



CommUUunity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan October 2020

October Services

Services will be held via Zoom and live-streamed on [Facebook](#), Sundays at 10:00 AM.

October 4: *The Cost of Oppression* with Rev. Gy

Living in a society with systemic and institutional inequity affects everyone. It influences how we think about ourselves and others, how and with whom we interact, and the opportunities and choices we have. Join Rev. Gy this Sunday as she helps us explore the costs of oppression.

October 11: *Oh No! Not Another Learning Experience!* with River Artz-Iffland

UU Guest speaker, River Artz-Iffland invites us to consider seeking out challenges as opportunities for growth. She asks, "What do you want to learn more about? What risks are you willing to take to broaden your knowledge of ways there are to be in this world?"

October 18: *How to Have a Courageous Conversation* with Darby Fetzer

How many times have we avoided saying what is on our minds and in our hearts because we were concerned about how that information would be received? In today's talk, we'll uncover the elements of Courageous Conversations with the purpose of being equipped the next time we encounter an opportunity to share our truth and be congruent with ourselves.

October 25: *Revelations* with Rev. Larry Farris

The year 2020, unlike any most of us have ever experienced, has stripped away many illusions many have held - and depended upon - for a long time. What many thought was foundational has been shown to be shifting sand. What has been shown to us and how might we proceed towards the hope and new possibility buried within all the shock, isolation, anxiety and longing?

For the latest, up-to-date information about our Sunday Services visit our website: www.uucommunitychurch.org



Spiritual Theme for October BROADENING HORIZONS

*We say it, again and again,
even when the proof lies somewhere
beyond the horizon,
beyond our reach,
beyond our imagination.*

*This is our faith:
Another world is possible.
Not somewhere else—
another world, another lifetime—
but here, and now
for us and for all.*

Rev Ashely Horan's words help bring meaning to this month's spiritual theme—broadening horizons—and invite us to be bold, take chances, imagine new ways of being, and say 'yes' to new possibilities while remaining grounded by our UU values and focused on our mission to positively transform ourselves and the world. This month we invite you to consider what actions can you take to broaden your horizons and help create the change you wish to see.

GUESTS IN OUR PULPIT

Our Upcoming Guest Speakers

Kathleen River Artz-Iffland joined People's UU Church in 1999, her two younger daughters happily grew up there. River served on many church committees and currently serves as Vice-President on its Board of Trustees.

River founded and managed Pandora Books For Open Minds in Kalamazoo from 1981 -1998. She has also worked in childcare, factory, postal, retail, non-profit, therapist, and case manager positions. River found a spiritual home at People's, education from many sources, and encouragement to engage in her existing and new avenues of activism.

River has volunteered with too many organizations to count and currently works with ISAAC's Anti-Racism Task Force. River enjoys cooking or coordinating meals for up to 200 people. She didn't appreciate sleeping on floors at UU Youth Cons, but still believe she learns from every experience.



UUC member **Darby Fetzer** is certified in Emotional Intelligence in Education and in Corporate Practice. She tailors science based emotional competencies to specific worksites and situations to create sustainable solutions. Her training is supported by experience in Wellness Coaching, 16 years of practice as an Occupation Therapist, facilitation training and 14 years serving on the Board of Education for Schoolcraft Community Schools. Darby has a Bachelors degree in Occupational Therapy and a Masters in Organizational Development.

Rev. Larry Farris is a pastor, preacher, teacher (theology, biblical interpretation, world religions, and composition), spiritual director-pastoral coach, and writer. He has served several Presbyterian churches prior to retirement. Larry and his wife, Pat, moved from Southwest Michigan to Minneapolis, Minnesota in February, shortly before the COVID quarantine, to be near their daughter's family. They love the city even though current circumstances prevent them from exploring it as much as they'd like. Happily, they have good neighbors, enjoy taking care of their six-year old granddaughter two days each week, and have found a fine coffee shop with safe outdoor seating nearby.



FROM THE MINISTER

A Message From The UUA President

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

In this devastating and chaotic time, our faith holds us, comforts us, and calls us forward. I am proud of the many ways that, in the face of mounting threats, Unitarian Universalists have responded with faithful action. From supporting community partners, to sharing resources, to showing up for love and justice, we are leaning into the moral challenges that each day brings—while remaining focused on a larger vision of justice and collective liberation.



And now, dear ones, we are at a precipice. Leading up to the election, our vote—and our efforts to get out the vote—will affect our chances to bring our bold values forward, to take seriously the health and well-being of all people as the pandemic continues, to protect human rights, upend inequity and racial injustice, and make real gains for the health of our planet. The stakes are high and we all have a role to play.

In this pivotal moment, I'm writing to ask you to support the critical organizing work of UU the Vote. Make an individual gift to UU the Vote to help us bring this campaign home. Donate [HERE](#) or text VOTELove to 91999.

When we launched UU the Vote, we set a goal of reaching one million voter contacts before election day. We are pleased to share we have already contacted over 1.3 million voters! That is incredible! And we are not stopping. We need your support in this last push to reach over 2 million voters.

Join us as we move together toward election day. There are many ways you can connect with UU the Vote or deepen your connection:

Get UU the Vote updates on your phone by texting VOTELove to 51555.

Sign the [#VoteLove Pledge](#) and let us know how you're going to do your part to protect our democracy.

Sign up to [Phonebank with UU the Vote](#). There are many remaining opportunities to join a national phonebank, or participate in local or regional events.

I hope you will join in the groundswell of Unitarian Universalists working to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate. There is so much to do, and our faith is calling us to love more boldly, to give more generously, to believe more fervently that another world is possible—and to lead and act on behalf of that future.

Yours in love and in hope,

Susan

CARING COMMUNITY

OCTOBER CARING COMMUNITY NEWS

Sometimes out light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being.

Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light.

~Albert Schweitzer

A friendly reminder from your Caring Community team: October is Flu Shot Month, especially important this year.

Belated anniversary greetings to Rev. Gy and Patti Ludvig-McCartney! Their day was September 17.

We hold Stace Danielson in our hearts as she and her doctors sort out her health issues and find the best way forward. It is important that we support each other in community. Our healing thoughts and prayers go to Peg Clausing too. A fall from a bicycle resulted in a broken wrist that has presented many challenges.

In addition to pumpkin spice and colorful leaves, October is for birthdays, birthdays, birthdays! Best wishes to Ellie Epskamp-Hunt, Joan Young, Kathryn Ragains, Judy Halseth, Grayson Tasko, Terri Tessari, Barbara McWhorter, and Carol Higgins! WOW – that's a great many smiles and UCC candles!

This month we also celebrate the lives of four early members who helped get UCC started. Dorothea Thompkins 1996 (founder with her husband Herb), Jean Houston 1999 (founder), Donald Mulhagen 2011 (who continued to be with us in spirit from Friendship Village long after he was no longer able to attend), and Barbara Maddox 2014 (who braved the elements, coming from Three Rivers for services and Women's Book group). We are grateful for their contributions and remember them fondly. They made a difference!

It is again time to recommit to our practice of shared ministry. When needs arise among our members or friends, they are met in an amazing way in our community. Instead of a committee of members with fixed tasks, we rely on a network accessed via our point persons. In these strange times, we have been lucky to have few needs among our members. Congregational energies have gone to finding new ways to worship and communicate. Kudos to all who have set up new systems and kudos also to those who have learned how to use them!

Now, however, our Caring Community point persons are seeking one new member (or more) to join with them to coordinate the response to needs, write the news article, and maintain support for our community. If you have an interest, or have questions about how you may be able to serve, please contact Judy Oliver.

To balance out the many birthday celebrations, there seem to be NO anniversaries to celebrate in October nor November. Someone needs to step up and get married!

If anyone gets married or has another joy to share, please let us know. We all want to celebrate. We are also not alone in our concerns. If you, or someone you know in our community have a difficult circumstance, let us join with you to carry the burden. Please contact a point person: Nancy Crowell 269-381-7659, Judy Oliver 269-353-9397, and/or Judy Pigg-Behrendt 269-217-5252.

Caring is Sharing!



STEWARDSHIP



Service AUCTION



All are welcome to the **UCC Halloween Service Auction**. The auction will be held on Zoom at **6:30 PM on Saturday, October 17**. Please feel free to wear a costume to celebrate Halloween and enjoy your favorite Halloween treats and beverages.

We will have lots of unique and creative items for you to bid on to raise funds for UCC and connect with each other in socially, safe ways. The auction item list will be sent to you before the auction.

The typical silent auction items will be offered as “mystery box” items during the service auction on October 17.

Kevin Brozovich is this year’s auctioneer. All Items will be fixed price. Therefore, the price that is listed on the auction item sheet is the price for everyone who bids on the item. When an item is open for bidding you, will enter the item number in the chat box right away to bid on it. The bids will show up in the chat box in the order they were submitted. The first bidders will win the item until all quantities of that item have been sold. If you are not able to join us via Zoom, please ask someone to serve as your proxy and bid for your items for you.

After the auction, you will be emailed the total amount for the items you purchased. You can pay by mailing a check to the church or using a credit card through the donate button on UCC website or the GivePlus app.

**COME AND HAVE A
FRIGHTFULLY GOOD
TIME AT THE AUCTION!**

Four black bat silhouettes with yellow eyes are scattered around the text: one on the left, one on the right, one at the bottom left, and one at the bottom right.

LEADERSHIP



Board President's Corner

[Nancy Calme](#)

The change in the weather this time of year always gives me a boost. I love to be able to leave the windows open for fresh, dry air until either we start feeling cold inside or the outside temperatures rise above the internal settings. I like to bundle up tightly under the covers in bed to the chill of the air and the droning of crickets and frogs.

The summer crops are almost all done and cleared out after a couple light frosts, and the pumpkins are all a nice October orange. We planted raspberries this year and they are surprisingly bearing a few tablespoons of fruit every day. It gives me a reason to walk the property after the evening check-in on the animals.



Looking back on our years in a standard Portage neighborhood, I feel like we missed out on really using and enjoying our little plot of land. Of course, we were both working full time and raising kids, and UUCC was still a

fledgling church that was in a constant state of big decisions and issues to resolve. Compared to those days, the church is relatively stable now, even during the upheaval of the virus and politics.

Thirty-one years after his death, my father's calming voice in my head still whispers to keep my perspective and breathe. When there was so much unrest in the 60's and 70's, he would say that current events follow a pendulum swing --moving too far one way and slowly reversing direction to swing back to the middle and sometimes overshooting and moving on to the opposite extreme before settling back down to a comfortable normal range. I keep trying to remember that after getting worked up over the latest outrageous news reports. It is an ongoing judgment call for me - when to take an active stand and when to quietly, patiently, let things work their way out.

I wonder if others of you out there are feeling the same ongoing questions in your minds?

The UU Community Board of Trustees is Nancy Calme, Erin Michael, Darby Fetzer, Larry Higgins, and Freya Lake. The Board meets on the **first Wednesday of the month at 4:30 PM** via Zoom (login information is on the [UUCC Calendar](#)) Please contact Board President Nancy Calme with your questions and concerns for the Board.

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Program Council—Where, Together and Apart, We Get Stuff Done

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

Do you know what is missing from Program Council? YOU! Everyone is invited to create programming at UUCC at Program Council. Join us via Zoom, second Sundays around 11:00 AM.

ELEVEN successes were celebrated from our Happy Hour Speaker Series with Dr. Charlae Davis of ISAAC to the service with alums Tess and Adel Johnson, to Zoom tech training, and much more! Our next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, October 11**. See you there!

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

1. **Get Out the Vote!** NOW IS THE TIME! WE ARE THE CHANGE!

Do you know ...

- 8.9% of eligible MI voters are not registered to vote? Ask everyone you know!
 - That in the 2016 presidential election only 63% of eligible MI voters voted? Be engaged!
 - Your mail-in or absentee ballot can be found to be invalid?
If your signature does not match whatever your clerk's office is comparing it to, if you forget to include the privacy sleeve when you mail your ballot in, and so much more.
Call your clerk to find out!
 - Many clerks' offices need election workers? Sign up or call in to become one! In Portage call 329-4533 or go to www.portagemi.gov/201. Kalamazoo call 337-8000 or email cokcityclerk@kalamazoo.org.
 - Opportunities to GOTV are available no matter your involvement comfort level.
 - UU the Vote: <https://www.uuthevote.org/>
Sign up for calling banks and email campaigns.
 - You can be a KNOWLEDGEABLE VOTER? You can see your ballot among a plethora of other voting related items at the League of Women Voters' site www.vote411.org
2. **Caring Community Needs Help:** Our current point people, Judy O, Judy PB, and Nancy Crowell need help! Point people coordinate assistance for our UUCC community in times of need for ministry in transportation, food delivery, and calls/cards. Help is needed to fill gaps in contributing and writing a monthly newsletter article and weekly email blurbs along with coordinating the ministries. No meetings are required. You must be able to communicate via email or phone in a timely manner. In addition, the Caring Community needs help from all church groups to gather feedback on how and through what opportunities people are connecting. Contact them with your thoughts and suggestion
3. **Adult Enrichment:** Arab-Palestinian Conflict sessions are in progress on Fridays at 4:00 PM and continue until October 23. New participants are always welcome. Contact leader Rev. Harold Beu if you are interested. The Zoom link for the class is on the [UUCC Calendar](#).

4. **Generosity Sundays:** Votes are in! The 'winners' are...

JANUARY 2021 – Face Off Theatre Company, founded in 2015 by 6 black women graduates of WMU with a focus on “Art as Activism,” using art to amplify our voice, tell our stories, and reclaim our narrative. (Point Person: Kimberly Ridley) (P.C. Notes continue on [Page 8](#))

PROGRAM COUNCIL

MARCH 2021 – H.O.P.E. Thru Navigation, headed by Gwendolyn Hooker and has a focus of providing people seeking recovery and rehabilitation with compassionate and knowledgeable hands-on assistance navigating and accessing available community resources, such as affordable housing, employment, food, and GED . They are involved in criminal justice reform efforts, voting advocacy, anti-bullying and other social justice initiatives in the community. (Point Person: Nancy Calme)

JUNE 2021 – OutFront Kalamazoo. LGBTQ+ Advocacy and Resources (Point Person: Joe Calme)

5. **Board Goals, 2020-21 Church Year:** Discussed suggested goals for the year.

A. Extending Our Reach with Technology – This goal was adjusted to the action item of Steve, Eric, AV Group, Rev. Gy and Nancy Ca. determine interim plan and suggestions for needed resources (equipment and people) preparing for our tech future.

B. Landscaping & Building Upgrades – This goal was adjusted as Eric and Kevin have plans for maintenance and projects. Andy is has volunteered to lead and plan a landscaping project with Freya and Eric and will ask for other interested participants.

i. Inspect heating, HEPA air filters and roof, and bathroom repairs

ii. Long-term projects for indoor and outside lighting, resurface asphalt, gutter work, landscaping, window caulking

iii. Fixing downstairs water damage, investigate source of water leaks

C. Adult Enrichment – Enthusiastic agreement on this! Votes were taken and four virtual class opportunities were chosen. Possible leads and coordinators were identified. Watch your emails and newsletters for dates! Contact coordinators with your interest.

a. American Religious History – David S might lead, Freya has materials.

b. Welcoming Congregation – Rev. Gy and Erin coordinating and choosing content.

c. Moral Decision-Making – Possibly shared leadership, Freya has materials.

d. Civil Dialogue – Darby might lead, need a coordinator.

We will check in on all these exciting developments at the next Program Council Meeting. Please plan to join us on Sunday, October 11 around 11:00 AM following Coffee Hour on Zoom!

No Virtual Happy Hour on October 22!

There will be no Happy Hour on October 22. Everyone is encouraged to attend the ISAAC (Interfaith Strategies for Action and Advocacy in the Community) Public Meeting at 6:30 PM instead. The Public Meeting is a time when public officials, candidates, and community leaders are invited to commit to working with ISAAC on changes of policy and practice. Our strength lies in our numbers. Please come and help ISAAC show our elected officials how important justice is to our community.

Be part of the change you want to see in the world by :

- 1) **REGISTERING** for the Public Meeting at isaackalamazoo.org
- 2) **ATTENDING** on [Facebook.com/isaackalamazoo](https://www.facebook.com/isaackalamazoo) or [YouTube.com/user/ISAAC4Kalamazoo](https://www.youtube.com/user/ISAAC4Kalamazoo)



CONNECTIONS

Virtual Gatherings Help Us Connect

Even though our doors are closed, there are many opportunities to meet each other virtually 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 10:45 AM Following Rev. Gy's talk, enjoy a virtual Coffee Hour via ZOOM

How to Connect: Login information for these gatherings are on the UCC Calendar. Reminders are sent by email either the day before or the morning of the activity. If you would like to be added to (or removed from) the Reminder Email List, please contact [the office](#).

If you are having trouble connecting Zoom, please contact [the office](#). We are always ready to brainstorm solutions and offer one-on-one assistance.

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

A Conversation with Jo Ann Mundy

Once a month we invite special guests to join us at a Virtual Happy Hour to engage in casual conversation and answer our questions on a variety of topics. This month we are honored to be joined Rev. Dr. B. Jo Ann Mundy.

Rev. Mundy will be with us for virtual Happy Hour on **Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 PM**. (Login information is on the [UCC Calendar](#))

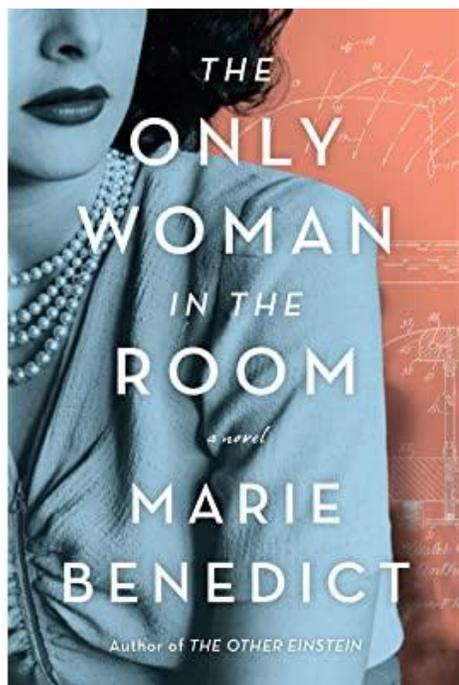
Rev. Dr. B. Jo Ann Mundy is a former co-Executive Director of ERACCE (Eliminating Racism and Creating/Celebrating Equity), and a Core Organizer-Trainer for Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training, a national partner working collaboratively with ERACCE toward the institutionalization of racial justice in public and private institutions throughout southwest Michigan. Additionally, Jo Ann is a founding member of the Three Rivers Area Faith Community (TRAFAC), an ecumenical faith-based social justice network of churches striving to build a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-lingual, and multi-generational anti-racist faith community in Three Rivers, MI.



Rev. Jo Ann Mundy

If you have any suggestions for future guests in the series or an engaging topic you would like to explore with UU Community members and friends during a virtual Happy Hour, please contact [Rev. Gy](#) and share your ideas.

LEARNING AND GROWTH



Women's Book Group

[Stephanie Grathwol](#), Chair

October Selection:

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

Friday, October 9 at 1:00 PM

Book discussion via Zoom

Login information can be found on the [UUCalendar](#)

From Goodreads:

Hedy Kiesler is lucky. Her beauty leads to a starring role in a controversial film and marriage to a powerful Austrian arms dealer, allowing her to evade Nazi persecution despite her Jewish heritage. But Hedy is also intelligent. At lavish Vienna dinner parties, she overhears the Third Reich's plans. One night in 1937, desperate to escape her controlling husband and the rise of the Nazis, she disguises herself and flees her husband's castle.

She lands in Hollywood, where she becomes Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But Hedy is keeping a secret even more shocking than her Jewish heritage: she is a scientist. She has an idea that might help the country and that might ease her guilt for escaping alone—if anyone will listen to her.

The Women's Book Club starts with a short business meeting followed by the book discussion led, this month, by Freya Lake.

All are welcome! Please contact Stephanie (sargg.64@gmail.com) for more information.

Men's Group Breakfast

Saturday, October 17 at 8:30 AM

The monthly gathering of the Men's Group via ZOOM continues to be an important source of community and companionship for many in the congregation. Newcomers are always welcome.

Please contact Ken VanEselstine if you have any questions.

<https://zoom.us/j/97856246726?pwd=WTlQaG1qZ3liZERFQmpkdXhqYVhoZz09>

Meeting ID: 978 5624 6726

Password: 749176

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



SUSTAINABILITY



Finding More Joy Through a Smaller Environmental Footprint

On September 28th, the UCC Sustainability Small Group met to share our successes and failures as we work towards a more simple and sustainable lifestyle. Here are some of the highlights from our meeting:

We reviewed the goals we had set for ourselves in five different areas: Food, Housing, Transportation, Goods, and Services.

We also shared the ways we have found to overcome obstacles to attaining our goals and how we stay committed when things get difficult.

Things that provide us with motivation and inspiration on our journey include:

- ◆ **Clearly Defined Goals** - knowing what we are working towards keeps us focused
- ◆ **A Supportive Community**—to share our successes and failures with helps energizes us and keeps us accountable
- ◆ **Strong Values**—drives us to do the right thing to protect the planet and future generations
- ◆ **A Sense of Urgency**— understanding the seriousness of the situation requires us to act

We also talked about the importance of having conversations with others about climate change and sustainable living. (The reasons for this are discussed a 2018 TedTalk from Katharine Hayhoe - *The Most Important Thing You Can Do to Fight Climate Change: Talk About It*—click [HERE](#) to watch it.)

The following resources/tips were also shared:

[Lip Bar](#)—vegan, cruelty-free, natural cosmetics made by BIPOC woman-owned company committed to inclusion.

[Zero Waste Cartel](#)—online shop with a wide range of earth-friendly items ranging from bamboo toothbrushes and reusable menstrual cups to compost bins and biodegradable dog poop bags.

Replace plastic wrap in your fridge by covering dishes with bowls, pan lids, and plates you already have in your cupboard.

[All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis](#) edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine Keeble Wilkinson—essays from women at the forefront of the climate movement who are harnessing truth, courage, and solutions to lead humanity forward.

The Sustainability Small Group is open to anyone interested in joining us on our sustainability journey. Our next meeting is on **Monday, October 19 at 7:00 PM** via Zoom.

To join the Sustainability Small Group Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94705183271?pwd=SXAwMGdSZjMzdWJ2SENScWlkSTlZdz09>

Meeting ID: 947 0518 3271

Password: 394963

If you would like more information about the UCC Sustainability Small Group, contact [Miriam](#).

SUSTAINABILITY



Keep Those Caps Coming!

Thank you, all of you savers of the planet!

Our collection of 22 pounds of plastic caps is being forwarded to the next "Captain" in the chain of command for the Buddy Benches project. Just picture it...each cap seems to weigh NOTHING and yet our combined efforts have rescued 22 POUNDS from the ocean or landfill!

Keep saving hard plastic caps of any size. Contact me at any time when you need to be relieved of a bag of caps. We will figure out how a way for me to get them from you.

Freyalake 269-324-3503. freyalake@sbcglobal.net

Tips for being a Climate Voter in Michigan

From [Hope for Creation](#)

The 2020 election could be a watershed event for action on the existing climate crisis. Being a climate voter means that you consider action on climate change and climate justice to be one of the top considerations for making voting decisions. Candidates need to know how strongly you feel about climate action! Vote to support the planet on November 3rd!



1. PLAN your voting well before the election.
 - Vote by absentee ballot
 - Vote early by mail to ensure your vote is counted
 - Find out [where drop boxes are](#) located to submit your ballot directly to your clerk
2. PLEDGE to make climate a major decider in your vote.
 - Take the [Interfaith Power and Light Michigan Climate Justice Voter Pledge](#):
 - Pledge to be an environmental voter at the [Environmental Voter Project](#)
 - Take the Vote Earth Pulpit Pledge at [Earth Day 'Vote Earth' Program](#)
3. EDUCATE yourself about each candidates' views on climate and other issues.
 - The League of Women Voters [Vote411.org](#) has a convenient online guide
 - The [Michigan League of Conservation Voters](#) records Michigan voting
 - Read [Democracy Values & the 2020 Election: A Reflection Guide for Faith Communities from Interfaith Power and Light](#)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our justice partners at ISAAC ask you to support Homes for All:

VOTE YES FOR



HOMES FOR ALL

KALAMAZOO COUNTY FUNDS FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES WILL RUN OUT AFTER 2021.



We saw shocking numbers of homeless children in 2015 and came together to “Vote Yes for Kids,” funding emergency homes for more than 500 families with children. The 2015 millage fund helped hundreds of homeless children in Kalamazoo County, but we still have work to do.



In January, local agencies identified more than 700 homeless individuals in Kalamazoo County. These numbers will keep growing due to a lack of safe, stable homes, and the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.



With thousands in our community already laid off or risking their health every day at work, Kalamazoo County saw nearly 400 new eviction filings in the last two weeks of July alone!

VOTING YES will expand access to safe, stable homes throughout Kalamazoo County for families with children, older adults, people with disabilities, homeless veterans and the “essential workers” risking their lives working through this pandemic. **Make sure to complete your entire ballot and please VOTE YES for Homes for All!**



Voter Contact Total

CONGRATULATIONS!

1,370,052

Onward to 2 Million!

www.UUtheVote.org

The current total of calls made, post-cards and letters sent, voters registered, and texts sent by UU the Vote volunteers is **1,370,052**. That's not a typo!!

There is still time for you to join the effort and help them reach their new goal of reaching 2 MILLION voters.

Join UU the Vote during their [Harvest the Power Week of Action, October 21-27](#). There are opportunities to phone bank, and to attend worship and a rally with hundreds of others UUs.

The tide is rising and so are we! Commit to ACTION today.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



ISAAC 2020 Public Meeting Come Build the Beloved Community



Public officials, candidates and community leaders will stand virtually before the community and commit to working with us for changes of policy and practice infused with love, hope, equity and abundance:
*Anti-Racism Housing
Community Violence Prevention*

Thursday, October 22, 6:30 pm Virtual on Facebook Live & YouTube Live

facebook.com/isaackalamazoo & youtube.com/user/ISAAC4Kalamazoo

Registration greatly appreciated: isaackalamazoo.org



See how inspiring the ISAAC 2018 Public Meeting was:

isaackalamazoo.org/awesome-public-meeting/

isaackalamazoo.org/photos-of-the-2018-public-meeting/

MID-AMERICA REGION



The MidAmerica Nominating Committee Needs Your Help!



We are seeking fresh voices for leadership positions to strengthen the future of the MidAmerica Region! We have open positions for the **Board of Trustees, Camp Unistar Foundation Board of Directors, Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (MUUC),** and the **MidAmerica Nominating Committee** itself. Our region needs energetic people with diverse perspectives to fill these leadership positions. We are working to dismantle the legacy of white supremacy in our faith in order to create a collaborative environment with people from historically marginalized communities.

Some traits we value in candidates:

- Willingness to collaborate with others
- Ability to provide a unique perspective
- Strong communication skills
- Interest in leadership and stewardship
- Dedication to radical inclusion
- Personal investment in the future of our region and Unitarian Universalism as a faith

The **MidAmerica Regional Board of Trustees** is responsible for the general direction of the region, including policies, strategic goals, and priorities. There are nine members serving three-year terms. Three of those nine members include the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who are elected directly by the Board members annually.

The **Nominating Committee's** purpose is to nominate individuals for the Regional Board, Camp Unistar, the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference Board, and the Nominating Committee itself. We are dedicated to seeking qualified candidates to reflect the full diversity of the Region to fulfill these leadership positions, especially in regards to historically marginalized communities. The Nominating Committee has seven members serving two-year terms.

The **Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (MUUC)** furthers the interests of UU's and their institutions in the Midwest, fosters the interests of the UUA, supports spreading the message of Unitarian Universalism, and distributes the surplus income generated by funds in trust. The MUUC Board of Directors is composed of seven members serving three-year terms.

Camp Unistar is a beautiful island retreat in Cass Lake, Minnesota where you can unplug, unwind, and enjoy nature with a village of old and new friends who are largely rooted in Unitarian Universalist values. It is governed by an independent Board of 8 members, with one member appointed each year by the Board of Trustees. All board members must have attended Camp Unistar.

Our only requirement is that our candidates must be a member of either a MidAmerica Congregation or the Church of the Larger Fellowship. If you or someone you know may be interested, please send your suggestions to one of our co-chairs:

Co-Chair Helen Dwyer, All Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis, IN: hdwyer1492@msn.com

Co-Chair Mel Priese, Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood, MO: mel.priese@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



R.E.flections

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

Things have changed a little at my house recently. After months of careful isolation, I made the decision to increase my COVID 'bubble' to include my nephew's family. He and his wife realized they needed someone to help guide their kids through online schooling while they juggled work and school schedules for themselves. After weighing all the options, the easiest, safest, and most cost-effective solution was for the two boys to come to my house during the day. We have adopted some safety measures—masks, lots of handwashing, and a HEPA air filter running in the dining room classroom space all the time. I will keep the windows open too as long as the weather allows.

My COVID worries aside, it has been wonderful to have a young child around again. My nephew's youngest son is seven years old and he has brought a renewed sense of wonder and possibility to my world. An afternoon thunderstorm becomes a major event requiring me to pull up the shades and rearrange chairs so we can watch the wind in the trees and the way the water running down the driveway looks like a river. Digging up the carrots in my garden becomes a treasure hunt with squeals of excitement for each one uncovered and many minutes spent carefully inspecting each root, commenting on their shape and color, and planning how they will be eaten. And a walk around the block with him as a companion reveals things I have overlooked even though I have traveled the same route a hundred times...many cicada shells under the neighbor's bushes, a spider's web on a street sign, a red-orange fungus spreading at the base of an oak tree, a fallen maple leaf shaped like a heart.

My great-nephew is a living reminder to me to keep an eye out for what I might be missing in my daily life. I think our theme this month—Broaden Your Horizons—asks us to do the same in our spiritual lives. What and who have we been overlooking? What and who is missing from our circle of concern?

In *This Book is Anti-Racist*, the book the youth group and I have been reading and discussing for the last few months, author Tiffany Jewel puts it this way, "We make assumptions based on what we do not see and what we do not know. When you are only getting [information] from a single lens, you do not have the whole truth."

Just like increasing a COVID bubble, expanding our viewpoint requires us to be both a bit courageous and vulnerable. We need to be willing to have honest conversations and listen deeply with compassion, even when it makes us uncomfortable. Broadening our horizons may not be easy, but if we are to transform our world, to build a Beloved Community, it is absolutely necessary. The rewards of love, hope, abundance, and equity for all, will make it worth the effort.

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 login information.



CALENDAR



OCTOBER 2020

<p>Sunday, October 4 10:00 am—The Cost of Oppression with Rev. Gy 10:45 am—After Service Coffee Hour 1:00 pm—Meet-Up for Kids</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 6, 13, 20, 27 11:00 am—Coffee Hour with Rev. Gy</p>
<p>Sunday, October 11 10:00 am—Oh No! Not Another Learning Experience! with River Artz-Iffland 10:45 am—After Service Coffee Hour 11:00 am—Program Council Meeting 1:00 pm—Meet-Up for Kids</p>	<p>Wednesday, October 7 4:30 pm—Board of Trustees Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday October 14 5:30 pm –Sunday Services Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday, October 21 12:00 pm—NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>
<p>Sunday, October 18 10:00 am—Courageous Conversations with Darby Fetzer 10:45 am—After Service Coffee Hour 1:00 pm—Meet-Up for Kids</p>	<p>Thursday, October 1 3:00 pm—Stewardship Committee Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, October 1, 8, 15, 29 7:00 pm—Virtual Happy Hour</p> <p>Thursday, October 15 7:00 pm—A Conversation with Rev. Mundy</p> <p>Thursday, October 22 6:30 pm—ISAAC Public Meeting</p>
<p>Sunday, October 25 10:00 am—Revelations with Rev. Larry Farris 10:45 am—After Service Coffee Hour 1:00 pm—Meet-Up for Kids</p>	<p>Friday, October 2, 9, 16, 23 4:00 pm—Arab-Palestine Conflict Class</p> <p>Friday, October 9 1:00 pm—Women’s Book Group</p>
<p>Monday, October 19 7:00 pm-Sustainability Small Group</p>	<p>Saturday, October 3 1:00 pm—Fall Church Clean-Up Day</p> <p>Saturday, October 17 8:30 am—Men’s Group Virtual Breakfast 6:30 pm—UUC Community Halloween Service Auction</p>

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



Broaden Your Horizons

SUNDAYS at 10:00 AM
Live on Facebook



**Unitarian Universalist
Community Church**

**UU Community Church
is served by:**

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2019-2020 Board of Trustees

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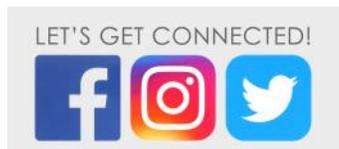
**The next Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday, October 21 at NOON**

Please send submissions to:
uuccnewsletter@gmail.com

CommUUnity Matters

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**SPIRITUALITY FOR
DIVERSE PATHS**

BLACK LIVES MATTER