

Issue

November 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:

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[administrator@uuamherst.org](mailto:administrator@uuamherst.org)

### Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

## SUNDAY SERVICES NOVEMBER AT 10:30 AM

Our Sunday services continue to be available online. Go to 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.

### November 1 A Healing Sanctuary Rev. Michelle

The cumulative effects of nine months of pandemic isolation can be debilitating. Come into our virtual healing sanctuary, our shared presence to find strength and beauty for the days ahead.

### November 8 What Just Happened? Rev. Michelle

On this Sunday following the national election, we pause to take stock and heal our hearts.

### November 15 A House Divided Cannot Stand: Plea Towards Restoration and Reconciliation Rev. Dr. Scott Theodore Mulder

Along every facet of American society, we are beset against ourselves. Along every battlefield, our highest aspirations are challenged by our worst instincts. This endless strife is the defining moral and spiritual struggle of our times. As we prepare for the post-election world, let us look to our principles for guidance, in the hopes that we may yet build a better world for the generations to come. (see bio on page 2)

### November 22 With Grateful Hearts Rev. Michelle & Friends

The cycle of the seasons continues, and we enter the time of shared gratitude as we lift up the many blessings in our lives.

### November 29 The Space Between Stories Rev. Michelle

Thanksgiving is over, Advent is yet to come. We are in the liminal space between stories. The 'space between' can be rich with insights and possibilities. What is unfolding in *your* in-between?

## 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

And just like that, autumn is winding down. The colors are fading and the air carries a new chill. Summer stretches on and winter can feel endless, but autumn and spring, the transitional seasons, feel so fleeting. Already I miss the angle of the sun and dappled light of October. So much of my experience of the sacred takes place in the in-between, the liminal space of my life - the shift to pre-winter and winter is a hard one for me.



And yet, this year, this season brings the promise of joy and new life as my spouse and I await the birth of our granddaughters, twins! We are in the liminal space of waiting... stay put, littles! Come soon! But not too soon! Ah, the mystery of the in-between, the not-yet-here.

May this season be not just a transition from one thing to another, but a time apart, a sacred space for introspection and anticipation. May we open ourselves to the unknown and unknowable, to the potential for light and life and healing in our various circumstances. May we know the blessing of in-between.

Be well,  
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.

### 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! Rev. Michelle can be reached on her cell at 716-499-8343.

### MINISTER'S HOURS\*

\*Rev. Michelle is currently working primarily from home. Please contact her by email if you have a question. [minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org).

Tuesday-Thursday  
Monday: Writing  
Friday: 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

### Administrator/Office Hours:

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

(From Page 1)

**Rev. Dr. Scott Theodore Mulder** (They/Them/Theirs) was a long standing member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, before moving to Denver to attend Iliff School of Theology. Following a year serving as intern minister at the UU Fellowship in Boca Raton, Scott has recently returned home to Western New York, and is delighted to be returning as a guest to the UUCA pulpit once again.

Scott holds an MDiv from Iliff School of Theology, a PhD in Leadership and Policy Studies from Niagara University, and a Masters in Organizational Leadership from Medaille College. Scott was ordained through the Universal Life Church.

## BOARD REPORT

This was the view of Lake Ontario on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a rainy day and the water was choppy. I have never seen the Canadian geese in rough water. It seemed like a metaphor of COVID times... When the waters are rough, we do better together. Nature knows best and shows us how to weather these stormy times...together.



You would think that the Board of Trustees would have less to do during a pandemic and church closed. Not so. The BOT met with the Governance Committees: Finance, Facilities, Personnel, Nominating and Leadership and Committee on Mission. We plan to meet quarterly to support their important work.

Foci 1: **The Green Team:** led by Jeanine Moyer, Laurie Kasnicki and Wendy Scott (BoT): The primary goal is to recertify as a green sanctuary. The process is well under way. Brainstorming and planning how to use the church's green space to benefit the church and the wider community and follow up by implementing those projects is in process. **The Leaders of this initiative need help.** If this is an interest area, please contact the lead folks mentioned above.

Foci 2: **Sign:** led by Emily Garrett and Scott Harrigan. June is the target to have a plan and contract in place. We have visited this project once before. Now is the time to bring it to fruition. **Please consider joining this team in their important work.** Let's get visible in the community and with that these leaders need you!

Foci 3: **Facilities:** led by Don Tucker, Wendy Scott and Scott Harrigan. This important work was interrupted by COVID and church closing. By January, we hope to have an architect selected that will spend the next six months working with the congregation; potentially through Zoom and the villages. You need not have special talents, just an interest and willingness to share viewpoints to help sculpt the church's future. This is the most needed area as we have facilities issues that have been band-aided for years. **This team needs you!**

All of these foci touch one another. So, no matter what your interest, it will take all of us working together to bring all of these seemingly separate areas to fruition.

Music is currently in flux. The BoT is exploring some creative possibilities that align with our church mission; so, stay tuned! Exciting times lie ahead! In the near term, we will be hiring musicians on a per diem basis.

The BoT approved the purchase of UV-C air purifiers to be installed in the bathrooms so that outdoor activities (gardening, youth meetings in the nature preserve, etc.) have bathroom access. This is in process.

An initiative I am exploring in recognition of parents and school age kids being highly stressed with asynchronous and synchronous learning, I have touched base with former teachers to elicit support. One of the new challenges is that there needs to be a second adult on zoom per UUA guidelines for child and adult safety. In the short term, if you need support, please contact those below and we will work on creating a second adult or perhaps the parent or other adult could just hang out in the background with a good book.

Here is where we are so far and thank you for your willingness to be in service!:

Marlana Rice	Math gr. 7- pre calculus	Zoom, FaceTime
Maggie Andrews	HS Eng. SS French	in person or phone
Sue Dubill	N-5 any subject	email help desk
Betty Crump	Stress reduction/life skills/counselling	Zoom
John Thompson	Chemistry, biology	Zoom
Karen Thompson	N-5 any subject, HS bio, ms gen sci	in person, Zoom
Les Buhite	Middle, high Social Studies, English	in person, Zoom

continued on page 4

## Board report con'td

Please, stay connected and involved with the church community (the service on Zoom, covenant groups, Zoom lunches, women's group, the villages and whatever new adventures form). We have much to be grateful for and have many good works to do.

As the holiday season approaches, I, on the behalf of the Board, would like to ask:

“How can we, as church leaders, best support you?”

“Do you have ideas on how we can make these challenging times better for our church community?”

“Do you have ideas on how congregants can better connect to one another?”

“Do you know of anyone who will be alone for the holidays?” Let us know who they are, please.

“Would you like to do Zoom crafts or other activities together?”

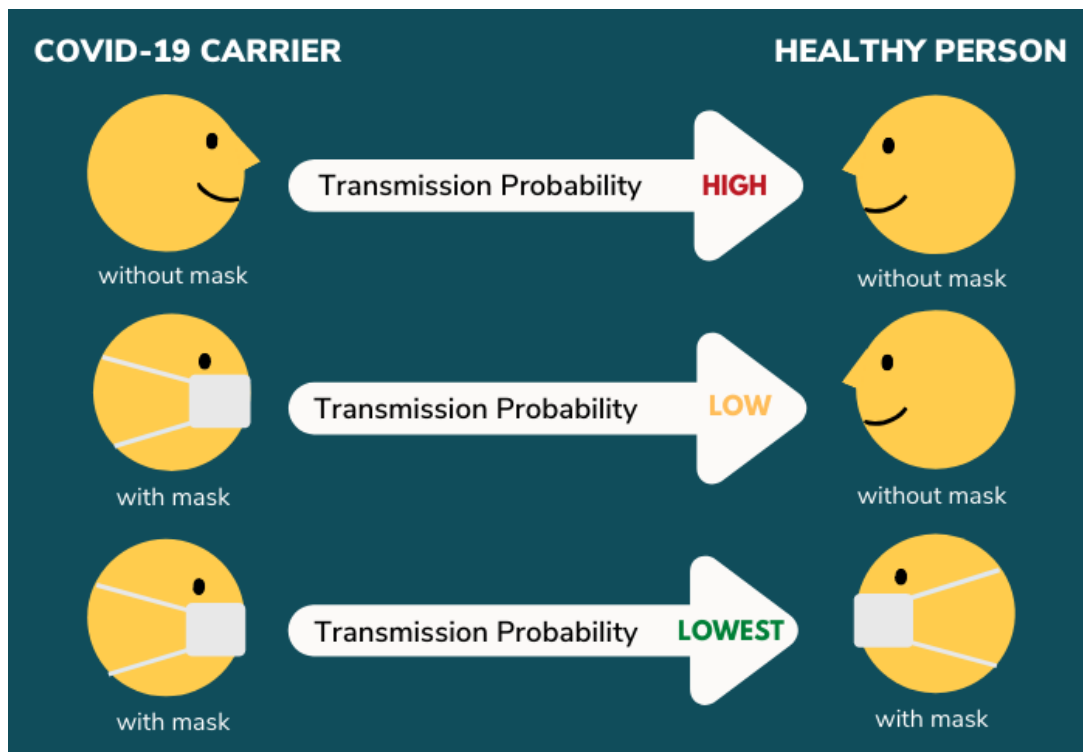
“What ideas would you like us to know?”

“How can we support families with school age children weather these uncertain and stressful times?”

I'd love to hear your thoughts. Please, email me at: [kkuhn745@gmail.com](mailto:kkuhn745@gmail.com).

With gratitude for this amazing community,  
On behalf of the Board of Trustees,  
Karen K. Thompson

## A “stay safe” reminder...





## GOOGLE CALENDAR

**PLEASE NOTE:** For any group that is using the Zadmin meeting room, you are now required to use a passcode. 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.**

**\*requires passcode**

### **Sunday, November 8**

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

### **Thursday, November 19**

**7:00 pm:** Ministry Council Zrev

### **Sunday, November 29**

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

### **RECURRING:**

**\*requires pass code**

### **Sundays, November 1-29 weekly**

**10:30:** Online Church service

(join via UUAmerst 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 ( 11/8) K. Thompson

### **Mondays, November 2-30**

**7:00 pm:** Lighthearted Larches (11/9 & 11/23) D. Tucker

**7:00 pm:** Tulip Crabapple Zadmin (weekly) L. Marcus\*

**7:30 pm:** Marvelous Maples (11/9 & 11/23) D. Bofinger

### **Tuesdays, November 3-24**

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

### **Wednesdays, November 4-25**

**10:15 am:** Willow Village Zadmin\* (11/11 & 11/25)

J. Senders

**6:30 pm:** Cucumber Magnolia Zadmin (11/11 & 11/25)\*

J. Rautenstrauch

**7:00 pm:** Sage Circle Zfd (11/11 & 11/25)\*

**7:00 pm:** Red Bud 5 (11/25) K. Thompson

**7:00 pm:** Northtowns Village Zadmin (11/18) Y. Stocker\*

### **Thursdays, November 5-26**

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

### **Saturdays, November 7-28**

**9:30 am:** Shared Caring Circle (weekly) Zrev Rev. Michelle\*

**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](mailto: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.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

John Thompson

We'd like to update you all: On the balance sheets, we are on target with our projections provided that people are paying on their pledges regularly. We budgeted on the low end for plate collection, anticipating we would be back sooner. We are nearly 20% below our projected income in this area. Currently, we are only at 9% for the year which amounts to \$247. It would be helpful if you would consider giving on Sunday services through either the website or the text number during the service. On a good note, we anticipate being a little ahead on rental projections because Congregation Haverah has been paying their rent even though they are not meeting in person. We are most grateful for their partnership.



We are looking ahead to the Generosity Appeal (formerly Canvas, Pledge Drive, Stewardship Campaign). The Finance Committee will be acting as leads on this important work AND we need your help. We are seeking volunteers now, and the actual work will begin in late January or early February and last about six weeks. If you are interested in being part of a team and being supported in developing skills while doing great work for our beloved community, please let us know! Here are the Generosity Appeal's anticipated needs: A Gratitude Team to write thank you notes, A Calling Team that will check in with church friends, see how they are doing and ask for their pledge for the 21-22 church year, and Accountability Team that tracks the pledges and makes sure we are accurate in our accounting, A Major Donor Team to meet with those members who contribute significantly and represent nearly half the budget. If you have questions, please contact John Thompson.

Thank you, we look forward to hearing from you and working with you for the benefit of our beloved community.

In shared faith,  
John Thompson  
On behalf of the UUCA Finance Committee

## ENDOWMENT TRUST REPORT

While we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, the stock market has rebounded, with our fund regaining most of the value lost earlier in the year. We had fallen as low as \$846,040.65 at the end of March. As of our meeting October 20, the portfolio balance is \$983,565.81, and the performance yield for the year (-0.39%) is approaching positive numbers again (up from -13.18%). Our investment strategy remains 50/50 stock to bond ratio and we are staying the course.

Remember that you can contribute effortlessly to UU Amherst's Endowment Trust when you shop online at Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com/>). Choose Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst Endowment Trust as the organization you want to support, then just order as you usually would. It costs you nothing extra, but generates a donation for us, of 0.5% of your purchases. That doesn't seem like much, but it adds up! During 2019, the Endowment received over \$39.00 from Amazon.

-Marie Evans, Chair, for the Endowment Trustees (Jerry Kent, Joe Rautenstrauch, Elaine Cusker, and Lauraine Marcus)

**"It's Gettin' Chilly" Virtual Chili Cookoff & Cocktail Party**  
**All Village Get Together**  
**November 22 start time 4:00 pm**



Bills Bye week is Sunday, November 22nd, and your Village facilitators thought we would throw you a little party! Start time will be 4:00 pm. Watch for more details in subsequent *Weekly Updates!*



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## **UU AMHERST BOOK CLUB & THEATER**

—Marie Evans

**UU Amherst Virtual Book Club** (last Sundays at noon) will meet via Zoom on November 29. You may join our discussion even if you haven't "done the reading." We'll possibly be choosing another topic for December.

### **UU Amherst Theater Lovers**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we won't be doing any outings for the foreseeable future, but there are opportunities to enjoy the Buffalo theater scene, mostly on-line. Here are highlights, in chronological order. Check each company's website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page for more information.

**Ujima Company** - #ArtThatHeals: Black Lives Matter, and #LornaCHillLove - on their YouTube page, [bit.ly/ujimacoyoutube](https://bit.ly/ujimacoyoutube)

**Lancaster Opera House** is broadcasting weekly "**Sunday Brunch**" on WEBR Radio, AM 1440, at noon each week. It's a mix of theater discussion, themed retrospectives, and monthly productions of radio dramas and original musicals. You can listen to prior episodes from their website: <http://lancasteropera.org/>

**Kavinoky Theatre** <http://www.kavinokytheatre.com/season/> has digital programming -

**AVAILABLE NOW... JOHN FREDO & GEORGE CALDWELL** - Two of Buffalo's powerhouse performers talk about their careers and their music.



*I'll Eat You Last: A Chat with Sue Mengers* by John Logan, a one-woman theatrical show. November 6th - December 6th, 2020.

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## UU Amherst Book & Theater con't

**Irish Classical Theatre Company** is producing "**Sea Marks**," <https://irishclassical.com/sea-marks/>, which will be available for online purchase October 16 to November 1.

**Shea's Performing Arts Center** is one of a select group of theaters participating in a three-part virtual concert series, **Live from the West Side: Women of Broadway** featuring Laura Benanti on November 14, and Vanessa Williams on December 5. All tickets are available on their website and include access to each livestream performance, plus an additional 72 hours of on-demand viewing of a video recording. <https://www.sheas.org/performances/live-from-the-west-side-women-of-broadway/>

**Road Less Traveled** is producing **Buffalo Rises 2.0: Six 10-Minute Radio Plays** by six Buffalo Playwrights. Plays by Donna Hoke\*, Darryl Schneider\*, Mary McLaughlin, Diane Jones\*, Sean Cullen and Gary Earl Ross. Radio Plays will be released twice per week, Mondays & Thursdays, beginning November 2 through November 23. Buffalo Rises 2.0 radio plays package may be purchased at any time, prior to or after the start of the first play release. <https://www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org/buffalo-rises-20>

**Jewish Repertory Theatre's** virtual season begins November 5, and will feature five staged readings, available as online video for 21-days each. Subscriptions and single tickets are available ([jewishrepertorytheatre.com](http://jewishrepertorytheatre.com)).

**Alleyway** is presenting a **Digital Theatre Festival**, streaming live and on-demand November 6-22. There will be Eight world premiere plays. Your favorite Buffalo actors will join with some of Broadway's biggest names to present these new works from playwrights around the country, all produced right here at the Alleyway. Tickets for all performances are available individually for \$15. A Festival Pass is available for \$60 to see all the performances. Details at <https://www.alleyway.com/shows/2020-2021/digital-theatre-festival/festival>.

**Musicalfare** has been continuously producing Live Stream events. Follow them on Facebook or Twitter, or visit the website [musicalfare.com](http://musicalfare.com) for upcoming shows. You may view FREE videos of previously recorded shows at <https://www.youtube.com/user/MusicalFare/videos>.

**O'Connell & Co.** will be streaming "Tea for Three" from the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site at 7:30 pm on November 6, 7, 8. These are monologues of outgoing First Ladies Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford, having tea with the incoming First Lady. Run time is about an hour and a half. Make reservations at <https://oconnellandcompany.com>. Price is \$25 per household. They will send an email link will be sent within an hour of performance time.

Did you know **Theater Talk** has a vibrant website, in addition to the Friday morning appearances on WBFO radio? Check out <https://www.theatertalkbuffalo.com/>



Scariest Halloween Décor: Diane Bofinger shared a link to a news story about this giant inflatable spider that moves created by retired engineer and church member, David Moomaw. Does it give you the willies?

## 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.

I have a new recipe inspired by a surprise inclusion in a farm share box.

### PICO DE GALLO

From Bon Apetit

8 servings

8 ounces tomatillos, husks removed, rinsed, cut into 1/4 inch pieces  
1/4 medium red onion, minced  
2 jalapeños, seeds removed, finely chopped  
2 garlic cloves, finely grated  
3 Tbsp fresh lime juice  
1 Tbsp finely chopped cilantro  
1 Tbsp finely chopped mint  
Salt

Toss all ingredients in a bowl to combine and season with salt. Cover and chill 1 hour for flavors to blend. This can be served as a topping for your choice of cooked protein, in tacos or as a salsa with corn chips. Once the flavors blend the jalapeño becomes only mildly spicy. The tomatillos have a slightly crunchy texture and citrusy flavor. Now I know what to do with tomatillos and it is very tasty.



### COVID CORNER

As I write this COVID19 is soaring in some areas of the USA (and the world) and in Western New York the positive testing rate is just above the “safe” line. NY has not been able to nail down why Erie County has been consistently higher than most of the state but this poses a problem for all of us. Large gatherings will not be possible in the near future, especially indoors. The church leaders are diligently looking for ways we can be together safely, but until the local infection rate goes and stays down I don’t think it is going to be possible.

Remember to wear your face covering, maintain social distance, wash or sanitize your hands, and enjoy the many ZOOM gatherings the UUCA is hosting.

Thanks to Barbara Gauger Kent for providing monthly information on coping with COVID.





## 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 (uuamherst.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.

## AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

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, uuamherst.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@ uuamherst.org. Like us on Facebook: **amherstlittlefreepantry**.



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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF AMHERST

*Fostering Justice and Compassion*

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