



Newsletter for December 2019/January 2020

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville

A Welcoming Congregation

VOLUME 69

NUMBER 4

Nurture Spiritual Growth

Sunday Worship

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



December Worship—Our December topic is *God*

December is a month of holidays and holy days. Our Assistant Minister **Denise Gyauch** and one of our Affiliated Ministers, **Laurel Cassidy** will consider their diverse experiences working and living with people who hold different beliefs about God. Music Sunday on Dec. 8, premiers a Christmas cantata written by Music Director **Jaie Tiefenbrunn** that calls us to listen to the whisper from within. We will celebrate Hanukkah with a multi-generational service on Dec. 22 and then bring in the New Year considering how change challenges and enlivens the spirit.

We will celebrate Christmas Eve, as we always do, with two services with our own unique Unitarian Universalist celebration. We draw upon both our traditions, which helped create the modern Christmas rituals in the United States, and our own memories of Nashville Christmases past.

Tuesday Evening: December 24: Christmas Eve



5:30 p.m. Family Celebration: The Christmas Story and Carol singing, a Child Dedication and “Each Night a child is born is a holy night,” Silent Night and Candles

9 p.m. Music Celebration: Lessons and Carols, Holiday Choir, Silent Night and Candles



Contact **Rev. Gail** if you want to participate in the Child Dedication, and **Jaie Tiefenbrunn** if you want to participate in the Christmas Choir.

January Worship—Our January topic is *Creation*

In January, we will explore the spirit of creativity, from the creative impulses that each individual feels, to creating thoughts, and then finding ways to make them real. Starting with Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday, we will consider the tensions between the “star” creating alone, the process of co-creation involving many people working together, and the ever-changing collective consciousness.



Minister’s Musings

“I don’t believe in God.”

“Tell me what god you don’t believe in. I probably I don’t believe in that god either.”

-UU ministers oral tradition



The worship team which consists of the worship committee, worship associates, the music director, and both ministers, plan our worship services based on a three-year cycle of spiritual themes. If we didn’t do that, then we

would tend to concentrate on only a few topics that we feel comfortable with such as interdependence, love, and social justice. Instead, we are challenged to consider a much wider view. This year seems to be more challenging than most, including a few of our least favorites including "evil" in October and now "God" in December.

When we talk about God, those of us who don't believe in God often feel very uncomfortable. Ironically, those who have some kind of belief in a god or gods feel just as uncomfortable. I have discovered that such discomfort comes from a variety of reasons. Some people have been personally hurt with abuse that was justified by the "God" of their abusers. Many of us have been taught about concepts of an all-powerful, all-knowing God that seem down-right evil, justifying historical fear, tyranny, torture, war, and genocide. No wonder some of us think the word God is not helpful – even dangerous. But it's not that simple. Those same traditions have many metaphors for Gods and/or Goddesses, even the monotheistic ones. Among those images are creators, nurturers, earth, wind, fire, and waters, the infinite universe, love, justice, mystery, change, and wisdom. Some here don't just believe in such gods, they feel them, experience them or have relationships with them.

We pride ourselves in being a congregation that embraces one another, no matter what we believe. This is no easy matter — a difficult spiritual practice in and of itself. No matter what we think about god, talking about it opens up tender places at the very heart of who we are. Let's take a few risks and talk about which gods we do and don't believe in. One religious tradition teaches us that god cannot be named, another that no image can capture it. With a little humility, we can feel ourselves into the vast realm of human experiences that some traditions call "God."

*See you in church,
Gail Seavey
leadminister@firstuunash.org*

From the Director of Music Ministries
Music Notes

"Tell us, what the God of Amos says in your ear.
Shepherd of a hundred sheep, what must you hear?"
-A Shepherd, Heywood Broun

I had heard the story of the shepherds a hundred times, from Linus' recitation of the story from Luke 2 in A Charlie Brown Christmas: "And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night," to the recitative and chorus in Handel's Messiah "and suddenly, there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying: Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest!"



But the tale of the shepherds that I heard at a Christmas service at Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship explored the story from a different point of view. What if there was a shepherd who was unimpressed by the angels and the mystical glory that shone down from heaven? Would shepherds really abandon their flocks to go on such a journey? What if there was one shepherd who stayed behind?

That one shepherd's story, dubbed Amos by author Heywood Broun in 1929, explores these questions. When I first heard the story, it touched my heart deeply. As a person who always followed the beat of her own drum and who found awe in different places than the people around me, I finally had a Christmas story that I could relate to. I asked Rev. Chip where I could find it. He sent me a word document, which I printed and kept in a binder to read every Christmas, tears welling in my eyes as the story ends, and Amos shares what came to his heart that Christmas night. A few years later, I searched and searched online, and ordered a dismal picture-book printed on drab grey-blue paper that had been withdrawn from a library collection. No wonder this book was so easily forgotten. When the book arrived in my hands, the seed of the story that had been singing to me for years awoke and began to sprout. As I was finishing up my studies in Portland, I started composing. My work here at First UU and our tradition of biannual Music Sunday services inspired me to complete the piece.

The choir plays two roles in the piece; first, they are the voice of the multitude of angels, with a baroque style Gloria. After that moment passes, they become the voice of the shepherds, excited at hearing the fulfillment of an-

cient prophecy. Understandably, they are incredulous at Amos' reticence. But Amos sees that his sheep are frightened, and there is work to be done. Amos listens to the truth of his heart and has his own experience of wonder on that magical night.

Set a reminder to join us for worship at 9 or 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, to witness the world premiere of this touching, tender cantata. I am so excited to share this story with you. As always, on Music Sunday, we gratefully receive additional donations for the Special Music Fund, which is set aside for music ministry outside of our regular operating budget. Look for baskets at the main entrances to the Sanctuary or donate online and choose "Music Sunday."

What is it that touches your heart and brings you to that place of awe and wonder? Is it a multitude of angels? Or will you hear your own story in the tale of Amos, the shepherd who listened to his heart, and stayed behind?

-Jaie Tiefenbrunn
Director of Music Ministries / music@firstuunash.org

From the Fundraising Committee
Join us for our 9th annual Holiday Craft Fair
on Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 – 4 pm.

Start your holiday shopping with thoughtful and unique gifts. The Craft Fair offers a range of items made by local artists, including baked goods, fiber arts, pressed flower art, and handmade soaps, candles, jewelry, and home decor.

Book Sale at Holiday Craft Fair

The Book Group will be sponsoring a book sale at this year's Holiday Craft Fair Dec. 7 and 8. We will be selling books from the UUA bookstore, Inspirit. You've seen their ads in *UU World*, now you can hold those books in your hands. We'll have titles on meditations, spiritual practice, UU history, social justice and lots of children's books. Look for book recommendations from **Rev. Gail, Rev. Denise**,

and the Beloved Community. Members of the Book Group are donating some of their favorite books for a used book sale. We need book lovers to staff the book stall. If you would like to take a two-hour shift, please email **Liz Schneider** using the email in Breeze.



Enjoy live music in the sanctuary throughout the day of the craft fair. Local group SilverSonix will play two sets of their blend of classic rock and country/pop.

-Jeannie Haman
fundraising@thefuu.org

Holiday office hours

The office will be closed for the Holidays *Dec. 23 through Jan. 1*, and will reopen *Thursday, Jan. 2*.

Happy New Year to all.



From member liz Schneider
Chalice Fire Decorates

Have you noticed the beautiful tablescapes in the sanctuary?

We can thank Chalice Fire for the sparkly, seasonal decor that brightens our Sundays.

Chelsea Henry shops for unique items at Goodwill and Goodwill by the Pound, and four times a year the Chalice Fire group redecorates. It's always fun to notice the small gifts they have left us — fairy houses! squishy owls! a gold skull! Thank you **Chelsea Henry** and Chalice Fire for sharing your creativity!

-Liz Schneider



From the Fundraising Committee
Auction Thanks

Blessed Are Those

Blessed are those who support the church and its work by their regular, sustained, and generous giving; and who give of themselves no less than their money.

Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do it gladly; who realize that change is brought about through human meeting, who do the work of committees, and stay till the end.

Blessed are they indeed.

-Excerpts from Responsive Reading # 728 by John Buehrens

The line of those "who do the work of committees, and stay till the end" came to me at the end of auction night. This year we were blessed to have a willing team of auction volunteers, many who also assisted in some way with the auction last year. Volunteering at a fundraising event provides an opportunity to give of ourselves, while also supporting the financial well-being of our church.

Blessed are those who recruited donations, because an auction isn't possible without items to purchase: **Ann Morse, team lead, Pat Lynch, Lori Rittle, Fran Wolf, Sandye Wallick, and Jessica Moore-Lucas.**

Blessed are those who promoted the auction and shared information as the publicity team: **Jeannie Haman, lead, Sheri DiGiovanna, Lori Rittle, and Len Walker.**

Blessed are those who worked on and printed the auction Catalog: **Ann Morse, Margy May, and Charlie Almquist.**

Blessed are those who prepared the auction items and space on Friday for auction night: **Allison Thompson, Jeannie Haman, Ayla Dumont, Fran Wolf and Lori Rittle.** And Saturday: **Jeannie Haman, Allison Thompson, Peg Duthie, Kathy Hiller, Linda Howard, Bonnie Konz ,and Ayla Dumont,** aesthetics specialist.

Blessed are those who prepared, served, or purchased delicious food and drink, and washed many, many dishes.

FUUN chefs: **Steve Keil**, lead and menu planner, **Warren White, Pat Lynch, Victoria Harris, Melinda Fish**, and **Kathy Hiller**. Food Service: **Bonnie Konz, Richard Bird**, and **Steve Keil**. Wine purchaser and Alcohol Monitors: **Bob Day, Lynn Egan** and **Kevin Breault**. Extra blessings go to **Richard Bird** and **Bonnie Konz** for staying to the end of the dishwashing.

Blessed are those who registered bidders and assigned paddle numbers to facilitate bidding: **Candy Toler, Darrion Burgess, and Jessica Burgess**.

Blessed are those who provided childcare for parents: **Sheri DiGiovanna** and **Sarah Keil**

Blessed are those who worked the Silent Auction picking up bid sheets and answering questions: **Gail Seavey, Jim Seavey, and Jack Bliek**.

Blessed are those who monitored Silent Auction purchased items until taken home by their winners: **Elisabeth Geschiere** and **David Lewis**.

Blessed are those who helped individuals play Lucky Duck, both Jr, and for Adults: **Gwen Johnson, Amanda Shelton, Lori Rittle, and Sheila Cheyenne**.

Blessed are those who recorded sales during the Live Auction: **Colin Guerrette**, for real time input, **Carolyn Turner** and **Margy May**.

Special blessings to Melanie Eifling, who provided auctioneer expertise again, and to her assistant and son, Derek Patterson.

Blessed are those who collected payments, recorded bids, and printed invoices supporting the financial success of the Auction: **Charlie Almquist**, lead, with extra kudos for all things computer related to the Auction, **Colin Guerrette, Dariel Mayer, Darrion Burgess, Jessica Burgess, Jack Newgent, and Melinda Fish**.

Blessed are those who cleaned up and prepared the social area for church services the next morning: **Charlie Akers, Bob Rittle, Dariel Mayer, David Dickenson, Elisabeth Geschiere**, and anyone else who assisted.

Blessed are those who showed up for meetings and did the work of the 2019 Auction Committee: **Ann Morse, Fran Wolf, Lori Rittle, and Ayla Dumont**, with special blessings to Fundraising Committee members, **Jeannie Haman** and **Bonnie Konz**, who helped in a multitude of ways.

Blessed are those who came to the Silent, Live Auction, or both. Blessed are those who didn't bid, and those who did bid, whether on one item or high and often. All who came contributed to the success of the Auction. While all income, expenses, and sales are still being finalized, **Auction income is expected to be ~ \$25,000**, well above our budget line of \$15,000. Expenses, thanks to our generous Auction Sponsors, will be less than our budget line of \$1,500.

-Vickie Jones,
2019 Auction Juggler/Coordinator | fundraising@thefiun.org





*From the President of the Board of Directors
The Big Three*

The Board continues to focus on what I call “The Big Three: BMG.” That’s Building, Minister, and Governance. This year the Board has established three very competent task forces to begin moving forward on our ambitious vision of the future of our church.

The Building task force is called “Building for our Future” and has just completed a major first step. Using a grant from the Trust they hired Barry Finkelstein, a fellow UU and Capital Campaign specialist, to gather information about us and prepare a report regarding the feasibility of building a new building. The report was extensive and enlightening. I was struck by the idea that we sometimes think of ourselves as a church that struggles financially; but we are, in fact, very financially healthy.

The Developmental Minister Task Force: The UUA’s Developmental Minister program is for a congregation that has three or four major goals and matches the church with a minister whose skills can help them achieve those goals. It differs from interim ministry in its longer time frame and its focus on specific serious challenges. Ministers typically serve three to five years. I think our prospects for finding a Developmental Minister are good. As UU churches go, we are well positioned. Of 1,000 or so UU congregations, we rank 37th in size and we live in a vibrant and desirable city. We are at the beginning stages of this very extensive process and will have selected a new minister by late spring.

The Governance Task Force: The leader of the UUA Southern Region tells us that our current form of church governance should work for a church of about 300 members. We are closer to 450. It is amazing that we are effectively functioning at the level we are, but we do sometimes run into problems because of our governance structure. Using the book “Governance and Ministry – Rethinking Board Leadership” as a guide, our governance structure and policies will be reevaluated to work more effectively and to be in keeping with our church’s vision and

mission. This long-term process is currently underway and can typically take several years to complete. You can expect to hear a lot more from these three task forces in the near future. The Board plans to communicate and thoroughly educate everyone on our plans for the future, so that we all know what's going on as we move forward together.

-Hal Potts,
President, Board of Directors / president@thefuun.org

From the Board of Trust
The Joe and Joan Moore Award

The Joe and Joan Moore Award was established a number of years ago to recognize individuals who have displayed long-term service at three levels:

- to the church
- to the community in the name of the church, and
- to the Unitarian Universalist denomination.

This award is in honor of two members who demonstrated those traits for many years, Joe Moore and Joan Moore. We accept nominations for this prestigious award annually by the first week of January. Fill out the nomination form at firstuunash.org/joe-and-join-moore-award/



The Mid-year Congregational Meeting has been set for Jan 26, 2020. Watch our communications for meeting materials and please join us.

board@thefuun.org

From the Developmental Minister Search Team
News from the Developmental Ministerial Search Team Task Force

After several productive meetings, and a lot of homework, we are pleased to report being nearly finished preparing our congregational profile. This has involved assembling detailed data describing our congregation—our history, leadership, finances, programs, etc. The profile data will be posted through a secure portal at UUA.org and will be immediately available for searching ministers. We'll send updates on the process in December when we've completed this step and let you know what's next. Please feel free to email us: DevMinTF@thefuun.org.

-Developmental Minister Task force members:
Colin Guerrette, Vicky Tataryn, Chelsea Henry, Gail Sphar, David Dickinson, and Dariel Mayer, Chair.

From the Stewardship Committee
Rediscovering FUUN and Getting Hooked

I first walked into this building in 1978. For 41 years I've thought of this building as an act of nature. It was simply here, with stone and glass and trees moving outside. Like many, but not all of you, I'm very attached to this building.

In preparing for this talk, it hit me – a group of Unitarian Universalists made this building happen in 1961. All of us who have passed through these doors for the last 58 years got to talk and act together in this space created by earlier generations. I wonder if we might be able to create a comparable gracious and natural, welcoming and gritty world for FUUN members of 2040 and 2060, if our world continues in anything like its current form.

That's one discovery of mine. I also dimly recall several folks talking about getting caught up in our cult and giving

until it hurts. That's in time, attention, and, of course, money, and creating programs and making them happen. I recall hearing Vickie Jones talk about feeling stretched beyond what she thought she could do and give – she called it giving until it hurt. She was hooked!

When I came back to FUUN several years ago, the discussion was all about ending racism. I quickly became hooked on Beloved Community. Others were already hooked. In the Beloved Community meetings, I watched **Susan Johnston** and **Carleen Dowell** giving until it hurt, focusing on making every little detail work well, and I found myself doing some of that too. I was awed by them, really. **Tanya Surawicz** was another one – **Tanya** was selling her house and moving to Washington, DC, and in the very midst of that process she hosted a dinner for us, came to meetings, took notes, did research, and apologized she wasn't doing more. **Tom Surface** seems to be stretched in that Kamikaze seat now.

What I've learned by investing and giving of myself to Beloved Community's Nashville Pledge to End Racism is similar to the experience **Vickie Jones** described – feeling stretched beyond what I thought I could give. I have been actively involved in Nashville Pledge activities with others who keep giving and giving.

It's our committee work and our financial contributions which allow us to have a community group which educates ourselves to take on racism, work with NOAH and Habitat for Humanity, visit Civil Rights sites, explore racism in Nashville history. When White Supremacists and Fascists came to Middle TN, I met them in Murfreesboro, but there was a group of ten others, including **Rev. Gail Seavey**, who stood up to the Klan in Shelbyville.

That was when I realized I could take on challenges like the Klan if I tuned in to what the rest of my congregation was doing. We need to keep FUUN doing all this good work in Middle TN by shoveling our commitments of time and contributions to FUUN for us now and for future generations.

*-Hampton Howell
Member of the Beloved Community Committee*

From the Endowment Trustees

What Do Herbs and Architecture Have In Common?

Do you have a great idea that would make a big improvement in our church life? Is it something that needs a little seed money to enhance day to day operations? Maybe it's an idea that would raise funds for FUUN for years to come. Well then, it's time to put that idea into action and apply for a grant from the Endowment Fund. This is an annual process and some of the ideas have been spectacular and changed the church in ways we now take for granted.

For example, back in 2008 the Trust provided seed money for a project called the Herb Fair. The Herb Fair has become a part of our culture and raises money for the operating fund. It's been a part of our budget for the last nine years. It all started with a great idea and a grant request.

More recently, an endowment grant funded the architectural consultant to let us know what the possibilities were for our property. The grant also funded the "Next Step Weekend" to kick off our capital campaign to build new facilities.

Communication has been vastly improved by endowment grants. In 2015, the Trust provided seed money to fund a Communication Director and our website has never been the same (that's a good thing). That same year, a grant provided digital signage for the social hall. This sign has become a major way of getting the word out every Sunday. In 2016, an endowment grant provided funds for equipment to live-stream our services. This increased our presence in the community, as well as providing connection to those who are unable to attend on Sunday.

Grants have been awarded for "Black Lives Matter" banners, improvements to the children's library, a defibrillator in the sanctuary, an irrigation system for the garden at the entrance of the church, and improvements to the columbarium. These are all things that we did not have before someone applied for and was awarded a grant.

So it's time to do it again. What's that little idea that has been floating around in your head that has great potential? The grant process sounds daunting but it's really pretty easy. See firstuunash.org/endowment/ for details. You don't have to be a grant writer, just someone with an idea, and the need for a few dollars to get it off the ground.

-Vicky Tataryn
Endowment Trustee / endowment@thefuun.org

From the Building For our Future Task Force
Consultant's Report: Growth Begins With Strong Stewardship

"The Church has numerous strengths that will serve it well as it proceeds."

That was one conclusion drawn by stewardship consultant Barry Finkelstein following his weekend-long visit to FUUN in early October.

The Building For Our Future (BFF) Task Force hired Finkelstein to assess whether FUUN has the financial capacity to launch an overhaul of its campus. His verdict is that the church is ready.

"I was impressed with the level of engagement and enthusiasm that everyone brought to the weekend and to this great adventure you have begun," he wrote in his report. "You are blessed with wonderful assets and strengths, including excellent and dedicated leaders and a talented membership, and ability to communicate in positive and healthy ways, which creates a solid foundation."

But growth, in Finkelstein's opinion, will require FUUN to rethink its approach to fundraising.

He recommends an 18-month timeline to prepare for the capital campaign that will fund the building project. That starts with this year's stewardship campaign.

Finkelstein's assessment is that FUUN has not fully taken advantage of members' enthusiasm for their church. Rather than relying on pledge cards, Finkelstein suggests more one-on-one stewardship conversations, which he describes as the "best practice" for congregations. Finkelstein also says members need to understand that 90% of the church's budget comes from the annual pledge drive.

"Make sure everyone knows this," he writes.

This emphasis on stewardship may require many church members to curtail other commitments. But Finkelstein argues the need is essential. A strong campaign in 2020 will lay the groundwork for a combined campaign in 2021, when the drive will ask for members to pledge to the capital project as well as the annual budget.

Other preparations that must take place in the near future include developing a long-range financial and resource plan, selecting an architect to develop conceptional plans, and strengthening the church's financial operations. All of this, while the church restructures its governance and searches for a developmental minister who can help FUUN build for the future.

It's a tall order, but Finkelstein says the church is strong enough to take it on. The complete consultant's report can be found at firstuunash.org/finkelstein-report.

As always, if you have any questions about the work of the BFF Task Force or any other aspect of the project, please reach out to a member of the task force.

-Chas Sisk,
Building For our Future Task Force
Mike Bolds, chairman; Rob Connor, Christopher Cotton, Jacob Hathaway, Phyllis Salter, Chas Sisk and Vicky Tataryn
bff@thefuun.org

From the Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Faith Development—Dec. 2019/Jan. 2020

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

Please note that childcare availability has changed:

Wednesday night childcare depends on staffing levels and must be reserved at least two weeks in advance. Email requests to childcare@thefuun.org; you will receive a reply letting you know if childcare can be available.

Classes range from curriculum-based programs, to book clubs, to presentations about travels and journeys, and more. See firstuunash.org/faith-development/, our weekly bulletins, or weekly emails for current class offerings.

Herb Fair Classes:

Making Small Pictures

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pasto-Crosby home

And

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Pasto-Crosby home

Join **Lisa Pasto-Crosby** and **Heather Moreno** to make small botanical pictures for the Herb & Craft Fair. All materials provided, no experience necessary. Contact Lisa at her phone or email listed in the directory (Breeze) to get directions to her home, email herbfairclasses@thefuun.org, or email mmills@firstuunash.org. *Childcare is not available.*

Making Mother's Day Cards

Saturday, Jan. 4, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Pasto-Crosby home

Lisa Pasto-Crosby and **Heather Moreno** will be making our ever-popular original Mother's Day cards for the Herb & Craft Fair. All materials provided, no experience necessary. Contact Lisa at her phone or email listed in the directory (Breeze) to get directions to her home, email herbfairclasses@thefuun.org, or email mmills@firstuunash.org. *Childcare is not available.*

Donut Economics



Join the **Rev. Gail Seavey** for an all-church read. Rev. Gail says, "I have worked for 30 years for economic justice and there is less and less of it all the time. It is time for me to dig deeper into the economic possibilities for more economic equality. The book that helped me imagine in practical and visionary ways to move forward is [*Doughnut Economics: 7 Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist*](#) by Kate Raworth. This book gave me both information about how present economists and policy makers think and also a frame-work to think practically about a more just and sustainable economy. Raworth has taught me to ask different questions than I was asking and to be much more hopeful. I used some of what I learned here in two sermons this late summer and many of you volunteered that you wanted to know more, so we will offer it as an all-church read."

This class will take place on *Wednesday evenings, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, and 19, 7-8:30 p.m.*

Niklas Goede summarizes the book as "a wake-up call to transform our capitalist worldview obsessed with growth into a more balanced, sustainable perspective that allows both humans and our planet to thrive." It offers

a radically new compass for guiding global development, government policy, and corporate strategy, and sets new standards for what economic success looks like. Doughnut Economics is a model used to measure the performance of an economy by the extent to which the needs of people are met without overshooting earth's ecological ceiling.

Raworth's seven ways to think like a 21st century economist are:

1. Change the goal
2. See the big picture
3. Nurture human nature
4. Get savvy with systems
5. Design to distribute
6. Create to regenerate
7. Be agnostic about growth

So, for example, number one means that because economics as we know it cares about neither humans nor the environment, we should "change the goal" from GDP to the doughnut. And what's the doughnut? Well, you'll have to read the book to learn about that.

The author says that "rethinking economics is not about finding the correct [school of thought] (because it doesn't exist), it's about choosing or creating one that best serves our purpose — reflecting the context we face, the values we hold, and the aims we have."

Nonviolent Communication (NVC) Practice Groups are open to anyone, regardless of past experience here or elsewhere. To change one's mind set and habit patterns from a right vs. wrong model to a compassionate and connecting model takes practice. To connect empathetically with others, and with oneself, takes practice. To begin to live in the world we dream about takes practice.

Feel free to drop in on a group to see what it's all about:

Second and Fourth Sundays
10:30 a.m.–noon, Fireside Room (main building)

Second and Fourth Mondays
6:30–8:15 p.m., Capek Room (Morgan House) (childcare is not available)

Second and Fourth Wednesdays
7–8:30 p.m., Alcott Room (Morgan House)

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

Several groups still need members; email me with questions.

-Marguerite Mills, CRE,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education / mmills@firstuunash.org

Adult OWL

Our Whole Lives, or OWL, is our UU lifespan sexuality education curriculum. This remarkable program, integrated with faith but based on facts, begins in Kindergarten and goes all the way up to courses for Adults. This year, because of the generous response to a special ask at our 2018 auction, FUUN can offer OWL for Adults. **Thank you to the many donors who made the return of this class possible!**

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior and equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. (*Unitarian Universalist Association, adapted*)

We're offering Adult OWL in three sessions of five classes each. Our first session wrapped up in late November and our next sessions will start after the new year. You can attend one session without attending the others (we do ask that you commit to all five classes). Apart from the introductions, none of the workshops repeat; each session is almost entirely new material.

Session Two

Jan. 19 - Intro to OWL/Sexual Attraction and Early Relationships
 Jan. 26 - Sexuality and Developing Relationships
 Feb. 3 - *no class*
 Feb. 9 - Sexuality and Committed Relationships
 Feb. 16 - Sexual Diversity
 Feb. 23 - Sexuality and Family
 Mar. 9 - *Flex/make-up date*

Session Three

Mar. 29 - Intro to OWL/Sexuality and Communication
 Apr. 5 - *no class*
 Apr. 12 - Discovering the Sexual Self
 Apr. 19 - Experiencing the Sexual Other
 Apr. 26 - Sexuality and Aging
 May 3 - *no class*
 May 10 - Sexual Health
 May 17 - *Flex/make-up date*

Classes are on **Sundays, 10:30 a.m. to noon in Morgan House** (room TBD). Adult OWL is open to anyone 18 years and older. If you'd like to participate in the Winter and Spring sessions or have questions about the program, please email Religious Education Coordinator **Jonah Eller-Isaacs** at RECoordinator@firstuunash.org. You can also talk to either of our excellent Adult OWL co-facilitators, longtime FUUN Members **Keith Wilson** and **Debrina Dills**. Childcare for children ten and under is available upon request; if needed, please include name(s), and age(s).

The 1619 Project at FUUN

Four hundred years ago, a ship carrying enslaved African Americans arrived in the English colony of Virginia.

With those words, the New York Times started the 1619 Project, a major initiative observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. America was not yet America, but this was the moment it began. No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the 250 years of slavery that followed. This project aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are. On the 400th anniversary of this fateful moment, it is time to tell this story.

Join the Beloved Community Committee to listen to podcast episodes from the 1619 Project and discuss how what you learn from them affects you individually and all of us collectively as Unitarian Universalists. The first session will be on January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Sessions will be held on **Sundays, Jan. 19, Feb. 2 and 16, and Mar. 1, 15, and 29, in the Fireside Room (main building)**. Childcare will be available.

-Marguerite Mills, CRE
Director of Lifespan Religious Education / dlre@firstuunash.org

From the Director of Lifespan Religious Education and Brian Carlson, Covenant Group Facilitator
Where is the Light? The Light's Inside of Me!

Simply defined, a covenant is a reciprocal relationship based on mutual trust, respect, and commitment where two or more people are willingly bound together by a common and ethical purpose. ~Len Moisan, Founder and President of The Covenant Group

While this may be a “simple” definition, there is a lot to this statement that can probably be unpacked.

Let’s start with one of my first memories when I initially began coming to our church. I came across an informational table at the back of our sanctuary (our “social hall” back then). While I’m sure the person who presented the details of covenant groups did a great job, all that stuck in my mind was that it required a 9-month commitment. At that moment, I was definitely NOT ready to commit that much time to a group, let alone this church. Little did I know what I was missing out on!

Since that time, I have developed a passion for covenant groups. I began as a member of a group, and now I facilitate a group that meets on Saturday afternoons twice a month at the church, September through May.

When I describe covenant groups to my non-church friends, I usually describe it as “bible study for UUs, but more focused on philosophical discussions around a variety of life topics.”

If I were to describe covenant groups to my fellow church members, I would probably use our chalice as a symbolic representation. We have the base that holds the light. That base is our knowledge and experiences we inherently bring to this spiritual community. The light is fed by the base and illuminates those around us. And when we meet in a covenant group, that light gets even brighter and more alive. At each meeting there is a topic that quite literally often “sparks” a lively conversation. Sometimes you allow your light to shine in whatever manner or intensity you choose. Or perhaps you just choose to bask in the light being emitted by others. At times the figurative “light” being emitted by you and your fellow covenant group members can be almost blinding!

Covenant groups offer an opportunity to get to know fellow congregants in a setting that is extremely unique. You have the opportunity to not only be heard but also to listen with intention to the diverse perspectives each person brings to the group. All in a safe space which includes “mutual trust, respect, and commitment.”

So, you might be wondering “what about that 9-month commitment thing?” From my experience, you’ll probably be asking yourself “where did the time go?” And more than likely, you’ll probably be left telling yourself at the end of that time “I can’t wait until we start again in the fall!”

-Brian Carlson, Covenant Group Facilitator

*Are you interested in exploring Covenant Groups? Do you have questions? Some groups can still take new members. Contact **Marguerite Mills**, Director of Lifespan Religious Education at dlre@firstuunash.org, 615-383-5760, or on Sunday mornings.*

From the Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Children's Religious Education Schedule—December 2019 and January 2020

Date	PreK <i>Curriculum:</i> Celebrating Me and My World <i>Teachers:</i> Suzanne LeBeau, Mary Shelton	Kindergarten-1st Grade <i>Curriculum:</i> <u>Love Surrounds Us</u> <i>Teachers:</i> Jacob Hathaway, Carolyn Reed, Sharon Ruiz	2nd-3rd Grades <i>Curriculum:</i> <u>Moral Tales</u> <i>Teacher:</i> Susie Wilcox	4th-5th Grades <i>Curriculum:</i> <u>Windows and Mirrors</u> <i>Teachers:</i> Synnøve Robinson, Ed Turnley	6th-8th Grades <i>Curriculum:</i> <u>Heeding the Call - Qualities of a Justice Maker</u> <i>Teachers:</i> Rebecca Allensworth, Chas Sisk
1-Dec	I Can Say Thank You			Guest at Your Table	
8-Dec	I Can Give			Hannukah	
15-Dec	FUUN Zone			Multi-age activity	Worship Service
22-Dec				Multigenerational Worship Service : Winter Service	
29-Dec	FUUN Zone			Multi-age activity	Worship Service

5-Jan	I Can Dance	Creation Stories of Different Traditions			
12-Jan	I Can Pretend	<u>Love Surrounds Us in Our History</u>	<u>Do unto Others</u>	<u>Eyes On The Prize</u>	<u>The Call for Courage</u>
19-Jan	My World Has Animals	<u>Love Surrounds Us in Our Search</u>	<u>Generosity: Give and Ye Shall Receive</u>	<u>Lean On Me</u>	<u>The Call for Cooperation</u>
26-Jan	My World Has Fish & Water	<u>Our Words Matter</u>	<u>Footprints: Treading Softly on Earth</u>	<u>Service Is The Rent We Pay For Living</u>	<u>The Call for Abundance</u>

From the Religious Education Coordinator
FUUN Youth Programs

Come, come, whoever you are, and join us for youth programs! Whether a longtime friend or first-time visitor, all are welcome. As the weather gets colder, our programs get cozy! We have plenty of hot cocoa to fuel the start of our planning for Youth Sunday, the group's opportunity to develop and lead worship the last Saturday of February each year.

Youth Group is open to 9th-12th Graders (or homeschool equivalent) and meets Sundays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *We aim to create a safe and welcoming space for all youth, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, ability, or belief.*

The Youth Room is on the lower level of FUUN's administrative offices in Norris House, near the entrance of the lower parking lot at Stokesmont Rd. Join us and the congregation for the beginning of the 11 a.m. worship service - we sit together at the back of the Sanctuary's shortest section, next to the ramped entrance from the upper parking lot. After the Story for All Ages, we head down to the Youth Room for on-site programs.

The Youth Action Committee (YAC), is comprised of youth leaders and representatives from advisors, parents and staff. The YAC centers our youth as the primary voice for developing positive, engaging group programs. Alongside our Youth Advisors, Rev. Holly Mueller (Team Lead), Liz Leiserson, and Harmon Nine, the YAC plans thoughtful activities that are fun, friendly and relaxed. Our goal is to make a space for youth to thrive as they grow into their faith and explore their authentic selves.

Youth input helps the YAC create programs that everyone will enjoy! Anyone interested in joining the group or getting more information can contact me. You can also find me most Sunday mornings at the Family Welcome Table in the Social Hall.

*-Jonah Eller-Isaacs, Religious Education Coordinator
RECoordinator@firstuunash.org / (615) 383-5760 x3315.*

Create Community

From the Book Group **Join the Book Group**

The Book Group meets on *the third Tuesday, noon-1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room*. All are welcome. Please join us on Dec. 17 when we discuss "The God of Small Things" by Arundhati Roy. In January we will discuss "The Women's Hour" by Elaine Weiss.
-Liz Schneider



From the Caring Committee

The Caring Coordinator for December is **Kathy Hiller** and January is **Liz Schneider**.

From the Men's Group **Men's Group**

The FUUN Men's Group meets the first and third Sundays of each month from 6-8 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All FUUN men are welcome to come join us for general discussions on many topics. Bringing something to eat and/or drink is optional, but please come join us.

Engagement Opportunities

From the Nominating Committee **Opportunities for Service at FUUN**

The Nominating Committee would like your help identifying people for some current and future opportunities for service in elected positions. If you, or someone that you know, would like to discuss one of these opportunities, please contact the Chair, **Susan Warner** whose email and phone number maybe be found in Breeze.

Nominating Committee:

We seek individuals who are willing to get to know a wide array of members, can objectively assess others' strengths and weaknesses, and who can keep committee work confidential. This committee generally meets once a month to discuss our church leadership. We have one opening now and two more will be available in July.

Safe Congregation Panel:

We will have one opening on the SCP in July for a 2- year term. This elected committee enforces the Honoring the Children Policy and investigates and makes decisions when a formal grievance is filed. SCP meets a minimum of quarterly and more often when a concern requires consideration. It is helpful if individuals have experience with non-violent communication, mediation, or restorative justice.

Vice President of the Board:

We will have an opening in July for a VP, a 3- year term. This person serves as president- elect for 1 year, president for 1 year and as past- president for one year. As VP, they serve as the liaison between the Board and Elected Committees (Endowment Trust, Nominating, Safe Congregation Panel) and oversee the Church Council Chairs. As a

Board Officer, they attend monthly Board meetings.

Treasurer of the Board:

We will have an opening for Treasurer in July, a 2- year term. The Treasurer receives and disburses all church funds and keeps complete records of all the financial affairs of the Church. They are a member of the Finance Committee and serve as the primary contact on behalf of FUUN with financial institutions with which FUUN does business. They supervise the Bookkeeper. As a Board Officer, they attend monthly Board Meetings.

Act on Our Values in the Broader World

From the Beloved Community Committee

Beloved Community Corner

Graduates of our 4th Nashville Pledge Program

In November, we completed the fourth “Nashville Pledge to End Racism” workshop. In the large group conversations, we learned about institutional and structural racism, practiced identifying and responding to micro-aggressions, and heard an update on current anti-racism movements in Nashville. We even got some slave-owner history from the Nashville area, which tends to be missing from history books. Probably the best parts, however, were the small-group sessions where we delved deeper into these topics, taking time to tell personal stories and discuss how they relate to us and our whiteness. We wrapped it up by making our own pledges towards dismantling racism in our world.



a public art installation by Walter Hood, commemorating key events in the Nashville Civil Rights movement. Our guide was able to supplement the public history with family stories that she heard from her grandparents, who lived in Nashville at the time. Hearing these stories in the places where they happened helped deepen our understanding of our city's place in the Civil Rights movement

In the meantime, on a rainy October Saturday, a group of past Pledge participants reconvened to take a walking tour of Civil Rights sites in Nashville. Offered by [United Street Tours](#), this walk started at the Fifth Avenue Woolworths, a site of the Nashville Sit-Ins, and made stops at places such as the Davidson County Courthouse, where protestors marched to demand change after the bombing of Alexander Z. Looby's house, and nearby Witness Walls,



of the 1950s and 1960s.

The Beloved Community Committee hopes to offer more such opportunities in the future. For now, if you want to get a sense of how our church's anti-racism efforts fit into the larger Unitarian Universalist vision, see the Winter 2019 issue of *UU World*. In the "News" section, an article on the "Commission on Institutional Change" survey reveals that, for nearly sixty percent of the people responding to a survey at this year's General Assembly, antiracist, anti-oppressive, multicultural work is crucial to the future of our faith. In another article in this issue, "The Call of Our Faith," Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin explore the ways that "Unitarian Universalism's central theology requires us to work toward building multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community."

Interested in learning more about the work of FUUN's Beloved Community Committee? We would love for you to join us at one of our future events or, even better, become more involved in planning such events as a member of the committee. To learn more, you can have a look at [our page on the church's website](#) or contact us at beloved@thefuun.org

Photos by Carleen Dowell, Alecia Ford, and Ann Wheeler

-Tom Surface and Ann Wheeler
Beloved Community Committee | beloved@thefuun.org



From the Palmer Lecture
Video Available

The Revs. Laurel Cassidy and Mary Katherine Morn.
Photo submitted by Bob Day.

You can watch this year's Palmer Lecture on our YouTube channel at youtu.be/Fr774g2ss Y.



From the Social Justice committee
Member Receives "Amigos We Love Award"
[Pictured right] Ayla Dumont shared with us her recent Award from Conexion. Be sure to congratulate her and ask her about her work with them.

From the Committee for the Larger Faith
Guest at Your Table

Guest at Your Table is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 60 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals — the "guests" in Guest at Your Table.

2019-2020 Theme is *Women, Leaders, Strong Communities*. Since our founding, UUSC's work has been shaped and sustained by women's leadership. Today, we are proud to partner with women leaders who are increasing representation for women in their communities, while strengthening access to justice for all. During this year's Guest at Your Table program, please join us to learn more about women leaders from UUSC partner organizations taking on some of today's greatest human rights challenges.



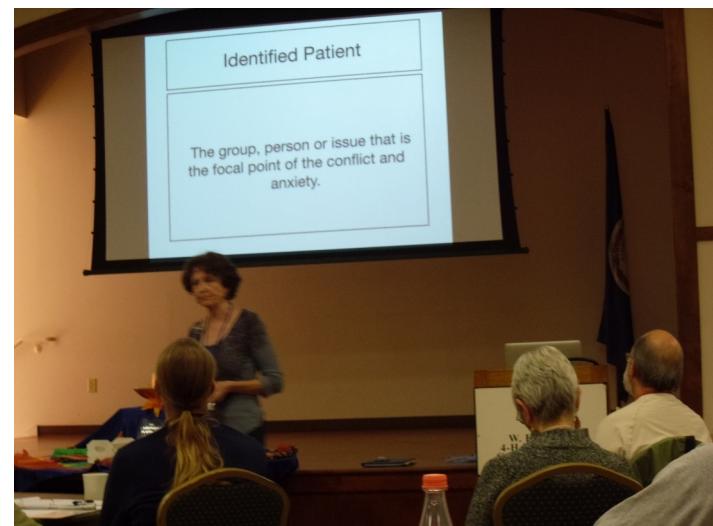
-Richard Bird and Gail Sphar

Committee for the Larger Faith | LargerFaith@thefuun.org

From the Committee for the Larger Faith
UU Leadership School

Members of our leadership team attended Southern UU Leadership Experience (SUULE) 2019. The UU Leadership School taught me that "Governance in congregations is not a science but an art. Leaders must continually balance the conserving function of an institution with the expectation of disruptive, change-inducing creativity." -Hal Potts, Board President





*-Richard Bird and Gail Sphar
Committee for the Larger Faith
LargerFaith@thefuun.org*

From the Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Update

Share the Plate

Our December Share the Plate partner is **Nurses for Newborns of Tennessee**. Nurses for Newborns (NFN) is a home visitation program that provides a safety net for families in order to prevent infant mortality, child abuse, and neglect. In response to referrals from medical centers, physician offices, clinics, social service agencies, and direct requests from families, Nurses for Newborns sends specially trained pediatric nurses to the homes of pregnant women or parents with infants who face medical, social, or environmental risks. Services are provided free of charge for up to two years after a child's birth. Throughout the time of service, the impact of home visitation is monitored and evaluated in order to enhance its effectiveness and ensure program outcomes that include freedom from substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect, increased immunizations, as well as reduced injuries, hospitalizations, and use of the emergency room. Continually adapting to the needs of new populations served, NFN has used its home visitation model successfully with over 110,000 infants and their families during the agency's 26-year history.

Our January Share the Plate partner is **Worker's Dignity/Dignidad Obrera**. Worker's Dignity is a worker center organization for economic justice and dignity for all. They empower people directly impacted by injustice, particularly low-wage workers facing abuse and wage theft by employers, bus riders confronting transit racism, and immigrants facing increased ICE raids and detention. Since 2010, they have recovered over \$1 million in stolen wages—\$190,000 in 2019 alone.

-Jessica Moore-Lucas, Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Action Team Updates

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

*-Jessica Moore-Lucas and Roddy Biggs
Co-Chairs, Social Justice Committee
socialjustice@thefuun.org*

Room In The Inn

More volunteers are needed. Find out more and sign up to help at our social justice table or see firstuunash.org/room-in-the-inn/.

-Scott Weaver

RITI Team / riti@thefuun.org



Habitat for Humanity—Keep the Fire in Your Heart

Time rolls on. Habitat homes keep being built. Having contributed to another house this past September, an effort Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter also shared, we begin to prepare for next year.

On Feb. 15, 2020, 6 p.m., the fundraising dinner, art auction, and show will be held. This year's theme is "Keep the fire in your heart." Mark your calendars to join us, please. We depend on your support at this event to make possible our participation in the fall build. Tickets are \$25 each and will be sold at the Social Justice table between services on Sundays leading up to the event.

Suzanne LeBeau once again has agreed to coordinate the auction and appeals for contributions by "artists and lovers of Habitat. We will again be seeking paintings, wearable art, usable art, services to others, and other cool things you can think of that will help us raise funds to support our commitment to Habitat. We will be collecting items on Sundays in January (or by special appointment if you can't come on Sundays)."



Sheri DiGiovanna has once again agreed to coordinate entertainment for this day after Valentine's Day event.

(Continued on page 18)

We will be treated to vocal performances by FUUN members and friends to recap the spirit of the holiday and our annual build. Keep your eyes on our website and bulletins in January for performer details.

Once again, **Jessica Moore-Lucas** will be cooking a delicious meal.

Share the plate and food table funds will also help us reach our goal in February. We are grateful for the support of our friends in past years and hope you will continue to show your enthusiasm for our Habitat endeavors.

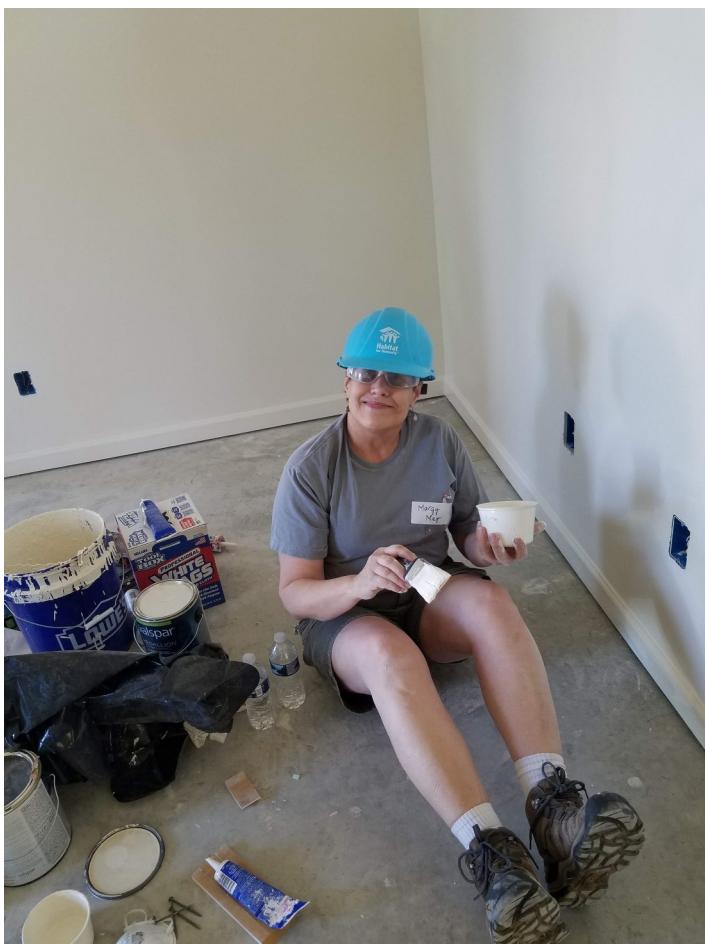
We built a House! The Habitat Action Team extends heartfelt thanks to all who helped in the Fall Unity build including the builders and the food assisters, and to everyone in the congregation who has pitched in to help us during the year.

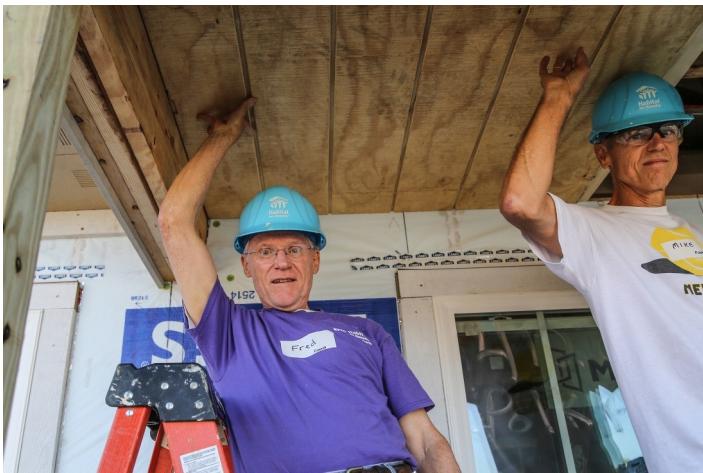
The builders were: **Mike Boldt, Daniel Levin, Harmon Nine, Fred Guenther, Bill Taylor, Hal Potts, Gary McVeety, Jeff Stein, Drake Morano, Scott Winston, Carleen Dowell, Paul Yoder, John Stowe, Ayla Dumont, Phillip Vest, David Dickinson, Kathy Ganske, Bethany Rittle-Johnson, Margy May, and Joshua Johnson.** The food helpers were **Steve Edminster, Sara Plummer, Fran Wolf, Pat Lynch, Suzanne LeBeau, Carole Copple, Kathy Hardin, Ann Morse, and Charlene Nixon.**

*-Carleen Dowell and Suzanne Lebeau
Co-Chairs, Habitat for Humanity Action Team
habitat@thefuun.org*









Safe Haven Family Shelter

Many thanks to one of our Covenant Groups for providing a meal at the Safe Haven Family Shelter on July 15. **Lewis Garvin, Sally Winkle, Deb Wicks, Becky Bowman, Lynn Egan and Gaines Mann** served fried chicken, green beans, potato salad, baked beans, tomatoes, chips, cupcakes, watermelon, lemonade, iced tea and water. They reported that everything went smoothly and they enjoyed being with the residents and staff.

Many thanks to **Warren White, Krissy Bright** (and her daughter), **Jackie Omdahl, and Trigg** for providing a delicious meal for the residents at the Safe Haven Family Shelter on Tuesday, Nov. 19. The shelter greatly appreciates our many years of volunteering and the food was enjoyed by all of the residents (ten adults, six teens, and seven children).

If you are interested in providing part of a meal for these families, please sign up at the Social Justice Table, or online at signup.com/go/PqzDpvH. Our next opportunity is on Jan. 21. If you are interested, and that date does not work, we will keep your name on file for future opportunities. For more information about the shelter see safehaven.org. Dinner is provided by FUUN on the third Tuesday of every other month. This is a family-friendly volunteer opportunity.

-*Pat Lynch*

Safe Haven Action Team / safehaven@thefuun.org



Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH)

NOAH is an interfaith and multi-racial county-wide social justice organization involving congregations, labor unions, and other organizations. It addresses issues determined by its members to be impacting our communities.

FUUN members contributed over \$2,000 to NOAH's fall fund raiser, the largest contribution members have ever made to a NOAH event. Three of the contributing FUUN members — **Carleen Dowell, Elizabeth Geschiere** and **Richard Bird**—represented contributors at a

(Continued on page 22)

reception on Sunday, Dec. 17. Reception speakers included new Nashville mayor John Cooper. During the campaign, the mayor pledged to work with NOAH, and he recently appointed Paulette Coleman, leader of NOAH's Affordable Housing Task Force, to the MDHA (Metro Development and Housing Agency).

The fundraiser was especially significant this fall, as the money helped supplement a grant NOAH used to hire a new community organizer, Jerome Moore, who has worked in non-profit outreach, not only in the U.S., but also recently in China. A Nashville native, with his NOAH work, he returns to his roots.

Rev Gail Seavey introduced Jerome and also Brian Zralek, the second new organizer joining the NOAH team.



Pictured are NOAH's new community organizers, Jerome Moore and Brian Zralek

Working toward connecting NOAH to FUUN members, **Elizabeth Geschiere** and **Carleen Dowell** are planning a "Talkback" (meetings held each month after the fourth-week Wednesday Night Potluck dinners) for Jan. 22.

Of special interest to NOAH is the Race and Power Summit, Dec. 5-7, a leadership training held in Nashville; the Summit has attracted attendees from across the U.S., and is full.

-Len Walker

NOAH FUUN Action / noah@thefuun.org

The Trans Affirming Collective (TAC). TAC is a Social Justice Action Team at FUUN formed in 2017 and dedicated to Creating Community through activities that let our transgender and gender nonbinary siblings feel welcomed and needed within the FUUN community.

-Jeannie Haman / TransAffirming@thefuun.org

Clothing Swap Coming

This coming March, in honor of Transgender Day of Visibility, the Social Justice Committee and the Trans Affirming Collective will be holding a clothing swap for our Trans, Gender Queer, and Non-Binary (TGQNB) siblings to find clothes that match their own gender identity and expression. There will be more information to come regarding dates and volunteers; but right now, we're going to start collecting clothes. As you are swapping out your warm weather clothes for cozy sweaters or making room for holiday gifts, consider bringing the clothes that you no longer wear or no longer need to the Social Justice table on Sundays so we can start building our collection.

We're looking for gently used clothes and shoes in good repair in all adult and teen sizes and appropriate for all gender expressions. We are so excited to share our congregation's generosity and to help people become their fullest selves. If you have questions, please contact Roddy Biggs or Jessica Moore-Lucas.

*-Jessica Moore-Lucas, Social Justice Committee
Socialjustice@thefuun.org*



ENACT, FUUN's Environmental ACTion Team

Are you concerned about the environment? Do you want to do something about it but are unsure where to start? Do you wish you could do more? Are you a young person who wants to have a future? Do you want to have a voice in setting FUUN's environmental agenda? ENACT is mobilizing to take action on these and other environmental concerns. Please join us. For more information, contact **David Dickinson** and **Kathy Ganske**, co-chairs, at enact@thefuun.org.



Meet ENACT!

ENACT (also known as the Environmental ACTion team) is a Social Justice Committee action team dedicated to increasing knowledge and awareness of environmental issues within the First UU community, and to developing and implementing meaningful actions that address selected issues.

We will focus on selected topics for 2-3 months, providing education and encouraging actions to enhance sustainability in our church, our lives and our community. We meet once a month, and welcome anyone interested to inquire about our scheduled meetings and current projects.

In this edition of the newsletter, we explore the timely topic of "sustainable holidays." We hope the information is useful and invite you to share with us (and each other!) any further tips on this or other relevant topics for future newsletter articles.

Please send your newsletter tip ideas for our consideration to **Lynn Harris**.

Learn more about ENACT and sustainable holidays at our table at the upcoming Holiday Craft Fair.

ENACT is co-chaired by David Dickinson and Kathy Ganske

Enjoying the Holidays More Sustainably

According to the EPA, American household waste increases **by more than 25 percent** between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, contributing an **additional 1 million tons each week** to our landfills.

Consider, Talk About It, and Take Action

Take Inventory: What are some of your or your family's current practices for shopping, decorating, wrapping, travel, and food for the holidays?

Reflect & Discuss: Based on these current practices, where are there realistic opportunities to make changes that are more eco-friendly? (TIP: Don't try to change everything at once! Choosing a few actions to commit to usually leads to more long-term success.)

Need some inspiration? Here are a few ideas we like:

Decorating:

If you like a tree in your home, consider using a potted tree that can be replanted (suggestion from the EPA).

Swap store-bought plastic decorations for handmade biodegradable ones, like hanging oranges pierced with cloves, garlands of popcorn and cranberries, etc.

Gifts:

Make re-gifting cool again! There's nothing wrong with a gently used book from McKay's or a unique find from a consignment store.

Give experiences rather than things — gift cards for the Nashville Symphony, Zanies, Adventure Works ... endless great options.

"Wrap" gifts in reusable shopping bags (TJ Maxx has lovely ones) that the recipient can use for future grocery shopping or wrapping. And remember, no one actually cares if you put tissue in the bag.

Food:

Reduce the amount of meat at your holiday celebrations. Already vegetarian? Try hosting a fully vegan celebration to reduce the environmental impact even more (bonus — everything is compostable).

FUUN Calendar

December

- 7 Holiday Craft Fair
- 8 NVC Practice Group
- 9 NVC Practice Group
- 11 NVC Practice Group
- 17 Herb Fair Class: Making Small Pictures
- 20 No Wednesday Night Dinner
- 22 NVC Practice Group
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
- 25 No Wednesday Night Dinner
- 24-Jan. 1 Office Closed for the holiday

January

- 1, 8 No Wednesday Night Dinners
- 11 New Member Class
- 22 Wednesday Night Dinner is potluck
- 26 Mid-Year Congregational Meeting
- 29 No Wednesday Night Dinner

From the Office

Lead Minister Open Office Hours

Rev. Gail holds open office hours *the second Sunday of the month, 12:30-2:30 p.m. in her office (located in the Norris House)*. Join her for informal 10-20 minute, one-on-one conversations on a first-come, first-served basis.



From the Director of Music Ministries Christmas Choir Forming



If you love to sing and want to see what Choir is all about, here's a great possibility for you! Christmas Eve Choir has three rehearsals prior to the big night. If you'd like to join, please email Director of Music Ministries, **Jaie Tiefenbrunn**. Rehearsals: 7-8:45 p.m.: Thursday, Dec. 12, Monday, Dec. 16, and Thursday, Dec. 19. Call Time: Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7:45 p.m. sharp

-Jaie Tiefenbrunn

Director of Music Ministries / music@firstuunash.org

From the Assistant Minister of Congregational Engagement

New Member Class



Are you new here? Interested in learning more about our congregation or becoming a member of the church? The New Member Class on *Saturday, Jan. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the social hall* is a great opportunity to learn more and meet interesting people. Join Assistant Minister Denise Gyauch and others for an orientation to Unitarian Universalism and First UU Church of Nashville. Brunch, childcare, and good company provided. Those who attend this class may choose to sign our membership book in New Member Celebrations during Sunday services soon after. Please email Denise to register by *Tuesday, Jan. 7*. Those who wish can participate in the signing ceremony Jan. 26

*-Denise Gyauch,
Assistant Minister of Congregational Engagement
assistantminister@firstuunash.org*

From the Assistant Minister of Congregational Engagement

Help Make the Season Bright: Join the Welcome Team for our Holiday services



Help to make the season bright by joining the Welcome Team for our Holiday services. No experience necessary. Christmas Eve Services start at 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.; choose your preferred service. We need a few greeters and ushers starting one half-hour before each service starts to welcome all who attend and hand out Orders of Service and candles. To volunteer, please contact **Rev. Denise Gyauch**.

*-Denise Gyauch,
Assistant Minister of Congregational Engagement
assistantminister@firstuunash.org*

2019-2020 Standing Committees

MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chelsea Henry, Chair
ministerial@thefuun.org

Caring
 Chalice Fire (UUPagans)
 Choir/Music
 Committee on Ministry
 Lay Ministers
 Prison Ministries of FUUN
 Worship
 Young Adults

OPERATIONS COUNCIL

Dan Hiller, Chair
operations@thefuun.org

Campus Preparedness
 Facilities
 Grounds

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Rachel Rogers, Chair
program@thefuun.org

Beloved Community
 Children's Religious
 Education
 Committee for the Larger
 Faith
 Faith Development
 Fellowship
 Social Justice
 Youth/Adult

RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Allison Thompson, Chair
resourcedevelopment@thefuun.org

Finance
 Fundraising
 Leadership Development
 Membership
 Personnel

Board of Directors 2019-2020

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Vice President/President-Elect **Doug Pasto-Crosby**

Secretary **Melinda Fish**

Treasurer **Steve Jones**

Program Council Chair **Rachel Rogers**

Resource & Development Chair **Allison Thompson**

Ministerial Council Chair **Chelsea Henry**

Operations Council Chair **Dan Hiller**

At-Large Members **Steve Haruch, Scott Weaver,
 Phyllis Salter, and Sharon Ruiz**

Ex-Officio, Past President

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville

1808 Woodmont Blvd. Nashville, TN 37215

Phone: 615-383-5760 | firstuunash.org

Office Hours

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

Friday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Church Professional Team

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leadminister@firstuunash.org

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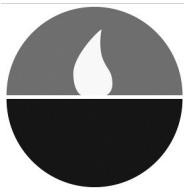
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 a [PDF version](#) is available on our website.

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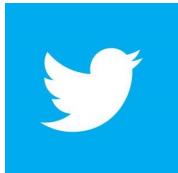
Our Mission

The Mission of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville is
to create community,
to nurture spiritual growth,
and to act on our values
in the broader world,
guided by reason and compassion.

adopted January 27, 2008



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Mark Your Calendar

December

- 7 Holiday Craft Fair
- 24 Christmas Eve Services 5:30 and 9 p.m.
- 24-Jan. 1 Office Closed for the holiday

January

- 11 New Member Class
- 26 Mid-Year Congregational Mtg

February

- 15 Habitat dinner, art auction, and show fundraiser

April

- 4 New Member Class
- 18 Herb & Craft Fair