



CommUUunity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

July 2023



Spiritual Theme for July: REST

Rest and self-care are so important. When you take time to replenish your spirit, it allows you to serve others from the overflow. You cannot serve from an empty vessel. ~ Eleanor Brown.

In order to provide ourselves a time of rest and rejuvenation for body, mind, and spirit, we will be operating at reduced hours during the month of July.

There will be NO Sunday Services, Religious Exploration for Kids, or Thoughtful Thursdays during the month of July. We will begin meeting again on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 6. In August we will unveil a new theme for the year and consider how we can prepare for the work ahead.

Please be intentional about this time of rest. Take time in July to:

- Identify the ways you break away from the pressure, stress, and overwhelming busyness of life
- Recognize the stumbling blocks that get in your way of finding peace and rest
- Engage in activities that spark your creativity and give you inspiration.

For those who find taking time “to seek, to sustain, and, to share” with others an important part of their self-care routine, there will still be many opportunities to gather both onsite and online with UUCC friends during July. Keep reading this newsletter to learn more.

If you are in need of help or pastoral care during the July break, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Miriam](#), or one of our Caring Community point people. Your church community is always here for you!



GRATITUDE

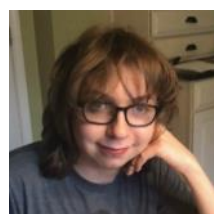
During the service on May 21, we recognized a few of the many generous and dedicated people who help our church community thrive. We are grateful for:



Regena Nelson, for her years of service on the Sunday Services committee and as chair of the Stewardship Committee. Regena also helps out regularly as a volunteer in our Religious Exploration classes for kids, as a Sunday morning Coffee Host, and is helping to organize our Community Compost project.



Judy Pigg-Behrendt, for her service on the Board of Trustees. Judy graciously agreed to act as Secretary during her tenure on the board. Taking the minutes for all the board meetings is a big commitment that took Judy out of her comfort zone with computers and Google drives but, nevertheless, she persisted. Judy also cheerfully volunteers to help with special events such as working the concession stand for Open House Theatre Company.



Nick Tasko, for co-chairing the Drag Show Committee and for their dedication to Religious Exploration at UUC. This year Nick has participated in almost every Sunday Religious Exploration session and spent many Saturday mornings at UUC working on various projects, taking painting lessons, and mowing the lawn.

During the service on May 21, we also welcomed new members:



Joel Folkert was raised in Hudsonville, MI, the oldest of 3 siblings. He went to Michigan State University to study Zoology, and graduated in 2016. He moved to the Kalamazoo area that year for a job, and has been around since then. Joel is currently working as a research associate at a small preclinical research lab here in Portage. During his free time Joel enjoys reading, video games, chess, movies and shows, and biking. He also likes learning more about biology, geology, astronomy, cosmology, and history.



Nicky Leigh has been a UU since 2003 (when she got married in Canada by a UU minister.) Nicky worked on immigration rights for years but finally determined climate change is our existential problem and switched to that interest. She does most of her advocacy work with Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition. One of her big wins was to get Kalamazoo Township to adopt the first Climate Emergency Resolution in the area. Nicky has lived in New York, Connecticut, Colorado, Florida and now Michigan. She has one daughter, Jamie, who has a partner, Andrew, and a grandson, River. They live on the other side of her duplex!

We celebrate all that each of us brings to this community. The spirit, the talents, the generosity, the imagination, and most of all, the commitment and dedication that has allowed this community, which is sacred to so many, to continue and to thrive. Thank you for being you!

LEADERSHIP

Our New Board of Trustees



Michael Graham



Steve Tasko



Marsha Laya



Eric Nelson



Pat Timm

At the Annual Meeting in June, Michael Graham and Steve Tasko were unanimously elected to serve on the Board of Trustees. They will join Marsha Laya, Eric Nelson, and Pat Timm in providing leadership for the congregation during the 2023/2024 program year.

Some of the new board members attended the Board meeting in June to become familiar (or reacquaint themselves) with how things work. Click [HERE](#) to read the minutes from that meeting.

The first meeting of the new board will be on **Wednesday, August 2 at 6:30 PM** via Zoom. Board meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. Visit the UUCC Calendar on our website for login details.

We are grateful to the outgoing board member Judy Pigg-Behrendt for her excellent service and to the new board for their willingness to take on the responsibilities of leadership for our community.



ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

In accordance with our bylaws an Annual Meeting of the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of SW Michigan was held on June 4, 2023.

All items of business put before the congregation passed with no nay votes:

- Approval for an Annual Budget for 2023-24 in the amount of \$123,166
- Amendments to Article V, Section 3 of the Bylaws
- The election of three board members Michael Graham, Steve Tasko, and Eric Nelson to two-year terms.
- The election of Judy-Pigg-Behrendt for a two-year term on the Nominating Committee.
- The congregation agreed to become an affiliate member of the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition.

The congregation also observed a moment of silent reflection to remember UUCC members John Folz and Brian Leekley who passed away in the last year.

GROWTH TEAM



News from the Growth Team

The **UUC Growth Team**—Rev. Gy, Eric Nelson, Darby Fetzer, Deborah Warner, and **Miriam** – have been working with a professional marketing consultant since March to devise ways to help us increase our visibility, grow the audience for our online programming, and learn how to spread the good news about Unitarian Universalism to a wider audience.

If you are wondering, **Deborah Warner** is our new Marketing Assistant, hired by the board to put the Growth Teams plans into action! Deborah is a retired public relations professional and she brings a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to our Growth Team. Some of you may recognize Deborah from past UUC activities. She is Eric Nelson's sister.

The marketing consultant, **Valerie Bishop**, has made some suggestions about how we structure our online programming. We plan to put her suggestions into practice starting in August. You may notice some changes as you sign up, get reminded, and participate in our online offerings.

Registration will be required.

The biggest change will be our new registration protocol. You will be asked to register for most online programs you plan to participate in. This includes joining Sunday services via Zoom. For re-occurring programs such as Sunday services or Qigong or Civil Conversations, you will only need to register once. This will allow us to keep better track of who is attending our programs. It will also mean that you only receive reminder notices for programs you participate in as opposed to getting reminders for everything like you do now.

New Zoom links.

We will be retiring many of our previous Zoom links at the beginning of August. If you have links saved on your computer for our re-occurring meetings you will want to delete those and start afresh in August. We will NOT be changing the links to reoccurring committee/team meetings or the monthly Board meeting. These will stay the same to make participation easy for everyone.

Recordings will be available.

We will start recording more of our programs so if you have to miss a Thoughtful Thursday or a Mindfulness Practice, a recording will be delivered to your inbox and you can watch it at your convenience. This is a change that many people have been advocating for and we are glad to be able to offer this option going forward.

Formal welcomes and offering asks.

One of our Growth Team goals is to increase our online audience. As marketing plans are put into place, we hope to see many new people in our Zoom rooms. To make sure new people know that programming is coming from UUC and to provide them with options for learning more about our community, we will be adding a formal welcome script to our online gatherings. Like the welcome we give every Sunday, it will repeat things that our regular attendees already know but it is important that newcomers receive a consistent message. In addition, our online gatherings will also include an ask for financial support. Passing the virtual offering basket will help remind newcomers that church resources are used to create our 'free' programs and that their support is appreciated. *Please know that the offering requests during our online programs are NOT meant for pledging members and friends. We know that you are already supporting UUC and giving generously.*

If you have any questions about the Growth Team or the changes in our programs, contact [Miriam](#).

ONLINE SAFETY



UUC member Nicky Leigh offers this very useful information about online safety:

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel spoke at Friendship Village on Friday, June 2 about Senior Scams. If you ever have a chance, listen to her. She is informative and humorous. The Michigan Attorney General has a [YouTube channel](#) where some of her talks can be found.

There were two main warnings she gave:

- 1) Never, ever give your personal or banking information to a person you don't know. This is in person, over the phone, on the computer, or any other way you can think of being asked for the info.
- 2) Be very wary about clicking on links sent to you via email, texts, or on social media. This is how "malware" can get onto your phone or computer. When malware is installed, the thieves have access to your whole computer, which often means your whole life.

The current scams out there are varied but all end up asking for this information. Her examples included:

Spoofing: This is when a message looks like it is coming from looks like the message from someone you know, ie your bank calling you and saying there is a problem with your account. They will say, "In order to verify we're talking with the correct person, please say your account number for verification." NO! This is a red flag. Hang up, call your bank, and ask if there's a problem. By you calling a number you know, you will know you are talking to your institution.

Grandparent Help Calls: They will sound something like this. "Hi Grandma this is _____. I was just in an accident and my car is totaled. I need to get home." Or..."My wallet was stolen, can you send me airplane money?" With AI voice recognition programs - about 30 secs of a person's voice can be used to generate a whole conversation. It sounds like you're talking with your family member because it is their voice you are hearing, but it is not really them. Thieves can look you up online - Facebook, Instagram, TikTok. They read about your family, your vacations, your friends. They learn names, relationships, and personal stuff. To be sure you are communicating with your child, your grandchild, or whomever - have a safe word. That way the conversation goes like this: "Hi Grandma, this is _____ and I'm in trouble." You say, "Oh _____, I'm so sorry to hear that - but tell me our safe word so I know it's really you."

So remember...

- 1) Create safe words to use with family members
- 2) NEVER give out personal or banking information unless you have specifically called the institution
- 3) Don't click on links unless you are sure of the sender.

The Office of the Attorney General is there to protect us. It specifically has elder abuse and scam personnel to help if you get caught in a scam. The State of Michigan recently passed a law that requires banks to check with their elder clients if unusual transactions occur. This is to protect you when large, unusual transactions affect your account. So if your bank calls and asks, "Did you authorize this withdrawal?" don't get upset, the bank is just trying to protect your assets.

Enjoy the internet and all of its conveniences, just remember to be careful with your information.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Now, I am

Become Death

*Now, I am become Death,
the destroyer of worlds."*

These words were spoken by Robert Oppenheimer on the occasion of the first detonation of a nuclear weapon on July 16, 1945, in Los Alamos, New Mexico. He named the weapon Trinity after a John Donne poem. Oppenheimer is seen as the "father" of the atomic bomb though he was not comfortable with that honorific. Two years after the Trinity explosion, he said, "*In some sort of crude sense which no vulgarity, no humor, no overstatements can quite extinguish, we physicists have known sin; and this is a knowledge which they cannot lose.*"

Today, we live with that legacy of the real possibility of destroying our world because of nuclear weapons. And even though we might prefer not to think about this, we must, for not to do so most certainly means we will continue to build these monstrous weapons at our own peril.

Please join Rev. Harold Beu on Sunday, July 16, onsite or online, for a special program marking the 78th anniversary of the Trinity Nuclear Test and reflecting on its terrible legacy.



Qigong at UCC

Why not try a new self-care practice this summer? Come and join the UCC Qigong sessions every **Tuesday** and **Saturday**!

Qigong, a series of mindful movements and breathing exercises that can help center the mind and relax the body, is a great way to start your day. Members of our group report feeling uplifted, energized and relaxed by the practice.



Each session begins at **9:00 AM** with a brief check-in followed by 30 minutes of exercise (with our cameras and mics turned off). We are led, via videorecording, by an experienced instructor.

If you have been curious about Qigong, our Zoom group is a great way to give it a try. Newcomers are always welcome to join in.

Click [HERE](#) for the **TUESDAY** Zoom link.
Meeting ID: 697 338 090 Passcode: 138550

Click [HERE](#) for the **SATURDAY** Zoom link.
Meeting ID: 977 5286 6838 Passcode: 383810

If you have any questions about the group, contact [Freya Lake](#).

Water Communion



Don't forget to collect a small sample of water from a special place you visit over the summer to add to our Water Communion bowl in September. The water can be from a majestic lake, river, or ocean or a simple bird bath, fountain, or backyard hose. The important part is that the water represents a place or experience that gives meaning to your life or provides sustenance for your soul.



Yoga Nidra and Mindfulness

Our Yoga Nidra sessions with Daring to Rest™ facilitator Erica Guthaus and our Mindfulness Practice with Stress Less Kalamazoo facilitator Eric Nelson will take a break this summer. Erica and Eric hope to join us again in the fall.

LEARN AND GROW



Summer Sunday Forums

In place of our Sunday services in July, **Rev. Harold Beu** will present a series of Summer Sunday Forums featuring discourse and discussion on various topics at **10:00 AM** on **select Sunday mornings in July**.

Please note that our Summer Sunday Forums are onsite-only gatherings.

There will NOT be an option to join via Zoom or Facebook. Childcare is available on request. If you need childcare, please send Miriam an email (uucommunity@gmail.com) or text (269-993-8758) request by 3 PM on Saturday.

July 2: On Patriotism

What does it mean to be a patriot? Does having patriotism mean having a love of country, of the land, of its people, and its traditions? Is it an important quality for citizens to possess? On the Sunday before Independence Day let us revisit 'patriotism' for the sake of creating a nation based on the best that is in us.

July 9: On a Nation Divided

One can argue that much of the division we are experiencing in our land has its roots in our inability to come to terms with what happened 160 years ago, our Civil War, our nation's greatest crisis and carnage. As the great Southern writer, William Faulkner said, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." Let us spend time on the Sunday after Independence Day reflecting on Confederate statues and the divisions in our country.

July 23: On Climate Change

The most difficult problem in knowing what to do about the environment is knowing what the problem is. It is hard to know because we generally do not feel the results of ecological degradation until it is too late, too painful, or too toxic. It is akin to boiling a willing frog. Obviously, we need to do better. And we can also do better in celebrating life. Let's discuss how we might tackle these problems.

July 30: On Hope

One of the favorite readings for weddings from Paul in Corinthians 13 are his thoughts about love. He ends that verse with these words: ... *But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.* Certainly, love is what we hunger for, which is not so much a feeling, but a commitment to people, an idea, or even a project. But without hope, can love and faith even exist? Let us consider the importance of hope and how to re-capture it once it is lost.

SUMMER SUNDAY FORUMS

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN



ISAAC Annual Meeting

Join our justice partners, *Interfaith Strategies for Advocacy and Action in the Community (ISAAC)*, on **Tuesday, July 11** at St. Luke's in Kalamazoo for dinner and to hear about and celebrate all the inspiring Beloved Community work they do. Dinner is at 6:30 PM and the Annual Meeting is at 7:00 PM.

Dinner will include gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian, and meat options. Please feel free to add dietary restrictions to your RSVP. Contact isaackalamazoo@gmail.com to RSVP.



Women's Book Group Annual Meeting

The Women's Book Group will hold their annual meeting via Zoom on **Friday, July 14** at **1:00 PM** to choose leadership and reading selections for the coming church year.

Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom meeting.



Meeting ID: 996 0783 5644

Passcode: 360981

If you have ever considered joining the Women's Book Group, which meets via Zoom on the second Friday of the month, September through May, now is a great time. Participating in this small group not only gives you an opportunity to discuss great literature but allows you to develop deeper a connection with a supportive identity-based group.

For more information about Women's Book Group, please contact Stephanie Grathwol sargg.64@gmail.com



Chat and Chill with Kathy

At the Service Auction last October, our friend Kathy Hays offered a relaxing afternoon on her porch overlooking Eagle Lake with tasty appetizers, cool beverages, and good conversation. The opportunity to "Chat and Chill" with Kathy will take place on **Friday, July 14** from **4:00 to 8:00 PM**.

If you didn't purchase this opportunity at the Service Auction and would like to join the fun, you are more than welcome to come. The suggested donation is \$15 but any amount will do. You can send a check to UUCU with Auction in the memo line or use our online giving option. Kids and Newcomers to UUCU are FREE.

Please feel free to bring your suits for swimming, and water toys such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards if you want to spend some time on the water. Or, just come and sit a spell with kind and caring folks from UU Community Church.

Use 536 Aquaview, Kalamazoo, 49004 in your GPS for the best directions to Kathy's home. If you have any questions, give Kathy a call at 269-598-6132.



FELLOWSHIP AND FUN



UCC Sugarloaf Kayaking Trip

Enjoy the beauty of nature with UCC friends at our Summer Sugarloaf Kayaking Trip on **Sunday, July 23.**

We will plan to meet at the Sugarloaf Boat Ramp (off Shaver Road about 3/4 miles south of church) at **10:00 AM** and paddle around Sugarloaf Lake. If conditions allow, we will take the channel into Little Sugarloaf Lake as well. Following the trip, we will gather at UCC for lunch.

This is a BYOB (Bring Your Own Boat) trip but we may be able to borrow a kayak/canoe or two for those who need them.

If you are planning to come, please RSVP to Miriam (uucommunity@gmail.com) by Monday, July 17. Please be sure to let her know if you need a kayak or not.

Social Walk on Eliason Nature Trail

Come and enjoy a walk in the woods with your UCC friends on **Sunday, July 30 at 11:00 AM** on the Eliason Nature Trail.



The trail which starts just a mile from the church off of Osterhaut is a fully paved 3.3 mile out-and-back trail through the Eliason Nature Preserve. It is kid-friendly, stroller and wheelchair-accessible, and has many benches and picnic tables along the way that are perfect for resting.

This is planned as a social walk. We will not make a goal to walk a specific distance or reach a certain spot. The slowest person in the group will set the pace and we will take time to chat with each other and enjoy our surroundings.

If you are planning to come, please RSVP to Miriam (uucommunity@gmail.com) by Friday, July 28.



SAVE
THE
DATE

2023 Backyard BBQ

AUGUST 19 5-8 PM



SUSTAINABILITY

Finding Joy Through a Smaller Environmental Foot Print

Our **Sustainability Group** meets on the third Monday of each month to reflect on their personal sustainability journeys, to share their successes and failures, and to explore ideas for promoting sustainable living at UUCC and in the wider community. Here are a few of the things they are working on:



The Sustainability Group's 2nd **Annual Vegetarian Feast** was a great success. This year they invited our friends from Peoples Church to join in the fun and about 24 folks (12 from each congregation) gathered at Milham Park in Kalamazoo to enjoy some delicious meatless dishes and each other's company. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a wonderful event!

The Sustainability Group's Styrofoam recycling efforts are still going strong. Volunteers Ron and Nancy Crowell (aided by Stephanie Grathwol) plan to deliver all the items we have collected over the past few months to the City of Kalamazoo's next

nEPS Foam and Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, July 22. City Residents can drop off any amount of the accepted materials at Mayors' Riverfront Park from 10 AM to 1 PM on collection days. Group member Beverly Folz continues to help oversee the collection efforts at The Fountains and thus prevents mountains of Styrofoam from entering our landfills each year.

Several Sustainability Group members are part of the **Composting Team** at UUCC. The team is excited to announce that a community compost bin has been purchased and starting in August people will be welcome to bring in their kitchen scraps to church to add to the bin. More info about our community compost project will be coming in the August newsletter but everyone is encouraged to take time in July to start considering how they might collect compostables at home so we can keep food waste out of landfills and start creating nutrient-rich soil for the church grounds and beyond.

The Sustainability Group is glad to hear that Carol Higgin's **Climate Reality Project Presentation** which was canceled in June has been rescheduled for **Monday, August 21 at 7 PM** via Zoom. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Finally the Sustainability group would like to share this **call to action** from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. The Michigan Senate just released its **Clean Energy Future Plan**. The package of bills seeks to clean up the electric grid, boost waste reduction, expand the purview of the Michigan Public Service Commission, set a Clean Fuels Standard, and preserve farmland with solar. Now that these bills have been introduced, help is needed to encourage lawmakers to pass this important legislation. If it is yours to do, click [HERE](#) to send a message to your lawmaker or visit michiganlc.org to learn more.

The Sustainability Group will be taking a break in July. They will attend the Climate Reality Project presentation instead of meeting in August. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on **Monday, September 18 at 7 PM** via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome!

VOLUNTEER



If it is yours to do, please come out and help us spruce up the church on **Sunday, July 9** from **noon to 2 PM**. We will be focused mostly on reorganization and light cleaning in the kitchen and RE area but if you have a pet project you want to work on, that is fine too. Your help keeping UUC look- ing good is greatly appreciated!

Volunteer Opportunities with the Tech Team!

The Tech Team is looking for a few volunteers to fill some very important positions (listed below). These jobs are essential to helping our online programs are run smoothly. Each of these jobs only requires a one-day-a-month commitment and will only take a few hours of your time. Training will be provided. If you can help or if you have any questions please contact Miriam (uucommunity@gmail.com) TODAY. We would like to set up some training sessions in July so we can be ready to go when services and programs restart in August.

Facebook Host (2 needed): Facebook hosting is very easy and can even be done from home. It requires a computer or tablet and a Facebook account. Hosts watch the service via Facebook and make comments at the appropriate time. The comments are all pre-written for you so all you need to do is copy and paste them into Facebook comment section. Most of the comments occur before and after the message so Facebook Hosting doesn't even prevent you from enjoying the service.

Zoom Tech (6 needed): If you are comfortable using Zoom then this is the volunteer job for you! You can do this job from home or church. The Zoom tech oversees the controls of the Zoom meeting. They mute participants if needed. They monitor the chat and answer questions. They greet newcomers and make them feel at home. They record the meeting if required and some- times they help presenters by sharing slides and videos during meetings.

Zoom Host/Sound Desk (2 needed): This is the most challenging position on the tech team. It requires someone who is very comfortable with computers, able to troubleshoot on the fly, and able to handle a bit of stress. The Zoom Host oversees all technical aspects of a Sunday Service. They adjust mic levels on the sound board. They advance the PowerPoint on the big screen. They share content on Zoom. They start and stop the livestream.



ISAAC

You're invited to join **TEAM UCC** at the **ISAAC - Beloved Community Walk/Run/Roll: Moving Towards Wellness, Unity, and Equity** on Saturday, **September 9, 1:30-6:30**, at Spring Valley Park, Mt. Olivet Rd, in Kalamazoo. * Open to all ages 0-100+ * Wheelchair, walker, and stroller friendly * Set your own pace & distance * Childcare provided * Our 8-member team needs to register by **August 1** for the best prices (\$35/person)! Each registration includes a T-shirt, hydration, snacks, awards celebration, performances, and resource booklet. Contact [Ron Crowell](#) for more information!



ISAAC

BELOVED COMMUNITY WALK/RUN/ROLL

Moving Towards Wellness, Unity and Equity

September 9, 2023 Spring Valley Park



- Registration and Performers - 1:30pm
- Community Warm Up - 2:40pm
- Walk/Run/Roll - 3:00pm
- Award Celebration & Performers - 4:30pm



REGISTRATION by August 1

\$40 - INDIVIDUAL

\$70 - PAIR

\$140 - TEAM OF 4

\$280 - TEAM OF 8

After August 1st,
ticket price increases
\$10 per person



- Childcare Provided
- Open To All Ages 0-100+
- Children 6-12 years old \$10 Registration
- Choose Your Own Pace & Distance
- Wheelchair, Walker, Stroller, Bike Friendly
- Music, Performances, Dancing, Movement & Food
- Health, Community, Equity, Justice & Wellness Vendors

Registration includes:

T-shirt, snacks, hydration stations, resource booklet, community gathering, awards celebration, vendor booths/info tables and cultural performances.

To Register:

- Go to runsignup.com
- Click "Find a Race"
- Type in: ISAAC & click enter
- OR

Go to the Link

runsignup.com/Raceraceld=148711



8TH PRINCIPLE



Putting Our 8th UU Principle into Action

Our 8th UU Principle calls on us to engage in individual and communal action to accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in our congregation and society at large.

At the 62nd annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), delegates voted to adopt changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws. Article II is where our 7 UU Principles are currently spelled out. The 8th Principle, which this congregation adopted in 2022, is part of a grassroots movement within Unitarian Universalism aimed at articulating a commitment to dismantling racism and other oppressions. The 8th Principle has never been formally adopted by the UUA.

The adoption of the revised Article II means that the 7 Principles will probably not be how future generations of UUs articulate their values. For those of us who have been UUs for many years or even for our whole lives, it means we will need to wrap our minds around new language. And questions arise such as, what happens to the 8th Principle when the other seven no longer exist? What will the changes to Article II mean for the 8th Principle and our efforts to put it into action?

The short answer is that it means nothing. This congregation's commitment to working to dismantle racism and other oppressions will continue uninterrupted. The act of adopting the 8th Principle was a covenant, or a sacred promise, between the members of our congregation to do anti-racism/anti-oppression work. That work will continue regardless of what happens at GA simply because we believe it is the right thing to do and we have committed to do it.

The longer answer comes from the Article II Study Commission, the group of volunteers chosen by the UUA to propose changes to the Bylaws. They write:

The process of examining and possibly revising Article II of the UUA Bylaws is a scheduled effort of the UUA Board, demanded by the bylaws themselves. The Study Commission, charged with making a proposal to the UUA Board, has tremendous respect for what the 8th Principle movement has accomplished—and is accomplishing within UU communities. More than the language of the 8th Principle itself, we are moved by the ongoing conversations about what it means to be accountable to each other, and how we must—through our actions—take on the work of anti-racism and anti-oppression as an inextricable part of our Unitarian Universalist faith. And so, though the task we have been charged with is larger than the specifics of the 8th Principle, we understand these ideals to be at the very heart of our work and very much part of the direction we are journeying.

It is also important to note that the vote taken at GA this June is by no means the final word about Article II. The proposed changes (and several amendments to the changes) accepted by the delegates at GA now go into a 12-month study period during which *additional amendments* can be proposed. A final vote on Article II (which must be accepted by a 2/3 super-majority of delegates) will take place at the next General Assembly in 2024.

In the meantime, UUCC will just keep on keeping on as far as the 8th Principle goes.




OPPORTUNITIES

Rock & Roll Hall of Famer
Booker T. Jones
 60 Years of Green Onions

A community event in celebration of the 2025 Black Arts Festival and the 150th Anniversary of Kalamazoo Public Library.

Saturday, July 8
 Doors Open 6 pm | Show 7 pm
 Kalamazoo State Theatre 101 S. Buddick St.

This is a free event. Limited seating is available.
 Please register
bit.ly/grnion

Hosted by  Presented by  Kalamazoo Public Library  THE GILMORE

Support Black Artists and Entrepreneurs at the
BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday July 8, 2023
 11am - 8pm Kalamazoo
Bronson Park
 Food • Entertainment • Shop • Fun

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

KINDLEBERGER PARK PARCHMENT

2023
 SUMMER
 CONCERT SERIES

JUNE 11 • AUGUST 27
 6:30 PM No Rain Site

arts council 

SUNDAY, JUNE 11 - DENISE DAVIS AND THE MOTOR CITY SENSATIONS
 R&B, Pop, Funk, Top40, Soul, and Classics

MONDAY, JULY 17 - KALAMAZOO CONCERT BAND WITH SPECIAL GUEST MEGAN DOOLEY

SUNDAY, JULY 23 - CROSSROADS RESURRECTION
 Blues, Jazz, and Funk

SUNDAY, JULY 30 - THE BLUE LEAF'S BAND
 Sounds of the 60s, 70s, and 80s for modern audiences

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 - BRONK BROS
 Rockin' Hillbilly Extravaganza

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 - KAITLIN ROSE AND THE BAND OF THORNS Americana with a fresh sensibility

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 - GIZZAE
 Chicago's #1 Reggae Band

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 - AN EVENING OF CELTIC MUSIC, DANCE, AND CULTURE Presented by the Kalamazoo Scottish Festival

KindlebergerArts.org • All Events at the Stage are Free

 **the Stage**
 at Kindleberger

www.KindlebergerArts.org



CALENDAR



JULY 2023

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Saturday	July 1	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	July 2	Summer Sunday Forum: <i>On Patriotism</i> Substance Use Disorder and Overdose Prevention Training at Peoples Church	10:00 AM 12:30 PM
Tuesday	July 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY Qigong	9:00 AM
Friday	July 7	Growth Team Meeting	2:00 PM
Saturday	July 8	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	July 9	Summer Sunday Forum: <i>On a Nation Divided</i> Church (Inside) Clean Up Day	10:00 AM 12:00 PM
Tuesday	July 11	Qigong ISAAC Annual Meeting at St. Lukes	9:00 AM 6:30 PM
Friday	July 14	Women's Book Group Chat and Chill at Kathy's	1:00 PM 4:00 PM
Saturday	July 15	Qigong 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group	9:00 AM 9:00 AM
Sunday	July 16	Special Presentation: <i>Now, I am Become Death</i> with Rev. Harold Beu	10:00 AM
Tuesday	July 18	Qigong	9:00 AM
Saturday	July 22	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	July 23	UUCC Kayak Trip Summer Sunday Forum: <i>On Climate Change</i>	9:00 AM 10:00 AM
Tuesday	July 25	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	July 26	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	12:00 PM
Saturday	July 29	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	July 30	Summer Sunday Forum: <i>On Hope</i> Eliason Nature Trail Social Walk	10:00 AM 11:00 AM

We must gather ourselves and rest.

Lean into the soft, joyful, contemplative places inside.

Listen so that the light of truth can be revealed.

Remember joy, laughter, song, silence.

Be peace. Be love. Be still.

LaShawn Routé Chatmon



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

Chris Petersmark
Music Director
christopherpetersmark@gmail.com
Cell phone: 248-535-4197

2023-2024 Board of Trustees

Eric Nelson

Marsha Laya

Pat Timm

Steve Tasko

Michael Graham

**The next Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday, July 26 at NOON**

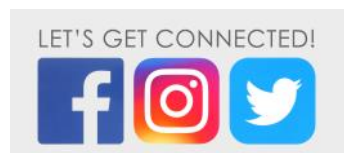
Please send submissions to:

uuccnewsletter@gmail.com

CommUUnity Matters

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

10441 Shaver Rd.
Portage, MI 49024
269-324-7262



uucommunity@gmail.com
www.uucommunitychurch.org
www.facebook.com/uuccswmi
twitter.com/uuccswmi
www.instagram.com/uuccswmi/

NOW
ON

