

Issue

December 2019

The Foreword



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

We challenge ourselves and the community to foster more compassion and justice in the world.

Our Staff:

Minister

Rev. Michelle Buhite
Office.....x102
minister@uuamherst.org

Ministerial Intern

Kristina Church Office.....x105
kristina@uuamherst.org

Director of Faith Development

Angela Warren
Office.....x104
dfd@uuamherst.org

Music Director

Fran Landis
fland88@aol.com

Caretaker

Chris Barry

Finance Clerk

Camilla Lee.....x103
bookkeeper@uuamherst.org

Office Administrator

Elaine Harrigan.....x101
administrator@uuamherst.org

Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER AT 10:30 AM

12/1 *The Reason for the Season* Rev. Michelle & Kristina
Yes, you read that correctly. You're just going to have to come to church to find out what we mean!

12/8 *This Season Brought to You by: Us!* Rev. Michelle
Much of what we think of as a "traditional" holiday was invented by Unitarians and Universalists. This lighthearted service will make you blush with pride.

12/15 *When Happy Holidays are Heavy Holidays*
Rev. Michelle & Kristina
The December holidays seem to demand relentless activity and cheerfulness. Let's pause and acknowledge the heaviness and sadness that accompanies the season, taking hope in the warmth of one another.

12/22 *A Christmas Carol* Rev. Michelle & Friends
Worship for all ages! Let's get into the holiday spirit with this Dickens favorite. A special coffee hour with sweet treats and appetizers, and caroling will follow the service.

12/29 *Visions 2020* Kristina
What's your vision for the year ahead? How can our religious community support you as your personal adventure unfolds? Come enjoy this exploration of ideas for bringing more presence, joy, and meaning into our lives in the coming year.

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 5:00 and 10:00 pm, Tuesday, December 24.

UUCA 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.*

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 a visit. When in doubt, call!



MINISTER'S CORNER

The Soul Matters theme for the month of December is Awe. And I wonder, have I had an experience of awe lately? Ever? I wonder if humans at this moment in history, when we have the wisdom (or at least the knowledge) of the ages just a few keystrokes away, when we've all careened through the starry expanse of space with the computer-generated graphics of the latest round of Star Wars movies, when we are brutalized and numbed by the 24-hour news cycle... if we even have the capacity for awe and wonder anymore. Have we abandoned the language of poetry for the hard edges of rationalism and literalism?

John Muir (1838-1914), describing his first visit to Yosemite, wrote: *Everything was glowing heaven's unquenchable enthusiasm... I tremble with excitement in the dawn of these glorious mountain sublimities, but I can only gaze and wonder... Everything awakening alert and joyful... Every pulse beats high, every cell life rejoices, the very rocks seem to thrill with life.* It makes my heart ache with longing to imagine experiencing the world with this intensity.

In this season, as we await the birth of the light, the promise of hope and peace for a hurting world, may we open our hearts and widen our vision to the beauty of our lives on this fragile planet. May awe fill our senses and move us to joy and wonder.

Bright blessings,
Rev. Michelle

NOTES & REMINDERS

Reprising "A Christmas Carol" December 22

Last year's readers' theatre presentation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was so enthusiastically received, we're making it a tradition! If you would like to be involved (reading, costuming, sound effects, etc.), sign-up in the lobby or drop an email to minister@uuamherst.org. We'll perform during worship on Sunday, December 22.



Holiday Caroling with Desserts & Appetizers

Mark your calendars for coffee hour following "A Christmas Carol" on December 22 as we enjoy desserts and appetizers, and sing carols in the Emerson Room. We're having our annual celebration after church to encourage broader participation. Bring a dessert to share and enjoy some old-timey fun as we sing beloved carols of the season.

Share-the-Plate

On Christmas Eve, we will share the offering with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), a non-profit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. To contribute, make checks to UUCA and put "UUSC" in the memo line. All undesignated cash will also go to support their ministry, so if you would like a cash donation to go toward your pledge of annual support to UUCA, be sure to put it in an envelope with your name, marked pledge.

Guest at Your Table

In addition to the shared plate offering to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's disaster relief efforts, everyone is encouraged to take part in Guest at Your Table (GAYT) in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many families place the collection box on the table and put money in at each shared meal; in gratitude for the blessings we experience and our commitment to be a blessing to others. Contributions will be collected at church on Sunday, Dec. 22. Contributions of \$125 or more are matched by the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY.

We are pleased to offer these two opportunities to support the UU Service Committee during the holidays. Together, we can make a difference.

MINISTERIAL INTERN NOTES



HAVE YOURSELF A MINDFUL LITTLE HOLIDAY

As roll into the holidays, it's an opportunity to rethink our consumption in yet another way.

Did you know that according to best estimates, during the holiday season, the average person produces an additional 1,400 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions? This is equivalent to about three weeks of driving or about 3.8 percent of an individual's annual carbon footprint of 36,000 lbs.

Our faith calls us to consider and respect the *interdependent web of life* when making our decisions about how to purchase and consume material goods. With that in mind, here are some ways that we can reduce our ecological footprint during the holidays. We can still enjoy the beauty of the season without all the mindless over-consumption. In fact, we just might enjoy it even more!

- If you have a holiday tree, choose natural over artificial. Buy from a local vendor if you can. And take advantage of local recycling programs when you're finished enjoying it.
- Choose natural décor whenever possible. Trim your tree with cinnamon sticks, pine cones, bread dough ornaments! I like to make a popcorn and cranberry garland for our tree. It takes some work but it's so beautiful– and completely biodegradable.
- Use LED lights instead of incandescent ones. Candles in centerpieces create a lovely atmosphere and warm the home a bit, too.
- Fair trade coffee and chocolate tastes great, and feels good to give and receive!
- When choosing gifts, try to give experiences– theatre or music concert tickets, memberships to local organizations. Or make coupons for more personalized experiences: game night, movie night, back rubs. Homemade treats are deeply appreciated, and won't end up in the landfill!
- Seasonal crafts can add creative expression to your holiday. Choose crafts that make use of household items, instead of requiring you to buy lots of new supplies.
- When wrapping gifts, choose recycled gift wrap, or reuse gift bags instead of throwing them out. Or get creative with reusable tote bags, red-and-green dishtowels, or colorful scarves from a local thrift shop.
- Get outside. Try to get in touch with the beauty of the winter season, even if it's cold. A little bit of natural light can go a long way.
- Make a practice of gratitude and generosity. Remembering our blessings helps us realize how much we have, and how little we actually need. Practicing simplicity helps us find ways to support those who are struggling in our community.
- Turn off the TV, with its messages about buying things in an attempt to create “the perfect holiday.” Remember, it's presence, not presents, that creates a beautiful holiday!

Though the pressure to go “all-out” for the holidays is strong, I encourage you to choose at least one holiday habit, and make it a little more sustainable this year. We can enjoy the pleasures of the season while caring for our earth.

A mindful, sustainable, and joyful holiday to all!
Kristina

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The Holiday Season is here! What better time to embrace a spirit of gratefulness for our beloved community!?

Thank you to all who volunteered for the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. I especially want to recognize our Senior Youth Group member Cassandra, and our Young Adults Kimmy, India, and Jos, who were our servers. Thanks to our members who invited family and friends to come along. Direct invitation makes our fellowship grow. And of course, to all who enjoyed!



To those who have been participating in our "Planet Thursday" Adult Education program, thank you so much for staying at the table as we delve into challenging subjects like White Privilege and Gentrification. We seek to understand the true Intersectionality of Climate Justice, so that we can forge and embrace the change we want to see in the world.

Thank you to participants in Thanksgiving with Friends, Desserts and Carols, and our Dickens' Christmas Carol Readers' Theatre. Thank you to all who will help decorate and undecorate the church. Thank you to our Faith Development Team leader, Jeanine Moyer, who continues to foster the relationship with our neighbors at Gateway Longview through our Angel Tree, and thanks to all who bring gifts and gift cards for the children. Thank you to our Board of Trustees, who along with our Nominating and Leadership Development Committee informs us both of our successes and our challenges. Our leadership continues to grow in strength and understanding of who we are here at UUCA, and how we can truly foster more compassion and justice in the world.

Truly yours,
Angela Warren, Acting Director of Faith Development

NOMINATING & LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Did you miss What's Going On? and What's Next? If you have questions about how UUCA is organized, who makes decisions, and how you can get involved in activities or groups that match your interests, please speak to any member of the Nominating & Leadership Development Committee. We want to keep our congregation vibrant by engaging more people in ACTION (service) and interpersonal CONNECTION.

—Marie Evans, with Hella Jacob, Marcia Scott, Randy Kent, Dian Tucker, and Scott Harrigan

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is depleted and needs your help!

Over the past several months we have been able to help members and friends with unexpected medical expenses and other financial concerns, as well as offering assistance to those in the wider community who need help with some of the basics (warm clothes, to cover a night or two in a motel to get out of the cold, etc). We are able to offer this ministry together because of your generous donations to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. As winter approaches, I anticipate there will be more need. You can make a difference with your contributions. Checks can be made to UUCA with "minister's fund" in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your compassion and generosity.



BOARD NOTES

Dear UUCA members and friends,

When you picture our church 10 or even 50 years in the future, what do you see? What is your vision of the UUCA? The actions we take today are crucial to realizing this vision; but if not considered carefully, today's actions could instead lead to a different outcome, one that maybe isn't what you want. The church is contemplating some significant steps regarding facilities, marketing, leadership development, and more. As we decide on these steps, it behooves us to know where we want them to take us. Our vision of the UUCA should inform what we do now. So what is this vision?



This is not a question to be answered by me, or at least not by me alone. It is a congregational decision, so I hope you're thinking about this question and discussing it with each other every chance you get. Our vision should be reflective of our mission, in that a coherent vision would be one that has us fulfilling our mission, which is:

To challenge ourselves and the community to foster more compassion and justice in the world.

Here's some food for thought:

- Focus – it is hard to foster compassion and justice in the world when we're distracted by the proverbial (if not literal) leaky roof. Getting our facilities in order frees our time and effort for more meaningful activities. I think we can all get behind a vision of low maintenance.
- Safety – congregants and the people who work here need to feel secure. How best can we configure entrances, offices, etc. to promote the safety of those inside? What if the offices were downstairs?
- Youth – great friendships have been forged here, and the lessons of OWL have guided our youth to adulthood responsibly and safely. We really have a lot to offer teenage kids. But for these things to happen, the youth have to show up. What is needed to make the UUCA an appealing and fun place to be, in itself?
- Grounds – we all love the physical space where our buildings are sited. Are we doing the most with it? What's the ideal use of these beautiful grounds?
- Visibility and leadership – I would like our future to have us widely recognized by the community as a leading force for good, a spiritual home for people who value reason and diversity, an advocate for the oppressed, and overall a tremendous asset for Western New York. How can we promote our identity and values? If we had the right facilities, could the Little Free Pantry be seen as the start of something larger? What are we missing that prevents us from doing more?

Frankly, as much thought as I've given this, I think this vision is still much too modest and vague. This is why I implore you to think in this direction too, so that together we can come up with something that is truly inspiring, and that would drive support for whatever steps we need to take today to make our collective vision a reality.

Whatever your vision is of the UUCA in 100 years, I hope it includes a regular spaghetti-dinner fundraiser organized by one of the descendants of Ivy Yapelli (if not Ivy herself!). Ivy worked tirelessly to bring her signature event back to the UUCA this week, and it was a great success! The event raised more than \$800, and is one of the things that keeps us moving forward. This event followed the Road Rally that was spearheaded by Karen Kuhn Thompson and Maria Ceraulo in October, and which garnered a lot of fun, lots of prizes, and a lot of food for the Amherst Little Free Pantry! Karen and Maria worked very hard to promote and make this event possible. Thank you Ivy, Karen, Maria, and everyone who contributed to these memorable happenings!

David Kofke, Chair, on behalf of the UUCA Board of Trustees



The first UUCA Road Rally/Scavenger Hunt achieved several important goals. Foremost was to gain visibility for the Amherst Little Free Pantry. We were fortunate, through the hard work of Maria Ceraulo, to have appearances on AM Buffalo and Channel 4. There was also coverage with an interview at church with Channel 7 and an article in the Bee. The second goal was to create a community event that would make the church more visible within the larger community. Lastly we created an abundance of food and non-perishables for the pantry and we raised \$1,080 net.

Thank you to the many hands who helped to make it a success. A special thank you to the people who bravely tried a new event.

The tech team did a great job in streaming the pictures as participants followed clues and had fun finding their way. Thank you to the people who sponsored cars which provided Tops cards for the shopping spree (for the pantry) at the final destination. The kitchen crew was awesome as were the people who provided food and beverages for the participants. We had two non-church sponsors who generously gave to help make the event a success.

The winners were in the team led by Devon Southall and Grayson, his dad and his friend Orlando. We had several non-members join us for the basket raffle and had an exciting time as they won several baskets. Barry Kent won the 50/50.

Beyond the success of the event, we had some great learning opportunities. We were able to see that we need to start the outreach to corporate sponsors much earlier. Perhaps we also need to look at an alternative time/date. The weekend of Halloween has several competing events which limited families being involved. We had great weather but on either side of the date, there was rain and high winds. We also missed the opportunity to involve car clubs as they put their show cars away for the impending weather. They do many of these events in the spring through early fall.

We are very grateful for our church community as it pulled together to help create a new adventure. The team work was incredible. Thank you all!

GREEN SANCTUARY/CLIMATE JUSTICE

Let me introduce myself, I am Devon Southall and have been attending this church for about a year, just joining this September. My kids and I have been UUs for over 7 years (which for Emma, 12, and Grayson “Sonny”, 9, is basically their whole lives.) I am excited to be the new leader for the Green Sanctuary /Climate Justice team

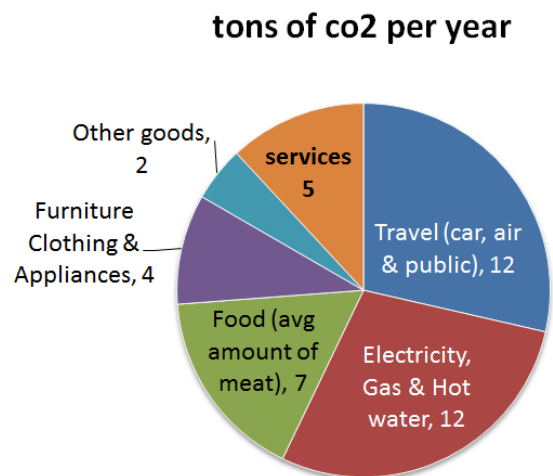
You may have noticed some changes on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board in the church lobby this month. Did you take a guess of how much CO2 is produced by various activities of the “average” household in Erie County? Were you surprised by the various percentages? (see chart)

Do you know your carbon footprint? If not, you can calculate it here:

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/consider-your-impact/carbon-calculator/>

I know that I am going to be working on improving the efficiency of my old house this fall and winter in hopes of lowering my carbon footprint! Have you had a home energy assessment? I got mine thru Push Buffalo/ Push Green and NYSERDA. You can find out more on Push’s website, near the end of the form is a direct link to apply for an assessment as well as an informational video about the process:

<https://www.pushbuffalo.org/energy-efficiency-form/>



UUCA DECEMBER 2019 RESTORATIVE PRACTICES REFLECTION

Kim Diana Connolly

Greetings and love!

Welcome to the first in a series of short reflections I will post during this church year in the Foreword and online about restorative practices generally, and deploying such practices at UU Church of Amherst. Many of you who attend our church have heard at least a little about restorative practices (sometimes called “RP,” or referred to by one subset, “restorative justice”). Some of you likely know a whole lot about restorative practices.



© Alvesgaspar, used with permission

Restorative practices are, at the core, about being together. You can read more generally about restorative practices in a piece by Ted Wachtel, founder of the International Institute on Restorative Practices, titled *Defining Restorative*. For this first reflection, I will quote from an earlier piece with the same name by Ted Wachtel, where he said “Where social capital—a network of relationships—is already well established, it is easier to respond effectively to wrongdoing and restore social order—as well as to create a healthy and positive organizational environment. Social capital is defined as the connections among individuals, and the trust, mutual understanding, shared values and behaviors that bind us together and make cooperative action possible.”

Sounds like covenant, right? In fact, when many UU’s think about restorative practices, they immediately connect it to our covenantal faith, and how UU communities and individuals are linked together in a web of interconnection. Restorative practices provide multiple tools to keep and strengthen covenant.

Sometimes, however, our web can be hard to weave...or, it can become tangled or broken. Restorative practices can help there too. In other words, these practices span a spectrum ranging from the simple but mindful choice of words, to the skilled use of circles, to the convening of a formal restorative conference, with many options and layers in-between. We will be exploring them in short reflections in the newsletter and on our Facebook page. I have added a picture of a hoverfly to this post, to symbolize participation and support for an ecosystem, and being a restorative part of a whole.

If you want to talk more about restorative practices, find me at church, or reach out on Facebook. If you don’t have those options, you can contact me via email at kimdianaconnolly@yahoo.com.

FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE TEAM

Following a presentation by Joe Leary, Director of FONP at our church in 2017, several church members were inspired to form a volunteer team to offer face-to-face, direct, personal help at the mission. We serve under the auspices of the Social Justice Group of the church. 2019-2020 is our second year of service.

Friends of Night People is a charitable organization that helps the poor, homeless and destitute in Buffalo, New York. You can find the organization listed online at www.friendsofnightpeople.com

On the fourth Sunday of every month, September through June, pre-scheduled volunteers come to the Friends of the Night People building at 394 Hudson Street, Buffalo.

From 4:30 to 7:00 pm, the team is assigned to different jobs to help serve dinner to approximately 150 people. Wearing good shoes, a hair net, and an apron, our team is part of a cafeteria line of dinner helpers. Volunteers are on their feet for the whole time and need to commit to dates ahead of time. We are responsible and committed to our service as a way to act out our UU values of love and respect for all. Our current team includes Carol Wells, Pat Burke, Ellen Doyno, Marcia Scott, Anne Gayley, Eileen McCallister, and Marilyn Carmichael. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining us as their schedule permits. Please contact Marilyn at 716-228-8626 if you have any questions.

UUCA GET COOKIN'!

This month, we offer a little something different in keeping with the season: a traditional rugelach recipe from the church's cookbook, *Sharing Our Best*, and a gluten-free cookie recipe that can be enjoyed by anyone!



Rugelach

originally submitted by Elaine Cusker

- 1/2 lb. unsalted butter, softened
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. ground walnuts or almonds
- 1 c. apricot jam
- 1/4 c sugar
- 1/4 c melted butter

In a food processor, cream butter, cream cheese, and flour until it forms a ball. Chill dough for at least 45 minutes. Mix the nuts and jam in a separate bowl. Preheat oven to 350°. Cut the ball of dough into 3 or 4 portions (depending on the size of the cookie you desire). Roll out one portion of dough at a time to a circle of about 1/16 inch thickness. Cut into 16 wedges with a sharp knife or pizza wheel. Spread a small amount of filling on each wedge—keep a clear edge. Roll wedge from the wide side to the point. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet point side down. Bend cookie slightly to a curve shape. Dip top in sugar. Bake 20-25 minutes till golden. Brush with melted butter after 15 minutes.



Gluten-Free Cut-Out Sugar Cookies

- 1 c. shortening
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 T pure vanilla extract
- 2 c Bob's red Mill 1-to-1 Gluten-free Baking Mix (plus more for rolling out dough)
- 1 tsp fine sea salt

Preheat oven to 350° degrees and line baking sheets with silicone mats or parchment paper. In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream together the shortening and sugar until light and creamy, about 1-2 minutes. Mix in the egg and the vanilla extract. Add the flour and salt and mix on low speed until completely incorporated. The dough should be slightly firm but still pliable. Turn half of the dough out onto floured parchment paper. Cover with plastic wrap and roll out until it's about 1/4 inch thick. Use desired cookie cutters to cut into shapes. Repeat with the remaining dough. Dough scraps can be re-rolled. Transfer the cookies to the prepared baking pans and bake 8-10 minutes. Cool cookies on the baking sheet for a few minutes before cooling completely on a wire rack. Cool completely before frosting and decorating.



Give Greener Gifts This Holiday!

Looking for gifts that are eco-friendly, zero-waste, or promote sustainable living? Here are some great websites to discover with ideas ranging from bamboo toothbrushes to gift boxes full of goodies.

- earthhero.com
- eartheasy.com
- fairtradewinds.net





AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY UPDATE

We could use non-perishable fruit in cans or cups in addition to cereal and items not covered by food stamps/SNAP like laundry pods, deodorant and toilet paper.

As a reminder, Santosha Holistic Center will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar at the church on Saturday, December 7, and they will be collecting non-perishable food items that will be donated to the Little Free Pantry.

We are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with no questions asked. You don't have to wait to get help. All are welcome.

The Little Free Pantry Team meets the first Sunday of the month after services. For questions or comments please contact Maria Ceraulo at amherstlittlefreepantry@uuamherst.org.

Like us on Facebook: [amherstlittlefreepantry](https://www.facebook.com/amherstlittlefreepantry)

SPIRIT-UPLIFTING EVENTS FOR THE SEASON

Here are a few events taking place across WNY to lift your spirit and support valuable community organizations and churches. Visit their websites for details.

Dec 6, A Vocális Christmas, S.S. Peter & Paul Church, Buffalo, 8 pm.

Dec 7, Holiday Bazaar & Holistic/Psychic Fair, presented by Santosha Holistic Center, UUCA, 9 am-5 pm. Note: Santosha will be collecting non-perishable food items to benefit the Little Free Pantry.

Dec 8, Evolution: You Are....Peace presented by the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, UU of Buffalo, 3 pm

Dec 15, Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along & Benefit, St. John Lutheran, Main St, Williamsville, 4:30 pm



Share-the-Plate November

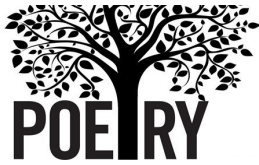
We are pleased that our share-the-plate collection in November resulted in a contribution of \$566 to Hearts & Hands. Thank you to all who gave!

Lending Library

You may be familiar with the bargains in the Used Book area inside the donation room off our lobby, but did you know UUCA has a free Lending Library? Spiritual titles are in a glass cabinet in the Emerson Room (where we share coffee after Sunday service); it's between the windows looking out to the parking lot. There's a spiral notebook to sign out Materials, on the honor system. In the Living Room where the comfy couches are, there are Nature and Social Justice selections on the bookshelves in the corner. See Marie Evans if you have questions.



UU MEMBERS GET-TOGETHER THIS MONTH



Poetry as Practice

December 8, 12:00 pm

Jackie Senders will present poems on "Awe." Questions? Contact Diane Bofinger, dbofinger@buffalo.edu or 716-689-8954.



Caring for One Another, Dining Room

Tues, Dec. 17, 1:30 pm

Volunteer group to help members in need: sick visits, ride to church, sending cards, etc. For information, contact Ron Palmere at caring@uuamherst.org.



Support for Loss & Change, Living Room

Thurs, Dec. 19, 3:00 pm

All are welcome as we gather to support each other through life's difficult experiences.



UUCA Book Club, Dining Room

Sun, Dec. 29, 12:00 pm

Meets monthly to discuss books we've read on selected topics.



Young Adult Meet-up,

Whitney Young Room

Sundays, Noon-1:30 pm

Come to the coffee hour in the Emerson Room for snacks and conversation. For information, or to be added to the email or text lists, contact Diane Bofinger at youngadults@uuamherst.org or 716-418-3272.

Rev. Michelle Presents Poems by Cathy Smith Bowers January 12

Although it was at my suggestion that this group form to share poetry and insights, I have not been able to participate; so many priorities! But I recently met Cathy Smith Bowers in my certification program in Spiritual Direction, and her poetry left me "God-smacked." Cathy has been the North Carolina Poet Laureate (2012-2012) and her poetry is incredibly earthy and spiritual all at the same time. I simply must share the poetry of this amazing, funny, deep woman. I hope y'all will join with me on Sunday, January 12 after worship as the poetry group convenes in the Reeb Room (second floor, office wing). Here's just one phrase to tantalize you from the poem, *Commute*:

The year my father was dying my mother fell in love...

You'll just have to come to the January session to find out what happens next!

—Rev. Michelle

Helpful Reminders

Be A Coffee Hero!

Sign up to help with coffee hour after services. Put your name on the sheet by the coffee pot on Sundays or contact Margot Shoemaker.

Sense-itivity Helps

We have many friends who have chemical sensitivities, whether due to asthma or allergies. We can be more welcoming and inclusive by refraining from wearing scents at church.



Just a reminder to save your Dash's receipts and put them in the collection box in the Donation Center in lobby. Proceeds from collecting these go to the Global African Village. More at globalafricanvillage.org.



UUCA DECEMBER CALENDAR

Blue Mountain meditation, every Tues. 7:00 pm (Reeb)
Planet Thursday, every Thursday except Dec. 26 (Boxing Day), 7:00 pm (LR).

Sun, Dec 1

9:30 am Holiday Decorating
10:30 am Church Service
12:00 pm Young Adult Meet-up (WYR)
12:00 pm Little Free Pantry (LR)

Tue, Dec 3

1:30 pm Women's Group (LR)
7:00 pm Covenant Facilitators (Fahs)

Thu, Dec 5

12:00 pm ROMEO'S Lunch, Buffalo Brew Pub

Fri, Dec 6

7:00 pm Cocktails & Conversation, Crabapples,
3298 Genesee St, Cheektowaga

Sun, Dec 8

10:30 am Church Service
11:30 am Equal Exchange Coffee Sale (Em)
12:00 pm Young Adult Meet-up (WYR)
12:00 pm Poetry as Practice (Reeb)

Mon, Dec 9 Office Closed

Tue, Dec 10

12:30 pm Current Events Lunch (Em)
7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting (Fahs)

Wed, Dec 11

7:00 pm Ministry Council (Fahs)

Thu, Dec 12

7:00 pm Covenant Group (LR)

Sun, Dec 15

9:00 am Faith Development Team Meeting (Fahs)
9:15 am Connections Café (Em)
10:30 am Church Service
12:00 pm Young Adult Meet-up (WYR)

Tue, Dec 17

1:30 pm Caring for One Another (DR)

Wed, Dec 18

1:30 pm Social Justice Meeting (LR or Em)

Thu, Dec 19

3:00 pm Support for Loss & Change (LR)

Fri Dec 20

7:00 pm **Solstice Bonfire.** Depending on the weather, and depth of snow, we will be in the Ecology Center Woods or on the patio outside the Chapel. Dress for the season!

Sun, Dec 22

10:30 am Church Service: *A Christmas Carol*
11:30 am Holiday Caroling with Desserts & Appetizers (Em)
12:00 pm Young Adult Meet-up (WYR)

Mon, Dec 23 Office Closed

Tue, Dec 24

5:00 & 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Services

Wed, Dec 25 Christmas Day Office Closed

Sun, Dec 29

10:30 am Church Service
12:00 pm Young Adult Meet-up (WYR)
12:00 pm UUCA Book Club (DR)

Mon, Dec 30 Office Closed

Tue, Dec 31 New Year's Eve

MORE PROGRAMS ONLINE

UUCA hosts a number of community groups each month as well as private services for a variety of occasions. See the complete calendar online at uamherst.org/calendar.

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: administrator@uamherst.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 What's Up Wednesday: Tuesdays by 11:00 am

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday—9am to 2pm



*Join Us for a Special
Holiday Service*
December 22, 10:30 am
All Welcome!



6320 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
634-3010
www.uuamherst.org