

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 203

July 2020

Hello all,

Karen Graff and Ann Mullen here. Since we are going live, albeit virtual, this month, let's use the Communtarian to fill some of the gaps that exist in our new way of being together. Let's use it as our coffee hour catchup, for example. Answer the question "How are you?" "What have you been up to?" "How are you feeling these days with all of this going on?" Let us all know if you have been to a protest march or Pride celebration, had fun on the water or in the mountains. Reconnect here by sending in the simplest of submissions, including photos, any old time during the month, and we will incorporate it into the next issue.

In this issue:

- July 2020 Calendar of Services
- President's Message
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Calendar at a Glance

July 5 - Recorded Service from Minneapolis, available to view anytime, with an AUUC Zoom call at 11am

July 12 - LJ Swanson – “Waiting for Godot” Live via Zoom with the congregation at 11am

July 19 - TBA taped service coordinated by Elaine Holmlund

July 26 - Rev. Dave Weisbard - “Is You Got Good Religion” - Live via Zoom with the congregation at 11am

More information on July Services

July 5, 2020

Weekly AUUC Service for July 5th, 2020

Presented By: First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

Sermon By: Rev. Karen Hutt

Service Length: 1hr 20 min

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/tBIZUSH5vyQ>

The first in our new series of weekly virtual services begins this weekend with a powerful service from the heart of a community experiencing unrest and grief. Voices and music from Minneapolis explore power, justice, and resilience in the midst of a national awakening arising from the tragic death of George Floyd.

This format—vetting and using services from across the nation—allows us the incredible opportunity to hear directly from the heart of struggle, to listen to black voices, and to relish the talent of professional ministers as they do what they do best.

Listen in the time and place that works best for you. Please know that this service briefly includes descriptions that are, by any account, horrific. This is no accident, but a warning is in order—this is not a kid-friendly sermon.

We will convene on Sunday via Zoom at 11:00 AM for conversation. A link will be provided via email. Please do not repost the Zoom link in any public forums (like Facebook), as all barriers will be down to make accessing the Zoom Coffee Hour as easy for participants as possible.



Below is a description provided by FUCM:

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis' live streamed worship on Sunday, May 31, 2020, includes powerful homilies by Rev. Karen Hutt and Rev. Jen Crow, and a special children's message from Lauren Wyeth, that address the collective grief we're carrying in light of yet another death of an unarmed Black man - George Floyd - at the hands of Minneapolis police. We were honored to welcome Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, in this Sunday's worship service. The service also features "Ubi Caritas" by the First Universalist Choir, directed by Dr. Randal Buikema and edited by Tina Wade, "I Know This Rose Will Open" recorded by Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, "For All That Is Our Life" performed by Fawzia Khan and Franco Holder, and prayer with Rev. Ruth MacKenzie and Arif Mamdani.

Adrien Vlach

Preview YouTube video First Universalist Church Sunday, May 31 Worship



July 12, 2020

"Waiting for Godot," Sunday July 12



Laura-Jean Swanson, a professor of theatre at SUNY Plattsburgh and a longtime member of AUUC, has agreed to present our first ever virtual UU service via Zoom on Sunday, July 12 at 11 AM. The service will be based on Samuel Beckett's post World War II play, *Waiting for Godot*. Critics believe that Beckett drew on his experiences of living in Paris during and after the war, including the Nuremberg trials, as inspiration for this play. The play inherently rejects the defense used by accused war criminals that they were 'just following orders.' The play is also a rejection of remaining passive in dark times and just waiting for things to change. Beckett's message is one of individual responsibility, that it is not acceptable simply to be a victim and to succumb to despair. Instead

he argues for the need to break out of entrenched patterns and at least try for something better. In these times of conflict, division, and doubts about the future of not just democracy, but also of humanity and the planet, Beckett's message in *Waiting for Godot* is surprisingly relevant.

While we will try to follow our usual Order of Service as much as possible, there will be some changes. There will not be a *Time with Children*, since it isn't practical, and while we would like to include *Joys and Sorrows* in some way, it may take a different form. In order to join the Zoom service, look for an e-mail from Adrien Vlach with directions and a link to the service. Participation is free and relatively simple. We hope you will join us for this service and provide feedback as the new format is developed.

July 26, 2020

Reverend Dave Weisbard on his sermon: It is a response to a sermon he heard at the founding conference of the Progressive Religious Partnership. Dave is sympathetic to those who believe that religion has often been a blight on humankind. But, he does believe that Unitarian Universalism can make a positive contribution to the lives of some of us.

President's Message - July 2020

Dear AUUC Members and Friends,

How are you? I hope you are healthy and adjusting well to these strange times. There is so much grief and anguish around the globe right now. The struggles with Coronavirus, economic realities, racial injustice, and the political scene in our country are enough to keep us up at night. I, for one, feel incredibly lucky to live in the Adirondacks with few people, plenty of space, beautiful scenery, and peace and quiet. My nerves have been relatively calm.

As you all know, the AUUC Board of Directors feels that it is prudent to hold off on gathering together for services for the foreseeable future which, as suggested by the UUA, might be at least until May of next year. We have asked for your input before we make any formal decision. A whole year seems so far off, but the fear of infecting each other with this deadly disease makes the decision clear to me. We have other ways to be together through email, Zoom, etc. Let's stay close in these ways.

Keep the principles of Unitarian Universalism in mind as you move through your days, the values of respect, equity, compassion, and care for our Mother Earth.

You are dear to me,
Laura Reid
AUUC President

News from the Board

Howdy, friends.

All of you should have received an email from us, earlier in the week, requesting your feedback on a matter actively being discussed by the Board of Trustees--when to reopen! We are including that message, including the UUA link, here in the Communitarian. More than a dozen of you have already responded, and we thank you for that. ***If you have not responded, please take a moment to do so, now.*** Send Adrien an email summarizing your thoughts and feelings. The board recognizes that we are discussing big issues for our little congregation, and we are committed to an inclusive and transparent process. Thank you! ~AV

Time Sensitive:

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Deadline – July 4th, 2020

Dear members and friends of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community, Strange times challenge our congregation in ways that are both seen and unseen, and our leadership team has risen to the occasion. The newsletter has been faithfully compiled and distributed; Religious Education has continued weekly via Zoom; professional sermons have been delivered in print for personal consumption; our friend Sue received our support and love when she needed it most; and the Board of Trustees has met three times in about as many months to peer into an uncertain future and plan how to proceed.

Last week, the board and worship committee convened, independently, to take stock and plan. While no one feels the future can be predicted at this time, two solid intentions emerged:

1. It is time to resume weekly services for the congregation. To this end the worship committee came out of dormancy, submitted a plan to the board, and has begun work on implementation. The board passed a modified version of their proposal on June 19th. Virtual services begin in July.
2. The board revisited the question of when to resume conventional services at that same meeting. We looked at the state's guidance, the UUA's guidance, the advice of the scientific community, and our UU principles, most of which are aligned—only New York State is endorsing a resumption of congregational gathering, and even that is optional, limited, and fraught with new regulations. The board easily reached consensus. Our UU values tell us that we have a responsibility to each other, to the world, and especially to the most vulnerable among us. Our scientific community tells us that, until we have a vaccine or effective herd immunity through widespread exposure, we are jeopardizing our health and that of everyone we come into contact with when we increase social density. The risks bear nontrivial consequences. People die. With that solidly in mind, your board is unanimously of the opinion that we should not congregate for the foreseeable future. The UUA has asked congregations to tentatively plan to be disrupted through May of 2021. We have not voted on any date or course of action, but we

likely will, and we are committed to hearing the voice of the congregation, before making such decisions.

We need to hear from you!

Please send us your thoughts on the board's consensus to stay closed and support the congregation's needs virtually. Send feedback regardless of what it is, even if only to say you agree. We will follow this *email* "call for comments" with a paper mailing, if needed. You can save us the expense and expedite the process by responding via email, now.

[The UUA guidance and rationale can be found here; it is thoughtful, articulate, and a fine example of Unitarian Universalists leading from head and heart. I felt proud to be a UU, when I first read it.](#)

Thank you for staying committed and involved. We look forward to hearing from you!

Adrien Vlach
vlach@riseup.net

News from RE

Children have been focusing on discussing race, racism, fairness, and equity in the context of our first and second principles.

All of the RE families were at the protest in Saranac Lake earlier in the month. AUUC families are raising a generation of children who will know how to raise their voices against inequity, racism, and injustice.

As always, I am grateful to Ellie and Will, Vivian and Sawyer, and Sebastian for spending part of their Sunday mornings together. (And to the adults that help make this happen.)

In gratitude and love,
Julia

[UU Services Resources](#)

We have gathered a few sources of live stream and video services. Please send Karen or Ann links to any more that you have discovered, and we will add them to this list. It is a lovely and touching experience to join in a service while awaiting our return to each other.

www.uufellowship.org - Unitarian Fellowship of Northwestern Westchester; Westchester, NY

www.uunorthampton.org - Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, Northampton, MA

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBqcUGReJk7q02eHUBopLvA> - The Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCu63hp-DyrU-K1xMS_x77w - Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft, NJ

<https://www.uua.org/hashtags/covid19> - Resources for Congregations – from the UUA.org

Grace Pantry hours

Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Baldwin House, adjacent to St. Luke's on Church St.

Food Pantry hours

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Additional hours during the crisis: Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.
15 Bloomingdale Avenue in Saranac Lake

Please pass along the information on the additional hours to those who might need it.

From Russ DeFonce:

In the midst of all the hoopla we at the Rural Law Center are trying to reach out more and offer our services via phone or ZOOM. I figure during these stressful times folks might need some conflict coaching/mediation support. I have attached a blurb we are sending out that might be beneficial to share in the Communitarian.

Conflict Coaching and Mediation Intake Services

are now available during this challenging time.
Trained mediators through the

Rural Law Center Mediation Program

We are now providing 1:1 conflict coaching and mediation assessments by phone or Zoom. These confidential and neutral processes assist with understanding emotions, creating perspective and exploring solutions, ultimately assisting people and organizations with resolving conflict and communication issues.

Please contact us through email:

For Clinton County: sally@rurallawcenter.org
For Essex/Hamilton Counties: russ@rurallawcenter.org

Thanks to everyone who shared articles, thoughts, resources and more. Keep them coming!
It's really great to hear from one another when we can't be in the same place.



Contact Information

www.adkuu.org

Board

President: Laura Reid (651-1654)

Vice President:

Secretary: Liz DeFonce (424-5314)

Treasurer: Adrien Vlach (474-4706)

Trustee: Carolyn Wiggan (524-1462)

Trustee: Emma Galeotti (903-0091)

Committees

Welcoming Congregation: Ann Mullen (891-5735)

Worship: Elaine Holmlund (891-6717)

Communitarian: Karen Graff and Ann Mullen (891-5735) kegraff@gmail.com

Place: Randall Swanson (891-3512)

Religious Education: Donna Wood (946-2275)
and Julia Goren (845-216-3810)

Environmental and Social Action: Steve DeHond
Sdehond@hotmail.com

Social Media: Sue Grimm Hanley (637-2794)



**The Seven Principles of
Unitarian Universalism**

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

**Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community
89 Church St.
Saranac Lake, NY 12983**

From the “church of the open mind, loving heart, and helping hand” to:



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation