

Newsletter for October 2017

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville

A Welcoming Congregation

VOLUME 67

NUMBER 4

Nurture Spiritual Growth

Sunday Services

9 - 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

This Month Topics are: *Death/Mourning/Fear*

Oct. 1: *The Mote in Our Eyes*

Rev. Gail Seavey and Worship Associate Gail Sphar

I (Rev. Gail) took some tests to find out if I had unconscious biases. I wasn't surprised that I have a bias for flowers and against insects. That explains all those irrational fears of creepy crawly things. But what to do about my unconscious bias against women in leadership? That's me! We all have unconscious biases that are hard to change. How do we respond ethically to them? If you want to take some Implicit Associate Tests for yourself, go to <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html>.

Oct. 8: *Coming Out: The Love that Overcomes All Fear*

Mary Early-Zald and Scott Weaver

Every October we honor National Coming Out Day. At the same time, we acknowledge how we harbor the fear of difference, both external and internal, embodied in people and communities. Join us as members of the FUUN Trans Affirming Collective and youth from Nashville Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) share some joys and costs of being and not being our whole selves out loud.

Oct. 15: *What's Next?*

Rev. Gail Seavey and Worship Associate Rachel Rogers

Unitarians Universalists have agreed to disagree about what happens after we die, and instead focus on what happens while we are alive. It's no surprise that we here hold a great many different ideas, images and beliefs about what happens to us after death. Together we will explore many of these ideas and how they may bring comfort, stir up questions, and even inform how we live.

Oct. 22: *Black Death as Digital Spectacle*

Rev. Gail Seavey and Worship Associate Steve Haruch

Black Lives Matter is a response to hundreds of years of evidence to the contrary—as black people have been whipped, lynched, executed and shot in front of white spectators. In this day and age, the spectacle is as close as our cellphones

since we can observe the death of black people videoed in real time any time. Access to these images fuels revolution and revulsion. They can be motivating and traumatizing at the same time. Since we agree that black lives matter, we must explore the ethical and emotional terrain of this spectacle of black death.

Oct. 29: *Samhain*

Rev. Gail Seavey and Worship Associate Chelsea Henry

Samhain, (pronounced SA – When) like all Celtic words, is pronounced totally differently than it is spelled. It is a pre-Christian or pagan Celtic holiday that we all celebrate as Halloween, but it has been transformed mightily over the centuries. Pagans honor their ancestors on that night when they wander between the worlds of life and death. The custom of trick or treating continues that form, as the spirits – or children dressed as ghosts and ghouls – come to our doors and we honor them with treats. Today we will celebrate the more ancient heart of this holiday.

Minister's Musings



“Calm, Connected, Curious, Compassionate, Clear, Confident, Creative Courageous.” The 8 C's of a self-led person by Dr. Richard Schwartz

We can think of many institutions whose missions are to respond to death, mourning, or fear such as 911, hospital emergency rooms and rescue teams in disasters. We can think of many people who do the same, such as chaplains, hospice social workers, grief support group members, caring partners or grown children, visiting nurses, and home care aides. Most faith communities such also have teams of caring people who respond to people who are dying, grieving, or afraid. Our caring or pastoral care team includes me, your Lead Minister, Assistant Minister **Holly Mueller**, Intern Minister **Sara Green**, Affiliated Chaplain **Cathy Chang**, ten members who are trained Lay



(continued on page 2)

Ministers coordinated by **Lisa Pasto-Crosby**, the Caring Committee co-chaired by **Sara Plummer** and **Terri Nine**, the Prison Ministry chaired by **Edie White**, Chalice Fire chaired by **Chelsea Henry**, and Covenant groups each facilitated by a member with the support of our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, **Marguerite Mills**. That's quite a team! And it doesn't even count all of you who are doing the caring for other institutions, including your own family.

That's why the ministers teach a class called "How Can I Help" every fall. People who are responding to illness or death, trauma or mourning, pain or fear any place in their lives are invited to attend. This class is less about practical responses than the state of mind that caring people need to cultivate to hear what people need you to do. We will focus on skills, such as being excellent listeners, that are helpful no matter where or how you help.

This is a deeply spiritual class based on two premises that are taught in many religions through a variety of means – including our UU first and seventh principles. In Hinduism and some schools of Buddhism, the inherent worth and dignity of human beings is taught through their concepts of the self, – which is the innermost core at the foundation of an individual's intellect, emotions, and physical experience. Through integrating these areas of human experience with the core self, the individual is more able to feel connected to the greater Self with a capital S, – which is the sense of being one with all. In Unitarian Universalism, we talk about the inherent worth of each person and its connection to the interconnected web of all existence. One of the things that these two ideas have in common is that the "self" or the "inherent worth and dignity of every human" are seen as both healthy and whole or holy just as they are. It is this place in each of us from which we can respond to the world as our "best self." The creator of Internal Family Systems Therapy, Dr. Richard Schwartz observed that people act consistently from their "self" with the 8 C's, which are listed in the opening above.

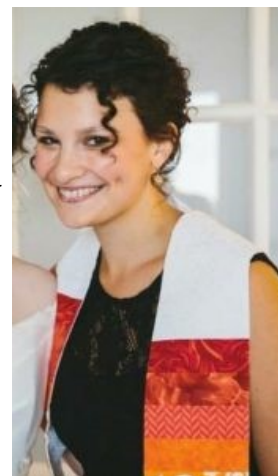
There are many different words for this practice that allows us to be our best selves such as calm, curious, compassionate and so on, while being connected to others who are facing death, mourning and fear. If you would like to deepen your practice of doing so, you may be interested in joining Assistant Minister **Holly Mueller** and me in the "How Can I Help?" class on Wednesday evenings all of October.

See you in church,
Gail

Hello and Thank You

From the Assistant Minister

Thank you for welcoming me into the FUUN community. I have been overwhelmed with how kind and inviting the congregation has been in my first month of ministry. I was not surprised by your warmth and openness however, having known the radical kindness and commitment to justice within this community from my time in Vanderbilt Divinity School. When I first came to Nashville five years ago to begin my ministerial formation process, the FUUN community quickly became a touchstone for me. As I explored new ideas and provided chaplaincy in the wider community, FUUN helped me stay grounded in my UU identity and heritage, giving me opportunities to serve in worship and with young adults.

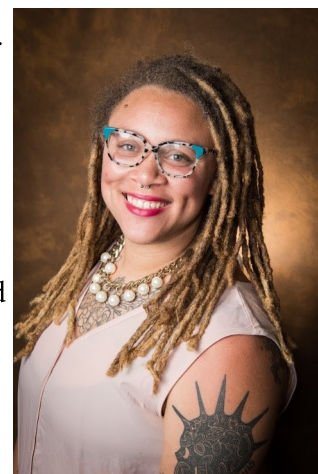


After the role that FUUN has played in my ministerial formation, I am thrilled to begin my ministry here now that I am in preliminary ministerial fellowship with the UUA. I will be helping with pastoral care and the ministerial council and with some of the Sunday services. I look forward to getting to know this community more deeply and providing care to this community which cares for so many. I am in the FUUN office on Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m. and I'm also available by appointment.

-Holly Mueller

From the Intern Minister

My name is Sara Green. I'll be serving as your Intern Minister from now until May 2018. I graduated from Vanderbilt Divinity School and am in the last stages of fellowship with the UUA. I understand the foundation of my call to be a praxis of radical hospitality and embodiment in service of freedom and justice. My personal practice includes movement/dance, plant medicine and hosting dinner parties.



I couldn't go any further in my time here without
(continued on page 3)

expressing sincere gratitude for the welcome I've received in the past month. I feel blessed beyond words to be able to build community and grow with all of you. I am excited about the ways we'll fight for justice and nurture our souls together. And quite frankly, there is no place I'd rather be when the world appears to be falling apart and each new day is greeted with a new disaster. I have been reflecting deeply about the amount of news I am able to consume because it is all so much to take in and live with. It is easy and, perhaps, appropriate to feel hopeless. Yet and still, I remain grounded in my value of play and joy. So, I am excited to play with you in this tragic mess.

I know a couple of people from when I was here as a seminarian but there are plenty of people I have not had the pleasure of meeting. Even with the people I do know, so many pieces of our lives have probably shifted since then. For everyone, I would like to extend a couple of invitations. I welcome you to drop in and just say "hello" I'm in the office Tuesdays 1-6 p.m., and Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. I welcome you to ask for a listening ear. I welcome you to talk about deep theological or justice issues that keep you up at night. I welcome you to give me feedback about my worship services and other things I lead. And lastly, I welcome you to show up with courage and love-, as I will attempt to do every day we are together.

-Sara Green

From the Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Spotlight – Name That Theme

The Stewardship Committee encourages you to get creative and suggest a theme for FUUN's 2018 pledge campaign. As you contemplate your entry, please keep in mind that *Stewardship* is not just about giving money to the church. It is so much more . . . it includes your commitment of time, your participation on committees and at church events, and much more.

Several themes we have used in the last few years are:

- Shining Our Light and Sharing Our Love
- Growing Our Generosity
- Our separate fires will kindle one flame
- Gifts from the Heart: Caring for Our Church Home
- With generous hearts . . .
- We are a community of many gifts and talents

Although we do not yet know what it is, there will be a prize to the winner. Send your ideas to us.

-Candy Toler, Stewardship Committee Chair
stewardship@thefuun.org

From the Endowment Trust

Endowment News

The Endowment has nearly \$600,000 invested currently. This year the Trustees will create a 5-Year Plan to update the one from 2011. One thing that the Trustees cannot do, is decide how the main body of the Endowment will be used. Although we do distribute a fixed percentage in grants each year, that amount will be less than \$18,000 in 2018.

Some members of FUUN have made suggestions about how the Endowment could be used to support basic Church needs such as repairing and updating old buildings, or increasing staff salaries. Other people think that this large amount could be combined with a capital campaign to move us closer to some dreams that we have talked about—an expanded sanctuary and attached office and classroom building. Or perhaps ideas from our 2016 Strategic Plan will take shape and engage our collective vision.

The Trustees and the Resource Allocation Council will jointly hold a series of community conversations in order to make members more aware of the endowment—what it is and how it could be used. Look for these in the fall and winter and please attend and share your thoughts.

Thank you to the following for their recent gifts to the Endowment Trust.

Kent and Betsy Stewart, Susan Warner—in memory of **Ann Green**

Susan Warner, Sara Plummer—in memory of **Trish Potts**

Sara Plummer—in memory of **Dorothy Conklin**

Jean Butler—in memory of **Mary Ann Butler Lewis**

Susan Warner—in honor of **Eva Close and Larry Bullock**

-Susan Warner, Chair of the Endowment Trust

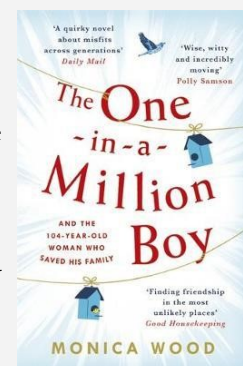
From the Book Group

Book Group Monthly Read

The Book Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday from noon-1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Please join us on Oct. 17 when we discuss *The One-in-a-Million Boy* by Monica Wood.

-Liz Schneider



From the Chalice Fire Pagan Group

Chalice Fire



Chalice Fire is the earth-centered spirituality (aka pagan) group at FUUN, and a chapter of Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs). We are a ministry of the church, facilitating participatory experiences of connection through awareness and celebration of the rhythms of life on this earth. We do not assume or require that participants have specific beliefs. We invite everyone to come join our lay-led Unitarian Universalist worships.

Samhain Ritual for our elders and those unjustly killed

Sunday, Oct. 29, 7-8 p.m., social hall

Our Social Justice Wheel of the Year continues into Samhain, when the veil that separates the dead from the living is the thinnest. Our ritual honors the dead who have passed before us, and now show us a way forward. We will connect with our social justice elders, acknowledging that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and we honor what they have taught us. We will also speak our deep grief and righteous anger at the killings of our community members. We remember them, our elders, and those killed, and we allow their existence and presence to inform our work in the world.

Rituals for Daily Life

Thursdays, Oct. 5 and 19, 7-8:30 p.m., Thoreau Room (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

Distress happens. It can lie so heavy in our hearts that we are left feeling stuck, and it can bring a fog to our minds and keep us from finding our best path. Or perhaps we are feeling anxious from experiences of high stress, high pressure, and high-speed information. Whatever is it, bring what is on your heart and mind, and together we will work on creating ease, clarity, and calm resolve. No specific beliefs expected. This is an open group that welcomes all adults, and childcare is available in the nursery (newly renamed our FUUN

Zone) for kids up to 10 years. There will be a sign on the outer door to direct you to the right room.

A note on the Chalice Fire approach to ritual:

I am an experientialist. Chalice Fire rituals are crafted to create an experience of connection, and I am not at all sure that it matters how you think about that experience, only that you have it. You may think of it as achieving a specific brain wave pattern, or a feeling of community, or a connection to Source, a specific deity, or divine force, or that you have been touched by the Noodly Appendage of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. If you have an experience that matters to you, where you feel something positive, a sense of insight or well-being, or a release of emotional tension, then I think that is a wonderful thing. I think the experience is worth having, and that it can change us in profound and positive ways.

This is why Chalice Fire Rituals are open and public, and we don't assume or require any particular kinds of beliefs. Come have an experience of connection. Connect with yourself, connect with community, connect with the earth, connect with something greater than yourself. Feel that connection and be awed by it. Or just feel a little better than you did when you arrived. All those who come with good hearts and good intentions are welcome, so please, be welcome. We would love to have you join us.

-Chelsea Henry, Chalice Fire chair
ChaliceFire@thefuun.org

From the Director of Music Ministries

Music Notes

Our musical year has gotten off to a great start, with the Adult Choir making their debut at Water Communion. If you're curious about joining our Choir, please reach out and schedule a five-minute meet and greet with me. We'll find the right voice placement for you and welcome you aboard. No experience with choral singing is necessary. October is an especially good time to join, as we begin to prepare music for the Christmas Eve service.

Chamber Choir is a group of advanced singers who can read music and practice independently, performing music that is more challenging. Chamber Choir typically sings the first Sunday of the month, and rehearses the preceding Wednesday at 7 p.m. We need one more soprano, alto, and tenor to fill out the roster and cover for absences. I am holding auditions for Chamber Choir the first two weeks of October. Please schedule a time to meet with me by calling (615) 383-5760 x303 or emailing music@thefuun.org.

-Jaie Tiefenbrunn, Director of Music Ministries

Faith Development — October 2017

Faith development is the process—religious, spiritual, and otherwise—by which we make meaning in our lives. FUUN Faith Development supports and encourages this in three ways: classes, nonviolent communication practice groups, and covenant groups.

Classes

Various days and times, as indicated. Childcare is available unless otherwise indicated.

Holy Listening

Wednesdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 7-8:30 p.m., Fireside Room (main building)

This four-week class—led by the **Rev. Gail Seavey** and our new Assistant Minister **Holly Mueller**—is for anyone who has ever asked “How can I help?” when a friend or family member is in the hospital or experiencing a difficult transition such as the death of a loved one. It will cover the ministries of visiting, listening, and being fully present to yourself and others. This class is for all who are interested, and it is required for anyone considering joining the lay ministry team.

Herb Fair Class: Making Coasters & Bookmarks

Saturday, Oct. 14, 12:30-4 p.m., Pasto-Crosby home
Join **Lisa Pasto-Crosby**, **Heather Moreno**, and **Patricia Uherova** to make coasters, some with a holiday theme. You will also be making bookmarks, since they are always in demand. The coasters are a bit more challenging, but after making a bookmark or two, you be ready for a coaster. All materials provided, no experience necessary.

Contact **Lisa** at herbfairclasses@thefuun.org, or get her contact information from the membership directory, to get directions to her home. Childcare is *not* available.

Herb Fair Class: Making Bookmarks

Saturday, Oct. 18, 7-8:30 p.m., Classroom A (main building)

Amazingly, we sell about 150 bookmarks every year. So join **Lisa Pasto-Crosby**, **Heather Moreno**, and **Patricia Uherova** to increase this year’s stock. They are a fun and easy project, although you can also challenge yourself. There are lots of new materials, due to Heather’s diligence this past summer. Come join the fun.



Mark Your Calendars

Some special classes are coming your way next month
Nov. 8 and 15—**Opening to Change**, with the Beloved Community Committee
Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13—**Understanding Yourself and Others with the Enneagram** (a system of spiritual psychology), with Cindi Brown and Mary Beth Ross.

Nonviolent Communication Practice Groups

Anyone is welcome to drop in on a group to see what it’s all about. Email nvc@firstuunashville.org to inquire. Childcare is available UNLESS otherwise indicated.

Nonviolent Communication Practice Groups are open to anyone, regardless of past experience here or elsewhere. To change one’s mind set and habit patterns from a right vs. wrong model to a compassionate and connecting model takes practice. To connect empathetically with others, and with oneself, takes practice. To begin to live in the world we dream about takes practice. There are currently two groups both of which are largely comprised of FUUN congregants, but are open to anyone:

1st and 3rd Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Fireside Room (main building)

Contact **Joanna Carnahan** at the number in the FUUN directory for more information.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., Palmer Room (Morgan House)

Contact **Alan Leiserson** at board@nvcnashville.org for more information.

Covenant Groups

Several groups are currently meeting, some of which would be able to take a new member. There may also be an opportunity to start a new group. If you are interested, or have questions, please email covenantgroups@firstuunashville.org.

Covenant Groups are made up of five to 12 people, each led by a facilitator, which meet twice a month, usually in participants’ homes, for the purpose of supporting individual spiritual growth and deepening a sense of community among participants. Each session gives participants an opportunity to reflect with one another on an engaging Topic such as generosity, bitterness, faith, longing, or racism. Covenant groups are an opportunity to listen and share with a subset of the congregation.

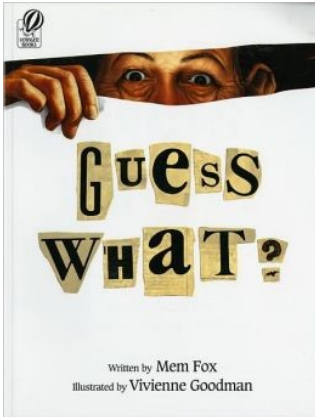
-Marguerite Mills

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

From the Children's Religious Education Committee

FUUN Books for All Ages

Jean Kline—former CRE committee member, retired teacher who served for 30 years, and all-around book lover—shares with us her recommendations for books that reflect our Unitarian Universalist values. Please visit the Religious Education Library (in the 1808 house wing of the main building) to check out this book and many others.



Guess What?

by Mem Fox, illustrated by Vivienne Goodman

Another banned book recommendation. This book was not banned because of story content, but because of the illustrations. I find it ridiculous to believe young children would see these pictures as anything more than fascinating. They will be entertained by the intricate and humorous illustrations. They will love all the different animals from Daisy's black cat to a penguin. They will find hidden and unusually placed objects, like a toaster in Daisy's bed, and storybook characters. Parents will find the pins Daisy wears humorous.

Through a series of simple, interactive questions we meet Daisy O'Grady who lives far away from here. Does she wear a long black dress? Yes! Is she tall? Yes! She also likes to fly a broomstick at night, likes animals and mixes "rats' tails, toenail, and dead lizards' scales" in her cooking. A surprise ending question leaves us to ponder... if Daisy is a witch and totally eccentric does that make her mean? No prejudgments allowed here, let's celebrate diversity.

There are various viewpoints about the recommended age range for this book. The four and five year olds I read it to liked that it was interactive and found the illustrations so much fun. I think it would also be enjoyed by second and third graders for the same reasons.

With joy,
Jean

From the Religious Education Administrator Youth Group

Youth Group

First-time visitors and long-time friends alike, **all youth in 9th–12th grades are invited to Youth Group on Sundays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Join us in the sanctuary for the beginning of the 11 a.m. worship service - we sit together at the back of the short section next to the piano and leave for programs in the Youth Room after the Story for All Ages. The Youth Room is on the lower level of the church administrative offices in Norris House next to the lower parking lot, accessible via Stokesmont Rd.

October Youth Programs

- Oct. 1 - **Knitting scarves** for the homeless
- Oct. 8 - **Attend service together.** The service is a collaboration with FUUN's Trans Affirming Collective. Mini-meeting/service discussion follows until 1 p.m.
- Oct. 15 - **Fall field trip to Bells Bend Farm** - details coming soon.
- Oct. 22 - **Decorate pumpkins**
- Oct. 29 - (*Likely*) **Helping with Children's RE Halloween activity** (9 a.m. service - not yet confirmed)

Also - The **Youth-Adult Committee (YAC)** is looking for youth members. The YAC meets every 4-6 weeks during the church year, empowering youth to facilitate program discussions and set the calendar. This is a great opportunity to develop leadership skills and expand an extracurricular resume.

Finally - **please [Register](https://goo.gl/forms/4CDPTxanfYIT5qq33) if you plan on taking part in Youth Group (or any Children's RE activities).** We ask all families to provide up-to-date information at the start of each church year so that we can ensure the safety and well being of the children and youth of our church community. You can register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/4CDPTxanfYIT5qq33>. You can also pick up the forms on Sunday mornings at the Family Welcome Table in the social hall, where you'll always find a friendly FUUN staff member eager to provide more information about any of our Lifespan Religious Education programs.

-**Jonah Eller-Isaacs,**
Religious Education Administrator

From Religious Education for Children and Youth
October Class Schedule

| Class | PreK | K-1st | 2nd-3rd | 4th-5th | 6th-8th |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Curriculum | Celebrating Me and My World | World of Wonder | Love Will Guide Us | Sing to the Power | Amazing Grace |
| Teachers | Suzanne LeBeau & Mary Shelton | Carolyn Reed & Jessica Young | Eileen Finan & Dan Hiller | Jacob Hathaway, Sharon Ruiz & Ed Turnley | Lynne Cushing, Bethany Rittle Johnson & Kristen Sunderlin |
| 1-Oct. | I Have Two Feet | Bible Story | Bible Story | Bible Story | Bible Story |
| 8-Oct. | I Can Move | Beloved Community | Beloved Community | Beloved Community | Beloved Community |
| 15-Oct. | I Can See | Thanks Be for Trees! | We Love to Discover | The Power of Growth | Being Good, Being Bad |
| 22-Oct. | I Can Hear | Balance in Our Ecosystem | Love in Our Congregation | The Power of Place | Telling Right From Wrong |
| 29-Oct. | I Can Touch | Habitats | We Are Loved, Flaws and All | The Power of Stillness | Unitarian Universalism |

From the Religious Education Administrator
Reminder—OWL class begins this month for 1st—2nd Graders.

The class is currently full. Next year (Sept. 2018-May 2019), we'll offer the same OWL classes (for K-1st Grade & 4th-5th Grades), as well as the 7th-8th Grade curriculum, a linchpin of the OWL program and an intensive, far-reaching class with 25 rich, engaging 90-minute workshops.

1st-2nd Grades – Sundays, 3-4 p.m.

Morgan House/Capek Room

October 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19

[No class November 26 – Thanksgiving]

December 3, 10, 17

Please direct any questions/concerns to Religious Education Administrator Jonah Eller-Isaacs at READmin@thefuun.org or (615) 383-5760 x.315.

*–Jonah Eller-Isaacs
 Religious Education Administrator*



From Religious Education for Children and Youth
FUUN Fact—Sunday School

Did you know...

That *you* could participate in your child(ren)'s Sunday school closing ritual. If you arrive before 10:15 a.m., that is. That's because class ends at 10:15 a.m. So, if you arrive early, please do not take your child(ren) until they have the opportunity to properly finish their class. We do all need our rituals.



On the other hand, if the service goes long, we understand. We'll enjoy a little extra time together until you get to participate in your own closing ritual. That said, please do pick up your child(ren) promptly at 10:15 a.m. or when the service is over. Otherwise, we'll miss our coffee, and that's another good UU ritual we'd like to participate in.

Thank you.
FUUN Sunday School Volunteers

Act on Our Values

From the Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Update

Share the Plate

August's Share the Plate recipient was the Palmer Lecture action team. We raised \$1,212.77. This year's Palmer Lecture will take place on Friday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. This year's speaker is Congressman Jim Cooper who has served the Nashville area in congress since 2003. He serves on the Armed Services Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. We look forward to what he has to say in these interesting times. We have decided not to have a potluck dinner before the lecture this year. Doors will open to social hall at 6 p.m. with an array of appetizers and drinks available before the 7 p.m. lecture. We hope the Congressman will answer a few of our questions after he speaks and a reception in the social hall will follow. Please mark your calendars and join us.

Our October Share the Plate recipient is Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network Tennessee (GLSEN). GLSEN has been advocating on LGBT issues in K-12 education since 1990 and continues to partner with stake holders—particularly LGBTQ+ youth—to transform schools into more inclusive spaces by making schools fully inclusive to trans students, addressing the multiple challenges that confront LGBT students of color, and contributing to the emerging international dialogue on LGBT human rights and educational access for all young people. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

-**Scott Weaver and Jessica Moore-Lucas**,
Co-chairs Social Justice Committee
socialjustice@thefuun.org

Social Justice Action Team Updates

Social Justice at FUUN includes Action Teams, any of which would love to hear from you. If you have questions or would like to be involved, please email socialjustice@thefuun.org and visit the [Social Justice website page](#) for information. Leaders for each action team may be contacted through the generic address for the applicable action team. We have provided their reports below.



Room In The Inn

It's Room in the Inn time again. Room in the Inn sign ups start in October for the program's start in November. As

in years past, we will partner with the Nashville Room in the Inn program to host eight men experiencing homelessness on the first and third Fridays of the month from November through March. We provide meals, a sack lunch, laundry, showers, and a safe and warm place to stay. It takes around 20 people each time we host, and there's a job that suits everyone. We need people to pick our guests up and drop them off, we need people to serve our guests dinner and breakfast, we need hosts to stay overnight. We need people to provide dinner and breakfast, and people to do laundry (both for our guests and for the linens they use in their stay).

In addition to our usual Friday nights, we have agreed to host on Wednesday, Nov. 22—the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. If you know that you'll be around and could help us out that night, that would be great (or if like me, you are already planning your holiday baking and can just add an extra something, that would be great, too).

Finally, we are excited to unveil our new online sign-up system. You can still sign up at the Social Justice table in the social hall on Sundays—we have a tablet for this and we will help you if you need help. You can also sign up from home at <http://signup.com/go/mFL53e>.

-**Morgan Southers**, Room in the Inn
RITI@thefuun.org

Sanctuary

We were excited to hear how many FUUN members and friends turned out in support of DACA recipients at the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) www.tnimmigrant.org/ rally on September 5. We also had a presence on the Sept. 8 vigil organized by Nashville Community Defense at the Nashville office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in support of all immigrants.

In this time of extraordinary uncertainty for immigrants in the United States, we at FUNN are working to figure out how we can best support efforts in our community to support and protect them. To that end, the Social Justice committee is forming a new action team that will organize our efforts to show up in solidarity with the immigrant community. This action team will also lead a church-wide process to discern ways we can use our resources to stand up for immigration justice in our community. Watch the various platforms for announcements for meeting information and watch future newsletters for more information on the forces impacting immigrants in our community.

Christy Duke and Jessica Moore-Lucas
FUUN Sanctuary
socialjustice@thefuun.org

Habitat for Humanity

On Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m., the Unity Build house will be dedicated (at 3198 Woodymore Dr. Antioch TN, 37013). *Please note that this is a date correction from previous newsletters.* The family will receive blessings, keys to the home and cut the ribbon to enter the completed home. Our own Rev. Gail Seavey will participate in the dedication ceremony. This is a great opportunity to bring your children to a Habitat Build to show them how our church makes a positive difference in the world. Parking will be at Camp Widjiwagon in Antioch. A shuttle will take everyone to the house site. Carpooling will be available from the church parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Contact us for more information.

--**Carleen Dowell** and **Suzanne LeBeau**

Habitat Action Team coordinators, habitat@thefuun.org

Safe Haven



Many thanks to **Trigg** from FUUN, and to **Barbara** and **Lisa** from Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist Church (GNUUC), for providing a great meal to 14 adults and 17 children at the Safe Haven Family Shelter on Tuesday, Sept. 19. A taco bar and a variety of Mexican sweet treats were enjoyed by all. If you are interested in providing part of a meal for these families, please sign up at the Social Justice Table. We will be updating our list of volunteers so if you have signed up in the past and are still interested, please let us know. Meals are served from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Upcoming dates include Nov. 21 and Jan. 16. This is a family friendly volunteer opportunity.

Safe Haven Family Shelter is gearing up for the 13th annual Hike for the Homeless, a Nashville favorite for its heavy dose of outdoor time, friends, family, food and fun. The event includes hiking on two paved trails, food, live music and children's activities. The event is pet and stroller friendly! The hike will take place at Edwin Warner Park picnic shelters 9 and 11 on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with hikers hitting the trail at 10 a.m. There is no entry fee or minimum donation. Participants are encouraged to create teams and fund-raise. Hikers who donate \$25 or more will receive one Hike for the Homeless t-shirt. The Hike for the Homeless benefits Safe Haven Family Shelter, one of the only shelter-to-housing programs that keeps the family experiencing homelessness together. For more information about this

year's hike, please visit www.hike4homeless.com or contact Stacy Nunnally at snunnally@safehaven.org. Volunteer opportunities at the hike are available, see www.safehaven.org.

-**Pat Lynch**, Safe Haven Action Team Leader
safehaven@thefuun.org

Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH)



Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH) is a multiracial, interdenominational, faith-led coalition comprised of over 50 congregations, community organizations, and labor unions in the Nashville area. NOAH works to give a voice to traditionally marginalized people. The member-decided key focus issues of NOAH are affordable housing, economic equity and criminal justice.

How can I get involved? Participate in a task force meeting. Check the dates and times on [Facebook@NOAH FUUN](https://www.facebook.com/NOAHFUUN) or email noah@thefuun.org. For a quick overview of what NOAH has going on, we encourage you to attend the NOAH monthly Board Meeting held on the second Tuesday of the month.



NOAH Public Meeting with the Mayor, Sunday, Oct. 29

Given the chance to talk with the Mayor about issues of Criminal Justice, Affordable Housing, and Economic Equity & Jobs — what would *you* like to ask Mayor Barry and other decision makers? Who else from Metro do *you* think should be at the table? (Location tba.)

Send your questions to NOAH at info@noahntn.org or P.O. Box 331144, Nashville, TN 37203. We want to include *your* voice as we develop the meeting agenda and the set of questions for the Public Meeting forum.

Join us. For additional information, see www.noahntn.org

-**Vicki Stinnett**, NOAH FUUN Action

noah@thefuun.org

From the Beloved Community Committee
“Our one issue is love:” UUs confront white supremacy



“The UUA was founded by and for white people, that’s just the reality” so says Eliseo Santana, Jr., quoted in the Fall 2017 *UU World*. For some of us, this statement may be shocking; for others, it probably reflects a reality that we see around us every time we enter our sanctuary. If the statement seems shocking to you, perhaps your first impulse is to feel defensive or to deny it. In the same article (“Unpacking Whiteness,” pp. 6-8), author Elaine McArdle describes a handout which cites “defensiveness, perfectionism, and fear of open conflict” as characteristics of “white supremacy culture.”



Elaine McArdle

Indeed, for those of us who are white, the phrase “white supremacy culture” may inspire particular defensiveness. In “Unpacking Whiteness,” McArdle quotes the organizers of the UUA sponsored “White Supremacy Teach-In” last spring commenting that

“White supremacy” is a provocative phrase, as it conjures up images of hoods and mobs.... Yet, in 2017, actual “white supremacists” are not required in order to uphold white supremacist culture. Building a faith full of people who understand that key distinction is essential as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times.

Throughout the fall issue of *UU World*, writers consider the difficult work that we UUs must do to resist white supremacy in our own churches, even as we also work against it in the larger world. In one article, Mark Morrison-Reed chronicles the history of African-American UUs in the 19th and 20th centuries, a history that has been for-



Mark Morrison-Reed

gotten (or never heard) by many of us. In another, Dar-rick Jackson describes the reasons he misses the “images of spirituality grounded in my black identity” that he grew up with, even as he embraces UU theology.

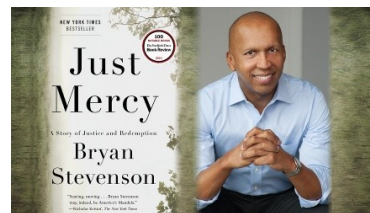
If you haven’t yet read this most recent *UU World*, we invite you to spend some time with it, whether you find it in hard copy or on the web (<http://www.uuworld.org/issues/fall-2017>). At the close of her essay in the magazine “To Those Who Are Tired,” Pam Rumancik expresses the challenge before us well:

Our one issue is holding up and affirming the value of every person—in whatever way we perceive the need before us to be. Right now, it is impossible to miss the lack of justice for black and brown humans. As long as there is work to be done, it will be the invitation of our church to join hearts and hands in doing that work. Our one issue is love, in whatever way we can offer it to a wild and hurting world.

-Ann Wheeler,
for the Beloved Community Committee
beloved@thefuun.org

From Beloved Community
Key Upcoming Events for Beloved Community

- Oct. 29—Multi-media social event with the **Sticky Rice Collective**.
- Nov. 8 and 15 - **Discussions of Unspoken Rules at FUUN and Possible Next Steps to Develop Courage**, both topics from our workshop last year with Rev. Rob Keithan. All are welcome, whether or not you participated last year.
- April 28 and May 12 - **Nashville Pledge Program**
 An exciting program developed from the Richmond Pledge program in Richmond, VA, which has taken hold in a number of UU churches.
- Watch also for an all-church read of Brian Stevenson's powerful book, *Just Mercy*, next spring.



Create Community

From the President of the Board of Directors
Wonder

A little bit about the management of your church. A little bit about what goes on behind the scenes. A whole lot about you. What I've learned being on your board, being your president of FUUN.

My, how things have changed since I was previously on the board fifteen years ago. Now, in preparation for each monthly board meeting, every board member is expected to have read the assembled board packet comprising reports from some ten staff members, as well as from the board executives and four council chairs and from all the committees comprising those councils. The packet also includes an annual timeline of calendared dates to be reviewed and previous minutes to be accepted. In addition, the packet often contains monthly financial reports, personnel agreements to be signed, motions to be voted on, committee charge and bylaw change revisions to be approved, timely special reports and more. In my recent experience these packets have ranged to as much as 85 pages, the most recent one being 65 pages.

I cite all this not so that you may offer kudos to the board for our devoted reading or the work we do, but because these packets are so effective in communicating to us what it takes to assure that FUUN thrives. It informs us of just what amazing and concentrated work our staff and volunteers (meaning you all) do. All the facets of this packet express yet another pathway in which we are working to communicate to one another how together in so many ways we are acting to realize our mission by living our values whether by supporting Room at the Inn, standing on the side of Black Lives Matter, participating in NOAH, caring for members in need, or sharing in the fellowship events so essential to creating community. In order to do these things and so much more we have become organized, we have an organizational flow chart along with written descriptions enumerating missions and goals. Our nominating and leadership teams have informed us that we are participating in no less than 64 different groupings that range from keeping our campus and buildings maintained and children's RE inspiring to our outreach in the larger community through Safe Haven, Habitat for Humanity, and sanctuary discernment as well as those areas already mentioned. And I haven't even begun to list what it takes to cross-collateralize our various worship activities with the other engagements through which we realize our values.

At least 64 different ways. So many ways to fulfill and be fulfilled. I thank you all for all you do and I apologize to all those participating in ways I haven't specifically named. I hope this column, this communication, gives you a little greater understanding (as I have come to understand) of just what a vital community we all share. At the SUULE leadership training I attended recently participants were asked to write down a word that expresses what gives them spiritual uplift. My word was "wonder." You all fill me full of wonder.

Finally, I'd like to add my welcome here to **Holly Mueller**, our new Assistant Minister, and **Sara Green**, our new Intern Minister, who have joined our staff to help keep our wonder flowing and growing.

Yours in Wonder,

-**Jeff Stein**, *President of the FUUN Board of Directors*
president@thefuun.org

From the Grounds Committee
Attack of the Woolly Aphids

Have you noticed your car, or your shrubs, or your driveway gradually turning black? We can thank the woolly aphids that feed on all the hackberry trees in Nashville and our FUUN campus. Resembling tiny cotton balls, the bugs feed on the underside of hackberry leaves. They secrete a sweet substance, "honeydew," which then attracts sooty mold. The steps between the upper and lower parking lots at FUUN are covered with sooty mold. If you park under a hackberry tree in late summer, your car will look like it has been rained on—but the "rain" is tiny, hard droplets of honeydew. Give it time and the sooty mold will find them.

A good hard rainstorm will wash your car clean of honeydew and sooty mold. The best treatment for woolly aphids is preventative: in spring, you mix the chemical Imidacloprid with water and drench the ground under the tree. The developing leaves take the insecticide up, repelling the aphids. Imidacloprid is a "neonic" or neonicotinoid. Their use is controversial because they are thought to harm beneficial insects like honeybees, and the birds that feed on those insects.

Valuing the interdependent web of all existence, the Grounds Committee at FUUN has chosen not to treat our many hackberry trees because of the environmental impact. We apologize for your dirty cars, and remind you that the Grounds Committee is always seeking members or volunteers interested in learning more about our lovely campus. Contact grounds@thefuun.org.

From Fundraising

**Yee-Haw! It's the annual Barn Dance,
Chili Supper & Auction**



Polish your boots and iron your skirts because there's gonna be a hoedown Nov. 4, 5-8:30 p.m. You don't have to know how to dance, you just have to know how to have fun. There will be live music and a square dance caller. We'll have chili cook off (complete with a blue ribbon and a year's bragging rights). We'll serve beer and wine for the adults and a fire pit to cook s'mores for the young-uns. We'll be selling tickets in the social hall during the month of October. Chili dinner is \$10 with \$30 family max. Kids under 6 are free. Chili dinner with alcohol is \$25 with a \$60 family max.

Need y'all's help

Now to pull off this shindig, we need a little help from lots of people. We need folks to decorate, make chili, donate auction items, or sponsor items needed for the event. You can sponsor the band, the beer, or a prize. Each sponsor gets a couple of tickets to the event and will get to sit at a head table and be recognized as a true barn dance supporter. Go to www.thefuun.org/annual-auction/ to volunteer, or stop by the Barn Dance table in the social hall during the month of October.

You may also contact me to talk about sponsorship, volunteering or all things Barn Dance.

*-Skip Rudenske, Fundraising Chair
fundraising@thefuun.org*

From the Caring Committee

The Caring Coordinator for October is
Carolyn Turner
(864)207-6198 | cstjht87@gmail.com

From Fellowship

Senior Brunch

The next Senior Brunch will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 10 a.m. in the social hall. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the church office by Friday, Oct. 20. All are welcome whether or not you receive an invitation. We're looking forward to seeing you.

Volunteer Opportunities



“Love in Action: Answering the call of love” is based on the truth that each of us has spiritual gifts or unique talents to offer one another, and that these gifts are woven together to create a vibrant and growing spiritual community. Share your Gifts. We have so many great volunteer opportunities; please consider giving your time.

Barn Dance volunteers: See previous column.

Be an office assistant: The FUUN Office is seeking help on **Tuesdays**, 1 - 5 p.m. to answer the phone, greet guests, and help with projects that support the staff. We offer lots of appreciation and chocolate. Please contact Mary in the office at office@thefuun.org or [615-383-5760](tel:615-383-5760) for more information.

The Campus Preparedness Committee is looking for two or three people who might be interested in campus preparedness activities (safety and emergency concerns) to contact John Fowler at Campusprep@thefuun.org.

Audio Team: We need volunteers to run sound on Sunday mornings (once or twice a month). No experience necessary. We will train you. Contact our Director of Communication, Sheri DiGiovanna at DirCommunication@thefuun.org.

Bulletin Boards: If you like to decorate them, we need you. Our Stewardship team would especially like some help with theirs. If you can help, please contact Sheri at DirCommunication@thefuun.org.

*******Committee and Event Leaders*******

Please email immediate volunteer opportunities to volunteer@thefuun.org or fill out the online form at www.thefuun.org/volunteer-support/.

-Mary Grace Close, Volunteer Committee Chair

2017-2018 Standing Committees

MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chelsea Henry, Chair

ministerial@thefuun.org

Caring

Chalice Fire (UUPagans)

Choir/Music

Committee on Ministry

Lay Ministers

Prison Ministries of FUUN

Worship

Young Adults

OPERATIONS COUNCIL

Chris Wood, Chair

operations@thefuun.org

Campus Preparedness

Communication

Facilities

Grounds

Technology

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Jean Kline, Chair

program@thefuun.org

Beloved Community

Children's Religious Education

Committee for the Larger Faith

Faith Development

Fellowship

Social Justice

Youth/Adult

RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Bob Day, Chair

resourcedevelopment@thefuun.org

Finance

Fundraising

Leadership Development

Membership

Personnel

Stewardship

Volunteer

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville

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Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Church Professional Team

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gseavey@thefuun.org

Assistant Minister Holly Meuller
Holly@thefuun.org

Intern Minister Sara Green
internminister@thefuun.org

Director of Music Ministries Jaie Tiefenbrunn x303
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Director of Lifespan Religious Education Marguerite Mills x304
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Religious Education Administrator Jonah Eller-Isaacs x315
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Director of Communication Sheri Lynn DiGiovanna x318
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Church Administrator Mary Lindsay x305
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Childcare Coordinator Kendra Andersen
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Young Adult Group Coordinator Melanie Bresnan
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Pianist Susan Snyder

Bookkeeper Jackie Harris
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Custodian Tony Flemister

Community Minister Affiliated Rev. Dr. Laurel Cassidy
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Affiliated Minister Rev. Jason Shelton
jasonsheltonmusic@gmail.com

Chaplain Rev. Cathy Chang
cchang@thefuun.org

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First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Nashville



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The FUUN newsletter is published monthly.
Printed copies are available in the social hall and
a [PDF version](#) is available on the website.

Editors: **Sheri DiGiovanna** and **Carol Cople**

Layout: **Sheri DiGiovanna**

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First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville

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Our Mission

The Mission of the First Unitarian
Universalist Church of Nashville is

to create community,
to nurture spiritual growth,
and to act on our values
in the broader world,
guided by reason and compassion.

adopted January 27, 2008



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Mark Your Calendar

October

- Oct. 6 Palmer Lecture
- Oct. 8 Habitat Unity Build (Day 2 of 3)
- Oct. 15 Habitat Unity Build Day 3
- Oct. 17 Book Group
- Oct. 29 Samhain Ritual
NOAH Public Meeting with Mayor Barry

November

- Nov. 4 Barn Dance, Chilli Cook-Off, Auction

December

- Dec. 24 One 10 am service, two evening services

For a detailed list of events, see thefuun.org/events/

For our detailed calendar, see thefuun.org/church-calendar/

Next newsletter: Volume 67, Number 4

Issue will cover October 2017

Deadline for copy to editor: Wednesday, Sept. 20

Print/post date: Sept. 25, 2017