

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

TJ Tapestry

September 2020
Edition 660

The Monthly Newsletter of Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church

Sunday Services

September 6th: The American Precariat—Dr. Joe Brennan

The future status of labor is at best questionable. Having survived the changes of the Industrial Revolution, labor now faces an entirely new challenge as robots and artificial intelligence, not only replace physical labor, but also enter into the realms of cognitive and emotional functioning. The literature predicts the elimination of millions of workers in the next decade(s), and theorists speak of the creation of a “worthless class”. As economic inequality increases, social and racial divisions will become more prominent and challenge the very foundations of societal stability.

September 13: “Your Faith, Your Service Committee” - Heather Vickery : UU College of Social Justice

Join Guest Preacher Heather Vickery from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to learn more about the 80 year history of UUSC, its current justice priorities and how that connects to our wider faith as well as TJUC’s work for justice.

Heather Vickery (she/her/hers) is the Coordinator for Congregational Activism for the UU College of Social Justice and the UU Service Committee. She is responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with UU Congregations, State Action Networks, past program participants and Regional Staff in order to expand engagement in UUSC and UUCSJ’s work. She also manages the workshop offerings and group visits to the UUSC/UUCSJ office and assists with the communications for the Activism and Justice Education Team. Outside of work, Heather is the President of the Board of the First Parish in Malden, Universalist and is an active member of the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network.

September 20: "Tear Down, Build Up" - Rev. Kathy Hurt

-- our church and our country are presently in the midst of significant change, and the pandemic may ultimately have changed us in lasting ways. This service considers the different patterns in which change comes to us, and the different meanings that we make of change.

September 27: "Gather Us In" - Rev. Kathy Hurt

-- Unitarian Universalism is sometimes described as a covenantal tradition rather than a creedal tradition. Congregations usually have covenants, and those covenants may often simply gather dust in a church closet. As part of the interim process, TJ is invited to consider adopting a new covenant. This service explores the meaning of a church covenant and why it needs to be taken off the shelf and put to use in the interest of supporting the community.

Easy way to request your absentee ballot- apply now and ballot will be mailed to you! Applications must be processed by Oct 9th.

<https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/abrweb/>



Interim Reflections

Franciscan author Richard Rohr recently noted that any significant growth, especially spiritual growth, starts from a place of order, then moves through a period of disorder, and eventually emerges into a new or reordered state. This means that we cannot easily reach love or salvation or enlightenment by simply growing as a tree might, adding incremental understanding and behavior to our lives, and thereby one day be a deeply loving person, a saved soul, or an enlightened being; instead, the growth towards such maturity will involve times of breakdown, will be messy, likely include pain.

I try to find some comfort in that model as the pandemic continues, with periods of seeming to be on the decline followed by surges, with erratic leadership and frequently changing messages of what we can expect. Perhaps this global breakdown in so many aspects of our lives has been a massive kind of disorder that will, in time, carry us into a better kind of order, a world more compassionate and equitable, more thoughtful in how we communicate, more respectful in how we manage the environment. Of course, none of that is guaranteed, and the disorder may just keep going or finally grind to a halt, at which point we all return to our old ways.

A Christian friend of mine early in the pandemic likened it to some of the Biblical plagues that struck Egypt when the Pharaoh refused to free his slaves in response to Moses' demands. The plagues kept coming until the Pharaoh relented. That image suggests that our most creative response to the pandemic might not be simply enduring it until it lifts, but using it as a challenge for some permanent changes in how we live. What "Pharaoh" needs to be overthrown, and what sort of Promised Land of freedom would we want when our plague is done?

In faith, hope, and love,
Kathy

Got a Place in the Choir

It has been a joy to see everyone's faces through Zoom as I have been singing in the church, however, we are anxious to start hearing the congregants lift their beautiful voices in song. Covid has begged for creativity with us all, but especially with the performing arts. While the choir will not be gathering yet for in-person rehearsals, we will be gathering via Zoom for group rehearsals. Additionally, I would love to start implementing congregants to lead hymns, have soloists (both instrumental and vocalists), and begin to have small virtual choirs (duos, trios and quartets) to start recording special music to be played during the service. Knowledge of recording yourself in a video (just through your phone will work), wired earphones and a microphone (can be as simple as an iPhone headset) should be available.

I would love to hear your beautiful voice! If you are interested, please reach out to me at drkatherinedonner@gmail.com While all are welcome, we would love to encourage tenor, baritones and basses to join as well.

While it may seem, with the church closed for most in-person gatherings, that church staff would be more available than ever, such is not the case: all TJ staff have times they are not working, and most of the staff are part-time; several have second (or third) jobs. So when you contact a staff member for something, please be mindful that other obligations could prevent an immediate response. Thanks for your consideration -- Rev. Kathy

Board Notes - September 2020

Hello friends, welcome to September's edition of Board Notes. And here's what we have to say about this one – *hold onto your hats*. SO very much going on in spite of our building being closed. We sincerely hope that you jump in with both feet and join these different conversations. We want to hear from you!



- Three different sets of discussions will occur this Fall, all important and worthy of your time:
 - ◇ **Settled Search** small group meetings – starting at coffee hour on Sunday 8-23, the Search Committee is asking that we get involved in discussions that will help introduce our church to candidates for our settled minister. Please make sure your voice is heard.
 - ◇ **New Name:** over the next two months, we will move through a process that will culminate in the choice of our new name. We will start with a discussion about what we want our name to communicate, move into brainstorming about possible names, and end with a series of discussions and votes to decide on our name. We have established a team to facilitate this process, chaired by Donna Riebel and including relatively new members and long-term members.
 - ◇ **New Bylaws:** Our Bylaws team has been working on major revisions to our bylaws since January. The changes place our bylaws more in line with UUA recommendations, remove outdated historical provisions, and also make them more high-level by moving procedural details to Board policies where they belong. We will hold a couple of town hall meetings about these changes and then have a special congregational meeting to approve the new bylaws.

All of this will be followed after the December holidays with consideration of a new **covenant** for the church.

- The Board held its retreat during the weekend of August 7-9 – conducted over 2 sessions on Zoom. We looked at the big picture, including what has changed for us for better and worse during the pandemic. And we celebrated the energy that continues to infuse the church: with the hiring of Rev. Dawn as Justice coordinator, Katie Donner as Choir Director, and Brody Brennick as AV tech; that we now have people joining our Sunday services from outside of Louisville and two new members who do not live locally; and our continuing work on interim tasks. We recognize that we also need to breathe new life into some important committees, including Stewardship and Membership.
- **Enclosed Vestibule/foyer.** The TJ congregation approved construction of a covered walkway in the front of our building at our July 12 meeting. We are hoping to be able to enclose a portion of the covered walkway to create a pleasing foyer as the primary entry into our building. Ann Dorzback encouraged the House Committee to explore the possibility of creating such a space and made the first generous donation to the project. The estimate for this project is \$29,200. Since then, we have had generous donations from members, however we are \$2,800 short of fully funding this addition to our building. The Board has submitted a grant proposal to the Endowment fund to cover this relatively small amount, but we are still accepting donations (and the request to Endowment will be reduced accordingly). Thanks much!
- The UUA Mid-America region has approved our request for a \$500 grant toward our new signage as we change our name. This will fully fund changes to the front sign with about \$100 left toward the new sign in our Founders Circle.
- A request: given the limited number of hours that our AV tech Brody Brennick works for us, we ask that rather than contacting him directly, you make any requests through Rev. Kathy.

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



A proposal to include Islam in UU Sources of Inspiration
[CLICK here to see entire proposal](#)

REGISTER FOR OPEN CAMPUS CLASS about UU's and Islam ([insert link to register](#))

The current 4th UU Source of Inspiration that guides our worship and discourse invites Jews and Christians to bring cherished teachings from their own traditions into Unitarian Universalist worship and discourse. It does not extend this invitation to **Muslims** as well.

The proposal to 'make a good thing better' in the words of UU Reverend Craig Moro, invites inclusiveness and bridge-building among religious communities which have shared moral and spiritual values.

TJUC Immigrant Justice Team – News

**The Louisville Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice,
LSURJ Faith, and the Sowers of Justice Network**

A Sacred Calling: Community Safety for All

September 2 – November 18, 2020



TJUC members and friends are invited to join in a *12-week campaign* to envision new approaches to community safety. This campaign was formed because it's clear that some people in our communities are safer than others. As lovers of justice, we are called to examine the racism that undergirds these inequities.

We will join together to build community among people of faith as we pray, learn, imagine, and act **for racial justice**. No one of us, no one faith community or communion can do this work alone. We need each other!

Varied forms of participation will be offered:

- * **Wake-up Wednesdays** begin SEPT 2, and include Vigils, both virtual and in-person (with health-safety protocols)
- * **A Series of Teach-Ins** with dates/times TBD, to include 90-minute workshops via Zoom or recorded for later viewing
- * **Weekly emails** you will receive that provide links to resources, connections to actions, reflection thru inspirational readings, and *A Sacred Calling* campaign communication/updates.

To sign up, click [here](#).

We look forward to your participation in *A Sacred Calling's* activities that will help us build community among faith groups as we re-imagine community safety.

Just a NOTE from TJ's Music Director

Dear Friends at TJUC,

It is a joy to be writing you for my first Tapestry entry about the music ministry. While my heart aches that I have not shaken your hands, or greeted you with an embrace, my mind is content to know that we are minimizing our exposure and, hopefully, on a path of recovery, albeit painstakingly slow.

The church is The answer would vary widely between us and would stir emotions in all of us. The church is home. The church is community. The church is a shelter. For me, the church is a musical advocate for musicians who play for the souls of many. The church is a musical safe haven, celebrating and promoting all.



The church has housed and amplified the compositional voice, in addition to vocalist and instrumentalist voices, since congregants have gathered. Although we often associate the Renaissance and Baroque periods being the heyday of prolific and well-known composers in the church, the church has not waned from its belief in the significance of music in a service. The church continues to be a champion for musicians and recognizes the importance of the ability of musicians to communicate directly to the soul and provide comfort. It is because of this seriousness that the TJUC Board hired music staff in the time of the coronavirus pandemic, racial protests, and a society tired from the lack of ethics and reason in the political world. Even if it is virtually, it is time to provide a salve to a very weary soul. We can't do it with a coffee, a hug, or a gathering, but we can provide comfort with a song.

As the new choir director at TJ, it is important that I continue to find music that speaks to your soul, that amplifies the concerns and promotes the mission that Unitarians hold dear to their heart. I am continuing to study the music that has been on file for the choir, some five hundred+ pieces of music. What has struck me the most is how much of the music that I have listened to, filed and catalogued, is written by male Caucasian composers. In the higher education world, we have recognized that the music we are teaching is very "white-washed," often Western European, white males. We have not amplified the voices of composers of color, of women, of members of the LGBTQIA+ community. It isn't just limited to higher education, as is noticed from the church's music library at TJ. I see it as my responsibility that we have the music of our church be reflective of the values that this community protects and magnifies for social equality. It is time to amplify the voices of those who have been silenced or muted for so long.

Though we may be at home, singing to a crowd of a few, sing loudly. I am going to add onto my sentence of "The church is" to "The church's music is...." I hope that in these troubling times, I can gently invite your thoughts on the church's music to include, "The church's music is a balm for my soul. The church's music inspires me to.... The church's music is a reflection of me."

Dr. Katherine Donner
August 17, 2020

If you have thoughts or questions, please email Katie at choir.director@tjuc.org

***The next Tapestry Deadline
is September 24th***

Are **you** looking for something **new to do?**

MOSTLY FICTION BOOK CLUB: We read one book a month, chosen by one of us, and discuss by Zoom. Our next book is *The Childrens' Crusade* by Ann Packer . Our discussion is on September 16. Please contact Carolyn Brown to join. aspinalpen@aol.com

VIRTUAL HUGS: Become an online reading tutor for a young JCPS student. Now training returning tutors, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11am, choose your week: August 25 & 27 or September 1 & 3 or September 8 & 10. New tutors email volunteer@hugreadingprogram.org for more information.

CELEBRATE EARTH CENTERED SPIRITUALITY: Explore the sacred circle of life and nature throughout the changing of the seasons and moon phases. Discussion and ritual with CUUPS, Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. Second Sundays at 1 pm cuups@tjuc.org

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD: Now is your chance to join one of our congregation's committees! We get a fresh start each September and are always looking for new ideas. Contact agodsave1@gmail.com for the complete list of openings.

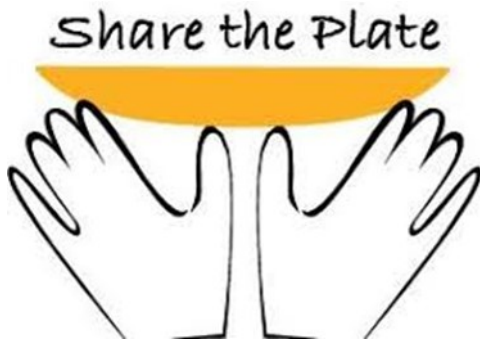
CHALICE CIRCLE OPENINGS: These are small, self-led discussion groups that stay together for the entire year. This allow participants to get to form friendships. Topics are chosen by the group and the meetings are held once each month, by Zoom until we are able to meet in person again. Contact janet@tjuc.org for times, dates and the names of facilitators.

Current Chalice Circle Openings

Facilitator and contact info	Meeting time	Openings
Joan & Larry Doub joan.doub@gmail.com	1st Tuesdays, 7 pm	1 person
Donna Riebel donna.riebel@gmail.com	4th Fridays, 2 pm	3 women
Janet Taylor janet@tjuc.org	4th Fridays, 2 pm	3 women
Tish and Charlie Moore tishmoore45@gmail.com	2 nd Fridays, 2 pm	1 person

TJUC's Charitable Support Program

2021 Nominations to be taken during September!



Many thanks to all who supported our charitable organizations this year (thus far), and for making donations to them via TJUC's online link during the pandemic! Share the Plate collections have been taken for CASA, The Blue House, Days for Girls, Sweet Evening Breeze and Louisville Grows. Each of these organizations has expressed gratitude for our attention to its needs. Now's the time to get geared up for next year's collections, so please read the following info about our program

What is Share the Plate?

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.

Once Sunday a month, we learn about the selected organization's mission and ways in which our members can support it, and we then are invited to contribute money to it.

What is its purpose?

Our goal is to build alliances with selected community organizations that share our values, and help link TJUC members with opportunities to get involved in justice-related activities. The outcomes from STP help the congregation work toward meeting TJUC's 5-Year Goals regarding social justice and other related goals.

What is the timetable for our STP Program?

TJUC members both nominate and vote for charitable organizations to be STP recipients.

Nominations will be taken throughout **September**.

The congregational vote to select 6 charitable organizations will take place in the **October 2020** Congregational Meeting.

STP collections will begin to take place monthly starting in **2021**.

What is the STP nominating process?

* **Important Info:**

Please note: Charitable organizations will be accepted for a congregational vote if the nomination process is followed and the organization meets the required criteria (see below).

- *Who* can make nominations:

TJUC members and friends are welcome to make nominations.

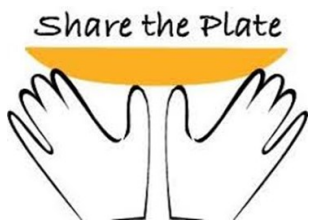
- *When* you can submit a nomination:

Nominations will be accepted during **September only**.

- *How* to submit a nomination:

* Use the Form below, or provide its required info by:

- Sending it to Lesley Henney via email at L.Henney18@gmail.com, phoning 425-8063, or mailing it to 3807 Grandview AVE, Louisville, KY 40207
- Leaving it at the TJUC Office



*** Required criteria:**

- Be a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, charitable organization
- Serve local/regional needs in Louisville and Kentucky; (note that the organization can be a local office of a national or international organization)
- Have organizational goals and processes that are consistent with UU Principles
- Seek social justice by providing social services and/or seeking social change

How are the Charitable Organizations chosen?

Nominated organizations that meet the specified criteria will be placed on a Ballot.

The six (6) organizations receiving the most votes from the congregation during the October 2020 Congregational Meeting will be the STP recipients for 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.

You can use the following Form, or provide the info on it.

Share the Plate Organization Nomination Form

Deadline: September 30

TJUC Member Name AND Contact (ph # and/or email) info

Organization name

Organization Email address and/or contact info

Description of the organization – i.e. what it does, who it serves

Please send to Lesley Henney

- via email at L.Henney18@gmail.com
- phone 425-8063
- mail to 3807 Grandview AVE, Louisville, KY 40207

OR

Leave it at the TJUC Office

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Mary Beth (Mel) Lasseter

Previously known to the congregation as Mary Beth, Mel Lasseter, the daughter of Mary Ann Lasseter, has spent the last ten years of her life getting educated.

She received her MA in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi, ex-ABD (not quite a Ph.D.) in American Studies from the University of North Carolina and is currently working on a MLIS from the University of Denver.

Mary Beth returned to Denver in 2018 accompanied by her cat where she goes to library school. Her interests include critical theory and critical race studies as well as 19th and 20th century southern history, literature, music, and popular culture; Mary Beth has taught American Studies, southern history, African American history, Native American history, southern Jewish history and material culture and folklore undergraduate studies.

Outside of school, she is interested in ice hockey, sewing, knitting and exploring the rural West. During the pandemic, she has organized Zoom spelling bees and games of Dungeons and Dragons. Mary Beth would also like you to know that Denver is great and you should come visit when it is safe.



Marshmallow Roast!

Friday, September 11th

(Raindate: Friday September 18th)

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

How About Some Fun for Everyone? (Socially distanced, of course)

We provide the fire. You bring the fun! Please also bring mask(s), your own roasting sticks, some marshmallows, and lawn chairs. Shall we do s'mores too? If so, bring graham crackers and chocolate. (Food sharing is not a good idea right now.) Join us! Please RSVP so we can ensure safety for all by sending an email to barb@tjuc.org with the number of people in your party.

The invisibility of whiteness means that one doesn't have to notice that one is white. So there are people, and then there are black people. There are people and there are Latino people. And people—just people, just folks—turn out to be white, but we don't notice it.

White people have the luxury of not having to think about race. That is a benefit of being white, of being part of the dominant group. Just like men don't have to think about gender. The system works for you, and you don't have to think about it.

So they live in white space and then they don't have to think about it. First of all, they think about race as something that belongs to somebody else. The blacks have race; maybe Latinos have race; maybe Asians have race. But they're just white. They're just people. That's part of being white.

TJ's Capital Campaign Successful in Boosting TJ's Outreach to Newcomers!

Our efforts to enhance TJ's outreach to prospective members through Social Media has paid off. Our one-year contract with a consulting firm to promote our programs and lead more people to our website ended July 31st. We are proud of the impact it had within our social media community. Thanks to the Capital Campaign Priorities Committee and to the Congregation who contributed financially and approved funding to make it happen.

TJUC targeted a variety of demographics, including Baby Boomers, Gen-Xers, the LGBTQ+ community, young families, and those who are passionate about social justice issues. This audience included a diverse range of individuals with varying beliefs, including spiritualists, humanists, and people of all other denominations.

What we learned from ADK, the digital media marketing firm that worked with TJ:

59% of people say they use **Facebook** on a daily basis; only 1% of people say they never use Facebook at all. Social Media is the most effective method of outreach according to 46.1% of churches. 62% of churches use social media to connect to people outside their congregations. Our TJ Facebook Page has increased our "Following" from 67 to 1153 "regulars" and often our Facebook posts and videos reach over 2600 people in just one week!

35% of adults use **Instagram**, and 71% of 18-24 year olds use Instagram. **Instagram** is all about photos and videos which attracts newcomers. TJ expanded its social media strategy during this contract to include Instagram and increased our followers by 70%.

Pew also found that 94% of people in our target demographic use **YouTube** regularly. So, TJ established its own YouTube channel, and all recorded sermons are now available on YouTube on TJ's website! Many more types of videos can now be uploaded to YouTube, so TJ will be able to promote its activities to a larger audience.

According to *Grey Matter Research*, 17 million Americans who don't regularly attend church **visited a church website**. We know visitors are joining our Zoom services and some former members are rejoining after moving away, since they can now be with us for Sunday services! Newcomers are tuning in to our Zoom services, because we advertise our upcoming Sunday services on Facebook. Our zoom services are well attended and average over 112 participants on Sundays.

Our Justice Center and the Justice Action Network will continue to attract the public's interest in our programs, and we can expect more newcomers finding a home in our church community.

We thank the Congregation for being more engaged in our social media promotion (keep "liking" and "sharing" our posts) and learning how to navigate our user-friendly website.

Ellen Sisti Wade and your Digital Media Team- tech savvy volunteers: Jennifer Reid and Gary Guss.

Out of the depths I cry: Who will hear my voice? Out of the pain I cry: Who will make space for my living and my dying? Out of the years I cry: Who will remember? Who will remember? My soul awaits: *More than those who watch for the morning. More than those who watch for the morning.*

By Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley —inspired by Psalm 130 and Maya Angelou

Fall 2020 Open Campus Schedule

Offered by the ARE (Adult Religious Exploration) Committee

You are invited to learn, connect, and explore! Open Campus will begin the first week of September. The Louisville community is encouraged to join the Thomas Jefferson community for various **free** classes being held during the period September 2 through November 11. Check out the classes and their dates below. All classes will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and offered remotely by computer using Zoom meeting software (instructions to access your class will be provided prior to the beginning of each class). Be sure to sign up on-line at TJ's church website or by contacting Alan Godsave by email at agodsave1@gmail.com.

To sign up for classes:

- go to our website tjuc.org
- Click on "Learning" along the top
- Then click on "Open Campus"
- Click on where it says to use "Sign Up Genius"

Detailed descriptions of Open Campus classes follow:



Zines – A Crash Course in Experimental Self-Publishing

Facilitator: Claire Krueger

Four Sessions – Wednesday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Sep 2, 9, 16, 23

Class Description: Zines are self-published booklets aimed at inclusivity, unregulated self-expression, and connection over shared ideas. They are easy to make, easy to trade, and are also a great place to experiment with ideas—they are low-pressure enough that it does not hurt to try and fail or follow a tangent somewhere new. Anyone can make a zine about anything; art, writing, photography, how-to and more. Learn about the history of self-published media and how to make your own. We will talk about various techniques and topics will include content, formatting, and design. Teens are also encouraged to sign up. Materials to be provided by participants include paper, scissors, ruler, mark-making materials (pencils, markers, pens, etc.), and other household items at participant discretion.

An article from Ruckus magazine about the importance of zines today:

<https://ruckuslouisville.com/The-Radical-Self-Reliance-of-Zines>

Soul Seeking – A Spiritual Practices Group

Facilitator: Nancy Thomas

Six Sessions – Monday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Sep 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2



Class Description. We cannot see it, but we know or at least hope it is there. It is frustrating because we are more comfortable with the tangible elements of our lives. But what about the things that go bump in the night? Our fears, our joys, our hopes and dreams, our grief? How do we interact with something we cannot see? How do we nurture it? Make peace with it? Descartes said, “I think, therefore I am,” but thinking is just another aspect of our soul—what identifies us as separate from giraffes or chickens.

We can learn to “soul” ourselves into a better place. And this class will offer an opportunity to do just that: an opportunity to, first, define the heretofore indefinable, next to explore that aspect of ourselves that we may not have acknowledged or have only the vaguest notion of. Sharing in this group will be strictly optional—feel free to just listen or share when you feel like it. We will meet as a group, but also in zoom rooms. You are encouraged to keep a journal with suggestions provided each session for topics on which to focus—but again, this is optional. We will learn from each other, but also from great and soulful figures of the past—like the author of the Tao, for instance. Let the journey begin.

Setting a new course for Louisville



*Charting a course to a 100% clean energy future
will provide for our health, safety, and prosperity*

Climate Change Mitigation in Louisville

Facilitator: Wallace McMullen

One Session – Tuesday evening – 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Oct 27

Class Description. This will be an evening about applying the knowledge and ideas from the climate series led by Rev. Cooley to our situation here in Louisville. Experienced leaders will provide focus on advocacy and actions which we can undertake here as a community of faith to mitigate our climate negative impacts, and those we can undertake to have a positive effect on climate mitigation in Louisville. Expect to hear about current efforts underway at the time of this workshop.

The Path of Hope (focused on climate change)

Facilitator: Rev. Dawn Cooley

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

Sep 29, Oct 6, 13, 20



Class Description. The Path of Hope focuses on how climate change already is impacting the humanitarian ministries of faith communities around the world; how those impacts will increase in the future; and why those impacts create an imperative for people of faith to support strong US climate action in 2020. Unlike many—if not most—faith-based climate studies, the study does not feature “creation care” or “environmental” themes, nor does it include any discussion about climate science.

The videos feature interviews with US faith leaders; representatives of impacted communities from the global South; and presentations by UN officials and other climate experts. The videos feature a consistent “cast:” four Americans representing faith-based organizations at “COP25” (the 2019 United Nations climate negotiations in Madrid, Spain), who share their policy insights along with poignant personal reflections. Most of the video content was shot at the COP. The title “The Path of Hope” is taken from the remarks of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the opening of COP25, in which he described humanity’s choices in the coming decade as “the path of surrender” and “the path of hope.”

The Path of Hope includes a discussion guide that asks participants to think deeply about how their own local faith community’s direct service programs intersect with climate impacts, and how knowledge and experiences gained through these programs might help to inform climate policy. The study’s Action Center provides practical, step-by-step instructions for advocacy activities, as well as recommended policy asks for local, state, and national leaders. The Action Center includes a reporting form so participants can log their legislative interactions.

Continuing the Conversation – Add Islam to UU Sources of Inspiration

Facilitators: Joe Brennan, Riffat Hassan, and Dennis Neyman

Three Sessions – Wednesday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Oct 28, Nov 4, 11



Class Description: Using videos, readings, interviews with Muslim UU’s, and brief lectures, participants will explore the relevance of Islam to contemporary UU congregations. “It’s Time to Make a Good Thing Better”: A proposal to change the 4th Unitarian Universalist “Sources of Inspiration” statement. Our current 4th Source statement invites Jews and Christians to bring cherished teachings from their own traditions into Unitarian Universalist worship and discourse, it does not extend this invitation to Muslims as well.



Welcoming Congregation – *Renewal* Honoring our Commitment to the Spiritual Practice of Welcoming LGBTQ+ People

Facilitators: Rhonda Barnett, Lesley Henney, and Ellen S. Wade
Four Sessions – Wednesday evenings – 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21

Class Description. 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. In this class we will learn about the 5 practices of Welcoming Congregation *Renewal*. From listening to guest speakers and watching videos, we will also learn about current successes and challenges in achieving LGBTQ justice and equity, and how to work toward achieving it.

Sept. 30th: Heather Yenawine is Director & Co-Founder of **FEVA- Fair Event Vendors Alliance** whose mission supports the underserved part of our community. Heather will introduce to participants an understanding of current LGBTQ +terms, and letting go of gender stereotypes.

<http://www.fairvendors.org/>

Oct. 7th: Meghan Buell, shares the mission of **TREES, Inc. Transgender Resource, Education and Enrichment Services** that was created in January 2015 and driven by the need to do its part to stem the rash of transgender suicides and murders. <http://www.webetrees.org/contact>

Oct. 14th: Maggie Carnes, Fairness Campaign and social worker representing **SAGE, Advocacy & Services of the LGBTQ+ Elders** will share information on the current dilemma of ageism that affects most communities. The LGBT community is no exception. <https://www.sageusa.org/>

Oct. 21st: Class participants will learn about the 5 practices of Welcoming Congregation *Renewal* and about UU the Vote for LGBTQ+ Equity.

Family Circle Gatherings

@ 10:00 a.m. on Sundays

(We'll skip September 6th)

Family Circle is a time to simply BE together. Bring a chalice or candle with you to light and please involve young people who are part of your family. We often have a story and then share the meaning we get from it. We have music too! DLFE Barb facilitates and new families are welcome to join us.

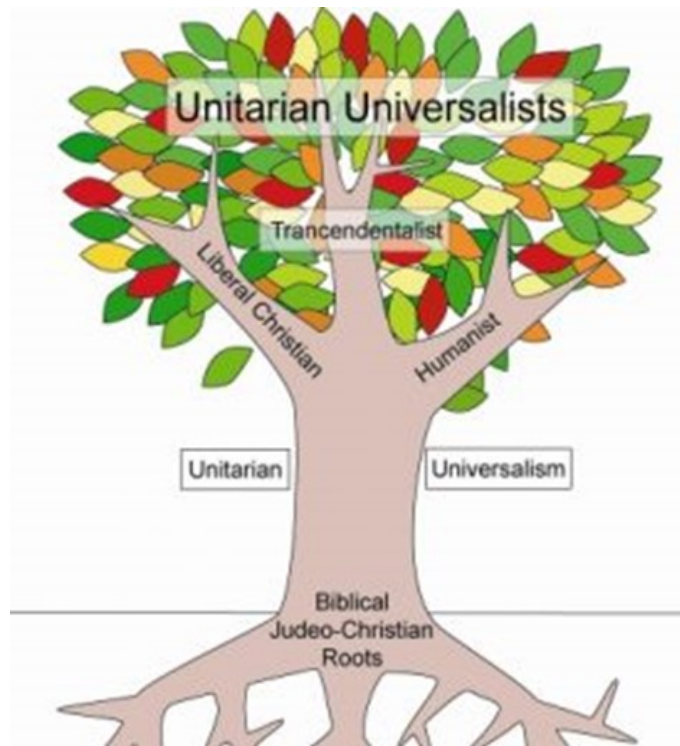
The gathering will end no later than 10:45 a.m. so folks can get to the online service on time. Please try to sign on between 9:55 and 10:00 a.m.

Family Circle meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82279796690>

Meeting ID: 822 7979 6690





Spiritual Roots and Branches: How and What We Believe

Facilitator: Rev. Kathy Hurt

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

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5

Class Description: This class considers where and how Unitarian Universalists, who tend to be eclectic in our spirituality, develop our individual beliefs, and how our individual beliefs shape the overall spiritual perspective and practices of the churches we join. We will do some tracing of our personal and collective spiritual roots to see how varied experiences shape our beliefs (including those beliefs we reject), where our growing spiritual edges might be as individuals and as a community, where we are open to changes of belief and where we keep the doors of change nailed shut. Classes will be a mix of presentation and discussion and interaction, with some homework assignments.

Talk Time 4 Parents

Monday, September 14th

Folks in parenting roles have been through a lot these past few months and that is a continuing part of life these days. DLFE Barb will facilitate a gathering for sharing concerns and supporting each other via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82539100350>





Family Ministry is an approach to faith engagement that centers families in an intentional partnership within the context of the loving care and attention of the whole congregational community. What we offer is as much about adults in parenting roles as it is about children and youth.

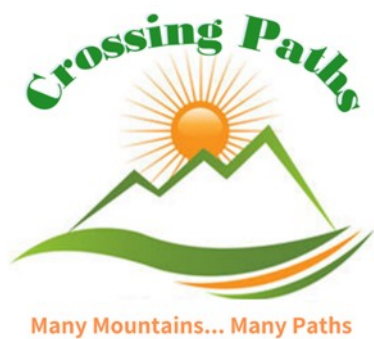
In a typical year, this issue of Tapestry would include lots of information about the fall session of programming for families, children and youth but, as we all know so well, this is not a typical year. We are responding to that by striving to meet the needs of families without contributing to

the overwhelm that so many are feeling these days. Based on responses to surveys recently sent to families, we are charting a course that can adapt as needed as the pandemic situation changes.

The fall session of Family Ministry will begin in mid-September with our exciting Crossing Paths program. You'll see a sprinkling of offerings becoming available into October. Along the way, you'll find once a month multigenerational outdoor events, gatherings for parents, virtual (and hopefully in person) gatherings for our high school youth, some scheduled virtual groups for children and youth, and a fair amount of on demand content.

The goal of Family Ministry programming as the pandemic continues is to build and support connections and relationships rather than focus on typical religious education content. Please do be sure to read your Family Ministry Buzz Newsletters for regular updates. If by some chance those are not reaching you, please let DLFE Barb know. Be well, take care, and stay safe!

Faithfully,
Barb Friedland



Coming Soon for UU youth: **Crossing Paths** **Registration is Open Now!**

Program Orientation on Sunday, September 13th at 12:30 p.m.

Exciting news! This fall we will offer Crossing Paths, the Soul Matters world religions program for youth in 6th-9th grades (10th grade youth with special permission) — ONLINE!

Crossing Paths is the successor to the UU Neighboring Faiths curriculum where youth learn about religious practices of other faith communities by visiting their worship services. This year the curriculum has been adapted for online/ Zoom use with games and fun built in! And since we'll be visiting churches online, there is almost no limit to where we can visit!

Here's another incentive — we are partnering with two other UU churches to offer this program jointly. So your youth will have the opportunity to interact with other UU youth and learn together.

Registration for this program is required and is open now at this link: <https://forms.gle/c3obVK1icvDrqLag9> Please register before September 10th.

Adults in parenting roles and participants also need to attend a special orientation for this program to be held on Sunday, September 13th beginning at 12:30 PM. Please mark your calendar for that event.

What Does It Mean To Be A People of RENEWAL?

September is a season of homecoming for us UU's, even during these days when we continue to be apart. And renewal is central to that. At the opening of each new church year, we renew our commitments to each other and our church community. We renew our energy for another year of journeying together as best we can.

It's also a time of renewing our renewal questions. Yes, that sounds odd, but it's essential to understanding the importance of this concept, and the importance of our faith. You see, one of the less noticed roles of religion is its sneaky way of changing our lives by asking us to change the questions we ask. This is especially true when we talk about renewal.

In our culture and secular lives, the questions we ask about renewal focus mainly on health (Are you drinking enough water? Are you getting enough sleep?) and work/life balance (Are you making enough time for family, play and rest?). Those are fine questions, but they don't take us very deep or push us very far. They don't enable the kind of transformation that religion wants for us.

And so along comes religion and it says, "Hey, look over here. There's a box with an entirely different set of renewal questions that nobody's opened yet."

Questions like:

- Are you sure it's your body that's tired, or could it be your soul?
- What if "time away" isn't about restoring ourselves in order to return to our work, but instead about making space to decide if it's time to reconfigure ourselves and re-imagine what our true "work" is?
- Is it time to renew your responsibility to those who will come after you?
- Is it time to renew your commitment to carry on the work of those who came before us?
- What if you saw your daily living and loving as an opportunity (even a calling) to renew others' faith in humanity?
- Could it be that continual self-improvement is not the path to renewal but instead compassionate acceptance of who you already are, warts and all?
- What if renewing our common future isn't just about moving forward, but instead requires a return to an honest telling of the past?

So friends, let's dig in together.

Let's renew and refresh the renewal questions we ask.

Let's remind ourselves that we can change our lives by changing the questions we ask.

"Grief no more needs a solution than love needs a solution. We cannot 'triumph' over death, or loss, or grief. They are immovable elements of being alive. If we continue to come at them as though they are problems to be solved, we'll never get solace or comfort in our deepest pain."

Megan Devine

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

Return Service Requested

September 2020
Edition 660

Our Shared Brokenness Connects Us

We are all broken by something. We have all hurt someone and have been hurt. We all share the condition of brokenness even if our brokenness is not equivalent. The ways in which I have been hurt—and have hurt others—are different from the ways [others have] suffered and caused suffering. But our shared brokenness connects us.

- Bryan Stevenson

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