
February 2020

UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
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Sunday Worship Services—10:30 AM

Nursery care and religious education for children through grade 12 are offered during the worship service.

ASL interpreting is provided during the service.

There is one service at 10:30 a.m. followed by Coffee Hour.

February 2: BESIDE STILL WATERS Rev. Lyn Cox

Resilience comes from many sources, some of them rowdy and defiant, others steady and subtle. For this service, we'll draw from the contemplative side, remembering courage and fortitude in our living tradition and in sacred text.

February 9: TREES Rev. Lyn Cox

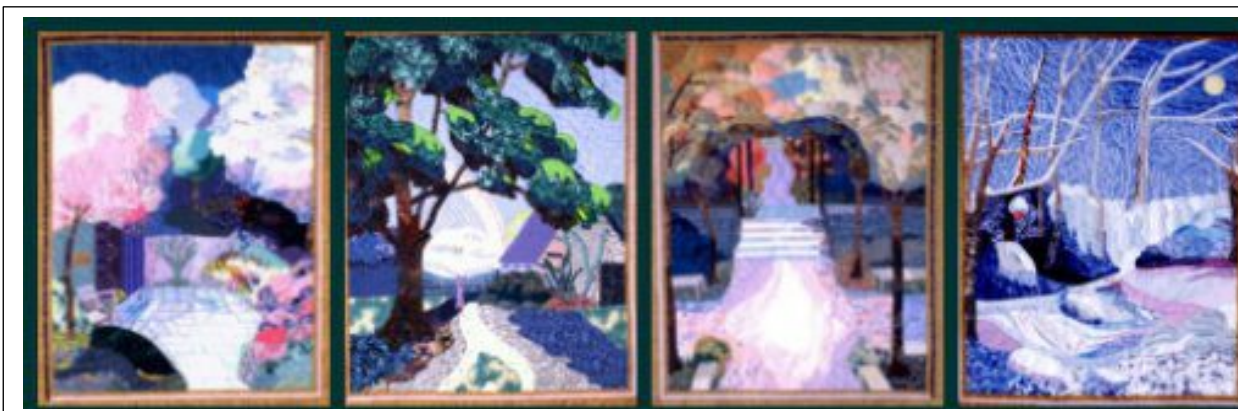
In this multigenerational service, we will reflect on putting down roots and growing shelter for generations to come. We will draw inspiration for resilience from the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of Trees, as we consider growth and fruitfulness on a long time scale

February 16: BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE Rev. Lyn Cox

It's Stewardship Sunday! We will celebrate all that UUCSS means to us, lift up our moments of pride, and express our wishes for the congregation's path ahead. This festival of gratitude and generosity will remind us that we are part of something larger than ourselves, and that we are the inheritors of a rich legacy.

February 23: Youth Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

Our 10th–12th grade youth group, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, will design and lead this worship service. Though they will not be collecting donations during the service, this is a good time to remember that YRUU is fundraising for their heritage trip to Boston.



INSPIRE

Interim Minister's Column by Rev. Lyn Cox

In February, we discover that a lot gets packed into a short month. Black History Month is an opportunity for study and reflection, a chance to ensure that the whole story of our communities and our country can be told. We're encouraged to remember love in February: the love of our partners and families, the love of our LGBTQ neighbors who continue to face discrimination, the agape love of people in community practicing the discipline of right relationship as Lent begins. Just when we've hit our stride with the new year, President's Day comes along, upends our schedule, and asks us to reconsider what we think we know about the people whose monuments dominate the National Mall. As a gardener, it seems like I only just finished the last season, and now it's time to



order seeds and plan for the coming spring.

I'd like to think that all of these February events can contribute to resilience, which is our theme of the month. An honest look at history reminds us of strategies from the past that helped people get through incredibly difficult times, and informs us about the origins of oppressions that we pray are ripe for uprooting. All kinds of love, from the parental to the congregational, revive our souls and keep us connected with life. The seeds we prepare now may yet grow into sources of sustenance in the time to come. Resilience is not an instant recipe; we cultivate it over time, and we draw from it thanks to the blessings of those who came before us.

Resilience may require extra effort to cultivate if dim sunrises and cold weather affect your mood. This time of year, it is more important than ever to cherish the candles with which we can rekindle one another's spark, to keep alive the memories of prophetic strength by sharing stories with new generations, to keep warm the seeds of new life.



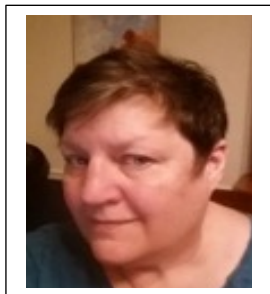
Launching the annual budget drive (ABD) is one way we can stay focused on what is powerful and positive. This season gives us a chance to express our gratitude and hope for UUCSS, and to commit to a future of possibility. If you are interested in being a visiting steward, I hope we'll see you at training sessions on February 2 or February 9. In any case, I hope you'll respond promptly and enthusiastically to your visiting steward when they contact you. Stewardship visits are designed for deep and meaningful conversation.

Supporting the YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, our high school youth group) is another practice of cultivating resilience in our faith. Youth are the present, they are not only the future, of our faith. Their leadership invites us to be flexible and creative. Your donation toward their heritage trip to Boston is an investment in Unitarian Universalism.

If nothing else, I hope resilience as the theme of the month reminds us that we can get through tough things; that it's worthwhile to pause and notice moments of joy; that there are resources of history and heritage that might offer pride, caution, humility, or strategy. All of these gifts arise out of the understanding that time is short, and that few things endure other than love. May these short days lead you onward in memory and hope.

INSPIRE

Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President



Welcome back! I hope you were able to enjoy time with family and friends over the holidays, as I was. Holidays now mean I have both girls at home from school breaks, so we have time to visit and reconnect. Quiet Day is also a big part of my after-holiday recharge. This year we opened with the loving kindness meditation, led by **Jane Jackson**. I was also able to take part in the tree meditation, led by **David Miley**. Those helped me to put aside the busy-ness of the holidays and reconnect with the natural world. If you were not able to attend Quiet Day, I hope you were able to refresh your spirit in some other way after the holidays. We all need to be well rested. We have work to do, here and out in the world.

The Search Committee needs your help. Specifically, they need your donation of frequent flyer miles. They have identified potential candidates and are in the process of scheduling visits and neutral pulpits. This is GREAT news! If you happen to have frequent flyer miles you can donate to support the Search Committee, please email search@uucss.org. Your generosity is appreciated.

Our annual budget drive (ABD) will begin in February. This year we are crossing the Bridge to the Future, committing the resources we need to travel as a community to the next place on our shared journey. We are planning one-on-one stewardship visits with as many members and pledging friends as possible. While stewardship visits are volunteer-intensive, I always look forward to the opportunity to discuss what UUCSS means to each of us. Look for additional information and opportunities to participate from our esteemed ABD co-chairs, **Cynthia Curry-Daniel** and **Jean Snell**. We have so much to be grateful for now and in the future.

We are entering the time of the year when the weather can be treacherous and unpredictable. UUCSS encourages everyone to be mindful of upcoming weather predictions—yes, even when they sound like the end is nigh and we get barely a dusting. UUCSS closings generally follow the Montgomery County Public Schools emergency closing schedule, and we announce on WTOP. We encourage everyone to use Zoom meetings when bad weather is imminent. If you do not have access to the Zoom account, please contact president@uucss.org for the information.

I am pleased to announce that UUCSS has paid into the UUA Central East Region (CER) Annual Program Fund (APF). This marks the first time in 5 years that we are fulfilling our commitment to the larger UU community. We are not making the full contribution of an honor congregation (what used to be called “fair share”), but we are making a good faith effort to support UU values in the larger community. The APF is part of the larger covenant we make to one another to give back to the UUA/CER. The CER staff has continued to support UUCSS in years when we were unable to reciprocate. With this donation, we hope to have delegates at this year’s General Assembly. Look for information later on ways we will be working with CER.

The Poor People’s Campaign (PPC) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. It was started as a moral revival and is part of Rev. **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s** unfinished work. Groups and individuals within UUCSS are currently working to support the PPC, culminating in the Mass Poor People’s Assembly and Moral March on Washington on June 20, 2020. Support for the PPC is also part of living our UU values. The demands of the Poor People’s Campaign are reflected in all seven of our UU principles. To find out more about their goals to lift up all people and support an economic system that benefits all and takes ecological impacts into account please visit <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>. The calendar of events in Maryland is available at this link: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/committee/maryland/>.

The agenda for the January Board meeting will include finalizing the draft budget that will circulate during the ABD campaign, reporting on goals for the strategic plan and beginning the discussion for next year’s plan, and reviewing and discussing the changes proposed by the RevCon (Constitution Revision task force). The minutes and agenda for the Board are posted on our dropbox for the benefit of the congregation.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your President.

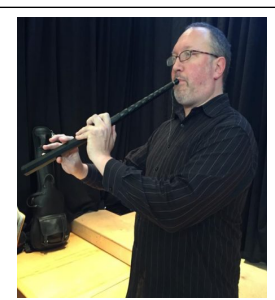
Search Committee Update Where We Are and What's Ahead

Interviews are upon us! We developed interview questions and conducted a mock interview with Rev. Lyn. We received ministers' applications and were pleased with the size and qualifications of the applicant pool. We've reviewed the ministers' applications and spoken with their references. Now we're wrapping up our first round of video conference (zoom) interviews and are in the process of finalizing our invitations to possible "precandidates." Precandidates will come to Silver Spring later this winter/spring to see the church, sit with us for in-person interviews, and lead a worship service at a neutral pulpit.

During this next phase of the process, we may not be able to keep you apprised of every development, but we appreciate your trust and patience. We are honored to be in the position to have these interactions with ministerial applicants and to represent you all in this critical role.

As always, please feel free to email us with any questions or concerns at search@uucss.org.

Yours in search, **Katie Kirk Haag, Steve Hirsch, Jeremy Holt, Anna Molpus, Beverly Schnetzler, Lisa Schumaker, and Sharon Snyder.**



Musings by Michael Holmes, UUCSS Music Director

On Sunday, January 5, I wanted to start the new year out right by doing something that had been in my mind for a few years, and that was to honor our wonderful volunteer musicians and audio team at UUCSS by throwing a mini-reception after our worship service that morning. Below is a summary of what I said during the event:

I talked about the beginnings of my time at UUCSS, going back to 2004, when I held a large meeting to identify all the active and inactive musicians within the church. From the beginning, I was astonished by the musical riches of background and experience so many folks possessed! From our choir, to our folk singers, to our song writers, and to our soloists, I knew that the potential was going to be far greater than its parts. Over the years, new performing entities have formed. Here are our current ensembles, for which I could not give praise enough for their value to me, and for the church:

Sanctuary Singers—Are at the very heart and core of the music program, and one of the church's hardest-working volunteer groups, when measured in hours served. The choir has sung in at least 15 languages, dives boldly and stylishly into a boundless number of styles, and serves as a caring mutual support group for all involved. Members of the choir have sung for each other during hospitalizations, other difficult times, and during end-of-life moments. The memories we share are cherished by all.

A Cappella Ensemble—I must say that creating performing arrangements is one of the coolest aspects of my job at UUCSS. What makes it work so well is not only the great talent of its back-up singers and soloists, but the degree of joy we all experience when we all contribute equally to the creative process. What you hear when the a cappella group performs is the beauty of the democratic process put to music, where everyone's individual voice contributes to the whole to create beauty.

UUkes—This is a very tightly knit inreach group with two things in common: a love for the ukulele (the ultimate folk instrument!) and a love for singing. Members have been very supportive of one another throughout their joys and sorrows over the years, and their performance for the service before the reception was particularly lovely!

INSPIRE (continued)

Music Director's Musings Continued

House Band—I related the story of how our wonderful band got started. In 2005, **Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay** asked me if it was possible for me to center a service around **Peter Gabriel's** song "In Your Eyes." Since there were no choral arrangements of the song at the time, I immediately looked for band musicians who might be able to pull it off. The first ad hoc group we put together became the beginnings of the UUCSS House Band, and since that service in 2005, the band has been resounding in our space ever since, often on professional levels. I could never overstate possibilities the House Band has opened up for our congregation!

Children's Choirs—With the help of my fantastic volunteer co-leader, **Audrey Engdahl**, the children and youth choirs continue to flourish. This is often where we nurture our young talent and identify new, young singers who often blossom into soloists in their own right. It's such a beautiful process to witness.

Ad hoc Ensembles—To mention a few...our wonderful folk ensembles who perform music that fits into very esoteric themes for Sunday services, our klezmer group (!!), our jazz ensembles, our singer-songwriters, our composers, our pianists, and our vocal and instrumental soloists.


It seems that with all of these musical resources, there appears to be no barrier to any musical style imaginable. If there's a song that a minister, lay leader, or guest speaker would like our musicians to sing, it's rare that we ever have to tell them "sorry, we can't do that."

Audio Team—And last but not least! It goes without saying that we could not achieve the proper sound, clarity, focus, and mixing required for our musical performances without our audio team. They are all dedicated volunteers, and tireless and conscientious enough to extract the best out of us, which otherwise would not be heard or intelligible without them.

The many great musical resources at UUCSS are mostly due to our incredible volunteers. I cannot thank you enough for all that you do to make music that is unique and powerful every week!

LEARN

Message From Interim Director of Religious Education (IDRE) Marsha Thrall



February's Soul Matter's theme is Resilience; in my first few months as Interim Director of Religious Education, I have discovered that UUCSS is a resilient congregation. In the course of the past 3 years, as a congregation you've experienced disruptive loss in all aspects of congregational leadership, and many of you have suffered great personal loss during this time period, too. And yet, through these times of trial, as a congregation you've worked together to ensure that space to gather, space to worship, and space to learn was maintained. Programming for children and youth is strong and consistent as UUCSS remains a place where families come together, bound by a common moral compass and an ethical pursuit of truth and meaning. And this children's programming piece is a testament to resilience.

But as we move forward, and work to discern how religious education can take shape in this resilient space, it is equally important to consider what this moving forward can look like from a big picture perspective. During my interview process, I expressed my passion for adult religious education. This passion is not merely a personal preference; rather, it is borne from observing the evolving dynamics of the congregations that I've served, in various capacities, since 2004, and this observation is backed by statistical data. According to Pew Research Forum data, the two largest and stable demographics of church attendees are Baby Boomers and Gen X, while church attendance among millennials and their growing families has sharply declined within the past decade. This information, just from a cursory glance, tells us two things: first, children of the past two decades who have

LEARN (continued)

Message from IDRE continued

participated in consistent children's and youth-based religious education curriculum are not returning to church as adults, and second, they are not bringing their children, either. So, what does this mean for the future of religious education here at UUCSS?

Well, first, I feel that it's important to maintain and administer religious education for youth and children. And I believe that with some tweaking and minor adjustments, religious education for children and youth at UUCSS can and will remain an important part of the overall congregational experience for families here for years to come.

But the big work, the heavy lifting, needs to happen in the area of adult religious education. Right now, at UUCSS, there are many folks sitting in our seats on Sunday morning whose children are not actively affiliated with the congregation in any way other than familial relationship, and there are even more adults who do not have any children involved in religious education at all. The common denominator between these adults is that congregational religious education does not provide for them. So many times many of these adults have asked me what my plans are for adult religious education, and so many times I've had to say "I'm focusing on the kid's program right now," only to be met with "well, the kids always do have to come first, I guess." And knowing that this programmed response comes from folks who commune with us weekly breaks my heart.

So, as we go forward during the remainder of this first year of organization, my strategy is simple—I am going to ensure that programming for children and youth is maintained and administered. But my creative energy will be spent on developing, coordinating, and delivering quality adult programming that honors UU principles while encouraging leadership, hoping that intense investment will result in strong lifespan religious education programming at UUCSS. However, I can't do this alone, and I believe that the people of UUCSS have the tools, talents, gifts, and passion necessary to grow a lifespan program capable of evolving and flourishing within a changing congregational landscape. Would you like to join me? If so, send me an email, or call me, or pull on my sweater on Sunday morning so that we can have a conversation about the future of religious education at your congregational home.

Peace.

Ethics Class: Updated Calendar

"What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists" has a new set of dates! The class now begins on February 9. The last class is on April 19, skipping Easter Sunday.

"What We Choose" is a 10-session workshop designed by **Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzettian** and **Rev. Amber Beland**. This participatory, reflection-based workshop will be facilitated by member **Evelyn DeNardo** on Sundays after the service, February 9–April 19, in the Dolan Lounge. Participants should plan to bring a lunch.

The UUA's course description is as follows:

"Development, clarification, refinement, and expansion of our ethical thinking often occur in the midst of crisis or in response to an event or relationship that calls our world view into question. However, this program offers an intentional process of engagement with others in examining ethical concepts, dilemmas, and questions to help participants clarify and expand their ethical understanding independent of a personal crisis.

"Participants examine how they have arrived at ethical positions that they hold dear. They explore new perspectives, identify areas for further questions and exploration, and perhaps more fully embrace ethical positions they reach through careful discernment. This program will deepen and expand participants' knowledge and skills for a process of ethical reflection that is central to living our Unitarian Universalist faith."

To register, visit the SignUpGenius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c44adac28abfc1-course>.

LEARN (continued)

2020 UUCSS Music Residency February 27–March 1

The Music Committee has chosen **David** and **Jenny Heitler-Klevans**, who form the successful duo **Two of a Kind**, based out of Philadelphia, as our UUCSS music residency artists for 2020. They



will be with us from February 27 through March 1. For those who are unfamiliar with the residencies, the music program, in collaboration with the artists and other committees/task forces within the church, provides creative programming that touches upon aspects of music, worship, community, outreach, and social action. Typically, the artists collaborate with our musicians in a concert on the Saturday evening of the residency weekend (February 29, 7:30 p.m.), as well as provide music for the Sunday morning service that same weekend.

In addition to those activities, the artists lead workshops about various topics that are open to all UUCSS members. Special attention is given to making the workshops as inclusive as possible, **especially for non-musicians**. The theme for this coming residency will be environmental awareness and justice.

Two of a Kind will present two workshops on Saturday, February 29. The first will be for children and youth (1:00 p.m.), involving the construction of musical instruments out of recycled materials. The second workshop (3:00 p.m.) will be a singing circle where participants will explore some of the more recent songs about environmental justice. Please save the dates for these events, and please stay tuned for announcements on various media for information about registration! Two of a Kind's website is at <http://twoofakind.com/>.

Pathways to Membership Class on Saturday, April 4

Are you interested in becoming a member of UUCSS? Our next Pathways to Membership class will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 4, in the Dolan Lounge. **Rev. Lyn Cox** will be joining us. The Pathways class provides an opportunity to learn more about the history and principles of the UU faith and about UUCSS in particular. You will also learn about the privileges and responsibilities becoming a member entails. For more information and if you're interested in attending, please contact co-chairs **Dina Radley** and **Mary Beth Lerner** at membershipchairs@uucss.org. We look forward to seeing you!

CONNECT

2020 Annual Budget Drive: Bridge to the Future

Message from the Co-Chairs, Jean Snell & Cynthia Curry-Daniel

Are you looking for a great way to get to know more of your fellow congregants and to contribute to the wellbeing of this church community? Do you pride yourself on your listening skills and/or your candor? Are you looking for a new (or perhaps previous?) opportunity to get involved in the life of our church?

If your answer to any of the questions above is "Yes," then please consider volunteering for year's annual budget drive (ABD) team as a steward. We need 30-plus volunteers who are able and willing to meet individually with a small group of fellow congregants between mid-February and mid-March. Training will be provided; you can sign up for a training date at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAAE2EA13-2020>.

This year's outreach campaign will launch on Sunday, February 16. Members will be invited to renew their commitment to this church and to participate in a steward visit. We hope that you will join us to help build a "Bridge to the Future" by engaging with us in the weeks ahead.

Please reach out to **Jean Snell** and **Cynthia Curry-Daniel** if you have any questions about how to participate in this year's ABD. We can be reached at: abdchairs@uucss.org.

CONNECT (continued)

UUCSS for Visitors on Sunday, February 9

If you are a visitor who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCSS in particular or about the process for becoming a member, please join us at our monthly UUCSS 101 for an informal gathering with folks from the Membership Committee. We meet following the service in the Triangle Room, which is adjacent to the Community Hall where coffee hour is underway. Grab a cup of coffee or tea, and bring your questions. We look forward to seeing you!

Rainbow Alliance

The Rainbow Alliance meets every third Sunday of the month at noon in the Children's Chapel below the Sanctuary.

Please join us, or if you have questions, email the co-chairs, **Veronika Martin** and **Elise Turner**, at rainbowalliance@uucss.org.

Report From the RevCon Task Force

As first announced in the October *Unitarian*, the Constitution Revision (RevCon) task force is working on a revised version of the UUCSS Constitution, to be renamed "Bylaws" in accordance with state law and UU practice. We now have a draft (still with some brackets) and have shared some sections with several relevant committees and a few experienced members.

Once we have their comments, we will finalize the draft and present it to the congregation at town hall meetings following the Sunday services on March 1 and 8. The purpose of these two meetings is informational: to explain why we undertook the project, the resources we consulted, and the most important changes we're proposing. We'll also make the draft available to anyone who can't attend either meeting.

Then, on March 29 and April 19, we'll convene discussion forums to receive feedback and iron out any remaining issues. We plan to present the draft Bylaws to the Board so that the congregation can vote on them at the annual meeting in June. The RevCon task force (**Maggie Hayes, Susannah Numa, Jo Paoletti, and John Roberts**) is looking forward to sharing our work with the entire community. You may contact us at revcon@uucss.org.

Greetings Fellowship Dinner Friends

Mark your calendars for our annual dinner celebration on Saturday, April 18, 2020.

In preparation for this event, we need assistance to make sure this event takes place and is as great as always! If you are interested in helping with any of the items below, please send an email by February 15 to **Dina Raley** at fellowshipdinner@uucss.org.

Be the assistant chair for the event and help take care of the activities that are not being delegated/outsourced. Duties may include helping to come up with the theme, marketing the event, setting-up and cleaning-up, and assisting with table assignments.

- Help create and manage the sign-up document on Google docs or another platform.
- Help coordinate and obtain volunteers to work the sign-up table during coffee hour on five Sundays: March 8 to April 5.
- Help run the coffee and dessert tables in the Community Hall, including set-up, clean-up, and coordination with Green Sanctuary with regard to compostables.
- Be a clean-up captain, which includes helping break down and putting away the folding tables, taking care of trash and recycling, managing the tablecloths, vacuuming, and making sure that chairs are replaced for church services the next morning.

Your assistance makes this event possible and is greatly appreciated. We look forward to another successful Fellowship Dinner.

CONNECT (continued)

Sunday Support Needs More Folks

Sunday Support teams are looking for a few more folks. Every week a team of approximately 8–10 people do tasks that include greeting at the entrance to the Sanctuary, inviting visitors to the welcome table to provide information, assisting with nametags, ushering at the Sanctuary doors to hand out the Order of Service, taking attendance and handling the weekly collection, and assisting with coffee making and various duties for coffee hour. Each team is on duty every 5 weeks throughout the calendar year. Full teams of 8–10 people can more easily absorb absences over the long term. Young YRUUs and older people alike, new members or familiar faces—you are welcome to be part of the Sunday Support effort. Please send word to sundaysupport@uucss.org. Thank you very much,
Deb Weiner

EVENTS IN BRIEF

FEBRUARY 9, 16, and 23, 11:45 a.m. “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists,” Sanctuary. Register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c44adac28abfc1-course>.

FEBRUARY 9, 11:45 a.m. UUCSS 101, Triangle Room.

FEBRUARY 16, 12:00 noon. Rainbow Alliance, Children’s Chapel.

FEBRUARY 29, 1:00 p.m. Workshop for children and youth by Two of a Kind, Sanctuary.

FEBRUARY 29, 3:00 p.m. Singing Circle by Two of a Kind, Sanctuary.

MARCH 1, 12:00 noon. Presentation of draft UUCSS Bylaws, Sanctuary.

MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 11:45 a.m. “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists.”

MARCH 8, 12:00 noon. Presentation of draft UUCSS Bylaws, Sanctuary.

MARCH 15, 12:00 noon. Rainbow Alliance, Children’s Chapel.

APRIL 4, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. Pathways to Membership class, Dolan Lounge.

APRIL 5, 11:45 a.m. “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists.”

APRIL 18, 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner, Sanctuary.

APRIL 19, 11:45 a.m. “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists.”

APRIL 19, 12:00 noon. Rainbow Alliance, Children’s Chapel.

APRIL 24–26. 14th annual Revolutionary Love Conference, All Souls Unitarian Church, 1500 Harvard Street NW, Washington, DC. Go to <http://revolutionaryloveconference.com> for more information.

JUNE 20. Mass Poor People’s Assembly and Moral March on Washington. Go to <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/> for details and registration.

CONNECT (continued)

FEBRUARY
CHARITY
OF THE MONTH

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN
VOTERS

For the month of February, the Program Council has chosen the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival. This fusion campaign seeks to build lasting power for the people who are most affected by oppression, and to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

Re-launched in recent years as a continuation of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign (PPC), the current campaign has engaged with people through teach-ins, rallies, marches, direct action, candidate's forums, grassroots organizing meetings, and a variety of other strategies to strengthen the movement and its people.

Plans for 2020 include the M.O.R.E. Tour to Mobilize, Organize, Register, and Educate, shining a light on the conditions faced by the people who are most affected by systemic oppression. The M.O.R.E. Tour will help prepare participants for the Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington on June 20.

We heard at the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Sunday worship service about aligning with the PPC to build a movement of people rather than isolated issues. Sharing our resources with the PPC will help us to welcome grassroots leaders from all over the country to the area this June, and will help the PPC to be more effective in advocating for a moral agenda. For more information about the goals of the PPC, please visit <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/our-principles/> or look for them on social media. To register for the June 20 Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington, visit <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june2020/> and sign up.

We will share the Sunday collection with the PPC on February 9.

FEBRUARY
VOLUNTEER OF THE
MONTH

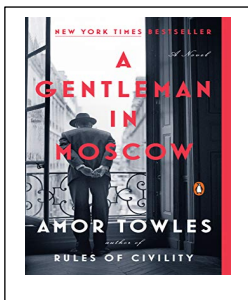
JEAN SNELL

Jean Snell remembers hearing "Eternal Spirit of Life" at All Souls in DC and suddenly feeling at home. While her parents' Presbyterian Church in Utah had been loving and supportive, she never believed in the Trinity. All Souls had the diverse community she loved and the intellectual honesty that she valued. That diversity was lost when she moved to Seattle for graduate school, where she finally settled on an Episcopal church with her future husband. After a few years in Seattle, Jean and her husband moved to DC and began seeking a church as their daughters grew older. Jean was impressed with the warmth of

community and Liz's sermons. She also appreciated that adults are invested in supporting and educating her children.

Joining the church in 2015, Jean began volunteering with the Membership Committee, becoming co-chair within a year. Even now, she still sees Membership as her home base. She was an annual budget drive (ABD) steward and then became ABD co-chair. She's also been a Catocin meal captain and twice been a Coming of Age advisor. Jean finds that UUCSS fulfills her need for community and spirituality. For her, volunteering is like priming a pump, as every job expands the web of relationships that is constantly growing. In all this, Jean's love of people, in all their complexities, shines through.

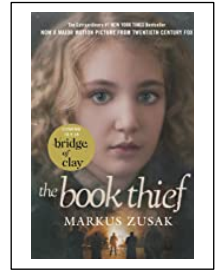
WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



The women's book group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. for a casual gathering and book discussion. No long-term obligation is required. All interested readers are welcome to join us. Please contact **Deborah Weiner**, dweiner04@gmail.com, for additional information and directions. On February 24, we will discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by **Amor Towles**.

MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

We are reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, at the home of Bob McGaughy, 4 Springvale Lane, Silver Spring. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Richard Lorr** (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and come to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!



Emergency Closure Notifications

Winter weather is upon us! Here is what you need to know about how UUCSS staff and lead volunteers will get the word out in case of an emergency closure.

If the Montgomery County Schools are closed, UUCSS is closed.

The minister has the final say about closing the campus for inclement weather, particularly on Sundays. If the minister is not available, the Board President can make the call. In the event of an emergency closure on a Sunday, UUCSS staff (or, if they are unavailable, volunteers) will put notifications on:

- The church website, www.uucss.org
- WTOP radio, 103.5 FM
- The UUCSS Facebook discussion group
- An all-church email blast, sent to the same list as the weekly all-church email.

In addition, the Office Administrator will ask the Property Committee to send a volunteer to post signs on the main door to each building, if it is safe to do so. We do not currently plan to change the office voicemail to reflect weather-related closure.

In certain situations, the campus may remain open, but the organizers of various meetings and activities may choose to exercise discretion about cancelling their event or moving their meeting to a conference call format. Similarly, there may be days when staff are permitted to work from home if the weather is questionable, though business over email may proceed normally. Please contact the organizer or staff person you plan to meet with if there is a chance that the weather may lead to a change in plans. Whatever the weather, it is a good idea to make an appointment rather than dropping by the office.

ADMIN UPDATE

Since this is the season of potential snowfalls,
please see the information in this *Unit* and the weekly all-church email about
"Emergency Closure Notifications."
Thank you!



Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring
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FIRST CLASS

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Melinda Yalom
Church Administrator
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Tamara Bowman
Board President
president@uucss.org

Submissions to the *Unitar* are due by the 20th of the prior month.
Send information and visuals to unitar@uucss.org.

Format guidelines for submissions: Text must be in a form that it can be edited, either in a Microsoft Word file or in the body of an email that can be copied and pasted. Graphics must be in a format in which they can be repositioned and resized—jpeg is greatly preferred.

The newsletter is published September–June by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

Co-editors are **Jane Larrick** and **Stephanie McConachie**.

To receive a PDF email version of the newsletter, contact the church office at administrator@uucss.org.

To receive a mailed copy of the *Unitar* for the year, please send **\$24 to UUCSS, Attention: Collector**.

Church office hours

Monday: 1–4 p.m.

Tuesday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Church website: www.uucss.org