

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 205

September 2020

Hello all,

Karen Graff and Ann Mullen here. Sorry for the delay in getting this to you. We had a little scheduling to work out. All is well now.

In this issue:

- September 2020 Calendar of Services
- President's Message
- News from the Board
- News from RE
- Submission by Elaine Holmlund
- Letter to the Editor - Emma
- "Braver/Wiser" Column from the UUA
- UU Services Resources
- Community Resources

Calendar at a Glance

September 6	Recorded Service from All Souls, Kansas City, available to view anytime, with an AUUC Zoom call at 11am (details below)
September 13	Water Ceremony, New membership Ceremony, followed by a membership meeting. (Details below.)
September 20	TBA
September 27	Dan Berggren

President's Message - September 2020

Hello, dear Community! September is a weird mix of endings and beginnings. The cool late August weather is whispering that summer is coming to an end.

I've delivered my two adult children to their apartments to begin their senior years of college; our extended time together (they were sent home in March at the beginning of the pandemic and stayed through summer break) has come to an end. The tomatoes have ripened and the last of the summer flowers are blooming in the garden, just waiting now for the bite of the first hard frost. Endings.

The melancholy that comes with the end of summer is being replaced by the excitement of new beginnings. Extra blankets on the bed. Cool mornings that surprisingly and delightfully change into hot afternoons. The babies (Elle and Carly Terreberry's twins that I cannot stop talking about) are growing and changing every day, nearly standing and walking. I can start to pull out those projects of mine that take over the dining table (quilts and hooked rugs)! For me, the changing seasons are a blessing and a reminder that change is always good, even if accompanied by pangs of pain now and then.

For our community, there is the excitement of new members. Gwen Goodman and Keelin Murphy (although part of AUUC for more than a year already) will become signed members this month. I got word today that some UU's from western NY will be closing on a house in the area this fall and want to join us, as well. The board met August 31st and appointed Michael Vaughan as an interim trustee. Change is in the air and I'm bubbling with excitement and love for the AUUC! I hope you feel it, too!

Much love to you all!
Laura Reid
AUUC President

[More information on the September 6 Service](#)

Weekly AUUC Service for September 6th, 2020

Presented By: All Souls, Kansas City

Sermon By: Rev. Kendyl Gibbons

Service Length: 1:04

Link to Service: https://youtu.be/QxlJ_k72M8o

This summer, the ministers of several Midwestern congregations formed a cooperative with the purpose of providing quality virtual services to their memberships, while creating space for rest, contemplation, and preparation. In this July 5th service Rev. Kendyl Gibbons of All Souls Church in Kansas City urges you to judge thy symbols and choose them well. Set amid a pastiche of moving and relevant performances (invoking Fredrick Douglas & Langston Hughs), the sermon invites us to question what we celebrate on Independence Day and urges us to be discerning in our uses of past, present, and future.

This format—vetting and using services from across the nation—allows us the incredible opportunity to hear directly from the heart of struggle. It also opens a window through which we can listen to the voices of Black Unitarians, Women in their pulpits, and to relish the talent of professional ministry teams as they do what they do best. Watch or listen in the time and place that works best for you.

We will convene on Sunday via Zoom at 11:00 AM for conversation. [CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE ZOOM CONVERSATION](#), or use the link found at the bottom of this message. 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7344744706>

Join by Phone:

One tap mobile (enters the code for you)

+16465588656, 7344744706# US (New York)

Or dial the old-fashioned way: (646) 558-8656 Meeting ID: 734 474 470

For the Worship Committee,

yours in service,

Adrien Vlach

vlach@riseup.net

(734) 474-4706

Preview YouTube video UUUFM service July 5, 2020



News from the Board

We are delighted to announce that Michael Vaughan has joined Laura Reid (president), Adrien Vlach (treasurer), Emma Galeotti (trustee), Carolyn Wiggins (trustee) on the AUUC Board of directors to replace Russ and Liz Defonce (secretary) who stepped down last month.

We'd like to acknowledge our deep gratitude to Liz and Russ for their commitment to the operations of the AUUC. Their talents for communication, mediation skills, and their level headedness and calming natures helped us through trying times during our negotiations with Trestle Street last summer.

The board is also pleased to have commitments from Keelin Murphy and Gwen Goodman to serve as interim board members to serve out Liz and Russ's terms this year. We'll appoint them once they officially become members of AUUC at our upcoming New Member Ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENT! – Membership meeting after the September 13th service.

The Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community Board of Directors has scheduled a Zoom meeting of the membership to vote on the following proposed changes to our Bylaws:

Add a new; Article XII. Definitions. 12.1 Meetings

Meetings of the membership may be held by electronic means such as conference telephone call or by internet (web) based video meetings provided all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in a meeting held electronically shall constitute presence of the person at the meeting.

And Change

Article VI. Board of Trustees and Officers

6.1 The Board of Trustees of the Community shall consist of six (6) trustees.

to read:

6.1 The Board of Trustees of the Community shall consist of at least six (6) trustees.

Please try to attend!

News from RE

Julia Goren sent in a quick message to us all:

She wants to let the church know that our children are continuing to meet, that we've learned about John Lewis, Wangari Maathi, black holes, and made fun crafts; that we miss being together in person, but we're continuing to do our best via Zoom, and that everyone has been out camping this summer, enjoying the beautiful place that we call home.

Submission by Elaine Holmlund

Driving While Black

I have long been concerned about the white/non-white hierarchy in our country. By that I mean, the treatment of whites versus the treatment of people of color. When we first started traveling south for spring vacations in the late sixties, we noticed the signs about "whites only", and "colored" on fountains and rest rooms; also "we reserve the right" to choose whom we serve, etc.

We also noticed that billboards for black motels were very plain and in a dark color. It was many years before I learned about the Green Book which helped people of color navigate the south.

In my naivete, I thought racial bias was non-existent in our beloved North Country. A year ago, I heard the story of the Dominique Boone family. Boone was a much-liked coach at Paul Smith's College who revamped much of their athletic program. He relates that in his first two months at Paul Smith's he got pulled over six to eight times but got only one ticket. White colleagues and friends minimized the incidents, talking about "speed traps," etc. But Dominique wasn't speeding. After four years of this harassment, the Boone family moved to North Carolina and another college coaching job.

There's an even more telling depiction of "Driving While Black" on Adirondack Diversity's "Driving While Black," Part II. Matt Hughey from Plattsburgh talks about having state police pull guns on him four times while being stopped for no apparent reason. I urge you all to watch ADI's fascinating series.

A very close friend of mine commented that this has been going on for decades...Isn't it time for us to examine this particular form of racial bias? I am reminded of the fight for women's suffrage; we finally got the vote! When will it be safe for people of color to drive while black?

[A copy of her letter to the editor - Emma \(Emmanuelle\) Galeotti](#))

To the editor:

Dear friends and neighbors of all backgrounds and beliefs:

Greetings to all; we hope this letter will find you in good health.

We, as members of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community, reiterate and reaffirm our First Principle, that we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. That is why we support Black Lives Matter. Further, we commend the creation of the Adirondack Diversity Initiative and applaud the vital work of the ADI and its courageous director, Nicky Hylton-Patterson.

We want all marginalized communities' members to know that you have longtime allies in the North Country. UUs organized for abolition of slavery two centuries ago, and historically, we have always opposed systemic racism. We are proud of the historic Underground Railroad Trail heritage in the North Country, and we will continue to pursue the creation of an inclusive society.

Individual and systemic racisms in all their forms are wrong. We must all stand in solidarity against all racism, against anyone, anytime, anywhere. The Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community is a small group of open-minded people who seek and embrace diversity, all of it. We welcome all, regardless of background, belief, color, gender expression or sexual orientation. We affirm and promote the Seven UU Principles, like our First Principle mentioned above.

Whoever you are, you are welcome here, you are not alone. We invite you to join us in taking a stand against violence and brutality, against racism, against intolerance and against injustice.

Sincerely,

Emmanuelle Galeotti, Board Trustee, on behalf of
The Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

The Changing and the Fixed

By Leslie Ahuvah Fails

September 2, 2020

For nothing is fixed,
forever, forever, forever,
it is not fixed;
the earth is always shifting,
the light is always changing,
the sea does not cease to grind down rock.

—James Baldwin, "For Nothing Is Fixed"

When I can't sleep—a frequent occurrence these days—I tiptoe past my sleeping spouse and toddler and sneak onto the porch to stare at the sky. In the COVID-19 era of full-time work layered upon full time parenting, silence and solitude are precious beyond words. But an even greater allure is the ever-changing night.



My home and the congregation I serve are nestled in the boreal forests of Alaska, a few hours south of the Arctic Circle. At 64° latitude our winters are interminably dark, the summers a 24-hour festival of light. I miss the stars during the bright summer nights, but it's always a joy to welcome them back. Kicked back in a deck chair at 2 AM, I feel like a one-woman celestial welcoming committee hunting for pinpricks of light in the glowing indigo sky.

I found the fluctuating daylight unsettling when I first moved here, but now I recognize it for a valuable teacher. The river that used to freeze into an ice road snaking through the center of town hasn't frozen solid enough to drive on safely in years. What once seemed certain is now unpredictable, even dangerous.

Our little one is growing up in wild bursts of giggles and tantrums. Right now, we're working on empathy and the meaning of "no": no yelling during mommy's Zoom call, no climbing on the dog, no Preschool even though you had a new backpack and were so excited to go. Too young to fully comprehend the enormity of the pandemic, she has intuited that the world is

not well. Anticipated milestones—increased independence, new experiences and friends—are fading out of view. The ground beneath us hasn't felt solid in months.

Things we had finally begun to take for granted now feel like hard-won victories, like when we can manage to go a full afternoon without a meltdown (hers, or mine). I miss the calm and patience that once came naturally to me—and I know that I am doing the best that I can. We are both doing the best that we can.

Change is my co-pilot, like it or not. And even though I have not seen them in months, the stars remain fixed in the sky.

Prayer

Spirit of Life Who Changes with Us, the ground beneath us is shifting—for some of us gently, for others in seismic waves. Remind us of the steadfast presence of a love greater than ourselves, as constant as the stars, even when it is obscured from view.

About the Author

Rev. Leslie Ahuvah Fails (she/her/hers) is the pastor of the UU Fellowship of Fairbanks, Alaska, and has also served as a hospital chaplain. She writes with brevity on Twitter (@RevLeslieAF) and at length on Medium (medium.com/@RevLeslieAF).



For more short “Braver Wiser” essays, click here: <https://www.uua.org/braverwiser> .

“I know my humor is outrageous when it makes the Unitarians so mad they burn a question mark on my front lawn.” – Lenny Bruce

[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/UCBqcUGReJk7g02eHUBopLvA> - 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. (Closed during September)

Food Pantry hours

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
15 Bloomingdale Avenue in Saranac Lake

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 Wiggin (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:

