



Connection

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

A welcoming, caring congregation encouraging spiritual growth, seeking meaning and pursuing justice.

Issue No. 2051

Venice, FL

January 2021

Sundays at UUCOV

Sunday Services

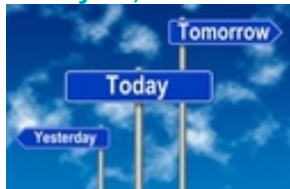
January 3, 2021: Video Online Service: The Super in the Natural

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. It may seem miraculous that we have finally gotten to say goodbye and good riddance to 2020.

Herewith, a discussion of miracles, or what many UU's would call "the super in the natural."



January 10, 2021: Video Online Service: The End of History



Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. We remember yesterday as we look forward to tomorrow, celebrating the past as we hope for something better. But how free are we, really, to make the right choices today if we cling too closely to the good ol' days?

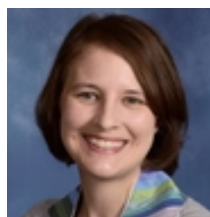
January 17, 2021: Video Online Service: The Good Liberal

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. If we want to make the world a better place, it is incumbent upon us to step back from moral self-righteousness, to practice moral humility, and to make a passionate commitment to the truth.



January 24, 2021: Video Online Service: The Shared World

Rev. Mara Dowdall. The poet Naomi Shihab Nye speaks of "the shared world," in which we connect deeply with one another in and through our differences. As we navigate this time of peril and possibility, beauty and anguish, despair and resistance, how might a theology and practice of "the shared world" help us find our way?



Rev. Dowdall is Senior Minister of the First UU Society of Burlington, Vermont.

January 31, 2021: Video Online Service: Nose Wiggling 101



Rev. Khleber Van Zandt . Pledge Drive Sunday. I was once asked if I thought I could teach another person to wiggle their nose. The more I think about it, the more I think this might have deep implications for our Pledge Drive. If you can't yet wiggle your nose, join us and have a go. And if you can already wiggle it, come and join in on a "group nose-wiggle."

Special Offering

January 10, 2021: All Faith's Food Bank

This month's Special Offering is the All Faiths Food Bank. Sandra Frank, CEO of All Faiths Food Bank, says the hunger in our community has not let up since schools let out for Spring Break in March. She describes an "intense, continued need for food; a massive and urgent fight against hunger like nothing else in our history." From where she sits, the economic devastation for local working families is only just beginning (Herald Tribune, June 20, 2020). All Faiths is not yet set up to start taking edible contributions again, but your check, made out to UUCOV, with All Faiths in the memo line, is much needed.



Minister's Corner

How to Contact Us

Exploring Possibilities

I don't usually get excited about numbers, but beginning to use "2021" feels really good. In years past, it has taken me a while to get used to writing the new year instead of the old one, but this year I'm so glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror that I predict it's not going to be a problem at all.



Of course, as glad as I am to see the old year go, I know we will live with its consequences for a long time.

Yes, there will continue to be plenty of political and social and cultural fallout from 2020, and we'll do our best with all that. But right now I'm thinking closer to home and about how we might better maintain connections within our congregation.

We've done pretty well under the circumstances, I guess: several Fellowship Groups have continued to meet on Zoom throughout the pandemic, as have a few Adult RE programs. And the children have had a YRE class every Sunday, too.

We've continued to post recorded worship services on our website and on YouTube each Sunday. There's even one for Christmas Eve, a reprise of a service from a couple of years ago featuring Grace Grote and Lori Baribeault.

And there's been the weekly Sunday morning Zoom Coffee Hour that has allowed a couple of dozen people to see each other and chat for a few minutes every week.

But when you look at the numbers, it is clear that few of our members and friends take advantage of any of these online opportunities. And so I wonder: what else can we do to promote and maintain important connections across the distances that COVID-19 has imposed on us?

One idea I would like to try is a modified "Chalice Circle"

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program, something that would offer members and friends the opportunity on a weekly basis to explore topics of spiritual importance, possibly using the sermon that week as a springboard to reflection and conversation.

Perhaps it's not optimal, but since we can't safely get together just yet, we'd still have to meet on Zoom. Right now, it's all we have. But someday. Someday...

In the meantime, the Coffee Hour is a great place to see and hear from fellow church members. Fellowship Groups keep people engaged in small gatherings. Adult RE and YRE classes offer both education and social interaction.

And perhaps Chalice Circles might fill another need, encouraging some deeper exploration and a way to get to know one another on a different level.

For me, it's worth a try.

Consider joining in on Zoom, in January 2021, Sundays at 11am to noon and/or Mondays from 2 to 3pm.



See you in church, not if, but when,

Khleber

CONNECT with YOUR MINISTER via ZOOM

Every Other Thursday, 5pm to 6pm. January 7th and 21st

Enter the ZOOM meeting at any time during the hour, 1.) to ask specific questions, 2.) to discuss last Sunday's service, or 3.) simply to check in and chat. Alternatively, you can reach him at other times by emailing minister@uucov.org.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81877591915>

Meeting ID: 818 7759 1915

Password = Khleber

President's Message

I welcome the new year of 2021 with enormous expectations of freedom. I am sure that it will not take me many months and checks. There will be no longing to return to the past year. Good riddance to an "Annus horribilis."

I am looking forward to being shot in the arm twice and seeing old and new friends. I have dedicated a draw in my dress more months. I look forward to starting a new normal, knowing that many things will change, I may never hug a strange

At UUCOV we are planning and making changes to adjust to that new normal. We believe that Sunday morning service those who cannot or wish not to attend in person. We know that we must have an internet face to show the world and b

We have made plans to upgrade the digital equipment needed to make our community better able to function and attract vital. The plans also include upgrading systems to make attendance in the sanctuary viable.

We believe that when we return to the Sanctuary many will continue to view our services from home and new people will enter the digital world.

We hope that the things we needed to learn while coping with a pandemic world will also help improve our lives in the world. To quote Charles Dickens, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, it was the season for us to believe all the right things, it was the season for us to doubt all the right things, it was the season for us to hope, it was the season for us to despair."

I wish you all a Joyous New Year and a hope that the future will bring the best of times but that being a congregational member in these times of darkness.

Pamela Palmer, *President*

Treasurer's Report

I am in awe and humbled by your financial support for UUCOV. As I write this in mid-December, 80% of our total pledge has been received.

Thank you to those that paid their total pledge.

Thank you to those that paid more than their total pledge.

Thank you to those that pay their pledges monthly and quarterly.

Thank you to those who did not pledge but send monies to UUCOV.

Thank you to those that give financial gifts to UUCOV.

As I write this in the holiday season, I feel a warmth of support for UUCOV from all of you.

In January you will be contacted requesting a pledge for 2021-2022. We hope you will continue your generosity for UUCOV.

Who knew what ZOOM was a year ago? Now we are able to connect with our seasonal congregants in their northern locations. In addition to fellowship groups to coffee time, we have been able to see and hear our friends. Sunday worship is being professionally recorded for viewing at your convenience.

I hope that during this stressful pandemic year that you have felt the importance of UUCOV in your life. Whether it is with ZOOM programming, please consider this when determining your support for UUCOV next year.

Dave Lyon, *Treasurer*

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Click here for the minutes of the November 12th meeting - <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/UUCOV%20BOT%20Minutes%2011-12-2020.pdf>

Claire Harrison, *Secretary*

Minutes of the Coordinating Council Meeting

Click here for the minutes of the December 1st meeting - <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/Minutes%20of%20Coordinating%20Council%20December%202020.pdf>

Jack Head, *VP and Chair of Coordinating Council*

Chalice Circles

Would you like to explore topics of spiritual importance with some of your fellow congregants? Have you ever wanted to move you or made you think? This January, come join an online gathering loosely based on the Chalice Circle concept.

in, we'll propose some questions and see where 'the spirit' takes us.

No need to register or rsvp, just drop in to this Zoom meeting any Sunday and/or Monday in January that's convenient:

Sundays in January (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st) from 11am to noon.

Mondays in January (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th) from 2 to 3pm.

Questions? Contact Rev. Khleber Van Zandt,

Sundays at 11:00am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98315587176?pwd=VWQ3dENPcHFOWDFXWVIMclFzM0tZz09>

Meeting ID: 983 1558 7176

Passcode: Circle

Mondays at 2:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86140597687>

Meeting ID: 861 4059 7687

Passcode: Circle

Looking to Connect and Be Part of UUCOV?

Consider joining one of our Teams in a volunteer capacity. You might consider volunteering with a friend and serving together. Openings include ---

Administration:

Personnel Committee Chair- a person to coordinate a small group to deal with personnel issues and work with our mini Palmer - 631-413-5775,

Volunteer Coordinator – an outgoing person to liaison with the Team Chairs to identify volunteer needs and to actively v members/friends to meet those needs. Contact Pamela Palmer - 631-413-5775,

Caring Team:

Neighborhood Coordinator- a volunteer(s) with computer skills and organizational ability to maintain the lists of neighborhood connections. Ideally two people sharing this would be a fun project. One to maintain a list of volunteers (we have a long needs and link volunteers. Contact Eileen Leapley-941-525-4328,

Communication Team:

Communications Team is always looking for good people with writing and creative skills. When the pandemic is over, we newspapers, Herald- Tribune and Venice Gondolier. We also design the flyers and brochures for the congregation. Please open up) to be in charge of the bulletin board in the lanai. Not a big job, but a job that needs attention. Contact Tom Voi

Fiscal Team:

Fund Raising Coordinator- a person(s) to coordinate and encourage creative events to raise funds for the congregation

Social Justice Team:

shOUT Volunteers- interested volunteers to support our education and outreach efforts with the LGBTQ community. Contact stevedoublestein@yahoo.com.

Green Sanctuary Volunteers –volunteers to help promote ecological friendly practices and educational events as well as Contact: Dave and Donna Jewett – 508-737-4831,

Lifespan Education:

Zoom Hosts - ARE needs people comfortable with Zoom to assist ARE presenters with their Zoom events. The present someone else handling the Zoom part. Training is available if you are willing to help. Contact: Kathy Avery, DRE,

Sunday Morning Experience Team:

Usher Coordinator - During new normal times, our sanctuary will be open and feel welcoming again. When you enter, you instructions or knowledge about seating and new visual enhancements added 'while we were away.'

The ushers are in an integral part of the Sunday morning experience. We are asking for someone to become the usher continue the work of Rick Williams. Rick organized the task of asking for and assigning ushers with a software program coordinator could take the existing list of volunteers and continue it. Please consider accepting this support to our congregation Head ().

UUCOVfee Hour Hosts - Sunday, after the church service, we would often meet on the lanai for coffee, sweets, and friendly intellectual banter, family updates, and remind each other how grateful we are for our congregation. Since we are currently seeking someone to host future virtual Zoom Coffee Hours. If interested in being a host, check out <https://www.signupg>

Do YOU care if UUCOV is a Caring Congregation?

On **Thursday, January 14th, 2021 at 1:30pm**, an open Congregation Conversation will be held, via Zoom, to discuss Congregational Conversation held April 25, 2019 to plan for the Caring Team. All are welcome as we brainstorm and put the date on your calendar!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/863333142051>

Meeting ID: 863 3314 2051

Passcode: Caring



News from the Caring Team

The Caring Team would like to thank the many Team members who have been helping our UUCOV friends in need. You

The Caring Team is always on the lookout for UUCOV members and friends who would like to be added to our list to be phone call, or a ride to a doctor appointment is needed. You may not be called often, but when the need arises, it's our group of caring, concerned people to call on. Please contact Eileen Leapley at to be included on the list.

Please remember that all UUCOV members and friends can keep their personal data stored in a confidential ministerial of emergency. The file includes who should be called in case of emergency, your health and professional services provided and final arrangements. Contact Caring Team leader Eileen Leapley at for a copy of the form, which will be kept in a separate minister's confidential file.

If you are interested in pre-purchasing a plaque for the **UUCOV Memorial Wall**, located in our beautiful Memorial Garden, contact eleapley44@gmail.com. If you have any questions about the Memorial Wall, Eileen will be glad to talk with you.

During these trying times, your **UUCOV Pastoral Care Team** stands ready to provide a listening ear, as a representative regarding any concerns you may have. Please don't hesitate to email ; someone from our Team will contact you.



During this time of isolation, it is more important than ever to keep the lines of communication open with your congregation. When you have a few minutes, go through the UUCOV directory and make a call to someone. You may be surprised at the interesting conversation you will have, and you just may make a new friend. We are a congregation that does not feel alone, and we all have a lot of love to share.

Virtual Office Hours

'Virtual Office Hours' are every Monday and Wednesday, 8:30am – 9:30. This is to make more morning timeslots available. You may enter the ZOOM meeting at any time during the hour to speak with Salli regarding questions, requests, assistance, etc. **If you need to speak with her at another time or one-to-one, email her and she will set up a private Zoom meeting.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84352749746>

Meeting ID: 843 5274 9746

Password = office

Fellowship Groups



Fellowship Groups are still going strong, despite this time of lengthy isolation. Many of our groups are congregants are spread out over various parts of the country, they can participate in lively virtual discussions than ever. If you are not presently in a UUCOV Fellowship group, you are urged to contact Wendy Voi

Reflections from Centenarians

UUCOV members who are centenarians have been invited to share with their congregation their lives over the last cent

My name is James G. (Jack) Smith, born in Racine, WI on Aug 3, 1919 to catholic parents. I attended catholic grade school in a public system, graduating in 1936 from high school at age 16. I worked for two years to save money and then in 1938 enrolled in Mechanical Engineering school. It was there as a freshman that I met and, before my senior year, in 1941, married Josephine. In 1943 years we had three children, Jerry in 1944, Judy in 1947 and Jay in 1953.

Life changed immeasurably with Pearl Harbor and WWII. Companies were in dire need of engineers. I was interviewed and hired by the Wright Aeronautical Corp. so that, upon graduation, Josephine and I went directly to New Jersey to begin work in the ignition section in charge of a small ignition lab. When planes with new, out of the box, replacement engines began cutting through the sea in front of the carrier, I was one of three to determine why and eliminate the cause. Which we did.

After the war I joined the DuPont Co. in Wilmington, DE at the Engineering Development Laboratory (an engineer's dream) to work on problems, of which there were many, from all operating departments. We mainly got the ones the department had a knack for innovative thinking and as a result I was awarded ten patents for my efforts. When I decided to retire after 27 years I became a consultant which I did for another 10 years retiring finally in 1982.

We moved to FL in 1985 and to North Port in 2003. Josephine died in Nov. 2004 and I joined UUCOV in 2005 largely at Judy's urging. We have been together since 2006.

I have seen change in almost every aspect of life – Communication is a good example. Radio was in its infancy, TV was a cumbersome plugged-in phone, many without a private line. Transportation is another example. When my father had to drive across town to have the bumpers installed. At that time public transportation was streetcar, bus or train. Liner planes had propellers.

Meet Our Congregants

This column is to introduce both new and not so new members, friends and visitors to each other. During this pandemic a good idea to introduce each other to each other.

Jean & John Spitzer - We both grew up in Iowa City where Jean's father was a professor in Geology, and John's father at the University of Iowa. We dated in high school and college, and we married – but not to each other. Some 25 years later we were living in San Francisco and John was an investment banker living in New York City. That was the year of our High School Reunion. In 1989 we married – this time we got it right.



In 1995, we moved to Iowa City where Jean took a position as a physical therapy aide, something she loved but her joints told her to quit after several years of lifting heavy patients. She then worked in Medicine and retired in 2010. John was a professor in the Finance Department until he retired in 2014.

We started coming to Venice in 2006 in order to take a break from the Iowa winters; in 2013 we purchased a house and began attending UUCOV. Jean is a member of the Congregation; John is still thinking about it. We love the activities – we are active members of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Legacy Friends. Jean is on the gardening team and volunteers with Family I

We are still seasonal visitors to Florida. We spend the other months in Iowa, where we have relatives and friends, and many grandchildren, ages 18 months to 7 years old.

Ralph & Sally Erb - We are new members of UUCOV but have been attending services for years while winter renting a house in Jacaranda West and are enjoying being in Florida for half the year with the other half in Upstate New York. We enjoy boating, fishing, reading and being with family and friends. We have two married children who live in Upstate New York. They, and the spectacular beauty of the Finger Lakes, are the reason we will not likely ever become year-rounders here.

We both enjoy being with people and exchanging ideas, but Ralph has a significant hearing loss and may not respond & likely hasn't heard you. Feel free to tap his shoulder and try again. As anyone with a hearing issue knows it is difficult w noise or there are many conversations surrounding you. However, it is still good to be part of the group, and we have bc members to be very welcoming.

Our spiritual paths have been varied with the common theme of "questioning and searching". We spend time with the U Congregation of Binghamton and are happy to now have a counterbalance in Venice. We look forward to getting to kno someday.

Pathways



Are you interested in hearing more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCOV? Are you intere session group meeting to learn more.

You will also meet and get to know other newcomers, the Minister, and Membership Team. Fu to accommodate participants. To register, email Jan Lemoine and Nancy Wilson at

Interest Groups

Plato's Circle

January 6th, 1:30pm - 3:00pm

A gathering where people of different backgrounds discuss important ideas and issues. Each 90-minute session begins for thoughtful discussion reflecting participants' unique experiences and perspectives. The gathering provides an oppo stimulating conversation in an atmosphere of support and respect. All are welcome! Contact: Bill Dowling - or Linda Unc

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86551017426>

Meeting ID: 865 5101 7426

No password required.

Socrates Café

January 20th, 1:30pm – 3:00pm

A gathering where people of different backgrounds discuss important ideas and issues. Each 90-minute session begins for thoughtful discussion reflecting participants' unique experiences and perspectives. The gathering provides an oppor stimulating conversation in an atmosphere of support and respect. All are welcome!

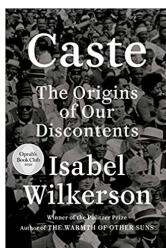
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97047078103?pwd=NnlEMGhVSUVESkxoZUxIMENGeGNKdz09>

Meeting ID: 477 531 7382

Password: socrates

UUCOV Book Club



Thursday, January 14th, 1:00 pm

In January, our selection is **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents**, by Isabel Wilkerson.

"In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in Americ deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history rigid hierarchy of human rankings."

Beautifully written, original, and revealing, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents is an eye-opening story of people and under the surface of ordinary lives and of American life today.

All are welcome. For more information speak to Barbara Smith at 941-786-8559 or . Book Club meetings are scheduled

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85216887362>

Meeting ID: 852 1688 7362

No password required

Mat-making for the Homeless

Saturdays January 2nd and 16th, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Mat-making continues to meet and socialize via ZOOM on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00am – finished mats to the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Finished mats can be left at Waters Hall with her name on th a friendly chat, contact Janet Knudsen at or 781-424-0660 to request the ZOOM link.

(Photo: Completed sleeping mat for the homeless. The mats are crocheted from 'plarn' [plastic yarn] made from recycle

Message from the Director

"Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength." - --Theodore Roosevelt (States

Three months and this Roosevelt quote still resonates with me. The holidays are still looming and I'm not sure how I'll d perhaps I'll be able to sit with my grief and loneliness allowing it to work its magic. Either way I will try to allow it to happ anticipate and suppress it.

When you read this the year will be new and full of hope and promise. I will continue to hold Afternoons to Ascertain (for we will start by focusing on joy and hope.

Also consider contacting the Pastoral Care Team if you want to share. The members are ready and willing to support y
I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and I can NOT wait to see you!!!

Please call, text or email me. I would love to hear from you!

Kathy Avery

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Ph: 941-270-6187

The Spoken Word - Poetry Alive

Friday, January 22, 2021 02:00pm - 04:00pm



A lively discussion of poetry. Read favorites, those meaningful or thought provoking, strange or by Richard Palmer - or (508) 982-7266.

Youth Religious Education



We have started our new year of curriculum. On Sundays at 10:00 am through Zoom, we l curriculum. If you are interested in attending, have a topic you'd like to share or know a kic Avery at or 941-270-6187.

Telling Your Tale: Following the Oral Tradition

Monday, February 01, 2021 02:00pm - 04:00pm

Take part in a Zoom Meeting using the Ancient Art of the Oral Tradition of Storytelling. Each session will have a spark to

and how you got here. Remember everyone's story is interesting and another's story might bring back a memory. Contact (MacFarlane) 631 413-5775.

"Did you ever break something that belonged to someone else?"

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82719658344>

Meeting ID: 827 1965 8344

Passcode: **Stories**

Afternoons to Ascertain

January 28th 2pm – 4pm



Come learn something new and interesting. To begin this year, we will talk about how to create our own joy, new ways to create happiness in yourself.♥

Afternoons to Ascertain meet on the 4th Thursday of the month from 2-4pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93279697315?pwd=SGILaEQyQXRJeW43Z25qL04xK0IRQT09>

Meeting ID: 932 7969 7315

Passcode: learn

shOUT



The UUCOV donation wheelbarrow - 'No-Contact Donations!'

January 26th 11:00am – 1:00pm (only)

Salli will be in front of Waters Hall so that members who so wish, can bring items intended for CHAPS, (Charl your donations in your trunk, remain in your vehicle when you arrive - and 'pop' the trunk open when you arrive Checks will be gladly accepted and should be made out to UUCOV with 'CHAPS' in the memo line. Contact S:

(Photos: The December collection was a huge success! *Many thanks* to Steve Doublestein and John Mohler, who assis



Family Promise

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Greetings to all our UUCOV members!

At our monthly virtual meeting with all the Family Promise Coordinators on December 8th, we were presented with a plan for the Family Promise programs that involve UUCOV.



This plan is being done throughout the country by other Family Promise groups. It is called 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors'. Fagenbaum, our Executive Director, sent us an email with the concept, and we'd like to share it with you.

Included below are the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Kit instructions. As presented, these are "basic" kits for Bridge Clients as well as Open Door clients who are in need. The baskets are items which families need: Cleaning supplies, Kitchen Basics, Kitchen Essentials, Office/School Supplies, and Bathroom Supplies. We are sharing these through our charitable giving as a congregation.

We thought perhaps Spiritual Fellowship groups, Neighborhood Gathering groups and others might want to try this. Please provide information.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d5daac2b9cdd10001e3b69f/t/5fc577143c6ccf69f3189f3e/1606776597918/Neig>

Thank you from the Family Promise Committee,

Philip Veach and Steve Batchelor, *Coordinators*

Community Outreach

Volunteer Opportunities at the Laurel Civic Center

A small group of UUCOV members toured the Laurel Civic Center in early December. LCA has many opportunities for in-person or remote. If you want to learn more, please contact Janet Knudsen at 781-424-0660.

UUA General Assembly June 23 - 27, 2021



General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and purpose to connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Any member can attend annually to have voting delegates.

Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations, giving up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in person. We will give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in person and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

Registration is now open! Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person. Financial support for registration as we meet in person. Assembly registrants receive access to the 2021 Online Participation Portal, including live, simulive, and on-demand video features, support, and a (new!) GA mobile app. <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a **100% virtual event**. L 23-27, 2021!

Letters to the Editor

Comments, questions, concerns, musings - all welcome. **325 word maximum**. Send yours to .

Publication Deadlines

Connection: Articles and announcements for the *Connection* are due on the 20th of each month for the next month's edition. Please email your submissions to .

UUCOV Happenings: Events submissions are due at Thursday 9:00am for inclusion in *UUCOV Happenings*. Please email your submissions to .

UUCOV Mission and Covenant

A welcoming, caring congregation encouraging spiritual growth, seeking

UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association,

meaning and pursuing justice.

In a climate of joy, goodwill and trust this congregation covenants

- to treat one another with kindness and respect,
- to listen with openness and acceptance,
- to support and protect the environment of which we are all a part,
- to solve problems responsibly as we grow and change,
- to encourage learning and nurture the growth of diverse human spirits, and
- to dedicate time, talent and resources in an effort to make a difference in local and world communities.

In the spirit of our free religious heritage, we promise these to one another.

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.

UU Sources

The Living Tradition we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

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