

Issue

December 2020

The Foreword



UU AMHERST

*Fostering Justice
and Compassion*

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
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SUNDAY SERVICES DECEMBER AT 10:30 AM

Our Sunday services continue to be available online. A link is also available on our website. You can view the recorded service anytime on our YouTube channel. 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.

Like many congregations in our movement, we follow a shared monthly theme. This month we consider what it means to be a people of stillness. Stillness is not inactivity - it is a choice we make, often in the midst of activity. Stillness is a 'withiness' - a spaciousness; how can we cultivate that in ourselves and nurture it in one another?

December 6 When Our Hearts Yearn for God Rev. Michelle
The Hebrew scriptures describe that yearning this way: As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. (Psalm 42) When that feeling creeps up on us, what's a religious naturalist, humanist or atheist to do.

December 13 Season of Lights Rev. Susan Frawley, guest
December is a time of lights. Usually we think of Christmas lights, but December is a time of lights for Jewish people as well. The similarities and differences by which UUs celebrate the season of light and our Jewish history and connections will be part of today's sermon .

Rev. Susan Frawley is an Amherst resident who works as UU pulpit circuit rider through out WNY. Recently, Rev Frawley was made the contract minister at Hamburg UU. Rev. Frawley also works for GLYS of WNY .(Growing LGBTQ + Youth Support) as a parent support facilitator and group facilitator for Youth In Care.

December 20 The Nights Before Christmas Rev. Michelle
The days before Christmas are often over-full, but the nights invite us into stillness and quiet waiting. More than a mere prelude to the 'main event,' these dark hours are filled with possibility and wonder.

December 27 The Great Turning Rev. Michelle
Learning to Lead in Love
We are at the cusp of something new, a paradigm shift, if we will but have the courage to lead.

See page 2 for Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve Service details.

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

It's December, and you know what that means! Time to bring out my favorite holiday video! No, it's not the Grinch, or Elf, or even It's a Wonderful Life... My favorite holiday video is The Fraggles' winter solstice episode, *The Heart of the Rock*.



In this episode, one of the main characters, Gobo, must make a dangerous journey to ring the Great Bell that will unfreeze the Rock, where the residents have failed to ring their individual bells to ward off the cold. The wise elder gives Gobo a map to find the bell, and he ventures deeper and deeper into the center of Fraggles Rock. When he arrives, he discovers that there is no Great Bell, and he returns to his frozen friends in despair.

But the wise elder had told Gobo to go to the *heart of the Rock, not the center. The heart of Fraggles Rock is in the friendship they share. As Gobo rings his own little bell and helps his friends to do the same, warmth returns and all are unfrozen - and in the distance, the tolling of a deeper bell can be heard - the Great Bell is not a myth afterall - it is what is created when each one rings their own bell in unison with the others.*

You don't need to be a theologian to get the subtext here. We each have bells to ring, contributions to make to the good of all. I invite you to ring your bell; to share in the promise, the hope of that which is to come. The future holds no guarantees, whether it is our own wellbeing or that of our beloveds. All we have is this moment. All we have are our own, small bells and the capacity to ring them in unison. As we enter the time between, the days and nights leading to Hanukkah, to Solstice, to the birth of the Christ child, may we be mindful of the precarious nature of the journey to the heart. May we open ourselves to hope. May we experience joy. And may we bring more love, warmth, and friendship into the world through our actions and our words. It is our responsibility to bring peace and good will to all.

With quiet hope,
Rev. Michelle

Winter Solstice in the Woods

Join us for a time around the campfire, Sunday, 12/20 at 6:00 pm. Debbie Waterhouse Ecology Center (at the rear of the UUCA parking lot). Dress warmly with masks and scarves for added protection and follow the lighted trail to the pavilion. Warm beverages provided.

Christmas Eve December 24th

For our Christmas Eve service, I am offering quiet and comfort in a virtual setting.. The video will be available early in the day on Christmas Eve, so you can access it at your convenience. I will send an all-church email with the link. Wishing you and yours a meaningful holiday season and continued health and happiness as we look to 2021. You are not alone.

Help When You Need It

This is a reminder that if you are experiencing financial hardship, you can reach out to Rev. Michelle, minister@uamherst.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.

BOARD REPORT

The Board is initiating a new connection opportunity the **first Tuesday of the month**. It is called **Talk Back Tuesday**. Two Board members will be available on zoom for you to meet with, share ideas and ask questions as they arise. If you have a question to be pondered, please send it to Karen Thompson and I will forward it to the BoT. We hope to see you there. Bring coffee or something stronger and we'll see you at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1st. Be looking in the all church email for the Zoom link.

As winter approaches and COVID protocols for our area seem to be more restrictive, consider reconnecting with your village leader and your village. As we have become more secluded, to be connected to one another is even more important.

As in life, we have many learning experiences, some wonderful and some not so much. A lesson we have learned from our friend Maria's situation is that we need to have check ins with each other (Use your village contacts). If you are alone, Snug is a free app which you check in everyday and if you don't, they call to make sure you are ok. If there is no response to the call, they send messages to the emergency contacts that you have put in there. We will be working on an emergency card which will have things like your contacts in case of emergency. It is highly suggested that you have a healthy care proxy and a durable power of attorney. I don't want to sound alarmist. It is in your best interest to be prepared in case of a health emergency. You don't want to be at the effect of the health care system with no voice.

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. New this past month is the initiation of an **energy audit** through NYSERDA. 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. The team has received input from people at church and recently met with Ulrich Sign Company. They will be meeting with others soon. 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. So far, the task force is led by Wendy, Don and Scott joined by Bruce Becker, Richard Rose, Angela Warren, Dave Kofke and Yvonne Stocker. **There is always room for more friends**. 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! No matter what your skill set or interest, we are better together and these areas need to come from a wholistic vision with all parts being connected**.

The BOT approved David Kofke to replace Ivy Yapelli's term on the Nominating and Leadership Committee. As winter approaches and COVID protocols for our area seem to be more restrictive, consider reconnecting with your village leader and your village. As we have become more secluded, to be connected to one another is even more important.

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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- precalculus	Zoom, Facetime
Maggie Andrews	HS Eng. SS, French and counselling	Zoom, in person, phone
Sue Dubill	N-5 any subject	Email help desk
Betty Crump	Stress reduction, life skills/counselling	Zoom
John Thompson	Chemistry/biology	Zoom
Wendy Scott	English and writing all levels	Zoom, in-person
Karen Thompson	N-5 any subject, HS bio, MS gen sci.	In person, Zoom
Les Buhite	MS, HS Social Studies, English	In person, Zoom

++++If I missed you and you would like to help the community, please let me know and I am happy to add you.

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?”

******Any of these questions can be brought to Talk Back Tuesday as well as by connecting to a board member.***

Our generosity drive is in the process of creating a team. If you would enjoy talking to friends about church, consider joining us, if you like to write, consider joining the gratitude team. Let Karen or John Thompson know if you are willing to be a part of this amazing group

Thanksgiving is fast approaching. Some of our friends will be home alone. If you know of anyone, who needs the community's loving support: connection, food, Zoom together while being separate or other suggestions, please let Karen Thompson know. We have friends who are willing to cook and deliver food and help them to connect to others who are in the same situation. Know that you are all loved and tenderly held by this beloved community.

Be safe, be well and keep in touch,
Karen K. Thompson on behalf of the Board

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Our UU Amherst “All FD Activities” last year were part of an ongoing effort within our congregation to become more integrated multi-generationally. Last October you may remember being surprised by colorful mandalas decorating each table in the Emerson room for coffee hour. (photos - four within google drive folder). In November we learned songs with longtime UU Amherst church friend and local folk musician Kathy Moriarty. In December we made wreaths out of natural found objects. In January we made scarves for visitors to our Little Free Pantry. February’s activity was creating talking pieces from yarn, beads, and plastic straws that we wanted to use up. Then on March 1st, we reintroduced the Coming of Age Soup Sale with a great turnout and successful fundraising effort. Our April activity was not to be.

Yet, we are so grateful to the families and adults whose participation enriched our whole church life as we moved more toward the direction of “Everything for Everyone.” Even if you didn’t create, but enjoyed the creative efforts of your fellow church friends, you were participating.

Our Gratitude Pumpkins were displayed in the Thanksgiving service “With Grateful Hearts” on 11/22. Families of all ages participated. Thanks to all who created and watched! If you didn’t get an opportunity to watch, go to YouTube and enter UUAmherst to watch this or any of the services.



For those members and friends who would like to participate in our December all Church FD activity, we will be making wreaths from found objects as we did last year, but remotely. There are green bins on the living room porch to donate items for constructing them - pine cones, seed pods, acorns, sumac flowers, anything that plants give us to decorate with that will hold up in transport and to a glue gun. Kits will be delivered to UU Amherst families with children and to anyone else who would like to create with us. We will gather via Zoom on Saturday morning, December 5th at 11:00 am. Let’s see where it goes! What other crafts might we engage in over the winter?

As always, if you have any inkling to lead “a thing,” any ideas about something simple that could follow our “Everything for Everyone” motif during this ever so long pause, do let me know, and we can weave the fabric of beloved community together. (716) 380-0416 — Angela Warren, UU Amherst DFD

MINISTER’S HOURS*

*Rev. Michelle is currently working primarily from home. Please contact her by email if you have a question. minister@uuamherst.org.

Tuesday-Thursday
Monday: Writing
Friday: Off

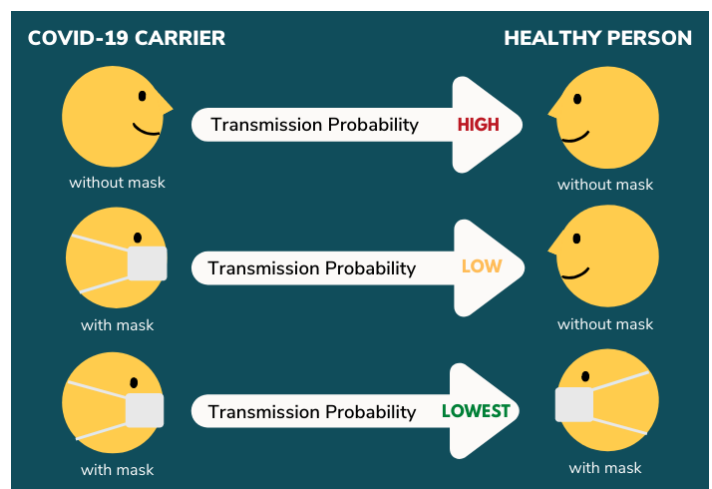
HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: 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

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.**
***require passcode**

Saturday, December 5

11:00 am: Everything for Everyone Wreath Making Zfd

Sunday, December 6 (monthly 1st Sun)

9:00 am: FD Team Meeting* Zfd

Sunday, December 13 (monthly 2nd Sun)

12:00 pm: Poetry as Practice D. Bofinger

Sunday, December 20 (monthly 3rd Sun)

11:30 am: Spirit Play Wondering Session* Zfd

Sunday, December 27

12:00 pm: UU Amherst Book Group Zadmin*
(monthly last Sun)

RECURRING:

Sundays, December 6-27 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

2:00 pm: Red Bud 5 (12/13) K. Thompson

6:30 pm: Young Adult D. Bofinger

Mondays, December 7-28

7:00 pm: Lighthearted Larches (12/7 & 12/21) D. Tucker

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

7:30 pm: Marvelous Maples (12/7 & 12/21) D. Bofinger

Tuesdays, December 1-29

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

1:30 pm: Caring Committee Zoom (monthly) R. Palmere

Wednesdays, December 2-30

10:30 am: Willow Village Zadmin (2nd & 4th Weds:
12/9 & 12/23) J. Senders*

6:30 pm: Cucumber Magnolia Zadmin (2nd & 4th Weds:
12/9 & 12/23) J. Rautenstrauch*

7:00 pm: Sage Circle Zfd (2nd & 4th Weds: 12/9 & 12/23)*

7:00 pm: Red Bud 5 (12/23) K. Thompson

7:00 pm: Northtowns Village Zadmin (12/16) Y. Stocker*

Thursdays, December 3-31

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

Saturdays, December 5-26

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

7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zadmin (weekly) 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.

UAMHERST VILLAGES

Over the past month and a half I have visited all of the villages at least once, with, excepting the Northtowns village due to technical difficulties. We are working to solve them, and to make people's virtual experiences more fulfilling and consistent. Glitches should always be expected, as we really are all quite new to this way of "doing church."

Some important findings from these visits:

- People are interested in DOING on Zoom. The first upcoming opportunity that will be FD led will be delving into wreath making, an activity we engaged in last year in person. Join us December 5th at 11:00 am. Link will be in the Weekly Update. If you call or text (716) 380-0416, I will add you to a specific email list that will include those who want to participate in this crafty activity and others that will come up. Examples include cared making and themed basket making. What about cooking / listening on Zoom? We need to be creative and innovative to stay connected this winter.
- Our church leadership, including Village facilitators and our BOT chair, members, Rev. Michelle, and myself, are aiming for our whole church to participate in an initiative to collect and hold emergency contact information. This can also include information and encouragement to establish Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy for each of us. Especially during this continued isolation, our connection is so important.
- It has really come into the forefront that there are some church members who use technology very little or not at all. Phone calls are still very important. Cards are also very important. Our Caring Team does some of this. The BOT is initiating some of this. Our Village Facilitators are also taking care. Has anyone ever created a big PHONE TREE? Is there an AP for that?

Call or text (716) 380-0416 to give input to any of the above findings and initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Warren, DFD

COVID CORNER

Another month of 2020 is behind us and COVID19 is running rampant in many parts of the USA. Today the Lieutenant Governor said Erie County is New York State's epicenter and is being watched carefully. The good news is a promising vaccine is being tested and it has a 90% efficacy rate (50% is the minimum rate needed for FDA approval). If it makes it through the trials that will be very good news. Some more good news is that the medical community has been developing treatment protocols that have reduced the rate of intubation and death in COVID patients. UUCA's leadership is exploring ways to bring people together safely, like a Winter Solstice celebration in the Debbie Waterhouse Ecology Center with bathroom availability (small group, social distance, masks, open air, etc.). Maybe more gatherings can occur as we get a better handle on the virus in Erie County. If you have ideas of a safe social gathering like the Winter Solstice idea please share them with the church leadership. The more brains working on this, the better. Note: since writing this the COVID infection rate has increased prompting the escalation to orange which means more restrictions. The UUCA will respond accordingly.



UU Amherst Virtual Book Club (last Sundays at noon) will meet via Zoom on December 27. We'll share which books we've read on the topic COMEDY. You may join our discussion even if you haven't "done the reading."

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.

Keep up with the latest news by listening to **Theater Talk** on WBFO radio, FM 88.7, on Fridays during local news segments of NPR's Morning Edition.

Alleyway Theatre's "A Christmas Carol: the Radio Play" will be streaming on demand from December 1-31. Get tickets at <https://www.alleyway.com/shows/2020-2021/a-christmas-carol-the-radio-play>.

Shakespeare in Delaware Park is planning a live theater event on Sunday, December 6, with three, limited-audience show times. "This hour long outside event includes an SDP souvenir glass for your Freedom Run wine tasting, an individual holiday goodie bag with treats from Fairycakes, Wegmans, Richs and more. Enjoy wine tasting, raffles and an original Holiday performance that features Carolers, Santa Claus, Charles Dickens and Shakespeare himself . . . which is sure to melt the 2020 humbug out of anyone!" Reserve tickets by November 30 at <https://shakespeareindelawarepark.org/shakespeare-dickens-santa-walk-into-a-bar/>.

Jewish Repertory Theatre digital season subscriptions (5 plays, one of which ends November 25) can be purchased at <https://jewishrepertorytheatre.com/subscriptions/>. Single tickets for "Holiday Shorts" (streaming December 10-30) or any of the subsequent shows are available at <https://jewishrepertorytheatre.com/tickets/>. Bonus content: I just discovered that the 10-second "Strudel Class" video (from 9/28/18) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfYSme3JISU> on JRT's YouTube channel features Laurie Kasnicki and myself.

For families with young children, **Musicalfare** is creating 5 video evenings with Santa to air in December. Video of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" will be released December 15, continuing to be available through January 4. Ticket information is at <https://musicalfare.com/live-streams/on-demand/event:on-demand-santa-claus-is-coming-to-town-5-evenings-of-storytime-and-song-with-santa-in-your-home-pre-order-now-for-video-release-on-12-15-2021/>.

Other favorite troupes to check out online include **Ujima Company Inc, O'Connell & Company, Irish Classical Theatre Company, Road Less Traveled Productions, Lancaster Opera House, Kavinoky Theatre, and 2nd Generation Theatre**. Most theater companies in town have digital content available on their websites, Facebook pages, and YouTube.

THE TREE IN MY OFFICE

Rev. Michelle

The image I hold of our beloved community is of a tree, with a thick, strong trunk, three main branches, and roots that go deep. The trunk of the tree represents Unitarian Universalism, our religion. We get the word 'religion' from the Latin, 'religare' - which means 'to bind together'. It is the values and principles that we hold in common that bind us together, creating a beloved community.

The roots of the tree represent what is foundational to us: becoming and creating responsible members of the Earth Family. Unitarian Universalism is how we do this, but we recognize that there are many paths that can lead people to become responsible members of the Earth Family. Ours is not the only way - it is simply our way.



The three main branches are Relationship, Theory/Context, and Praxis/Service, and these branches are formed in covenant and interdependence. I see these branches being our three priorities: building relationships with one another, ourselves, the sacred, and the larger community; being grounded in a shared story or theology; and offering ourselves in service to a hurting world. Recently I made the connection between the three branches and the three vital questions that my mentor, David Bumbaugh asked of us in seminary: What do we believe? Whom do we serve? To whom or what are responsible?

Getting clear about what we believe is the work of our shared story, our theology, our context. We serve others when that shared context encourages us to put that story into practice. And we are responsible to build relationships, learning how to be loving and forgiving and gentle with ourselves and one another, and extending that out into the world.

This tree informs all of my work with this beloved community, and I hope it will inspire you, as well. I find it important to balance our activities among the three branches. Building relationships is important and life-enhancing, but if that is all we do, without a shared context or service to others, we're no more than a social club. In the same way, if all of our energy goes to service in the community, but we are not grounding that service in our shared values and in healthy relationships, we're no more than a service club. And if all we do is read and discuss interesting ideas, we are no more than a book club.

We are a beloved community, bound together by our shared faith. Our faith calls us into service in the world. Maybe my little tree is an Aspen, with roots that reach out and sprout a whole forest of engaged and responsible members of the Earth Family, all working together for the benefit of all Life. I believe there is no higher calling.

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.

Cauliflower, Pancetta and Parmesan by Melissa Clark

45 minutes. 425 degree oven Serves 2 - 4

1 large head of cauliflower (about 1 3/4 lbs)
cut into bite sized pieces
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 tsp salt, or as needed
1/3 cup olives, pitted and chopped
1 large clove of garlic, minced
1 1/2 Tbsp lemon juice, more to taste
1/8 tsp red pepper flakes, or more to taste
4 ounces pancetta bacon cut in 1/8 inch cubes. Substitute any smoky item for vegetarian/vegan meal, but do not omit
3/4 tsp cumin or caraway seeds
1/2 cup shredded (not grated) Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup fresh parsley or mint



Toss cauliflower with 1/4 cup oil and 1/2 tsp salt on a rimmed baking pan. Roast for 15 minutes at 425 degrees in preheated oven.

In a small bowl mix olives, garlic, lemon juice, red pepper flakes and a pinch of salt. Whisk in 1/4 cup olive oil.

Add pancetta and cumin or caraway seeds to pan and mix to combine. Sprinkle Parmesan shreds on top and roast for another 15 to 20 minutes until cauliflower is tender, pancetta is rendered and cheese is golden brown and crunchy. Spoon dressing all over roasted cauliflower while it is hot and toss to combine. Taste and adjust seasonings. Scatter parsley or mint over top and serve.

This is delicious over pasta or rice, quinoa, whatever.

ENDOWMENT TRUST

THANK YOU for supporting our church endowment! We've recently received some generous contributions. You may make memorial gifts at any time.

Our next meeting of the trustees will be Tuesday, January 19, at 6 pm via Zoom. We'll review our fund performance for the fourth financial quarter ending December 31. Please contact me or the church office if you'd like to receive the link and password to attend.

- Marie Evans, Chair, for your elected trustees: Jerry Kent, Joe Rautenstrauch, Elaine Cusker, and Lauraine Marcus.

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

Contact free drop off of food donations has been set up since March. Please leave donations in the two large clear bins in the back of the church outside the main entrance. This is at the back of the church. Financial contributions can be made online at the church website, uuamherst.org, by clicking the Donate button and selecting the Pantry option for your donation. Checks can also be sent to UUCA, 6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221. Please write "Pantry" in the Memo line.

The team of Stockers, Shoppers, Heavy Lifters, Baggers, and Grant Writers, met on Sunday, November 15. We are seeking a coordinator, more fill-in stockers, baggers (for diapers, laundry pods, masks, etc.), more heavy lifters, and as always, YOUR DONATIONS, both physical and financial keep this mission of UU Amherst alive. The current Pantry Team is solidly committed to using your monetary and physical donations to help those in need in our community, but we couldn't do it without your help!

A current list of items needed is provided in the Weekly Update on Fridays. (Please let Elaine, our administrator, know if you do not receive this weekly communication in your email!)

Here is what the Pantry especially needs:

PASTA AND SAUCE: please no glass jars. **BREAKFAST ITEMS,** esp. large cereal boxes and milk (powdered, shelf-stable, or canned), **GRANOLA BARS,** **BEVERAGES** of all kinds including drink boxes, Boost, TEA, coffee and hot chocolate, **DISH SOAP** - dollar size containers, **BAKING** staples like flour, sugar, oil, baking mixes, **SINGLE SERVING FRUIT CUPS/APPLESAUCE,** **Feminine HYGIENE PADS,** **TOILETRIES** - full or travel size, including dental floss, but especially shampoo, deodorant, and **SOAP** or body wash, **CANNED MEATS** including tuna, **RAMEN,** **RICE** and instant side dishes, **Condiments** - ie ketchup and mustard, either full size or "to-go" packets, including sweeteners; pancake mix and syrup, **INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED UTENSILS,** especially spoons, **CANNED PET FOOD** - we have not had pet food to put out for some time. Also, size 2,4, and 5 diapers and adult incontinence pads.

For questions or comments please email amherstlittlefreepantry@uuamherst.org.
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