

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

TJ Tapestry

November 2020

Edition 662

The Monthly Newsletter of Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church

Sunday Services

November 1st—"Unsilencing history" - Guest Jermaine Fowler

Public Educator and Historical Storyteller, Jermaine Fowler will explore how our history is full of scars, pain, atrocity, misfortune, bruises, and hurt. Therefore, the tragic history is the slaves of Thomas Jefferson. It is the harrowing story of Pocahontas. It is the vicious legacy of white supremacy. It is the atrocity of war and the like, but it is not pathetic. To have a tragic sense of history is also to explore human possibilities for freedom, love, and solidarity. To see how people stood against those forces that would serve to oppress and marginalize....

November 8th — "Now What?" - Rev. Kathy Hurt

As we move into the post-election world, this service considers what lies before us and where our presence may be most needed, as well as where we can find the hope we need to go forward.

November 15th— "Redlining and the looting of Black wealth in America" - Guest John Borders, Esq. and "Why Do I Cry?" a poem written and performed by Synthia Shelby

Most people assume that the government has remained race-neutral in the corporate affairs of its citizens, and that any discrimination—past and present—has come from private individuals, banks and corporations. Guest speaker, John Borders, a local attorney who serves on the board of the Louisville Urban League, was surprised to learn that this is far from reality. Working alongside private business, the government—all branches, local, state and federal—actively and purposefully removed wealth and opportunity from generations of Black citizens. Join John to learn more about this untold part of American history, and what we can do to begin addressing it today.

We will also be joined by educator and poet, Synthia Shelby, who will share her poetic perspective as a black woman in the wake of Attorney General Dan Cameron's investigation.

November 22nd—"Gathering Together While Apart" - Rev. Kathy Hurt and Barb Friedland, DLFE

Thanksgiving may be our most traditional holiday, the one with the deepest and most lasting family traditions, from what food is served to who says grace to how much football viewing happens. But in a pandemic, how is it possible to keep those traditions? And what new traditions may be unfolding for us? Join us as we gather around a table to lead a service for all ages featuring music, stories, and more.

November 29th—"Grow the Circle Wider: A Life Saving Faith" - Jill Sampson or—"What Covid Bubbles and Beloved Community have in common."

If indeed, ours is a life saving faith, we owe it to the world to throw our doors open and grow our faith circle wider. But we can't do that if we hold tight to old ways, cling to our identities and frame our community as an extended family. What would it look like if we designed our churches for Beloved Community, Justice Filled Relationships and Radical Welcome?



Interim Reflections

All the news now seems to be about the upcoming election, and a frequent description of the election calls it “apocalyptic.” The term generally means momentous, but more specifically means the end of the world, and more specifically still the world ending that is part of many spiritual visions. Again and again through human history, we have read the signs and determined the world was nearing its end, or had prophets and visionaries come with this message. Sometimes a specific date is even provided for the cataclysm.

Given that history, one might conclude that the world is extraordinarily resilient, since it has not yet ended, or that we humans repeatedly reach a point where our creative energies are so exhausted that all we can imagine for tomorrow is the end of everything. We keep expecting the world to end—and then it doesn’t.

But I wonder sometimes if perhaps a world ending might be exactly what is needed, not a literal blowup of our planet but a thorough, unmitigated, absolute wiping of the slate, throwing out pretty much everything, so that we might rebuild from scratch. It does seem many days that we are in dire need of a new world, as the pandemic continues unabated, fires burn and extreme weather brings devastation, all while leaders posture and blame somebody else. There appears not much around worth hanging onto, at least in its present form.

Whatever the election results, however, they are unlikely to stop the world from spinning on its axis, prevent the sun from rising again, topple everything around us. Perhaps, though, if we greeted the election results, whatever they are, as if they had indeed ended a world that was not working especially well, and as if a whole new response was called for from us, then we could go ahead and set off from an ended world to one that was beginning, that would give us another chance to get it right.

In faith, hope, and love,
Kathy

Speaker for November 29th: Jill Sampson is a member of First Unitarian. Jill grew up in central Indiana but has been in Louisville now for 25 years although you can't tell it from her accent. She lives with an awesome spouse in dogleg-camelback-shotgun house in Germantown. She has a biochemistry degree from the Ag School at Purdue and an MBA from U of L. She's currently working for a firm that is optimizing gasoline and diesel transportation costs and logistics. For fun she golfs, reads, writes, dabbles with an art journal and reads her twitter feed. At First Unitarian, you might find her at book club, in a meeting, counting money on Sunday, or helping keep the kitchen orderly. Please don't ask her to sing.

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

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

Board Notes - November 2020

Welcome to November's edition of Board Notes. While we were very busy in October, I think that you might already know much of what follows, that is, if you've been reading the weekly emails and if you attended the Fall Congregational meeting.



- Our **Fall Congregational meeting** was held on Sunday October 18. We accomplished a lot! Thanks to all (85!) who participated. Specifically, we:
 - Passed a revised budget that accounts for loss of rental and fundraising income
 - Approved Nominations to the Endowment Board, Stewardship Committee and the Nominating Committee.
 - Learned that our Endowment Fund has surpassed \$500,000
 - Approved Endowment grant proposals
 - Selected six organizations for Share the Plate donations for 2021.
- The Board of Trustees met with Scott Hagan and his team this past month to discuss the proposed apartment complex next to our property. Hagan Properties intends to build 520 rental apartments on the property directly across from Ballard and next to us. We are working on a plan that best meets the needs of TJUC as we consider maintaining the beauty and cleanliness of our back woods. We thank Jon Henney for guiding us through this process.
- The Board declared support for First U's efforts during the protests with the following statement, and our support has been gratefully received at First Unitarian:

We the Board of Trustees of Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church support and congratulate our sibling congregation, the First Unitarian Church of Louisville, for their recent acts of love and justice. That First Church has offered the sanctuary of their sacred space to the aid of protestors is among the truest manifestations of our faith. This faith firmly upholds the right of individual conscience to shape our society for the better and calls upon us all to confront systemic oppression and white supremacy. So long as recognized leaders in the peaceful struggle for social and racial justice are targeted by law enforcement for arrest, violence, or any other form of abuse, they and their fellow protestors shall find comfort among Unitarian Universalists everywhere. We remain steadfast in our belief that Black Lives Matter, and our congregations will continue to build a world in which every individual, regardless of race, receives justice and is treated equitably and with compassion.

- **Name Change process** is moving into its final stage which will include at least two rounds of voting – one by Survey Monkey (and paper ballots mailed to those not on the internet), and one in a Town Hall. We are shooting for November 15 for the Town Hall final vote, although realize that we may need a little additional time. So please be patient and stay tuned.
 - Our project has been sent to a professional “namer” to generate five names for us to enter into our list of names prior to any voting.
 - We also hope to schedule a Zoom session during which members may make the case for names they truly love.
 - Please continue to keep an open mind!

The Board meets on November 8 by Zoom at 1 pm. Members are welcome. Call or write to Deborah N. for the Zoom link at president@tjuc.org.

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

TJUC is partnering with EVOLVE on a Brightside Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, November 7th 10am-1pm

Join our friends at EVOLVE (the electric vehicle organization founded by TJ's former member Jon Tyson) for a Brightside Clean-up Effort! We're scheduling this as part of our Climate Action efforts.

We can do this while safe distancing. Masks are a must! All ages welcome. We do need to know how many are coming. Please RSVP to Debbie in the office (office@TJUC.org) by October 31. This will ensure we have the right number of trash bags, gloves and other supplies. If you want a free Brightside t-shirt, let Debbie know your shirt size.

When: Saturday, November 7th 10am-1pm.

Where: River Road at Carrie Gaulbert Cox Park (across from Thurman Hutchins Park). There is a parking lot at Cox Park for safe parking. The address for your navigation is 3730 River Road- north side.

Bring a Brown Bag lunch to enjoy at the end of our community service! Bottled water will be supplied (or bring your own).

If there's a chance of rain, we will still participate- just bring a rain poncho!

You Can Help Ruth



The Kenyan government awarded Ruth a four-year scholarship to attend Moi University. Ruth's dream is to become a teacher. The government will pay her tuition fees but does not provide money for her living expenses such as money for food, board, hygiene supplies, schoolbooks, medical needs, etc. Ruth's sponsor is hoping there are people in our congregation who will join with them to make Ruth's dream come true.

Ruth has been in TJ's Kenya Education & AIDS Program since she was eleven years old. She has always been one of KEAP's star students. Ruth was voted class president of her primary school, displaying leadership skills early in her academic career.

She is friendly and caring to all the other students. Our KEAP caregiver Sheilla knows she can count on Ruth to always be the first to volunteer whenever help needed.

KEAP sponsorship can be any amount, all levels of support are appreciated. If you think you would like to get to know Ruth and possibility be one of her sponsors, drop me an email to learn more. debbysublett@aol.com

Ruth was given a laptop to enable her to attend online university classes during the pandemic.

KEAP Food Fund

The KEAP Food fund has now raised enough money to keep our Kenyan kids fed through November. There is only one more month to go before they are expected to return to their dorms (and regular meals) in January. Thanks to all who have contributed to keeping our kids healthy and safe during this dangerous time. If you have not had the opportunity to contribute yet, we still need approximately \$1,500 to keep them in food through December.



Brenda

If you would like to make a contribution to help keep the kids fed, send a check to Ellen Ballard 10523 Buckeye Trace, Goshen KY 40026. Be sure to make the check out to TJUU and write "KEAP Food Donation" in the For area. You can also go to the church website, and select KEAP in the donation box. Thank you for helping to make a difference in the world!

Gratefully,
Sheila Ward
Chair, International Justice Committee



Prudence

Welcoming Day of Observance – November 20

Transgender Day of Remembrance

One of the 5 Practices of TJUC's Welcoming Congregation – *Renewal*, is that we recognize and celebrate what are referred to as Welcoming Days of Observance. These days are important to LGBTQ communities because they bring visibility and affirmation, after generations of invisibility and erasure.

On NOV 20, we observe the Transgender Day of Remembrance. The Day was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. Today, Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence.

The need to shine the light on violence aimed at transgender and gender non-conforming people is more critical than ever. The American Medical Assoc. declared in 2019 that there was an **epidemic** of the murder of trans black women. At the 2016 UUA General Assembly, an Action of Immediate Witness was passed that was called "Stop the Hate: Protect and Support our Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Family." UUs were called upon to take actions needed to improve the life situations and safety of transgender and gender non-conforming persons.

Please visit the TJUC Welcoming Congregation webpage to find links to information in support of transgender and gender non-conforming persons:

<https://www.tjuc.org/about-us/an-lgbtq-welcome-congregation/>

Visit this GLAAD website to learn more about Transgender Day of Observance:

<https://www.glaad.org/tdor>

Trees, Inc. offers resources and education to transgender and gender non-conforming persons and their families; Find their resources and ways you can support the organization's efforts at:

<https://www.Webetrees.org>



EACM – News

Eastern Area Community Ministries

Thanksgiving Gift Cards - \$25 Kroger Gift Cards

TJUC will continue our tradition of contributing to EACM's distribution of goods to local families so that they can celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. We will collect \$25 Kroger Gift Cards for EACM to give to families. If you are able to contribute, please:

- Mail, or drop off, the card to the TJUC Office at 4936 Brownsboro RD, Louisville, KY 40222
- Place a note with the card explaining it is for EACM
- The cards must be received by **NOV 18!**

Housing Assistance Available

Thanks to grant funding from the Federal Cares Act, and \$15,000 in donations from Give for Good Louisville, EACM is well-prepared to support our neighbors who need help with their housing costs. If you, or anyone you know, needs this help, please go to EACM's emergency assistance desk at 502-426-2824, ext. 310. This line is open from 10am-2pm, Monday - Thursday.

Big Thanks to TJ's Veggie Supporters

This garden season was a challenge due to COVID. Our usual way of displaying veggies at church for members to purchase was not possible. Instead we took orders online, filled orders, and delivered veggies to church for costumers to pick-up. It was more work, but everyone adapted.

Thank you for your support during these difficult times. As always, all veggies, supplies, and labor are donated. Money from purchases is used to support TJ's sponsored kids in Kenya.

Drum roll..... this year we raised more than \$2,600!! THANK YOU!



Being human explains everything, but excuses nothing. —Richard A. Perry



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

Welcoming Congregation

Each of us has worth and dignity, and that worth includes our gender and our sexuality. As Unitarian Universalists (UUs), we not only open our doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we value diversity of sexuality and gender, and see it as a spiritual gift. We create inclusive religious communities and work for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of who we are.

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.

This fall one of our Open Campus class offerings included sharing a learning experience with TJ and friends about the issues of our LGBTQ community. We are proud that one of this coming year's "Share-the-Plate" non-profits includes TREES, Inc (Transgender Resource, Education and Enrichment Services) a program that was presented during Open Campus this fall.

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- 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

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!

We recognize that there's always something more to learn, and remain open to deepening our understanding about the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people.

Please explore these links on our website to learn more for yourself:

<https://www.tjuc.org/about-us/an-lgbtq-welcome-congregation/>

Your welcoming Renewal Open Campus Facilitators:
Ellen S. Wade, Lesley Henney and Rhonda Barnett.

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:



Our November Share the Plate Special Collection- News

Our Older High School Class choice for a recipient is *PENDING*

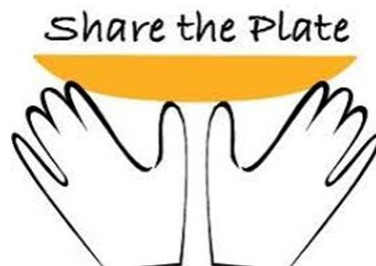
Look for our upcoming announcement!

November's Share the Plate donations will benefit an organization chosen by TJ's older high school class youth. Coordinating communication has been a challenge during this time, as you can imagine. So the announcement of our November Share the Plate recipient is pending a decision by the youth.

The youth are in the process of deciding between 2 worthy organizations: **Sweet Evening Breeze**, which is committed to Louisville's LGBT+ youth and young adults experiencing homelessness (<https://sweeteveningbreeze.org>), and **300 for 300** which seeks to positively alter the lives of 300 Louisville Girls of color, by giving them the tools they need to express themselves and a platform to share their unique stories (<https://www.wave3.com/2020/09/24/empowering-young-women-color-louisville/>; and <https://www.300for300.org/>).

Once our youth are able to choose the organization, we'll make an announcement for November's Share the Plate in the TJUC weekly emails!

[Check here for more information](#)



2021 Share the Plate Collections - *Vote Results*

At the OCT 18 Congregational Meeting, TJUC members voted to select six (6) charitable organizations to receive proceeds from our Share the Plate (STP) collections. The STP collections will take place monthly beginning in JAN 2021.

The organizations that were selected because they received the most votes are:

- The Bail Project
- Dare to Care
- Green Streets
- Louisville Climate Action Network
- Louisville Grows
- Transgender Resources Education and Enrichment Services, Inc. (Trees, Inc)

Organizations that will receive donations for the remaining 6 months of 2020 include Eastern Area Community Ministries, Bright Ideas, and 4 others that will each be selected by the Family Ministry's older youth class, Social Justice Committee, Green Sanctuary Committee, and International Justice Committee.

Thank you to all of those who submitted each of our worthy eight (8) nominated organizations, and to our members who participated in the voting procedure.



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

2020-2021 Theme: *The Meaning of Home* *Our program will run during the month of November*

For many of us, our relationship with home has intensified this year. The pandemic has given many of us new appreciation for, and concerns about, the places we call home and the centrality of these places in our lives.

This year during Guest at Your Table, we invite you to witness stories of our partners around the world as they tell you about home. Our partners in Central America are working to make sure no one is forced to flee their home due to violence or economic devastation. Our partners in Alaska, Louisiana, and the Pacific are fighting for their homes and ancestral lands against the ravages of extractive industries and climate change. And our partners in Burma, Bangladesh, and beyond are working tirelessly to support the rights of the Rohingya ethnic minority of Burma after facing government backed genocide in their homeland.

The ways in which our congregation members and friends come together may look different, but the beloved tradition of Guest at Your Table is here and needs your support.

What is Guest at Your Table?

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 60 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the “guests” in Guest at Your Table.

Guest At Your Table Resources to Use at Your Home

Stories of Hope:

<https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GAYT-2020-21-Stories-of-Hope.pdf>

Template to make your own GAYT box:

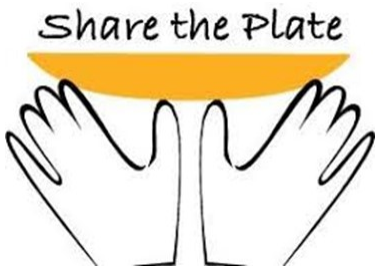
<https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Template-for-homemade-GAYT-box-2020-21.pdf>

***The next Tapestry Deadline
is November 20th***

Calling All Middle and High School Youth

Time to vote on your choice for Share The Plate

(Parents, please help get the word to them!)



The Social Justice Committee in charge of Share the Plate at TJUC has invited youth to select a nonprofit to support. During our recent in-person youth event, Sweet Evening Breeze was discussed.

This is an organization that supports homeless LGBTQ+ youth and young adults. I have learned that this organization was just supported by TJUC in June. You can select them again if you wish.

There is an interesting new non-profit called 300 For 300 which works to support young women of color in Louisville. This would be an amazing group to support. You can learn more about 300 For 300 at these links:

<https://www.wave3.com/2020/09/24/empowering-young-women-color-louisville/>
<https://www.300for300.org/>

Youth are asked to consider Sweet Evening Breeze and 300 For 300 send in your vote to barb@tjuc.org as soon as possible.

Thank you for being part of social justice activism!



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.

October's Share the Plate - *Thank You!*

The \$100 Solution

Thank you to all who contributed to October's Share the Plate collection for The \$100 Solution. Funds raised will go to support one of its projects- Play Ball Puerto Rico.

Please read more about the \$100 Solution at <https://the100dollarsolution.org>.

Going Stir-crazy?

Create some excitement in your life! The Cabin Fever Service Auction is just what you need! We're going online this year to celebrate our favorite annual event. Bidding will be open from January 31 through February 7. You can add your contributions in January. So, get creative and come up with some great items for auction. Events are iffy, but food, treasured items, fun themed baskets, and delivered meals are some ideas. Details to follow as the event gets closer. Help us make the church's biggest annual fundraiser a grand success!



The choir rehearsing while social distancing. Hang in there!

Affirmation of Hope

We, bearers of the dream, affirm that a new vision of hope is emerging.

We pledge to work for that community in which justice will be actively present.

We affirm that there is struggle yet ahead.

Yet we know that in the struggle is the hope for the future.

We affirm that we are co-creators of the future, not passive pawns.

And we stand united in affirmation of our hope and vision of a just and inclusive society.

We affirm the unity of all persons:

We affirm brotherhood and sisterhood that allows us to touch upon each other's humanity.

We affirm a unity that opens our eyes, ears, and hearts to see the different but common forms of oppression, suffering, and pain.

Yet we are one in the image of God, and we celebrate our hopes for human unity.

Within ourselves and within the gathered community, we will discover the strength not to hide in indifference.

Affirming that hope, publicly expressed, energizes and enables us to move forward. Together we pledge action to transcend barriers — be they racial, political, economic, social, or religious.

We pledge to make our tomorrows become our todays.

Loretta Williams <https://www.uua.org/offices/people/loretta-f-williams>

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

Return Service Requested

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I can feel the suffering of millions
and yet, if I look up into the heavens,
I think it will all come right,
and that this cruelty too will end,
and that peace and tranquility will return again.
In the meantime,
I must uphold my ideals,
for perhaps the time will come
when I shall be able to carry them out.
- Anne Frank

Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church
4936 Brownsboro Rd (Hwy 22)
Louisville, KY 40222

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
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 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

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

Office hours: Monday thru Friday
9:30 am to 4:30 pm
(502) 425-6943

