x102  
[minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org)

### Ministerial Intern

Kristina Church Office.....x105  
[kristina@uuamherst.org](mailto:kristina@uuamherst.org)

### Director of Faith Development

Angela Warren  
Office.....x104  
[dfd@uuamherst.org](mailto:dfd@uuamherst.org)

### Music Director

Fran Landis  
[fland88@aol.com](mailto:fland88@aol.com)

### Caretaker

Chris Barry

### Finance Clerk

Camilla Lee.....x103  
[bookkeeper@uuamherst.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uuamherst.org)

### Office Administrator

Elaine Harrigan.....x101  
[administrator@uuamherst.org](mailto:administrator@uuamherst.org)

### Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

## SUNDAY SERVICES AUGUST AT 10:30 AM

Our Sunday services continue to be available online. Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and our channel (UU Amherst). A link is also available on our website. You can view the recorded service anytime on our YouTube channel. Invite friends and family to church! A Watch Party/Service/Coffee Hour takes place on Zoom at 10:30 am. Meeting information is sent out by email prior to each Sunday service to join.

### August 2 *The Egg* Dave Kofke

Many of us gladly practice self-denial for the sake of someone that we barely know. Can we harness this impulse to develop a true heartfelt sense of the inherent worth and dignity of every person?

**August 9 *Creativity and Transformation*** Rev. Renee Ruchotzke  
Congregational life can provide opportunities for growth and deepening as individuals and as communities. How might our congregation work faithfully to co-create such a community?

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke serves NE Ohio congregations as a part of our larger Unitarian Universalist Association. She is our primary contact with the UUA and the region. She serves as dean of the online UU Leadership Institute and is on the LeaderLab Design Team

### August 16 *When You Literally Can't Even* Rev. Michelle



### August 23 *Bless Us All* Rev. Michelle

Send in photos by 8/16 for a virtual animal and beloveds blessing service. Photos of beloved pets and people can be emailed to [minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org).

### August 30 *Our Work in the World* Rev. Michelle

What are we called to do as a community of faith?

## Our Covenant

*Together we promise:  
To gather in compassionate  
community,  
To celebrate diversity of thought and  
unity of spirit;  
And to seek wholeness for ourselves,  
our children, and our world.*

## MINISTER'S CORNER

Everybody knows one...

The people who are glad to be there for others, but would never ask for help.

The people with a sense of responsibility that goes well beyond anything they actually have control of.

The people who prefer to give than to receive.

We all know at least one of these people, and some of us ARE these people. I have been one, myself.



The past month for me has been a crash-course in vulnerability and acceptance. Overwhelmed with suddenly caring for a parent with severe dementia and making decisions for another parent with a life-threatening illness, my world was suddenly out of control. I felt completely alone.

But of course, I wasn't alone. My husband and daughter have been my rocks, sources of strength and understanding. Amid all the decisions to be made and the ocean of uncertainty, my little family was there - along with loving messages from extended family and friends.

In a time when I felt completely alone, I was, in truth, held in so much love. This church community, you, my friends, have been such a gift to me. Dropping off meals, sitting with my mom for a few hours to give me a break, and an outpouring of cards and emails with messages of love and support - so many demonstrations of love and care.

Over our five years together, we have woven not only a tapestry of mutual ministry, but a life together built on trust and compassion. I am so grateful to each of you for your wisdom, love, and generosity of spirit. Thank you for teaching me the beauty of receiving: "From you, I receive. To you, I give. Together we share, and from this we live." Let's begin our sixth year of ministry together with love and gratitude for all we have learned together.

With gratitude,

Rev. Michelle

### Help When You Need It

This is a reminder that if you are experiencing financial hardship, you can reach out to Rev. Michelle ([minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org)) for assistance from the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This Fund is made possible by the generosity of fellow congregants, and just one more way we demonstrate that no one is alone. We care for one another.

### MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

**Rev. Michelle plans to resume church-related duties on 8/15.**

Tuesday-Thursday  
Fridays, sermon writing @home  
Monday: Rev. Michelle's day off

### HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: [administrator@uuamherst.org](mailto:administrator@uuamherst.org)  
For Newsletter: by 10:00 am on the 16th  
For Order of Service: by 10:00 am Wed prior  
For Website: two weeks prior to event  
For all church list serve: daily during the week.  
For Weekly Update: Fridays by 10:00 am

### Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday—9:00 am to 2:00 pm

## BOARD REPORT

I hope this finds you all enjoying the sunshine and warmth of summer. It has been wonderful to feel the warmth of the sun's rays and to see neighborhood children riding bikes or to hear the joyful laughter and splashes from the swimming pools.

The Board was planning to have the month of July off before beginning our new duties. The best laid plans often are at the effect of external factors, like mother nature or a pandemic. We had to meet in late June and have had several email threads to handle things that have cropped up.



The first need was to develop the first stage of increasing our presence safely on church grounds. There were mixed signals with members showing up on church grounds and going into the building. Enclosed in this newsletter are the initial guidelines for outdoor and special use. Please read them so we are all on the same page. Safety is our primary goal.

At the same time, the board voted to purchase a fogger like those used by fire companies and ambulance services to sanitize.. Basically, it uses common, non-toxic ingredients approved by the EPA to sanitize surfaces. Hypochloric acid is produced with vinegar, salt and water through a mechanism that produces the acid. We will be able to create spray bottles for the bathrooms and kitchen areas that will hold potency for a week as well. In the long run, this investment will save us money (via low cost ingredients) and more importantly be environmentally friendly to use. Once we are ready to open, we will be well positioned to do so safely. Thank you to Don Tucker for his research and ordering on our behalf.

We have encountered a facilities issue where the heavy rain water flows into the day care through the low door near the playground. Although an ongoing issue, it has been especially difficult to manage recently. Chris Barry has been using a pump that he attends to when the water rises (usually in the wee hours of the morning). This is unsustainable. Chris Barry and Don Tucker met with a building inspector today. A contractor suggested building up a step and raising the door to stop the flow of water. No matter the outcome of their meeting, it is a problem that needs resolution.

The rains brought about another challenge. Outside the carriage house there is a manhole cover that fell into the hole and damaged the grinder that emulsifies raw, solid sewage to make sure that backups into the building do not occur. (Chris has followed up and the town has done a courtesy "blow out" of the clogged areas at town expense).

The board is in the process of putting together a team of medical professionals to create a long-term reopening plan. The UUA has suggested continuing with virtual services until 2021. We want to be proactive and base decisions on best practices and science. We will keep you informed as we travel this path together. Rev. Michelle has had a challenging summer. The board has extended her leave through mid-August so that she can attend to her family. In the short term, Rev. Renee Ruchotzke is our UUA support person which will allow Michelle to fully focus on her family needs. We have sermons through August 2<sup>nd</sup> and are working on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Renee will be available to help us navigate the new church year.

Our first official Board meeting is Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> via zoom at 7:00. If you would like to attend, please email me @ [kkuhn745@gmail.com](mailto:kkuhn745@gmail.com) so I can send you the link. The Board also has scheduled its retreat for August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Continued on page 4

Sometime in August, Kim Diana Connolly will be hosting an appreciative inquiry process regarding our music program. Appreciative Inquiry. Appreciate: 1. valuing; the act of recognizing the best in people or the world around us; affirming past and present strengths, successes, and potentials; to perceive those things that give life (health, vitality, excellence) to living systems. The second part of the process is to engage the stakeholders in self-determined change. If you would like more information, please google Appreciative Inquiry. There is a treasure trove of information.

Some exciting news is that our church has received four grants in two years for our Amherst Little Free Pantry. One of them was for \$1,700 from the Muslim Public Affairs council. The money had to be spent by July 31<sup>st</sup>. There is an abundance of food for our pantry users thanks to the generosity of our neighbors of the Muslim community and Maria Ceraulo's hard work. Chris Barry and Don Tucker have been unloading and organizing these purchases. Camilla and Elaine have been great support to the process.

While Rev. Michelle focuses on her family needs, please send any concerns or questions to Elaine in the church office or me @ [kkuhn745@gmail.com](mailto:kkuhn745@gmail.com). Enjoy the beautiful weather and stay connected to your church community through zoom, the villages, small get togethers, etc.

In shared faith,

Karen Thompson  
On behalf of the  
UCA Board of Trustees

---

## USE OF OUTDOOR SPACES

In July, the Board drafted a document outlining standards for use of outdoor spaces by church members. Following are the guidelines that members are being asked to adhere to until further notice:

### Stage 1: Outdoor Use of UU Amherst Grounds by Groups/Teams of UUCA

As part of a staged re-opening, the board has implemented the following standards to maintain the health and safety of the congregation and the day care.

- The convener (church member) of the meeting must sign up for an outdoor space through the church office at 716-634-3010 at least 2 days prior to the meeting, **Note: Office hours are Tues–Friday, 9:00 am–2:00 pm.** Please plan ahead as summer hours may be erratic.
- The convener is responsible for the group and must make sure that the attendees follow these guidelines.
- **Group size:** must be within the current NYS/CDC guidelines.
- Social distancing is in effect (no closer than 6 feet).
- Masks are encouraged on church property, and if social distancing is not possible, their use is mandatory.
- Chairs will not be provided by the church. We cannot guarantee that they are disinfected. People will need to bring their own chairs for their meeting.
- No one may enter the building. The restrooms are not available.

#### Stage 1: Exception: Authorized people

**Authorized People** are those who have come for church business i.e., (Board members, pantry volunteers, team chairs who come in for mail, etc.). This includes those that have a key or code to enter the building. It is your responsibility to not share it with others or use it to allow others into the building who are not there for essential church business.

There is a sign-in log book at each entrance. Please fill out each time you enter. This will help assist with contact tracing should it be needed.

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Dear members and friends,

The summer has been more than typically church slow, but we have had some happenings in UUCA Faith Development!

We are so very grateful to our Preaching by Parishioners Practitioners to have included such meaningful Time for All Ages segments into their services. Thank you Joe, Jerry, Chris, Yvonne, and all upcoming PXP people for being open and inclusive to our littlest souls. It seems this part is really valuable to all, even in our virtual space.

On August 8th, Spirit Play leaders will participate in an online program discussion Spirit Play in the pandemic. If you are interested in being part of Spirit Play as a storyteller or doorkeeper, or if you are a parent who is curious, please let me know and I will send the link.

Our Youth Group took a break, but will begin to discuss the direction of our church year on August 9th.

Unfortunately, our Goat Festival originally scheduled for August 22 and 23 must be postponed until next year, but be assured there will always be enough weeds for them to eat!

Our Faith Development virtual retreat will be later than the first weekend in August. Details will come via All Church listserv when the dates and times are solidified.

Perhaps the most momentous development in our education as a congregation during this time is that we have 10 folks signed up and actively participating in American Friends Service Committee's program Radical Acting in Faith for White People. This program aims to challenge us to really see and feel how systemic racism has shaped our culture and ourselves. This is important and difficult work for everyone, and always has been. To be part of the momentum at this critical time in history is critical, and are grateful to be engaged together, to learn how to listen to Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and ask leaders in those spaces, "What can we do to help in your liberation?" Thanks to all our UUCA participants, and to our Racial Justice force of Scott Harrigan, Hella Jacob, and Ivy Yapelli who started us on the right path, and to Kristina Church for reigniting our flame!

Truly yours,

Angela



Courtesy of Unitarian Universalist Anti-Hysterical Society Coffee Hour Group on Facebook

### Don't forget to call your minister!

With health privacy laws, hospitals no longer call churches to let us know when someone has been hospitalized – so it is up to you to contact us if you or someone you know is experiencing health challenges and may want to be contacted. When in doubt, call!

## GOOGLE CALENDAR

**PLEASE NOTE:** Starting September 27th, all Zoom meetings scheduled in the UU Amherst room (or any paid account) must assign a passcode. For any group that is using the Zadmin meeting room, you will receive a new invitation that includes the passcode from the Office Administrator. Individual members using their own Zoom accounts will not require passcodes. Zoom links are provided by group hosts via email. **If you want to join a Zoom meeting and haven't received a link, please contact the meeting host.**

### Sunday, August 9

**12:00 pm:** Poetry as Practice, D. Bofinger

### Monday, August 24

**7:00 pm:** FD Team Meeting Zfd

### Sunday, August 30

**12:00 pm:** UU Amherst Book Group\* Zadmin

\*Passcode required

## Recurring:

### Sundays, August 2-30 weekly

**10:30:** Online Church service

(join via UUAmherst website link or UU Amherst YouTube channel)

**10:30 am:** Watch Party/Service/Coffee Hour - Zoom

**1:00 pm:** Youth Group Zfd

**2:00 pm:** Red Bud 5 (weekly) K. Thompson

### Mondays, August 3-31

**3:30 pm:** Marvelous Maples (8/3, 8/17 & 8/31) D. Bofinger

**7:30 pm:** Marvelous Maples (8/10 & 8/24) D. Bofinger

### Tuesdays, August 4-25

**12:30 pm** Women's Group Zadmin (weekly)

### Wednesdays, August 5 -26

**11:00 am:** Willow Village (8/5 & 8/19) J. Senders

**11:30 am:** Northtowns Village Zadmin (weekly) Y. Stocker

**6:30 pm:** Cucumber Magnolia Zadmin (8/5 & 8/19)

J. Rautenstrauch

### Thursdays, August 6-27

**12:00 pm:** Lunch with Friends Zadmin (weekly)

### Saturdays, August 1-29

**7:00 pm:** Birch Bunch Zadmin (weekly) M. Ceraulo & Virginia Snider

## Google Members' Directory

The UU Amherst Directory can be found in a shared folder on Google. You do not need a Google account to access! If you did not receive an email invitation to view the directory, or need the link, please let Elaine know by phone or email. If you discover an error, or need to update your information, send an email to administrator@uuamherst.org or call the office at 634-3010. If you would prefer not to have your contact information visible in the Google shared directory, please let Elaine know and it can be removed.

## Visitor Sign-In

UU Amherst has adopted a new visitor sign-in procedure to aid in contact tracing should the need arise. Everyone entering the building is asked to sign-in with the date and time (excluding staff). There is a binder for signing in located at each entrance. Please be sure to read the COVID questionnaire that is contained in the binder (do not write on it). If you have any of the symptoms on the questionnaire, we request that you not enter the building at this time. Then sign in the log book. In the event of COVID exposure to anyone who uses the church, we will be able to assist with contact tracing. It is a matter of health and safety.



## NOTES FROM THE VILLAGES

Here is a glance at what our village groups have been up to. Thanks to our facilitators for keeping us connected! Our facilitators will meet sometime this month with date and time to be determined. If you have ideas for your village, contact your facilitator. If you have ideas for how to increase activity in general, let Angela or Reverend Michelle know and we can bring it to the leadership. Thanks, wonderful UU Amherst members and friends!

Willow Village meets every other week on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., and is facilitated by Jackie Senders. We usually have about 5 participants. Medical appointments take a toll on our attendees. We have a short "check in" time at the beginning, and then branch off into topics of interest. Turns out many of us are a good resource for information on what to see and where to go in this area. It's also nice to commiserate about the crazy times we are living through...I'm sure the group would be happy to meet jointly with another village sometime. Most of us are not too crazy about evening meetings. - Jackie Senders

The Marvelous Maples meet via Zoom every Monday, alternating the time between 3:30 & 7:30 pm. Monday 7/27 we met in person in a reception room with adjoining patio at Fayebrook where one of our members lives. We have 5 regular participants including Ron and I. - Diane Bofinger

Sassafras Sassies meet every other Monday evening with a faithful core group talking about a wide range of topics, along with much laughter! I have to call one member with an update. Otherwise, I send out an email meeting summary. - Barb Brooks

Birch Bunch meets every Saturday at 7:00 pm. We have a dedicated core group of 11 who discuss a wide range of topics and enjoy each other's (virtual) company. - Maria Ceraulo and Virginia Snider

Red Bud 5 had been meeting weekly. As things have opened and the weather has been awesome, Sunday afternoons turned out to be a challenge. We have since reduced meetings to twice monthly including a weeknight and one Sunday until outdoor activities become less inviting. Our best attended meeting was an in-person gathering at the Thompsons with pizza and beverages on the deck. One of our members has been in rehab and village members have been reaching out in support. - Karen Thompson

The combined Cheektowaga/Williamsville group took a brief pause from Zoom the last two weeks of July due to lack of participants -- a couple of our members migrated. Others are just too busy!!! Those that are left would like to meet with others to generate livelier conversations. Also, one of our members was wondering if there would be a way to do a music/poetry "cafe" where people got together to sing a song, share music, read a poem... via zoom or socially distancing on the patio at the church. - Lauraine Marcus

Sage Circle meets every 2 - 3 weeks at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. About 8 attend; some are consistent and some vacillate. For those not willing or able to participate, responsibility for checking in on a monthly basis is shared among the other members. - Suzanne Christ

Village 11 facilitated by Joe Rautenstrauch has chosen the "hardest of all the Magnolias," the Cucumber Magnolia as their name. They meet every other Wednesday at 6:30 pm. - Joe Rautenstrauch

Northtowns have had 5 or 6 Zoom gatherings. At first they lasted 30 minutes but this week and last I had to call an end after more than an hour. We have had wide ranging discussions - disease (of course) and how to stay well. We also have discussed transportation - car ownership, self driving vehicles, and light rail. Villages bring a new dimension to UUAmherst. We regularly have 5-7 folks. - Yvonne Stocker

Serviceberry Buddies have not met since mid June. Our participation has been slight even though we are a combination of two original groups. Our group is comprised of very busy people who certainly haven't slowed down over the summer. - Cheryl Tomasulo and Angela Warren

The Lighthearted Larches meets alternate Mondays at 7 pm via zoom. Our next zoom meeting is Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We did have a face-to-face meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> on my deck. Appetizers & cocktails were served, and it was a beautiful, warm night and enjoyable company. - Dian Tucker

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER RECIPES Provided by Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham

Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham are sisters and dedicated members of our Caring For One Another group. They provide occasional meals to church members on an as-needed basis. With the meal they generally include a “goodie bag” and a card on behalf of the Caring Group. They often submit healthy recipes for the monthly *Foreword*. The recipes are easy and usually use fresh vegetables. In the past these have included vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and ethnic recipes. Many members have expressed their appreciation both for the meals and the recipes they have provided.

With the farmers’ gardens exploding with vegetables we need to take advantage of all the yummy goodness. These are two recipes that can be vegetarian, vegan and/or gluten free with very minor adjustments. They are good any time of year but particularly good now that the farmers’ markets are so full of fresh local vegetables. Each recipe can be a complete meal or a side to your choice of protein.

### Beans and Greens

1 1/2 lbs of fresh greens ( we used a combination of collards and dandelions but any greens will do)  
1 medium onion sliced into half moons  
1 clove garlic minced  
2 Tbsp olive oil  
1 cup broth ( chicken or vegetable)  
2 15 oz cans of beans (cannelloni, great northern, garbanzo or any combination) drained  
1 tsp dried thyme  
Salt



Trim the greens of woody stalks and chop the leaves in ribbons. Heat oil in a large pan. Sauté onion for one minute on medium heat. Add garlic and sauté for another 30 seconds. Add the chopped greens and sauté until wilted. Add the stock, 1 tsp salt And thyme and cover and cook on low for 45 minutes to 2 hours depending on how soft you want the greens. Add the beans of your choice and heat thoroughly. Serve with your choice of bread.

### Pasta with Vegetables

1 lb of elbow macaroni, rigatoni or similar pasta  
2 cups of chopped or cubed fresh vegetables (zucchini, yellow squash, kale, spinach, asparagus, green peas or sugar snaps, bell pepper or any combination of vegetables you like)  
3 Tbsp olive oil plus additional oil for drizzling  
2 cloves garlic minced  
1 cup stock  
Salt  
Parmesan cheese  
Red pepper flakes ( optional)

Sauté the garlic in olive oil for 30 seconds on medium heat. Add the prepared vegetables, season with salt and sauté vegetables on medium heat to your desired level of doneness. Set aside. In the meantime have a large pot of water boiling. Cook the pasta according to the package directions drain, and return to the pot. Add the vegetables and stock and heat thoroughly. Pour into a serving dish and drizzle a little olive oil over the mixture, if desired. Serve with Parmesan cheese and red pepper flakes on the side. This is also an excellent cold salad the next day, served on shredded romaine lettuce.



## AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

We are pleased to tell you that the Amherst Little Free Pantry received a \$1,000 grant from Jolly Boys of Williamsville (a local civic organization). Kudos to Angela Warren, Director of Faith Development, for her assistance.

We are grateful to so many members of UUCA and Congregation Havurah for making financial and food contributions. We greatly appreciate your continued support as the Pantry is busier than ever.

Although the church remains closed, the Pantry remains open and has become a vital community resource.

Food donations can be left in the two large green bins in the back of the church outside by the back door for contact free drop off.

Financial contributions can be made online at the church website, [uamherst.org](http://uamherst.org) and click the Donate button. Be sure to select Pantry for your donation, which is one of the options.

Checks can also be sent to UUCA, 6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221 and write "Pantry" in the Memo line.

Here is what the Pantry especially needs this month:

BREAKFAST ITEMS, including cereal, milk (powdered, shelf-stable, or canned), protein or granola bars, pancake mix and syrup, protein drinks like Boost - also coffee, tea, hot chocolate packets; BAKING staples like flour, sugar, oil, baking mixes; BEVERAGES of all kinds (specifically requested by the pantry user who came by while I was there) including drink boxes, coffee and hot chocolate; BEANS—especially baked or refried; FRUIT (applesauce, fruit cocktail, or fruit slices - in pouches, canned, or individual-serving cups) ; CANNED MEATS other than tuna; RAMEN, CANNED VEGETABLES ,RICE, especially "instant" side dishes; CONDIMENTS - ie ketchup and mustard, either full size or "to-go" packets, including sweeteners; TOILETRIES - full or travel size, including dental floss, but especially shampoo, deodorant, and incontinence pads; CLEANING SUPPLIES, especially dish and laundry soaps; INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED UTENSILS, especially spoons; CANNED PET FOOD.

For questions or comments please contact Maria Ceraulo at [amherstlittlefreepantry@uamherst.org](mailto:amherstlittlefreepantry@uamherst.org). Like us on Facebook: [amherstlittlefreepantry](https://www.facebook.com/amherstlittlefreepantry).



---

# WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE  
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH

## SPECIAL INTEREST

The Chautauqua Assembly continues through August with a full schedule of chaplains offering daily services, guest lectures on weekly topics, interfaith lectures, and arts programming. In order to access the programs, you must sign-up for a subscription at [assembly.chq.org](http://assembly.chq.org).

First step is to create an account at [my.chq.org](http://my.chq.org). Once your account is created, click on CHQ ASSEMBLY where you can start your free trial. You must enter a credit card, but you are not charged unless you don't cancel by September 20th.



### August Themes & Chaplains

For daily speakers and topics, visit [assembly.chq.org](http://assembly.chq.org) and click on Schedule.

#### Week Six: August 1-8 Rebuilding Public Education

##### Interfaith Lecture Theme: Lessons in the Schoolhouse

In this week we will look at the importance of teaching both religious cultural literacy (as opposed to religion) as well as ethical literacy in our public schools for the purpose of creating an ethically and culturally-informed citizenry.

**Chaplain of the Week:** The Reverend Dr. Leslie D. Callahan, first female pastor to serve at the historic St. Paul's Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

#### Week Seven: August 8-15 The Science of Us

##### Interfaith Lecture Theme: The Spirituality of Us

In the midst of concerns about tribalism, isolation, and seemingly incompatible cultural world views, the spirit of the world's traditions — East, West, indigenous, and divined — continues to communicate essential wisdom and to weave tapestries of spiritual truth that reveal the "Us" of the world's varieties of peoples. Be with us this week as we uncover emanations of the wondrous and mysterious wholeness that we in the U.S. are meant to be.

**Chaplains of the Week:** Rev. Dr. Robert Baggott and Rev. Dr. Casey Baggott serve the Community Church of Vero Beach, FL.

**\*\*Special Lecture Event: Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor, Monday, August 10, 2:00 pm.** Barbara Brown Taylor is a *New York Times* best-selling author, teacher, and Episcopal priest.

#### Week Eight: August 15–22 Reframing the Constitution

##### Interfaith Lecture Theme: Reframing Our Journey — A Week with Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

##### Daily at 2:00 pm

A Franciscan mystic, theologian, and movement-maker, and author of more than 30 books, Fr. Richard spoke to overwhelming crowds at Chautauqua in 2020 (I was there!). I encourage you to mark you calendar to join Fr. Richard's lectures this week—your mind, heart, and spirit will be lifted! —Elaine Harrigan, UU Amherst Office Administrator.

##### Chaplain of the Week: Sunday service at 10:45 am and daily sermon at 9:15 am

**Brian D. McLaren** is a best-selling author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" — just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good.

Continued on next page

## Week Nine: August 22–29 The Future We Want; The World We Need: Collective Action for Tomorrow's Challenges

### Interfaith Lecture Theme: The Future We Want, The World We Need

In a constantly evolving world, what needs to change, what can change, and what do we and all peoples actually need – not only to survive, but to sustain life and to thrive? In this week, we will ask these humanitarian questions and more: questions that make us think; questions that trigger other questions. Please come and be part of the conversation.

**Chaplain of the Week:** Pastor Ben Cachiaras has served since 1997 as Lead Pastor with Mountain Christian Church located on the outer reaches of Baltimore, Maryland.

---

## BOOKS FOR DISCUSSING RACISM

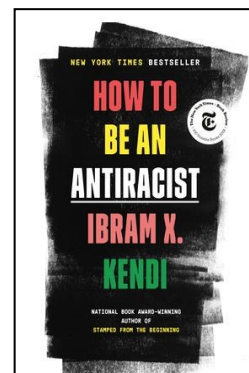
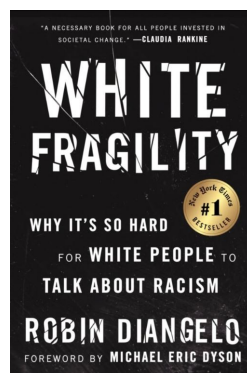
As the topic becomes more vital across the country, several online booksellers have compiled recommended books to address the issues of systemic racism in America. Below are a few links to help in researching the topic where you can read summaries.

A statement on the Powell Books website provides some context:

*No movement in recent history has exposed persistent civil rights violations the way **Black Lives Matter** has. In the words of its founders, "Black Lives Matter is an ideological and political intervention in a world where Black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise." At its core, "The Black Lives Matter Network advocates for dignity, justice, and respect." These basic human rights are always worth fighting for, and now more than ever, it's important to stay informed.*

<https://www.booktable.net/black-lives-matter-reading-list>

<https://www.powells.com/post/lists/black-lives-matter-recommended-reading>



---

## CONTRIBUTING TO UU AMHERST THROUGH E-GIVING

As we travel through this challenging time we invent and discover new ways to do what was traditional and simple; some things continue unabated. The expenses of supporting our beloved church continue. Our services and many programs continue in new ways supported by our incredible technology. So also our way of "passing the plate", "gathering our pledges" and so on now includes previously unexploited technologies.

The church has implemented **THREE** ways to give electronically:

1. The **Giving** option on the church website (uamherst.org)
2. A NEW phone app "**GivePlus+**" for your phone
3. Texting a donation to phone # **833 987 1968**  
These methods complement the traditional methods:
4. Mailing a check [remember to fill in the Memo]
5. There is the traditional Sunday Plate - when you are in church!
6. Don't forget Legacy Giving – in your will

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have not sent in a pledge card because you are not leaving the house to mail one, or you're not comfortable emailing, you can call the Office at 716-634-3010.



**UU AMHERST**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF AMHERST

*Fostering Justice and Compassion*

6320 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
634-3010  
[www.uuamherst.org](http://www.uuamherst.org)

