



CommUUunity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

May 2025

MAY SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays at 10:00 AM

Onsite, on [YouTube](#), or on Zoom

May 4: *The Stranger Who Sojourns Among You* with Rev. Gy

Just as love knows no borders, our dedication to justice for all should reach beyond boundaries, walls, and narrow definitions of who belongs.

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

May 11: *We Continue to Bloom* with Rev. Gy

The first Flower Communion, led by Unitarian minister Rev. Norbert Čapek, was held in Prague in the spring of 1923. It is a celebration of beauty, of nature, and community, but it is not without a certain fierceness. Holding fast to beauty and goodness, even when we know there is so much wrong in the world, is a form of fierce resistance. Like the flowers themselves, we continue to bloom. Be sure to bring a flower to place in our community vase if you plan to attend the onsite service.

Click [HERE](#) to register or visit tinyurl.com/uuccflowers2025

May 18 *Wounds of Division* with Rev. Gy and Friends

We will mark *International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia* (May 17) by listening to the voices of LGBTQIA+ folks and their experiences with the pain of being “othered.”

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

May 25: *Patriotism Examined* with Rev. Gy

In honor of Memorial Day weekend, we will examine the idea of patriotism and what it means for Unitarian Universalists with our long history of civil disobedience in the pursuit of a more just and equitable society.

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



Spiritual Theme for May ADVOCATING

During the course of this church year, we are exploring how we can ground our daily personal and collective choices in Love. In May, we will explore advocating for liberty and justice for all.

In Article II, the statement that articulates the core values of Unitarian Universalism, we declare **every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness**. When a congregation joins the Unitarian Universalist Association, we covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain **fully accessible and inclusive communities**. We covenant to **dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression** and to build a diverse and multicultural **Beloved Community where all can thrive**. In other words, we agree to use all of our resources to work for **liberty and justice for all**.

But ours is a world full of hurt. What can we do in the face of so much oppression and suffering? The attacks on liberty seem to be coming from all directions. The scope of the problem is so huge that we can become paralyzed. But, the proper response to paralysis is not inaction; it is to take the first step.

Question to ponder:

How can UUCC best use its resources to support social justice movements?

FROM THE MINISTER



From the Minister

Sofia Betancourt, the 10th president of the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#) shared these thoughts about Unitarian Universalism and the work of ensuring liberty and justice for all in the March 2025 issue of UU World.

Unitarianism, Universalism, and other bastions of liberal faith have had a profound impact on the unfolding of American and American religious history. Some of that story centers on freedom, reason, access, inclusion, and furthering the common good. Some of it served to institutionalize the very barriers we work so hard to dismantle today.

There is no question that ideas born of liberal teachings have inspired and continue to inspire so many of us to believe not only that everyone has the right to basic freedoms and equal opportunity, but also that we ourselves have a responsibility to work to ensure those freedoms for all. The challenge is that, as inheritors of the beautiful and life-giving side of these teachings, we often forget that they weren't always written with the entire human family, much less the entire Earth family, in mind. And too often we are encouraged to believe that if we could just get everyone to embrace a liberal, justice-seeking mindset, the evils we see ever present in the world would be resolved.

I think that it is sometimes difficult to hold the multiple truths that something we hold dear, and which often has been life-giving for us, can also be painfully limited in scope, or used to harm others. We should be proud of the accomplishments and impact of liberal thought and the theology that grows from that thought. Yet too there is trouble born of comfort in thinking that we know best when it comes to restoring justice and building a world and an Earth community that allows all to fully thrive.

So how do we proceed as authoritarianism is on the rise both domestically and around the world, all while the president of the United States freely admits his intent to limit the well-being of so many beloveds? I think we must remember that we are a sanctuary people—not only in collaborating around the work of justice, but also in providing nourishment and shelter for our own spirits so that we do not give up in the face of all that is. This is when communal care is most important. Times like these are where faith communities find their purpose.



There is a community of the spirit. Join it, and feel the delight of walking in the noisy street and being the noise...Sit down in this circle. Quit acting like a wolf, and feel the shepherd's love filling you...Be empty of worrying. Think of who created thought. Why do you stay in prison when the door is so wide open? Move outside the tangle of fear-thinking. Live in silence. Flow down and down in always widening rings of being.—Rumi

DEFEND DEMOCRACY



Democracy Defenders

About twenty UCC members and friends put their faith in action by joining the **Hands Off Rally** on Westnedge Ave in Portage on April 5 in defense of our democracy.

Organizations all over the country are planning **May Day** demonstrations to commemorate the historic struggles and gains made by the workers and the labor movement and stand united with workers and immigrants. Folks in our community will gather on **Saturday, May 3**, from **12-2 PM**, in front of Plato's closet and the 6300 block of Westnedge. If it is yours to do, please share information about this event, tell your friends, and come with your loud voices to remind our elected officials that we expect them to fight for liberty and justice for all of us.



CARING COMMUNITY



MAY CARING COMMUNITY NEWS

"Roses are red, April is gray, but in a few days, it's going to be May!"

Joys, Concerns, and Member News:

Jameson Whitney gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby boy, **Asher**, on April 22.

Chris and **Addie Petersmark** are overjoyed to announce they are expecting their first child in October 2025! **Dawn Renner's** family has grown a little larger too. Her daughter **Daisy** was married in Tallahassee on April 19.

Kevin and Tami Brozovich are excited that their son **Alex** and his partner **Liz** will be settling down in Kalamazoo. They hope to close on a home in the Winchell neighborhood this summer.

UUCC scholars finished off another successful school year - **Luke Kritzman, Amanda Nelson, Matthew Nelson, and David Brozovich**. UUCC folks report that Luke's end-of-year piano performance was spectacular!

Regena Nelson was honored at a reception given by the College of Education and Human Development at Western Michigan University for faculty members retiring from their respective fields. Regena was celebrated for the lasting contributions she has made to Early Childhood Education at WMU and in the wider community over the last 32 years.

Mike Graham's brother Pete passed away at the end of March. **Larry Higgins** is also mourning the loss of his **longtime golf partner**, who passed away from colon cancer in March.

Nancy and Joe Calme are grateful for the sympathy and support after the death of Nancy's sheep by a pack of dogs. The good news is that their electric fence is now re-fortified and there are two baby lambs cavorting in the pasture alongside their mother and a new young goat.

Founding member, **Mike Leatherman**, recently underwent quadruple bypass surgery. He has returned home after an extended stay at the Meijer Heart Center in Grand Rapids and is happy to report that he is feeling stronger every day. He still has cardio rehab ahead before he can resume his Leukemia treatment. Mike and his partner **Connie Cousins-Leatherman** have been grateful for the notes and cards and hope that their UUCC family will continue to hold them in their thoughts and prayers as Mike continues to heal.

Happy Birthday!

We wish a very happy birthday to all who will celebrate in May including **5 – Nick Tasko, 17 – Denise Sonier, 20 – David Brozovich, 25 – Larry Higgins, 29 – Dawn Renner, 30 – Joel Folkert**

Remembering Friends Who Have Passed On:

We pause to remember UUCC friends who passed away in the month of May in past years.

Harold Oliver (Dec. 25, 1924 - May 24, 2012), **Joan Wallace** (Feb. 25, 1925 - May 15, 2015),

Marjorie Snow (Aug. 19, 1921 - May 4, 2016), and **Bill Boyer** (Sep 14, 1927- May 25, 2021).

Although they are gone, their spirit and legacy of love and stewardship for UUCC remains.

(More Caring News on page 5)

LEADERSHIP

Welcome Visitors:

We were delighted to see many visitors at UUCC both in the building and on Zoom in April. A warm UUCC welcome goes out to **Amy Holden, Caroline Greenman, Jess Stanfield, Tina Larkin, Ken and Sherry Jordan, Barry Knister, and Michelle and Diana**. We hope to see you again soon!

Everyone who attends UUCC is part of our Caring Community. 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:

269-324-7262 or uucommunity@gmail.com.



The Board of Trustees met on April 2. Here are a few of the things they accomplished:

- Reviewed the proposed budget for the 2025/2026 church year
- Discussed staff compensation during a closed session.

The board continued their discussion about staffing and budget at a closed meeting on April 16. They also held and are planning meetings with staff members to discuss how best to sustain our community for the long term.

Click [HERE](#) to read the minutes from the April meeting. The next regular Board meeting will take place via Zoom on **Wednesday, May 7 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](#).

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists. During the three-day event, UUs from all over the country and the world will conduct the business of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. This year's General Assembly will take place **online and onsite at the Baltimore Convention Center in Maryland from June 18-22**.

Each UU congregation in good standing gets to send voting delegates to General Assembly and UUCC is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping to craft policy for the UUA and have a schedule flexible enough to allow you to attend multiple business sessions over the course of three days, please contact a member of the Board today. For more information about General Assembly visit uua.org/ga.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with its by-laws, the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan will hold an **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** on **Sunday, June 1, 2025**, at **11:15 AM**.

The meeting agenda, the final proposed budget, the slate of candidates, and any other relevant documents will be emailed to you on Friday, May 16. If you need paper copies of these, please contact the office and Miriam will mail them to you. There will also be a few paper copies available at the Welcome Desk on and after May 18.

The Annual Meeting will be a **hybrid gathering** with members in good standing who signed the membership book before May 1, 2025, able to **vote onsite or via Zoom** for **candidates for the board and nominating committee, to approve the budget**, and on any other matters of business brought to the floor. There shall be no voting absentee by proxy, by email, by postal mail, or by facsimile. **Childcare will be available for those who need it.**

The 2023-2024 UUCC **Nominating Committee**, (**Judy Pigg-Behrendt and Pat Timm**) has selected **three members to be nominated for two-year terms** on the Board of Trustees. The nominees will replace outgoing board members Michael Graham, Eric Nelson, and Steve Tasko. These appointments shall be approved by a vote of the members at the annual meeting. The nominees for a 2-year term are:



Joel Folkert



Dawn Renner



David Uttermohlen

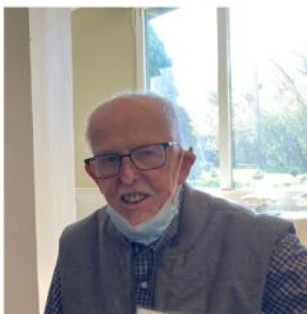
The Nominating Committee is very grateful to these members for agreeing to serve the congregation in leadership roles. In accordance with the by-laws, additional **nominations for the Board of Trustees may be submitted by any member or group of members**, two weeks in advance of the annual meeting by furnishing the name of the proposed nominee or nominees, in writing, to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. A member may also self-nominate. **Nominations will close two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting**, on May 18, and there will be no nominations from the floor.

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, members of the Board of Trustees and Finance Team will host a **Budget Q&A Roundtable** on **Sunday, May 4** at approximately **11:20 AM** to answer any questions you might have about the budget. This meeting will take place onsite and online in the same Zoom room as our Sunday Service. Childcare will be available for onsite participants.

If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting or the Budget Q&A Roundtable, please contact Board President Steve Tasko (stevetasko@gmail.com or 269-330-4559)

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to everyone who came to our Celebration of Generosity on April 26. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner, great company, and BINGO!. The Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce **the 2025-2026 pledge total of almost \$113,000!** They are continually **amazed by YOUR ongoing generosity** and support for the mission of this church. Please know that everyone's contributions to our church, in all forms, are valued! **Thank you for all YOU do** and give to our beloved Unitarian Universalist Community.



PROGRAM COUNCIL



Program Council—Where TOGETHER—We Get Stuff Done!

Everyone - members, friends, visitors—is invited to help create programming at UU Community Church by attending our Program Council Meetings.

Our final Program Council Meeting of the church year was on April 11.

We had much to **CELEBRATE**:

During the month of March we were treated to great Sunday services with **Rev. Gy**, **Rev. Harold**, OutFront's **Heather Sanford**, and Drag Queens **Miss Moscato** and **Reba Rose Rau**. Five UUCC folks helped build bridges of understanding at an **Iftar** with members of the **Michigan Islamic community**. The **Stewardship Committee** put on a wonderful **Irish Celebration** and **Larry and Carol Higgins** hosted a very enjoyable **Euchre Night**. **Kathryn Ragains-Wilson** led a small but amazing Vision Board Workshop. 32 folks (16 of them new to UUCC) registered for an informative **Thoughtful Thursday** with **Stephanie Hoffman**. And, twenty (or more) UUCC folks put their faith in action at the **"Hands Off " Demonstration** in support of our fragile democracy on April 5. Together, we can do great things!

Other things we discussed at Program Council in April included:



Kalamazoo Pride Celebration on Saturday, June 7 from 12-5 PM. UUCC will not host a table this year. The program council decided to donate the table fee we budgeted for to OutFront in support of the many programs they provide to the LGBTQIA+ community.



Program Council voted to use \$250 of its budget to pay our yearly membership dues to [Interfaith Strategies for Advocacy and Action in the Community](#) (ISAAC). Please save the date for the ISAAC's 3rd Annual **Walk/Run/Roll** event on **September 6** at 3:00 PM.



Budget Roundtable: On **Sunday, May 4** there will be an opportunity to go over the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 church year before the annual meeting. A link to the proposed budget will be sent out to all UUCC members and pledging friends on Friday, May 2. If you need a paper copy, there will be a few at the welcome desk on Sunday.



Generosity Sunday 2025/2026: It is time to start thinking about our Generosity Sunday recipients for next church year! If you have any ideas you would like the Program Council to consider, please send them to Miriam. We will be discussing this at our next Program Council Meeting.

Our next meeting is in AUGUST! Program Council will be replaced by the Budget Roundtable in May and by the Annual Meeting in June. There will be no meeting in July. **Thank you to everyone who has participated in Program Council this year!** We look forward to seeing you next church year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Transform the Way You Gather



A Free Emotional Intelligence Workshop
Inspired by
"The Art of Gathering"

Thursday, May 8
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
ON ZOOM

Join Darby Fetzer on Thursday, May 8 for a workshop exploring how to gather in ways that connect us and create freedom, diversity, and meaning. Click [HERE](#) or visit tinyurl.com/transformgathering to register for this workshop.

Celebrate Flower Communion on May 11

In June of 1923, worshippers at the Unitarian Church in Prague, were introduced to a new ritual by their minister, Rev. Norbert Čapek—a **Flower Communion**.



The beauty of Flower Communion is rooted in its powerful simplicity: each person brings a flower to church, where they're mingled in a single vase. After being blessed the flowers are redistributed so that everyone takes home a flower different from the one they brought. It is a **celebration of beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and the power of community**.



This year's Flower Communion will be held on **Sunday, May 11**. If you plan to join us onsite, be sure to bring a flower with you from your yard, your favorite florist, or even from the roadside to place in the communal vase.

Church Clean Up Day

UUC could use a little spring cleaning—inside and out! Put on your gloves and join the Building and Grounds Team on **Saturday, May 31 from 10 AM to 1 PM** for weeding, trimming, organizing, sanitizing, and scrubbing outside, in the kitchen, community room, and in the RE area, and more.

Many hands make light work! We hope to have a big crowd of UUCers on hand to help make our building a welcoming and inviting space for all who enter.

If you have any questions about Clean-Up Day, contact our **Building and Grounds Guru: Eric Nelson**
ericvnelson1@gmail.com



People of all singing abilities and experience are welcome to join the UUC Singers. No auditions or judgment! At UUC, we believe that everyone can sing!

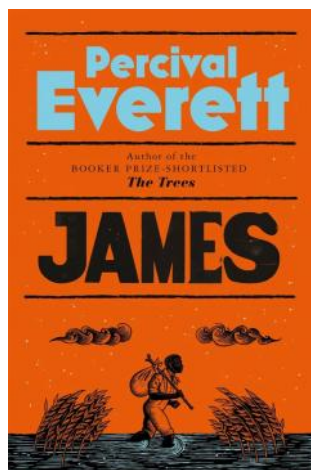
This spring we hope to sing on **May 11** for Flower Communion and **June 8** for Religious Education Sunday.

All you need to do to add your voice to our song is meet Luke at the piano at **9 AM**.

We will practice on the following **Sundays: May 4, May 11, May 18, and June 1**

Questions? Contact our Music Director, Luke: luke.j.kritzman@wmich.edu

CONNECTION



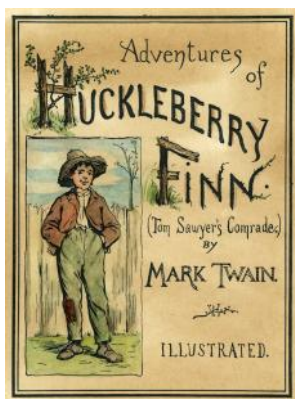
Women's Book Group

**Friday, May 9
1 PM via Zoom**

**May Selections:
James
by Percival Everett
The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn by
Mark Twain**

When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

In May the Book Group will discuss both the original *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and the reimagined version, *James* by Percival Everett, that tells the story from Jim's point of view.



Click [HERE](#) to join the Book Group Zoom Meeting ID 996 0783 5644 Passcode: 360981. Contact Stephanie (sargg.64@gmail.com) if you have questions!

The Book Group will not meet again until July when they gather for their annual Summer Salad Potluck and Meeting, during which they will select next year's book selections.

Qigong at UUC

You are invited to join our weekly Qigong sessions, every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 9:00 AM!



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 UUC Breakfast Group will meet for breakfast on **May 18 at 9:00 AM** at the **Rooster's Call** on Shaver Road.

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

Please contact Ron (ronald.crowell@wmich.edu) if you plan to attend. A RSVP is not required but sometimes plans change at the last minute and checking in with Ron will ensure you aren't having breakfast alone.

1st Saturday Game Gathering

People of all ages and game-playing abilities are invited to our monthly Game Gathering on **Saturday, May 3** from **1-4 PM** on the lower level. Please enter the building through the set of doors on the right to go directly downstairs so we do not disturb our renters.

You are welcome to bring a snack to share, a beverage or your choice, and a favorite game.

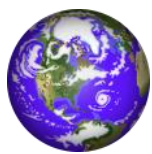
We hope you will join us for a relaxing afternoon of fun, fellowship, and games!



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Small Groups at UUCC are a great way to deepen your relationship with the church community and our Unitarian Universalist faith. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome to participate!

Sustainability Group



The **UUCC Sustainability Group** meets at **7:00 PM** via Zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month to reflect on their sustainability journeys, to share their successes and failures, and to **explore ideas about how to live more gently on the Earth**. Newcomers are always welcome to join the conversation!

One of the successes the Sustainability Group loves to celebrate is our **Community Compost Bin at UUCC**! Did you know that composting your food scraps is one of the ways that individuals can combat climate change? Whether it is a backyard bin or an industrial-scale operation, composting converts organic waste into sequestered soil carbon and averts methane emissions from landfills in the process. Our little bin (located at the back of the church) provides UUCC folks with a convenient place to compost. Just bring your scraps to church and put them in the side of the bin that has a “+” on the door. That’s it! Composted soil is available in the tub next to the bin. Feel free to take some for your gardening projects. If you want to talk more about composting or other sustainability strategies, come to the next Sustainability Group meeting on May 19. Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom meeting.

Civil Conversation Group

The Civil Conversation Group was started four years ago after **Darby Fetzer** presented a Sunday Service and then a Workshop about the topic. Over the years we have learned various strategies for engaging with people who think differently than we do and have had many enlightening and meaningful conversations.

Darby has decided to step down from leading this group. **Wednesday, May 14 at 7 PM on Zoom** will be her **final Civil Conversation gathering**. Click [HERE](#) to join the meeting.

During this meeting, we will share we will share:

- What we’ve learned over the past 4 years
- How participating in the group has impacted our lives

Our practice “civil conversation” will be about **personal boundaries**. Questions we will consider may include:

- Is “No” a complete sentence?
- Is it okay to respond with “No” without further explanation?

What are your thoughts? We don’t need to agree. Come and join the conversation!

We will discuss the future of the Civil Conversation Group at our August Program Council meeting. If people are interested in continuing we can certainly make that happen.

Mindful Living Group

As spring blooms around us, the **Mindful Living Group** is nearing the close of its series of practices inspired by *Essential Spirituality* by Roger Walsh. The **final session** of the series will be **Monday, May 12 at 7 PM** via **Zoom**. This is a wonderful opportunity to join **Eric Nelson** to for a time of grounding and calm before the summer hiatus.

Although Eric will be taking a break for a few months, he will continue to support your personal practice by sending monthly guided meditations throughout the summer.

Visit tinyurl.com/AwakenTheHeart to register for the practice on May 12 and the summer recordings.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



The kids in R.E. had a great time exploring the concept of **Stewardship** in April. They made helping **hand-shaped toys** to remind them of the importance of taking care of the people, places, and things they love. They worked together to **build a track** that safely delivered a marble home. They played the **Stewardship Game** and used critical thinking skills to figure out what a toothbrush, a birthday card, a bag of Cheez-Its, a dirty tissue, and a toy had to do with Stewardship. Do you know?



On **Easter**, they had an opportunity to join the Sunday service, hunt for **Easter eggs**, and join in the **Easter Parade**. (Spoiler Alert: They liked finding eggs filled with chocolate but passed on the parade!) There were plenty of adults who enjoyed the more playful parts of the Easter service and even donned **Easter bonnets** to join in the fun.

On **Earth Day Sunday**, the kids heard the story of the scientist, **Rachel Carson** and how she stepped up with courage to speak against powerful business interests in her stewardship of planet Earth. They used a chemical reaction (vinegar and baking soda) to make some **planet Earth art**, participated in an **Earth Day Lego** challenge, and used a microscope to explore the hidden world just beyond our view.



They also learned about some people who are speaking out to **protect the Great Lakes from an oil spill** and how they could be good stewards of our waterways by folding **origami fish**.



Our climate justice partners at Hope for Creation have challenged all its member congregations to join the [Fish for the Future](#) campaign.

Organizations all over the Great Lakes Region are working together to **break the world record** for largest origami fish display. Each paper fish represents our shared commitment to **protecting our water and the Great Lakes**. The fish will be displayed as part of an effort to shut down the Line 5 oil pipeline that poses serious threats to climate and environmental justice, tribal sovereignty, water quality, and health.



The kids (with a little help from parents and RE volunteers) were able to make over 20 fish on Earth Day Sunday and they think they if we work together UUCC might be able to make **more than 100 fish** by the deadline on May 31. If you want to help, visit the Fish for the Future table at the back of the sanctuary and fold a few fish.



In the month of May, the kids will learn how JOY can help them center love in all they do. They will also attend the Sunday service on May 11 to celebrate Flower Communion with the adults.

Do you have questions about Religious Exploration for Kids at UUCC? Contact our Director of Religious Education, **Miriam Epskamp**.

OPPORTUNITIES

Climate Grief Sharing Circles

Our climate justice partners at Hope for Creation SWMI, are providing opportunities to connect with others and honor the grief - in all its forms - that arises around ongoing climate and ecological crises. Join a circle at Skyridge Church of the Brethren on May 1 at 6:30 PM or on June 1 at 4 PM at UUCU. Spaces are limited! Register today:

tinyurl.com/HfCClimateGriefCircles

For more info visit hopeforcreation.net



Hope for Creation invites you to

Climate Grief Sharing Circles

May 1, Thursday, 6:30-8 pm Skyridge Church of the Brethren
or
June 1, Sunday, 4-5:30 pm Portage Unitarian Universalist Church

Free of charge and open to everyone.
Spots limited - RSVP required - childcare available upon request

RSVP [HERE](#)



THE SECOND ANNUAL
Kalamazoo River Cleanup

MAY 17, 2025, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
JOIN US FOR FREE FOOD & DRINKS
AT OUR AFTERPARTY CELEBRATION AT
MAYORS RIVERFRONT PARK | 2:00PM - 5:00PM

REGISTER HERE




KALAMAZOO CONSERVATION DISTRICT Kalamazoo River WATER PROTECTION SOCIETY LINK KALAMAZOO Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Kalamazoo Nature Center Kalamazoo County Park Kalamazoo County Park Kalamazoo County Park

REGISTER AT: KALAMAZOORIVERCLEANUP.ORG

A coalition of organizations in Kalamazoo are coming together for a day of community service picking up litter and debris along trails, riverbanks, and in the Kalamazoo River on Saturday, May 12. There are many ways to participate; for families, avid river paddlers and fishermen, and people who love to wade in creeks.

Visit kalamazoorivercleanup.org to learn more and to register to help.



The UUCU 30-Day Sustainability Challenge is going on now!

Each Sunday between now and May 20, we will send you an email full of things to watch, read, listen, and do that will inspire you to practice more healthy and sustainable habits.

Visit tinyurl.com/30DaySustainabilityChallenge to sign up today!

Whether you are new to the idea of sustainability or a green living veteran, the UUCU Sustainability Challenge will provide you with food for thought and ideas for action!

The Sustainability Challenge is not just for UUCU members and friends. Feel free to share info about the challenge with everyone you know!

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE



COMEDY NIGHT FOR A CAUSE

with **TERRY TESSARI**
and special musical guest
DANA SCOTT

TO SUPPORT A MEDICAL "GOFUNDME"
FOR REV. GY LUDVIG-MCCARTNEY

MAY 10 AT 6:30 PM

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
10441 SHAVER ROAD, PORTAGE

Beer, Wine, Snacks
Available for Purchase



MAY 2025



DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Thursday	May 1	Climate Grief Sharing Circle at Skyridge	6:30 PM
Saturday	May 3	Qigong Game Gathering	9:00 AM 1-4 PM
Sunday	May 4	Choir <i>The Stranger Who Sojourns Among You</i> with Rev. Gy UU Exploration for Kids After-service Social Time/Souper Sunday Budget Roundtable	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:20 AM
Monday	May 5	Stewardship Committee Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday	May 6	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	May 7	Board of Trustees Meeting	6:30 PM
Thursday	May 8	Transform the Way You Gather	7:00 PM
Friday	May 9	Growth Team Meeting Women's Book Group	9:30 AM 1:00 PM
Saturday	May 10	Comedy Night Fundraiser for Rev. Gy	6:30 PM
Sunday	May 11	Choir <i>We Continue to Bloom</i> with Rev. Gy NO RE Exploration for Kids After-service Social Time	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM
Monday	May 12	Mindful Living with Eric Nelson	7:00 PM
Tuesday	May 13	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	May 14	Sunday Services Committee Meeting Civil Conversations Group	5:30 PM 7:00 PM
Saturday	May 17	Qigong 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group	9:00 AM 9:00 AM
Sunday	May 18	Choir <i>Wounds of Division</i> with Rev. Gy; UU Exploration for Kids After Service Social Time	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 PM
Monday	May 19	Sustainability Group	7:00 PM
Tuesday	May 20	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	May 21	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	12:00 PM
Saturday	May 24	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	May 25	No Choir <i>Patriotism Examined</i> with Rev Gy ; UU Exploration for Kids After Service Social Time	10:00 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	May 27	Qigong	9:00 AM
Saturday	May 31	Qigong Church Clean Up Day	9:00 AM 10 AM—2 PM

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

Luke Kritzman
Music Director
luke.j.kritzman@wmich.edu
Cell: (734) 545-3197

2024-2025 Board of Trustees

Steve Tasko

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Mike Graham

Eric Nelson

The next Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday, May 21 at NOON

Please send submissions to:

uuccnewsletter@gmail.com

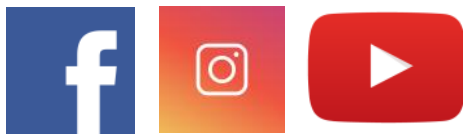
CommUUnity Matters

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

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