



CommUnity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

April 2020

April Services

All in-person Services and Religious Education Classes and Events have been **CANCELED** until further notice.

On-line Services will be live-streamed via [Facebook](#) on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Video recordings of services are on [YouTube](#).

Our situation seems to change quickly from day to day. Rev. Gy will hold space during April services for whatever seems to be of greatest concern as we all learn to navigate life during the time of COVID-19.

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

From the Minister

[Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney](#)

"Don't just do something, stand there"

We have a cat, we call her Briosh. She is remarkable. She seems to be comfortable in just about any position. She jumps on our laps and if we move she just allows her body to limply take on the shape our movement causes and she's back to purring, sleeping, and appearing very comfortable.

She's like a slinky. She just rolls with whatever comes her way and she's fine. Briosh does not practice resistance.

I once gave a talk on how much I've learned from my dog. It is time to learn from the cat. It appears both are better at life than I often am.

These times are strange. In our western culture we turned night into day with the aide of high power light bulbs and introduced the third shift. Now production needn't ever stop. We created an intense life-style and we wear the badge of "busy" with a certain sense of pride and importance. We coined the term "multi-task", nevermind that it actually doesn't work. We go, go, go!! Until we don't.

Well, now we don't. All of a sudden the whole world came to a screeching halt. A tiny, novel virus caused what we couldn't; it tears us away from our all important roles, jobs, duties, responsibilities, tasks, multi-tasks.

Now we find ourselves occupationally naked and afraid. We no longer have the comfort of knowing what needs to be done when the clock reaches a certain hour and on top of it all we fear for our health, life and that of our loved ones, friends, neighbors, people we know in passing.

The time *to be* has paid us a visit. And what a visit, eh?

By instinct I want to take care of us all. I want to say that it is going to be okay. Don't we all want to hear that and know that? At times like this people turn to God, whatever God they believe in or heard of. Perhaps we created gods at times like this for times like this.

I don't know how okay we are going to be. I don't know that none of us will contract the virus. I don't know how we would fare if we did. I don't know



FROM THE MINISTER

(Continued from [page 1](#)) I hear myself say this a lot lately. I don't know.

The mind isn't comfortable with the "I don't know". The mind is a meaning making machine and well, what does "I don't know" mean?

Without a spiritual practice "I don't know" is one of the scariest places to be.

As I am writing this I just can hear Patti disagreeing with me, "I don't have much of a spiritual practice and I can be with the 'I don't know'." And she is right. She can. She is one of sanest, most sensible people I've ever known. I've not met many like her.

So, back to my point, if you are anything like me (not like Patti), a spiritual practice comes in handy right about now. It can be the difference between panic or sanity, total discombobulation and staying centered.

If you don't have a spiritual practice, perhaps you'd like to consider trying one out. If all else fails, find yourself a Patti....

Reality is that we are constantly in the "I don't know". Right now it is just more in our face than ever before. Fact is, we've been through many I don't knows and will be through many more. So, here's hoping that we can all be a bit like Briosh. Roll with the punches. Accept the condition we are in and find a way. Accept that this is it for now and stay sane, collected, connected and centered.

"At" the church (and now we all know that church isn't the building, in fact it is the people who attend it and attend to it) we are creating all sorts of ways to make sure that we can stay connected even if only virtually.

We are live-streaming our shortened services, you can find recordings of it on Facebook and YouTube (just type in the church's full name and click on our logo). We are also meeting twice a week via Zoom to just talk, debrief, be with each other, see each other, get inspired by one another.

We are also creating small groups who will check in once a week. Just to make sure we are okay and most importantly, remember that we belong!! We belong with each other. We care. We take up heart space, mind space, soul space in each other. We belong.

Suffering of the mind is optional. I've learned this through my many health challenges. Suffering of the body sometimes is inevitable, suffering of the mind is optional. The difference is acceptance versus resistance.

Here's to peace of mind!



INSPIRED SPIRITUALITY

The Wandering Teacher (From [Spirit in Practice](#), an adult RE program from the UUA)

Once upon a time there was a Teacher who was known far and wide as one who had mastered all the great disciplines of a spiritual seeker. She wandered the country, and whenever people heard she was near, they traveled to seek her wisdom and her guidance.

“Great Teacher,” one would say, “I wish to get closer to God.” “By what path do you travel now?” she would ask. “I study the scriptures, diligently applying myself day and night to unlocking their mysteries,” might come the reply. “Then you should put down your books and walk in the woods—thinking nothing, but listening deeply.”

Another would say, “I do good to every person I meet, doing all that I can to serve their needs.” “Then for a time,” the Teacher would reply, “consider yourself well met and strive to serve your own needs as you have so well served others.”

One day the Teacher noticed someone in the back of the crowd, someone not pushing his way to her as most of the others did. She went to him. “What is it I can do for you?” she asked.

“I do not know,” he replied. “I feel in need of something, but I do not believe in God and have nothing you could call a ‘practice.’” “When do you feel most alive?” the Teacher asked. “When I am playing with my children,” the man said without hesitation. “Then play with your children,” said the Teacher. “And you will find what you seek.”

If you feel ‘in need of something’ during these difficult times, here are some personal spiritual practices you could try:

Journaling	Reading/Walking	Checking in with a neighbor
Meditation	Running	Picking up garbage
Prayer	Quilting or Sewing	Random Acts of Kindness
Fasting	Singing	Creating an altar or sacred space
Listening to a friend	Yoga	Filling out your UUCC Pledge Card
Listening to music	Tai Chi	Playing with your kids
Needlepoint	Nature Walks	Contemplating works of art
Writing letters	Making Pottery	Reflecting on the past week’s sermon
Painting	Reciting a Mantra	Attending an on-line service
Helping others	Writing poetry	Giving people the benefit of the doubt
Dancing	Gardening	Having a book discussion via email
Playing an instrument	Chanting	Emailing your member of Congress
Washing dishes	Stargazing	Learning something new
Taking a bubble bath	Baking or Cooking	Putting together a jigsaw puzzle
Birdwatching	Practice Forgiveness	Mending something broken

CARING COMMUNITY



APRIL CARING COMMUNITY NEWS

*Also highly contagious:
Kindness, Patience, Love,
Enthusiasm and a Positive Attitude.
Be a carrier! ~Unknown*

We are ordered to stay at our homes during the outbreak of COVID-19. Everyone is having their own struggles during this time. Here is a quotation from Nancy Crowell, shared from a friend who is fighting pancreatic cancer. It is by Eckhart Tolle:

*Accept, then act whatever the present moment contains.
Accept it as if you've chosen it!
Always work with it, not against it.
This will miraculously transform your life.*

Marcia Adam's grandson is healing from severe injuries which occurred in a car accident near Kalamazoo. Making an incident such as this more difficult during this pandemic is that one cannot visit their loved one in a hospital or anywhere! Let's keep sending out healing wishes for Marcia's grandson. While sending healing wishes let's include Rev. Gy as she moves toward freedom of pain in her healing process.

Wishing sunshine and daffodils for April birthdays at UCC ---Barbara Bott, Ryan Brozovich, Kayle Rice, Nancy Crowell, Kelin Michael and Frey Lake --- Happy "in-house" celebrations.

Many of us are missing being able to hear everyone's Joys and Sorrows during the Sunday service. Miriam has begun saving a space in the weekly email for us to share them virtually while we are apart. If you have a celebration or a burden you want to share with the larger community, please send them to ucommunity@gmail.com by noon on Wednesday

UCC Caring Community Contact Persons are: [Nancy Crowell](#), [Judy Oliver](#), or [Judy Pigg-Behrendt](#). Please reach out if you have (or know of) a need. Sharing is Caring!

Hoppy Easter



CHALICE CIRCLES

Stay Home and Stay Connected

As we navigate these incredibly difficult times, pastoral care and connecting with one another become more important than ever. When we cannot meet in-person, having small groups that look out for each other and come together virtually can help us stay connected.

The Caring Community Point People (Judy Oliver, Nancy Crowell, and Judy Pigg-Behrendt), in consultation with Rev. Gy and Miriam, have split the congregation into several small groups that have about 8 people each. Each small group, called a Chalice Circle, will have a designated leader or co-leaders whose job is to encourage connection through phone call and emails. Hopefully you have been contacted by a group leader already.

You can help foster a community of caring and connection by reaching out to members of your Chalice Circle and others in the congregation with emails and phone calls to help make sure no one is falling through the cracks. You can also help by participating in virtual gatherings via ZOOM video conferencing. These virtual group activities will help us maintain and grow new bonds. Even if you aren't feeling a need for this kind of connection right now, your participation may turn out to be a gift to another person in the congregation who is more isolated than you. If you are not sure how to use ZOOM, check out the instruction on [page 14](#).

You can find contact information for church members and friends in our online Church Directory. (See [page 13](#) to learn how to get a Directory) If you have an idea for a virtual gathering or would consider leading a small group discussion using materials that can be found [HERE](#) or on a subject of your choosing, please contact Miriam (uucommunity@gmail.com).

Taking care of each other at this difficult time is everyone's job. No one person can do it alone. We are counting on you to keep the flame our Unitarian Universalist Community alive while we are apart.



Light a Chalice at Home

One ritual you may be missing while the building is closed is lighting the chalice, the symbol of our shared faith. Taking time to light a chalice at home can turn any event from a ZOOM meeting to your daily spiritual practice into a sacred occasion and will serve as a reminder

of our community while we are apart. If you don't have a chalice at home, any candle can make a good substitute. And if you use a little imagination, you may find that your home is filled with chalices you never noticed before. A teacup turned upside down and topped with a saucer is a chalice! A pile of rocks artfully arranged is a chalice! An ice cream dish gathering dust in the back of the cupboard? A chalice! Once you start looking for them, you will find them everywhere. Light a chalice and let it shine a light of truth and love and commitment until we are together again!

LEADERSHIP

Board President's Corner

by [Nancy Calme](#), Board President

This is an unprecedented period in our lives, hunkering down in a pandemic and waiting it out to prevent the quick spread of a new virus. The UU Association led the way for congregations, recommending we suspend services and gatherings, and UCC's Board and Rev. Gy quickly met to discuss our options. It seems like that happened a month ago, but it was less than a week as I write this article. So much has changed, so fast.



The virus, itself, is not a huge health threat to 80% of the population. It is the vulnerable 20% we need to protect, keeping the rate of infection low enough so that the resources in the hospitals and the population of healthy medical workers can keep pace. In the meantime, the economic effect on businesses with fewer customers, schools with no students, and workers with fewer paychecks is more worrisome than the illness.

What can we do in times like these, to keep our heads and overcome the fear and isolation? I am finding that for myself, it is a challenge to maintain the proper balance between keeping informed and distancing myself from worries. I know how much I can take at one time and I recognize the overwhelmed feeling that tells me the balance is tipping. This means it is time to go outside and visit the animals, do some spring cleanup, work on a creative project, or immerse myself in some fiction. I know it is running away, but ... balance.

Another element to remaining in balance, one that I often neglect due to my introverted nature, is people. A short phone call with a friend reminds me that we are all in a similar boat, waiting it out and perhaps going stir-crazy, but this is not the zombie apocalypse. We are still the same people with good days and bad, needing each other to lift up our spirits and regain some perspective. We are fortunate that we have the internet and telephones to make connecting easy.

I am becoming more aware of the relative good fortune that some challenging things took place before the health crisis took hold. Foremost in my mind is Rev. Gy's illness and subsequent surgery in California. How fortunate we are that she is coming back online in time to help us get through things. I can't believe we now see her upright and smiling, just when we need her the most.

Who knows how long it will be before things begin to settle back into a normal routine? I suspect early April might be overly optimistic, so don't get fixated on any end dates. This ship will right itself, though, and we will get through it if we stick together and watch out for each other.

UU Community Church Board of Trustees: Nancy Calme, Erin Michael, Denise Sonier, Betty Lee Ongley and Larry Higgins, meet on the first Monday of each month at 4:00 PM.

The April meeting will take place via video conference. Anyone interested in attending should contact [Nancy Calme](#) for more information.

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Program Council: Where We Get Stuff Done - TOGETHER - Even When We are Apart!

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

Thank you to the mighty group who made it to Program Council on March 8th. We celebrated TEN successes from the quality Sunday services to the Leap for Love dance, to new exit signs, to outpouring of support for Rev. Gy and much more! Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th. As of this date, I am unsure if we will be together or maybe try a virtual meeting. Watch for updates! Whichever method we use, I encourage you to connect and bring your successes to share. Looking forward to being with you!



Restructuring Groups and/or Committees: This is also a great time to make a list of your group and/or committee is finding to be the foundational tasks to complete and how you are accomplishing these tasks. We can share our discoveries at our next Program Council meeting for possible ways to simplify how we do the work of the church. Nothing is set in stone, and we would love to hear your ideas on how this might work!

Share your newfound opportunities: Are you finding ways to connect, help others or enjoy fabulous new online adventures in the arts, learning, and more? I would love to have us share this information with our community!

Media Releases: More than ever, we are connecting digitally. To use the beautiful photos of our community we need your permission! Our media release form is available [HERE](#). Please take the time to fill it out and email it to the church office if you don't already have a media release on file.

Upcoming Events: UUCC has a lot going on virtually! Keep watching your emails for opportunities to connect and check out our website calendar for all opportunities!

HUGE Thank You! Please share your thanks with Rev. Gy, Nick, Miriam and Steve for all their work to keep us connected and filling our souls!

Thank you for all you do! Stay well!



Generosity Sunday

The April 5th Generosity Sunday special offering to benefit Planned Parenthood of Michigan has been postponed until in-person services resume.

If you have the means and would like to make a donation to help people in crisis in our community please consider supporting the [United Way Disaster Relief Fund](#)

STEWARDSHIP



Celebration of Generosity

The Stewardship Committee, the Board of Trustees, and Rev. Gy offer their thanks to all of you who completed and returned your pledge cards. Your generosity and commitment to our Unitarian Universalist Community are much appreciated.

If you have yet to send in your pledge, please help wrap up the campaign by doing so now. If you did not receive a pledge packet, please contact the office (uucommunity@gmail.com) and we will send you one right away. Although we were unable to celebrate with our customary banquet last month, we hope to do so in the future.

Totals will be announced after we have heard from all of you.

Continue Your Financial Giving to UUC

Many of us are missing out on a regular spiritual practice of financially supporting our church. If you are interested in how you can continue to financially give to the church before services resume, please consider the following options:

1. Mail checks to the church, 10441 Shaver Road, Portage, MI 49024.
2. Use our easy and secure online giving service through Vanco GivePlus in 1 of 2 ways.
 - a. Download the GivePlus Mobile app to your smartphone
 - b. Go to the church website and click "donate"

Below are a bit more instructions on GivePlus that appear in every UUC emailed announcement. If you would like assistance, please give Kimberly a call at 269-569-3658 and she'll walk you through the steps.

Give to UUC from your smartphone!

Download the free **GivePlus Mobile** app from Google Play or Apple's App Store. Find **Unitarian Universalist Community Church** and select the one in Portage, Michigan.

OR...

Open a browser, type in the church website, www.uucommunitychurch.org, and click on the "donate" button in the middle of the page.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Volunteering During the Ongoing Crisis

The needs of people in our community will certainly increase due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ***The very BEST way you can help others right now is to prevent the spread of the virus and STAY HOME and suspend all activities that are that are not life-saving or protecting.***



If you are healthy, relatively low risk for COVID-19, and determined to help out in the community, there are currently limited volunteer opportunities that meet the essential criteria in helping with the COVID-19 pandemic. There are also many funding options for you to donate to.

To see the local volunteer opportunities volunteer visit the [Gryphon Place /211 Website](#). They are looking for help with meals at the Gospel Mission, food distribution through Catholic Charities, blood donations, and with Meals on Wheels. Stay at home opportunities include sewing medical masks and writing letters to isolated seniors. New opportunities will most certainly arise as time goes on, check their website for updates.

The State of Michigan has also set up a portal for volunteers on their [Coronavirus Information Website](#) that allows you to register as a volunteer and connect with organizations looking for help.

Thank You Notes

for Gryphon Place Hotline Workers

thank
you!

Jacquis Robertson, our former Director of Religious Education and current Vice President of Impact at Gryphon Place contacted us recently to let us know that this is a tough time to be fielding phone calls from people in crisis. She reports that Gryphon Place/211 has seen their call volume triple in recent days and that their front-line workers are giving it their all to help our community. Jacquis has asked if this UU Community would be willing to write notes of encouragement and support to the hotline workers to let them know we appreciate all they do? Our course we can! Please take a moment to write a note and mail it to:

*Gryphon Place Heroes
3245 S. 8th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009*

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

Virtual Gatherings Help Us Connect!

Even though our doors are closed, there are many opportunities to meet each and to be together in community. Please consider joining one of the following virtual gatherings. Your presence may be a gift to someone feeling isolated and alone.

Tuesdays at 11:00 AM. Join Rev. Gy for coffee and conversation via ZOOM. .

Thursdays at 7:00 PM Mingle with friends at our weekly Happy Hour via ZOOM

Sundays at 10:00 AM Join Rev. Gy on Facebook for a live-streamed Sunday Message

Sundays at 10:30 AM Following Rev. Gy's talk, we will gather for a virtual Coffee Hour via ZOOM

How to Connect: Log in information for these gatherings can be found in the previous week's Friday Weekly Email and on the [church calendar](#). Instructions for using Zoom can be found on [page 14](#).

Service Recordings: Videos of Rev. Gy's Sunday Message can be found on our [Facebook Page](#) and on our [YouTube Channel](#). You can find us on Facebook and YouTube by searching for UU Community Church of SW Michigan.

Coming Soon! As time goes on we may add other opportunities for connecting virtually such as a Mindful Meditation Zoom or a ZOOM-ba exercise class. If you have any ideas for a virtual gathering, please share them with [Rev. Gy](#) and help us stay connected!



Virtual Easter Parade

To make our Easter Sunday a bit more special, we would like to have a virtual Easter parade with everyone wearing their very favorite Easter bonnet, chapeau, topper, fedora, cloche, beret, bowler, or just plain cap.

UU Community Church has a long history of 'Sombrero Sundays' when people would wear their favorite hat, either store-bought or created at home, to the Sunday Service. Bev Folz remembers one such Sunday hosted by founding member Bill Woods. There was poetry, food and awards for the best hats. Mary King remembers sharing laughter and joy at a hat decorating party hosted by Mary Roscoe in preparation for another "Sombrero Sunday." Hats and UU Community Church just seem to go together well!

To celebrate Easter we are asking you to find a hat that exemplifies Eastertide or simply one that you love, put it on and take a 'selfie', and send your photo by email to the office by Friday, April 10th. We will put all the photos together in a PowerPoint and send it to everyone on Easter morning. Seeing all of our UCC friends wearing hats will be sure to bring everyone a little happiness. We hope we can count on you to play along.

If you have any questions about the Virtual Easter Parade, please contact [Miriam](#).

LEARNING AND GROWTH

Women's Book Group

The UCC Women's Book Group selection for April:

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover.

From [goodreads](#):

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag"....

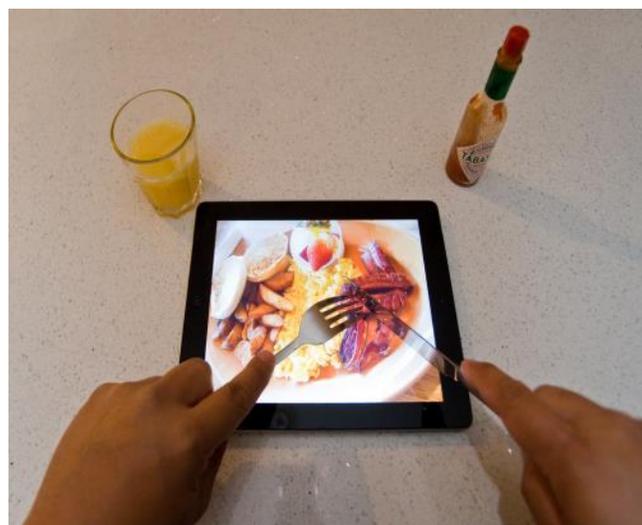
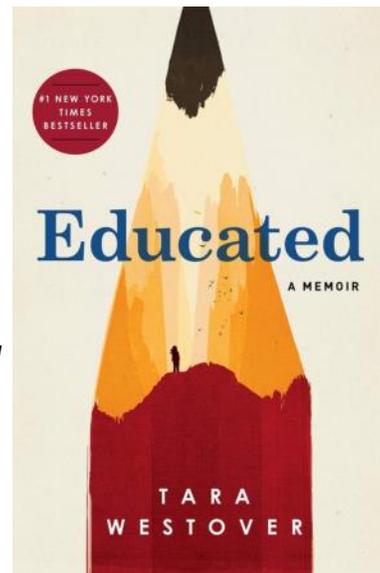
...Lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties.

Copies of this book are available for sharing (while still maintaining all COVID-19 safety recommendations).

The next meeting of the Book Group, scheduled for Friday, April 10, is on hold pending further public health directives. Please contact [Stephanie Grathwol](#) to express interest in sharing a copy of this book or with any questions about this Book Group.

All UCC women (and men) are welcome to participate.



Men's Group Breakfast

Saturday, April 18th at 8:30 AM

All are welcome to join the Men's Group for their monthly gathering via ZOOM to enjoy virtual breakfast, companionship, and conversation. Please contact [Ken VanEseltine](#) to let him know you are coming.

To join the Virtual Breakfast

<https://zoom.us/j/881738789>

Meeting ID: 881 738 789

Full log in info can be found on the [UCC calendar](#).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

R.E.flections From [Miriam Epskamp](#), Director of Religious Education



The decision to suspend in-person services came two days before the youth group would have presented the Sunday Service on March 15th. To be honest, the kids all probably gave a little sigh of relief when they found they were off the hook. I think it is a shame they didn't get to share their ideas with you, because as I spend time thinking about our church community while I 'shelter-in-place', I keep on coming back to their words.

The inspiration for the kid's service was mission. A church's mission is the answer to the questions: Why does this church exist? What is its purpose? UU Community Church has a mission statement that is often read at the beginning of the services—*Our mission, to positively transform ourselves and the world*. The kids are pretty familiar with this mission statement because I repeat it to them over and over, and because our religious education program is mission-driven. The things we do in our RE classes are motivated and informed by the idea that we are here to positively transform ourselves and the world. We work to develop skills we might need to fulfill that mission—courage, gratitude, creativity, hope. We spend time on personal spiritual development. We learn about social justice issues and make action plans. We are downstairs every Sunday trying to figure out how we can live our mission.

In preparation for their service on March 15th, I asked the kids to write a new mission for UCC based on their answers to the questions: Why does this church exist? What is its purpose?

This is what they came up with:

*This church is a community of people who care about you,
no matter who you are, what you look like, or who you love.*

*This is a place where you can have fun, you can share your thoughts,
you can be a part of something bigger than yourself,
you can feel comfortable and accepted and like you belong.*

This church is a family.

As Rev. Gy, Nick, and I work to redefine how we do church at a time when we are isolated from each other and perhaps need each other more than ever, the kid's definition of church is the one I find is guiding me. How can we help people feel cared for? What would comfort people at this time? How can we remind people that they belong? Maybe tomorrow, when the fear subsides and we are at one with the unknown, we will be ready to work on transformation again. But today, let's try to be the people our children believe us to be. Reach out to someone in this church community and let them feel your loving embrace through the telephone connection or the email keystrokes. Remind them that we are a family and they are not alone. Maybe the kids are right and reminding each other of these things has been our mission all along? It is something to reflect on. May it be so.

Online Religious Education

Until regular services resume, our Religious Education classes will meet on Sundays at 1:00 PM via ZOOM video-conferencing. Please contact Miriam for log in information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

UUC 2020 Directory

Connections Team chairperson Steve Tasko’s plan of getting the new UUC Directory printed and distributed to everyone by the end of March was foiled by a global pandemic! Despite this little roadblock, everyone should have received an electronic version of the directory in an email on or about March 13th. That email included a link to the online Google Doc version of the directory.

If you were one of the many people who deleted that email thinking you were not going to need an electronic version because the printed directory would be available soon, feel free to contact the office and ask to receive it again. It may be awhile before we can get the printed version in everyone’s hand and a current directory is an essential item during this time of social distancing. It will help everyone stay in touch.

To protect everyone’s privacy, the link to the online directory will never be shared in the weekly email, the newsletter, or on the website.



Unitarian Universalist Community Church of
Southwest Michigan

Directory of Members and Friends

2020

10441 Shaver Road
Portage, MI 49024

www.uucommunitychurch.org

269-324-7262

**Got
questions
about
Church?**

**Who
should
you
call?**



Committees/Teams/Groups

Building & Grounds
Caring Community
Committee on Ministry
Connections
Finance
Human Resources
Marketing
Religious Education
Rentals
Social Justice
Stewardship
Sunday Celebrations
Sunday Services
Technology/IT
Choir
Coffee/Potluck
Congolese Family Support
Men’s Group Breakfast
Program Council
Women’s Book Group

Chair/Contact Person

Kevin Brozovich, Eric Nelson
Judy Pigg-Behrendt, Nancy Crowell, Judy Oliver
Ron Crowell
Stephen Tasko
Joe Calme, Tami Brozovich, Kimberly Ridley
Kevin Brozovich
Darby Fetzer, Mary Roscoe, Ron Crowell
Miriam Epskamp
Ron Crowell
Erin Michael
Regena Nelson
Rev. Gy
Lauren Ritter, Pat Fuehr, Mary Roscoe
Stephen Tasko
Nick Sienkiewicz
Stephanie Grathwol
Denise Sonier
Ken VanEseltine
Erin Michael
Stephanie Grathwol

ZOOM INTO CHURCH



How to Join a Zoom Meeting

If you have never used ZOOM before, consider giving it a try. It will be a great way for us to meet during these difficult times.

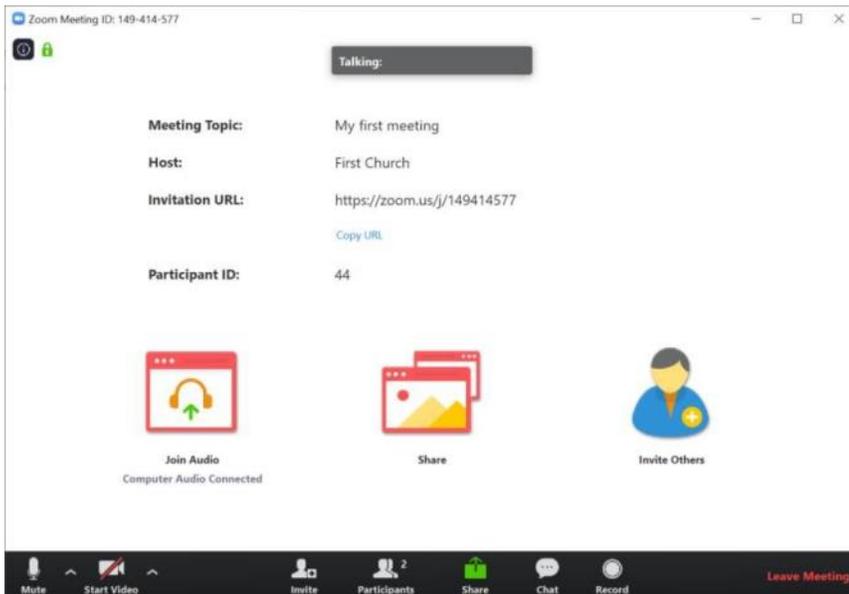
ZOOM is a widely used and very user-friendly video conferencing tool that allows you to see as well as hear who you are meeting with. It is easiest to use from a computer that has a built-in camera and a microphone but you can also use it from a tablet that has a camera/microphone or a smartphone. You can also dial in from a non-smartphone for audio only.

A participant in a zoom meeting should receive an email beforehand with a link to join a meeting, if you don't have a computer or smart phone, use one of the phone numbers listed in the email to call in and join the meeting with your phone for audio only. All the phone numbers will be long distance. There is not a local option. After you dial in you will be prompted to enter the meeting ID number which will also be in the email you received. Then follow the instructions to join the meeting.

To join the meeting with a computer, tablet or smart phone click on <https://zoom.us/j/#####> (the 9-digit number is the meeting ID) and a window will open. Click on Open Zoom Meetings (a small download may add on your device.)

On the PC join with either computer audio (if your computer has a microphone) or with your phone. Before you join, you can test your speakers and microphone, and if you need to join with phone call, click on join with phone and call the number provided. You will be asked for the meeting ID.

The next screen (see below) is your Zoom Meeting information. On this example, note the red line through the video camera icon. This means the video camera is not on and no one can see you. Using the bottom meeting controls (black bar) you can start your camera (video) and see yourself on the screen. On the top right of the Zoom screen, you can toggle between Speaker View and Gallery View to change how things appear. Other menu options are invite new people (the invite will connect to your email account), share your screen, start chat sessions if the host enables chat.



To help you learn more, you can also watch this short video tutorial. It

walks you through logging in and shows you what it will look like when you join a meeting and how to use some of the features: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQOE>

If you have any questions, please reach out to [the office](#) and we will help get you connected.



CALENDAR



APRIL 2020

Sunday, April 5

10:00 am - Service on Facebook with Rev. Gy
11:00 am— Virtual Coffee Hour via ZOOM

Monday, April 6

4:00 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting via ZOOM

Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday

10:00 am - Service on Facebook with Rev Gy
11:00 am—Virtual Coffee Hour via ZOOM

Tuesday April 7, 14, 21, 28

11:00 am—Virtual Coffee with Rev.Gy via ZOOM

Sunday, April 19

10:00 am - Service on Facebook with Rev. Gy
11:00 am— Virtual Program Council Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

7:00 pm —Virtual Happy Hour via ZOOM

Sunday, April 26

10:00 am - Service on Facebook with Rev. Gy
11:00 am—Virtual Coffee Hour via ZOOM

Saturday, April 18

8:30 am—Virtual Men’s Group Breakfast via ZOOM

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

The church office is closed until further notice. Our Office Administrator, Miriam Epskamp, can be reached at uucommunity@gmail.com or by phone (269)993-8758



Do you read the Weekly Email?



The Weekly Email is full of up-to-date information about church activities, info about social justice issues, and all the latest communication from church leaders. The Weekly Email is sent to your inbox every Friday. If you are not getting the Weekly Email, visit [our website](#) to subscribe!

**The building
may be CLOSED,
but the Church
is OPEN**



**Join us on
Facebook
LIVE
10:00 AM
on Sundays**

**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
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

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Erin Michael
Denise Sonier
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Larry Higgins

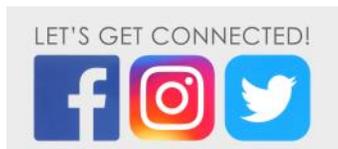
**The next Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday, April 22nd at NOON**

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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**SPIRITUALITY FOR
DIVERSE PATHS**

BLACK LIVES MATTER