

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

TJ Tapestry

October 2020
Edition 661

The Monthly Newsletter of Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church

Sunday Services

Our worship theme for October is deep listening. In a culture that encourages ever more self-expression, and these days when more and more people are speaking up and speaking out, the times in which we listen deeply, or when others listen deeply to us, may seem ever more scarce. But listening is not simply a matter of hearing the words spoken by another. In October, we consider the different facets of listening, especially as it affects our spiritual journey.

October 4: "Where the Heart Longs to Go" -- Rev. Kathy Hurt

Sometimes the last person to be listened to is myself: that is, how do I hear what my heart and spirit are saying to me, among the various desires the culture encourages us to have and over the old tapes from our past we all carry?

October 11: "Angels Unawares" -- Rev. Kathy Hurt

We cannot listen to everybody all the time, so we soon learn to tune out some people whose voices do not matter to us, some communications we have decided in advance we do not want to hear. Who have you stopped listening to, and why? What messages have you stopped listening to, and why? Is it possible you are missing something important in those times you have opted not to listen?

October 18: "No Continuing City" -- Rev. Kathy Hurt

Unitarian Universalism puts a strong emphasis on individual voices, individual perspectives on truth. Learning to listen within the setting of a spiritual community can thus be difficult if I tend to believe that my own view is what matters most. This service considers the particular kind of listening we do (or do not do) within our congregation.

October 25th—"The Black Experience"

Features Black artists. The backdrop will be paintings by Sandra Charles, from her "African Warrior Queen" series. The speaker is our own Prof. David Cooper. He is a recently retired JCC professor who has won many awards for excellence in teaching. The music will be provided by Joyce Belt and The Pearls, Kentucky Music Hall of Fame inductees, singing jazz, blues and spirituals. Poetry will be spoken by Makalani Bandele, an Affrilachian Poet, a graduate of Notre Dame, who has received a Master of Divinity from Shaw University.



Interim Reflections

I recently read that a key skill needed in leaders is the ability to give expression to grief. While it may seem counterproductive or that focusing people on what is good and hopeful is more important, the fact is that until I first honor and voice my grief, I cannot move onto consolation and healing.

This skill is woefully absent in many of our leaders presently, especially in terms of acknowledging the myriad griefs that the pandemic has brought. Instead, we hear false reassurances that the worst is over, or promises of a vaccine right around the corner—but no words that clearly speak to all that has been, continues to be, lost while the pandemic is with us.

Because a church is an organization of people, and because ministry is all about interactions with people, I regularly note the grief of a congregation that is mostly available just online, and has been that way now for months. I hear many of you saying you miss the chance to be in the church building, to exchange hugs with other congregants, to be present for rites of passage like a wedding or a memorial service. Most recently, some lamented our inability to gather physically in the wake of the Breonna Taylor verdict, to collectively grieve for our troubled community.

Yes, to keep trudging along through the pandemic restrictions, we need to have hope, to be able to look towards good things on our horizon. But we also need to grieve, to note the losses small and large each day that we are apart from one another, to honor what we are prevented from having right now. Be hopeful—and take time to grieve.

In faith, hope, and love,

Kathy

Sunday Morning Family Circle Continues

However you may define family, this gathering welcomes you. Children and youth are enthusiastically welcomed! 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>



"There is no question for which compassion is not the answer."

Judith Hanson Lasater

Board Notes - October 2020

Welcome to October's edition of Board Notes. September was busier than promised, with name change, bylaws and settled minister search front and center within our church, and our city of Louisville's justice issues looming large in our hearts.



- Our **Fall Congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday October 18 at 1:00 pm by Zoom. Issues will include votes on Endowment grant proposals and Share the Plate nominations. We will also hold important elections to the Endowment Board, Stewardship Committee and the Nominating Committee. This and more! Please note that votes on our new name and the new bylaws will occur in special congregational meetings in the near future.
- The Board of Directors met twice this month, trying to get everything accomplished.
 - ◇ Jon Henney gave us a report on the proposed apartment complex on the **Hagan property** that borders our property (thank you Jon!). We plan to meet with the developer within the next month, and will work to create a situation in our neighboring property that we can feel comfortable with.
 - ◇ The Board met with Hope Howell from the Settled Minister Search Team to discuss what would be important to us in a new minister.
 - ◇ We continue to collaborate with Rev. Kathy on interim work.
- We are working with Nancy Coombs-Morgan of the Mid-America Regional staff, representatives from our **Family Ministry** team and Barb Friedland, our Director of Lifespan Education to explore ways to meet the needs of our families during this difficult pandemic time.
- **Enclosed Vestibule/foyer.** Construction of the covered walkway and the enclosed vestibule in the front of our building will begin in October. We remain \$2,600 short of fully funding this addition to our building through pledges to the project. The Board has submitted a grant proposal to the Endowment fund to cover this relatively small amount, but we would be grateful for any additional contributions (the request to Endowment will be reduced accordingly). Thanks much!
- The **Name Change team** will hold at least a couple of brainstorming sessions this month to come up with a large list of diverse and creative names to enter the pool of names that we will vote on. Additionally, we are enlisting a professional “namer” to generate five names for us to enter in our pool. We will schedule a series of votes once we have a diverse set of names from which to choose. Please continue to keep an open mind!
- The Board meets on October 11 by Zoom. Members are welcome. 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

KEAP Food Fund

The KEAP Food fund has now raised \$5,657. That is enough to continue bimonthly food deliveries to the families housing and feeding our kids while they are waiting to go back to their boarding schools in January. This is enough money to keep the food supplies arriving through mid- November. Here are a few excerpts from the many letters we are receiving:

"I really thank you for the food because there are those who sleep without eating" **Gloria**

"I want to thank you very much for the food that you sent. Madam Sheilla brought it last month. My family was very grateful and said thanks a lot" **Lillian**

"For now my life is very different because of covid quarantine. Most people are dead because they don't have food" **Everlyne**

"The foodpack has helped us to reduce the day to day hustling in order to get food" **Eytan**

"Most of the youth now are getting pregnant" **Ruth**

"Most of my fellow students are now at high risk. Most of them are becoming parents. It is a sad thing." **Wilson**

"Thank you for the food stuffs you sent us. Miss Sheilla brought up to our doorstep and we really appreciate very much." **Ruth**

"Girls are in danger and when we go back to school the number of girls will be low" **Prudence**



Mary with food package

Gratefully,
Sheila Ward,
Chair, International Justice Committee

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!



Ruth and her brother Wilson with family.



TJUC's Charitable Support Program

Vote for charitable organizations at our upcoming Congregational Meeting on October 18

Our Share the Plate (STP) Program is a pathway for TJUC members to live their UU values. We do this by raising awareness about a charitable organization, raise funds for it, and provide opportunities for congregants to deepen their relationship with the organization thru varied forms of accompaniment.

In September, congregants nominated charitable organizations to receive funds from a STP collection beginning in JAN 2021. The congregational vote to select 6 of them will take place on **October 18, 2019** during the Congregational Meeting.

Prior to the meeting, you will be sent a list of the charitable organizations that will be on the ballot so you can do your homework prior to voting. The six (6) organizations receiving the most votes will be the STP recipients during 6 months of 2021.

Organizations that will receive donations for the remaining 6 months of 2021 include Eastern Area Community Ministries, Bright Ideas, and 4 others that are each selected by the church's Family Ministry older youth class, Social Justice Committee, Green Sanctuary Committee, and International Justice Committee.

Please send questions or comments to Lesley Henney at L.Henney18@gmail.com.

Share the Plate Special Collection

The \$100 Solution

October 11

October's Share the Plate donations will benefit The \$100 Solution.

Many of our congregants will remember an inspirational talk about this organization given by Bernie Strennecky at TJUC last year!

This organization provides students with knowledge, skills, and funds of \$100 to go into communities and make a sustainable difference. It does this thru partnerships with universities, high schools, and study-abroad programs that promote values of social responsibility, community development, and global change.

The \$100 Solution's teaching methodology encourages students to implement change with small steps to large challenges. Students link directly with community partnerships to work together in assessing needs, implementing solutions, and evaluating efforts.

Our TJUC older high school class will embark on their own \$100 Solution project in the near future!

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

DID YOU KNOW?

LGBTQ History Month is October 2020

LGBTQ History Month is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, [bisexual](#) and [transgender](#) history, and the history of the [gay rights](#) and related [civil rights](#) movements. It was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson. LGBTQ History Month provides role models, builds community, and represents a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community.^[3] As of 2020, LGBTQ History Month is a month-long celebration that is specific to Hungary, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Greenland, and the city of Berlin.

In the United States, Canada, and Australia, it is celebrated in October to coincide with National Coming Out Day on 11 October and to commemorate the first and second marches on Washington in 1979 and 1987 for LGBT rights. TJUC has been a Welcoming Congregation since 2000, when we began the work to make sure LGBTQ people were full members of our faith community. 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. We will also learn about current successes and challenges in achieving LGBTQ justice and equity, and how to work toward achieving it.

Pumpkin Carving/Decorating!

Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Please RSVP to barb@tjuc.org
(Raindate: Friday, October 24)

An outdoor, social distanced event for all ages. We'll carve and otherwise decorate our pumpkins. The evening will conclude with a pumpkin walk to admire our creations. Please RSVP to barb@tjuc.org with the number of people in your party so we can ensure safety for all. Come in costume!

Things to bring with you:



- Mask(s) for COVID-19 protection
 - A pumpkin (consider doing pumpkin prep at home)
 - Pumpkin carving tools or suitable art materials to decorate it
 - A candle or battery operated tealight to illuminate your pumpkin
 - Canned goods to donate to Eastern Area Community Ministries.
- Items in high demand include: peanut butter, pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, and canned meat - including tuna. Diapers and baby wipes are always needed.

Due to the Pandemic, no snacks or food may be served or shared. Please bring any food or beverages you may need with you.

Each of us is meant to have a character all our own, to be what no other can exactly be, and do what no other can exactly do.

William Ellery Channing

The MidAmerica Nomination Committee Needs Your Help

We are seeking fresh voices for leadership positions to strengthen the future of the MidAmerica Region! We have open positions for the **Board of Trustees, Camp Unistar Foundation Board of Directors, Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (MUUC)**, and the **MidAmerica Nominating Committee** itself. Our region needs energetic people with diverse perspectives to fill these leadership positions. We are working to dismantle the legacy of white supremacy in our faith in order to create a collaborative environment with people from historically marginalized communities.

Some traits we value in candidates:

- Willingness to collaborate with others
- Ability to provide a unique perspective
- Strong communication skills
- Interest in leadership and stewardship
- Dedication to radical inclusion
- Personal investment in the future of our region and Unitarian Universalism as a faith

The **MidAmerica Regional Board of Trustees** is responsible for the general direction of the region, including policies, strategic goals, and priorities. There are nine members serving three-year terms. Three of those nine members include the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who are elected directly by the Board members annually.

The **Nominating Committee's** purpose is to nominate individuals for the Regional Board, Camp Unistar, the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference Board, and the Nominating Committee itself. We are dedicated to seeking qualified candidates to reflect the full diversity of the Region to fulfill these leadership positions, especially in regards to historically marginalized communities. The Nominating Committee has seven members serving two-year terms.

The **Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (MUUC)** furthers the interests of UU's and their institutions in the Midwest, fosters the interests of the UUA, supports spreading the message of Unitarian Universalism, and distributes the surplus income generated by funds in trust. The MUUC Board of Directors is composed of seven members serving three-year terms.

Camp Unistar is a beautiful island retreat in Cass Lake, Minnesota where you can unplug, unwind, and enjoy nature with a village of old and new friends who are largely rooted in Unitarian Universalist values. It is governed by an independent Board of 8 members, with one member appointed each year by the Board of Trustees. All board members must have attended Camp Unistar.

Our only requirement is that our candidates must be a member of either a MidAmerica Congregation or the Church of the Larger Fellowship. If you or someone you know may be interested, please send your suggestions to one of our co-chairs:

Co-Chair Helen Dwyer, All Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis, IN: hdwyer1492@msn.com

Co-Chair Mel Priese, Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood, MO: mel.priese@gmail.com

WinterFair!

Introducing 2020 WinterFair! – A Virtual Art Show Black Friday, November 27th through Saturday, December 5th *Uncommon Gifts for Uncommon People*

Welcome, everyone! WinterFair began in 1991, and this year we celebrate 30 years of art and artists, creativity, imagination, and excellence. We present fine art and very fine crafts at affordable prices in time for the winter giving season. In the season of holiday sales, WinterFair is not your granny's church bazaar.

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON WinterFair! this year. While we are saddened to cancel this annual tradition and miss our personal connection with our artists, we feel it is in the best interest of everyone involved under the current healthcare restrictions.

However, we also understand that this is a difficult time for our artists, as many rely on shows like WinterFair! With shows cancelled across the country, we want to provide the opportunity to showcase our artisans *VIRTUALLY*.

Here are details for planning your shopping experience for our Virtual WinterFair! Join us Online and share with friends to find special art gifts!

This year's WinterFair includes all media including ceramics, wood, mixed media, fiber, photography, sculpture, glass, jewelry and much more. Our artists will be glad to tell you about their creations through their video promotions or their photo displays.

- We will activate our popular WinterFair! Facebook Page into a weeklong online market featuring each registered artist's description of the artist's work with photos of available sale items.
- The weeklong online shopping will culminate in a 3-hour Live Facebook Market Sat. Dec 5th. This Live Facebook Market will highlight selected artists through your choice of live videos, taped interviews or artists' pre-recorded videos to talk about their product or feature demonstrations.
- Shoppers will be able to click the selected artist and be redirected to a page showcasing additional photos and contact information including any Website, Etsy, Instagram or Email address to finalize the purchase.
- Artisans will be responsible for arranging the transaction (payment, pickup, delivery, shipping, etc.)
- Local artists and shoppers will be able to arrange a one-day pickup at TJ for pre-paid items, if the items are not shipped directly to the customer.

The Marx Gallery Members' Gift Shop will also sell online. Art work here is made by TJ artists, many of whom have work in the Gallery. You'll find a remarkable variety at reasonable prices. Sales from the gift shop support both the artists and TJ.



Check out our Facebook page as we build our Online Market Event between now and WinterFair! If you have questions, email winterfairky@gmail.com or call TJ at 502/425-6943.

More information on the next page

[More on The Marx Gallery Members' Gift Shop:](#)

Invitation to TJ Members and families to participate in the Virtual WinterFair TJUC Members Gift Gallery

A Winterfair Gift Gallery is being planned as part of this year's Virtual WinterFair, Friday, November 27th (Black Friday) through Saturday, December 5th. Anyone who has participated in the past in the Gift Gallery is welcome to participate this year. Please contact Lori G. Sargent lorigsargent@gmail.com by October 7th if you are planning to participate. Once you are registered as a participating artist, you will be sent additional information *** to submit your photos, a description of your artwork and details if you wish to promote your product with a video recording played during the Live Stream Event on Dec. 5th.

Our Virtual WinterFair will take place on the TJUC Facebook page. Gift Galley participants will be responsible for their own sales. Shipping can be added to orders. As in the past, there will be no charge to participate, but you are expected to donate 25% of earnings to TJUC. Local sales which are paid for may be delivered to the church in the week following WinterFair for customer pickup on December 12th between 10:00-12:00.)

*** Preview: To participate, here is what we need (by October 15th) to promote you:

Up to 10 photos of your products (that will be available for sale during this show) for display on the WinterFair Facebook page

a description of your work (60 word maximum to keep it consistent).

If applicable, list your sites for your business (e.g. website, [etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com) or Instagram, your additional work will be available to your customers because those links will be added to your promotion!

List your email address

List your payment process (e.g. included in online shopping site, PayPal, check)

List how you calculate shipping costs

GET YOUR FLU SHOT NOW!

Dear Friends,

Our church continues to be virtual for now and a church that continues to care for its congregants, too. Through technology, we are able to meet on Sundays, in our chalice circles, special task groups and committee meetings. As far as we know, no one in the congregation has contracted the virus. We can be proud that this is evidence that we are practicing the required safety precautions.

Earlier this week, Dr. Anthony Fauci said that he was depressed that we haven't seen better progress in reducing the number who have contracted Covid and the reduction of deaths. He warned that the combination of the pandemic and the flu season would contribute to a difficult fall and winter.

I urge everyone over the age of 6 months to get their flu shot now.

Please don't wait!

Yours,

Janet Taylor

Congregational Life Coordinator

The New Normal: Faith Engagement at Home

(adapted from Debbie Streicher, MilestonesMinistry.org)

We are living in unusual times. Just six months ago, we were leaving our homes to go to work, to go to school, and to go to church. Thanks to the pandemic, we are now setting up special areas in our homes where we work and have school lessons. And there is the racial justice struggle happening across the nation and in our city, which adds to our sense of overwhelm and concern.

Our church, like so many others, has moved beyond the walls of the building and into our homes. This may seem like yet another expectation of those in parenting roles and yet, there is a huge benefit to families who can find ways that they can bring our faith tradition into daily life. There may never have been a more important time to make that effort. That benefit is in the deepening of relationships.

The Rev. Dr. David Anderson named five principles of what is commonly called faith formation that identify the relational nature of the church. These principles help us see the work of church beyond congregational activities.

- Faith is formed through personal, trusted relationships—often in our own homes.
- The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and the life of the home.
- Where our principles and intentions are present and practiced, the home is church, too!
- Faith is caught more than it is taught- meaning that it is through experiences that we can grow in our UU faith, regardless of our age.
- If we want ethical and committed children and youth, we need Unitarian Universalist adults who practice our faith with them (especially in the home).

The principles from the Rev. Dr. Anderson move us from thinking programs to thinking relationships. These relationships happen primarily in the home. We are so accustomed to having people come to the church building to explore what it means to BE UU. During these times, people are unable to come to us and so the center of faith experiences has become the home. Here's the good news. Your church is here to partner with you. That is truly the heart of Family Ministry.

Given our new normal, please be encouraged to engage in faith practices in your homes. It can be as simple as lighting a chalice at breakfast or dinner, sharing highs and lows, encouraging young people to ask hard questions, having caring conversations, and listening deeply to each other. Starting this month, specific resources from Soul Matters will be made available to help support this important ministry in your family. Resources and experiences are being made available to support you in a variety of ways, including social media, our website, and the Family Ministry Buzz newsletter.

Please call on me whenever you need a caring, listening ear. I will try my best to be responsive to your needs.

Faithfully,
Barb Friedland
Director of Lifespan Faith Engagement

***The next Tapestry Deadline
is October 23rd***

SHARING OUR STORIES

NANCY NEILL



Nancy was born in New Jersey and grew up in the Methodist Church. The family of four was not very religious although they followed the 10 commandments and many of the tenants of the Methodist church.

Nancy attended 5 different schools and in different states during her elementary school years. One of the moves was to Nancy's grandmothers' house. Her grandparents were very strict Methodists and there were many rules to follow. They were in church 3 times on Sunday and once on Wednesday. Each morning, the children had a bible reading and a prayer before going to school. She wasn't allowed to see movies, play card games, drink alcoholic beverages, or dance. Sundays were meant for religious services only.

Although her upbringing was strict, Nancy loved to go to church where "everybody knew my name". She was related to many in the congregation.

Nancy didn't question her religious beliefs until college. This was a time when she began observing the behavior of her relatives. One incident that was important in her life was the behavior of a relative who was a "Garden State" farmer. He sought out Puerto Rican migrant workers to work on his farms. He put them up in cinderblock housing, minimally furnished and paid them less than what he paid other workers.

A critical article appeared on the front page of the New York Times about him and his relationship with the migrants. Nancy was struck by this behavior and one Thanksgiving she rebelled by eating alone in the kitchen. She explained to those present why she was protesting.

It wasn't until she had children that she searched for a church where she would be comfortable taking them. This search led Nancy to the Unitarian Church in Michigan.

When her family moved to Louisville, she took the children to the First Church. When the church didn't have childcare available and Nancy was pregnant with her 6th child, she moved to Thomas Jefferson. She officially became a member in 1965.

Nancy feels that TJ is the only place that she feels comfortable "being me". Her life has been blessed to have found a spiritual home here.

"Those of us who have in our history the commonality of suffering from hate, we know that those who won the day are those who chose love in the midst of hate."

By William J. Barber II

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

Return Service Requested

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A Faith for the Free
By James Luther Adams

"A faith that is not the sister of justice is bound to bring people to grief. It thwarts creation, a divinely given possibility; it robs them of their birthright of freedom in an open universe; it robs the community of the spiritual richness latent in its members; it reduces the person to a best of burden in slavish subservience to a state, a church, or a party—a god made by human hands."

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