



CommUUUnity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

August 2021

2022 WIDENING THE CIRCLE 2023

At our Annual Meeting this past June, the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan voted unanimously to adopt the 8th UU Principle. This principle calls on us to engage in individual and communal action to accountably dismantle racism and other systemic barriers to full inclusion in both our congregation and in society at large. The 8th Principle is a clear call to action and with our vote, we have committed to answer that call.

So, what comes next?

We will need to challenge and stretch ourselves both personally and as an institution. We will need to expand our range of vision, pushing ourselves beyond the familiar and the comfortable, to adopt new and better ways of thinking and doing.

Activists often use the image of concentric circles growing wider and wider to illustrate the anti-racist journey. The more we learn and the more proficient we become at recognizing racist ideas and policies, the better we become at addressing and removing them. This idea of **Widening the**

Circle both as individuals as we work to become anti-racist, and as a church community as we strive to build a Beloved Community that welcomes, serves, and benefits everyone seems like the perfect spiritual theme for our very first year as a proud 8th Principle congregation.

The Sunday Services Team (Joe Calme, Regena Nelson, Kimberly Ridley, and David Senecal, assisted by Miriam and Rev. Gy) have put together a thought-provoking [Thematic Calendar for 2022-2023](#). They hope it will us provide ample opportunities to learn, grow, and widen the circle of our concern as we begin the work of accountably dismantling racism and other oppressions in ourselves and the world.



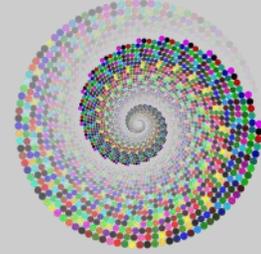
INSPIRED SPIRITUALITY

AUGUST SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays at 10:00 AM

Also on [Facebook](#) and [Zoom](#)

Zoom Meeting ID: 926 5154 8494 Passcode: 286763



Spiritual Theme of the Month: PREPARATION.

Our services will focus on the skills, discernment, and practices we need to widen the circle of our concern.

August 7: *Are You Willing?*

with Rev. Gy

In life there are two ways to do things, willingly or unwillingly. When we do things willingly, we experience heaven. When we do things unwillingly, it's hell. When we shift from unwillingness to willingness, from inertia to effervescence, our lives become more joyful and effortless.

August 14: *Have Courage*

with Rev. Gy

Living an honest, authentic life is not easy. It requires us to embrace our vulnerability so we may have open and honest conversations, true connection, and a grounded sense of presence even when it is uncomfortable and hard. Being vulnerable may feel like weakness, but it is actually an act of great courage.

August 21: *The Habit of Curiosity*

with Rev. Larry Farris

Curiosity is an underrated habit, a virtue even. And its practice opens doors to a greater depth of personhood and of relationships, even across the many cultural polarities that divide us.

August 28: *Principles and Purposes*

with Miriam Epskamp

Miriam will share what she learned at General Assembly about the work of the Article II Study Commission and their mission to propose revisions to our principles and purposes and how it might impact our congregation as we seek to accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Updated Guidelines for Gathering

At their June meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to update our Covid-19 Guidelines for Gathering.

Beginning August 7:

- *Congregational singing will be allowed in the sanctuary*
- *While we continue to strongly encourage everyone to be vaccinated to the best of their ability, we will no longer require or check proof of vaccination*
- *Children and youth will be welcomed to enter the sanctuary through the main entrance and remain with the adults for part or all of the service*
- *Masks will still be required for everyone over the age of two and social distancing remains strongly recommended for everyone*

Please be aware that this policy and practice may change as circumstances change. If we move into a more dangerous phase of the COVID-19 cycle again, we may decide to walk back this decision.

GUESTS IN THE PULPIT

We are excited to welcome the following guest to our virtual pulpit this month:



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 early 2020 to be near their daughter's family. They love the city, have good neighbors, and enjoy taking care of their granddaughter two days each week. Larry was a regular speaker at UCC before moving away and we are grateful that technology allows us to continue to enjoy and benefit from his wit and wisdom.

A Conversation with Sheriff Rick Fuller

Once a month we invite special guests to join us at a virtual Thoughtful Thursday gathering to tell us more about the work they are doing and answer any questions we might have. We are delighted that our guest on Thursday, **August 18 at 7:00 PM** will be Sheriff Rick Fuller.

Rick Fuller, who just happens to be UCC member Mary Roscoe's nephew, has served as Kalamazoo County Sheriff since 2008.



The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency for over 105,000 residents in the County and patrols over 500 square miles making it the largest service agency in the area. The Sheriff's Office operates the County Jail which has a daily population of over 400 inmates. In addition, the Sheriff's Office provides Marine patrols on the county lakes and rivers, off-road vehicle and snowmobile patrols on the county trails, as well as security for all of the Kalamazoo County Courts.

Sheriff Fuller and his team recently wrote and received a grant to create a process for having a social worker or psychologist ride along in patrol cars when needed. He believes this program will be the first of its kind in the state.

Plan to join us via Zoom on August 18 to learn more about this innovative program and other issues related to law enforcement in the county.

Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 476 401 695 Passcode: 449120



FROM THE MINISTER



From the Minister [Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney](#)

A human is not a being; he is a becoming. He is an ongoing process – a possibility.
Sadhguru

Welcome to our brand new church year! Year of becoming, year of possibilities! Our first act of a new beginning was to share food, good music, heart, and fun. I think we have our priorities set just right. Play, work, and then, play some more.

Now we are gearing up for some meaningful work. I will have you know that this year's work scares me a little. Here's why: I have done much work on myself, so that sort of work while always offering some new perspective, still, it feels familiar. I've worked with churches on spiritual growth and while I cannot say it was always easy, I've done it enough times that it feels familiar and I have a sense I more or less know what I'm doing. I've worked with churches on strategic planning and while that type of work is overwhelming at times and progress may come slower than hoped for, it is also familiar and through the years I've accumulated helpful skills in that area.

This year, however, I am in a brand new territory and I feel the weight of it, because of the importance of this work. We, as a spiritual community, have committed to accountably dismantling racism and now it is time to live up to our commitment. This is work I have never done. Like most innocent, good willing, white folks, I believed that I am pretty much not a racist. Others are racist, the ones who overtly express racist acts like flying a confederate flag, calling black people the "n" word, and the likes. Furthermore, I told myself that I cannot possibly be racist, because I grew up in Europe, in a country where black people didn't live, didn't even visit. How could I possibly be racist? Then I attended an ERACCE course and realized that I was way too generous in assessing myself. ERACCE ([Eliminating Racism and Creating/Celebrating Equity](#)) is a Kalamazoo based exists to eliminate structural racism and create a network of equitable antiracist institutions and communities. Through the training, I learned that I did in fact pick up many racist ideations. I did allow racist jokes to be told in my presence. And I did even more things that I may still have the blinders on for.

I guess, what I am trying to say is that I am not a confident leader in this area. I have clarity of how important this work is and I want to make sure that we do it right, that we address our overt and covert racism, that we contribute to the healing of our wounded world and I've never walked this path before with any community. By nature, I want to shine the light and lead the way. I cannot confidently do that this time. Instead, we will hold hands and find our way together, teach each other with gentle love, guide each other, hold each other, and heal each other. We will become together in this ongoing process of possibilities.

The task in front of us is mighty and very worthy. One step at a time. If we make a misstep, we will forgive, correct, and move on. No guilt, no shame, no blame! I trust that each step will be revealed to us in good time.

Here's to becoming!

CARING COMMUNITY



AUGUST CARING COMMUNITY NEWS

*The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer
like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning.*

– Natalie Babbitt

Joys, Concerns, and Member News

Covid-19 and the BA.5 variant were on many people's minds this past month what with the upswing in cases and more and more people, including the President of the United States, being diagnosed with the virus despite being fully vaccinated and taking precautions. Here at UCC Covid finally caught up with **Ron and Nancy Crowell**. Fortunately, their symptoms were mild and their recovery time swift.

Covid was not the only health concern UCC friends have struggled with. **Larry Higgins** was briefly hospitalized at the end of June and both **Mary Roscoe** and **Nancy Calme** were exposed to poison ivy this summer. We are glad to know that all are healing.

The actions of the Supreme Court of the United States have been a source of pain and anguish to many at UCC but we have taken solace in learning that the Reproductive Rights for All collected enough signatures to put an initiative on the ballot that would protect abortion access in Michigan. UCC member **Ken VanEseltine** worked hard to gather signatures for this and several other progressive ballot initiatives. We were delighted to hear that he was recognized by the Michigan UU Social Justice Network as one of their top ten signature gatherers in the state.

We took a break from Sunday services and other programs in July but were treated to many opportunities to gather for fun and fellowship including the Backyard Broadway BBQ, the Eagle Lake Chat and Chill, and the Lakeside Service at Gourdneck Lake. We are grateful to the Stewardship Committee (**Regena Nelson, Marsha Laya, Ron Crowell, and Joe Calme**), **Kathy Hays**, and **Kathryn Ragains-Wilson** for making these gatherings possible.



Many service auction gatherings took place in July as well. Those who gathered for "Lunch + Ice Cream Floats" on **Stephanie Grathwol's** Parchment patio had a wonderful time. How lovely to see **Betty Lee Ongley** enjoying herself in person.

It was also great to see so many UCC folks come out to work on the building and grounds despite the hot and humid weather. The crew included **Miriam, Eric and Regena Nelson,**

Joe and Nancy Calme, Mike Graham, Erin Nelson, Andy Miller, Pat Fuehr, Bev Folz, Kathryn Ragains-Wilson, Michael Wilson, Marcus Ragains, Julie Keleman, and Darby Fetzer. They pulled weeds, trimmed bushes, spread mulch, started installing a new vanity in one of the restrooms, and prepared the ground for our new 'Rain Garden'. Our volunteers are the best! (More Caring News on [page 6](#))



CARING COMMUNITY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Celebrating their birthdays in August are **Lauren Ritter, Kimberly Ridley, Miriam Epskamp, and Peggy Clausing!** Many happy returns of the day to all!

Celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Tim and Erin Michael, Kevin and Tami Brozovich, and Eric and Regena Nelson.** May you be blessed with many more years together.

If your birthday or anniversary was not on the list, pass it on to the church office so you get included next year.

Remembering Friends



We pause to remember dear friends who are no longer with us. We lost **Faye Clifton** in July of 2019. **Jean Batts** passed away in August of 2000 and **Lin Foote** in August of 2019.

In June of this year, we lost former member and dear friend, **Brian Leekley**. Brian is remembered by his UUCU friends for his careful devotion to the church library, and his steadfast commitment to social justice and religious education. He passed away peacefully on Bainbridge Island, WA, where he lived with family. Below is an excerpt from his obituary:

A teacher, life-long activist, and gifted writer, Brian devoted his talents, heart and soul to social justice. Brian was born on May 30, 1942, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Richard and Evelyn Kohanek Leekley. Growing up in Chicago, he was endlessly curious with a boundless imagination which nurtured his lifelong passion for storytelling, writing, and books. Always gracious, kind, and giving, Brian is loved by so many. He earned a Bachelors of Creative Writing and Literature from Knox College and a Master of Library Science from Western Ontario University. In 1964, during the civil rights movement, he joined the Students of Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and traveled to Greenville, Mississippi where he joined the historical efforts for voter registration during Freedom Summer. A Chicago public high school teacher, an anti-war pacifist, and a champion of workers' rights, Brian devoted his life to helping those in need. After his father's death in 1976, Brian ran the Leekley Rare Bookshop in Winthrop Harbor in partnership with his mother, Evelyn. After she suffered a stroke, Brian was her loving companion and caregiver for 20 years. He is preceded in death by his brother Guy Leekley and survived by his sister Avon Leekley (Michael), brother John Leekley (Rebekah), niece Lura Bickford, nephew Mark Leekley (Julie), and many great nieces, nephews, and friends.

*Everyone in the church is part of our Caring Community, and caring for one another is a key feature of the congregation. If you have a need that we can help with or some news that you would like to share with us all, pass it on to the coordinators through the UUCU office: 269-324-7262 or uucommunity@gmail.com. Duties of the Caring Community Team include writing cards, making phone calls, organizing rides, scheduling meal trains, and coordinating memorial service hospitality, among other things. New team members are always welcome to join. The team meets quarterly via Zoom. Their next meeting is **Wednesday, August 17 at 1:00 PM**. Click [HERE](#) to join the meeting. Meeting ID: 989 2864 9601 Passcode: 980850.*

STEWARDSHIP

End-of Year Finance Report

From [Tami Brozovich](#), Finance Chair

We ended the 2021/2022 fiscal year (July – June) with a (\$9,165) deficit in the General Fund; which brings our General Fund Balance to \$43,443 (this total is the culmination of all surpluses and deficits since our church began). While we don't like to see a deficit, this outcome is about half the deficit that we had budgeted for last year (see the chart below). As you can also see in the chart below, our Actual Income was right on target with what we predicted in our budget. This was helped, in part, by a \$5,000 bequest from Jim Heveran.

Thanks to the Board and our committee members for working hard to keep our church as financially healthy as possible. A special thanks to Kimberly Ridley and Joe Calme (my fellow Finance Team members) without whom I could not do this job.

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)
Actual	\$110,427	\$119,593	(\$9,165)
Budget	\$110,641	\$128,186	(\$17,545)

Backyard Broadway BBQ

Nearly forty UCC members, friends, and invited guests came out to the Backyard Broadway and BBQ FUNdraiser at Rev. Gy and Patti's house in July. We collected over \$800 in gate receipts and some extra cash in tips for the very talented performers Josh and Allie White. The Stewardship Committee Regena Nelson, Joe Calme, Ron Crowell, and Marsha Laya) deserve a round of applause for organizing an evening of good food, good friends, good music, and good times! Many thanks to Darby and Bruce Fetzer, Eric Nelson, and Andy Miller for their help with the event and to Rev. Gy and Patti for being such wonderful hosts.



CONNECTION

3rd Saturday Breakfast Group

The UCC Breakfast Group plans to meet in-person for breakfast on **Saturday, August 20 at 9:00 AM** at Garcia's Mexican Kitchen conveniently located on Shaver Road, right next door to UCC.



The 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group is a wonderful opportunity for conversation and connection and is open to all UCC members and friends.

As no one wants to have breakfast alone, it is **very important to RSVP** and let breakfast coordinator, Ken VanEseltine, know you are coming. Please email vaneseltinekl@sbcglobal.net or call (269)823-8261 by Friday, August 19. You can also contact Ken if you have any questions or suggestions for the group.

If there are no RSVPs by the Friday afternoon before, the gathering will be canceled. An email will be sent out to let everyone know.



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group met in July to choose a chairperson and pick their selections for the coming year. Stephanie Grathwol will lead the group again this year. If you ever have any questions about Book Group, please contact her. Below is the schedule for September 2022 – May 2023:

Sep 9, 2022: ***Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth, and The Trials of American Democracy*** by Jamie Raskin
Discussion Leaders: Marsha Laya and Rita Stevens

Oct 14, 2022: ***Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont*** by Elizabeth Taylor
Discussion Leader: Beverly Folz

Nov 11, 2022: ***Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist*** by Eli Saslow
Discussion Leader: Stephanie Grathwol

Dec 9, 2022: ***The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out The Window and Disappeared*** by Jonas Jonasson
Discussion Leader: Sally Cowles

Jan 13, 2023: ***Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm..*** by Mildred Armstrong Kalish
Discussion Leader: Nancy Calme

Feb 10, 2023: ***Black Bottom Saints*** by Alice Randall
Discussion Leader: Judy Halseth

Mar 10, 2023: ***Kalamazoo Public Library's Community Read***
Discussion Leader: Betty Lee Ongley

Apr 14, 2023: ***The Devil and Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Murder, Madness and Obsession*** by David Grann
Discussion Leader: Rita Stevens

May 12, 2023: ***Band of Sisters: The Women of Smith College Go To War*** by Lauren Willig
Discussion Leader: Denise Hartsough

All Book Group meetings take place via Zoom to make it possible for members all over the country to participate. Click [HERE](#) for the link. Meeting ID: 996 0783 5644 Passcode: 360981

LEARNING AND GROWTH



Thoughtful Thursdays

Rev. Gy and Miriam are working to put plans in place for regular virtual Thursday gatherings in the new church year. Many of the programs they are considering will help us become more familiar with anti-racism and racial justice as we seek to widen the circle of our concern and put the 8th UU Principle we adopted last June into practice.

Some of the ideas they are considering include:

- A Book Discussion group focused on ***How to Be Anti-Racist*** by Ibram X. Kendi.
- A Racial Justice Film Discussion Group
- A 90-minute workshop based on the UUA Adult RE anti-racism curriculum: ***Building the World We Dream About***

They would also like to consider your feedback and ideas. There will be a discussion about Thoughtful Thursdays at the Program Council meeting in August and there will be other opportunities to share your ideas.

Addressing Implicit Bias in Ourselves and in Our Community

The August meeting of Portage Linking Our Voices (PLOV) on Sunday, **August 21 at 5:00 PM** via Zoom will feature a presentation and discussion on implicit bias, led by Dr. Colin Smith from the University of Florida Department of Psychology.

Dr. Smith is a social cognition researcher with a strong interest in political psychology. His primary work focuses on implicit evaluations. Specifically, how do we measure them, how do we change them, and what behaviors do they predict? He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology's Social Psychology area at the University of Florida and the Director of Education at Project Implicit, where you can go to learn about your own implicit biases.



Dr. Colin Smith

Before the presentation, please take a moment to complete an implicit bias test at <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>. If you visit the website the week before the meeting, the experience will be fresh in your mind. There will be an opportunity to talk about the test and the feedback you received about your own bias as part of the discussion.

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkc-iopz4vE9MZKs6BKmVrqnUCnwFb-jKi>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you have questions about PLOV and the diversity, equity, and inclusion advocacy they do in the community, contact Lauren McMullan: laurenanderton@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Qigong at UCC



Our Qigong sessions are still going strong every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 9:00 AM!

Often described as a mind-body-spirit practice, Qigong can help improve your mental and physical health by integrating posture, stretching, movement, breathing, self-massage, and focused intent. Each session lasts about 30 minutes.

Practicing Qigong on Zoom means you don't have to drive anywhere or even change out of your jammies to attend the class. Once the exercises start, everyone turns off their mics and video so you practice in private. The group is a supportive community that chats a bit at the beginning and end of the exercise routine.

The Qigong group welcomes newcomers at any time! Why not give it a try?

TUESDAY QIGONG

Click [HERE](#) to join
The Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 697 338 090
Passcode: 138550

SATURDAY QIGONG

Click [HERE](#) to join
the Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 977 5286 6838
Passcode: 383810

If you have any questions about the group, contact Freya Lake: freyalake@sbcglobal.net

Mindfulness Practice with Eric

On the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM you can join UCC member and lead facilitator at Stress Less Kalamazoo, Eric Nelson, for drop-in guided Mindfulness Practice. The next session will be on **Wednesday, August 24**.

Each session begins and ends with a reading for reflection and includes practices designed to reduce stress and anxiety and improve emotional balance and overall sense of well-being.

All are welcome to join. Both newcomers and seasoned Mindfulness veterans will benefit from these practices.



Click [HERE](#) to join the Mindfulness with Eric. Zoom Meeting ID: 833 5090 0441

Water Communion 2022

Water Communion is a unique Unitarian Universalist ritual traditionally held at the beginning of the church year that serves to remind us of our interconnectedness and celebrate our gathering together as a community.

To be a part of this year's communion in September, be sure to collect a small sample of water from a place that brings you peace or provides sustenance for your soul to add to our communal bowl.

If you have questions about Water Communion, please contact Rev. Gy: gyludvig@gmail.com

SUSTAINABILITY

Finding Joy Through a Smaller Environmental Foot Print

Each month the Sustainability Group meets to reflect on their personal sustainability journeys, to share their successes and failures, and to explore ideas for promoting sustainable living at UUC and in the wider community. In July they decided to spend their time together working on a Rain Garden for UUC.



If you have been out to our building this summer, you may be wondering what the heck is going on with the piles of rock, gravel, and soil. Here is an overview and update of the project.

A rain garden is a place where rainwater collects from paved areas, like roofs, pathways, and parking lots. The gardens are designed so that runoff will be absorbed into the ground instead of flowing into storm drains. Rain gardens are Earth-friendly in several ways. They prevent flooding and erosion. They keep contaminants from being transferred into lakes and rivers. And when planted, as ours will be, with native plants, they provide food and habitat for pollinators and other insects.

The Sustainability Group's rain garden project has turned out to be more complicated and expensive than we had originally anticipated. Early in the summer, our initial design was washed out after a particularly heavy rain. We headed back to the drawing board and added a drain and gravel to deal with the excess. We consulted a professional garden designer about plants and the layout to help make sure our finished garden would look good and thrive. Like everything these days, the plants and other supplies have ended up costing more than expected.

Fortunately, the Board decided to earmark half of the bequest from Jim Heveran's estate for landscaping improvements so we have the funds to do the job right.

Members of the Sustainability Group and other intrepid helpers came out on July 10 and 24 and worked hard digging trenches, laying a drainpipe, spreading gravel, and sculpting the soil around the garden. Despite these efforts, the rain garden still doesn't look like much. There is more work to be done moving soil and spreading mulch and the plants won't be put in until fall, but we are making good progress.

The next meeting of the Sustainability Group will be on **Monday, August 15 at 7:00 PM** via Zoom. We will be talking about the Rain Garden and making some plans for the new church year. Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom meeting. Meeting ID: 960 9812 1445 Passcode: 990641



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

R.E.flections From Miriam Epskamp, Director of Religious Education

Dear Ones! I hope your summer has been as lovely as mine! My garden is growing. My flowers are blooming. I have enjoyed ice cream, beach days, a camping trip in Northern Michigan with the grandsons, and a week in sunny San Diego visiting my daughter Ellie.



It hasn't all been fun and games and relaxing in the sun. I have been working hard for UUCC too. In addition to my regular duties, I attended all three days of business meetings at General Assembly for the first time and got to vote as one of your delegates. I attended a two-day *Introduction to Systemic Racism Workshop* presented by ERACCE. I met with a representative of St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish to talk about anti-racism and ways we might collaborate. Along with Erin Michael, I attend two of three sessions on *Reproductive Justice Congregational Organizing* presented by [Side with Love](#), the social justice arm of the UUA. And, I have been reading *How to Be Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

The youth group has been on sabbatical in July, but we did touch base about participating in the *Next Step* program again this year. *Next Step* is a group that provides assistance to low-income Kalamazoo Promise students to make sure they have the things they need to live in the dorms and thrive during college. Nick and Amanda decided to use the money in the Youth Fund to purchase dorm essentials for one student. (Thank you to everyone who donated their returnable cans and bottles to the youth group in the past year. The money we make from cashing them in allows us to engage in social justice programs like this. The 'Cans for Kids' collection box will continue to be available in the Community Room this church year. Please continue to bring us your empties!)

I have also spent a good deal of time thinking about what next year will look like as far as our programs for children and youth go. There is a lot I do not know about the future but I am pretty certain that will be hard to convince families with children to visit and stay if there are no programs available for them. So, I will plan to be downstairs nearly every Sunday, ready and willing to engage.

Our focus of exploration this year will be the 8th Principle. In August, the plan for me and any kids we have will be to look carefully at our physical space and find all the places the 7 principles are referenced and find ways to update them. We will also do some group art projects so we will have new colorful and engaging ways to display our 8 principles on the walls for everyone to see. Another adult will be needed in the lower level every Sunday. This volunteer is required to keep our Religious Exploration classes safe for everyone. Please consider signing up to help.

In the coming months, I look forward to engaging with the Appreciative Inquiry/Strategic Planning process, the Marketing Team, and the Board of Trustees to consider how we might re-grow our ministries for families and children and connect and build relationships with other groups in the community doing work that is important to young people such as protecting LGBTQ+ rights, combatting climate change, and working for diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community. I hope that YOU will find ways to participate in this work as well. I can't (and shouldn't) do these things on my own. The church belongs to YOU and your energy, ideas, and help will be needed to help it continue to thrive. May it be so!

OPPORTUNITIES

Job Postings

UU Congregations are hiring! Some of the best candidates are found by word of mouth. Please pass on this information if you know anyone who might be interested in any of these part-time positions.



Music Director: UU Community Church is searching for a Music Director to play the piano and sing on Sunday mornings. Click [HERE](#) for the job posting.

Custodian: People's Church Kalamazoo is looking for someone to clean their building. Click [HERE](#) for the job posting.

Religious Education Coordinator: All Souls UU Congregation in Grand Rapids is looking for someone to help rebuild their RE program. Click [HERE](#) for the job posting.

Caps, Cans, and Styrofoam



We are continuing to collect the following items. Look for collection boxes at the back of the sanctuary or in the Community Room

Hard Plastic Caps: Please save the caps all sorts of containers to help build Buddy Bench for playgrounds. 'CAP'tain Frey report that our collective, ongoing stands at 242 pounds! Thanks to all who have helped save the planet.

Styrofoam: Bring your clean, dry EPS foam (aka Styrofoam) labeled with a 6 symbol to church (no packing peanuts or sheeted insulation please) and the Sustainability Group will make sure it gets recycled properly. Easy peasy!

Returnable Bottles and Cans: There is a box in the community room where you can put your bottles and cans. The money from your empties will help fund youth-led social justice projects at UUC. Thank you for your support!

We've got Volunteer Opportunities!

As we get ready for services to resume on August 7, we are looking for a few good volunteers to help out on Sunday mornings. Most of these positions only require a once a month commitment.

Sound Desk Tech - Help keep UUC looking and sounding good on Sunday mornings. Requires proficient computer skills and onsite participation before, during, and after the service. Training will be provided!

Zoom Tech - Assist the Sound person either from home or at UUC. A very easy position that requires only basic Zoom skills.

Facebook Host - Watch the service from home on Facebook and put comments into the chat. The comments are already written for you!

Sunday Morning RE/Childcare - A volunteer is needed in the lower level every Sunday. This volunteer will provide assistance to Miriam and be the second adult required to keep our Religious Exploration classes safe for everyone.

If you are interested in helping out with any of these tasks or learning more contact Miriam (uucommunity@gmail.com).

In the wider community:

Langeland Family Funeral Home is sponsoring a **School Supplies Drive**. They collecting various new school supplies **through August 24** at their downtown and Westside locations. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Housing Matters Kalamazoo will present a forum on **August 10** from **12-1:30 PM** via Zoom about a proposed Pod community that will help address housing issues in our community. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Moms Demand Action For Gunsense in America will hold an Election Kick-off event via Zoom on Thursday, **August 4** at **7:00 PM** to discuss their teams, state plans, highest priorities, and where the most help will be needed to pass sensible gun regulation. Click [HERE](#) to register for this event.



CALENDAR



AUGUST 2022

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Tuesday	August 2	ELECTION DAY Qigong	7 AM—8 PM 9:00 AM
Thursday	August 4	Stewardship Committee Meeting	1:00 PM
Saturday	August 6	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	August 7	Are You Willing? with Rev. Gy Religious Exploration for Kids After-Service Social Time	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:45 AM
Tuesday	August 9	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	August 10	Sunday Services Committee Meeting	5:30 PM
Saturday	August 13	Qigong	10:00 AM
Sunday	August 14	Have Courage with Rev. Gy Religious Exploration for Kids After-Service Social Time Program Council Meeting	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:45 AM 11:00 AM
Monday	August 15	Sustainability Group	7:00 PM
Tuesday	August 16	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	August 17	Caring Community Team Meeting	1:00 PM
Thursday	August 18	A Conversation with Sheriff Rick Fuller	7:00 PM
Saturday	August 20	Qigong 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group	9:00 AM 9:00 AM
Sunday	August 21	The Habit of Curiosity with Rev. Larry Farris Religious Exploration for Kids After-Service Social Time Addressing Implicit Bias in Ourselves and in our Community	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:45 AM 5:00 PM
Tuesday	August 23	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	August 24	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Mindfulness Practice with Eric	12:00 PM 7:00 PM
Saturday	August 27	Qigong Board of Trustees Retreat	9:00 AM 11:00 AM
Sunday	August 28	Principles and Purposes with Miriam Epskamp Religious Exploration for Kids After-Service Social Time	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:45 AM
Tuesday	August 30	Qigong	9:00 AM



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
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2022-2023 Board of Trustees

Eric Nelson

Andy Miller

Judy Pigg-Behrendt

Marsha Laya

Pat Timm

The next Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday, August 24 at NOON

Please send submissions to:

uuccnewsletter@gmail.com

CommUUnity Matters

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