

June 2023

Uniter



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
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WORSHIP SERVICES



All Sunday services are offered in-person in our Sanctuary and broadcast live on Zoom. Please see the all-church email for the Zoom link. Masks are recommended but not required for worship services and other church functions. A section of seats in the Sanctuary will be reserved for people who wish to remain masked and prefer to sit among other people who are also wearing masks.

June 4: All That We Do, Together, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

UUCSS exists because of the generosity, good humor, time, and talent of the people who call this congregation their own. This week we lift up in appreciation our RE teachers, committee members, and everyone else who has contributed to our shared mission. Note: The Annual Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary after the service. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting, only active voting members may vote. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Jeannette at administrator@uucss.org.

June 11: Flower Ceremony Sunday, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

This week in worship we celebrate the 100th anniversary of a beloved ceremony shared by UUs around the world. If you plan to attend in-person, please bring a flower to add to the vase in the Sanctuary. If you'll join us on Zoom you can email a picture of yourself with a favorite flower to minister@uucss.org by the end of the day on Thursday, June 8. We will also commission and bless our new Board members this week. And everyone is invited to stay after the service for our Pollinator Festival!

June 18: Wonder-Full, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

Inspired by the origins of Father's Day and the writing of Humanist UU minister, Rev. Kendyl Gibbons, this service will explore how people in all of our diversity are united in wonder and reverence.

June 25: A Service with Jim Scott

This Sunday we welcome UU musician Jim Scott back to UUCSS for a fun, meaningful, mostly-music service.

July 2: Freedom and Interdependence, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

Join us this Sunday before the country's annual 4th of July holiday for a reflective service of poetry and song honoring the tension between independence and mutual dependence.

July 9: T-Shirt Sunday, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

Perception is a tricky thing, especially when who we understand ourselves to be doesn't match the assumptions others make about us. This week in worship everyone is invited to wear your favorite family-friendly T-Shirt to church, and we will reflect together on the complexity that lies beneath perception.

July 16: The Church of Baseball, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

Join us this Sunday for a service about spiritual lessons of America's favorite sport. Everyone is invited to wear their favorite team t-shirt, jersey, and/or baseball cap!

July 23: Joy Questing, A Tie-Dye Sunday Service, Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg

Seek through your closet for your brightest happiest clothes for this special Tie Dye Sunday Service! We invite you to show up in all your tie-dye splendor for this summer service about Questing for Joy. Join our Minister of Spiritual Growth, Rev. Caitlin for a service about finding our way to joy, together and as individuals.

Guest Preacher Sermon Series

July 30: At the pulpit will be with Guest Preacher Rev. Christin Green, Assistant Minister for Congregational Life at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax.

August 6: With a sermon entitled, The Best Medicine, we will welcome Guest Preacher Rev. Kimberley Debus, Community Minister affiliated with the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Amidst the pains, sorrows, and struggles, we need the wisdom and healing that humor brings. We will explore the ways laughter helps us heal our spirits and bear the crudeness of reality—but more importantly, we are going to make space for joy and find the funny.

August 13: TBD

August 20: At the pulpit will be Guest Preacher Lora Powell-Haney, Candidate for UU Ministry.

August 27: Blessing of the Bags and Backpacks, Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg and Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

This week we transition out of vacation mode by blessing the bags and backpacks we'll take with us into a new year of learning, growing, and serving together. Kids and youth are invited to bring their school backpacks, adults can bring laptop bags, purses, or whatever bags you use in everyday life.

INSPIRE

Minister's Column by Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt



It has been a pretty incredible program year here at church! We've enjoyed our first full church year free from pandemic-related shut downs. We had a successful capital campaign to fund the renovation of our Community Building and work towards greater accessibility on our campus. And we are close to wrapping up our process to re-engage with our shared mission and vision as a congregation.

As the church year draws to a close at the end of this month, we celebrate all we've learned and accomplished together with some beloved annual traditions:

- On Sunday, June 4, we begin in worship with our Appreciation Sunday service where we lift up those who have contributed time, talent, and skills to UUCSS this year. Following that service is our Annual Meeting where active voting members of the congregation get to participate in the democratic decision-making process and vote to approve both the proposed budget and a slate of candidates for next year's Board.
- Sunday, June 11, is Flower Ceremony Sunday! Everyone is invited to bring a flower for the ceremony (we'll have plenty of extra in case you forget) and we will commission the Board members the congregation voted to elect at the Annual Meeting.

I will preach about Father's Day and the unifying experience of wonder on Sunday, June 18, before my family and I leave for General Assembly, our faith's annual business meeting. And on Sunday, June 25 we welcome musician Jim Scott back to UUCSS to lead a mostly-music service.

We've done a lot of hard work these last three years, so the worship and children's RE line-up for July and August is geared toward fun! Services will include T-Shirt Sunday, the Church of Baseball, and a series of guest preachers from around the DC area. This summer children will get to learn all about pollinators and how they sustain the interdependent web of life. I hope everyone has a chance to take some vacation time, but I hope you'll join us on Sundays at church on the weekends you're in town.

Wishing everyone rest, ease, and summertime fun.

P. S. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 27, and the Blessing of the Bags and Backpacks before kids head back to school, and Sunday, September 10, when we will share in our annual Water Ceremony and (weather permitting) Splash Sunday after the service!

Message From Doneby Smith, Board President



It's JUNE! The busy part of our church year is winding down with our Annual Meeting on June 4 and our Flower Ceremony and Pollinator Festival on June 11. And what a busy year it has been! We've welcomed new staff and contractors. Our Capital Campaign has raised over a million dollars to reclaim our Community Building and upgrade our accessibility. We've revisited our mission and vision through three workshops. We've repaired the Fellowship House and worked our way back from a huge flood. With new grants, we've planted trees and planned a pollinator garden. We've made it through the worst of the pandemic. All this and more on top of the day-to-day, week-to-week tasks that keep the lights on, the floors swept, and the Sunday services going. We've celebrated together; we've grieved together. In short, we've done church this year. As I step off the Board at the end of the month, I give thanks for the opportunity to serve such a vibrant and loving community. I'm passing the presidential torch to Catherine Buckler. Welcome!

LEARN

Coming Up this summer in Religious Education

June 4: Appreciation Sunday—we're excited to appreciate all our Religious Education teachers and Committee Members and everyone who makes our programming possible (alongside appreciating the many other teams making possible the various ministries of our congregation, of course). Then after the service there will be a special Children's Annual Meeting during the all church meeting!



June 11: Flower Ritual Sunday (an all ages service) and kicking off our UUCSS Pollinator Summer Program with a big Pollinator Festival afterwards. Then it's all about UUCSS Pollinators!

June 18–August 20: Summer Pollinator Program. This will look like midway through the service (after the time of prayer/meditation), kids of all ages being invited to head outside to explore our UU Values through the lens of experiential nature-based lessons. We'll be focused on our Maryland pollinators (especially bees, butterflies, and birds), with lesson plans written by our own Rev. Caitlin (whose first career was nature and museum education).

It's not too late to sign up to lead or assist with a lesson, so if you (or a young adult in your household who is home for the summer) is interested, let Rev. Caitlin or Sara know! (Yes, this means no RE at 9:30 for the Summer!!)

August 27: Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday Service for All Ages! All are invited to bring a bag you use in your everyday life of learning to be blessed, whether that's a school backpack, a library tote, a backpacking bag, a purse- whatever bag is meaningful to you and your free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Fall 2023: Programs are not yet decided (aside from the fact that we hope/plan to offer Our Whole Lives). We're assembling a 2023-2024 RE Task Force to figure out how best to meet the unique challenges of this congregational year. So stay tuned! We'll be recruiting over the summer once our team has made some decisions.



Questions, comments, want to get involved? Email Rev. Caitlin at amsg@uucss.org or our RE Coordinator Sara at recoordinator@uucss.org. You can also text Rev. Caitlin at 301-679-5832, or schedule zoom meetings with her at www.calendly.com/revcaitlin (or meet her for coffee or whatever!).

Remember that Rev. Caitlin is typically most available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and usually takes Friday and Saturday as her days off. However, she will be at a Religious Educational Professionals gathering/on vacation/on study leave/at our UUA General Assembly/at the Song leaders Convergence from June 7 until July 18.

UUCSS History: Who's New on the Memorial Quilts

Concluding Jo Paoletti's 2023 Archives Explores Series Articles



Larry McAneny
painting the curb near
the UUCSS mailbox.

During the worship service on May 7, you may have noticed that two of the memorial quilts were not on the wall. They were spread out on tables on the back of the sanctuary, so that names could be added. Usually the embroidery is done at a member's home between services, either by a small group or just one person. These gatherings are also open to friends and family members who might wish to add a stitch or two, or just share memories while we work.

I decided to do the embroidery publicly this time as the last in this year's "Archive Explorers" sessions. Besides the quilts, I displayed materials related to the people being memorialized: Rev. David Hicks MacPherson and Larry McAneny. For those who missed it, here's a bit about them.

David MacPherson was fresh out of seminary when he agreed to help plant our congregation in 1952. He guided us through the planning of our first building and the consolidation of the Unitarians and Universalists, until he left to answer a call to start the Towson church 1962. [His obituary on the UUA website](#) gives an idea of his extraordinary career; he preached his last sermon on his ninetieth birthday in 2018. His name is on the summer quilt, which features the huge tree that he planted as a parting gift to his first congregation. He shares this quilt with Alice Louise Miller and her son Gene, who were also UUCSS founders.

Larry "Don't call me Lawrence" McAneny, who died in November 2022, was once of UUCSS's most unforgettable characters. Visitors to the embroidery table were asked to share their memories of Larry. Here are a few:

- Painting "curb your dogma" on the curb of our sidewalk entrance
- His boundless knowledge shown on an auction tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield
- Playing a whale in a skit at Catoctin. He used a turkey baster as a spout and sprayed water on the stage at will
- Stepping in to share truths, wisdom, and erudite observations about the world
- His sermon on the one peaceful year in history

Larry's wife, Faye, had no idea which quilt Larry preferred, but offered that he was "not a flower guy," so I chose the winter scene.

While doing this, I realized how important it is to remember not only names, but deeds. There are notebooks in the cabinet under the fall and winter quilts that are supposed to have information about each person on the quilts. As often happens with good intentions, the task has been neglected, so many of the names are...just names. Wouldn't it be a lovely thing, if each "orphaned" name could be adopted by someone who could research and write up just a short sketch of them? I will be organizing this effort next church year, so watch this space.

Special thanks to my eager and very careful helper on Rev. MacPherson's name, Charlotte Holmes.

CONNECT

Events

Recurring and committee events can also be found on the Church Calendar at <https://uucss.org/calendar/>

Providing Flowers for UUCSS Services



Thank you to Pat Hulsebosch (pictured), who organized our Sunday floral display donations for many years. While Pat is in Florida, we are using a hard copy Floral Calendar sign up sheet, which is posted next to the elevator upstairs in the foyer. Please sign up to bring flowers for the Sunday service, especially if you want to reserve a special date. If you'd like to be acknowledged or include a special message in the Sunday service (in honor or in memory of someone), please notify Jeannette at administrator@uucss.org.

Food Bank Donations: Sunday, June 4

UUCSS collects food donations on the first Sunday of every month for the food bank at Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church ([1501 Arcola Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902](#)).

For the next few months, the collections are:

- June 4
- July 2
- August 6
- September 3

Please bring canned fruit in its own juice or water, canned vegetables with no added sodium, canned meats (chicken, salmon, tuna), low-sodium soups, meals in a can (such as chili, beef stew, spaghetti), whole wheat pasta and pasta sauce, low-sugar cereal and oatmeal, dried beans or rice, nuts, oils and vinegars to church on the first Sunday of the month. If you will not be at church on the first Sunday of the month, you can leave your donation in the kitchen, labeled "food bank donation."

Green Sanctuary's UUCSS Pollinator Festival: June 11

This event takes place immediately following the Flower Communion service. The festival is shaping up to BEE a lot of fun! Events for children will include an art/crafts table, and a pollinator photo booth, with musical accompaniment from our specially curated pollinator playlist. There will be an invasive species scavenger hunt (with prizes!), and resources for new and seasoned gardeners alike. Our goal is to encourage and provide information on removing non-native invasive plants, as well as



some common non-native landscaping plants, and replacing them with appropriate native plants.

- Not sure what will thrive in your shaded woodland garden? Or looking for full-sun perennials that will attract bees and butterflies? Stop by the “Plant This, Not That” table for advice
- New to gardening and looking for a hands-on-experience to gain confidence for your next steps? Stop by for a demo and chance to add a pollinator plant to our new garden
- Sign our Pollinator Pledge and take home a free native plant
- Pollinator themed snacks and beverages will be provided!

We are still looking for a couple of volunteers who want to help with children’s activities. Please contact greensanctuary@uucss.org or Maureen.a.malloy@gmail.com or Donebys@gmail.com

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group meets on the third Monday of the month, 7:30 pm, at UUCSS.

Upcoming gatherings and titles are:

June 19: *Wonder* by R J Palacio. This is a children’s novel and is widely available.

July 17: *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr.

August: No meeting.

Join Us for Monthly Church Workdays

It’s time to beautify our church building and grounds. We need your help with:

- Clearing vines & weeds
- Pruning bushes
- Digging out plants
- Dusting & tidying
- Boxing stuff in Community Bldg



Mark Your Calendar and Join Us on Saturdays...

- June 24 9 – 11 am
- July 22 9 – 11 am
- August 26 9 – 11 am
- September 23 9 – 11 am
- October 28 10 am – 12 pm
- November 18 10 am – 12 pm

An outside lunch will be served after. Please bring a side dish to share!

Hope to see you there!!!

Brian Beard and Linda Barrett (UUCSS Garden Group)

Questions? Please email brianbeard@hotmail.com and limabean290@gmail.com.

The Sunday Book Club: Sunday, June 25 at 7pm

At our next meeting, at 7 pm on June 25, we will meet at the home of Richard Lorr to discuss *Experience: A Memoir* by the late Martin Amis, who was regarded by many as “a giant of British fiction in the late 20th century.”

In 2019, the NY Times’s book critics included *Experience* among the 50 best memoirs of the past 50 years. Reviewing the book when it was published in 2000, Michiko Kakutani called it his “most fully realized book yet — a book that fuses his humor, intellect and daring with a new gravitas and warmth, a book that stands, at once, as a loving tribute to his father and as a fulfillment of his own abundant talents as a writer.”

If you are interested in joining the discussion, let Richard know (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and join us.

Committee Updates

Update from the Finance Chair

By Tamara Bowman

Here's the updated information on UUCSS finances. The amounts for ABD Pledges and Capital Campaign are the monies received this fiscal year, not the amounts pledged.

Budget period from July 1, 2022, through April 15, 2023.

Capital Campaign		\$241,574.42
Income		
	ABD Pledges	\$320,022.69
	Rental Income	\$31,105.00
Expenses		\$523,274.81
Endowment		\$84,462.93

If you have other finance related questions please direct them to finance@uucss.org.

Green Sanctuary Committee

News

Below are some highlights of our recent and upcoming activities. Please join us on Sunday June 4, after the Worship Service, for our monthly meeting, to learn more or to get involved!

Chesapeake Bay Trust Pollinator Garden Grant: UUCSS received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to create a pollinator garden on our grounds.

You have probably noticed some old, non-native plants have been removed in preparation for our new plants. We recently received and re-potted hundreds of native plant seedlings from Bona Terra Nursery including: milkweed, pussy toes, penstemon hirsutus, red columbine, grey goldenrod, butterfly weed, white wood aster, zig zag goldenrod, blue mist flower, fall phlox, spicebush, Indian grass, and little bluestem grass. We are waiting for our plant babies to grow so we can begin to install them.

- Wondering why native plants matter? Watch this four-minute video of entomologist Doug Tallamy explaining the relationship between native plants and pollinators, and how our entire food system depends upon this complex specialization.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trJKZDEfvrc> .
- We are grateful that the Garden Group continues to support the project by removing non-native invasives on the grounds, as well as doing the seasonal clean-up, up, pruning and weeding.



Maureen Malloy and Linda Barrett doing pollinator education and outreach at SSNS on May 6.

gardeners. SSNS students will be learning about pollinators in class this spring and summer, and will be planting and observing native plants in the beds near their classrooms.

The Capital Area UU Climate Convocation on May 6 was a huge success, drawing about 100 participants from over a dozen congregations! We are poised as a coordinated body to tackle 1) lobbying and advocating for our local governments to meet their stated emissions reduction goals, 2) establishing an environmental justice ally relationship with an organization representing at-risk communities (likely CASA), and 3) expanding a default plant-based food policy in our congregations. View [recorded sessions here](#) and [access slides and handouts here](#). Concerned about climate disruption? Want to help? Contact greensanctuary@uucss.org or Maureen.a.malloy@gmail.com or Donebys@gmail.com.



Linda Barrett explaining the birds and the bees to a SSNS student



Garden Guide for June

- Remove spent lilac and rhododendron blossoms
- Pinch buds of fall-blooming plants (asters, mums, Joe-Pye weed)
- Chelsea chop (cut back) tall perennial plants

- Create a “mud puddle” for bees (they need water and minerals from mud)
- Prune azaleas directly after blooming
- Water plants at the roots—never from the top of the plant

Auction

We Want Your Feedback about the UUCSS AUCTION!

Please take a minute to complete this short survey about your ideas for the UUCSS Auction, if you haven’t done so already. (Make sure to press the “NEXT” button at the bottom of each page.) <https://forms.gle/DGi6H8ii5C9PJZzR9>



Member Spotlight: Jimmy Schreiber and Marcia Joiner



Jimmy Schreiber and Marcia Joiner met and became friends in a Young Religious Unitarian Universalist group when they were 16 and 14 respectively. They went off to separate colleges but afterward became a couple living for a time in a DC hippie commune along with future UUCSS member Carolyn Kirk Dutcher. Later they bought a house in DC where they began raising their two children, Janah and Jackson. Through much of this time they were unchurched, although if you asked them, they’d say they were UUs. They moved to the Maryland suburbs and began hearing from Jimmy’s sister Barbara and her husband Ken Iobst about UUCSS, the Catoctin fall retreat, and other great activities. Janah was in middle school and both Jimmy and Barbara felt that UUCSS could provide an alternative friend group, especially with cousins

Adam, Paul, and Wayne already there. This worked out well and Jackson started RE soon after. Meanwhile, Jimmy and Marcia, feeling somewhat guilty about dropping off the kids and driving away, decided to start coming and joined the church in 1994.

There is being active at UUCSS and then there is Jimmy and Marcia active. They organized the Catoctin retreat three times and also organized the auction and fellowship dinner. For many years they ran the Activities committee that organized the Christmas party, end of church year luncheon and countless small events. Jimmy has been on the Board and has been Property Chair, one of the more demanding jobs in the church. He has been a DRE support person and has a special place in his heart for children and youth RE. Many of us have had children in the three-year-old RE class that Jimmy and Ed Johnson taught and there may even be members who remember the kindness and patience they experienced there. Marcia has been a lay minister for our church for more than 20 years and facilitates the Soul Matters biweekly discussion group with Sharon Snyder.

These days a lot of time is spent taking care of their grandchildren who live in the area. Marcia continues to be a hospice volunteer, an activity she finds deeply rewarding. Jimmy is a tinkerer, finding cast off objects and repairing them to donate to the Wider Circle charity. What they both say is that if you participate at UUCSS from volunteering to just showing up you get more out of it in terms of personal growth and community. Certainly, they have made UUCSS a much better and more joyful place to be.

Staff Hours and Contact Information

Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg, Assistant Minister of Spiritual Growth

Caitlin is most available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays--Mondays and Fridays are her flex days (either used for writing and planning or as days off, according to the needs of the church and her family). You can email her at amsg@uucss.org, text her at her Google Voice number (301-679-5832), or schedule a meeting with her via calendly: www.calendly.com/revcaitlin.

Michael Holmes, Music Director

Michael works Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings, and is available at other times by appointment. Michael can be reached at musicdirector@uucss.org.

Jeannette Jackson, Administrator

administrator@uucss.org

Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, Minister

Rev. Kristin works Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Mondays are her writing days and Friday is her day off. She is available at minister@uucss.org and 202-780-7164. If you experience a pastoral care emergency outside normal office hours or over the weekend please text or call her. You can schedule an appointment with Rev. Kristin at www.calendly.com/rev-kristin-schmidt

Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

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FIRST CLASS

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Submissions are due by the 17th of the prior month.

Uniters are published monthly September-June by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

Send information and visuals to uniter@uucss.org.

Format guidelines for submissions: Text must be in a form that it can be edited, either in a Google Doc (preferred), 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.

Co-editors are **Lynn Cave** and **Caroline Stauss**.

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

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