



# Seasons of FUUN \* Fall 2021

## Welcome to our New Journal

This journal is an addition to our communications— a move from a newsletter of announcements/reports/updates to stories and testimonials about our church work, spirit, and lives as members and friends of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville (FUUN). Since we now have a weekly printed Sunday bulletin, website posts, blogs, and social media (videos/ posts/events)—all of which are instant and constant news—the newsletter was too slow for the purpose it used to hold: namely, informing you of upcoming events and news. By the time it was published, it was old news. Meanwhile, there was a void in our communication: We told you what, when, and where in our newsletters, but the why, how, and the effects on our journeys were missing. Our stories were missing.

The name for our journal was chosen by surveys conducted in 2021. Special thanks to **Dariel Mayer** for suggesting the winning name, *Seasons of FUUN*.

Although this is the first edition, it is labeled “Volume 71,” continuing with the system we had in which every volume represented another year to honor the 70 years of newsletters which came before this change. This publication will be quarterly. We’ll get better at this as we go, but we hope you enjoy our first edition and will consider sharing your story.

**-Sheri DiGiovanna**  
Director of Communication  
[communication@firstuunash.org](mailto:communication@firstuunash.org)

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# Caring for One Another Through the Practice of Radical Hospitality

By the Developmental Lead Minister

Last Spring, I proposed, and the Worship Committee agreed that Radical Hospitality would be the overarching worship theme for the 2021-2022 church year. Radical hospitality is about welcoming the stranger; providing hospitality to the stranger who comes to your door. Given the strange time we have all been through, one that has radically changed us and our ways of being together, radical hospitality also means caring for each other in this time of COVID.

Radical hospitality is a biblical theme, one that echoes throughout much of both Hebrew and Christian scriptures. In the book of Leviticus it says: “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you



*“Radical hospitality is about welcoming the stranger, providing hospitality to the stranger who comes to your door.”*

shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” The book of Hebrews puts it this way: “Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

The reference to having entertained angels unawares refers to the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, where the townspeople demand that two visiting angels be put out by their host, Lot, so that the townspeople could know the angels, who appeared in the form of men. Many biblical scholars maintain that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was not homosexuality but inhospitality.

St. Benedict of Nursia made radical hospitality the center of the twelve monastic communities he founded in the sixth century. There are over 100 Benedictine houses in the United States today. They operate under St. Benedict’s Rule which provides a succinct and complete directory for the government and the spiritual and material well-being of a monastery. Radical hospitality is still at the heart of the Benedictine community, evidenced by their ministry to and with people on the margins of society.

For Unitarian Universalists, radical hospitality is an embodiment of our first principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We strive to make our congregations open and welcoming to people from all walks of life. Yet, with a few exceptions, our congregations look much the way they did two hundred years ago – mostly white, well-educated, and middle to upper middle class. Still, we yearn to be as inclusive as our first principle calls us to be. Welcoming the stranger means being truly welcoming of people who are different than we are.

Radical hospitality can also be about welcoming parts of ourselves that

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
- Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

have been neglected, denied, or pushed into the shadows. It is about welcoming all of who we are – our whole and holy selves.

During the course of this church year, one sermon a month will be dedicated to an aspect of what makes us different from each other: class, race and ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, body size and shape, trauma, neurodiversity, life experience, and religious background. This will help us understand the ways our Unitarian Universalist congregational culture can work against being as inclusive as we say we want to be. We can begin to break down any unintentional barriers that exist.

In addition, each month has a theme of its own, themes that are important for congregations to give attention to during times of ministerial transition. I've included a roadmap of the territory we plan to cover below.

I have always considered sermons not to be the final word on any given matter, but as conversation starters. To that end, **Marguerite Mills**, your Director of Lifespan Religious Education will be collaborating with me to make these topics a congregation-wide conversation by including them in the Religious Education and Faith Development classes and activities being offered. See her article on page 9 for more information.

You, as a congregation, have already shown me that you know some things about welcoming the stranger. You have welcomed me to engage with you in a different kind of ministry, a developmental ministry where congregation and minister work together on a set of goals chosen by the congregation. I am deeply touched by the ways you have truly made me feel welcome among you.

I am excited about the coming year. It is full of possibilities for the ways we can care for and nourish one another into more fully becoming the people we want to be – even in this challenging time – through the practice of radical hospitality.

Yours in shared ministry,  
**-Rev. Diane Dowgiert**  
[leadminister@firstuunash.org](mailto:leadminister@firstuunash.org)

## A Year of Radical Hospitality

Month	Monthly Theme	Radical Hospitality Topic
August	Covenant	
September	Radical Hospitality	Class
October	Vision/Mission/Purpose	Race/Ethnicity
November	The Journey	Gender
December	Mystery	Sexuality
January	Transitions	Disability
February	Trust	Body Size/Shape
March	Power	Trauma
April	Authority	Neurodiversity
May	Resilience	Life Experience
June	Ministry	Religious Background
July	Community	

### The Worship Committee

We who serve on the Worship Committee do so because we enjoy planning and participating in Sunday services. When on the dais, we look for your eye contact as we read or lead a meditation. We are encouraged when we see your smiling faces and sometimes, we'll see a puzzled expression which tells us we need to clarify a point—which is helpful to all.

During the pandemic however, our services were held virtually, thus we did not have the same opportunity to enjoy your reactions. When presenting over Zoom, emotions are not properly conveyed, reactions are stunted, and there is a general sense of disconnectedness for the presenter. We feel like we are lecturing instead of truly engaging with you. We pour out hearts out...to no one.

Now that we are seeing another surge in COVID, your Worship Associates are persevering in good faith. We will continue to provide support to Rev. Diane and the entire Sunday morning production team to bring you the solace and connection you seek. We are excited about seeing you in the flesh again, experiencing your reactions and emotions, and holding you in our hearts as we interact with you up close and personal (but not too close) down the road.



If you are interested in joining the Worship Committee, please contact **Elaine Bailey** or me.

**-Sally Winkle**  
 Co-Chair, Worship Committee  
[Worship@thefuun.org](mailto:Worship@thefuun.org)



Valerie Martin

## Making Sense of the Mess

By Valerie Martin, LCSW

During the early days of Covid last spring, you probably saw this metaphor making the rounds: “We’re all in the same storm, but we’re not all in the same boat.” These words deeply resonated with so many because they simultaneously captured two important truths: that every single person in most (if not all) parts of the world was being impacted by the pandemic in *some* way, and also that the ways and severity in which people’s lives were impacted were vastly variable, depending on occupation, health, age, race, income, and other factors that illuminated even more dysfunction within our healthcare system, society, and social/governmental safety nets than were already plainly evident.

Especially during the first six months of the pandemic, as the normal pace of life had slowed enough that Americans had the attention to confront racial injustice in the most significant way in decades, many asserted that Covid was providing us a collective opportunity to question and reimagine so much of what was broken, and that returning to “normal” would be a huge mistake. Nonetheless, we longed for the ability to shake each others’ hands, hug, and gather for birthday parties face-to-face instead of on Zoom, now a household name.

Throughout the past 18 months, researchers, journalists, and storytellers of all kinds have offered countless analyses and thinkpieces exploring the impact of the pandemic at every level— both in real time as well as hy-

### Links referenced

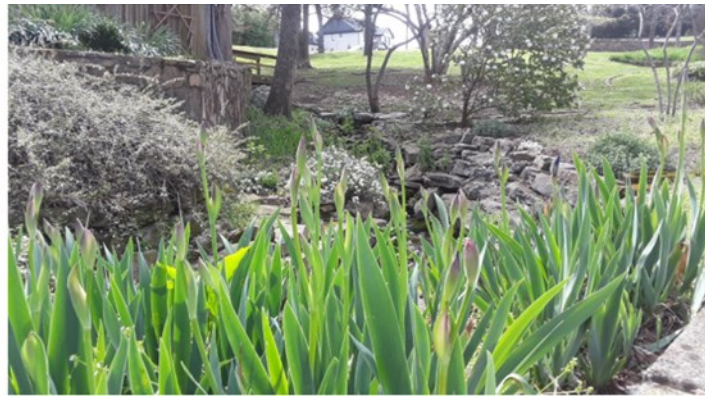
This journal is accessible online at [firstuunash.org/journal](http://firstuunash.org/journal). Full links are provided below for those reading a printed copy.

1. “Feeling Blah During the Pandemic? It’s Called Languishing” - *The New York Times* ([nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/19/well/mind/covid-mental-health-languishing.html)): [ny-times.com/2021/04/19/well/mind/covid-mental-health-languishing.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/19/well/mind/covid-mental-health-languishing.html)

2. DSM: [psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm](https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm)

3. Psychology Today Directory. Find the Best Therapists and Psychologists in Nashville, TN - Psychology Today: [psychologytoday.com/us/therapists/tn/nashville](https://psychologytoday.com/us/therapists/tn/nashville)

potheses about how its ripples will continue to be seen in the coming years and decades. Beyond the unfathomable cost of 600,000+ lives in the US alone, the economic devastation (and insufficient safety nets for the folks who needed them the most) and psychosocial impact have also been of great concern. Even as vaccines became more widely available, case numbers dramatically decreased, and we saw glimpses of pre-Covid life— we were quickly reminded this fall that we are far from out of the woods.



FUUN campus

Humans are meaning-making creatures. As the Austrian psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl so poignantly described in his 1946 book *Man's Search for Meaning*, "In some ways suffering ceases to be suffering at the moment it finds a meaning, such as the meaning of a sacrifice." Experiencing this pandemic has left us all searching for meaning: How do we really make sense of what is happening and why? How will we recover from this? How will we ever know the ways it's shaping us, individually and collectively, underneath the surface of our conscious awareness? How do we find the words to describe an entirely new kind of experience that, depending on the person and the day, feels strange, unreal, devastating, traumatic, boring, restorative?

As we are being challenged to identify and describe feelings we've never felt or had to name before, many have found solace in articles and memes that accurately capture the ineffable. In one such [article in the New York Times this April](#), organizational psychologist and author Adam Grant wrote:

*"At first, I didn't recognize the symptoms that we all had in common. Friends mentioned that they were having trouble concentrating. Colleagues reported that even with vaccines on the horizon, they weren't excited about 2021. A family member was staying up late to watch "National Treasure" again even though she knows the movie by heart. And instead of bouncing out of bed at 6 a.m., I was lying there until 7, playing Words with Friends.*

*It wasn't burnout — we still had energy. It wasn't depression — we didn't feel hopeless. We just felt somewhat joyless and aimless. It turns out there's a name for that: languishing.*

*Languishing is a sense of stagnation and emptiness. It feels as if you're muddling through your days, looking at your life through a foggy windshield. And it might be the dominant emotion of 2021."*

The experience of "languishing" may ring true for lots of folks; but to harken back to the beginning of this article, we cannot assume it resonates with everyone. For many, the pandemic has been downright traumatic— whether because of personal illness or loss, extreme and dangerous occupational stressors, or any other of the multitude of ways that Covid has reached into all aspects of life, leaving tremendous wreckage in its wake. Still, we should not make the assumption that it has been traumatic for everyone or even most people. For some, this time has been restful, and at times more enjoyable than their pre-Covid pace of living. They may share this only in private with trusted friends, wondering if it makes them a "bad person" that they feel this way, even though they hate how the virus has hurt others. (Spoiler alert: No it doesn't.)

Though the pandemic has inarguably been a collective trauma, does this mean we have all individually experienced it as a trauma? Defining trauma is tricky, because even as researchers attempt to draw clear lines around the term, the truth is that it is largely subjective. Merriam-Webster defines trauma as a "disordered psychic or behavioral state resulting from severe mental or emotional stress or physical injury" or "an emotional upset." Pretty broad, right? And that's before we even get into the question of what actually constitutes Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder according to the [DSM](#), as compared to the more common experience of going through a traumatic event in a more supported and adaptive way that does not result in PTSD... not to mention complex and developmental trauma that don't fit the nice, tidy DSM criteria of PTSD, yet can clearly

result in long-term impact on mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing.

To complicate matters further, how are we to know if our pandemic-related distress might have evolved into clinical depression or anxiety, or if it's more of a situational disturbance that will resolve when the stressor lessens? Either way, how can we best cope with this distress when we have little to no control over most of these external circumstances, or any way of predicting how long they will last?

It's generally not a great idea to ask Dr. Google if you have depression or PTSD, and many resources are available in the community for skilled assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. If you're struggling in any way, don't fall into the trap of comparing your pain with others. ("I feel so apathetic and disconnected from everything, but I have no right to complain because I haven't been sick and my best friend lost her husband to COVID. I just need to suck it up.") Needing help is not a weakness. Whether it's just reaching out for extra social support within or outside of the FUUN community, or seeking professional mental health support, asking for help is a strength and models to others that it's okay for them to do so, too.



*Photo of FUUN campus submitted by Julie Nolan*

If you are looking for professional support, I am happy to connect you with resources; just reach out to me at [valerie@gaiacenter.co](mailto:valerie@gaiacenter.co). The online directory [Psychology Today](https://www.psychologytoday.com) is also a good place to start, as you can search for providers by specialty, insurance, modality, and more.

We are figuring out on a daily basis how to cope with these unprecedented challenges, and we can't expect ourselves to know how to handle it as skillfully or easily as we might wish. Take good care of yourselves and each other, and hold these words from author Arundhati Roy close to your heart:

*Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.*

*We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.*

**Valerie Martin**, LCSW, has been a member of FUUN since 2012, a UU since 2002, and is the founder and clinical director of The Gaia Center for Embodied Healing.



## *From the President of the Board of Directors*

Just when it looked as if the Covid pandemic was smoldering out in July, we got smacked again by the delta variant and a sour feeling of déjà vu. Now it appears there will be another surge, mainly in the unvaccinated, which unfortunately includes many of our children. This is all enough to put one in a genuine funk.

In the meantime, your board is struggling with how to get people back together as much as possible and as soon as possible in a safe way. We will be reopening in a gradual fashion, which will seem

too agonizingly slow for some, and too precipitous for others. I think the key for all of us during this process is to be patient and flexible. Keep in mind this pandemic will not last forever (though it seems that way emotionally at times). We now have effective vaccines which greatly reduce the risk to individuals and have opened the door to cautious social congregation.

It appears that vaccination does not completely rule out becoming infected with SARS CoV 2, but decreases the chance, and dramatically reduces the chance of serious

illness or death. In view of this, we will be starting in-person services which incorporate use of masks, social distancing, and registration (to allow contact tracing/warning in the event someone is found to be infected while attending). While the chance of exposure to virus at these gatherings will be low, it will still be possible. In view of this, you should assess your personal level of risk and risk-acceptance prior to attending. If you feel the risk to you from

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*“As we start emerging from this crisis it will be critical for volunteers to step forward to help get the wheels of communal functioning spinning again.”*

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individual infection is severe, or the risk of possible inadvertent transmission to a loved one at high risk is a concern, you may want to avoid the meeting. Over time these risk levels will change, hopefully for the better, such that at some point all members will feel safe and comfortable attending in-person services. Keep in mind, your strongest personal protection against harm is vaccination.

### Board Meetings

Board Meetings are open to members and friends.

The Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

To join find the link in our announcement at [firstuun-ash.org/board-mtg-invite](https://firstuun-ash.org/board-mtg-invite).

In considering how our church will come through this time of crisis, I think there are two issues: the church as an institution, and the church as a network of individuals.

As an institution we now have an endowed trust worth more than \$700K dollars, almost no debt on our facilities, and a dedicated staff who have been doing a fantastic job of adapting to rapidly changing circumstances. We are facing some financial pressure currently, but I am confident we will deal with it.

With respect to members, we have a strong base who have continued to support the church with time and finances. As we start emerging from this crisis it will be critical for volunteers to step forward to help get the wheels of communal functioning spinning again. Please start thinking about how you can help. Keep an eye on the weekly email and periodic announce-

ments for opportunities to volunteer. Consider joining a committee. We have been in a period of near hibernation for the last year and a half, but better times are ahead.

In closing, let me suggest you take a moment to thank and bid farewell to **Rev. Denise Gyauch**. She has worked tirelessly for this church over many years, first as a lay leader, then as our Minister of Congregational Engagement. We wish her well in her new ministry at Greater Nashville UU Church.

**-Mike Boldts**

*President of the Board of Directors,*  
[President@thefuun.org](mailto:President@thefuun.org)



**Rev. Denise Gyauch**, former Assistant Minister of FUUN

## Guidelines for Interacting with Rev. Denise

By the staff

The Rev. Denise Gyauch no longer serves FUUN as one of its ministers; she's moved from being our Assistant Minister of Congregational Engagement to being the Lead Minister of the Greater Nashville UU Congregation. Happily, Rev. Denise still lives and works in Nashville, but it is still important that we are mindful of maintaining healthy boundaries with our former minister.

So, what happens when you and Rev. Denise encounter each other at the grocery store or the post office or wherever your paths cross? Within their covenantal relationship as ordained UU ministers, Revs. Diane and Denise have agreed that Rev. Denise will observe the following guidelines in any interactions with members of the FUUN congregation:

- ◆ She will not be present at FUUN gatherings, events, or programs unless clearly acting as the minister of GNUUC (with the possible exception of special events involving one of her children).
- ◆ She can no longer be your minister or provide ministerial services for FUUN members. This includes things like pastoral care, weddings, memorial services, and child dedications.
- ◆ If you tell Rev. Denise anything of a pastoral nature, she will share it with Rev. Diane.
- ◆ Rev. Denise cannot talk with you about church—hers or yours. (Try asking about her children instead!)



## Faith Development

Faith development is the process—religious, spiritual, and/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.

## Classes

**Classes** range from curriculum-based programs, to book clubs, to presentations about travels and journeys, and more. Additional classes may be scheduled as time goes on; check [firstuunash.org/faith-development](http://firstuunash.org/faith-development) for current information.

## Small Group Ministries

**Small Group Ministries** are opportunities for faith development in a safe, small gathering and include Nonviolent Communication Practice Groups and Covenant Groups.

# Faith Development

By the Director of Lifespan Religious Education

## Current Class

### Dinner After Words

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, Oct. 6, 2021-July 6, 2022, 6-7:30 p.m.

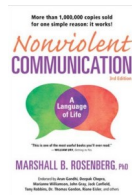
Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82691358595>

Let's gather from our respective dinner tables and break bread together as we watch a sermon from the previous month and then discuss how the topic touches our lives. **Rev. Diane** talks on page 2 about our theme this year: Radical Hospitality, and within that, the topic for each month, which will inform our discussions. September's topic will be Class, which we'll discuss on Oct. 6, October's topic is Race/Ethnicity, which we'll discuss on Nov. 3, and so on for the rest of the church year. See **Rev. Diane's** piece for more about the theme and topics, or contact **Marguerite Mills**, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, at [mmills@firstuunash.org](mailto:mmills@firstuunash.org).

## Small Group Ministry Gatherings

Our **Small Group Ministry** gatherings are starting up again. Contact Marguerite Mills, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, at [mmills@firstuunash.org](mailto:mmills@firstuunash.org) to sign up or if you have questions.

**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. Meetings take place *Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.*



**Covenant Groups** are made up of five to 12 people, each led by a facilitator, that meet twice a month 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. Different groups meet at different times.

**-Marguerite Mills**

Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE)

[mmills@firstuunash.org](mailto:mmills@firstuunash.org)

**Marguerite Mills** has been Unitarian Universalist since 1999 and has served as DLRE at FUUN since 2005; Marguerite is a Credentialed Religious Educator.

# Working Together: Stewardship and the Endowment Trust

By Vicky Tataryn

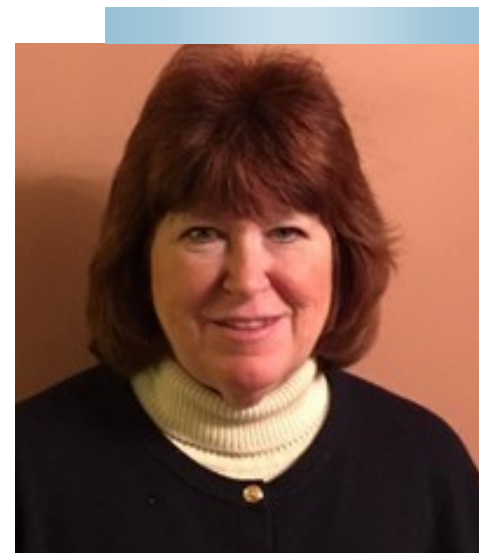
Annually, we think about the many ways the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville supports us, as well as how we support the church. I consciously give part of my resources to the people and things that add substance to my life and make the world a better place. This includes family, social causes and maybe even a zoo membership.

Over the years this church has become a big part of my spiritual support. I sit down and take a hard look at my budget and my priorities. I think about the many wonderful memories, some favorite services, the fellowship over the years and how this church has supported me and my family during some really difficult times. I think about the year ahead – this year I have a granddaughter who will attend Religious Education. Making a commitment to this church is the way I give back.

The church is also supported far into the future with contributions to the Endowment Trust. The Endowment Trust is a unique way of supporting the church as well as honoring other members and making gifts in memory of people who have touched our lives.

Stewardship supports the church in its day-to-day operations. The Endowment Trust is a way of giving for the future. Both are important. It's like having a monthly budget, with a long-term savings plan.

This year is a good example of how the Trust steps up to help the church. It has offered to match contributions from congregants up to \$50,000 to a special fundraiser to help fully fund the church 2021-2022 budget. You will learn more about this soon.



*“Making a commitment to this church is the way I give back.”*

Throughout the year we give to the church, the place that supports us through its mission, and the community it provides. Remember that your gifts are part of what makes this church and its community possible.

**-Vicky Tataryn**  
Member, Endowment Trust  
Co-Chair, Personnel Committee  
Member, Building For our Future Task Force

**Vicky Tataryn** has been a UU and member of FUUN since 1991 and a Registered Nurse working primarily in the field of Home Health and Gerontology.

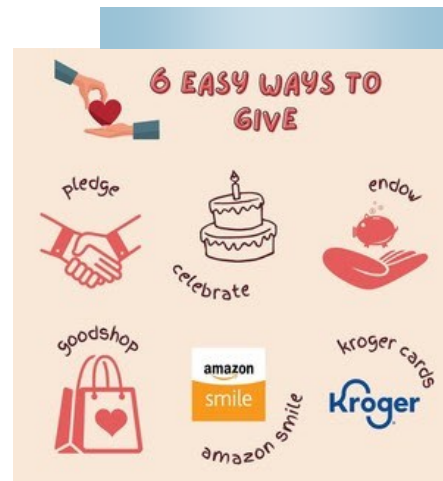
## The Endowment Trust

FUUN's endowment trust was founded in 1984 Unitarian Universalism can remain vital in Nashville and Middle TN for generations to come. The Trust accepts bequests and other gifts, such as gifts made to honor or in memory of loved ones. This can be done through our website. Visit our Endowment page at [firstuun-ash.org/endowment/](http://firstuun-ash.org/endowment/) for more info.

## The Many Ways to Give

The graphic to the right, created by **Jeannie Haman**, reminds us of some easy ways to give to FUUN. Questions? Email [fundraising@thefuun.org](mailto:fundraising@thefuun.org).

**We will be switching our online giving platform to Breeze by Nov. 1.** If you currently give online, please see our website [“Give” page](#) for details on making the switch.



## Annual Auction

### Online and Live



We're planning for a combined online and live 2021 Fall Auction. From Oct. 30 to Nov. 5, you'll be able to bid on many items, meals, services, and experiences. Then on Nov. 6, we'll have a live auction! Check out [firstuunash.org/annual-auction](https://firstuunash.org/annual-auction) for more information.

### Special Fundraiser

See the next page for our special fundraiser information.

## Herb & Craft Fair

By Lisa Anderson

For over a decade now, FUUN's Herb & Craft Fair has been something that the congregation and community looked forward to, both for the homemade treats and hand-made items and as a social opportunity. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic forced drastic changes to this event, but guided by the principle of caring, the Herb & Craft Fair Committee continued the tradition.

As 2021 began, the Herb & Craft Fair Committee knew it was crucial to have an event this year. In 2020, there had only been a small plant sale, with plants that had been ordered before the pandemic began. To do a full fair, we would have to consider how to sell and distribute items safely. So, they decided to sell the items through the church's (relatively) new auction software. Then, to deliver things to the people who bought them, the Fair offered scheduled, Covid-safe, drive-through pickup at the church.

The items available were slightly different this year. There were no jams and jellies because Covid made it harder to harvest fruit, and customers would not have the

chance to taste-test. The fair also offered a smaller selection of plants and baked goods than usual, relying on what previously sold well. In addition, small items such as bookmarks, which would usually be sold separately, were bundled together. At the same time, the Home and Body team offered new products, including soaps, salves, and lip balms.

The Herb & Craft Fair Committee is planning an event for 2022. It may be all online, in person, or some combination of both, depending on conditions at the time. A range of volunteers will still be needed, including roles that can be filled from home. If the Committee has to make adjustments, though, they will be doing so from a place of experience. Either way, this beloved fundraiser has weathered a difficult time while providing an example of caring.



**-Lisa Anderson**

*Herb & Craft Fair Committee*  
[HerbFair@thefuun.org](mailto:HerbFair@thefuun.org)



## Open the Door/Close the Gap

By Richard Bird

Join other FUUN members, friends, and Silversonix for an in-person, outdoor celebration on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19. We'll begin gathering at 12:30 p.m., and the music will start at 1 p.m. Bring your own picnic lunch, spread out a blanket, and enjoy being together while listening to some great music. Masks will be encouraged while mixing and mingling, as will social distancing. Everyone will be required to register once they arrive so that contact-tracing can be implemented if needed.

While we're celebrating the slow and cautious opening of our doors, we'll also be promoting a special fundraiser to close the gap in our budget. This past Stewardship Campaign, as remarkable as it was under such unique circumstances, fell a little short of its goal. We need to raise another \$90,000 to make up this gap. The great news is that the FUUN Trust has agreed to match all donations to this special fundraiser up to \$50,000! So that we don't waste a penny of this generous match, we're looking for all members and friends to make a one-time special gift to reach a total goal of \$100,000.

So, save the date and let's have some FUUN – together! If you haven't heard Silversonix, you're in for a treat. **Tom Surface**, known for putting together many iterations of classic rock bands over the years, invited **Sheri DiGiovanna** to join in on vocals in 2018, and the band added pop and country tunes to its repertoire. Band members are **Tom Surface** (guitar, band leader), **Sheri DiGiovanna** (vocals), Jim Surface (guitar), James Collins (bass), **Victoria Harris** (drums), and Joe Warner (keys). The name Silversonix was chosen to pay tribute to the decades, not only representing the span of their music but also the age span of the band members.



*-Richard Bird*  
[Stewardship@thefuun.org](mailto:Stewardship@thefuun.org)  
*Stewardship Chair*

## Samhain Altar

Decorated by **Chelsea Henry**



## Happy Fall!

Every season for the past few years, **Chelsea Henry** has thoughtfully, lovingly, and purposefully shared her creative gifts by decorating our various altars in the sanctuary. Be sure to check them out the next time you are in our sanctuary and offer your thanks when you see her.

## Programming for Children and Youth

By Marguerite Mills, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school will continue on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10:30 a.m. through September:

### PreK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade

With **Susie Wilcox** and **Harmon Nine**  
On Zoom

Sept. 12: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87288152140>

Sept. 26: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85217697987>

Take an age-appropriate, fun-filled, and deeper look at Unitarian Universalism through art, song, and story.

### 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades

With **Jason Plummer**, **Christopher Cotton**, and **Marguerite Mills**  
On Zoom

Sept. 12: [zoom.us/j/94518102020](https://zoom.us/j/94518102020)

Sept. 26: [zoom.us/j/94398891671](https://zoom.us/j/94398891671)

Many of us know about our Principles, but our Sources don't get nearly enough attention. However, this summer, they will. And they'll do it in Minecraft, which was such a success this past academic year. What will the kids create for the sixth Source, about earth-centered traditions? What about the results of science of the 5<sup>th</sup> Source, the prophetic people of the second Source, and the others? Join us for the adventure.



This is a picture of the new retaining wall in the playground that the Grounds Team recently completed in preparation for in-person activities at church. The old one was about to collapse. Submitted by **Mike Bold**s, Grounds Committee and President of the Board of Directors.

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*We are working on programming beyond September, but we need volunteers to make it happen—if you can help, please email [mmills@firstuunash.org](mailto:mmills@firstuunash.org).*

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### Programming Updates

Visit [firstuunash.org/children](https://firstuunash.org/children) or watch our announcements for updates on our programming for Children and Youth.

## Youth Group

Youth Group resumes with three dates scheduled in September. We will meet **outdoors in person with appropriate masking and distancing**:

### Youth Group (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

With **Liz Leiserson** and **Marguerite Mills**

Sundays

Sept. 5, 12, 19

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Youth Room (Norris House) deck

**Marguerite Mills**

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

[mmills@firstuunash.org](mailto:mmills@firstuunash.org)

## FUUN Adopts 8<sup>th</sup> Principle

Adding to our cherished 7 Principles, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville adopted the following 8<sup>th</sup> principle on Jan. 24, 2021:

*Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.*

## Our FUUN Vision

Adopted Jan. 27, 2008

*We are an oasis. We are fertile ground for growth. We gather in sacred space. We create beloved community. We celebrate our lives together. Our church is a spiritual community. Our voices promote the cause of liberal religion. Our minds are open for new learning. Our hands do the work of social justice. Our hearts share hope and compassion with our community and our world.*

## Beloved Community Corner

By Tom Steinmann

*Our Congregation is so blessed to be led by our excellent musicians, Jaie and Holling. In a recent vocal class about preserving the singing voice through times of stress, Jaie mentioned that during the pandemic, she finds students and choirs often seem to be mentally and physically "holding their breath" in tension, as though expressing their "built-in" tentative feelings about life nowadays.*

The Beloved Community Committee (BBC) 's annual retreat and planning meeting was held in-person and outdoors in mid-July on a beautiful screened-in porch. Working on a document about the history of racism here in Tennessee, the idea arose that we should be sure to incorporate the "resilience and excellence" shown by black people and their allies that have opposed racism through the years.

People have survived extremely hard times. Even in the hardest times, when we may not feel it, people keep on expressing their resilience and excellence. The BBC has seen a lot of progress during these challenging days. Over the next few pages, we'd like to share some recent "positive numbers" and ways you can volunteer.



Graduates of the Nashville Pledge Program pose with our Black Lives Matter banner.

## Gideon's Army Receives Million Dollar Grant

Gideon's Army is an organization based in North Nashville, dedicated to dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline through social activism and to resolving conflicts before they escalate to violence through direct one-on-one intervention into private disputes by the "community". In the recently approved Metro-Nashville budget, the city provided this funding for the group's unique mission.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Now Adopted by Over 120 UU Congregations

As a proposed addition to the Unitarian Universalist Association's Seven Principles, the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle declares our commitment to reach out and work to drive racism from society. The process of having individual member congregations adopt the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle is part of a campaign to pressure the UUA to do so at the denominational level. The total number of UU Congregations in the U.S. is estimated at 1000. So approx. 12% have now adopted the 8<sup>th</sup> principle (including FUUN earlier this year!).

## Nearly 100 Have Completed the BCC’s “Living the Pledge Against Racism” Pledge Program

The Beloved Community Committee (BCC) “Living the Pledge” program is designed and facilitated by the BCC as an annual educational program to provide people with detailed history and current information about structural racism in our world. The program is also designed to empower and support future leaders to work toward The Beloved Community. Even in the pandemic, approx. 25 people were able to complete the 2021 program.

### 37208

This is not a “positive number,” per se. This is an area of North Nashville literally singled out by its zip code for the many challenging social problems found therein, including having the highest incarceration rate in the country. After her March meeting with the West Nashville Coalition (WNC), an interdenominational group of faith leaders, **Jennifer Hackett** brought our attention to a Brookings Institute report on the problems facing people in zip code 37208. The report found a strong link between poverty and incarceration. Here is a link to the report: [brookings.edu/research/work-and-opportunity-before-and-after-incarceration/](https://brookings.edu/research/work-and-opportunity-before-and-after-incarceration/)

The March WNC meeting was held with District 21 Metro Councilman Brandon Taylor who represents most of zip code 37208. In response to the Brookings Institute's report, he convened a Special Committee of the Metro Council to report further. The recommendations of the 37208 Special Committee are known as “The 37208 Report.” Here is a link to the report: [nashville.gov/Metro-Council/Legislative-Information-Center.aspx](https://nashville.gov/Metro-Council/Legislative-Information-Center.aspx)

WNC also discussed what congregations (such as FUUN) can do to help implement the report recommendations, and they provided us with the following list of volunteer opportunities. These organizations aren’t specifically endorsed or recommended by FUUN — This list is for congregation members’ potential involvement, based on their own individual research and inquiries.

### Volunteer Opportunities to Help Implement Recommendations of the 37208 Report

**Gideon’s Army** ([gideonsarmyunited.org](https://gideonsarmyunited.org)): A community-based, grassroots organization that uses restorative justice programs to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline through social activism by children, families, and the community. Their programs address school-push-out, youth violence, policing, and juvenile justice.

*Volunteer opportunities continue on the next page.*

### The Pledge to End Racism

I BELIEVE that every person has worth as an individual.

- ◆ I BELIEVE that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color.
- ◆ I BELIEVE that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others.

### Therefore, from this day forward:

- ◆ I WILL strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions.
- ◆ I WILL discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.
- ◆ I WILL treat all people with dignity and respect.
- ◆ I WILL commit to working with others to transform this community into a place that treats people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures with justice, equity, and compassion, and I WILL strive daily to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my efforts.

Opportunity Now ([nashville.gov/departments/mayor/opportunity-now](https://nashville.gov/departments/mayor/opportunity-now)): This is run through the Mayor's office and information is available on the Nashville.gov website. There are opportunities available both for youth who are looking for job opportunities and for businesses who want to provide opportunities.

Nashville Community Bail Fund ([nashvillebailfund.org](https://nashvillebailfund.org)): Opportunity to donate funds that help provide money for bail that doesn't require a monetary deposit like commercial bail funds require. They are also beginning to offer trainings for a Nashville Court Watch program to assess how our courts are being run. Court Watch will provide training for Nashville citizens that are interested in participating. Info will help inform voters for the judicial elections in 2022.

NAZA (Nashville After Zone Alliance) ([nashvillez.org](https://nashvillez.org)): Their mission is to increase equitable access to out-of-school time learning experiences to help youth thrive and develop to their full potential. NAZA is in partnership with the Nashville Public Library, MNPS, the Mayor's office and 20 youth development organizations.

GANG (Gentlemen and Not Gangsters)

([gentlemenandnotgangsters.com](https://gentlemenandnotgangsters.com)): This is a partnership with the Juvenile Gang Court and does some wonderful creative work with young people through academic, physical, social and spiritual development.

Free Hearts ([freeheartsorg.com](https://freeheartsorg.com)): This is a statewide organization that started in Nashville, led by formerly incarcerated women, to provide support, education and advocacy in organizing families impacted by incarceration with the ultimate goals of re-uniting families and keeping families together. They build leadership to work to end mass incarceration, serve as the hub for the Nashville Participatory Defense movement, and have led other efforts to change public policy including, but not limited to, restoring the vote.

The Equity Alliance ([www.theequityalliance.org](https://www.theequityalliance.org)): This is a state-wide organization advocating for Black Americans and other communities of color to equip citizens with tools and strategies to engage in the civic process and empower them to take action on issues affecting their daily lives, as well as promote use of voting power.

Book 'Em ([bookem-kids.org](https://bookem-kids.org)): They have a few volunteers who are reading to their assigned classrooms using Microsoft Teams or Zoom or pre-recorded videos this year. Most of the volunteers and teachers opted to take the year off from reading volunteers because of COVID. The students are still getting books. Their plan is to give teachers and volunteers the option of reading in person in classrooms beginning in the fall - as long as safety and health guidelines permit it. They would love to have help with recruiting volunteer readers for the 2021-2022 school year for their *Reading Is Fundamental* program. And they are accepting book and monetary donations, as they are distributing lots of books. They'll also be recruiting reading volunteers for their *Ready for Reading* program in the fall. Those volunteers read to small groups of 4-year-old students for 30 minutes about once a week at Cambridge and/or Ross Early Learning Centers. When safety guidelines allow it, they also want to have volunteer groups helping them sort and process in books.

**-Tom Steinmann**

*Beloved Community Committee Member*

[beloved@thefuun.org](mailto:beloved@thefuun.org)

**Tom Steinmann** has been a UU and member of FUUN since 2019, works as a Railroad Property Researcher, and also writes and produces music and motion pictures.



## The Hiller/Ratner Mosaic Graces our Campus



### The Hiller/Ratner Mosaic is Complete

FUUN is pleased to announce the installation of the Hiller/Ratner mosaic. It is located on the wall left of the fellowship hall door. The mosaic was created by Sherry Hunter (pictured here) and commissioned by the FUUN Endowment Fund. It is portable and can be relocated.

You can see a video of the dedication ceremony on our YouTube page or [firstuunash.org/mosaic/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=firstuunash.org/mosaic/). Special thanks to **Trigg** who filmed and edited it.



Hilda Ratner and Aaron Hiller

### The Story

**Hilda Ratner** was working towards having a piece of artwork commissioned in honor of her husband, my father, **Aaron Hiller** after his passing in 1997. She specifically requested that it be located on that wall. Unfortunately, in 1998, Hilda was afflicted with a debilitating stroke which severely limited her speech and mobility. Plans for the artwork remained on hold as Hilda focused on her own rehabilitation. With her passing in 2016, Hilda left the church a significant financial gift; even though she didn't specify that a portion of the gift be used to fund the artwork, many felt that using some of money to fulfill her dream was appropriate and that the art should honor both Aaron and Hilda for their many years of devotion and service to FUUN.

The mosaic celebrates Hilda's love of scientific reasoning and Aaron's passion as a staunch humanist and includes symbols of things they held dear in their hearts: In the center of the mosaic is a UU chalice, resting on books that inspired them; Inside the flame is the humanist symbol; In the background are the green hills for which the area of town the church is located in is named for and where Hilda lived for much of her adult life. The mosaic also includes DNA strands in the sky and images of nature including hemlock leaves because they were both long time members of the Hemlock Society.

A special thanks to the following who worked together to make this happen: **Kathy Bryant, Brenda Stein, John Harkey**, and the FUUN Endowment Committee.

*-Dan Hiller*

*Member and Facilities Council Chair*

**Dan Hiller** was a youth at FUUN. He also attended LRY (Liberal Religious Youth) as an adolescent. He and **Kathy** joined FUUN in the early eighties. They have two sons, **Micheal** and **Matthew**. Dan is a retired MNPS teacher.

## Social Justice at FUUN

Our Social Justice Committee consists of Action Teams:

Habitat for Humanity: [habitat@thefuun.org](mailto:habitat@thefuun.org)

Room in the Inn: [riti@thefuun.org](mailto:riti@thefuun.org)

Safe Haven: [safehaven@thefuun.org](mailto:safehaven@thefuun.org)

Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH): [NOAH@thefuun.org](mailto:NOAH@thefuun.org)

Palmer Lecture: [palmer@thefuun.org](mailto:palmer@thefuun.org)

Environmental Action Team: [ENACT@thefuun.org](mailto:ENACT@thefuun.org)

TransAffirming Collective: [TransAffirming@thefuun.org](mailto:TransAffirming@thefuun.org)

Welcoming Congregation: [welcoming@thefuun.org](mailto:welcoming@thefuun.org)

### Why Join an Action Team?

As Unitarian Universalist, we are passionate about a number of things from economic justice to immigration reform, homelessness, LGBTQ rights/activism and more. By joining one of our action teams you will be able to do hands-on work around a social justice issue that is important to you and will be helping to make a difference in the world around us.

If you would like to get involved, please email the committee ([socialjustice@thefuun.org](mailto:socialjustice@thefuun.org)) or one of the teams. They would love to hear from you.

Social Justice Committee also schedules our *Share the Plate* recipients. For more info, see [firstuunash.org/social-justice](http://firstuunash.org/social-justice).

## Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH)

### What is NOAH?

NOAH (Nashville Organized for Action and Hope) is a multi-racial, interdenominational, faith-led coalition comprised of over 60 congregations, community organizations, and labor unions in the Nashville area.



NOAH works to give voice to traditionally marginalized people. Members decided the key focus issues of the organization:



- ◆ affordable housing,
- ◆ economic equity,
- ◆ education, and
- ◆ criminal justice task force.

In each of these areas, NOAH has a task force that has had important successes in the Nashville area. Visit our website page [firstuunash.org/noah-at-fuun/](http://firstuunash.org/noah-at-fuun/) for information, updates, videos, photos, to sign up to help.

*-Carol Copple and Bethany Rittle-Johnson  
NOAH Action Team  
[noah@thefuun.org](mailto:noah@thefuun.org)*

- The mission of the FUUN NOAH Action Team** is to keep FUUN accountable to our membership in NOAH by
- 1) educating ourselves and our congregation about NOAH's issues,
  - 2) participating regularly in NOAH Task Forces, Board Meetings, events, and actions,
  - 3) building relationships with each other, FUUN congregants, fellow NOAH members, and allies,
  - 4) encouraging our congregation to share their priorities and concerns for Nashville and
  - 5) mobilizing our congregation to share their priorities and concerns for Nashville and support NOAH through giving time and/or resources.

Join us.



## *Habitat for Humanity*

By Carleen Dowell

My first experience with Habitat for Humanity was when my niece qualified for a Habitat Home and asked if I wanted to help out. She and I worked together one day on her home and I met several others who worked on Habitat homes on a regular basis. She told me about the classes she attended to learn how to budget her money and take care of simple maintenance on her home. I was so impressed with the program.

I attended the very emotional dedication of the finished home with

my mother-in-law and many other family members. We were all so happy for Teresa and her four children. I decided then that I wanted to continue to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and have participated in 12 other builds since then.

Habitat and home ownership can break the cycle of generational poverty. One of Teresa's daughter's became the first African American female firefighter in Gallatin when she grew up. I'm sure a stable safe home made a difference in her life.

*"I decided then that I wanted to continue to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and have participated in 12 other builds since then."*

This Fall our Unity Build will be a part of a new approach for Habitat of Greater Nashville—townhomes! The development will be called Sherwood Commons and is located in North Nashville right across Ewing from our builds of the last two years. There will be 23 two-bedroom townhomes that have already been started during the Spring Build and we will finish them. That means we will be doing tasks like painting, insulation, and landscaping.

**Our build dates are *Sunday, Sept. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 9.***

Each day, we will need 10 builders and one hospitality person in charge of the registration and food table.



The homeowner we are building for is JaKymberlie Barnes. She is the mother of two girls and recently finished a masters in counseling and is working at the Williamson County Schools.

Please email me to get involved in our annual effort. Breakfast and lunch will be provided along with a new helmet, gloves, and mask (optional). Let's go build 23 homes!

**- Carleen Dowell**

*Co-Chair, Habitat for Humanity Action Team*  
[habitat@thefuun.org](mailto:habitat@thefuun.org)

**Carleen Dowell** has been a UU since she walked into FUUN 39 years ago and is a retired special education teacher.

## Sherwood Commons

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville Townhome Community



# EMPLOYEE Spotlight

## Rev. Diane Dowgiert Developmental Lead Minister

Joined the FUUN team August 2020  
Hometown of Arvada, Colorado  
Birthday January 2

*"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your  
one wild and precious life?"*  
-Mary Oliver

To find out more about our fabulous team visit  
our website at [firstuunash.org/professional-staff](http://firstuunash.org/professional-staff)

Meet  
Diane



## Staff Spotlight Rev. Diane Dowgiert

### What does Unitarian Universalism mean to you?

Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition with roots that run deep into the past, a living tradition that changes and evolves to meet current day need, a living tradition that holds a hopeful vision for the future. Unitarian Universalism is more concerned with life here and now than with a possible after-life. We work to create a heaven here on Earth, and we work to eradicate the hells that

exist here on Earth. We believe that salvation is collective, for everyone, not just a chosen few. We seek religious and spiritual truths not just in one book, but in many sources. We are held together not by common belief but by the covenant we make with each other, a promise to abide together in the spirit of love and service. We strive toward a set of commonly held principles. We welcome and celebrate diversity in all its forms.

### Briefly describe what you do at FUUN

As Developmental Lead Minister, I am hired by the Board of Directors to work with the congregation on an established set of goals that will strengthen the congregation for its future ministry. Developmental ministry is intentionally time-limited, usually somewhere between 3 and 7 years, depending on the scope of work that is hoped to be accomplished. In addition, I perform the duties of the lead minister — leading worship, providing pastoral care, collaborating with and supervising the paid staff, representing the congregation in the larger community, working with the lay leaders of the congregation, performing weddings, child dedications, and memorial services, and generally leading the congregation in fulfillment of its mission.

### The Spotlight

Each edition, we highlight staff to find out more about them and what they do to share it with you—hoping to shine a light on who they are and what they do.

Special thanks to our administrator Mary Lindsay who made this project happen.

### Are you a part-time or full-time employee?

I am full time.

### What is the most time-consuming part of your job?

As with any minister serving in a lead position, a large percentage of my time is spent preparing for worship — researching and writing a sermon, choosing readings, hymns, and stories, coordinating with the Worship Committee and other service participants.

### What is your busiest day of the week, and why?

It varies by week depending on what committees are meeting, what else is going on at the church, or any pastoral emergencies that may arise.

### What improvements, if any, have you made to your job?

As a Developmental Minister, I specialize in serving congregations in transition after a settled minister has resigned or retired. I don't necessarily make improvements in the job, but I definitely do things differently than my predecessors. A period of developmental ministry is a time to closely examine the congregation's practices, including how the role of the minister functions.

**What do you love best about your job?**

I love Unitarian Universalist congregations. I love getting to know a congregation -- its people, its history, its traditions, its triumphs and failures, its challenges, and its hopes and dreams.

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*“A period of developmental ministry is a time to closely examine the congregation’s practices, including how the role of the minister functions.”*

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**What is the most challenging part of your job?**

Keeping it all in balance. There is always more to be done than there is time. Remembering that churches move at the speed of church which is sometimes frustratingly slow.

**What are some things you do that the congregation might not be aware of?**

Part of what I do as a Developmental Minister is help the congregation discover the things they weren't aware their previous minister did, and then, to examine whether or not it is something they expect their minister to do going forward.

**What’s been one of your proudest moments working at FUUN?**

I am most proud of making it through a year of global pandemic and all the challenges that went along with it.

**How does your work support the mission of FUUN?**

I strive to do my work in such a way as to embody the mission of FUUN, creating community, nurturing spiritual growth, and acting on our values in the larger world.

**Is there anything else you want people to know about your job?**

In normal times, other than Sunday morning, much of the work of ministry is invisible, witnessed by only a few or not seen at all. Time spent in study and writing, time spent on the telephone or Zoom or exchanging emails, time spent in hospital rooms — these are but some examples. In this abnormal past year, my work has been more invisible than usual, conducted almost exclusively from behind a computer screen.

**Tell us about your family (pets, people, etc.)**

My family consists of my husband of 47 years, two adult sons, one daughter-in-law, one grandchild, and one adorable cat.

**How do you keep your work/life balance?**

I spend as much time outdoors as possible walking, hiking, or gardening. I love to get together with family and friends to cook, eat, and play games.

**What would you do (for a career) if you weren’t doing this?**

I honestly can't imagine doing anything else, nor do I want to. Ordination to the ministry is a lifetime vow, a vocation, and a calling. I will likely be doing ministry in some form until the day I die.

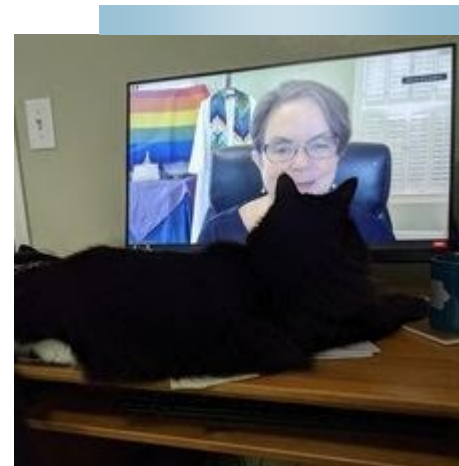
**If you could choose anyone as a mentor, who would you choose and why?**

Ruth Bader Ginsberg. She was a trailblazer for women. I would have loved the opportunity to learn from her about how she managed to do all she did and leave such a mark on her profession.

**If you could pick one superpower, what would it be?**

Tirelessness.

**What top three traits define you?**



Perseverance. Sense of humor. Love.

**What is the one thing you cannot resist?**

Black licorice.

**What do you like to do when you're not at the office?**

Take naps. Binge-watch old TV shows.

**Where is your favorite non-church place to be?**

At the kitchen table with my whole family.

**What do you think is the greatest game in history?**

Scrabble.

**What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?**

I was tear gassed. No, it wasn't at a protest, but at the first rock concert I attended when I was 16.

**If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Tacos.

**If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?**

Probably faint in disbelief.

**EMPLOYEE Spotlight**

Meet Holling

**Holling Smith-Borne**  
**Collaborative Pianist**

Joined the FUUN team August 2018  
Hometown of East Canton, OH  
Birthday January 14

*"I've had to go against all kinds of people through the years just to be myself. I think everybody should be allowed to be who they are, and to love who they love."*

-Dolly Parton

To find out more about our fabulous team visit our website at [firstuunash.org/professional-staff](http://firstuunash.org/professional-staff)

*Staff Spotlight*  
*Holling Smith-Borne*

**What does Unitarian Universalism mean to you?**

A community of open-minded people that support each other as we work on justice, hope, love, and being our best selves.

**Briefly describe what you do at FUUN**

I play the piano for services and accompany the choirs.

**What is the most time-consuming part of your job?**

Selecting "just the right" piano

Holling During Covid

We offer special thanks to Holling for bringing us wonderful sounds from the sanctuary during the past 18 months of virtual-only services.

pieces to play for services that contribute to the flow and theme of the services.

**What is your busiest day of the week, and why?**

Sundays (when it's not Covid times)

**What improvements, if any, have you made to your job?**

I continue to expand my repertoire, and draw from many genres of music.

**What do you love best about your job?**

I enjoy working with the choirs and singers of all flavors.

**What is the most challenging part of your job?**

Making up accompaniment parts to choir anthems where none previously exist. It's challenging but fun.

**What are some things you do that the congregation might not be aware of?**

My full-time job is working as the Director of the Music Library at the Blair School at Vanderbilt. I assist students and faculty with their research and build collections that support the curriculum.

**What's been one of your proudest moments working at FUUN?**

I'm the most proud after each Music Sunday. The choirs work on some challenging repertoire and it's rewarding to see how much progress is made from start to finish.

**How does your work support the mission of FUUN?**

I hope that my music nurtures spiritual growth and creates a space for people to reflect.

**Is there anything else you want people to know about your job?**

I enjoy working with instrumentalists and I hope that anyone in the congregation that plays an instrument would consider collaborating with me to work up a piece or two for a Sunday service. I would LOVE that.

**Tell us about your family (pets, people, etc.)**

My wife is Joell and we have a son Jaden. We have two dogs, a standard poodle named Ajax and Bela Barktok, a Pumi.

**How do you keep your work/life balance?**

I do a lot of prioritizing of my time. I also carve out time to do the things I enjoy like gardening, playing mini golf, and playing music with my son. I tried to do the things that I love so it doesn't feel like work.

**How do you define success?**

Success is pursuing the best in ourselves. Success is building community and standing with people who are marginalized or facing discrimination.

**What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this?**

Probably a horticulturist or an interpretive/cultural park ranger.

**If you could choose anyone as a mentor, who would you choose and why?**

Janet Mock. I think I could learn a lot from her about trans activism and life in general.

**If you could pick one superpower, what would it be?**

To play jazz music like Tatum, Monk, Hancock, and Silver.

**What top three traits define you?**

Thoughtful, good listener, humble.

**What is the one thing you cannot resist?**

A mini golf course.

**What do you like to do when you're not at the office?**

I like to garden, especially vegetable gardening. I also enjoy hiking when I'm not at "the office."

**Where is your favorite place to be? (only non church answers allowed!!)**

On the beach with my dogs.

**What do you think is the greatest game in history?**

Mini golf, of course!

**If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Breakfast

**If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?**

I think I would make a large donation to the Trevor Project and then buy a really expensive, top-of-the-line Bosendorfer piano.



**Thank you, Holling**

I am incredibly grateful to Holling for his work, always, and especially this year. His flexibility and willingness to record solo selections and accompaniments was the cornerstone of our music program. His intentionality about being a regular presence in the sanctuary continues to nurture the spirit of our congregation. Thank you.

**-Jaie Tiefenbrunn**

*Director of Music Ministries*

[music@firstuunash.org](mailto:music@firstuunash.org)

## Let People Know We are Here

By Sheri DiGiovanna

It was fun to hear our name over the airways on WPLN (from Aug. 23–Sept. 12) paid for by a grant from our Endowment Fund. A lot less fun was trying to figure out how to describe us in 30 seconds or less. It’s surprisingly difficult, but a task I had over a year to perfect. During these pandemic times, however, I found myself uncharacteristically procrastinating and even after a strong start months ago with drafts and team feedback, I ended up having only a few minutes to write and submit the copy when I was reminded that they needed it ASAP before they aired! So, what I submitted is below. I wasn’t happy with it—there’s so much more that makes us different, but I had to remind myself that the main goal is to **let people know we are here** and where they can get more information about us.

It’s great to tell people we are here—especially during Covid. You never know who needs a community just like ours. I hope you consider telling two friends about us, perhaps by passing along a copy of this journal published in Sept. , Dec., March, and June.

If you missed the spots, they said,

15 second spot: ...First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, a welcoming community of thoughtful, pragmatic doers walking a path of compassion, justice, and interconnectedness. Find out more about what makes our community different at First UU Nash [DOT] org.

30 second spot: ...First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, a welcoming community guided by 8 principles such as “everyone has inherent worth and dignity,” “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning,” “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part” and “building beloved community by dismantling racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institution” and 6 sources including direct experience, prophetic people, and wisdom from the world’s religions. Find out more at First UU Nash [Dot] org.



*Sheri DiGiovanna,  
Director of Communication*

*“I hope you consider telling two friends about us, perhaps by passing along a copy of our new journal.”*

## “Seasons of FUUN” Journal Themes

Each edition of our new Journal will have a theme as follows:

Fall: *Caring for One Another*  
(during and after Covid).

Winter: *Inviting People to UUism*  
(ex. Sharing the gift of UUism/  
How you received the gift of  
UUism in your life, etc.)

Spring: *Healing Religious Pasts*  
(Journeys to UUism: How did you  
find out about UUs? How did you  
become one?)

Summer: TBD

Please consider submitting your  
story for one of our editions.  
Deadlines for submissions are  
Nov. 15, Feb. 15, and May 15. Send  
to [journal@thefuun.org](mailto:journal@thefuun.org).

**-Sheri DiGiovanna**  
Director of Communication  
[Communication@firstuunash.org](mailto:Communication@firstuunash.org)

**Sheri DiGiovanna** has been FUUN’s Director of Communication since 2015, a member of FUUN since 1996, and a UU since 1986.

A graphic with a light blue background. At the top, there are icons for Facebook (blue square with white 'f'), YouTube (red and white play button), and Twitter (blue bird). Below these is the Instagram logo (camera icon) and the word "Instagram" in its signature font. At the bottom, it says "Follow us!" and "@FirstUUNashville".

**Follow us!**  
@FirstUUNashville



## 2021-22 Committees

### Ministerial Council

Open, Chair

[ministerial@thefuun.org](mailto:ministerial@thefuun.org)

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

### Operations Council

Dan Hiller, Chair

[operations@thefuun.org](mailto:operations@thefuun.org)

Campus Preparedness  
Facilities  
Grounds

### Program Council

Open, Chair

[program@thefuun.org](mailto: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

Vanessa Hall, Chair

[resourcedevelopment@thefuun.org](mailto:resourcedevelopment@thefuun.org)

Finance  
Fundraising  
Leadership Development  
Membership  
Personnel

## Church Staff and Affiliates

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**Custodian** Tony Flemister

**Community Ministers Affiliated** Rev. Dr. Laurel Cassidy  
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Rev. Sara Green

**Community Chaplains Affiliated** Rev. Cathy Chang  
[cchang@thefuun.org](mailto:cchang@thefuun.org)

Rev. Holly Mueller

## Board of Directors 2021-2022

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Ruiz

**Ex-Officio, Past President** Doug Pasto-Crosby  
**Ex-Officio, Minister** Rev. Diane Dowgiert

This publication is available online at  
[Firstuunash.org/journal](http://Firstuunash.org/journal).

## About First UU Nashville

We are a community with diverse spiritual orientations, who come from many different backgrounds.

We seek to share a journey of spiritual growth and work together to find ways to live our faith in the world, while respecting the right to freedom of individual beliefs. Our principles and statements of covenant and mission speak our most cherished values, both as part of a larger faith and as an individual congregation. We invite you to explore this journal and join us.

## Our Covenant

Adopted June 13, 1999

We gather in safe and compassionate community, seeking our spiritual truths. We affirm our interdependence, celebrate our differences, and create a thoughtful and harmonious voice for liberal religion. Through the practice of the principles of our faith, we promote social, economic, and environmental justice and continue our legacy of respect and acceptance. We covenant together in a spirit of love and freedom.

### 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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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
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Mailing Address



First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Nashville