

*A Community of Open Hearts, Inquiring Minds,  
and Helping Hands*

# TJ Tapestry

January 2021

Edition 664

**The Monthly Newsletter of Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church**

## *Sunday Services*

In January our Sunday services take up the theme of imagination, a hopeful, outward-opening theme fitting for the start of a new year that comes on the heels of an extraordinarily awful year. Imagination is not merely the province of young children or creative people, but a key part of our makeup that allows us to solve problems, make New Year's resolutions, select a new church name and new minister—and foster spiritual growth. The services particularly focus on the latter capacity of our imagination, how it contributes to a rich spiritual life, how its absence drives us towards fundamentalism.

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### **January 3: “How Long?” - Rev. Kathy Hurt**

– To endure difficulty and hold fast to hope, we require the imagination to see the possibility of a better future. Even then, simply getting to the future can seem impossible. This service considers how imagination propels us forward, and where we may need to draw on it if the new year is to be better than the last year.

### **January 10: “Alternative Facts” - Rev. Kathy Hurt**

– Imagination is often contrasted with reality, as though things imaginative lack substances and are mostly useful as entertaining distractions. But the imagination has a firm grasp on reality, but perhaps a reality that is not all our senses tell us is there. This service reflects on the “real” stuff imagination puts before us.

### **January 17: - Guest—Spending Time with Dr. King - Adam Slate**

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King is one of only two people with a U.S. national holiday named for him. He is respected around the world, yet his message is not always fully understood by his admirers. This Sunday we will spend some time with Dr. King, looking at how his strategy of nonviolent resistance was anchored by his theology, and what that theology means for Unitarian Universalists who strive to continue the freedom movement that he led during his ministry.

### **January 24: “The Music of the Spheres” - Rev. Kathy Hurt**

– Religious imagery has enormous power to shape and motivate us, and carries the deeper truths of the spirit. Our secular age often dismisses the images of spiritual traditions as being untrue. Nothing could be farther from the truth. This service explores the ways images deal in truth and what imagistic truth means in our particular UU tradition, which has often held a marked bias against imagery.

### **January 31: Sharing Prophets in Interfaith Dialogues—John O. Voll**

Christianity and Islam share belief in the religious significance of people like Adam, Abraham, and Mary. How does this fit into the understanding that these are two different “world religions”? Although the faiths may recognize the same people, their religious significance may be explained differently in the two traditions, which we will explore in this service. Muslim understandings of these major figures' place in faith can provide important perspectives on issues like gender equality, human nature and original sin, and the political teachings of monotheisms. Recognition of the shared symbols and the diversity of interpretation can provide an important foundation for constructive interfaith dialogue.

## Interim Reflections



By the time you receive this newsletter, the new year will be underway, a year all are longing for, ardently hoping that it will bring better times than we endured in the year now past. And New Year's resolutions will already be in place—and maybe already broken, especially if the resolutions were too arduous.

New Year's resolutions are rooted in a kind of vision of how things could be better, and include specific actions to reach that better state. Whether I intend to reshape my physical self, heal my emotional self, or grow my spiritual self, my resolutions all look into the future, see who I could yet be, and then lay out a plan to get me there.

All well and good, yet these resolutions, made with all the best intentions, are notoriously short-lived for most, so that they are often entirely abandoned before January is at an end. Perhaps I was never all that serious about my plans to be better; perhaps I lack good self-discipline and thus am unable to keep a resolve for change; perhaps the gray cold of January and the post-holiday letdown sap my energy and make the resolutions seem burdensome.

Those resolutions might stay with us a bit longer if we were more forgiving of our failures. Again and again in my years of ministry, I have heard congregants—people who tend to be focused and accomplished and determined and skillful—confess that they lack discipline. Discipline seems to be connected to a kind of absolute mindset, that one either always keeps the resolution or, when the inevitable lapse comes, then abandons the resolution as hopeless.

But discipline may be more about being willing to try again than by a relentless and unflinching effort. A friend of mine once commented that she believed that what one does is not nearly as important as what one does—next. Following that line of thought, perhaps the most important part of a resolution is not whether one keeps it without ever failing, but whether one has the discipline to go back to it after failing.

May your resolutions bring you much joy in this new year. And even though you have already broken them, give them, give yourself, another chance.

In faith, hope, and love,

Kathy

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## Guest Speakers in January

**Adam Slate** (who returns to our pulpit, having spoken a year ago as part of our consideration of a name change) is a first-generation Unitarian Universalist in Charlottesville, VA. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Phillips Theological Seminary. Adam is committed to growing Unitarian Universalism within and among congregations and to racial justice work, looking forward to a day when we are all liberated. He is married to Kim Grover and they have four teenage and adult children between them.

**John O. Voll** is Professor Emeritus of Islamic History and past Associate Director of the Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. He taught Islamic and world history at the University of New Hampshire and then at Georgetown. He is a past president of the Middle East Studies Association, and his most recent book, which he co-authored, is *Islam and Democracy after the Arab Spring*.

# Board Notes - January 2021

Welcome to January's edition of Board Notes. We appreciate you staying up to date on the happenings of your Board.



**We did it! We have a new name!!**

## **All Peoples**

- Thank you all for your participation in the meeting, and for staying engaged over the full 13 months – from the time the Board of Trustees made its recommendation in November 2019 until the vote on the final name on December 20, 2020. We are forming a new task group to implement the change, including to proceed with new signage, get our Articles of Incorporation changed, and change a host of other documents and bank accounts.
- On a personal note, I (Deborah Novgorodoff) want to share that while All Peoples was not my own choice for our name, I now see it as perhaps our very best choice. We are getting very positive feedback from the community. Additionally, I am beginning to think that – while I loved the poetry and imagery of InSpirit and Bridges, perhaps InSpirit is too esoteric and Bridges is used too often in too many contexts. All Peoples communicates instantly and powerfully. And it is ours among UU churches – while there are Peoples Churches, there are not any other All Peoples UUs.
- Continuing the necessary work of our interim period – our next congregational meeting is January 10 at 1 pm to vote on the recommended changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws team has been working on this for a year, and this is the culmination of that effort. Note that the Board has voted to support the change from using Robert's Rules as our rules of governance, to Rosenberg's Rules. These rules are simplified, expressed in only 5 pages compared to the hundreds of pages for Robert's Rules! There are many excellent changes to our Bylaws, and we hope to see you at this very important meeting.
- The Board has approved a Justice Center initiative to partner with Feed Louisville – an organization in Louisville that helps the “houseless” to survive and ultimately get back on their feet. We have authorized Feed Louisville to park one van on our property that will serve as housing for a “houseless” person. There are strict rules for the person living in the van regarding litter and other matters, and sanitation needs are provided for. Rev. Dawn Cooley will serve as the contact person for this initiative. More detailed information will be shared with the All Peoples' congregation as soon as possible.
- The staff received holiday appreciation gifts this year. There was some money included in the budget for this, which was supplemented by Board members. We are happy to have been able to provide these gifts to our staff.
- We continue to work with Hagan Properties to protect our property as they plan for an apartment complex on the land bordering ours. Jon Henney is helping enormously with this effort, and we are working with recommendations from our Grounds Committee.

Looking forward – we have targeted February as the month when we will, as a congregation, take a look at our Covenant -- more important work to do in our precious remaining interim time with Rev. Kathy.

The Board meets on January 17 by Zoom at 1 pm. Members are welcome. Call or email Deborah N. for the Zoom link at [president@tjuc.org](mailto:president@tjuc.org).

Stay well, virtual hugs, (Deborah Novgorodoff, BOT President, for...) Your Board of Trustees

# Have A Heart Tree

*Thank You for a Caring Response!*



The Social Justice Committee offers many thanks to our congregants who participated in our Have-A-Heart program! A special thanks goes to Sandi Bryant for helping with the success of this year's project.

We will always remember this year of our *virtual* Have a Heart Tree! Gifts were provided to a **family of four** referred to us from the KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services. We also collected funds for the **Hope Buss** which, uses a school bus as a mobile "community center", providing neighborhoods with the types of services of which they are in need.

Thank you All Peoples members and friends for having a BIG heart!



**Guest at Your Table**  
UUSC's longest-established fundraising and educational program for congregations.

Thank you to all who supported GAYT this year. One of our contributions is eligible for a matching donation from UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY. And it's not too late to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work to advance human rights around the world. We're making it really easy for you to donate what you can to this important work. TJUC has its own donation page at this link: <https://donate.uusc.org/TJUC-GAYT>



## In Preparation for Black History Month in February: African American Heritage Flags and Yard Signs!

The Louisville Association of the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Branch is asking the public to fly the red, black and green African American Heritage flag during the month of February 2021.

You can purchase flags (\$15) or yard signs (\$20) by emailing

[sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com). Then you can display them throughout February!

Purchases benefit the Louisville Dr. Carter G. Woodson ASALH branch and its partners.

Mark your calendar for our **Annual Hootenanny**  
coming to you virtually on  
**Friday, January 29th.**



Feed Louisville is collecting supplies for houseless folks in the Louisville Metro. You can drop off gently used coats, blankets, tents and sleeping bags Monday through Friday, 10am-3pm at the coat closet just inside the front door.

## Cabin Fever Service Auction

Your Service Auction Committee has been working hard to create a fun and profitable service auction. Traditionally this event has been the church's biggest fundraiser of the year, and we want to make this one big, too. Please plan to donate to the auction beginning January 2 and bid on the items the first week in February. Need some new ideas for donations? How about designing a Derby hat, holding a Zoom scavenger hunt, purchasing gift cards, preparing your signature dessert, or delivering a yummy meal? We know you are a creative group and will come up with appropriate ideas during this difficult time.

***The next Tapestry Deadline  
is January 22nd***



***Please "like" our page:***

Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church/Louisville, KY

***It's important to "Share" TJ's Facebook Events and Timeline posts. Every time you "share" with your friends, they pass it on to others who learn about our great programs and special events! Please help us spread the word and "Share" it! See how many found us:***

## *Music in our church during a pandemic*

Dear Congregants,

My heart has been lifted every week to see you in our Zoom church gatherings whether on Sunday or Christmas Eve, singing along. I ache to *hear* you again but with hope in the distance, I am willing to be patient. Also, your comments have been very much appreciated in the chat area.

I have been keeping a running history of all of the music that we have been performing and with our guest artists since the start of my time as choir director in July. Fighting off the winter and pandemic blues, I decided to update our 2020-2021 music list.

Since July 19<sup>th</sup> we have performed:

38 Preludes and Postludes

33 Hymns

35 Special Music pieces

2 recorded pieces have been used

106 pieces of live music performed since July 19t

For these twenty-five weeks , that's approximately four pieces of live music a week...in the middle of a pandemic!

Excluding Aaron and myself, we have had fifteen guest musicians, plus a few more as I missed all of the members of a jazz band.

We have celebrated composers of color with their hymns, spirituals, and art songs. We have been audience members to performers of color (classical, musical theater, jazz). We have sung the music and words of women composers. We have highlighted hymns from our own hymnals, from the Mormon hymnal and from the Baptist hymnal. We have performed Special Music songs that have ranged the gamut from classical, to musical theater, to popular, to folk, to bluegrass. We have had award winning and chart topping banjo artists, an opera singer who has sung in the United States major opera houses, local musical celebrities, up and coming musical theater singers, and an equity house musical theater singer grace our Zoom services. And, OF COURSE, we have been able to feature our Treble Choir in three pieces, and we did it in a healthy manner....masked, distanced and outside....which they should be applauded extra as that means extra boundaries were put in their way that impeded their sound and hearing.

We have been creative, we have been resilient, we have been determined, and we are acting as healers for our individual and group souls.

I sat and composed this list, originally sitting down and feeling the winter blues, and I can't tell you how much my spirit was lifted upon its completion. We are doing important work, and as far as I am concerned, we are all- because it has been a wonderful team effort, starting with Kathy and moving through every other musician and to you participating at home- accomplishing it well. We absolutely have more work to do, but we have started well.

My sincerest gratitude for everyone's support, for your kindness and for embracing a change with Aaron and me.

Katie







## “Building Better Angels”

### A spiritual practices group to begin in January 2021

Offered by the Adult Religious Exploration Committee

Nancy Thomas, Facilitator

The ARE Committee is excited to announce the formation of a spiritual practices group that will meet the first Monday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The first meeting will be held on January 4, 2021. You are encouraged to join members and friends of our congregation for this **free, on-going** enrichment activity. All are welcome to attend and participate—any denomination or none at all, experience in the spiritual or not—you are invited to strengthen your spiritual core and build a community of better angels. Group sessions will be offered remotely by computer using Zoom meeting software until the time that it is safe to meet in person. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please email Nancy Thomas at [oed797@gmail.com](mailto:oed797@gmail.com) or phone her at 423-329-1357.

## Winter 2021 Open Campus

Offered by the ARE (Adult Religious Exploration) Committee

*You are invited to learn, connect, and explore! The Louisville community is encouraged to join our congregation for various **free** classes being held during the period January 25 through March 30. Check out the classes and their dates below. All classes will be offered remotely by computer using Zoom meeting software. Be sure to sign up on-line at the church website or send an email to Alan Godsave at [agodsave1@gmail.com](mailto:agodsave1@gmail.com). But before classes even start, we will have a terrific virtual kickoff program.*

### **Virtual Kickoff Program: January 20. Everyone is invited.**

**7:00-8:00 pm** - Mel Lasseter will be our keynote speaker. Mel lives in Colorado, she and her family are former TJUC members who have reconnected with us, and she has developed a remarkable class focused on race and Southern history and culture, especially music. She will tell us about her class. We are excited to reconnect with her in such a unique and special way. [Mel has an MA in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi and was ABD in the American Studies Ph.D. program at UNC-Chapel Hill when she left in 2018. She is currently in the Masters in Library and Information Science program at the University of Denver.] The program will also include brief introductions by the facilitators of the other classes which will be offered during Open Campus. Please join us!

### **Open Campus Schedule: January 25 – March 30**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday Classes (sign-up is requested to help with planning and facilitator-participant communication)

**Race and Resilience: A Brief Trip Through African American and Southern Cultural History.** Mel Lasseter, Facilitator. Monday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm. Jan 25, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, Mar 1

- **Widening the Circle of Concern.** Rev. Dawn Cooley, Facilitator. Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm. Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16
- **Philosophy – otherwise known as thinking deep thoughts!** Nancy Thomas, Facilitator. Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm. Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- **Building Your Own Theology, In a New Way.** Rev. Kathy Hurt, Facilitator. Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm. Jan 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 3

- **Quilt Design.** Pat Sturtzel and Lori Sargent. Wednesday afternoons, 2:00-3:30 pm. Feb 17, 24, Mar 3, 10, 17
- **Writing an Autobiography.** Jill Baker, Facilitator. Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm. Jan 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25

**Detailed descriptions of Open Campus classes follow:**



## Widening the Circle of Concern

**Facilitator: Rev. Dawn Cooley**

**Four Sessions – Tuesday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16**

### **Class Description.**

The 2020 *Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change* analyzes structural and systemic racism and white supremacy culture within Unitarian Universalism and makes recommendations to advance long-term change. We will discuss this book and its issues and recommendations, with the end goal of equipping a task team in the congregation to work through the Study/Action guide (11 sessions) with their larger congregation.

Notes: Participants can access the text of the report for free on [uua.org](http://uua.org) or purchase it in book format from the UUA bookstore. If participants from multiple congregations are attending, it is recommended they attend as a group of at least 3 people so that we can do congregation-specific breakout sessions as appropriate.



## Philosophy – otherwise known as thinking deep thoughts!

**Facilitator: Nancy Thomas**

**Six Sessions – Tuesday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16**

**Class Description.** You know how they put the bubble over someone's head in a cartoon strip to indicate what the character is thinking? Well, a question for all of us is: is our bubble full or empty? If full, is the content worth thinking or just the equivalent of junk mail? Bertrand Russell said most people would rather die than think [deep, meaningful thoughts], and they do!—Die that is, at least in a figurative sense.

When Nancy Thomas (the class facilitator) was in graduate school, she, feeling overwhelmed by anxiety, went to see a therapist. He told her to write out her thoughts for a week and bring them back for the next session. She did, with the comment that they were "junk mail." He laughed and handed her a copy of *Rational Emotive Therapy* by Albert Ellis. It transformed her life—it took her a year of practicing, but she gradually learned to empty her mind of junk mail (much of the time) and focus on thinking meaningful, productive thoughts.

And that is what philosophy is: thinking meaningful, productive thoughts. And the good news is anyone can learn to do this—a PhD is not needed. In this class, participants will review the major thinkers of the world (you will need to purchase the *Visual Reference Guide: Philosophy* by Stephen Law). Short supplemental readings will be furnished via email attachments or you can download them on your own. Participants will have some fun conversations and some deep ones—perhaps even get heated at times, but it won't be too difficult or boring! Here's to filling our bubbles!





## Building Your Own Theology, In a New Way

**Facilitator: Rev. Kathy Hurt**

**Six Sessions – Wednesday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Jan 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 3**

### **Class Description:**

This class starts with the traditional UU curriculum for building a theology and then makes use of new ideas and methods for how we take our experiences and translate them into a theology, a framework for meaning and living well. Topics will include ideas of God, theories of human nature, how radical personal change happens, and how we make ethical choices. Our work will be a combination of individual reflection and group collaboration and discussion.



### **Quilt Design**

**Facilitators: Pat Sturtzel and Lori Sargent**

**Five Sessions – Wednesday afternoons – 2:00-3:30 pm  
Feb 17, 24, Mar 3, 10, 17**

### **Class Description:**

Are you interested in learning how to piece a quilt more complex than a log cabin design? The class facilitators will prepare fabrics and distribute a packet to each class participant. Using Zoom, Pat will teach the basics of machine piecing using the distributed materials. Each week, additional steps will be taught. The design we learn will depend on the pattern and colors selected by someone at the Service Auction which ends on February 7th. Quilt squares made by class participants, using the packets, will be returned to Pat and Lori for assembly into the purchased quilt and finishing. However, participants in this class are strongly encouraged to take knowledge developed during this class and begin making their own quilted project before the end of the class.

Note: The class is limited to 8 participants. Participants must have a sewing machine and basic machine sewing skills.



## Race and Resilience: A Brief Trip Through African American and Southern Cultural History

Facilitator: Mel Lasseter

Six Sessions – Monday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Jan 25, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, Mar 1

**Class Description:** Covers the period of European colonization of the Americas through the present, focusing primarily on the U.S. South and African American history. There will be brief detours into the

histories of other parts of the Americas, as well as indigenous history, since history reflects that interdependent web of existence we keep talking about. Approximately half of each session will consist of a presentation about history, while the other half will contain exploration of cultural landmarks (mostly, but not entirely, music). Conversation will remain informal; questions and sharing of experience, especially as we get into more contemporary times, are encouraged.

**Week 1 (Jan 25): “New World” I.** Immigration to the U.S. – European imperialism and colonialism – Enslavement and transportation – Indigenous genocide and removal. **Culture:** West African art and performance, Indigenous cities and land practices (Mound Builders)

**Week 2 (Feb 1): Plantation I.** Timelines of geographic expansion across the South – conditions under slavery – statistics and the import of statistics. **Culture:** Religion, the Dockery Plantation, Charley Patton, Melville Herskovitz vs. E. Franklin Frazier

**Week 3 (Feb 8): Migration I.** What happened after the Civil War – Reconstruction and “Redemption” – Jim Crow laws and how they were implemented. **Culture:** History of recorded music, the Fisk Jubilee Singers, HBCUs, Washington vs. Du Bois

**Week 4 (Feb 15): “New World” II.** The impact of WWII and the GI Bill – Redlining – the Great Migration and its impacts – the hardening of Jim Crow. **Culture:** “Race music,” the roots of country music, New Orleans, Motown, “Rocket 88”

**Week 5 (Feb 22): Plantation II.** Plantation structures replicate like DNA – convict labor – sharecropping and tenant farming – absentee landlordism. **Culture:** Hip hop and rap, disco, the Black Panthers, how and why university life and educations changed in the 60s and 70s

**Week 6 (Mar 1): Migration II.** Social memory – contested memory – Global migration of ideas and aesthetics. **Culture:** Pan-Africanism, indigenous hip hop, drag and queer culture, Afrofuturism



## Sunday Morning Family Circle

What is Family Circle? However you may define family, this gathering is meant to serve as a special worship service for families. Children and youth are enthusiastically welcomed!

The circle includes service elements you may be familiar with in family friendly ways: chalice lighting, music, and a story.

Please try to sign on between 9:55 and 10:00 a.m. so you don't miss a minute of our special time together.

If your family would like an active role in a Family Circle, such as leading the chalice lighting, please let DLFE Barb know via email to [barb@tjuc.org](mailto:barb@tjuc.org)

Family Circle meeting link (we'll always use the same link): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82279796690>

## Writing an Autobiography

Facilitator: Jill Baker

Five Sessions – Thursday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm

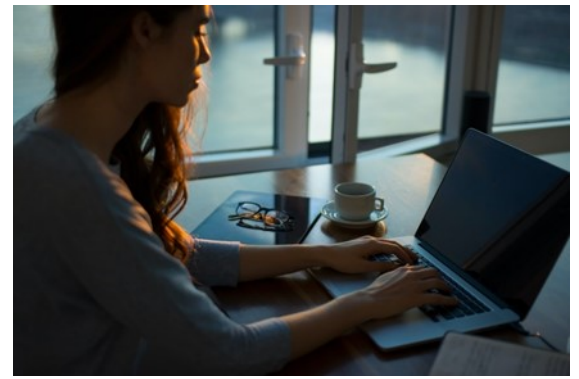
Jan 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25

### Class Description:

1. Journaling
2. Leaving Memories for Descendants, Friends and Relatives
3. The Dos and Don'ts of Storytelling
4. Writing Your Own Autobiography and/or Faith Beliefs

Copies of reading assignments will be provided. This is a group participation class, with possible discussions of what is written at each author's discretion.

Note: The class is limited to 10 participants.



## Chalice Connect Online

### A Home for UU Youth, Children, and Families

Normal life here at All Peoples (TJ) has been turned upside down. If you were to drop by on a Sunday morning, instead of seeing our beloved church full of members, visitors, and families, you would see a skeleton crew of people working behind the scenes to bring our beloved community to you in your home.

Over the past year we have evolved as a church. We have had to change from in person services in our beautiful sanctuary to an online format. Now we are evolving further by creating Chalice Connect Online, a new virtual home for our UU youth, children, and families.

Chalice Connect Online has been created to support UU children, youth, and families who are missing the community and learning experiences from our Sunday morning Family Ministry Groups (what we used to call Religious Exploration). Each Family Ministry Group on Chalice Connect Online will have its own password protected page with age-appropriate resources, topics, and (depending on age group and parent permission) an ability to create a blog where youth can bring up issues that they think are important and be supported by their church community.

Those in parenting roles have their own special Family Ministry Online Group on Chalice Connect Online with the option to create their own Family Blog to promote connection between our UU Families while we are unable to be together physically here at All Peoples (TJ).

The site is ready for you to visit and look around: <https://chaliceconnect.edublogs.org/>

Kudos to Family Ministry Assistant, Jordan Friedland for her devoted work with DLFE Barb Friedland on this project. This site will serve families as part of a hybrid program to keep everyone connected even after the pandemic is behind us.

# New Year, New Name, How About a New Principle and Source of Inspiration?

“White apathy lacks aggression, but it is deadly in its passivity”

Layla Saad Me and White Supremacy

The UU 8<sup>th</sup> Principle

***“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”***

UU congregations affirm and promote seven Principles which we hold as our values and moral guides. Currently, there is a grassroots push within Unitarian Universalism to adopt an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle geared towards addressing racism and explicitly building the beloved community. Over the last few years, a growing number of congregations have adopted the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, including the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lexington, KY (UUCL)!

The act of our congregation renaming our church served as *a reflection of our values*. As we continue on this path, we plan to introduce the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle to

All Peoples through varied written materials, viewings and conversations. Eventually, we will decide whether our congregation will adopt it as our 8th Principle.

## The Origin Story Behind the 8th Principle

- Paula Cole Jones, Director of Racial & Social Justice in the UUA, developed the idea of the existence of 2 different paradigms in UU circles: the UU 7 Principles and Beloved Community. After working with congregations on these issues for over 15 years, she realized a person can believe they are being a “good UU” and following the 7 Principles without dealing with racism at the systemic level.

For example, most UU congregations are primarily European-American in membership, culture, and leadership even when located near diverse communities. Jones realized an 8th Principle was needed to correct this. In 2013, she worked with Bruce Pollack-Johnson and a group of anti-racist activists to create the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. Pollack-Johnson’s congregation in Philadelphia adopted it in 2017, and recommended that the UUA adopt it as well.

- UUs have done very good work in fighting racism during the Civil Rights Movement and in the 1990’s but the funding and support started to wane in the 2000’s. UU’s have a mixed record historically in other areas of racial justice: e.g., we had people on both sides of Abolitionism.
- For people identified as white, it is too easy to ignore racism which is exactly what keeps the system of racism in our society alive and worsening today. We need to de-center whiteness in UUism.

The 8th Principle came from a feeling we need something to renew our commitment to this work. We needed a covenant to hold ourselves accountable. Moreover, we needed a way to fulfill the potential of our existing principles.

To learn more, please go to: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org>.

Please see the announcement elsewhere in this Tapestry of **KUUJAN’s JAN 6<sup>th</sup>**

For those of us at All Peoples wondering about our next step to engage in racial justice, KUUJAN (Kentucky UU Justice Action Network) is presenting an exciting opportunity. Following up on the success of our previous All Network Gatherings, on **January 6, at 7pm ET (6pm CT)**, our January All Network Gathering will feature one of the author/originators of the [8th principle](#): former UUA staff, and Management Consultant/ Diversity Strategist Paula Cole Jones. Plus, the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lexington, KY (UUCL), which passed the [8th principle](#) in their congregation before the pandemic, will talk about their process and the impact it has made on their congregation. [RSVP to get connection information here.](#)



This brief recorded interview carries a convincing message for our congregation as we enter 2021: Make the most of what you have been given in life.

For the many years I have known Ann Dorzback, she has inspired me to live life to the fullest. -Ellen Sisti Wade

NPR: "[Life in the Time of Coronavirus](#)" [IT'S BEEN A MINUTE WITH SAM SANDERS](#)

Sam Sanders interviewed a number of individuals regarding how their lives have been impacted by the Coronavirus of 2019 (COVID19). (The interview was edited to include only Ann Dorzback's interview).

"What has this pandemic been like for you?"

When we put that question to people, the answers we got depended a lot on where they were in life — if they were in school, if they had a job, if they had lost a loved one, if they were vulnerable to the virus. So, in this special episode of *It's Been a Minute*, we'll hear from people of all ages, from all over the country — and world — about how their lives, from young to old, have changed forever.

*This episode was produced by Jinae West with help from Star McCown. It was edited*

**Interview with Ann Dorzback, age 99, TJ member**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rtCPTjZMkRIq6tzbiaEeg35QQuuzHG05/view?usp=sharing>

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## What Does It Mean To Be A People of IMAGINATION?

*You are invited to make time to consider this list of questions and then pick the one that speaks to you most. The goal is to figure out which question is "yours." Which question captures the call of your inner voice? Which one contains "your work"? What is that question trying to get you to notice or acknowledge?*

1. Have you ever been "saved" by your imagination
2. Has imagination ever led you astray?
3. Have you become more or less imaginative with age?
4. Is your imagination kind or cruel to you?
5. What is the opposite of imagination?
6. We all live with a voice that says "One day I will..." What "possible life" has been with you the longest?
7. What do you want to thank your childhood imaginary friend for?
8. What "made up" cultural story do you think our society most suffers from?
9. Do you use your imagination to enhance reality or to flee from it?
10. Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Do you agree?
11. Is there more to see in your "enemy" than what you've been imagining?

**What's your question?** Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it.



# FAREWELL, "THOMAS JEFFERSON"

When I first heard the proposal to change our church's name, my knee-jerk response was to dig in my heels and defend everything I loved about our old name. It seemed appropriate that Thomas Jefferson held Unitarian views, was an important figure in American history, and inspired the name of our location in Jefferson County. Most of all, I associated many years of fond experiences and many lifelong friendships with the TJ identity.

In childhood, I revered Jefferson. A family trip to his Monticello estate inspired me. I wanted to emulate this man who designed beautiful buildings, invented clever devices, played musical instruments, studied natural history, experimented with new crops, organized expeditions, founded a University and established the Library of Congress. In third grade, I dressed up in a wig fashioned from scotch tape and cotton balls to portray my hero in our very patriotic school play. My tiny voice swelled dramatically as my character declared it "necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them to another."

As an adult who joined a faith community decidedly outside of Kentucky's cultural mainstream, I leaned on the Jefferson identity as affirmation of "normal" American values. How evil could these Unitarians be, my fundamentalist relatives thought, if their church is named after one of our Founding Fathers? Even after acquiring a more mature understanding of Jefferson's flaws, and in spite of unfolding evidence of his behavior as a slaveholder, the easy (and privileged) response was to make excuses. "Jefferson was a product of his time, and shouldn't be held to a 21st Century standard," I tried to convince myself.

But this church never let me off the hook. In messages from the pulpit, in the diverse vantage points of guest speakers, in readings of unvarnished history, and in countless conversations with church members, the hard truth was unavoidable. Our namesake's amazing accomplishments were only possible because he stood on the backs of human beings who were abused in their own time, and then were expunged by history. Jefferson may have been blinded, and was certainly shielded by his position as a prosperous white male in eighteenth century Virginia. We have no such excuse. In time, I came to understand the pain I was inflicting on others by clinging to a tarnished icon of an inhumane era.

Even after the congregation agreed to change its name, the long, methodical selection of a new identity demanded that we all bring our best selves to the table. I doubt that Thomas Jefferson's own stress while sweating out drafts of our nation's founding documents could have been much worse than a zoom session with a hundred opinionated Unitarians seeking consensus within the arcane strictures of Robert's Rules. It was difficult, but worthwhile, to practice letting go of my favorite ideas--trusting that our collective decisions were ultimately wiser than any choices I would have made on my own.

I admit our final selection, "All Peoples," did seem a bit awkward to me at first. Why not "All People," or the possessive form, "All People's" with an apostrophe? Then my biology training kicked in, and the lightbulb clicked on. "Peoples" means a lot more than "People," because it includes the entire spectrum of human diversity that our church has been striving to serve. In biology, the word "fish" can be plural, but does not imply variety. If I say I went to Kentucky Lake and caught ten fish, they may have all been one kind, like ten bluegill sunfish. However, if I say "fishes," I'm talking about many species of fish. A book on the fishes of Kentucky would include all the finny forms that swim in our waters.

For the same reason, "All Peoples" denotes every racial, ethnic, religious, gender, age or other category of humankind imaginable. When Thomas Jefferson referred to the "people" in the line I memorized from his Declaration, he meant only one kind of person: white, male, Christian, property owners of American allegiance and West European ancestry. By adopting "All Peoples," we can transcend Jefferson's world view and signify our commitment to universal fellowship and genuine inclusion. Changing our name does better communicate that intention, but perhaps even more important are the lessons we've learned along the way about letting go of the old, fostering empathy, trusting each other, and embracing a better version of ourselves.



TJUC has been a Welcoming Congregation since 2000, when we began the work to ensure LGBTQ people were full members of our faith community. We feel that now is the time for us to embark on a journey that the UUA calls **Welcoming Congregation Renewal**, where we recommit our efforts toward the work of living into the Welcome that we boldly proclaim.

*Welcoming Congregation*

***THIS TAKES SUPPORT FROM OUR TJ CONGREGATION.*** We have more work to do to comply with the UUA's annual welcoming congregation renewal process:

- Incorporating a second welcoming worship service, or a naming ceremony or a welcoming wedding celebration.
- Sharing with our TJ community the LGBTQ days of observance thru stories for All Ages, music, special readings, chalice lightings, varied art forms.
- Educate our congregation in multiple opportunities including book discussions.
- Assess our congregation's LGBTQ "competency" and set goals for the year based on the assessment.

If any TJ members are interested in creating one or more learning opportunities to complete our annual renewal, we would love to speak to you more about it!

**Special Invitation to Our Chalice Circle Groups: Will your group consider viewing and discussing at one of your upcoming Chalice Circle meeting one of our videos, so that TJ may add your names to our required number of members who has this completed Renewal learning experience?**

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## **Congratulations to The Gathering Club- Future Home for the First LGBTQ Adult Day Health Care Program in Kentucky located in our church facility!**

Congratulations! The Gathering Club Adult Day Health Center has completed the requisite amount of LGBTQ aging training to be listed as 2021 SAGECare Platinum credentialed provider!

Due to a lifetime of discrimination, LGBTQ older adults are more likely to hide who they are because they are afraid of mistreatment and isolation. It shouldn't be this way. SAGECARE training tells real stories about real people to make LGBTQ older adults familiar and human.

We are proud to share that the management team for The Gathering Club East location, Ed Minnis and LaQuinn Stoner, were introduced to this training certification opportunity by attending our Open Campus Classes on The UUA Welcoming Renewal process for our LGBTQ community.

The national SAGECare credential is a badge of honor that gives prospective consumers instant confidence that your management and staff team has been trained in working with LGBTQ people!

By partnering with SAGECare, the oldest and largest LGBTQ aging care provider in the country, it will help staff of The Gathering Club understand the unique needs and concerns of LGBTQ older adults and guide them in providing the best possible person-directed care. (Due to the pandemic, the program is delayed in opening)



## *Thank you to our Volunteers for a very Unusual WinterFair this year!*

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, there was no IN-PERSON WinterFair this year. While we were saddened to cancel this annual tradition and miss our personal connection with our artists, we felt it was in the best interest of everyone involved under the current healthcare

restrictions. We understood that this was a difficult time for our artists, and we wanted to provide the opportunity to showcase our artisans *VIRTUALLY*.

Using Zoom, our volunteers met to brainstorm how it could be done. Other virtual art fairs were researched and bits and pieces of each were adopted to offer a virtual online weeklong sale ending in a Live Facebook Event on the last day showcasing artists videos and live interviews. Would it work? We really operated on "If we build it, they will come"!

Twenty hearty juried artists registered for this event and multi media publicity was utilized to get customers to their door. Brody Brennick, our AV tech, created a wonderful visual display during the Live Facebook event and hosted interviews and videos for our artists to promote themselves even more. Jennifer Reid created all the artists' displays on Facebook. Diana and Wanda juried the artists. Lori helped brainstorm solutions. Ellen communicated with all the artists during the process.

While we are still evaluating the financial success for the artists, we know that we reached hundreds of holiday shoppers who tuned in to our Facebook sales. We even added the artists displays on TJ's website for all our Non-Facebook users.

While we hope that 2021 will permit our community to resume our traditional in-person WinterFair in December, we may still offer an online component as well. Some of our artists remarked that they appreciated the push to create online sales, as they could profit even more in the future. All the artists expressed their appreciation for our effort.

Again, we want to thank our volunteers who created WinterFair's first Virtual Art Show!

-Brody Brennick, Jennifer Reid, Ellen Sisti Wade, Diana Fulner, Wanda Ferrell, Debbie Horvay and Lori Sargent.

**Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church**  
4936 Brownsboro Road Hwy. 22  
Louisville, KY 40222

**Return Service Requested**

**January 2021**  
**Edition 664**

Oh, the comfort—the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person—having neither to weigh thoughts nor mea-sure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

Dinah Maria Mulock Craik

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**Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church**  
4936 Brownsboro Rd (Hwy 22)

**9:30 am - Adult Religious Education**  
**11:00 am - Sunday Service**  
**11:00 am - Family Ministry Groups**

**425-6943   debbie@tjuc.org   www.tjuc.org**

**Rev. Kathy Hurt, *Interim Minister*** - call for an appointment - 425-6943

**Barb Friedland, *Director Lifespan Faith Engagement***  
Office hours 10:00 AM– 4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday. Email to [Barb@tjuc.org](mailto:Barb@tjuc.org)

Messages may be left for her outside of these hours at (502) 425-6943

**Janet Taylor, *Congregational Life Coordinator***,  
(502) 425-6943

**Debbie Horvay *Administrator/Newsletter Editor***  
Monday - Friday 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Ellen Wade, *Rental Coordinator***  
Weddings and Rentals 502-905-4408

**Office hours: Monday thru Friday**  
**10:30 am to 3:30 pm**  
**(502) 425-6943**