

Issue

December 2018



The Foreword

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst

6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221

634-3010 (x101 for office) Office Hours Tuesday to Friday 9am to 2pm www.uuamherst.org

Amherst Little Free Pantry Questions: amherstlittlefreepantry@uuamherst.org

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

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Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

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.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER AT 10:30am

The Soul Matters theme for this month is MYSTERY. Open your heart to the hushed quality of the season as we journey together into darkness and mystery.

2 *Season of Light & Mystery*

Rev. Michelle Buhite

Advent, Hanukkah, Yule, Christmas, Kwanzaa... These are just some of the holy days celebrated during the month of December. We'll weave a tapestry of light as we celebrate the Mystery at the heart of these winter traditions.

9 *Blessed Simplicity* Rev. Michelle Buhite

In this season when we are bombarded with messages of over consumption, let's take a breather to make room for Mystery.

16 *When Red + Green = Blue* Rev. Michelle Buhite + Kristina Church

The winter holidays can be challenging for many of us. Let's make space for complicated emotions & circumstances of these days.

23 *A Christmas Carol (All-Ages Worship)* Rev. Michelle Buhite

Invite family and friends to church as we retell this Christmas favorite, written by our Unitarian ancestor, Charles Dickens.

24 *Christmas Eve Services*

4pm – Family Service: We'll have some fun creating an impromptu nativity. Bring your tinsel wings and join the host of angels!
10pm – Candlelight Observance: An hour of reflection and song.

30 *At the Crossroads: Endings and Beginnings* Rev. Michelle Buhite (9:15 am Social Justice Project for All Ages)

MINISTER'S CORNER

I will show you hidden things, hidden things you have not known. (Isaiah 48:6)



In mid-November I attended the first of four intensives over two years to be trained and certified as a spiritual director. Our first morning together, as we shared a half hour of silence, a recorded chant of this verse from Isaiah played to direct our thoughts. Although there were only a handful of us (out of 48 participants) who do not identify as Catholic or Anglican, we came together to seek the Mystery, the still, small voice within, however we name that. In that setting, over the course of seven days, deep bonds were forged among us, partly because of our willingness to allow the Mystery to flow between and among us.

Throughout the month of December, as we explore Mystery in our worship together and in small groups, I trust we will meet one another with open and loving hearts and listen closely for the truths we bring. What each of us knows about the Source of Love is a piece of the truth, and our individual sparks, when brought together, create a beacon of hope to guide the wanderer home.

In faith and affection,
Rev. Michelle

Christmas Services

Sunday, 12/23 A Christmas Carol – a multigenerational ‘readers’ theatre’ experience. Come and hear Unitarian Charles Dickens’ classic story brought to life.

See Rev. Michelle if you are interested in being one of the players!

All ages! (must be able to read aloud)

Monday, 12/24 Christmas Eve

4pm Family Service

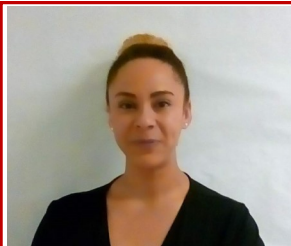
10pm Candlelight service

Special collections will be taken for [Jericho Road Community Health Center](https://www.jrchc.org/) (<https://www.jrchc.org/>) during the Christmas eve services



Just a reminder that **all items must be brought to the church by Sunday, December 2**. Also, if you select an angel tag for a specific child, do not forget to email or call Jeanine Moyer and provide both your name and the name of the child on your angel tag.

Thank you for supporting our neighbors at Gateway-Longview.



Faith Development Updates

“If there were no mystery left to explore life would get rather dull, wouldn't it?”
Sidney Buchman

As we move into the final month of 2018, it is time for us to explore what it means to be a people of mystery. Whether we reflect on the mysteries of this holiday season; the mystery of what 2019 will bring to ourselves, our community, or our country; or the exploration of what potential we have to be a people of mystery as Unitarian Universalists, it remains crucial to dig deep within ourselves and traverse the plains of our hearts and minds to meet that mystery with open hearts and open minds.

Faith Development Announcements

The Coming of Age Class would like to extend it's gratitude towards the UUCA for helping to raise over three hundred dollars for their upcoming trip to Boston in June. Thank you for your support UUCA!

The Faith Development Committee has begun to reaffirm and mold our new covenant in terms of service to the UUCA and to the Faith Development Program.

Zoe Bell-Schwede the Director of Faith Development has started to work with the Faith and Justice Committee, the Faith Development Committee, and Reverend Michelle on how we can best implement racial inclusion and social justice action not only to the Faith Development Curriculum but to the congregation as a whole, so that we may remain faithful to our seven principles and be role models to our children and community.



UUCA Holiday Party

Join us for a fun evening of food and friendship!

Saturday, December 8th,

4 pm to 7 pm in Emerson Room

Free Will Donations appreciated.

*Please bring a dish to share and a contribution to the
Amherst Little Free Pantry.*



This year, I've been hit especially hard by a feeling of being out of tune with the season. With all the depressing and/or infuriating news coming at us from all over the globe, it's hard to feel like celebrating.

Maybe it's because I'm in school, and it's difficult to “do the holidays” in style, when my time and energy reserves are short.

Or maybe it's because my son is growing up, and I can no longer take hits of joy off the 'glow of wonder' in his eyes.

Or maybe it's because I have a stronger sense than ever of how our ever accelerating Christmas machine is overtaking any sense of proportion, as we all shop and buy and spend our way into a feeling of temporary, acquisitive bliss-- to the detriment of our planet and our future.

Whatever the reason, I find myself in the “blue holiday” crowd this year. I've been struck with these kinds of feelings before, but never quite this forcefully.

And I'm far from alone. My eye was caught recently by an online ad for a hotel chain suggesting that we take “a holiday from the holidays”. In other words, spend more money to get away from the thing that it supposed to be relentlessly joyful and thrilling. It seems we're all feeling overwhelmed by this cultural monster of our own creation.

And for those who have had bad news, lost a loved one, or are struggling with loneliness at this time of year, it's a massive understatement to say that this is a difficult time of year.

So I made myself a list of things I do that normally hold a cure for spiritual or emotional malaise. And I've resolved to remember these personal prescriptions at holiday time:

- The cure for saccharine holiday Muzak is real, live music with soul and character, played or sung by real people who do it for the love of it.
- The cure for a maddening, draining trip through the mall is a quiet walk in the snowy woods.
- The cure for a feeling of resentment or acquisitiveness is to remember my blessings, and reach out to help those who have very little.
- The cure for feeling pressured to festoon my home with plastic doodads is to make simple paper snowflakes with my son, and a popcorn and cranberry garland for my tree.
- The cure for feeling disconnected is to reach out to a friend or a loved one, and arrange to spend some quality time. Alternatively, I can send a card with a personal message if they live far away.
- The cure for despair at the darkness is to reconnect with Mother Earth: through a solstice bonfire, candle lighting ritual, or winter gathering. We need to keep these customs as old as humanity that remind us that we are not separate from nature.
- The cure for disgust at the endless stream of commercials urging me to “buy, buy, buy”? Well, that would be time in a real community of people that care about each other, and are learning to demonstrate caring and kindness with presence, rather than just presents. A community like UUCA.



I look forward to spending time in this community throughout the holidays. May we all find our own cures for the holiday blues, as we connect to one another with presence throughout the winter season.

Blessed be. May you find your own way to keep this season, one that brings you joy and good cheer.

~Kristina Church, UUCA Ministerial Intern



Adult Faith Development

Women's Afternoon Study Group-Thursday, November 27th at 1:30 in the Living Room. We will read an article from the Atlantic on Laughter. We need it!

Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, December 6th– 7pm in the Living Room. Contact Chris Barry with questions.

Women's Afternoon Study Group-Tuesday, December 4th at 1:30 in the Emerson Room. We will read from a very clever little book entitled : "Notable Failures in Buffalo History" by local author Pat Kewley. It sounds grim but it is actually very cleverly written about failures you have missed along the line. Nothing about the Bills. Chapter One is "Mordecai Noah and the Story of Ararat" which involves Grand Island!

Poetry as Practice: Sunday December 9th at noon in Reeb Room. Marlana Rice presents poems with the theme of 'Mystery'

Current Events Discussion and Lunch: Tuesday, December 11th - 12:30 p.m. - Meet in the Emerson Room to enjoy your lunch from home or wherever and talk about the state of affairs in the news.

Women's Afternoon Study Group-No Meetings Dec. 25th or Jan 1st. Enjoy your holidays!

Sunday Young Adult Meet up: Sundays at 11:45 AM - meet in the Emerson Room for snacks & fellowship. At Noon, go to the Whitney Young Room on the 2nd floor of the Faith Development wing for discussion, fun, connection, and spiritual growth. Questions? Need a Ride? - Contact Religious Advisor, Diane Bofinger.

CULTURAL LITERACY FOR RELIGION: EVERYTHING THE WELL-EDUCATED PERSON SHOULD KNOW:

This *Great Courses* video series is an engaging way to understand and discuss world religions. First through Fourth Sundays at 9:15am in **Living Room.** Drop-ins welcome!

- 12/2 Confucianism –Rituals & Relationships
- 12/9 Daoism: Harmony, Nature, & the Way
- 12/16 Discussion: Chinese Religions
- 12/23 Coffee & Conversation
- 12/30 No Session-Social Justice Activity



Make up Sessions! Monday Evening or Thursday Afternoons in Emerson Room.

Lecture 5: Gita to Gandhi - Yogis & Modern Hinduism - Thurs., 11/29, 1 PM

Lecture 6: Waking Up - The Buddha & His Teachings - Thurs., 11/29, 1:30 PM

Lecture 7: Vehicles to Nirvana - The Schools of Buddhism - Mon., 12/3, 7 PM; Thurs., 12/6, 1 PM

Lecture 8: Chinese Religion & Cosmology - Mon., 12/3, 7:30 PM; Thurs., 12/6, 1:30 PM

Lecture 9: Confucianism - Rituals & Relationships - Mon. 12/10, 7 PM; Thurs., 12/13, 1 PM

Lecture 10: Daoism - Harmony, Nature, & the Way - Mon., 12/10, 7:30 PM; Thurs., 12/13, 1:30 PM



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 716.634.3010 www.uuamherst.org

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>25</p> <p>Angel Tree Donations Due</p> <p>9am - Holiday Decorating in Emerson</p> <p>9:15am - World Religions (LR)</p> <p>10:30am - Church Service (Em/Whitney Young)</p> <p>11:45am - Young Adult Meet-Up (Em/Whitney Young)</p> <p>12pm - Little Free Pantry (LR)</p> <p>12:30pm - Coming of Age (Bullfinch)</p> <p>12:30pm - GO BILLS! (Em)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6pm - AA (LR)</p> <p>7pm - World Religions (Em)</p> <p>7:30pm - ACOA (LR)</p> <p>7:30pm - Buffalo Recorder (Em)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10am - ACOA(LR)</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)</p> <p>1:30pm - Women's Afternoon Study Group (LR)</p> <p>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>1:30pm - Green Sanctuary (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Life Ring Group (Reeb)</p> <p>7pm - Santosha Holistic Center (Chapel & Em)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12pm - ROMEO's Lunch @ Buffalo (Buffalo, DR, Wing)</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>1pm - World Religions (Em)</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Night Book Club (L)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7pm - Cocktails and Conversation (offsite)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9am - Chinmaya Mission (FD)</p> <p>10am - Facilitator Training (Reeb)</p> <p>10am - Santosha Center (Em&Chapel)</p>
<p>2</p> <p>130 pm Voice Lessons (choir)</p> <p>7:30 pm AA (LR)</p> <p>8:30am - FD Facilitator Meeting (Em)</p> <p>9:15am - World Religions (LR)</p> <p>10am - Kindness Rocks (Lobby)</p> <p>10:30am - Church Service</p> <p>11:45am - Young Adult Meet-Up (Em/Whitney Young)</p> <p>12pm - Equal Exchange coffee (Em)</p> <p>12pm - Kindness Rocks (Lobby)</p> <p>12pm - Poetry as Practice (Reeb)</p> <p>130pm Voice Lessons (choir)</p> <p>730 pm AA (LR)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>UN Human Rights Day</p> <p>6pm - AA (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Mankind Project (Reeb)</p> <p>7pm - World Religions (Em)</p> <p>7:15pm - Finance/Facilitator (Em)</p> <p>7:30pm - ACOA (LR)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - ACOA(LR)</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)</p> <p>1:30pm - Women's Afternoon Study Group (LR)</p> <p>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>1:30pm - Green Sanctuary (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Life Ring Group (Reeb)</p> <p>7pm - Santosha Holistic Center (Chapel & Em)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12pm - ROMEO's Lunch @ Buffalo (Buffalo, DR, Wing)</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>1pm - World Religions (Em)</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Night Book Club (L)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Kitchen Cleaning</p> <p>10am - Strategic Plan Coffee & Conversation (Em)</p> <p>12pm - kitchen Cleaning</p> <p>4pm - Holiday Party (Em)</p> <p>5pm - Buffalo Boiles (LR)</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>130 pm Voice Lessons (choir)</p> <p>7:30 pm AA (LR)</p> <p>8:30am - FD Facilitator Meeting (Em)</p> <p>9:15am - World Religions (LR)</p> <p>10am - Kindness Rocks (Lobby)</p> <p>10:30am - Church Service</p> <p>11:45am - Young Adult Meet-Up (Em/Whitney Young)</p> <p>12pm - Equal Exchange coffee (Em)</p> <p>12pm - Kindness Rocks (Lobby)</p> <p>12pm - Poetry as Practice (Reeb)</p> <p>130pm Voice Lessons (choir)</p> <p>730 pm AA (LR)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>UN Human Rights Day</p> <p>6pm - AA (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Mankind Project (Reeb)</p> <p>7pm - World Religions (Em)</p> <p>7:15pm - Finance/Facilitator (Em)</p> <p>7:30pm - ACOA (LR)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am - ACOA(LR)</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)</p> <p>12:30pm - Current Events Lunch (Em)</p> <p>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb)</p> <p>7pm - Board of Trustees Meeting (Em)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>3:30pm - set up for event</p> <p>5pm - Adoption Star Christmas (Em&Chapel)</p> <p>7pm - Life Ring Group (Reeb)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>1pm - World Religions (Em)</p> <p>7pm - Covenant Group (LR&DR)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4:30pm - set up for party</p> <p>6pm - Day Care Christmas Party (Em)</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Deadline for Newsletter</p> <p>9:15am - World Religions (LR)</p> <p>10am - Kindness Rocks (Lobby)</p> <p>10:30am - Church Service</p> <p>11:45am - Young Adult Meet-Up (Lobby)</p> <p>12pm - Caring Committee Letters (Lobby)</p> <p>12pm - Kindness Rocks (Lobby)</p> <p>12:30pm - Coming of Age (Bullfinch)</p> <p>5:30 Community Christmas Carol Singalong (St. John's Lutheran Church)</p> <p>7:15am - AA (LR)</p> <p>9:15am - AA (LR)</p> <p>10:30am - Church Service--A Christmas Carol (Chapel)</p> <p>11:45am - Young Adult Meet-Up (Em/Whitney Young)</p> <p>1:30pm - Voice Lessons (Choir)</p> <p>7:30pm - AA (LR)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6pm - AA (LR)</p> <p>7:30pm - ACOA (LR)</p> <p>7:30pm - Buffalo Recorder (Em)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am - ACOA(LR)</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)</p> <p>12:30pm - Women's Lunch (Em)</p> <p>1:30pm - Caring for One Another (Em)</p> <p>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>7pm - Life Ring Group (Reeb)</p> <p>7pm - Social Justice (DR)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>7pm - Gay & Lesbian Group * (Em)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>130 pm Voice Lessons (choir)</p> <p>7:30 pm AA (LR)</p> <p>8:30am - FD Facilitator Meeting (Em)</p> <p>9:15am - World Religions (LR)</p> <p>10am - Kindness Rocks (Lobby)</p> <p>10:30am - Church Service</p> <p>11:45am - Young Adult Meet-Up (Lobby)</p> <p>12pm - Caring Committee Letters (Lobby)</p> <p>12pm - Kindness Rocks (Lobby)</p> <p>12:30pm - Coming of Age (Bullfinch)</p> <p>5:30 Community Christmas Carol Singalong (St. John's Lutheran Church)</p> <p>7:15am - AA (LR)</p> <p>9:15am - AA (LR)</p> <p>10:30am - Church Service--A Christmas Carol (Chapel)</p> <p>11:45am - Young Adult Meet-Up (Em/Whitney Young)</p> <p>1:30pm - Voice Lessons (Choir)</p> <p>7:30pm - AA (LR)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>4pm - Family Friendly Christmas (Chapel)</p> <p>7pm - Mankind Project (Reeb)</p> <p>10pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Chapel)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>10am - ACOA(LR)</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)</p> <p>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>7pm - Grief Support Group (LR)</p> <p>7pm - Life Ring Group (Reeb)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD Wing)</p> <p>6pm - AA District Meeting (LR)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Social Justice Sunday</p> <p>9:15am - Social Justice Sunday (Em)</p> <p>10:30am - Church Service</p> <p>11:45am - Young Adult Meet-Up (Em/Whitney Young)</p> <p>12pm - UUCA Book Club (DR)</p> <p>7pm - Divine Grace (Chapel)</p> <p>7:30pm - AA (LR)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>9pm - New Year's Eve Party (Em)</p> <p>6pm - AA (LR)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	

AA = Alcoholic Anonymous
 AE = Auction Event
 ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics
 Bul = Thomas Bullfinch Room
 Ch = Chapel
 DR = Dining Room
 Em = Emerson Room
 FD = Faith Development Wing
 LR = Living Room
 Reeb = Reeb Room
 * = tentative

5th Sunday Social Justice Project for All Ages

Sunday, December 30, 9:15 am, Emerson Room

We've only just begun the winter season of cold, snow, and blowing winds. As our Project this month, we'll make fleece scarves to share. Come and help!



UUrocks AmherstNY

I see some new rocks in our #KindnessRocksProject box in the lobby (under the information table next to the Welcome Desk) - the bejeweled butterfly and googly-eyed critter are especially striking. Thank you to the anonymous donors!

In this season of light, some people need a boost, and our rocks help "Inspire Others and Spread Hope." The concept is simple: 1.) Decorate a flat rock with a saying and/or picture; 2.) Brighten someone's day. You can bring in your own, or decorate primed rocks with me at church. I'll bring supplies on the **mid-December Sundays (9th and 16th)**. Look for me in the entrance lobby near the Welcome Desk before or after the service. I'll take the rocks home afterward to apply sealer, then bring them back to church. ~Marie Evans



For more information, join our Facebook page: [UUrocks_AmherstNY](#).



Equal Exchange Chocolate, Coffee & Tea

December 9 @ 11:30 in the Emerson Room

Theater Lovers

We have some exciting opportunities coming in 2019!

Jewish Repertory Theatre's next production is TALLEY'S FOLLY, running February 7 through March 3. We'll have our group outing to the show, with dinner afterwards at Lebro's, on closing day, March 3. Discount ticket order forms, for weekend shows during the entire run, are already in the folder at the bottom of the Church Life bulletin board.



SECOND GENERATION
THEATRE COMPANY

Second Generation Theatre Company is presenting the ambitious "ANGELS IN AMERICA: Part 1, Millennium Approaches" next spring at Shea's Smith Theatre, 658 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14202. They have invited us to bring a group at a discounted rate AND provide a talkback with members of the ensemble after one of the 2 pm Saturday matinee performances. The dates of the show are March 8 - March 24. The group rate for ANGELS would be \$20/person (normally \$30/ adult, \$25/senior). I'll be picking a specific date after the holidays. ~Marie Evans

Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEOs):

Thursday, December 6 at noon at
Buffalo Brew Pub.



Women's Lunch: Tuesday,

December 18 - 12:30 p.m. in

Emerson. Bring a lunch to enjoy time
chatting with your church friends.

BOARD NOTES

Dear members and friends,

Welcome to the last month of 2018, the time to remember the mystery of giving in many ways, including charitable giving. To shed light on this mystery, I consulted with UUCA member Nan Cosby, whose first advice is that, "Everyone's financial situation is different and it's not wise to act on generalities. Please contact your own tax advisor before proceeding."



To continue, "With a higher standard deduction, a lot of people will not itemize. But if they're close, some people benefit by alternating the years they make contributions. For instance if someone takes a standard deduction this year, they should consider postponing what they'd normally contribute in December to January. Then in December 2019, contribute again, effectively doubling their contributions for 2019 when they do itemize. **And the reverse** - someone who plans to itemize this year, and not the following may want to "prepay" as much of their charitable giving as possible.

A broad brush:

- 2018 standard deduction is \$12,000 for singles, \$18,000 for head of household, and \$23,000 for married. Add \$1300 if over 65 **or** blind.
- no more miscellaneous deductions (e.g. Financial advisors, tax prep and advice, employee business expense, legal, safe deposit box, etc.)
- state taxes limited to \$10,000
- mortgage interest only deductible if proceeds were used for home improvements

Gifts of appreciated stock continue to be a good alternative for many. If the stock was held for more than a year, the gain escapes taxation when transferred in kind to UUCA or to the Endowment Trust.

Direct transfer of an RMD (required minimum distribution) from a traditional IRA (not a Roth, etc.) will exclude that IRA distribution from taxation. A good plan for someone who will not itemize."

As we move into the New Year, we can evaluate our gifts of treasure and those of time and talent to this beloved community. As the BOT continues to learn about Policy Governance, we are forming a Focus Team that will help us transition over the next couple of years. Please contact Scott Harrigan, Doreen Park, or myself if you are interested in helping rework our UUCA policies.

Two other groups presently forming are a Focus Team on Safety and Security, and a Task Force on signage. Please direct your inquiries about these groups to me at this point, and look for further direction as ideas develop.

Happy Holidays, everyone! I hope they are filled with Mystery and Wonder, and some sprinkles of Clarity, too!

~Angela Warren, on behalf of the BOT: Dave Kofke, Doreen Park, Randy Kent, Wendy Scott, Jim Hartz, and Scott Harrigan.

When is it again?

Visit our website for the calendar, news and event information.
www.uuamherst.org

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG



Sunday, December 16th

5:30-8:00PM

**St. John Lutheran Church
6540 Main Street, Williamsville**

*Food Trucks - Basket Raffle
Visit from Santa - Kids Crafts
Special Musical Performances*

**More info & free tickets at
www.singxmascarols.com**

*Donations will be accepted for the Amherst Little Free Pantry at
the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst*



AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY UPDATE

So many people in the community have helped the Little Free Pantry out over the past month!

Thanks go to our renter groups including Main Street Children's Academy, John Newman Mission, Santosha Circle, Divine Grace, Animal Advocates of WNY, and AA for their interest in the pantry, volunteering, and donations.

Thanks as well to all our wonderful volunteers and everyone who has donated items so far. The Jr/Sr Youth Group has also volunteered to stock the Pantry and did a super job! The Pantry Committee has a new volunteer who is an Amherst resident who saw the preview story on WKBW, came to the Pantry opening and wanted to get involved! She is volunteering to help stock the Pantry on Wednesdays. This is the kind of community support we hoped for.

Especially exciting is the upcoming Community Christmas Carol Sing Along on 12/16 at 5:30pm at St. John's Lutheran church (6540 Main Street), where we have been asked to set up a table to collect donations for the Little Free Pantry.

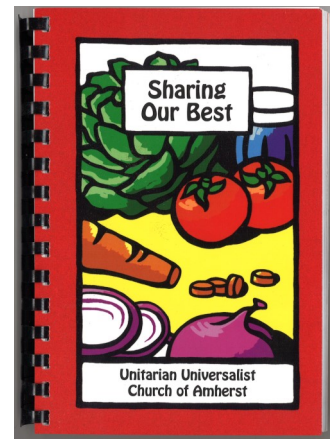
We have received about five more anonymous comments in the Pantry for a total of about ten. The latest comment said, "Thank You for helping me get by."

A reminder to please leave items directly in outside pantry or in the donation center in the main lobby. Please non perishable foods only, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and no glass. To make a financial donation or to donate a grocery store gift card, please contact the church office at 634-3010 for more details.

If you are on Facebook, please like our Facebook page at Amherst Little Free Pantry. This is free, crucial social media publicity. For questions or comments, please contact Maria Ceraulo at amherstlittlefreepantry@uamherst.org

UUCA GET COOKIN'!

Here is an "excellent dinner to serve guests or family" courtesy of Ria Martens from our **UUCA cookbook**, "Sharing Our Best". These cookbooks make a great holiday gift and are available Sundays for \$5 in the Emerson Room or during office hours in the office (or contact Barb Kent).



Cranberry Pork Loin Dinner

3 lb. rolled boneless pork
1 (16 oz) can jellied cranberry sauce
1/2 c. sugar
1/2 c. cranberry or apple/cranberry juice
1 tsp. dry mustard
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
2T. Cornstarch
1 c. water

Pour ingredients over the pork in a crock pot or roasting pan with cover. Cook 6-8 hours at low heat in crock pot or slow oven (300°) covered, for 3 or more hours. Keep moist, basting when checking moisture level. When done, thicken remaining liquid with cornstarch and water.

Serve with plain rice and salad.
Happy Holidays!

WE WANT YOU!



Usher Recruitment: We could use a few good Unitarians who would like to help ushering during Sunday, Summer or occasional Memorial Services. No physical required to be eligible; must be 18 years old or older, no meetings as training is during Sunday services. Email head usher Elaine Cusker if interested

GREEN SANCTUARY CORNER

Wednesday, December 5, 1:30 pm - Green Sanctuary meeting in the Emerson room



As we approach the season of large get togethers where people might not want dishes to clean up, we remind everyone of the hazards of Styrofoam. So please use paper products or dive into washing those dishes, instead!

From "Why Styrofoam is So Bad for the Environment" by Kim Robinson.

"Styrofoam is non-biodegradable and appears to last forever. It's resistant to photolysis, or the breaking down of materials by photons originating from light. This, combined with the fact that Styrofoam floats, means that large amounts of polystyrene have accumulated along coastlines and waterways around the world. It is considered a main component of marine debris." Read the whole article at <https://green-mom.com/styrofoam-bad-environment/#.WWDWehKiUk>

~Happy 'Green' Holidays from your Green Sanctuary Committee.



YOU SHOP WE GIVE™

Over the last year, we made \$90.62 for the church by shopping with GoodSearch and GoodShop. GoodSearch is a Yahoo powered search engine that provides one cent to a selected charity for every qualified search you perform with it. GoodShop provides a percentage of the sale price of purchases to your selected charity.

Here’s how you can help make money for the Church while shopping or searching for products online:

To sign up, simply go to www.goodshop.com. When asked to identify a charity be sure to type: unitarian universalist church of Amherst It’s Easy!



Whale Coast Alaska 2019 Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **Whale Coast Alaska 2019** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete information go to www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more. *We would love to share our Alaska with you!*

All Church List Serve:

The purpose of the All Church List is to provide the widest possible audience for announcements of church events. To facilitate that, the list is moderated.

If you have an announcement for your committee or church group that is appropriate to send to all church members, then you simply send it to the list directly:

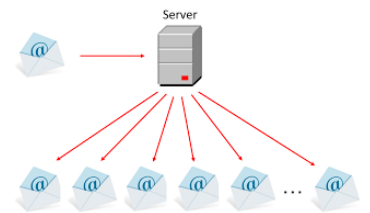
uuamherst-allchurch@googlegroups.com

The moderators will be alerted and the message will be approved or you will be contacted as to why the message was not approved.

The BEST TIME to send messages for quick approval is Monday through Friday from 9 am - 4 pm. Although those are usually approved within an hour or so, please do NOT depend on approval within that time frame. Rather expect it will be approved the SAME DAY. Please plan accordingly.

If you send a message to the list after hours, that is after 4 pm, it will be approved the NEXT DAY.

The exception is after hours on Friday and the weekend. If you NEED a message approved in time for an event on SUNDAY, then you need to send it to the list BEFORE 4 PM on FRIDAY.





Fall Auction Success! Just over \$4,500 was raised during our Fall Auction on November 4th. We had a great time with a record-breaking number of people who came to bid on items! Much thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who made the magic happen, especially Auction co-chairs Marge Marcille, Carol Joyce, and Elaine Cusker.

There are a few Auction Events with space still available. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office (634-3010 x101 or administrator@uamherst.org) Checks can be mailed to church or left in locked mailbox outside the office.

Buffalo Bills Party!

Join us for a Buffalo Bills Party —Bills vs. Miami Dolphins—on the big screen in the Emerson Room. “Tailgate” lunch, drinks, and friends to cheer on the Bills.

Date: December 2nd at 1pm Cost \$20 Spots Left: 5 Donated by Barb and Barry Kent

MOVIES OF THE COLD WAR

Refreshments will be served, including wine and popcorn. The three films are: The “Manchurian Candidate”(1962), “Dr. Strangelove”(1964), and “The Death of Stalin”(2018)

Dates: 2nd Fridays 1/11/19, 2/8/19 & 3/8/19 in Emerson Room

Cost: \$7 for one or \$21 for all three Spots left: 18 Donated by Randy and Kimberly Kent

JEWELRY MAKING PARTY

We have a large assortment of beads, stones, findings and chains to choose from. We have the tools – just bring your imagination! Wine, tea, soft drinks and snacks will be served.

Date: Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 3pm at Marlana’s house

Seats available: 5 Cost: \$15 per person Offered by Marlana Rice and Marie Evans

Super Bowl Party!

Wine, Beer, and pop provided. Pizza and a variety of other appetizers and snacks will be served. (If there are special dietary needs, we will accommodate those needs. Please advise of these needs by Jan 30th to kkuhn745@gmail.com). Parking is limited to 4 cars in the driveway, street parking available but there are no sidewalks.

Date: Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 5:30 pm , 39 Tudor Ct., Getzville

Cost: \$30.00 Spots Left: 9 Donated by John Thompson, Karen Kuhn, Barry and Barbara Kent

Trivia Night

Pub-style quiz featuring five rounds of questions in a variety of fun categories. All ages welcome. Play by yourself or in a team of up to four people. Light refreshments will be served.

Date/Time: Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Emerson Room

Cost: \$10/person, or \$25/family Donated by Adel and Rosalind Sulaiman

Soup and Runes

An evening to warm body and soul. Join Rev. Michelle for a simple meal and fun learning/activity. You'll learn about the Viking Runes and make your own set. All materials provided. Open to all ages - parents may need to help younger children with the activity. (soup vegan & gluten free)

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 23rd in the Emerson Room

Cost; \$5/person, \$15/family Donated by Rev. Michelle and Les Buhite

The Environment, the Future, and You

Light Refreshments will be served. *Can I Go Electric? The Future of EVs., The Solar Home, Nuclear Power: Is It A Part of Our Carbon-Free Future?*

Date/Time: First Sunday of Month (Jan to March), Emerson Room at 12:30 pm

Cost: \$5 / one talk or \$10 for all three Host: Scott Harrigan

Sunday Lecture Series

**Sunday, December 16 at noon in the chapel
Healthcare for the Gay Community and Transgender**

Nuances. Guest Speaker: Rachel Parrino

Rachel Parrino (she/her) is Engagement & Education Specialist, Pride Center of WNY. Rachel will tailor today's presentation to requests/needs of the audience. She will speak briefly or at length on specific health care needs, language - the new definitions, stereotypes, etc.



Born and raised in western NY, Rachel began her work with Having Empowered Leaders as Peers (HELP) in high school to help spread HIV awareness. While attending SUNY at Buffalo for her BA in Psychology, she became involved with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance (LGBTQA), being voted onto the executive board and then as president for two years. While at UB she began educational programming and support groups and became a founding student representative of the Diversity Committee's Gender and Sexual Orientation sub-committee. Rachel's work at the Pride Center is now centered around LGBTQ cultural competency trainings and helping to design programming for the aging population. Outside of the center you can find her working behind the scenes with the Brazen-Faced Varlets, a local women's theater company, or at the park with her springer doodle, Maggie.

The Pride Center of WNY offer LGBTQ Cultural Competency Trainings and presentations to businesses, academic organizations, government agencies, and organizations interested in having members of their staff trained on being sensitive to the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of their LGBTQ customers/clients/students and co-workers. The curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of those requesting the trainings. Topics that are addressed include the basics of appropriate language, definitions of terms, deconstruction of stereotypes, and more specialized issues, as needed. Cultural competency trainings benefit participants by providing concrete information, real-world examples, and exercises to enlighten participants in ways that lead to a more equal, affirming, and productive environment. This type of training helps to address considerations such as improving communication, creating safer space, developing tolerance, and enhancing learning and work environments.



CERSI News: *Did You Know...* that many of the important jobs at CER Summer Institute are filled by regular SI attendees? These positions also carry a stipend, or "campership," that can reduce your cost of attendance (or can be donated back to the scholarship fund!). If you are interested in learning more about the different SI jobs and camperships, such as RE teacher, childcare provider, assistant camp nurse, and more, check the website at www.cersiuu.org.

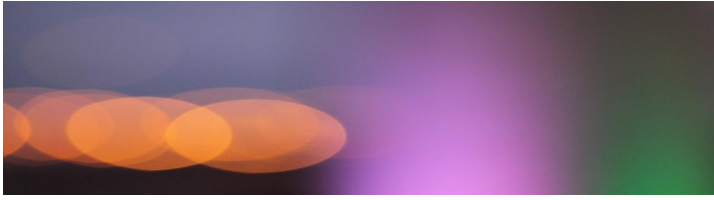
Applications open on December 15, 2018.

Central East
Region

New Day Rising Conference - Slightly overwhelmed by all the options in tackling white supremacy culture in your congregation? Feeling stuck, or coming up against resistance? How do you know where to start? Or what comes next? Join us for New Day Rising Conference, Jan 26, Oakton, VA. Your CER Staff would love to see you there! <https://tinyurl.com/newdayrisingva>

Want to know what is happening in the Central East Region? Looking for information on workshops and offerings? There are several ways to keep in touch and know what's happening. Visit the CER website at uua.org/cer. Subscribe to the Central East Newsletter at <https://uua874.activehosted.com/f/1210>, or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ceguua/) or Twitter [@ceruua](https://twitter.com/ceruua).

“We gather on the cusp of this new year eager to begin anew, hopeful for what lies ahead, promising to make changes, anticipating tomorrows and tomorrows.” Sylvia L. Howe



During this time of giving, please remember you can support the UUCA :

- * When buying for others by using Amazon.Smile and designating the UUCA Endowment Trust as the recipient.
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/16-6411704>
- * You may also want to remember someone with a gift in their name.
- * You may have an unexpected dividend that you would like to contribute.
- * You can also contribute directly on the Website via the Giving Button and designating the Endowment Trust. Go to www.uuamherst.org, and click ‘Giving’ in upper right corner



As always, the Endowment Trust thanks you for supporting the future of the UUCA.



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