

The *Lighted Chalice* is a UUCTC Publication

June 2020

Board of Trustees Report Submitted by Tamara Hazbun



At the Board of Trustees meeting May 12, we discussed our path to returning to in-person services. We agreed to take a cautious and gradual approach to opening up while considering the guidelines and recommendations of the WHO, CDC, Indiana State Department of Health and UUA. In order to protect our community, we will err on the side of caution.

Our goal is to provide spiritual and emotional support to each member of the congregation as safely as possible. We are particularly concerned about individuals who are at greater risk of illness from covid-19, including the elderly, immunocompromised and those with chronic disease.

Behaviors that are part of our normal church gatherings are inherently risky for covid-19 viral transmission. These behaviors include gathering in groups for a prolonged period of time (greater than 15 minutes), hugging and shaking hands, sharing food, and children playing together. Singing, while a beloved part of church, is particularly risky because it involves vocal cord vibration and prolonged inspiration and expiration. We will need to find other ways to incorporate music into our services.

A gradual opening up will be necessary and we have begun brainstorming how to accomplish this. As we reopen, we will continue to broadcast via Zoom and Facebook so those remaining in isolation may participate. Early church services will be very different, in that we will not sing, touch each other or share food. We might not offer childcare in the usual setting. We will require everyone to wear a mask and we will all use hand sanitizer when entering the building. Members of a household shall sit together while 6 feet away from other households. This may involve using the balcony and staggering households in the pews. Instead of passing the offering plate, we may have a drop box and electronic donations will be encouraged. Our services may be shortened or even held outdoors to decrease possibility of transmission. And of course, congregants who are ill may not participate.

We have not developed a timeline for returning to in-person services. While we want this to be soon, we understand there are many factors involved and we do not want to increase community spread of the disease. We are guided by science rather than politics. The UUA has actually recommended planning for virtual services through May 2021, with "small in-person nodes that can grow as the pandemic subsides." I interpret this recommendation as a call for preparedness. We need to be thinking and planning how to sustain virtual worship for the long term in order to continue to include our most vulnerable members in a meaningful way. During that time, which may be another year, we can repeatedly evaluate the disease prevalence as well as treatments and vaccine availability, and do our best to make safe decisions about opening up.

The Board of Trustees will continue to follow the situation and keep you informed as we move forward.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Ministerial Search Committee

Thank you to all congregants who completed the online survey, mailed back their paper form, or talked to a board member on the phone to provide us with names of people you trust to be on the Search Committee for our next Settled Minister. The Board of Trustees carefully reviewed the names suggested by the congregation and tried our best to create a balanced committee that represents the full diversity of our congregation. We are delighted to present to you the Search Committee members who will work tirelessly on our behalf over the next year to help us find our next settled minister:

Stephen David, Barny Dunning, Brent Jesiek, Susanne McConville, Kim Smith, and Sherry Tripodi.

Please join me in thanking them for their service!

Linda

New Grounds Committee!

Please join us in thanking **Susanne McConnville** and **Lorraine Myer** for agreeing to co-chair this important committee. A small group has joined them in divvying up the spaces around our church, so that no one person has to try to keep up with the whole yard. There are still a couple of areas needing a volunteer" supervisor", most especially the playground area.

Guidelines for this group are:

1. We want the grounds to be appealing and pleasant to look at. We want people to see that we care about our space.



- 2. We want to honor our 7th Principle of "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."
- 3. We want the grounds to be as low-maintenance as possible as we strive for both the above.

If you have a few hours to spare, and enjoy digging, planting, raking, or weeding, or would like to take responsibility for the playground, please contact: Susanne McConnville at <u>suemcconville1200@gmail.com</u> or Lorraine Myer at <u>lorraine@rlmyer.com</u>.

Thank you!!

Summer is coming soon. Bits of free time. Warm rays. Water play. Songs of Summer.

Crickets begin their magical time. Ladybugs jog for the joy of June. Dragonflies dance as they dart by. Their whirring wings sing a lullaby. Bumblebees buzz a melody sweet. Caterpillars tap their many feet. Oh happy hearts beat just like drummers. As June brings on the songs of summer.

Christina Wright, Nursery@uuctc.org

"Keep shining beautiful one. The world needs your light". -author unknown

Hello ComUUnity,

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." - Ellen Parr

I've been reflecting on that quote a lot this past month and how I can continue to cultivate curiosity during a time when it can feel tough just to focus on a single task or try to maintain a routine or to make a meal for yourself. I think curiosity is one of those feelings that can help with some of those big, intense, overwhelming emotions like grief or uncertainty or hopelessness. It can help you self-reflect and answer some of life's big questions. It can allow you to see different parts of the world and different sides to people. It can spark new joys and habits. It can provide novelty when boredom is setting in. It can build and strengthen friendships and connections with a wider community. It can cause social change, when we start asking ourselves, "What else is possible?" I challenge all of you to focus on curiosity and possibility in the months ahead. What kind of communities are possible? How can we use our curiosity to explore our own paths? What new things might we like to explore?

My friend, Emma, had a big school project this semester. She was challenged to come up with a way that one kid can change the world. She chose to clean up the trash from her neighborhood by filling one bag at a time, and inviting others to do the same in the #fillabag challenge. She noticed a problem, came up with a solution, and encouraged others to join in. That is just one example of how someone used curiosity to spark action in her community. Her one idea grew into something bigger and encouraged others to participate in the possibility of a better world for everyone. To participate in the #fillabag challenge, take a bag with when you go for a walk, fill it with trash, and take some photos with the hashtag #fillabag challenge.

Finally, I just wanted to share some things I've been curious about over the past month and I invite you to do the same.

- How many books have I read in my lifetime?
- What do dogs dream about?
- What places would I like to visit?
- How can I support marginalized communities in an ongoing, real way?
- What kinds of things should I plant in my garden?
- What will it be like when I have to teach in person in July?
- What's going on with my family in Memphis?
- What would happen if I truly practiced open and direct communication with others all the time?
- How can I make my house more colorful and fun?

I would love to hear your lists and invite you to stay connected in the following ways:

- Attend our monthly program council meetings, which I'm now facilitating (so excited!!!) J Program council meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month, starting June 2nd @6pm. Take the survey to give your opinions on upcoming program council meetings and programming, including adult RE. <u>https://forms.gle/LZo7AyRFWAMExVe7A</u>
- Send me an email <u>dre@uuctc.org</u>
- Check out the RE website <u>https://regluu.wordpress.com</u>
- We'll be having weekly RE Zoom meetings on Sundays from 12-1. \Rightarrow 12:00-12:30 We will light our chalice, check in, and share stories/activities. \Rightarrow 12:30-1:00 This is a time for RE youth (6th-12th graders) to connect and check in.
- Join the RE mailing list. I'll be sending out weekly updates via email.
- Check the RE website at https://regluu.wordpress.com for more activities and information.
- I encourage you to join one of our Facebook groups: UU Church Discussion Page, REGLUU, and UU Lafayette Youth.

Finally, I want to do my best to support the UU community, families, children, youth, volunteers, and friends in any way that I can. Please let me know if you need anything at all: connection, resources, groceries, ideas, support. I will do my best to make sure you and your families are getting what they need.

With love and peace, Nicole McCabe, DRE



Announcements

Change for Change is back!

Let's help agencies on the frontlines by providing assistance to those in our community impacted by the COVID virus. One of the leaders is Food Finders Food Bank. Use the **Donate** icon at the top of the church web page to make your donation to Food Finders or send a check to the church indicating the donation is for Change for Change in the memo line.

Virtual Insight Meditation

lafayetteinsightmeditation@gmail.com

Anyone is welcome to join us for a Virtual Insight Meditation <u>every Monday at 7pm</u> on Zoom! We're a small community that has found deep value in practicing stillness and focusing on awareness on our breathing, thoughts, and supporting each other in doing so.

You can join us at: <u>https://proxy.qualtrics.com/</u> proxy/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fuuctc.org%2Finsight

zoom&token=UbpjTHhyV79Vmfhcs9ZwJqoGRov 0Ap0vckX9j%2FKXU%2B0%3D

Join the web-based Zoom meeting (works best on Chrome) at: <u>https://proxy.qualtrics.com/proxy/?</u> <u>url=https%3A%2F%2Fuuctc.org%2Finsight-</u> <u>web&token=q%2BqmAjOo9YxgaKw2%</u> <u>2BxwwvWbT7i%2FEfBkqxAkp7MVwn1s%3D</u>

Meeting ID: 863 1429 6645 Password: 212486 Additional details are at uuctc.org/insight-dial-in

Lighted Chalice

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Email submissions to <u>lightedchalice@uuctc.org</u> Deadline is the 15th of the month. **Fundraiser Update** Tomato Plant Sale = \$400.⁰⁰ Face Mask Sale = \$1060.⁰⁰

Thank you to everyone who has participat-

Lunch with Rev. Rosemary https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96146624177

Every Wednesday at noon bring your questions, concerns, and of course your lunch to visit with our Interim Minister.



Preview of *June* Worship

June 7th—There is More Love Somewhere June 14th—Full of Pride June 21st—Fathers and Flowers June 28th—Rooted, Inspired and Ready (GA live streamed

UUC Tomato Plant Sale/Fundraíser



In early March, Beth Misner, JJ Rode and Lisa Pantea planted heirloom tomato seeds in anticipation of our annual May UUC Plant Sale. Those seeds have now turned into about 420 tomato plants and we would like to offer these plants to the congregation and friends in an 'amended' plant sale. All heirloom tomatoes are from Beth Misner's garden and are mid to late season. Below is a list of the tomato types, description, and how many small plants we currently have. The plants are available anytime, but the pickup details have not yet been confirmed.

Possible plans are to have them in the UUC playground area for pick up and payment. Most of the plants are currently 2-4 inches tall and can be repotted into 4" pots if need be, depending on when you would like them, now or later in May.

If you are interested in these plants, please notify Lisa Pantea at <u>lisapantea@gmail.com</u> or Beth Misner at <u>ejmmustang@gmail.com</u>, stating what type and how many plants you would like. Suggested price is \$2 to \$3, cash or check only, however any donation amount is welcome since this was intended to be a church fundraiser.

Туре	Quantity Available	Description
Pineapple	77	1 plus lb. fruits that are yellow and red striped. Very pretty and tasty.
Pink Brandywine	42	1 lb. pink slicing tomato known for flavor.
Olpaka	60	Flavorful horn shaped paste tomatoes, dark red and dense. My favorite canning and sauce tomato. Half to 1 lb.
Yellow Pear	40	Small tasty pear shaped tomatoes. Kids love to go out and graze them in the garden. Grows in clumps like grapes.
Oxheart	47	Heart shaped 1 lb. red tomatoes can be used for canning or slicing.
Dark Cherry	42	These and the Yellow Pear tomatoes often just grow in my compost heap, so I don't really know the original name of these 1 oz. fruits, with a good burst of flavor.
Black Krim	30	Dark brown red tomato 8 to 16 oz, bold flavor.
Japanese Trifele	6	4 to 6 oz pear shaped fruit with rich flavor. Cherry tomatoes.
Old German	62	These tasty tomatoes can grow to over 2 lbs. Often one slice for a sandwich. A favorite tomato of many of my friends.
Mortgage Lifter	4	

MASK FUNDRAISER - LIFESAVER Making masks for uu and friends

100% of your donation will be given to UUCTC (Locally or online, most masks sell for \$10-\$30) Can't afford to pay? That's OK. Give what you can. I am donating the time and materials: 2-layer high quality cotton fabric, elastic thread.

If you want a mask, comment on my Facebook post on UU Discussion Group, or private message me, or email <u>jeanfiddle@gmail.com</u>. Masks are reversible and come in assorted prints and colors. When your mask is ready, I will send my address, put your mask(s) in a bag on my porch, and your donation (cash or check made out to UUCTC) can be placed in the bag, when you pick up your mask. Children's sizes upon special request.

Thanks! Jean Herr