



CommUnity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

March 2020



March Services

Services and Children’s Religious Education Classes begin at 10 AM. Nursery Care is available.

March 1- *A Life Lived* with guest Amo Mazen

Amo Mazen, owner of Bab el Salam Restaurant in Portage, will share his personal challenges and triumphs immigrating to the US. This service will be the first in our *International Guest Speaker Series* on the first Sundays of the month . Read more about this series on [page 2](#).

March 8 - *Music in Our Lives* with Mary Roscoe and Nick Sienkiewicz

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." — Plato. Nick and Mary will lead us through an exploration of the influence of music on our lives.

March 15 - *Credo* with UCC Children and Youth

The kids at UCC will share their wisdom with the rest of us during our annual youth-led service.

March 22 and 29 - *To Be Determined* with Rev. Gy

With a little luck and a lot of determination, we hope Rev. Gy will be back with us by the end of March and ready to lead us on these Sundays.

Please visit our UCC website at ucommunitychurch.org where you can find up-to-date information.

From the Minister

[Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney](#)



It happened once that a man wanted to be wise. He didn't know how to go about it. He then observed a sage. He noticed that the sage would retreat to the jungle for long periods of time, with no food, no water, only the clothes on his back.

So, our man decided to also leave his village, go into the jungle, no food, no water, only clothes on his back, expecting wisdom in return. First day went by, he was feeling good, sat in silence and waited for wisdom. Second day while he noticed little wisdom, he became aware of his empty stomach. As the days came and went, only hunger grew bigger, wisdom no so much.

He did however become aware of an injured fox. Both his front legs were broken and he could not walk. He seemed well fed nonetheless and our man was wondering why? The he saw it. A majestic tiger appeared around dinner time and brought the injured fox a portion of his kill. The fox eat, the tiger left. This went on for days.

As our man grew more and more hungry he began wondering how is it that no one from his village is bringing him anything to eat? Don't they know he's alone in the jungle? Don't they know he's aspiring to get enlightened? How is it that a tiger is more caring to an injured fox than his fellow villagers? And so his resentment grew...

You may wonder what is the meaning of this story? Why, here it is: in a world where you can be either, why would you want to be the injured fox when you can be the tiger?

This time you've been my tigers and I thank you for it. Soon it will be my turn to be a tiger and I intend to keep it that way. Thank you for helping me getting closer to recovery. It means the world to both Patti and me.

INSPIRED SPIRITUALITY

International Guest Speakers Series

UUCC's Marketing Committee is very excited to share an opportunity to grow our compassion and our loving community.



For the next four consecutive Potluck Sundays, UUCC will host a Special International Guest Speaker who will share his/her personal challenges and triumphs immigrating to the US. Following the service, the Guest Speaker, congregants, and additional guests will enjoy a potluck meal together.

We believe these immigrant stories will be interesting to many, so we encourage you to invite your friends (via personal invitation, email or Facebook). We also ask that you bring an extra portion of food to share to accommodate any additional guests.

The first service in the International Guest Speaker Series will take place on Sunday, March 1st when we are joined by Amo Mazen, owner of Bab el Salam restaurant in Portage. (Please no pork in any potluck dishes out of respect for Mr. Mazen's beliefs) We will be joined by other guests on April 5th, May 3rd, and June 7th. More information about upcoming speakers will be included in future newsletters.

If you would like to know more about this series or have a suggestion of a community member who might be interested in sharing their immigration story with us, please contact a member of the Marketing Committee - [Darby Fetzer](#), [Mary Roscoe](#), or [Ron Crowell](#).

March Mindfulness Retreat

Set a Saturday aside to refresh, renew, and connect to your authentic self at a Mindfulness Practice Retreat led by Eric Nelson on March 7th from 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM at UUCC.

Retreats are a great way to sustain and reinvigorate your meditation practice or if you are new to mindfulness, it provides a good foundation for practice. Eric will guide you through the fundamentals of mindfulness, self-kindness and compassion practice, mindful walking, mindful Yoga, mindful eating, and more.

Based on over thirty years of research, the contemplative practices offered in this retreat are proven effective in reducing stress, anxiety, and depression, and help move us beyond fear, uncertainty, and attachment.

Give yourself the gift of peace and well-being. Visit Eric's website: [Stress Less Kzoo](#) to register. Registration is \$30. Scholarships are available. For more information call Eric at 269-553-6621 or email StressLessKzoo@gmail.com



UU OPPORTUNITIES



Registration for this summer's Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat for Unitarian Universalist families is now open. Join other UU families July 10-13 in Cassopolis, Michigan for an amazing all ages experience at lovely Camp Friedenswald in southwestern Michigan - only 90 miles from Chicago, 120 miles from Ann Arbor and 195 miles from Indianapolis.

At Chalice Sparx camp and retreat for families you will experience a truly multigenerational community. There are no camp counselors here to whisk away the children separate from their families. Here we learn together, worship together and explore together in a community of all ages – including elders who complete our multigenerational village. As an intentional UU covenanted community, we are especially welcoming to Trans children, youth and their families. Although it is a small growing camp, approximately half of the families who come to Chalice Sparx camp each year are families with a child, youth or adult who is trans or non-binary and families of color or families with a child of color/multiracial represent 1/3 of our families each year at Chalice Sparx.

We also have fun together. Swimming, hiking or riding a wagon through the trails, canoeing, archery, popcorn popped in a kettle over an open fire, and of course, S'mores and singing camp songs.

For more information check out the website of this non-profit organization run by Unitarian Universalist religious educators, ministers, and laypersons from all over the Midwest. For more information visit chalicesparx.org.



Are you planning a trip to Alaska? If so, you might consider this offer from **WhaleCoast Alaska**, a fundraising effort of four Alaska UU congregations - Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka. WhaleCoast Alaska promises a unique environmental, cultural, and spiritual program that will allow you to experience Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly home stays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships --this program is truly 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 info go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org or [email dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org) or call 907-322-4966.

Discount for groups of 8 or more. UUs would love to share our Alaska with you!

CARING COMMUNITY



MARCH CARING COMMUNITY NEWS

*Springtime is the land awakening.
The March winds are the morning yawn.
~ Lewis Grizzard*

The month of March seems to be coming in like a lion with rain, snow and cold, but the first day of spring and warmer weather will be here before we know it! We are sending warm wishes to our UCC March birthday celebrants -- Erin Michael, Olivia Russel (Betty Lee's granddaughter), and Marcia Adams.

Spring means our 'snowbirds' will soon be with us again. Our thoughts are with our UCC friends who have traveled to warmer climes this winter. We hope you are enjoying your stay down south and out west, but we can't wait until you are back with us again. Travel Safely!

Jim Heveran, as many of you know, sold his home in Constantine this fall and stays in the Alabama sunshine year-round now. He would probably enjoy hearing news from his UCC friends. Why not write him a note and drop it in the mail?

At this writing, Rev. Gy is in sunny California awaiting surgery to repair a puncture in her spinal cord dura mater which is causing a debilitating cerebrospinal fluid leak. Her surgeon is confident that the puncture can be repaired and has assured her that recovery should be fairly easy, no more than a month. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is published, she will be recovering comfortably with no unforeseen complications. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to make a donation to help offset the cost of her treatment and recovery, a [GoFundMe Campaign](#) has been set up.

It is important that we hear each other in community so that we can double the fun and lessen the stress – we are not alone. If you have or are aware of someone else with a need, please contact your Caring Community point people: [Nancy Crowell](#), [Judy Oliver](#), or [Judy Pigg-Behrendt](#). Sharing is Caring!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

R.E.flections

From [Miriam Epskamp](#), Director of Religious Education (DRE)

At *Becoming Beloved Community*, the February **Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities** webinar, one of the presenters, Rev. Evin Carvill Ziemer, spoke about the ways we can more become a more deeply welcoming community by paying attention to who we are expecting. Rev. Evin shared this story by way of explanation:



"I was spending the late afternoon before the June 2018 UU Minister's Association Ministry Days exploring the hotel and riding the escalators with my 3 and 4-year-old children while we waited for the Opening Reception ("party" to my children).

While in the bathroom, my 3-year-old asked why there wasn't a stool so he could reach the sink. "I guess they aren't expecting children," I replied. "Why aren't they expecting children?" my 4-year-old asked insistently. None of my guesses satisfied either child.

My children still notice if there's a stool or not. A few days ago the younger one returned from a restaurant bathroom exclaiming joyfully "They're expecting children!" It makes a difference to know you're expected.

When my children notice the absence or presence of a stool in a bathroom it reminds me of all the ways we can communicate we expect someone. Ramps into buildings and pulpits. High chairs in fellowship halls. A space for children in the sanctuary. Large print orders of service. Pronoun stickers for name badges. A gender-neutral bathroom with clear signage. Accessibility devices for those who have trouble hearing the service. A calmer, quieter room near the sanctuary with the sound piped in for anyone who needs it—for sensory overstimulation, easier hearing, or a baby insisting on crawling and climbing. And so much more."

That story got me thinking about what we do here at UUC. We aspire to be a community that welcomes diversity. We want people from different backgrounds, with different life experiences and beliefs, and of different ages to feel welcome here. But are we making it clear that we are expecting them? Could some things that signal welcome be missing at our church? Do some of the things we do unintentionally send the wrong message to those we want to join us?

One of my goals for the next church year is to examine with fresh eyes how we signal to children, families, and teens that they are expected and welcomed here and to find ways to make sure what we do matches what we say. I invite you to also take a close look around UUC and see what you think we are communicating to newcomers? What small changes might make a big difference for someone different than you? Share your ideas with me! Let's work together to make our church home a truly welcoming place for all. May it be so.

March Religious Education

3/1 Service Prep with Miriam

3/15 Multi-gen Worship N/A

3/29 Social Justice Sunday -LGBTQ Issues with Xiao Yi from OutFront Kalamazoo

3/8 Service Prep with Miriam

3/22 Mindful Sunday - Clay with TBD

LEADERSHIP

Board President's Corner

by [Nancy Calme](#), Board President

I've been watching real-time and re-runs of the UUA's *Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities* online seminars, and highly recommend them to everyone. Each has focused on one aspect of small congregation life and offered good ideas and a chance to share questions or concerns.

The one in February was called "*Being Beloved Community*," and it provided a lot of good food for thought. My favorite idea was about using small group ministry to build deeper relationships that are inclusive of old-timers and newcomers, alike. We have done some of this in past years but currently, the closest thing we have is the classes and committees. I think it is time to start it back up.

The seminar explained the steps a small group takes to build trust and warmth among its members. I will paraphrase:

- **Step One: Bonding**
This is where you begin to break down the cliques and barriers and establish a relationship of trust among the individuals in the group.
- **Step Two: Opening Up**
Members learn to deeply listen to one another's stories and feelings without interrupting or judging. This practice builds understanding and a security that we are not alone.
- **Step Three: Affirming**
Purposely showing appreciation and positive feedback for one another's gifts, encouraging comfort with the practice of sharing more of one's self.
- **Step Four: Stretching**
At this point, you begin to share difficult situations and conflicts that may go a bit beyond your comfort level. The group must create an atmosphere where people feel comfortable enough to expose their imperfections to the group, and work on openly and honestly working through problems together.
- **Step Five: Deeper Sharing & Goal Setting**
At this stage, individuals share deeply with one another and demonstrate that they are sympathetic and supportive of each other's work to overcome their personal challenges.

There are a lot of good resources available with topics and discussions around which small groups could form. All it takes is a few brave souls to agree to take the lead and organize a group. Might you consider being a leader? Let me know and we'll help get it started.



Serving on the UUCB Board of Trustees is Nancy Calme, Erin Michael, Denise Sonier, Betty Lee Ongley and Larry Higgins. They meet at UUCB on the First Monday of each month at 4:00 PM.

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Program Council- Where We Get Stuff Done- TOGETHER!

by [Erin Michael](#), Board Vice-President

Thank you to the mighty group who made it to Program Council on February 9. We celebrated FOURTEEN successes from the outpouring of gifts for our Congolese family to hosting an ISAAC Culturally Competent Local Leadership event and much more! We meet next on Sunday, March 8 after coffee time. Bring your successes to share. Looking forward to being with you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Lay Leaders needed now! Ever thought of being a lay leader on a Sunday morning? Do you break out in a sweat just thinking about it? If you are able and willing to move outside your comfort zone, this is the most accepting group you will EVER have a chance to speak in front of. You will be supported and loved! Talk to Pat Fuehr, Lauren Ritter or Mary Roscoe!

Photos needed! We need photos of UCCers of all ages! Our website and our social media posts attract more followers to get our message out when we have smiling photos! Are you attending an external or internal event where UCCers are participating? Please let Julie Kelemen know ahead of time, and she will make the effort to be there to take photos. If she is unable to attend, please take a few quality photos and send them to the office administrator.

ACTION ITEMS

Media Releases: To use the beautiful photos mentioned above we need your permission! Please grab a media release at the Welcome Desk, read both sides of the paper and share with us how we can use photos of you. Give signed releases to the office administrator.

Webinars – Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities! Many of our congregants watched this series of four webinars offered by the UUA which are available online and are packed with great information on how small congregations can reduce burnout using consent-based decision making, identifying how best to use the resources we have (time, treasure, passion) to positively transform the world and how we can connect to each other in the most meaningful ways! Tools can be used in groups, committees and with the entire congregation. The Board is trying out tools. Check it out. The links are on [page 10](#). Questions? Talk to [Nancy Calme](#).

Restructuring Groups and/or Committees: Group and committee leaders are discussing possible ways to simplify how we do the work of the church. Some ideas are to move the work of the Social Justice committee and possibly parts of the Connections Team into Program Council. Nothing is set in stone, and we would love to hear your ideas on how this might work!

Upcoming Events: UCC has a lot going on! Check out our website calendar for all opportunities. Events which may interest you are March 7, Mindfulness Workshop (see [page 2](#)); March 14, PI Day final webinar for Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities – there will be pie! (see [page 10](#)) ; March 28, UCC Fellowship Dinner (see [page 8](#)); Wednesdays at 6:30 PM Choir ([Nick](#))!

Thank you for all you do!

GENEROSITY

*Unitarian Universalist
Community Church*

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU

to our

CELEBRATION *of* GENEROSITY

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2020

5:00 PM WINE AND CONVERSATION

5:45 PM SEATING

6:00 PM BUFFET DINNER

7:00 PM PLEDGING

DESSERT and PLEDGE RESULTS

CELEBRATION!

Special Entertainment by Nick Sienkiewicz

STEWARDSHIP

Sign Up for Our Celebration Dinner

Our March 28 celebration dinner will again be catered, with a little assistance (salads and desserts) from some of UUCC's best cooks and generous donors.

This dinner is our annual celebration of your generosity. Now is the time to reflect on how you can support this community that is our refuge from the world's troubles and our platform for improving them. Many of you remember the reverse offering a year ago when each congregant received a cash gift. Most of you used it to help someone else. If you remember how good that felt, you will feel even better when you fill in your pledge card as generously as you can. The final tally will determine how the Board formulates next year's budget.

Sign-up sheets for the celebration are on the welcome desk. Please use those forms to let the Stewardship Committee know how many children and adults will be attending, whether or not you need transportation, and if you would like a vegetarian entree. Children will be served from the same buffet menu as the adults. Before and after dinner, children may play downstairs under supervision.

Sing to the power of the faith within—

Sing to the power of our deep love,

Our strong hope, and bright joy.

But flex the power of these gifts, too—

Put your faith and hope to use;

Share your joy and love more freely

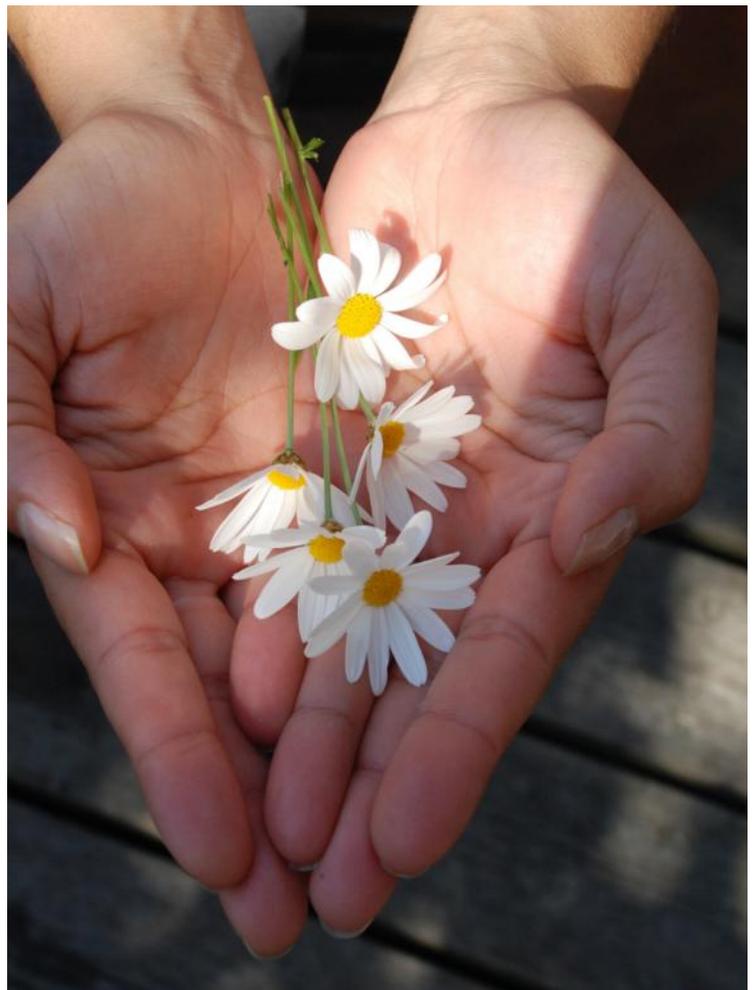
Than you thought possible,

For together, we use these tools

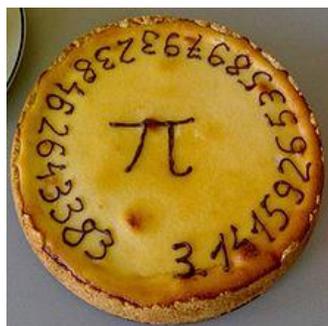
To carve out lives of wonder,

And purpose, and service.

~ Rev. Erika Hewitt, UU Minister



LEARNING AND GROWTH



Pi Day Small Congregation Virtual Meeting

Over the last few months, members of the congregation have gathered in the church office to watch ***Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities*** webinars conducted by Unitarian Universalist Association staff and focused on the needs and challenges of small congregations like ours. The webinars have offered interesting information, food for thought, and sparked some good conversations.

The series will conclude on Saturday, March 14th with meetings of small congregations from all over the country gathering in person and virtually to share challenges and successes, insights and ideas. As the closest in-person meeting is over 6 hours away, we opted to register for the virtual meeting.

If you would like to participate in this event, please contact Miriam to RSVP. We will need to register an additional login for each group of four people. The virtual meeting will take place between 12:00 -3:00 PM and will provide opportunities to engage in small group discussions. To help sustain us through such a long meeting, there will be pie.

If you would like to check out any of the *Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities* webinars you may have missed, follow the links below to watch recordings.

October: [*Smalls Making a Big Difference*](#)

November: [*Right-Sizing Your Congregation's Operations*](#)

January: [*Stewardship and Sustainability*](#)

February: [*Being the Beloved Community*](#)

If you have any questions about ***Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities*** or to RSVP for the March 14th meeting, please contact [Miriam](#).



Making its home at UCC, the **Open House Theatre Company** believes that the arts are for everyone! They strive to provide an accessible, educational, and inclusive theatrical experience for all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, or economic status.

They are excited to announce their next production will be a new play by local playwright, Dan Smith. The first reading of this play will be on Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 PM. Many readers are needed. If you would be interested in participating in this read-through, please contact [Nick Sienkiewicz](#) or [Mary Roscoe](#).

A second reading of the play will take place in front of an audience, on Sunday, March 22nd at 2:00 PM to provide the playwright with feedback. UCC members and friends are encouraged to attend.

Open House Theatre Company hopes to produce a full production of Dan Smith's play in August. For more info about Open House Theater and its upcoming events, visit their [website](#).

LEARNING AND GROWTH



Author Visit: Jonathan Safran Foer

March 10th, 2020, 7-9 PM

Chenery Auditorium

We are the Weather:

Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast

From the Kalamazoo Public Library's website:

"In *We Are the Weather*, Jonathan Safran Foer explores the central global dilemma of our time in a surprising, deeply personal, and urgent new way. The task of saving the planet will involve a great reckoning with ourselves—with our all-too-human reluctance to sacrifice immediate comfort for the

sake of the future. We have, he reveals, turned our planet into a farm for growing animal products, and the consequences are catastrophic. Only collective action will save our home and way of life. And it all starts with what we eat—and don't eat—for breakfast." Please see the [Kalamazoo Public Library's website](#) for more information.

Note: UUCG is one of the discussion sites open to the public for this Community Read. The Women's Book Group especially encourage all UUCG folks plus your family, friends, and neighbors to attend as your schedule may allow.

YOU are INVITED - Friday, March 13th at 1:00 PM at UUCG

The Women's Book Group invites you to join them for a book discussion, open to the public, of *We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast* by Jonathan Safran Foer

Discussion Leaders: UUCG member Betty Lee Ongley and climate activist Donna McClurkan.

Hostess: Judy Oliver and Stephanie Grathwol

This book is the 2020 Kalamazoo Public Library's Community Read; see their website for more information. Questions? Please contact Stephanie Grathwol at sargg.64@gmail.com or 342-0874.

Women's Book Group

Luncheon

Friday, March 13th at 11:15 AM

The Women's Book Group will meet for lunch before the book discussion at the Fieldstone Grill, 3970 West Centre Ave. in Portage.

Please contact Stephanie Grathwol at 342-0874 or sargg.64@gmail.com to reserve your seat.

*Please note the time is earlier than usual to make sure we will be at UUCG promptly at 1:00 PM for book discussion.

Men's Group Breakfast

Saturday, March 21st at 8:30 AM

[Burger Town Grille on Shaver Road.](#)

All are welcome to join the Men's Group for their monthly gathering to enjoy breakfast, companionship, and conversation. Please contact [Ken VanEseltine](#) to let him know you are coming. If there are no RSVPs, breakfast will be canceled.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Fridays for the Future

Join the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition every Friday at noon for a FREE talk.

Experience high quality and engaging sessions from a range of experts and advocacy groups on the causes, consequences, and actions for a carbon-neutral future.

All events (except this one*) will be held from 12:00 to 1:00 PM and are free and open to the public.

- *March 7 (Saturday)- "**Regenerative Agriculture**"
- Kalamazoo Nature Center 2-3:30 PM
- March 13 - "**Economy of Sustainability**"
- Fetzer Center, WMU
- March 20 - "**Carbon-Neutral Power**"
- Office of Sustainability , WMU
- March 27- "**Climate Reality: Building Resilience**"
- Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership



MARCH 26, 2020






Raising
H O P E

For the Future
YOU CAN HELP

MINGLE SHINGLES

TO BENEFIT TINY HOUSES OF HOPE PILOT PROJECT

HOSTED BY:
FRIENDS OF TINY HOUSES OF HOPE

5:00PM

UNIVERSITY ROADHOUSE

1332 W. MICHIGAN

CONTACT
OFFICEOFHOPEINFO@
GMAIL.COM
269/929.5179



Helping Other People Excel
HOPE
thru Navigation



Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and Director Rob Roznowski present **The Gun Show**, written by Playwright E.M. Lewis. The one-actor play starring Jala Jackson explores Ms. Lewis's unique perspective and relationship with guns and American gun culture. The narrative leans neither left or right, instead centers on the question- can we talk about this?

The Gun Show

The production comes to Battle Creek at the First United Methodist Church, 111 E. Michigan Ave, on **Tuesday, March 10th from 7-8:30 PM**. Cost- \$10/ donation.

Co-sponsors include Battle Creek Voices of Peace, Meta Peace Team, Michigan Unitarian Universalist Justice Network, Pax Christi Michigan, and Peace Action of Michigan.

FAITH IN ACTION

The Road Toward Independence

This update about our Congolese friends originally appeared in the February 7th Weekly Email.

Only a year ago our Congolese refugee family (of 6) bravely endured their first winter in Michigan as they settled into their 3-bedroom Candlewyck Apartment in January. Over the course of the year, Jean (the Dad) became employed at JBS Meat Packing Company in May, UUCC gifted the family with a lovely Honda Odyssey van in July, then Jean got his license and his wife, Francoise, got her Driver's permit, thanks to brave volunteers providing Driver's Training.



With help from the schools and UUCC tutors, the older boys, Kwizera and James are acclimating to the English language and to school in general. Teddy started Preschool this year and according to his teacher, is doing beautifully. Amelia is having a healthier year, with fewer colds and is now comfortable to initiate hugs with familiar UUCC faces.

Many of our volunteers have devoted countless hours in the last year to support this family's transition via: transportation to ESL classes, assistance with grocery shopping, babysitting, housekeeping and cooking instruction, WIC appointments, doctor visits/immunizations, etc. Caring individuals have provided the family with a TV, bicycles, soccer balls, books, a guitar and an amazing array of gifts at Christmas. The older boys are even given the chance to earn some money, helping out on a local farm.

A recent monumental milestone for this family is that Francoise (the Mom) just started working at JBS Meat Packing with her husband, Jean. They have secured family friends for childcare for their little ones, while the older boys will be stepping up to more responsibility. The oldest, Kwizera, at age 13, will now be cooking dinner for the family. He shared, "Kids cook in Africa". Such a big step for this family!

Now that the family has been in the US for one year, they are eligible to apply for Green Cards. This has been initiated by Samaritas. The first step in this process was done when Denise took them to the Kent County Health Department to get official documents of all their immunizations. They will need to make subsequent trips for photos/fingerprints and interviews. Afifa Thaj, the caseworker from Samaritas makes contact with the family and Denise when another appointment in the process has been made.

Since the start of the school year, Kwizera and James have been tutored by our volunteers on Mondays and Tuesdays for 1 hour after school. More recently, on Wednesdays, Kwizera attends guitar lessons and James participates in soccer classes. This is the last week for both guitar and soccer. With many of our tutoring volunteers away to warmer climates for February, we will be cutting back on tutoring services for the remainder of the month. As folks return, at month's end, we will meet to determine how best to support this family's continual progress toward independence.

Empowerment of this Congolese family is a primary means by which our UUCC community demonstrates Faith In Action this year. If you would like to hear about related volunteer opportunities, please contact: [Denise Sonier](#) or [Darby Fetzer](#).

CLASSIFIED

Help Wanted: UUC Music Director

Do you love to gather people together in song? The Unitarian Universalist Community Church is looking for a part time Music Director to provide inspiring music during our Sunday worship services.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing quality piano music for Sunday worship services most every Sunday from August through June.
- Accompanying hymns and providing prelude, postlude, offertory and meditative/ background music for Sunday services
- Selecting engaging music that reflects and supports the message of the Sunday Service
- Leading our church choir
- Being available to perform for additional church events as necessary

Job requirements:

- High level of music ability with collaborative piano experience
- A love of music and ability to work well with people

The UUC is an LGBTQ friendly liberal religious community located in Portage, Michigan. This would be a terrific position for someone looking for a few hours of work per week bringing people together in song. Interested applicants should submit a resume detailing musical experience, along with a link to a musical performance sample to: uucdre@gmail.com



Unitarian Universalists have different beliefs, but shared values. We are Unitarian Universalists, and at the same time we may also be agnostic, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, humanist, Jewish, Muslim, pagan, atheist, believers in God, and those who just let the great mystery be. The diversity of beliefs you'll find in a Unitarian Universalist community is one of our strengths – we're always learning how to see the world from a different perspective. What unites us are our core principles that uphold seven real-world values: believing in the worthiness of every person; showing compassion and fairness; accepting others for who they are; growing through a personal search for truth, leading with democratic spirit; working for justice; and understanding that *everything* is interconnected. ~ [UUA Website](#)

CALENDAR

MARCH 2020

Choir Rehearsals

All rehearsals will run from 6:30- 8:00 PM on Wednesdays

Please contact [Nick](#) for more information

Sunday, March 1

10:00 am - Service with Amo Mazen
11:30 am - POTLUCK

Monday, March 2

4:00 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Saving Time Starts
10:00 am - Service with Mary Roscoe and Nice Sienkiewicz
11:30 am - Program Council
2:00 pm - Open House Theatre Rehearsal

Saturday, March 7

9:30 am - 3:00 pm—Mindfulness Retreat

Sunday, March 15

10:00 am - Youth-led Service

Tuesday, March 10

Election Day
7:00—Author Visit: Jonathan Safran Foer @ Cheney

Sunday, March 22

10:00 am - Service with Rev. Gy
2:00 pm - Open House Theatre Reading

Friday, March 13

1:00 pm —Women’s Book Group

Sunday, March 29

10:00 am—Service with Rev. Gy

Saturday, March 14

12:00—3:00 pm—Pi Day Virtual Small Congregation Mtg

For the latest, up-to-date information about our activities and events visit our [website](#) and our [online calendar](#).

Committee Meetings

Sunday Services: Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30 pm

Stewardship: Thursday, March 12 at 12:15 pm

Saturday, March 21

8:30 am— Men’s Group Breakfast @ Burger Town Grille

Saturday, March 28

5:00 pm—Celebration of Generosity

Next Election: March 10th

UU the VOTE

Polls Open: 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM



**UU Community Church
is served by:**

Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney M.Div., M.A.
Consulting Minister
By Appointment Only
gyludvig@gmail.com
Cell: 269-352-2412

Miriam Epskamp
Office Administrator and
Director of Religious Education
Hours: Tues 10 -2 Wed 10-2 and Fri 12-5
uucommunity@gmail.com
Church office: 269-324-7262
Cell phone: 269-993-8758

Nick Sienkiewicz
Music Director
nicholas.sienkiewicz@outlook.com

2019-2020 Board of Trustees

Nancy Calme

Erin Michael

Denise Sonier

Betty Lee Ongley

Larry Higgins

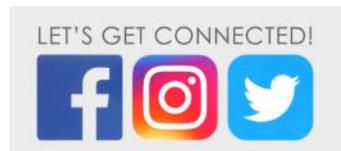
**The next Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday, March 18th at NOON**

Please send submissions to:
uuccnewsletter@gmail.com

CommUUnity Matters

**Unitarian Universalist Community Church
of Southwest Michigan**

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Portage, MI 49024
269-324-7262



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