

# Tapestry



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, GA

September 2021

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## Fellowship Office Hours

Tuesday — 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Wednesday — 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday — 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
or by appointment as needed.

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

10:30 a.m.

Available virtually at [uuathensga.org/online](http://uuathensga.org/online)

**September Theme:** Building a New Way through Widening the Circle

**September Cause:** Athens Pride — Athens Pride exists to promote community, fellowship, and support around lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues through advocacy, outreach, education, communication, and event sponsorship.

### September 5 — Black, Gay, and Proud

UUFA will join Abundant LUUV, an Atlanta West End Unitarian Universalist congregation centered in the African American religious tradition, where your whole, authentic self is abundantly welcome. The Rev. Duncan Teague joyously invites UUFA to join them in celebrating their community-centered work on this, Atlanta's Black Gay Pride weekend.

Abundant LUUV has been recognizing the celebration of Black Pride for the Atlanta GLBTQAI communities during Labor Day weekend since our founding, and along with our guests the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, Georgia, we will continue this tradition. We will celebrate the achievements of Black queer people and their history and also honor one of our own who has helped in the formation of Abundant LUUV and led our region as a staff person, Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith, now UUA Regional Lead staff for the Pacific Northwest.

### September 12 — Shelter from the Storm

To everything there is a season: a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to search and a time to rest. When faced with an anniversary of a loss (like the twentieth anniversary of 9/11), our hearts are stirred to sorrow, and an ongoing trauma (like the global pandemic that continues to scourge humanity) causes cycles from despair to rage to quiet desperation. Where do we take these passionate feelings? Throughout history, spiritual community has provided a safe harbor. Our Fellowship yearns to be such a space for comfort in this challenging time.

### September 19 — Like Rivers Flowing to the Sea: Water Communion!

With great joy, UUFA annually reconstitutes its community by joining in the Unitarian Universalist tradition of water communion. This year, we'll gather on the grounds of our beloved Fellowship home — shaped by Covid but flowing still. Bring water to share in a common vessel (potability not required, but water only, please). Wear a mask to protect the most vulnerable and yourself. Wear your nametag to make sure everyone can recognize you after so much time apart. The Fellowship choir will be featured!

### September 26 — Beyond Categorical Thinking: What This moment in Time, T-Rex Named Penelope, Pittsburgh, and a Theologian Can Teach Us about the Future of Religion and Our Commitment to Equity and Justice

Religion, including Unitarian Universalism, is at a moment in time. Can it survive? And what must it do in order to survive? What must we do? We'll explore our place in today's world, and why it is metaphorical meteorites and not a comet that could wipe us out. Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the Transitions Office for the UUA, will lead the service.

## FORUM

9:30 a.m.

### September — What's New at UUFA?

Learn what has been happening at the UUFA building--literally and figuratively--over the last few months as members share about the new UUFA pandemic guidelines, the security equipment, the Memorial Tree, and the to-be-installed UUFA sign.

### September 19 — Dismantling White Supremacy

Join members of the Racial Justice Team in exploring one the UUFA 2021-22 goals--engaging in dismantling white supremacy including the intersectional aspects of environmental and economic injustice--by looking at what has been done at UUFA and by the UUA and exploring the possibilities for making this goal even more of a reality.

***Saturday, September 25 via Zoom, 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. and 1:00p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
(Please attend BOTH sessions.)***

## **Think of a Minister — Don't Think of an Elephant.**



Chances are you thought of both and distinct images perhaps came to mind. In terms of a minister, what images came to mind? Was it a person of a particular gender, race, or age?

Beyond Categorical Thinking is a highly recommended part of the search process for our congregation. We don't want to overlook or let biases keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match to serve as our next settled minister.

Congregations sometimes assume that their ideal minister looks a certain way, and often ministers who are not white or male or heterosexual or able-bodied or of a particular age or class are discounted and seen as “less than” in some ways.

Credentialed ministers in our faith who are People of Color, LGBTQ+, disabled, young, old, working class, etc. still face discrimination as part of the ministerial search process.

In our efforts to find the best match, our congregation will host a Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop from 10:00 – 11:30 and 1:00 – 2:30 on Saturday, September 25, via Zoom. Everyone in the congregation is strongly encouraged to attend both the morning and afternoon sessions!

The workshop is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in our search process. This is yet another way for us to live our values and improve the odds that regardless of identity, we will find the minister who is the best match for us and will serve us well.

Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the Transitions Office for the Unitarian Universalist Association, will facilitate the workshop, and also meet with our search committee and lead the Sunday service on September 26.

This workshop is a great opportunity for you to participate more fully in the search process. We will explore our hopes and concerns for a new minister, learn more about the search process, and see how our own history (both personal and congregational) might interfere with our efforts in this search.

### **September 26 — Beyond Categorical Thinking: What This moment in Time, T-Rex Named Penelope, Pittsburgh, and a Theologian Can Teach Us about the Future of Religion and Our Commitment to Equity and Justice**

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## On Becoming a Member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens

### *Ready to become a member?*

If you've been attending services and/or are otherwise engaged in the life of the Fellowship, you may wish to become a member. Specific benefits to membership are delineated on our website at [uuathensga.org/fellowship/membership-info](http://uuathensga.org/fellowship/membership-info). The most significant benefits include the right to vote on Fellowship matters and participation in our Care Rings (geographically based groups that help one another in times of need).

### *Steps to Membership*

We have just a few requirements for membership: signing a Covenant of Membership form — which sets out our expectations of members--and then signing our Membership Registry book during a Sunday service New Member Ceremony. However, we strongly recommend you also do the following first:

- Get involved as a way be sure UUFA is the religious or spiritual community to which you wish to belong.
- Attend a New to UUFA newcomer orientation session, or meet with the Minister.
- Make a 'contribution of record' (a financial donation to the Fellowship at whatever level your means and commitment allow), noting no minimum or maximum amount exists!)

### *Covenant of Membership*

This form is available online and at the Visitor Table in the Fellowship foyer.

### *Eleven Reasons to Become a Member*

Although there will always be the holy trinity of coffee, conversation, and committees as reasons to join a religious or spiritual community, below is a "Top Ten" list (though ours goes to eleven) of reasons you should become a member of UUFA:

- To transform yourself and the world
- To give back in return for the many blessings in your own life
- To find meaning and purpose for your life
- To feel comfort and find hope in the midst of a broken world
- To bring greater peace and justice to your life and the world
- To make new friends and be glad you're alive
- To sing, laugh, cry, share, love, and be merry
- To practice selflessness, humility, and generous hospitality
- To experience and celebrate awe and wonder
- To be reminded of what is most important in life
- To belong, knowing the Fellowship is a spiritual home that accepts all of who you are



## UUFA Memorial Grove

### *A Way to Remember*

*Barbara Schell*

There is a new addition to the Sanctuary! The UUFA Memorial Grove provides a place for members to put a small engraved "leaf" to remember members of the UUFA along with close family who have passed away. This project started over a year ago in the summer of 2020 as Rev. Alison was finalizing her ministry and preparing to retire. As she mused over "unfinished" things she had hoped to accomplish, she shared that she had hoped to have way to memorialize members who had passed on. Rev. Alison had already done a great deal of research on this project, and funding was already allocated in the minister's memorial fund. Iva King and Barbara Schell volunteered to complete this project and were soon joined by Penny Oldfather and Clela Reed. A year later that dream has come true in the form of the UUFA Memorial Grove, which is mounted on the wall inside the sanctuary and just to the left of the entrance. The Grove consists of carved wooden trees with metal leaves in colors of gold, silver, and bronze.

The Grove already has the name of our Fellowship, names of founding members, and the names of former ministers who have passed on. UUFA Members may purchase an engraved leaf or leaves in memory of immediate family members. Leaves may also be purchased in advance for members wishing to have themselves memorialized in the future. Additionally, employees of UUFA and UUFA ministers may be memorialized. You may complete the order form online ( <https://www.uuathensga.org/blog/2021/08/20/uufa-memorial-grove-a-way-to-remember/>). For members who do not have computer access, please call Congregational Administrator Shaye Gambrell at 706-546-7914 (ext. 5).

There is a fee of \$50, which may be waived for financial hardship at the discretion of the minister. Note: Members who give monetary bequests or who have made substantial donations (\$500 or greater) to the UUFA beyond their annual pledge will not be charged a fee for a memorial leaf.



## September Board Reflection

*Marco Messori, Member-at-Large*



In 2017 at the General Assembly, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) started a Commission on Institutional Changes with the task to conduct an audit of white privilege and the structure of power within Unitarian Universalism. The Commission presented the final work to the General Assembly last year in the document entitled *Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change*. This report shared that at the beginning of the Commission's research addressing the perennial problem of race in Unitarian Universalism was not broadly seen as a theological mandate, and a need for new definitions of multicultural competency for religious leadership was affirmed. Even if in 2020 at the General Assembly progress on these issues was noticed, points were made that efforts to focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion were still met with derision and that white leaders openly speaking out about white supremacy culture and the need for change were finding their leadership affected.

Among many trends, the Commission found the following:

1. Economic and demographic patterns in society, along with our theological imperative, require us to look anew at efforts to promote equity, inclusion, and diversity.
2. Values such as accountability, multicultural awareness, and inclusive language are becoming the “new normal” in the larger world and require deep and faithful work to allow growth and change for us.
3. The change at personal and interpersonal levels is interconnected to the necessity of systemic changes. As Mary Byron has claimed, this transformational work will have its foundation in our willingness to get uncomfortable in a community with big-hearted, creative, welcoming people who want to come together to build a more just and generous faith community. Individual efforts do not guarantee the Beloved Community. We need to put greater emphasis on what it means to be bound to one another in an interdependent web and in keeping with our covenantal tradition. We need a clear sense of mission.

Personal relationships are still central to the work of organizations yet should not be used instead of sound governance structures. Our commitments to justice, equity, and compassion among us as well as our commitment to democratic processes require hard and committed work that engages the individual as well as soberly addressing the institutional dimensions of the work. Progressive-minded, working-age adults expect the basic practices of equity, inclusion, and diversity that many of our congregations currently lack. In the dance of congregationalism – sharing – leadership, recognizing when individuals are best in position to lead or to move back, and making space for new ideas, change, and transformation. We are all asked to struggle as individuals and as a body in order to determine the future of our faith. Change, agility, and innovation are needed for Unitarian Universalism to survive.

As we acknowledge that we are a part of the interdependent web of existence, we can recognize that the call to spiritual maturity and growth means listening to marginalized voices. The white majority refusal to acknowledge and accept the firsthand knowledge that people of color, indigenous and other marginalized groups face within our frames is maddening to those who experience it over and over among us. We have to take responsibility for the impacts of our voices, processes, and actions as we engage with the expectation of growth and learning. With humility, we must affirm one another's humanity even in times of frustration, heartbreak, and trauma. Together, we must dig deeper with self-awareness and mindfulness—recognizing the power we have over one another, simply allowing ourselves to wake up to that and not to be shamed or made guilty but rather simply to allow ourselves to prepare our own hearts for transformation.

We would not be having these conversations in 2020, if we had kept them going in the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s. Our kids need to learn from what we are rather than from what we teach. Acknowledging and addressing our biases can help us prevent transmitting them to younger UUs. Our work of becoming more equitable, inclusive, and diverse within our congregations is justice work. While new generations show interest in being part of organizations that are making a difference, we need to recognize the essential role of religious educators, music professionals, and membership professionals in making congregational change.

In the respect for our responsible search for truth and meaning, sometimes truth needs to be affirmed to a public that isn't quite ready to hear it. Our survival and liberation depend upon our recognition of the truth when it is spoken and lived by the people. Too often we make decisions based on what generates the least conflict within the majority culture and on what allows conformity to continue. A factor that contributes to the decline in membership, participation, and financial contribution for our congregations is our inability to address issues of inclusion, equity, and diversity.

Change produces conflict, and in order to continue to be flexible and responsive to the needs of today, we must be more comfortable with change and thus with the conflict that it may generate. We must hold each other in love and kindness even when we do not agree. If we can live into the full participation of those who have been most marginalized among us, we can create a responsive, vibrant Unitarian Universalism marked by full equity and participation that will continue to play its vital role in transforming lives and communities.

## Second Lookers to Resume September 24



Second Lookers will gather again September 14 at noon via Zoom. The guest speaker will be Linda Davis, a Friend of the Brooklyn Cemetery, an African American cemetery near Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Clarke Middle School. Ms. Davis will discuss the cemetery's history and the work being done to restore and maintain it.

Find the link to join the meeting at UUFA Stay Connected page ([uuathensga.org/stay-connected](http://uuathensga.org/stay-connected)). Need assistance attending through Zoom? Call Congregational Administrator Shaye Gambrell in the office (706-546-7914, ext. 5).

## UUFA: Celebrating 67 years in 2021!

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens (UUFA — aka The Fellowship) was founded in 1954 by ten families seeking a liberal religious presence in Athens. Originally small gatherings were held in members' homes to hear interesting speakers. From the beginning, we have been known for our strong commitment to social justice and human rights. In the 1960s, members of our Fellowship led the University of Georgia faculty in supporting campus desegregation. Later, other members helped to create the Clarke Community Federal Credit Union to serve the needs of lower income people.

Today, UUFA is a vital community of over 300 members and friends with a minister, choir, and religious education program for both children and adults. We are a growing congregation, grateful for the beauty and functionality of our building, dedicated in 1993 and renovated and expanded in 2018.

Along with more than 1,000 other member UU congregations in the United States and Canada, our Fellowship benefits from the leadership and support of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

*The following article appeared in the September 2014 issue of The Tapestry for the Jubilee Celebration of UUFA's founding.*

### September [2014] Ushers in 60 Days of Jubilee Celebration Shared Ministry at UUFA

*By Myrna Adams West*

In 1954 nine people gathered for the initial meeting of the group that soon became the Universalist Unitarian Community Church of Athens. According to records, they were Ruben Gotesky, Paul Pfuetze, Don Martin, Ann Martin, Horace Montgomery, Gladys Montgomery, Jack Foster, Ethel Foster, and Thad Suits. None of them were ordained ministers in any church or denomination. They set the precedence for the strong lay leadership that has deepened throughout the sixty-year history of what is now known as the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens (UUFA). For the next 16 years, the congregation remained completely lay led, inviting University of Georgia professors, clergy from other churches, and knowledgeable folks from among the membership to present Sunday Programs on a variety of topics.

Horace Montgomery notes in the "Pursuit Continued, 1980-1985" chapter of his treatise on UUFA's first 35 years of existence, "Central to the well-being of the Fellowship have been its leaders, the presidents and ministers." Among the early presidents of the congregation were some of its founders, Thad Suits, Jack Foster, Horace Montgomery, and Reuben Gotesky. (For a complete listing of UUFA presidents and their years of service, see the addendum, "UUFA Presidents.") Also among the early presidents was Ann Woodruff, who later was chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee when the current property on Timothy Road was purchased.

The Rev. Clifton Hoffman, a Unitarian Universalist minister, was called as part-time minister in 1970. Montgomery records that during Rev. Hoffman's 11-year ministry, membership greatly increased, the budget grew ever larger, and ties with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Mid-South District grew stronger. Presidents who worked with Rev. Hoffman to achieve those milestones included some who are still members UUFA: Murray Blum, Jane King, Nancy MacNair, and Larry Dendy. Rev. Hoffman also periodically exhorted the congregation to greater social responsibility, which resulted in the founding by UUFA members of the Clarke Community Federal Credit Union and "a variety of other important community projects."

Among those projects were counseling conscientious objectors, participating in the Athens Area Food Bank, and assisting a Laotian refugee family.

One of the chief lay leaders of that era was Kay Hoffman, who built upon the efforts of earlier religious education teachers to strengthen the foundations of the Children's Religious Education Program. Rev. Hoffman was appointed to Minister Emeritus status in 1981, recognizing his years of service during which Montgomery notes, "he consistently worked overtime," and "gave [the Fellowship] direction and confidence."

The Rev. Mitchell G. Howard became the first full-time minister in 1982, was elected secretary of the Mid-South District Board and worked to bring the 1985 UUA General Assembly to Atlanta. Unfortunately, however, the connection between Rev. Howard and the members of UUFA was not always warm. As Montgomery notes, many saw him as "unskilled in the management of pastoral duties." As tensions mounted, a UUA consultant was dispatched as mediator, but Howard resigned in 1984. Among the Board of Trustees Presidents who served during Howard's tenure were Larry Dandy and Stu Fors who remain active in the Fellowship today.

#### **Rev. Beth Ide**

During 1984-1986, Interim Minister Beth Ide served both UUFA and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Middle Georgia in Macon (now High Street Unitarian Universalist Church), but she was successful in easing the tensions within the Athens Fellowship and helped influence the shift toward "more spiritual substance."

#### **Rev. Nancy Roemheld**

In 1986, the Rev. Nancy Roemheld became the third settled minister. As Montgomery notes, during her tenure, a building committee was formed, and, after considerable planning, which included cottage meetings to survey members about what they hoped the building would include,

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*(Founding continued from Page 5)*

land on Timothy Road was purchased in 1988. The current building at 780 Timothy Road was erected and dedicated in 1993. The new building provided room for Sunday services, a choir loft, a fellowship hall, offices, a kitchen, and a religious education wing. After moving to the new building and changing the Sunday service time to 11:00 a.m., the Fellowship inaugurated the Forum, which continues in 2014 [2021]. Each week speakers from the Fellowship and the Athens community are invited to speak to Forum attendees about topics of interest, harking back to the days when services ended with discussion. Horace Montgomery's chapter, "Still Pursuing, 1986-1988," in his treatise names many of the lay leaders who worked diligently beside the ministers during those years to lay the strong foundation of volunteerism that keeps the Fellowship running to this day. Among those are the Board Presidents who served during those years including current members Mac Rawson, Jim Woodruff, and Stu Fors (who signed on for a third term!). Without those leaders, Presidents and others, the shared ministry that guides the governance and ministry of the Fellowship today would not have evolved. Copies of the treatise, which traces the Fellowship's growth from 1954 through 1988, are available in the Fellowship office.

Following Rev. Roemheld's resignation in 1994 after the congregation had moved into the building on Timothy Road, the Fellowship was completely lay-led for about a year. Rev. Roemheld had trained a Sunday Service Committee to plan, organize, and conduct Sunday services using a workbook handout with answers to such questions as What is a worship service? What is the opening for? How do we do the middle, the closing, etc.? How do we use the readings in the hymnal? Cathi Doherty was chairperson of the Sunday Service Committee (SSC), and Tom Martin was President at that time (fall 1994) when Rev. Roemheld's tenure was coming to a close.

A Diamond JUUbilee article, "The Evolution of Spiritual Arts at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, 1954-2014" (available at <http://uuathensga.org>) tells more about the volunteers who, in addition to President David Sweat, stepped up to keep UUFA going during this period, with Adult Religious Education Classes as well as lay-led Sunday services throughout the summer. The article goes on to explain how the Worship Arts Committee continues to work today with the minister to plan and execute Sunday worship services.

### **Rev. Terre Balof**

The Rev. Terre Balof succeeded Rev. Roemheld in 1995 and served until 2008. Current members who served alongside Rev. Balof in the President's position are David Sweat, [the late George Koch,] Patty Freeman-Lynde, Caryl Sundland, Kay Fors, Kay Giese, David Jarrett, Frank Boardman, and John Olive.

An important shared ministry program organized under Rev. Balof's leadership is the Care Program, which was started in 1995 with Helen Wilcox and Helen (Cookie) Kabat as volunteer coordinators. Under the Care Program, the congregation is divided into geographical Care Rings, small groups of members who can be called upon to support others within the group with food and transportation or other help when needed. A volunteer team of coordinators oversees each Care Ring's activities.

Another important aspect of the Care Program is the Pastoral Care Team, started in 2001. This team consists of specially trained members who help to provide spiritual care and support of those who are experiencing extended illness or other needs. Susan Ponsoldt has been the coordinator of this group of volunteers for many years. She has worked closely with the members of the team as well as with the ministers including the Rev. Dr. Don Randall who has assisted with training and counseling.

Rev. Randall, who holds a Ph.D. in counseling, became Affiliated Community Minister of UUFA in 2003. In this position, he serves the UUFA community by helping to train and counsel the Pastoral Care Team, filling the pulpit several times a year, and leading workshops and classes for adults as needed.

In 1993, the UUFA began a partnership with the Unitarian church in the historic village of Okland, Romania, in the area formerly known as Transylvania. Over the last 21 years, the UUFA has supported the Okland church in its efforts to renovate its buildings, to restore the village economy, and to aid deserving students who must pursue secondary education in boarding schools far from the village. In 2014, we are supporting four young people who are attending school away from home.

Rev. Balof led members on a trip to Romania to visit our sister church in 2005, and members have enjoyed other pilgrimages since then. The [late] Rev. Levente Kelleman (Okland's minister), his wife Eva, and their children as well as other adults and youth from Okland, have visited UUFA many times over the years. Heather Kleiner's leadership has been especially important in keeping the relationship between Okland and UUFA vibrant and ongoing. Bruce and Jane King have also been very active in visiting the Okland congregation and keeping in touch with the minister and members there.

Under Rev. Balof's leadership, Small Group Ministry (SGM) was implemented in 2007, giving members the opportunity to know each other in deeper ways as they meet twice a month in groups of eight to ten members to discuss topics of concern, often of a spiritual nature. Michelle Leebens-Mack provided extensive lay leadership in promoting and supporting this vital connection among members. When Michelle stepped down from the leader's position in 2011, Kelly Simonson and Andy Case Simonson assumed responsibility and provided facilitation until 2013 when Michelle Swagler and Todd Dinkleman took the position.

Rev. Balof also engaged the help of the Sunday Service Committee (now called the Worship Arts Committee) to assist in planning and carrying out the Sunday worship services. In 2008 Rev. Balof and members of the Sunday Service Committee presented a workshop entitled "Orchestrating the Rhythm of Worship: Annual Worship Planning" at the General Assembly. The workshop was designed to help small churches plan the worship year easily and quickly. By encouraging members to participate in ministry through such groups as the Pastoral Care Team and the Sunday Service Committee, Rev. Balof helped to instill the concept of shared ministry into the life of the congregation, encouraging strong lay leadership and the participation of all in planning and carrying out the mission of the Fellowship.

### **Rev. David Johnson**

Following Rev. Balof's departure, the Rev. David Johnson served as interim minister for two years, continuing to support the concept of shared ministry and providing much help in transitioning to a new settled minister. Challenging UUFA to grow into the mid-sized congregation he knew us to be destined to become, Rev. Johnson often rallied members and friends at meetings and services with the motto "Onward and Upward!" Serving as Presidents during his tenure were Patty Freeman-Lynde and Wilma Harrington.

*(Founding continued on Page 7)*

*(Founding continued from Page 6)***Rev. Alison Eskildsen**

In 2010, the Rev. Alison Wilbur Eskildsen came to us as our fifth settled minister. Under Rev. Eskildsen's guidance and direction, UUFA is maturing into that mid-sized congregation Rev. Johnson foresaw and is becoming even more deeply committed to shared ministry. Management of the Fellowship is now divided into two parts--Governance and Ministry. Since 2010, the Board of Trustees--the Governance body-- has been led by Rich Clark, Herb West, Dan Everett, and Marguerite Holmes. The current President is Merridy McDaniel, who, like her predecessors, guides the Trustees to set policy, to maintain fiscal responsibility, and to help meet the vision and mission of UUFA, which were revised under Rev. Eskildsen's leadership in 2011. The minister's role in this model is to direct programs, supervise staff, and work with the Ministry Council, which includes the Lay Ministers and the paid staff, to implement and oversee the ministries of the Fellowship.

The Ministry Council meets regularly to plan and direct the ministries including lifespan religious education, connections within and without the Fellowship, spiritual arts, justice, stewardship, and fun and fellowship. Rev. Eskildsen began the Lay Ministry program in 2011 and installed six Lay Ministers in 2012. They are Patty Freeman-Lynde, Michelle Leebens-Mack, Nancy McNair, Jane Mayer, Aleta Turner, and Myrna Adams West. Three members of this class--Patty, Nancy, and Jane--retired to Emerita status in spring of 2014, and a new class was installed to join the remaining original members. Members of the 2014 class are Ange Kahn, Vivian Preston Sellers, Karen Solheim, and Herb West.

Under Rev. Eskildsen's leadership and with a generous donation from anonymous donors, a Memorial Garden was designed by Julene Anderson and built by Bud Newton in 2013 with a wall on which plaques may be mounted to commemorate those whose ashes are buried or scattered on the grounds.

**Social Action at UUFA**

Social action continues to be an integral part of the UUFA mission with members of the congregation participating in many community programs, recently including supporting weekly Women in Black vigils at the University of Georgia Arch in downtown Athens to promote peace-related events; other social action events include a total congregation vote to adopt a resolution against the Georgia anti-gay marriage amendment, support of the Economic Justice Coalition--founded by UUFA member Ray McNair--, establishment of the "Cause of the Month" program with half of the Sunday service collection going to the cause, the collection of canned goods to be donated to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, and wide congregation participation in the local Smart Lunch/Smart Kids Program.

Under the leadership of the Social Action Committee (SAC), the Fellowship became an official Welcoming Congregation in 1995. More details on the Social Action Committee's projects can be found in the addenda, "UUFA Social Action" and "UUFA Members Who Volunteer in the Community in Significant Roles Representing the Congregation." Nancy McNair, Caryl Sundland, Karen Solheim, and David Jarrett are long-time SAC leaders who have spearheaded various projects throughout the years.

The Social Action Committee also leads the congregation in active participation in "[Standing] on the Side of Love," an interfaith public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the UUA. In 2012, the Economic Justice Coalition established the Ray McNair Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of Dr. McNair's dedicated leadership in the greater Athens community. In 2013, the award was given to UUFA member and active Social Action Committee member Caryl Sundland in recognition of her social justice commitment to the Athens-Clarke area.

A recent addition to the SAC agenda is the Green Sanctuary Committee, chaired by Terry Jones, which is working to make UUFA an accredited Green Sanctuary under the guidelines established by the UU Ministry for the Earth, part of the UUA's environmental justice project. To learn more at the UUA Green Sanctuary program, go to <http://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary/>; about Ministry for Earth, <http://uuministryforearth.org/>; and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, <http://www.gipl.org>.

With the founding of the UUFA Choir by Stu Fors and a group of volunteer singers and musicians in 1981, music became an integral part of life at UUFA. Judith Preissle also provided pre-recorded music for the Sunday morning programs, but hymn singing and special music were not essential parts of the Sunday experience until the advent of the choir. Caroling for the holidays and occasional other fun musical activities were sometimes offered. For names of choir/music directors and pianists as well as some other musical volunteers and information about the music program today, see the article, "UUFA's Fabulous Music Program: 1981-2014" at the UUFA website.

Building on the strong foundation laid by Alma Walker and Gladys Montgomery in the earliest years and later by Kay Hoffman, UUFA's Children's Religious Education program is vital and energetic. A succession of dedicated paid and non-paid coordinators, directors, RE Committee chairs and members, parents, teachers, and other volunteers (See the document "Paid and Volunteer Staff of UUFA" for a list of coordinators/directors.) have sent generations of children and youth into the world to live out the liberal religious values they learned about in Chalice Children, Seeker, JRUU, and YRUU classes. Participation in Our Whole Lives (OWL), a UUA curriculum that teaches healthy attitudes toward sex and gender, has become a rite of passage, not only for children of UUFA but also those of the greater Athens Community.

In summer 2011, RE Director Morgan Watson offered the first Peace Camp, pulling in not just UUFA children but local children, youth, and adults for a week-long immersion in the art of peace. The popularity of that camp encouraged the offering of an additional themed camp the following summer, based on the popular Harry Potter series of books and movies. Hogwarts at the Pyramid transforms the UUFA Fellowship Hall into the famed school for wizards and encourages thinking outside the box and inclusion of all things in the web of life.

Although Katie Sadler-Stephenson was hired as Director of Lifespan Religious Education, serving from 2007 to 2009, neither Young Adult/Campus Ministry nor Adult Religious Exploration have enjoyed full-time attention by a dedicated staff or volunteer leader. In 1996, Sanjay Lal devoted some time to working with UU students at the University of Georgia, and Donna McPeck spent two years immediately thereafter in the same pursuit. More recently Allen Jones and Karen (Pinkie) Bergmann offered Small Group Ministry-type gatherings to students for one academic year.

Caryl Sundland, Charlotte (Chip) McDaniel, and Heather Lee Navarre volunteered time to coordinate Adult RE over the last 15 plus years. Many other volunteers have facilitated classes, discussion groups, and workshops through the years. The Ministry Council introduced the concept of Stepping Stones in 2012 as a way to more fully engage members and friends in both the spiritual and social life of the Fellowship. The ongoing Forum and other adult Religious Education offerings engage members and friends in learning and growing.

*(Founding continued on Page 8)*

(Founding continued from Page 7)

The Goddess Group, which began in 2003, is a circle of women who are exploring their inner goddess through appreciation and participation in the arts, everything from crafts to fine art, to gardening and nature walks, to singing and dancing and drumming, to reading and writing, to cooking and sewing. The group formed following study of the Unitarian Universalist Association's curricula about theology (the study of the feminine aspect of the Divine, i.e. the Goddess), *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* and *Rise Up and Call Her Name*. Ritual, conversation, sharing, and caring are part of the group's ongoing ministry to each other. Besides *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* and *Rise Up and Call Her Name*, the Goddess Group also periodically offers other courses including *Becoming Women of Wisdom: Marking the Passage into the Crone Years* and learns about other cultures and ideas by sharing fun activities such as henna tattoos, belly dancing, poetry workshops, book discussions, and field trips.

Another popular Stepping Stone is the Writing as Spiritual Practice group, which meets monthly to share writings on topics ranging from "beginnings" to "letting go" to "relationships," subjects that echo the monthly worship themes. Perhaps the longest-meeting Stepping Stone besides the Forum is the Book Group, which gathers monthly to discuss a selected book. Other groups gather periodically for seminars on works by UU authors such as *A Chosen Faith* and *Articulating Your UU Faith*. Other Stepping Stones include dinner groups, exploring the Bible classes, potlucks, game nights, hiking and water adventures, and Hootlucks (combined potlucks and hootenannies). Even the fundraisers are billed as "Funraisers" and engage members and friends in skits, plays, talent shows, auctions of goods and services, movie nights, and trips to exotic locales such as Costa Rica and Cumberland Island.

Begun in 2013, Face Time is an innovative idea for integrating both long-term and recent members and friends into activities within the Fellowship. Face Time volunteers pair up with new members to discover their skills and interests, entering the results into a database that can be utilized by committees and program leaders who have specific needs for projects and programs.

The Fellowship has joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with its adoption of technology. We have a website, a Facebook page, an online newsletter (a nod to going green), and weekly email announcements through which members are kept abreast of current events.

Membership has grown from the five founding members to more than 250 along with an equal number of friends. The building, parking lot, and grounds are no longer adequate to meet our growing needs. In the fall 2013, we began offering both a 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship hour and an 11:30 a.m. Sunday worship hour with Forum sandwiched between and Children's Religious Education concurrent with both worship services. Youth and Adult Religious Education Classes also meet periodically during the "between" hour.

However, the parking lot is still crowded at the 11:30 a.m. service and participants in the many Sunday morning activities bump into each other, jostling for space in the Fellowship Hall, foyer, classrooms, and parking lot. Weekday, weeknight, and weekend activities, both rental and Fellowship-related, keep the building in almost constant use. The Committee on Shared Ministry, established in 2011, keeps its finger on the pulse of the membership, asking questions about how to improve and grow our ministry and is currently leading a study of how the building is meeting the needs of individuals and groups. The Board of Trustees has also appointed a Long-Range Planning Task Force to take the Committee on Shared Ministry's findings and begin to develop a proposed solution to the overcrowding and other building/parking issues. A Capital Campaign and building expansion program could be in the Fellowship's not-too-distant future.



## Making Time to Reconnect to the Fellowship

As you are reentering the world, be sure to make time to reconnect to the Fellowship by joining a small group. Small Group Ministry allows you to meet new people as well as deepen old friendships. Groups consist of eight to twelve people who meet one or two times a month during the program year. Zoom and in-person options are available. Also known as "covenant groups" and "chalice circles," Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations. Groups meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics. Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation, and with the sacred.

Whether the topic is "good and evil," "mindful living," "parenting," or "letting go," the conversation is respectful and caring and leads to greater understanding. In each session, facilitated by a member of the congregation, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: Groups begin and end with centering readings and often include times for quiet reflection as well as sharing. Many small groups also put their faith into action through service projects.

The Fall Open Enrollment period is the "main enrollment" time for UUFA members and friends — whether new to the program or returning — to register for the coming year. REGISTER online ([www.uuathensga.org/SGM](http://www.uuathensga.org/SGM)) by September 12 at 5:00 p.m. Those of you who do not have computer access, please call Congregational Administrator Shaye Gambrell at 706-546-7914 (ext. 5) to help with your registration.

The mid-winter open-enrollment period provides opportunities for participation to newcomers to UUFA as well as current UUFA members and friends who missed the fall open enrollment period. Newcomers sign up in December to join a group in January and complete the SGM year which runs through May or August, depending on the wishes of the group. For more information and questions about SGM at UUFA, email [sgm@uuathensga.org](mailto:sgm@uuathensga.org). Kelly Simonson and Melanie Hennings continue in their service as 2021 SGM coordinators. *Thank you, Kelly and Melanie, for your service to the Fellowship!*

## Notes on the 31st Universalist Convocation

*Michelle Leebens-Mack*

- ⊕ The 2021 Universalist Convocation was the 31<sup>st</sup> annual gathering of Universalists from around the United States and the first one that it has been held in the Atlanta area since 1990. Usually held on the third weekend in May, this year's event was postponed until August due to COVID and was held at the Northwest UU Congregation in Sandy Springs.
- ⊕ Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens attendees were Michelle Leebens-Mack, Rev. Dr. Don Randall, and Michelle Bailey.
- ⊕ Following welcoming comments by the event coordinator Jay Kiskel, the Rev. Vernon Chandler, Zooming from his home in Bavaria, went into the history of the first Universalist Convocation sharing that in October 1990, approximately one hundred individuals from thirteen states and representing twenty-four different Universalist heritage churches convened for two days in Shelter Neck, North Carolina. The Outlaw's Bridge and Red Hill Universalist churches hosted this first gathering.
- ⊕ Rev. Chandler noted that the cover for the book for the event had as its logo the unofficial symbol for the Universalist church--a circle with an off-center cross. This logo was first developed in 1946, showing Universalism's relationship with Christianity. It points out that Christianity was not central to the faith. The circle connotes that room exists for other faiths and other symbols.
- ⊕ Rev. Chandler explained the purpose for the convocation was "to bring together individuals and churches of Universalist heritage for the sharing of the church histories, for discussing Universalist theology, and to explore means of promoting and strengthening the Universalist heritage within the Unitarian Universalist Association." Those gathered questioned if a "rebirth" of Universalism could be and whether a common theology among Universalists could exist. Chandler noted that the search was for "spiritual" energy, not a theological one, because a common theology seemed not to be as some were more of humanist beliefs and others more Christian, for example.
- ⊕ "Members of this "Universalist Convocation 1991 Steering committee" included Frank Beatty, Poplarville, Mississippi; William Hardeman, Raleigh North Carolina; Peggy Jones, Seven Springs, North Carolina; Justin Lapoint, Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey; John C. Morgan, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, and Albert C. Niles, North Sebago Maine.
- ⊕ Rev. Chandler told about the Rev. AJ Mattill. Mattill, along with his scholarly biblical work, is known for his 1989 pamphlet, "A New Universalism for a New Century." Mattill spoke of the four purposes of faith: to address truth, beauty, life, and the mystery of the Universe.
- ⊕ Along with Mattill, Chandler lifted up the names of other Universalists of that time: John C. Morgan, Bill, Balken, Frank Beatty, Regina Burton, Albert Niles, William H. Sax, and William Frank. "Circuit rider" Rev. Rhett Baird was one of the three ministers who provided worship during the meetings.
- ⊕ Rev. Chandler wanted to make clear his choice in what occurred in 1961 with the Universalists and the Unitarians: It is a "consolidation," not a "merger." He likened it to a marriage.
- ⊕ Former UUA President, the Rev. Peter Morales, was the second noted speaker. His remarks were entitled "Blow on the Coal of the Heart: The Universalist Sensibility in an Unbelieving World." The title draws from the play by Archibald MacLeish titled *J.B.*, based on the Biblical book of Job. The lines come at the end of the play, when J.B. and his wife Sarah are struggling to understand how to interpret the devastation they have suffered and how to go on living. Sarah says to J.B.: "Blow on the coal of the heart. The candles in churches are out. The stars have gone out in the sky. Blow on the coal of the heart. And we'll see by and by." Morales talked about how at this time, people are increasingly lonely and isolated. People need the community to address these needs. Our religious institution, he says, is in a special position to address these. When coming to our doors, people are asking, "Do I belong? Are these my family, my children, my people?" Our faith, Morales says, is grounded in relationships, but he is concerned that "In our passion for justice, we have not dealt with the pain that people are feeling." Half-jokingly, he said, "The key to growing our faith is to repel fewer visitors." We need to address what people are searching for. It is not our theology; it is community. The UU conceit is that we are theologically diverse. We're not. "If we were," Morales asks, "where are the creationists in our pews?" Morales talked about how Steve Jobs was successful in his innovation. "Jobs," he said, "would not have surveys about his products. Instead, he would listen to the frustrations about the product and ask, 'What would you like it to do?'" Morales then shared, during his time in office, looking at the fastest growing churches in the Unitarian Universalist denomination that these churches were all very dissimilar. They did well to know where they were and respond to the needs in that context.
- ⊕ In the windows of the newly renovated sanctuary of the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation hang five stained glass windows. Jay Kiskel shared the history of these windows. They were originally the Founders' Windows of the West Peachtree Street Church at 163 Ponce de Leon Avenue (Piedmont Avenue) in Atlanta. It was the same church where Margaret Mitchell was married. Before the building was demolished, it housed the Abbey Restaurant (<https://youtu.be/r8borW8aD5w>).



The Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis was recognized for her service to Universalism. Rev. Davis may be remembered by some of our UUFA members. She served her Ministerial Internship at UUFA with the Rev. Nancy Roemheld as her advisor.

*(Convocation continued on Page 10)*

(Convocation continued from Page 9)

- ⊕ Jay described Universalism in Georgia as not coming from one specific event or by one particular individual but emerging from itinerant preachers from 1795 to 1825. These preachers, many self-taught, brought the message of salvation for all in their communities. A second phase of the spread of Universalism in Georgia was from 1834 to 1900. Those who brought Universalism were ordained ministers. Jay stated, “In September 1834, the Universalists erected a small building measuring 24 feet by 34 feet near the Mulberry Grove Post Office on the road connecting Columbus and LaGrange. This building was the first meetinghouse erected by Georgia Universalists and was called the Republican Meetinghouse.”
- ⊕ Rev. Rhett Baird (mentioned earlier) offered further reflections entitled, “Fragments of Memories of Holy Times and Sacred Spaces.” He paralleled his time as a “circuit riding preacher” with that of the Rev. Quillen Shinn — Shinn from the 19th century and Baird from the 20th century. Carrying on the theme of community introduced by Rev. Morales, Baird quoted the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, citing the words in back of our grey Unitarian Universalist hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*: “The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. . . .” Baird said that this lifting of the veil is Universalism, revealing the universe within me. He gave particular examples of Unitarian Universalists he knew who lived out our Universalist faith through their actions for justice. For example, in 1971, Bob Wells worked in Fulton County, Georgia, to bring access to health care to those who could not afford it. Ruby Fossum worked for fair housing, and former Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens Intern Joan Armstrong Davis befriended a death row inmate, sitting with him in his final hours, and witnessing his death.
- ⊕ Baird addressed the yearning for community that Rev. Morales spoke of, quoting the Edwin Markham poem *Outwitted*, found in our grey hymnal.

**Outwitted**

*He drew the circle that shut me out —  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in.*

- ⊕ Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But Love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle that took him in!” Baird told the story of banana bread in which he would make banana bread for neighbors. In doing so, he built bridges--banana bread bridges--and by doing so, he came to discover bonds that bind us, the humanness that lies within each of us. Baird also told of preaching in a church when a bird flew in and could not get out. After some heroics of trying to catch the bird, one wise person went to the kitchen, getting some cookie crumbs, placing them on the sill of an open window. With this story, Baird suggested that we find a way to do what we do best. For the bird, it was searching for food.
- ⊕ One of the congregations that Rev. Baird has helped to support all these years was the Rockwell Universalist Church in Winder, Georgia. This church, built in 1881 and on the National Registry of Historic Places, underwent an amazing restoration and was scheduled to celebrate its Homecoming on Sunday, August 8, to show off the hard work of this small congregation (<https://www.hrcga.org/church/rockwell-universalist/>).
- ⊕ Rev. Rhett Baird then recognized three UU’s for their service to Universalism. Two of these individuals have a direct connection to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens. First recognized was the Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis, who did her ministerial Internship at the UUFA with the Rev. Nancy Roemheld as her advisor; the second was **Rev. Dr. Don Randall** who was recognized for “his service to Universalism and his many years as minister of the Canon Universalist, Canon, Georgia.”
- ⊕ We were then introduced to David Damico. Damico is the current editor of the *Universalist Herald*, the oldest continuously published liberal religious periodical in North America. This circular has been in continuous publication since 1850 although it was first published in 1847. This periodical has very significant Georgia roots. In 1896, John M. Bowers purchased and moved the paper to Canon, Georgia, and remained as publishing editor to 1911. From 1911 to 1991, it continued to be published in Canon, Georgia, under an arrangement with the Georgia Universalist Convention, serving as a regional-oriented periodical. It has evolved from a newspaper to a booklet and then from a pamphlet to a magazine. It is currently being archived at the Harvard University library. This magazine is a labor of love by Damico, a college professor in graphic design, who does all the work to create it four times per year with edition having a topical focus. The program encourages all congregations to include a copy of the *Herald* in their library. Online subscriptions can be obtained at <http://www.universalist-herald.org/aboutus.html>.
- ⊕ Rev. M’Ellen Kennedy was the last minister to speak to the group, Zooming from her home in Vermont. Her talk took us from looking at the past, examining the present, and onward into the future. She began by quoting the Unitarian Rev. Olympia Brown, the second female to be ordained by any denomination in the United States, and singing, “Always trusting in the One Love that always lives and flows.” This quote became a mantra echoed and woven throughout her sharing. It fits, she says, saying that “Love is the doctrine of this church.” She called on all participants to “listen to that still, small voice within ourselves.” Our doctrine is “not a theory” in the head. It’s in the heart.” As UU’s move forward into the next 250 years, we need to tune in towards the heart and “listen to the wisdom in your own spiritual practice.” As Albert Einstein said, “No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.” Reminding us of the previously shared Markham quote, we need to expand our ideas and our approach as “It is there that you find unity.” As Howard Thurman said, “What the world needs is for people to come alive.” She then asked us to reflect on what makes us come alive. “As Thomas Merton said, “In the end, it is the reality of human relationship that will save us.”

**Coming in the October Tapestry** . . . Look for an article about Rockwell Universalist, one of the first Universalist fellowships in Georgia and located in Barrow County. Founded in 1839, the earliest history states “considering the character and free thinking minds of those people, that the seeds of Universalism and liberal thought sown by itinerant preachers, should appeal to them and which later resulted in the organization of the church.”

## Share Joys, Sorrows & Milestones

Stay In Touch! Please follow this link to communicate your Joys, Sorrows, and Milestones to Rev. Lisa and the Pastoral Care Team.

We're all concerned about what's happening, but is there something special you're joyful about? Or sorrowful? Or have you reached a significant milestone? If so, please call Congregational Administrator Shaye Gambrell at 706-546-7914 (ext. 5) to help with you submit your information or let Rev. Lisa know by filling out the form (<https://www.uuathensga.org/blog/2020/03/19/share-your-joys-sorrows-here/>).

On Sunday morning during our virtual services, any messages you want shared will be announced. We'll continue to post those you want posted on our collective Joy, Sorrow & Milestone page, too, so stay in touch!

Be well and enjoy your time at home as best you can.



## Communicating Our Needs and Ideas as a Fellowship

### Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz



How does parenting change, in tasks and styles, as our children grow? As the parent of an adult, I know that some issues for kids are like themes that continually recur while appropriate parental responses and responsibilities change quite dramatically.

How do intimate relationships change over time? As a partner in a long-term relationship, I know that while our love has remained constant and even grown deeper, our ways of relating have had to change in response to the growth Jim and I have experienced as individuals and to the changing circumstances in which we've found ourselves.

How do congregations change as they grow? Just like in any other human endeavor, while some issues and needs will always be present, our ways of relating to and caring for each other have to change quite a bit over time. Coping skills and strategies that worked at an earlier stage of development eventually cease to be effective, and sometimes they even become liabilities as an organization grows and changes.

See that our message of liberal religion is reaching a broader and more diverse audience as we expand our reach through social media is wonderful. The pandemic didn't begin this expansion, but it's sure put its heavy foot on the accelerator. Therefore, UUFA is figuring out how to adapt to growth and change even as we anticipate finally gathering again this month (Water Communion is on September 19. Be there if you can! Tune in if you can't!)

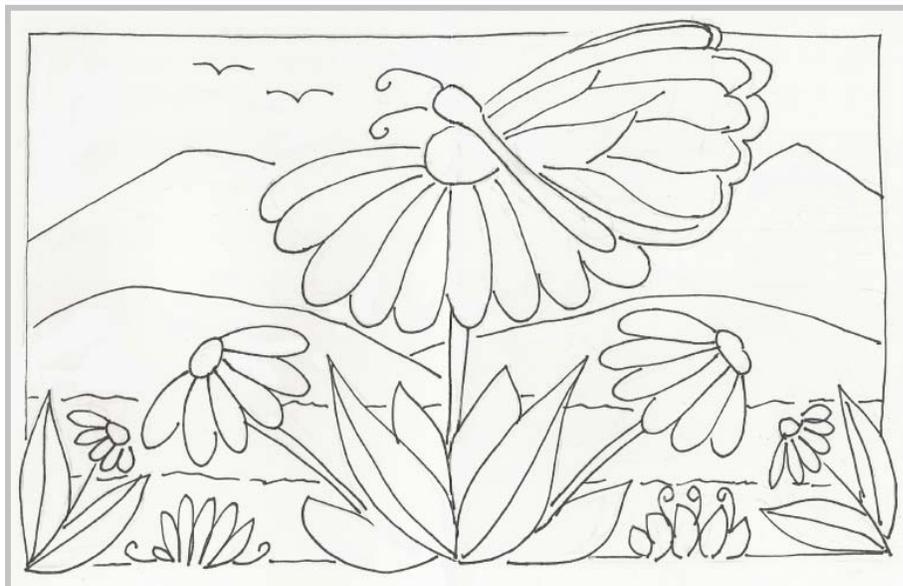
In the midst of this kinda-back-together/kinda-not-yet phase, what's the most effective way to communicate needs and ideas especially with so many broadcasting options at our fingertips? How do we co-create and generate the momentum that will take us into the future, whatever that looks like?

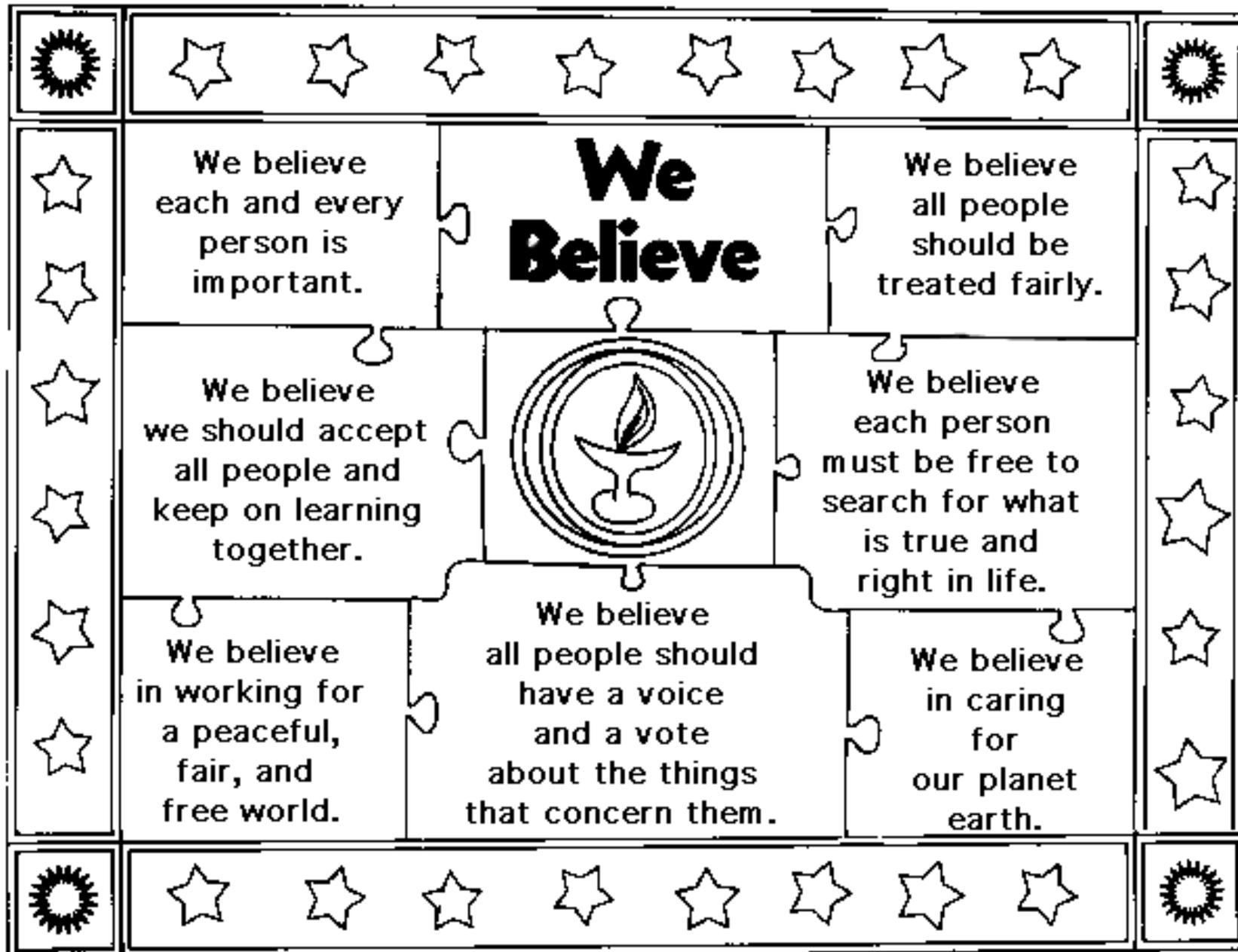
I'm confident that the answers are within us, and I'm looking forward to a season of conversations and collaborative events, virtual and IRL, that will help clarify our identity and set us on a course to achieve our vision.

There will be changes as there always are in human life. Meanwhile, some things remain constant. Our yearning to connect in meaningful ways with other people will never change. Our calling to work towards a more just and equitable society will always be with us. Our desire to bring our progressive values to the public square will stay steadfast, and in order to get those needs met, our strategies, tasks, and skills must change. May we bring our open hearts and open minds to this vital conversation.

Barbara Leissner has offered up another of her fabulous drawings for the younger people of the Fellowship.

Enjoy painting or coloring this drawing of the beautiful flowers, and by-the-way, can you find the butterfly?





## We Believe Poster

By  
*Maureen Chen*



Using markers, colored pencils, or crayons, color this poster however you like. Photocopy the drawing before you color it if you want to make more than one poster.

## Calendar of Events September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Pastoral Care Team (11:30 a.m.) 11:15 am SGM – 1st & 3rd Weds 4:00 pm Drum Circle 5:30 pm Parents SGM — 1st & 3rd Weds 5:45 pm Choir 7:00 pm	2 Tai Chi Class 10:30 am BOT Exec Meeting 7:00 pm SGM – 1st & 3rd Thurs 7:00 pm Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm	3 Drum Circle (Stay Connected Event) 5:30 pm	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Writing as a Spiritual Practice 9:00am Coffee Hour (Stay Connected Event) 11:30am Social Action Committee 12:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) BLM Demonstration 12 noon (OFFSITE) Spiritual Exploration and Practices Group 2:00 pm SGM – 1st Mon 6:30 pm Religion Book Discussion Group 7:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Worship Arts & Celebrations Team 6:30 pm Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Drum Circle 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Tai Chi Class 10:30 am Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Drum Circle (Stay Connected Event) 5:30 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Forum 9:30 am Coffee Hour (Stay Connected Event) 11:30am Getting to Know UU Fellowship of Athens (Stay Connected Event) 11:30am Book Talks 1:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) BLM Demonstration 12 noon (OFFSITE) Spiritual Exploration and Practices Group 2:00 pm Religion Book Discussion Group 7:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Second Lookers 12:00 noon Volunteer Recognition Team 4:30 pm Board of Trustees 7:00 pm Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Communications Team 3:00 pm SGM – 1st & 3rd Weds 4:00 pm Drum Circle 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Tai Chi Class 10:30 am Thursday Morning SGM 10:30 am Ministry Council 7:00 pm SGM – 1st & 3rd Thurs 7:00 pm Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Drum Circle (Stay Connected Event) 5:30 pm	UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
UUFA Family Promise Weeks (offsite) Forum 9:30 am Coffee Hour (Stay Connected Event) 11:30am Goddess Group 2:00 pm	BLM Demonstration 12 noon (OFFSITE) Spiritual Exploration and Practices Group 2:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm Religion Book Discussion Group 7:00 pm	Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm		Tai Chi Class 10:30 am Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm	Drum Circle (Stay Connected Event) 5:30 pm	Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop
26	27	28	29	30		
Coffee Hour (Stay Connected Event) 11:30am Welcoming Congregation Team 5:00 pm Alphabet Family Gathering 6:00 pm	BLM Demonstration 12 noon (OFFSITE) Grateful Thread 2:00 pm Spiritual Exploration and Practices Group 2:00 pm Religion Book Discussion Group 7:00 pm	Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition 6:30 pm Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm	Drum Circle 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	Tai Chi Class 10:30 am Evening Meditation (Stay Connected Event) 8:00 pm		