



CommUUunity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

March 2025

MARCH SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays at 10:00 AM Onsite, on YouTube, or on Zoom

March 2: *Come As You Are* with Rev. Gy and Friends

Join us to celebrate the benefits of being part of this wonderful Unitarian Universalist community.

Click [HERE](#) to register or visit tinyurl.com/allareuuccwelcome

March 9: *Brick by Brick* with Rev. Gy

How can we construct a future where everyone can stand tall and proud? Come and explore how to lay the bricks, drive the nails, and reinforce the beams that support a fully accessible and inclusive spiritual community.

Click [HERE](#) to register or visit tinyurl.com/uuccbuildit

March 16: *Leading with Love* with Heather Sanford

Heather Sanford (she/her), Communications and Advocacy Manager at OutFront Kalamazoo, will speak about religious trauma in the LGBTQIA+ community and the role faith leaders can play in LGBTQIA+ advocacy.

Click [HERE](#) to register or visit tinyurl.com/uuccleadwithlove

March 23: *Real Talk from Real Queens* with Miss Moscato and Friends

Drag culture has never been more present in the mainstream culture but what are the lives of drag queens really like behind the make-up and sequins? Join Miss Moscato and friends for some real talk from real queens about their journey to drag fabulousness and what acceptance and inclusion mean to them.

Click [HERE](#) to register or visit tinyurl.com/realqueensofuucc

March 30: *Strong and Determined* with Rev. Gy

In honor of Women's History Month, Rev. Gy will share stories about strong and determined UU women whose words and deeds challenge us to confront the powers and structures of inequity with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

Click [HERE](#) to register or visit tinyurl.com/uuccwomen



Spiritual Theme for March **ACCEPTING**

During the course of this church year, we are exploring how we can ground our daily personal and collective choices in Love. In March, we will focus on the intertwined values of acceptance, inclusion, and equity.

Rev. Sheri Prud'homme writes: Unitarian Universalists understand every person is held in Love and in an interdependent web of existence. We understand every person possesses a spark of the divine in a cosmos where all life is sacred. Our theological heritage calls us to dismantle the structures and systems which silence, harm, and exploit human beings and our planet as well as to work to create just and sustainable spiritual communities without barriers to belonging for all those who share our values and theological perspectives. We understand that it is ours to do – to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities where every person can flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

Questions to ponder:

What does it mean to be an accepting, inclusive, equitable community?

How can I advance these values in the situations I encounter in my daily life?

GUESTS IN THE PULPIT

We are excited to welcome these guests to our pulpit in March:



Heather Sanford (she/her) serves as Communications & Advocacy Manager at OutFront Kalamazoo. She also co-facilitates OutFront Kalamazoo's Proud Families program, which serves LGBTQIA+ families with youth ages 0-12



Originally from South Haven, **Shane Barrera** lived and worked in Kalamazoo as an HIV/STI prevention advocate before relocating to Grand Rapids (with a few years in Phoenix in between). He currently serves as Executive Director for the South Haven Committee for LGBTQ Advocacy, is pursuing a Masters in Social Work, and is the owner/operator of Drag is Art, LLC. Shane, performing as Miss Moscato, was crowned Miss Amateur Kalamazoo 2019, Miss Amateur Red Ribbon 2019, and Kalamazoo Queen of Hearts 2020. They now perform regularly at drag shows all across the country. Shane believes that drag “brings self-confidence, especially to people in the LGBTQ community” and is a unique way to advocate for justice and equity issues.



Join us for an insightful **Thoughtful Thursday** on **March 20 at 7 PM via Zoom**, featuring **Kalamazoo City Commissioner Stephanie Hoffman** as she discusses the evolving challenges and needs in housing across our communities. Commissioner Hoffman is a dedicated advocate for historically underrepresented and underserved communities, striving to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity, respect, and love. She deeply understands the intersections of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability. Her key areas of focus include housing, pay equity, and anti-racism. With a career spanning multiple organizations, she has contributed to Housing Resources Inc., YWCA’s Domestic Assault Shelter, the Next Door Shelter for Women, and Open Doors Kalamazoo. She is also the founder and CEO of Evolution Housing Advocacy and Services. Beyond her professional work, Commissioner Hoffman has served on numerous boards and committees, including Metro Kalamazoo Branch, NAACP; Housing Task Force for Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy & Action in the Community (ISAAC); Board member, Foundation for Excellence; and Co-chair of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation’s Anti-Racism Transformation Team. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights on housing and equity from a passionate leader driving change in our community! Visit tinyurl.com/UUCCFairHousing for the Zoom link.

FROM THE MINISTER



From the Minister

[Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney](#)

In a world that often emphasizes conformity and societal expectations, the ability to be our authentic selves is a precious gift, particularly within spiritual communities. Authenticity is not merely about being true to oneself but also about creating spaces where others feel empowered to express their true identities.

As we prepare for a special Sunday on March 2 to welcome newcomers to our community, it is not lost on me how special it is to be able to be our true selves. We don't have to check our intellect at the door, we can embrace whatever beliefs we have, we can safely ask our most existential questions, we can freely love who we want – all this while we keep LOVE at the center.

As I am writing these words, I am realizing how special this is. I have never experienced it quite to this degree in any other congregation.

Here we encourage each other to explore our own beliefs and values, free from dogma or creed. This exploration is a sacred journey, one that is deeply personal and transformative. By being authentic, we honor our own spiritual paths and inspire others to do the same. In this way, authenticity becomes a beacon of light, guiding us toward a deeper understanding of ourselves and our place in the world.

Being authentic also deepens our connection with one another. Authenticity fosters vulnerability, and vulnerability is the gateway to genuine relationships/friendships. Our mutual vulnerability creates bonds of trust that allows for a safe space where we can overcome our superficial differences and connect at the level of what we share in common. We let Love lead the way.

I know that UUs aren't about proselytizing. We much rather live out our belief system than talk about it with others. And now this is exactly what I am asking you to do. Bring a friend to church. It might feel like proselytizing.

I'd like you to consider another way. Don't you think that in this divided world our way of focusing on what we have in common as opposed to what separates us is exactly what's needed more of? So, don't think of it as proselytizing. Think of it as small gesture to heal the divide.

Please, bring a friend to church the first Sunday in March or any other time that seems right to you. May they find a welcoming, loving, accepting place with us.

FAITH IN ACTION



Thank you to everyone who supported the **MKB-NAACP Community Baby Shower Drive!** We strengthen our connection with our justice partners at the NAACP, gave our support to efforts to combat black infant mortality in Kalamazoo County, and had fun while we were doing it!

Thank you to all the members of the Sustainability Group who represented UUCC at **Hope for Creation's Climate. Faith. Action. event.** Highlights included workshops about congregational climate action plans, spiritual grounding for climate justice work, and regenerative agriculture.

Participants also enjoyed delicious plant-based snacks (served on compostable plates). This event helped UUCC create some new connections in the community and brought new sustainability ideas and energy to all those who attended.



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AT 2 AM ON **MARCH 9.**



MARCH 2
NEWCOMER SUNDAY
POTLUCK

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!



CARING COMMUNITY



MARCH CARING COMMUNITY NEWS

It is finally March, inching us forward towards Springtime. This month brings us lots of UU Community activities to brighten our lives after the gloom of a gray Michigan winter, easing over from snow and ice to wind and rain.

Here are words from *In March* by Archibald Lampman:

*The sun falls warm: the southern winds awake: The air seethes upward with a steamy shiver:
Each dip of the road is now a crystal lake, And every rut a little dancing river.*

Joys, Concerns, and Member News:

Several UUCC folks came down with the flu in February including **Rev. Gy and Patti** who caught the bug during a long weekend trip to the Big Apple.

Larry Higgins was hospitalized for fluid in the lungs.

Marsha Laya reported that a hip replacement surgery scheduled in May will keep her from returning to Michigan from Florida this spring as planned. If all goes well, she will be back with us in July.

Isaac Epskamp-Hunt's father **David** was hospitalized with heart problems.

Several **UUCC folks** are being affected by decisions made in Washington DC. We hold them in our hearts as they contend with the fallout from canceled contracts, grant funding freezes, and potential job loss.

In happier news, UUCC folks have been on the road enjoying new sights, sounds, and warm weather. **Pat & Bob Fuehr** took their yearly pilgrimage to Arizona. **Mary King** was also in Arizona and California visiting family. **Joe Calme** took a trip out to the Pacific Northwest.

Erin & Tim Michael took a trip to **Colorado** to see their child **Liam** and **Miriam** and her grandson **Eli** will travel to San Diego to visit her daughter **Ellie** at the end of March.

Birthdays:

March birthday babies include...

5 – **Pat Timm**, 9- **Erin Michael**, 9 – **Justin Wojciak**, 12- **Bruce Fetzer**, 13- **Kathy Hays**,
10- **Olivia Russell**, 27- **Marcia Adams**

In Memoriam:

We remember friends who have passed on..

Dori Gerritson, March. 21, 1999

K. C. Kozminski, March 9, 2006

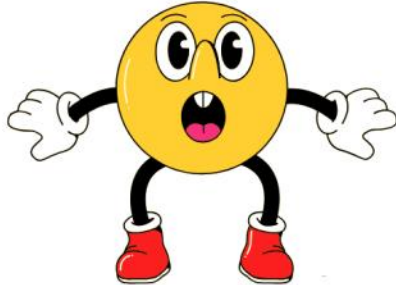
Jim King, March 20, 2021

Welcome New Visitors:

Min. Rev. Karika Parker brought many guests to UUCC including **her mother, her son, her sister, and her fiancé, Rev. Rev. Dr. John L. Jackson, Sr.** Dr. Parker shared that she was grateful for the invitation to speak and the very warm hospitality she and her family received at UUCC.

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 UUCC office at 269-324-7262 or uucommunity@gmail.com

90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY



90



COME HELP CELEBRATE

The 90th Birthdays of Nancy and Ron

Ron, January 17 – Nancy, April 12

WHEN Friday, March 28 – 5:00 to 9:00

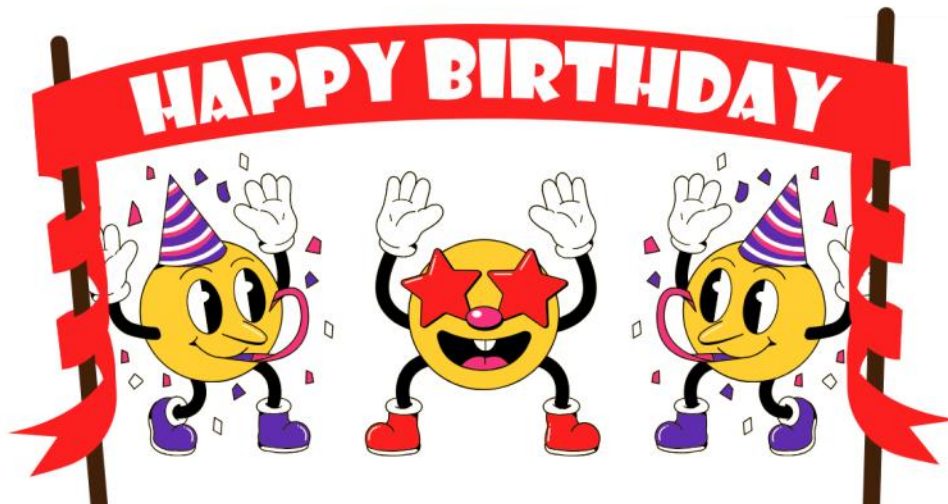
WHERE UUC Church – 10441 Shaver Rd.

WHAT Heavy hor-d'oeuvres'

Beer, wine, bourbon, soft drinks

Music by LUKE and FRIENDS

NO PRESENTS – If it is yours to do, please bring
a donation for Planned Parenthood of Michigan –
or Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes.



LEADERSHIP



The Board of Trustees met on February 20. Here are a few of the things they accomplished:

- Completed their review of Board Policies
- Approved a one-day liquor license for an event in May.
- Began discussing the 2025/2026 Budget

Click [HERE](#) to read the minutes from their February meeting.

The next regular Board meeting will take place via Zoom on **Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 PM.**

Board meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. A link to the Zoom meeting can be found on the [UU Community Church online calendar](#).

Program Council—Where TOGETHER—We Get Stuff Done!

Everyone - members, friends, visitors—is invited to help create programming at UU Community Church on second Sundays at around **11:20 AM**. Bring your voice to our next meeting on **March 9**. We will meet following the service and you can participate either in person or on Zoom.



On the Agenda:
2025 Stewardship Campaign
Annual Meeting
Open Doors Community Dinner
And More!

As always, we will serve soup before the Program Council meeting as a fundraiser for our Youth Program. If it is yours to do, please put a donation into the basket and then help yourself to a bowl of delicious homemade soup served with bread and crackers. Contact Mary Roscoe (lizoflynn@gmail.com) if you are interested in donating a pot of soup. Thank you for your support!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

General Assembly (GA), the annual gathering of UUs, where we conduct business of the Unitarian Universalist Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles, takes place on **June 18-22** in Baltimore and/or online. The votes that GA delegates cast have a huge impact on Unitarian Universalism. They determine our elected leaders, amend the bylaws and rules that govern our Association, and shape the justice work that we do as a movement. If you are interested in serving as a UUCC delegate talk to a member of the Board of Trustees today!

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Transgender Day of Visibility

Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event celebrated in March, dedicated to honoring the achievements of transgender and gender nonconforming individuals while raising awareness about the discrimination they face. It was founded in 2009 by activist Rachel Crandall-Crocker to promote visibility and support for the transgender community.

OutFront Kalamazoo's Faith Alliance invites us to join them at **People's Church** on Saturday, **March 15**, from **2-4 PM**, as faith leaders from our community, including Miriam Epskamp, our Director of Religious Education, share words of affirmation, blessing, and celebration for trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming people in honor of Trans Day of Visibility. Music and reception to follow. All ages welcome!



Visit OutFront Kalamazoo's website, outfrontkzoo.org for information about other Transgender Day of Visibility events happening in the community including a Art Hop stop on March 7 featuring the work of transgender artists in our community.



UU Community Film Discussion

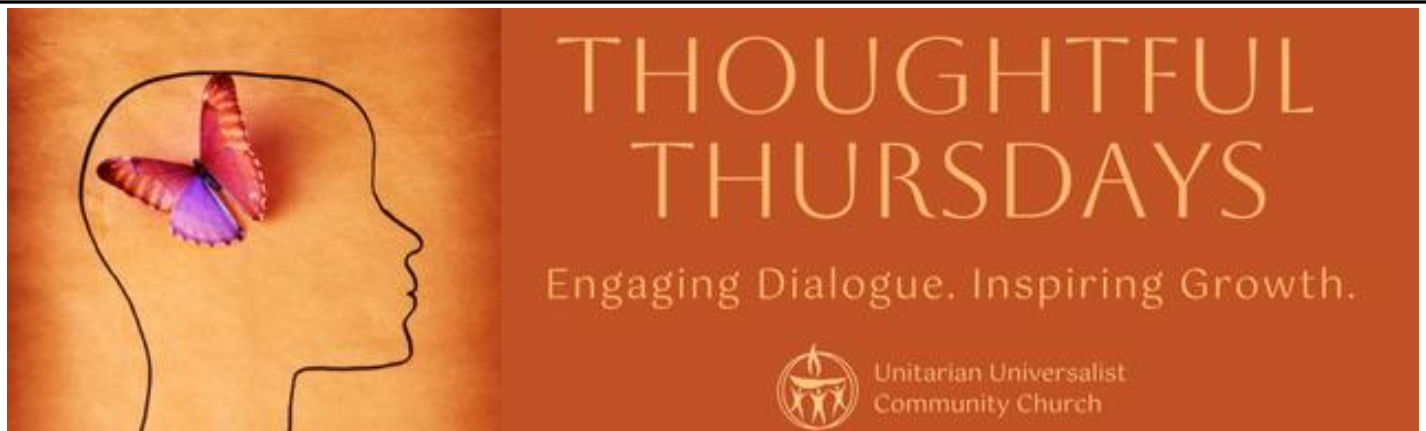
In order to maintain our Welcoming Congregation certification and reaffirm our commitment to welcoming and supporting people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, we will be holding a **Community Film Discussion** to help inform, educate, and raise awareness about issues facing the LGBTQ+ community.

We would like everyone at UUCC to take time in the coming weeks to watch **Will & Harper**, a 2024 documentary film that follows actor Will Ferrell and his longtime friend, comedy writer Harper Steele, on a road trip across the United States, exploring themes of friendship and Steele's recent gender transition. Steele gives Ferrell free rein to ask her anything about life as a trans woman, her decades spent in the closet, and her struggles with self-hatred and insecurity.

We will hold a community discussion about the film on Zoom on Thursday, **March 27** at **7:00 PM**.

Will & Harper is currently streaming on Netflix. If you do not have access to an account, please contact uuccommunity@gmail.com to set up a time to watch the film at UUCC. **Stephanie Grathwol** also is willing to host up to 5 folks at her house for a screening.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAY



Thoughtful Thursdays at UUCC are enlightening evenings that feature thought leaders sharing insights on a topic of importance to us: spiritual growth, social justice, environmental sustainability, and more. It is your opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and broaden your perspective about critical issues and ideas. We have an exciting lineup of guests scheduled. Each of these events will give you an opportunity to listen to and dialog with people who are living from the heart. Please plan to join us **on Zoom at 7 PM** for these unique opportunities to learn and grow.



March 20: Housing for All with Stephanie Hoffman

Stephanie Hoffman, former Executive Director at Open Doors Kalamazoo, current Kalamazoo City Commissioner, and overall AWESOME and IMPACTFUL housing advocate (according to our friend Gwendolyn Hooker) will join us to discuss the housing situation in Kalamazoo. Click [HERE](#) or visit tinyurl.com/UUCCFairHousing to join the Zoom



April 24: Environmental Concerns with Jenny Doezma

As the Vice President of Learning and Engagement at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, the Director of the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition, and co-chair of Kalamazoo County's Climate Action and Climate Justice Advisory Council, Jenny Doezma has extensive expertise on local environmental issues. She joins us in April to discuss meaningful actions we can take to more fully respect and protect the interconnected web of life to which we are a part.

If you cannot attend any of these Thoughtful Thursdays in real-time, you can sign up to receive a recording of the event by filling out the Zoom registration form.

We are trying to arrange a Thoughtful Thursday in May with Byron Katie whose virtual visit to UUCC in January had to be canceled because of the fires in California. If she is unable to join us this spring, our speakers series will end in April. As the Thoughtful Thursday team begins planning for the 2025/2026 church year, they would love to hear your ideas for potential speakers. Please contact Rev. Gy or Miriam with your suggestions.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Small Groups at UUCC are a great way to deepen your relationship with the church community and our Unitarian Universalist faith. You can drop into most groups as your schedule allows or make regular attendance your spiritual practice. Newcomers are always welcome!

We are always looking for new ways to create connections at UUCC and provide comfortable and safe environments where people can come together to explore faith and life or find support. If you have an idea for a small group and would like to participate in forming it, talk to Miriam or bring your ideas to the next Program Council meeting on March 9.



Sustainability Group

Our **Sustainability Group** meets once a 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.

The group's next regular meeting will be on **Monday, March 17 at 7 PM** via Zoom. Group members will share what they learned at the **Hope for Creation workshops** in February and discuss how to get involved in the **WMU Climate Change Working Group's spring climate actions**.

Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom meeting or contact Miriam for login information. (uucommunity@gmail.com)



Civil Conversations Group

Our **Civil Conversation Group** led by **Darby Fetzer** meets on Zoom once a month to practice Emotional Intelligence skills and learn to build bridges toward greater understanding in the world through thoughtful conversation.

Each session starts with a review of what it takes to have a civil conversation and an opportunity to share personal successes and failures we have experienced recently as we have tried to engage with people with different world views than our own.

Each sessions end with a practice civil conversation around a hot button topic.

All are welcome to join the conversation on Wednesday, **March 19 at 7 PM**.

Click [HERE](#) to register or visit tinyurl.com/UUCCcivilconvosMar25



Mindful Living Group

Experienced Mindfulness practitioner, **Eric Nelson** hosts our **Mindful Living Group** on the **2nd and 4th Mondays** of each month from **7-8 PM** on Zoom.

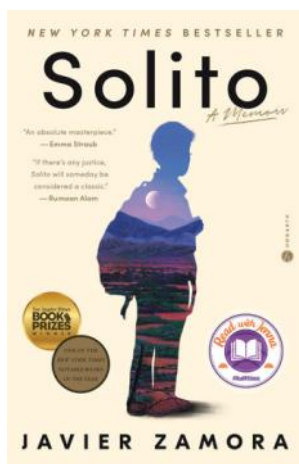
With no long-term commitment, participants can choose to attend sessions month-by-month, integrating mindfulness into daily life at a comfortable pace. This group is structured to help you develop emotional resilience, cultivate self-compassion, and foster deep, meaningful relationships.

March's Theme: **Cultivate Spiritual Intelligence**

Join Eric for an enriching experience that guides you toward a more mindful, balanced life and discover the transformative power of mindfulness! If you are interested but can't attend in real-time, recordings of each session will be sent to everyone who registers

Click [HERE](#) to register or visit tinyurl.com/AwakenTheHeart

CONNECTION



Women's Book Group Friday, March 14 1:00 PM via Zoom

Kalamazoo Reading Together Selection:
Solito, A Memoir
by **Javier Zamora**.

From Goodreads: *Javier Zamora's adventure is a 3,000-mile journey from*

*his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. He will leave behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who left four years ago and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a "coyote" hired to lead them to safety, Javier expects his trip to last two short weeks. He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that await him; nor can he know that those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like an unexpected family. A memoir as gripping as it is moving, **Solito** provides an immediate and intimate account not only of a treacherous and near-impossible journey, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments. **Solito** is Javier Zamora's story, but it's also the story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home.*

In the spirit of [Reading Together](#), this session of the Women's Book Group is open to all UCC members, friends, and guests (regardless of gender identity and expression.) Click [HERE](#) to join the Book Group Zoom on Friday, March 14 at 1 PM. The Kalamazoo Public Library will host an author visit with Mr. Zamora on March 15. Details about this event are on page 14.

Qigong at UCC

The UCC Qigong Group meets every Tuesday and Saturday. Newcomers are always welcome.



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](#).

3rd Saturday Breakfast Group

The UCC Breakfast Group will meet for breakfast on **Saturday, March 15 at 9:00 AM** at [The Rooster's Call](#) at 9136 Shaver Road in Portage.



Please RSVP to Ron if you plan to attend the 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group. An RSVP is not required but sometimes plans change at

the last minute and checking in with Ron will ensure you are not having breakfast alone. Ron's phone number is (269)599-1242.

Game Gathering

We would love to see YOU on Saturday, **March 1 from 1-4 PM** for our **1st Saturday Game Gathering!**

You are welcome to bring your favorite game, a snack to share, and a beverage of your choice. Tea, coffee, and cocoa will be provided. You can bring a friend too!

Childcare is available for anyone who needs it. We hope you can join us for some fellowship and fun!



CELEBRATE



Irish Celebration



TRILLIUM IRISH - LIVE MUSIC

Saturday, March 15

Starts at 6:00 PM

\$20 Donation

Irish Dinner - Live Music - Dancing - Games - Fun

Join Us for a Night of Irish Food and Festivities!

Celebrate Irish culture in honor of St. Patrick's Day with delicious food, lively music, and great company at UUCC on **Saturday, March 15**, at **6 PM**. Indulge in a traditional Irish dinner featuring corned beef or vegetarian bratwurst, cabbage with potatoes, homemade bread, and dessert.

Don't forget to bring your favorite Irish beverage to sip while enjoying live music from the **Trillium Irish Band**, performing on the fiddle, uilleann pipes, and guitar. Whether you want to dance, play board games, or relax to the tunes, there's something for everyone! Guests and children are welcome.

Suggested donation: \$20 per person or love offering (kids attend free).

Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 12, to reserve your spot. You can pay at the door with cash or a credit card. Come for the food, stay for the fun! We can't wait to celebrate with you.

RSVP link - <https://forms.gle/rJwkuueR2MKqZLKs5>

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



R.E. Flections from Miriam Epskamp, Director of Religious Education

I once had a kid in the Youth Group at UUCC tell me that identifying as a Unitarian Universalist wasn't important to him because our guiding principles were just basic human values and *"the kind of stuff everyone believes."* Even as I assured him this was sadly not the case, I could understand where he got that idea. Back when this conversation took place he would have heard the message that we should be kind, fair, generous, and compassionate at school, at home, and in films and TV shows. These UU values were mainstream and the norm. I found myself thinking about that UU kid recently as some very different theological messages came across my social media newsfeed. The first message that caused me to stop in my tracks was, *"Empathy is a Sin."* I saw this in a tweeted response to Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde's plea for mercy for those who are vulnerable in a sermon at the National Cathedral on Inauguration Day. The person who tweeted it was a leader of a Calvinist church in Utah. At first, I thought this must be some small, insignificant group akin to the Westboro Baptist Church but a quick Google search led me to scholarly articles, books, and interviews with evangelical pastors and seminary leaders championing the idea. Their argument is that empathy is a sin because it leads to moral relativism and ultimately to the belief the Bible is not the only source of spiritual Truth. As Unitarian Universalists, most of us are nodding our heads in agreement but I can see how evangelical folks would have a problem with it. I can also see how dangerous it could be if this theological outlook becomes *"the kind of stuff everyone believes."* Further on in the tweet, the young pastor from Utah tells us what the punishment for the sin of empathy should be. He writes, *"Do not commit the sin of empathy. This snake [Bishop Budde] is God's enemy and yours too. She hates God and His people. You need to properly hate in response. She is not merely deceived but is a deceiver. Your eye shall not pity."* The last line, of course, is a reference to Deuteronomy 19:21— an eye for an eye, a hand for a hand, a life for a life. Kind of chilling, isn't it? I think this seemingly serious, out-in-the-open, theological argument against empathy and in favor of hate makes what we do here at UUCC more important than ever. I think it makes the need for us to talk about our UU values with people outside the church's walls more important than ever. I think it should strengthen our commitment to being proud UUs and spreading the good news of Unitarian Universalism far and wide. I hope you think so too.

I am running out of room so I will have to save the story of a certain elected official's interpretation of *ordo amoris* and what exactly Jesus meant by loving one's neighbor for another day.

The kids in RE had a good time in February thinking about interdependence and how even seemingly small things play an important part in the

health and well-being of the whole. To illustrate this idea, they made paper chains and watched what happened when one link broke. In March, we will explore the UU value of Acceptance (a close cousin of Empathy) as we continue to put Love at the center of all we do.



DATE	VOLUNTEERS
March 2	Eric and Regena Nelson
March 9	Isaac Epskamp—Hunt
March 16	Isaac Epskamp-Hunt
March 23	Mary Roscoe
March 30	Spring Break/NO RE

OPPORTUNITIES



Climate Change: Global Challenges and Solutions

Join the WMU Climate Change Working Group, students, staff, and affiliate organizations across Kalamazoo for the 2025 Spring into Climate Action.

Those who have done the least to cause the climate crisis are often the ones suffering the most from its consequences. The focus this semester-long series is an international perspective, especially the issue of climate migration.

All events are open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to carpool, walk, or ride your bike to events whenever possible.

Visit climatespringintoaction.org to see the schedule of events. New activities are still being added.

Questions or suggestions?
Contact climateadvocacy@wmich.edu



The **2025 Westminster Art Festival**, held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portage from April 26 - June 12, 2025, is an annual independently-juried presentation of visual art and poetry on an environmental theme, open to artists of any or no faith tradition.

Visual artists and poets 16 years or older are invited to submit work on the theme:

ONE PLANET

Only original work completed in the past 3 years will be accepted and eligible for prizes. Artists may submit up to 2 works.

Deadlines:

Poetry submissions: March 1 - April 7,

Visual art submissions: March 31 - April 7

For more information click [HERE](#) or visit www.westminsterartfestival.org



2025 Reading Together

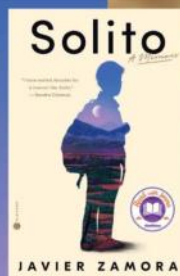
"An important, beautiful work." —The New York Times Book Review

Mark your calendar:

**Meet *Solito: A Memoir*
Author Javier Zamora**

March 15, 2025 | Chenery Auditorium | 3 pm

For more information on Javier Zamora, please visit prhspeakers.com.



Solito: A Memoir author Javier Zamora visits Kalamazoo on Saturday, March 15 at 3 PM at Chenery Auditorium. Community members are invited to hear the author's prepared remarks, followed by a Q&A session and book signing opportunity. **Registration is not required to attend.**

OPPORTUNITIES



The **Intercultural Association** was founded in Michigan in 2018 with the purpose of advancing social cohesion by connecting communities, empowering people to engage, and contributing to the development of ideas on dialogue, peace, and community building. It does this by bringing people together through discussion forums, courses, capacity-building meetings, publications, luncheons, community engagement, and outreach programs. UUCC has been invited to participate in one of the association's events, an **Iftar Dinner**, a fast-breaking meal Muslims partake in during Ramadan, on **March 18 at 7:20 PM** at the **Zhang Portage Senior Center**. There is room for 10-15 people from the congregation to join this dinner. **Please RSVP to Miriam (uucommunity@gmail.com) by Friday, March 7 if you would like to attend.**

Vision Board Workshop

Kathryn Ragains-Wilson will host a Vision Board Workshop on **Saturday, March 22** from **9:30 AM—Noon**.

A vision board is a tool that blends intention-setting with visualization to help you clarify and achieve your goals. It helps makes your aspirations feel more tangible and achievable. This workshop will help you put positive energy into your dreams so you can bring them to life!

The workshop includes:

- Centering activities and discussion about visioning.
- Tips for making an effective vision board.
- Your own vision board to take home.
- Inspiring conversations & connections.
- Support for your life visions.

We'll provide you with:

- All materials for making your vision board.
- Light snacks, coffee, tea & water.

The cost for this workshop is \$10.00 to cover the cost of materials. Scholarships are available if needed.

Register at: tinyurl.com/uuccvisionboard



OPPORTUNITIES

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

**ARCUS CENTER FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP
PRESENTS:**

RESISTING HARM, BUILDING THE FUTURE



FRI. MARCH 7 - SUN. MARCH 9

Arcus Center | 205 Monroe St., Kalamazoo, MI

Join us for a 2.5 day gathering with feminist activists & scholars from around the world who are leading movements to build a world of justice & solidarity.

**TO RSVP
SCAN OR CLICK HERE**



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**ARCUS CENTER
for SOCIAL JUSTICE
LEADERSHIP**

MARCH 2025

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Saturday	March 1	Qigong Game Gathering	9:00 AM 1-4 PM
Sunday	March 2	<i>Newcomer Sunday: Come As You Are</i> with Rev. Gy and friends UU Exploration for Kids Potluck Lunch	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	March 4	Qigong Growth Team Meeting	9:00 AM 3:00 PM
Saturday	March 8	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	March 9	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS <i>Brick by Brick</i> with Rev Gy UU Exploration for Kids Souper Sunday Program Council	2:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:20 AM
Monday	March 10	Stewardship Committee Meeting Mindful Living with Eric	1:00 PM 7:00 PM
Tuesday	March 11	Qigong Board of Trustees Meeting	9:00 AM 6:30 PM
Wednesday	March 12	Stewardship Committee Meeting	5:30 PM
Friday	March 14	Women's Book Group	1:00 PM
Saturday	March 15	Qigong 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group Faith Alliance Transgender Day of Visibility Celebration at Peoples Church Irish Celebration	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 2:00 PM 6:00 PM
Sunday	March 16	<i>Leading with Love</i> with Heather Sanford UU Exploration for Kids After Service Social Time	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM
Monday	March 17	Sustainability Group	7:00 PM
Tuesday	March 18	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	March 19	Civil Conversations Group	7:00 PM
Thursday	March 20	Thoughtful Thursday with Stephanie Hoffman	7:00 PM
Saturday	March 22	Qigong Vision Board Workshop	9:00 AM 9:30 AM
Sunday	March 23	<i>Real Talk with Real Queens</i> with Miss Moscato and Friends UU Exploration for Kids After-Service Social Time	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM
Monday	March 24	Mindful Living with Eric	7:00 PM
Wednesday	March 26	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Spiritual Growth Group (closed group)	12:00 PM 6:30 PM
Friday	March 28	90th Birthday Bash for Ron and Nancy Crowell	5-9 PM
Saturday	March 29	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	March 30	<i>Strong and Determined</i> with Rev. Gy UU Exploration for Kids After-Service Social Time	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM

**UU Community Church
is served by:**

Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney M.Div., M.A.
Consulting Minister
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2024-2025 Board of Trustees

Steve Tasko

Kathryn Ragains-Wilson

Pat Fuehr

Mike Graham

Eric Nelson

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

Please send submissions to:

uuccnewsletter@gmail.com

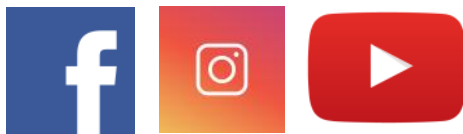
CommUUnity Matters

**Unitarian Universalist Community Church
of Southwest Michigan**

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