Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!  March 2020

Our Sunday Schedule
Childcare 10:00 am - 12:00 am
Worship and Church School 10:30 am

March Sermons

The Sermon on the Amount
Rev. María McCabe March 1
Join us for a celebration of the generosity path in congregational life.

I Am Not Free
Stephen Buckingham March 8
We are all victims of a society that uses differences among people to allocate privilege or disadvantage. Steve Buckingham will use this paradigm to explain how the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland is pursuing a coordinated, multi-issue campaign to dismantle the structures of privilege and oppression in our state.

Second Sunday Social Justice Collection.
A potluck luncheon follows the service.

The Feminine Face of God
Rev. María McCabe March 15
For thousands of years we’ve been taught to believe that God is masculine in nature. In this service we will trace feminine divine, especially in her guise of wisdom.

Spring Equinox
Worship Committee March 22
Let’s welcome spring by celebrating the Vernal Equinox. The earth blossoms again preparing for new life and new growth. Springtime is also a new beginning for us.

Crazy Wisdom
Rev. María McCabe March 29
From the ancient books of the Hebrew Bible to the comedy of Groucho Marx, the traditions of crazy wisdom have entertained and challenged us to see the world in interesting new ways. Join us to see what can be learned from looking for wisdom in all the wrong places.

From Our Minister

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can...and the wisdom to know the difference.
- The Serenity Prayer, attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr

IT IS ONE OF THE VERY FIRST PRAYERS we learn when we enter the rooms of 12-Step Recovery Programs. It is printed on thousands of posters, adorning thousands of walls mostly in church basements. Rev. Reinhold Niebuhr was a widely known Protestant theologian and seminary professor who advocated what he called “liberal realism.” He influenced liberal mainstream politics and politicians for decades, calling on us to act in the world according to our deepest values.

But today, his greatest remaining legacy is the “Serenity Prayer.” And I can think of no better definition of wisdom than the one implied in this simple prayer. For those of us desperately seeking to live useful and meaningful lives beyond the devastation of alcoholism and addiction, this prayer is a lifeline.

In practice, we don’t acquire wisdom overnight. Nor do we find our courage or our capacity for serenity right away. It takes time and it takes community. I remember the day, roughly ten years ago that I announced to my beloved companions in recovery that I was celebrating 25 years of recovery. The faces around the table beamed. My friends clapped and celebrated with me. Many of them were working on 30, 40 years and even longer in recovery. “It gets better,” they told. “It gets better.” I believed them and they were right.

For me and my infinitely wise companions on the spiritual journey, the “wisdom to know the difference” has come from letting go...
Of thinking that we can do it all by ourselves  
That who we are is what we do  
That we don’t need anyone else  
Of trying to control the behavior of others  
Of looking good at the expense of feeling good  
Of the need to always be right

I’m betting that if we put our heads together and made a list of everything we need to release in order to be happy, joyous and free, it would be thousands of items long.

As Unitarian Universalists, we don’t affirm a theology of original sin or original evil. We choose instead to affirm a theology of inherent goodness and dignity. In this we depart from theologians like Niebuhr and so many others. But that doesn’t mean we have nothing to learn about ourselves and the ways we make our journey through life more difficult.

This month we will explore different wisdom traditions, unexpected sources of wisdom and the joy of growing together.

- Warmly, Rev. Maria

From Our President

Hi Folks: As you are reading this article we are into our Stewardship Drive for 2020-2021. Our theme is “Doing more with more.”

What is stewardship?

According to Merriam Webster, stewardship is “the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”

UUFHC is entrusted to each one of us as members of the Fellowship. We care about the work we do here. We care about each other. We care about this place being here for future generations.

Most of us give of our time, talent and treasure, but this last one is what the stewardship drive is about. It will cost $5,209.00 per week to meet our operating expenses for the next church year. That does not include any capital improvements.

Our goal has been and is to fund the budget with annual pledges from our members. Right now about 75% of the budget is funded that way. The rest is made up in fund raising—Serendipity Auction, Holiday Bazaar, Flea Market and several others—and rental income from the school and house.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if all of our fund raising could go to social justice and anti-racism/anti-oppression initiatives? We would be doing the work of our mission statement and living our seven principles in a way we haven’t yet been able to do.

Doing more with more to me means making an impact in our world, and UUFHC is a place where we can collectively do this.

In Fellowship,  
- Ed Roberts,  
Board President

RE-Visioning: Faith Formation

This has been a big year for transitions in the Religious Education program here at UUFHC. Last summer, opportunity arose to begin to reconsider our community’s approach to religious education. Boy, has the committee been busy!

Under the leadership of the committee, and in coordination with Reverend Maria, we began rethinking our approach to how to develop our young Unitarian Universalists. Much of this work has likely been transparent to the congregation, although if you have children in the program you may have seen or felt some of this in action.

For example, instead of delivering a curriculum that the adults have chosen for them, the high school youth have been active in their own learning. Working with their advisors, they decided to learn about cultural diversity in the first half of the year. They then used that learning to develop and deliver an RE Service of their own making.

Another example of the behind-the-scenes work and updated approach to faith formation has been our renewed commitment to Children’s Worship. Drawing on the expertise of our congregation, our young folk through 5th grade are learning more about the UU faith tradition.

While the long-term goal is to develop our children into life-long Unitarian Universalists, I have already seen my own 4th graders feel more connected to and have a greater understanding of what being a UU means.
Currently ongoing, too, is UUFHC’s Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th, and 7th/8th graders. While last summer’s transition caused us to postpone OWL from the typical fall start in favor of a winter start, the timing has worked out very well. An additional transition that the committee and the facilitators are considering is shifting the 2nd/3rd grade program back to K/1 in the future. This is important to begin thinking about now, because if we decide to make that change, we will need to ensure that our current K/1st don’t miss out. One of the reasons for this change is that the curriculum is intended for a K/1st audience, and so the materials and activities are geared towards kids of that age. There will be plenty of discussion on this in the coming months; right now, it’s simply another example of a possible transition in our faith formation.

Given the ongoing change within the current program, we are also looking toward the future as we consider the art of the possible. Reverend Maria and the committee feel strongly about stronger ties to and work with the congregation, and our desire to (over time) become more intentional with family ministry and lifespan education rather than offering a program focused solely on the youth.

It is for these reasons that the committee has recommended, and the Board has approved, changing the name of the program from Religious Education to Faith Formation. Changing the name of the program will not change the robust program that we currently offer. I believe the opposite, in fact, as we grow in our understanding and delivery of the programs and learning that our youth, families, and congregants need, Faith Formation better describes the life-long spiritual journey that we are on together.

As Reverend Maria so articulately stated, “We are offering formation in our faith (tradition), not of our faith (beliefs).”

It is with this understanding that the Faith Formation Committee has developed a mission/vision statement specific to the Faith Formation program. It reads:

The Faith Formation Program at UUFHC aspires to provide:
• A community where children and adults feel love, acceptance, and belonging;
• A spiritual and moral foundation for honoring life’s joys and tragedies;
• A knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and exploration of other religions;
• A recognition of our social justice responsibility to the greater world community and our planet; and
• Opportunities and resources for personal and spiritual growth.

As we continue to learn, grow, and change, I am thankful for your continued support of the youth, the families, and the Faith Formation program.

- Emily Whaley, chair

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**Corner on Finance**

**Ending Fiscal Year 19-20**

I’m filling in for Rob Lieb who is taking a well-deserved vacation in sunnier places. At the February Finance Committee meeting we focused on the importance of ending our fiscal year (the last day is April 30) in the black. We noted that, as of January 31, we still had unpaid pledge income of $66,923. That is only three months to receive the rest of the pledge income! In the FY 19-20 budget, pledge income was lower than anticipated, and we have to use funds from savings to cover all expenses. The treasurer sent an emailed tax statement in January. On the bottom is the amount due on your pledge as of December 31. Please plan to complete your pledge by April 30. Perhaps you can use some of your tax refund for this purpose. If you have questions about your balance, please contact Rob Lieb (treasurer@uufhc.net) who can compute your latest pledge balance.

**Serendipity Auction Reminder**

We are all looking forward to our most fun event—the Serendipity Auction on April 18. We hope you attend and bid on many of the events that fill up our social calendars, the themed baskets, and other offerings. We’ve heard a few members comment that their spending at the auction is their primary way of supporting UUFHC. Please note that the Serendipity Auction does not replace your pledge. The Stewardship Drive is our most important fundraiser of the year. Your pledges are 100% tax deductible. By law, most auction purchase, unless the price you pay exceeds the fair market value, are not. Many members consider auction purchases as coming from their entertainment budget. Their pledge supports UUFHC as charitable giving. UUFHC is working toward a goal of having pledge income support most or all of the budget expenses.
**Do More With More**

The theme of our Stewardship Drive for the 2020-21 church year is “Do More With More,” and we’re encouraged to list our dreams for the future. My dream is for pledge income to support staff, programs and other expenses. We rely on rental income from the house and school. There are many expenses for repairs of the old buildings along with many volunteer hours, as well as property taxes. Our net profit margin is small, but we rely on this income to meet our budget. We acquired these properties for future growth potential, and we are unable to build a Fellowship Hall or more RE classrooms if we rely on rental income to meet our budget. Also, I look forward to the day when our fundraiser income can support our social justice efforts in the community. We are asked to dream big, and I encourage you to also consider a better UUFHC when you make your pledge.

- Kay Saucier

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**The Importance of Stewardship**

As we begin the funding process for the next fiscal year, you have had the opportunity to share your hopes and dreams for UUFHC at scheduled group meetings, at the new member gatherings, and by writing them on the banner in the sanctuary. The budget was built to meet those desires and needs. The culmination of this process is the commitment that each of our members must make to enable this list of desires and needs, and the budget itself, to come to life.

Each of us must evaluate our commitment to these goals. “Doing More with More” is this year’s theme. Be sure to look over the new proposed budget, make sure you understand what we hope to achieve, and then evaluate how your financial commitment will enable our community to secure the needed items. If we all do what we think we can...and then a little bit more, we will be on the road to another year of sharing our spiritual journeys in a spirit of abundance. You will be voting on that budget at the Annual Meeting on April 26th and helping to more firmly establish us as a congregation of abundance.

Carefully gather the Stewardship information, ask the questions for which you need answers, evaluate your ability to fiscally support these goals, and join with your church family on Commitment Sunday, March 1 to create a successful year. Go!

- Rob Lieb, Treasurer

(sent from the airport!)

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**Get Ready for the Roaring '20s Serendipity Auction**

There are at least three ways to participate in the Serendipity Auction.

1. **Donate an item to the live auction.** Suggestions: theme dinner in your home or out; show a movie, take them to a movie; theater tickets; offer a class; bake cookies/pies each month; nature hikes; decorator/artistic item; beach house; boat trip; services, i.e., photography, pet sitting, dump run, arts and crafts lesson, parents night out, you get the idea. Donation forms are on the UUFHC website and on tables in the church lobby, due March 13.

2. **Donate a theme basket for the silent auction.** Get together with friends to pick a theme and create a basket with donated items. Some themes to consider: a wine basket, pet basket, garden basket, tool basket, car care basket, tea basket, health food basket, etc. Once you decide on a theme, please contact Trisha to let her know what you are providing so she can send you a basket donation form to be submitted with the basket, due March 31.

3. **Attend the auction party on April 18** and bid on fabulous items donated by UUFHC members/friends. Feel like a winner with your 2020 calendar filled with events hosted by your friends.

If you would like to see some suggestions for donations or have a questions, speak to or email Trisha Tatam-McQuate, trishatatam@gmail.com, or Ed or Kimberly Roberts, dashgroberts@gmail.com.

**Deadline to donate a live auction item is Friday, March 13.**

**Deadline to bring in your finished theme basket is Sunday, March 29.**

See you at the Serendipity Auction April 18.
UUFHC Committed to Social Justice

I have told this story many times, but it bears repeating as we think about UUFHC’s Social Justice efforts. Our family bought Christmas trees from UUFHC for many years. They were the nicest trees in the area, and would last far longer than most. Years ago driving up Rt 22 in the fall I noticed the Silent Witness statues representing the victims of domestic violence. As someone who had worked in the field of sexual assault and domestic violence, I was taken aback. This Church went to the trouble of making wood statues representing those that had died as a result of domestic violence, each one had a plaque telling us their name and dates of birth and death. What a great Church this must be to put on this public display and give voices to those who had none.

We started coming to services in the spring and summer of 2010. While attending at some point we saw a banner over the entrance that read “Civil Marriage is a Civil Right” as I remember it. Our respect for UUFHC kept growing. This Church was able to take major social justice issues and publicly take a stand for all to see. They were a Church that did not fear rocking some boats.

Our family had been active in many social justice issues for many years before coming to UUFHC. We had protested the wars over the years and became politically active for candidates that felt the same about war. Peter was a veteran for peace: no more wars, no more young lives taken due to very bad political decisions. We worked for many years with our rural neighbors in a small area in New Jersey for clean water, clean air and soil. We put up our own candidates for the Town Council and much more. We learned early on that most of the things that are important in people’s lives are political. We have some major issues that are still not resolved in this country like health care, climate change etc. But most people chose not to become involved and that makes its easy for the horrible policies hurting people to continue.

After joining in October, 2010 we saw how UUFHC was involved in many issues for the community and helping others. UUFHC helps the homeless, we help LASOS, SARC, LGBT issues, environmental issues and sharing table, immigration and others I might have missed. In joining UUFHC I do see it as my responsibility to help the Church the best way I can at this point in my life to continue to fight for Social Justice and speak out on the issues that are important, working for a more just society. What keeps me inspired are the people who need our help and the Fellowship’s willingness to continue to rock boats and speak out for those who have no voice.

- Noreen Anderson

A Testimonial, Unsolicited

Are you one of our UUFHC Members or Friends who visited our congregation and asked yourself, “How come I never heard of Unitarian Universalism?” I was. I’ve lived in this county since 1958 except for a few years. I found UUFHC with Edward H. Roberts by way of Edward G. Roberts, our President of the Executive Board, and Kimberly Roberts, Chair of the Worship Committee.

Living in Harford County prior to the 1980s, if you didn’t reside in one of the three incorporated towns, or attend Harford Community College, or if you stayed pretty much in your own back yard, you didn’t know about Unitarians and Universalists. Our denomination was small; still is small, compared to the mainline Protestant and Catholic memberships. However, we became a duly-recognized Unitarian congregation in 1955-1956. And we are here to stay.

UUFHC was a very small group—under 60 members and friends for years. Members were as active as they could be until the congregation built the current, unusually-shaped building. And the sweat equity needed to build and maintain our building and project ourselves into the growing population in Harford County proved daunting. But not impossible!

You are here now, reading this. Are you involved in the many choices of activities or humanitarian causes we support since you became a member, or if you are a friend, do you participate in any activity?

We have so much to offer. The Religious Education department is one of my favorites. Teaching children and adults the message we bring about the Seven Principles is valuable to being an American.

Unitarians and Universalists gave so much of themselves to begin this nation; from the beginning of free-thinking in the colonies to signing the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Early on, Unitarians and Universalists began traveling and preaching in the first thirteen states and then beyond to the western frontier.

We don’t have to travel very far to spread our message now, do we? How many Harford County residents are aware of our contributions to the well-being of this area? Quite a few judging by our growing membership. So I ask you to step up this year and increase your pledges. There is much we can do to continue to spread our message to the residents of our county, to the counties around us, and to the state.
Our American UU history proves we’ve been here for over 243 years. Let’s keep it that way!

Respectfully submitted,
- JoAnn Macdonald

Volunteer of the Month

Chances are, you’ve experienced the results of Trisha Tatam’s volunteer efforts. She was one of the prime organizers of the 2019 Holiday Bazaar and ran the new Woman’s Boutique. This popular addition to our Holiday Bazaar ensured that we had the best event total raised yet.

The 2020 Serendipity Auction is coming up in April. Again, Trisha is one of the main organizers and is busy soliciting donations to make the upcoming event a great success. (Be sure to read Trisha’s article on the auction and download a donation form from our website, www.uufhc.net). She’ll be busy organizing the many areas of our biggest, most fun event of the church year.

Trisha has also been active in organizing these events in past years. In addition, she is often on coffee-hour duty, making the coffee, putting out the snacks, and creating a welcoming space for members and friends to congregate after the service.

Thank you Trisha for your efforts on these and all your other volunteer activities!

March Birthdays

Spring is just around the corner. We wish our following members a very happy birthday, and hope for good weather for your special celebrations.

- Laura Paligo March 2
- Darlene Rothwell March 3
- Cindy Neff March 5
- Bob Blackstock March 9
- Kit Brown March 9
- Cindy Curry March 20
- Julia Akers March 26

Plan Now for General Assembly

Register by March 15 for the special rate of $400 for adult full-time attendance at the UUA General Assembly, June 24-28 in Providence, Rhode Island. When final registration is complete, special consideration for lodging and volunteer opportunities will become available.

Once registered, use the General Assembly Housing Reservation system: gahousing@uua.org. The UUA has negotiated special rates at eight GA hotels, two GA dormitory options and local home hospitality. The UUA facilities are chosen with sustainability and accessibility issues in mind. The reservation system opens March 2 at 9:00 am.

The theme of this year’s General Assembly is “Rooted, Inspired and Ready.” A major focus of GA this year will be partnership with Indigenous leaders in the Northeast to explore how to co-exist in right relationship with one another and the land we occupy.

Consider becoming a delegate to General Assembly. Speak with Rev. María or a member of the Board. You would represent our Fellowship and carry our banner in the banner parade. You would vote on study issues and UUA policies as well as for the new UUA moderator.

While at General Assembly, attendees can participate in daily worship services, workshops on spiritual and leadership topics and listen to the Ware lecture, which features a noted speaker on religious and human rights topics. There are special programs (and registration rates) for teens and young adults.

For further information, visit www.uua.org/ga to learn more about UUA’s annual event. More information will be added, including the name of this year’s Ware lecturer. You can learn about travel options to Providence. Be sure to register in March for best rates and housing.

UUSJ Upcoming Events

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Mobilizing for the 2020 Elections - Progressive people of faith can be powerful and prophetic without being partisan. We can engage our neighbors, educate our communities, mobilize voters, rally around ballot initiatives, and assist in shaping a public discourse that is rooted in our theology and principles.
Plans include a webinar for mobilizing voters. UUSJ provides a place for congregations to develop their own plans, explore applying for a grant and learning what other congregations are doing. UUSJ offers resources for getting involved, including how to build your congregation’s team, knowing the rules for tax exempt organizations, connecting with community partners and recruiting volunteers. Visit [www.uusj.net](http://www.uusj.net) and choose “Latest eNews Issue” from the Quick Links drop down menu. Then scroll down to UUSJ News and Events for more information.

UUSJ and the UU Ministry for Earth are planning a **Spring for Change** to call attention to World Water Day (March 22), Earth Day (April 22) and World Biodiversity Day (May 22) to engage and mobilize UUs and friends. There will be a nationwide letter-writing campaign to advocate for meaningful action on the climate crisis.

These two UU organizations urge UU congregations to bring a film screening of the award-winning documentary, “The Condor and the Eagle,” co-produced by UU Ministry for Earth, to your congregation or community. Follow the links above to the “Latest eNews Issue” for more information. Also available are a screening toolkit with full instructions, promotional resources, and a film discussion guide.

- Adapted from the UUSJ website

### Legacy Gifts Shape the Future

**Workshop: “Our Shared Future - Legacy Giving in UU Congregations**

**Saturday, March 14, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at**

**UU Congregation of Fairfax**

Would you like to learn how to encourage members, friends and supporters to shape the future of Unitarian Universalism? Jay Pacitti, Donor Relations Director at the UUA will present the basics of legacy giving and best practices for building a healthy program in your congregation.

The workshop is designed for Board members, ministers, fundraising volunteers, endowment committee and finance committee members who want to learn about soliciting, managing, and stewarding legacy gifts. This workshop is free, but an optional $15 fee covers lunch.

The UU Congregation of Fairfax is located 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124. For further information, contact Megan Foley at mfoley@uua.org.

- Adapted from the UUA website

### Jubilee Anti-Racism Training

This training helps participants understand what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and working against racism in all of its forms. The workshop requires a weekend commitment; and it is worth every minute of that commitment. There are several offerings of this training being planned around the region this winter and spring. Current dates are:

- March 27-29: UUs of Delaware County, Media, PA, [Registration is open](https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/jubilee-workshop-md-520).
- April 10-12: First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY, Registration opens March 1 to those outside the host congregation.

### UU The Vote 2020

UUFHC’s Social Justice Committee will participate in the UUA’s “UU the Vote” initiative. An organizing meeting is planned for Thursday, March 26, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

“UU the Vote” is a non-partisan faith initiative to engage neighbors, educate our communities and rally around key ballot initiatives. The stakes couldn’t be higher in the 2020 elections. Directly or indirectly, the issues so many of us care most deeply about, climate change, LGBTQ rights, immigration, racial justice and more, will be on the ballot in 2020.

We can seize the opportunity to fight for our values, counter voter suppression, expand democracy, and engage in spiritually grounded, values-based issue conversations with other voters in our own communities.

Participating in our democracy is not only about our fifth principle. As UUs, our deepest beliefs are a life-giving, life-saving, life-sustaining alternative to the narratives and policies of domination, supremacy, exceptionalism, and exploitation that are on the rise.

Your are encouraged to visit the website [www.uua.org/justice/vote2020](http://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020) or plan to come to the meeting at UUFHC on March 26.

- Adapted from the UUA website
Building Liberal Religious Community

Please Join Us!

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net

Wayside Pulpit

In the long run, every man will pay the penalty for his own misdeeds. The man who remembers this will be angry with no one, indignant with no one, revile no one, blame no one, offend no one, hate no one.

– Epictetus