

*The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair*

# THE GAZETTE

**Our Newsletter for Summer 2021**

**Vol. 124 Issue 11**

*Our Mission:*

*Grounded in faith, we come together to nurture the soul,  
inspire hope and bring into being a more just and loving world.*



*"Taking care of yourself doesn't mean me first,  
it means me too."*

*—L.R. Knost*



The Gazette is a monthly publication of:  
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 67 Church Street, Montclair NJ 07042  
 (973) 744-6276  
 Website: [www.uumontclair.org](http://www.uumontclair.org)

**THE DEADLINE FOR  
 THE SEPTEMBER GAZETTE  
 IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021**

At the time of this printing, all UUCM staff are working remotely from home. We can be reached at the emails listed below.

Our office will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021, in observance of Independence Day.

## OUR MINISTERS AND STAFF:

**Senior Co-Minister:** Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, Ext. 0011, [revanya@uumontclair.org](mailto:revanya@uumontclair.org)  
**Senior Co-Minister:** Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael, Ext. 0011, [revscott@uumontclair.org](mailto:revscott@uumontclair.org)  
**Director of Music Ministries:** Markus Grae-Hauck, Ext. 0015, [musicdir@uumontclair.org](mailto:musicdir@uumontclair.org)  
**Administrator:** Danielle Carlo, Ext. 0012, [admin@uumontclair.org](mailto:admin@uumontclair.org)  
**Office & Communications Manager:** Jaclyn Puleo, Ext. 0010, [officemgr@uumontclair.org](mailto:officemgr@uumontclair.org)  
**Director of Religious Education :** Judith Hogan, Ext. 0016, [jhogan@uumontclair.org](mailto:jhogan@uumontclair.org)  
**Bookkeeper:** Emilia Sadonis, Ext. 0019, [accountant@uumontclair.org](mailto:accountant@uumontclair.org)  
**Technology Systems Consultant:** Bruce For, [bruce.for@uumontclair.org](mailto:bruce.for@uumontclair.org)  
**Lead Custodian:** Dawn Coleman, [custodian@uumontclair.org](mailto:custodian@uumontclair.org)  
**Affiliated Community Minister:** Rev. Jacqueline Lahey  
**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman  
**Minister Emerita:** Rev. Judy Tomlinson

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

**President:** Michael Hetrick, [boardpresident@uumontclair.org](mailto:boardpresident@uumontclair.org)  
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**Trustees-At-Large:** Lauren Carlton, Francesca Elms, Ramona Hilgenkamp, Wil Hylton, David Jones, Nick Lewis, Giancarlo Ponticello and Sarah Scalet.

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# InFaith: Rest for Transformation

*From Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, Senior Co-Minister*

Perhaps we have learned over the past 15 months that it takes a considerable effort to engage in the work of transformation. Our worlds transformed and we did with them. We are changed, but we are still changing. We are integrating what we have learned and we are remembering what we had, over the months of isolation, forgotten.



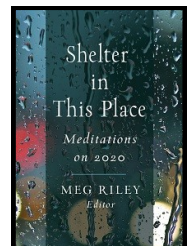
On June 6, 2021 at our Annual Meeting, we adopted the Eighth Principle, elected new leaders, learned about new justice initiatives and reflected on the innovative ways that we will engage as a congregation this next congregational year. This makes obvious the truth that our transformation continues.

July... may you be a time of rest, a time when we can as a community and as individuals rest, reflect and recoup the energy we will need to begin again and again as our intentional transformation continues. Rev. Scott will give the majority of his energy in July to focus on our facility, ensuring that we are ready to gather again, in person in a functional and safe space. I will give the majority of my energy in July for wide reaching planning, ensuring that our institutional structures (communications, programs, initiatives, teams, policies, etc.) are in place for the next congregational year. Perhaps you too can choose something to focus on for July that allows you to let go of other obligations in a way that will serve you and your community.

May you rest. May you be well.

## Shelter in This Place: Meditations on 2020

The 2021 volume of the inSpirit Series is an anthology of poems, prayers, and reflections from Unitarian Universalists about their experiences of 2020. It features the first publication in a meditation manual by Rev. Ali K.C. Bell entitled "Psalm 121: We Lift Up Our Weary Eyes" (listed as Ali Bell-Delgado). Please click here to learn more: [tinyurl.com/em9wczyy](https://tinyurl.com/em9wczyy)



## Theme Based Ministry at UUCM

The purpose of theme-based ministry is to foster a cohesive theological understanding by breaking down silos of faith education, and knitting the congregation's programs together, along thematic lines. Secondary purposes include the development of multigenerational connections, the extension of faith development beyond Sunday morning, and the solidification of the correlation between the religious and the practical. To learn more, please contact Rev. Anya ([revanya@uumontclair.org](mailto:revanya@uumontclair.org)).

### Our Vision Includes:

- Programs that are integrated across congregational life
- A central thread that makes congregational life feel cohesive and grounded
- A worship life that builds in depth over the month
- A common language of common religious and spiritual themes
- Congregants of all ages utilizing theology practically to meet the challenges of their lives
- The needs of busy families met with points of access beyond Sunday attendance
- Greater creative collaboration across the creative disciplines, through both lay and staff leadership

### Our Monthly Themes for 2021-22 will be:

September 2021 – Embracing Possibility  
October 2021 – Cultivating Relationship  
November 2021 – Holding History  
December 2021 – Opening to Joy  
January 2022 – Living with Intention

February 2022 – Widening the Circle  
March 2022 – Renewing Faith  
April 2022 – Awakening  
May 2022 – Nurturing Beauty  
June 2022 – Celebrating Blessings



## A Message from UUCM's Re-Opening Implementation Team (RO-IT)

*Submitted by Peter Arian and Rae Dumont, Co-Chairs of the RO-IT*

The Re-Opening Implementation Team (RO-IT) will regularly offer updated recommendations, as our congregation begins to re-open. We all look forward to reconnecting in person as the COVID pandemic recedes. And we will work hard to avoid regrettable mistakes in the process.

Our guiding principles are:

**BE SAFE  
BE INCLUSIVE  
EVALUATE RISK/REWARD**



We will continue to base our recommendations on the evolving scientific data, the recommendations of the CDC and developing societal norms; however, we will adapt these recommendations, which are formulated for individual safety, in order to **keep our most vulnerable members safe within our community**.

We will endeavor to ensure that no activity excludes anyone from participation. This means **making a virtual option available to most congregational events**.

We aim to re-open for regular indoor in-person gatherings the weekend of September 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please keep in mind that whatever we recommend today, will probably change tomorrow. The data on numbers of Covid infections keep coming in, as does information on vaccine efficacy and variants.

**So please stay tuned, and join us in being flexible, as any or all of these plans may change.**

### The specifics we are considering include:

1. The **9:30 service** will be offered to anyone, vaccinated or not. Physical distancing (by family or friend group) and wearing masks will be required for all attendees. There will be music but no congregational singing. We may ask those who wish to attend to make reservations to keep our capacity to its limit of 50 persons for this service.
2. For the **11:15 service**, we urge all attendees to be vaccinated. Those not vaccinated must wear a mask. Masks will be optional for those who are vaccinated. The congregation will participate in singing, the choir may sing, and the service will resemble the worship experience you remember.
3. **Connection Café** will be held after each service. Connection Café in person after the 9:30 service will require masks. We will emphasize **Connection** over the **Café**. There will likely not be food, but we may offer beverages. A virtual Connection Café will hopefully be offered as well.
4. The **RE program** will be offered as "Multi-Platform" - delivered in person, as well as virtually, limiting the number of children in each room for appropriate distancing (current CDC guideline is 3 feet). Masks will be worn by unvaccinated children when indoors. RE teachers are expected to be vaccinated. RE will occur during the **11:15 service**.
5. We will begin Live-Streaming Sunday mornings in person from the UUCM Sanctuary at 10AM, on Sunday, August 1. A small number (app. 20) of UUCM's members will be permitted to reserve spaces to join the worship team and tech crew on those Sundays. Stay tuned for details as to how you can register and join us in person."
6. We aim to have all spaces use well-ventilated and employing air filtration.

# FAQ'S

## Where can I watch Sunday Services?

On Sundays, watch live at 10am visit: <https://www.facebook.com/uumontclair/live>. Watch past sermons on our YouTube page ([www.youtube.com/user/uumontclair](https://www.youtube.com/user/uumontclair)). Please read Page 10 for more information on Summer services.



## How can I access Closed Captioning for virtual services and meetings?

There are apps available for iPhone (<https://otter.ai/login>) and Android (<https://www.android.com/accessibility/live-transcribe/>) that can assist you. Zoom has announced it will provide its high-quality ASR captions (Live Transcript) FREE for people with hearing loss, as well as other groups who require this feature for accessibility reasons. Click here to request access: [tinyurl.com/yd6bn2zb](https://tinyurl.com/yd6bn2zb). This feature will be rolled out to all free accounts by Fall 2021.

## How do I schedule a meeting with a minister?

Contact Rev. Scott ([revscott@uumontclair.org](mailto:revscott@uumontclair.org)) directly. To schedule a meeting with Rev. Anya please use this application: [calendly.com/revanya](https://calendly.com/revanya).

## How do I submit an announcement?

Direct communication to the congregation via all-congregation announcements, postings on the website, social media posts, and printed materials should all go to our Office & Communications Manager Jaclyn Puleo ([officemgr@uumontclair.org](mailto:officemgr@uumontclair.org)). Leaders can communicate with the congregation by sending their announcement with this form: [forms.gle/Bq9bh4mckxU9HJbb7](https://forms.gle/Bq9bh4mckxU9HJbb7). We send out our weekly email blast on Monday. All announcements for the coming week are included in the blast and also added to our website and social media pages. UUCM-related events take precedence over outside events but we do our best to accommodate all requests.

## How do I submit a remembrance?

If you would like a candle lit during Sunday service, please email [remembrances@uumontclair.org](mailto:remembrances@uumontclair.org) no later than Thursday 8:00 AM with your request. Please include a brief description of your candle of sorrow, joy, etc. We will include in our Sunday service along with our weekly eblast and newsletter.

## How do I login to Realm?

Visit: [www.onrealm.org/uumontclair](https://www.onrealm.org/uumontclair). Don't have a login? Contact Danielle Carlo at [admin@uumontclair.org](mailto:admin@uumontclair.org).

## Where can I find links to online meetings?

In two places: Realm and the weekly e-blast. To be added to the e-blast list, please email [officemgr@uumontclair.org](mailto:officemgr@uumontclair.org).

## Can someone help me with virtual programming?

We have several volunteers in the congregation who can act as a 'Buddy' to help you navigate thru Virtual Programming, Zoom and/or Realm. If you would like a Buddy to help you learn any of these platforms, please send Administrator Danielle Carlo an email ([admin@uumontclair.org](mailto:admin@uumontclair.org)) and she will connect you to one of our willing Buddies.





## Family Ministries—Religious Education

*From Judith Hogan, Director of Religious Education*

And suddenly it's Summer! The 2021-2022 RE Program will look very different from RE Programs of the past. As a reopening platform, it will focus on having fUUn, coming together in community, and developing nurturing relationships with ourselves, with each other, and with the world at large. To have RE **EMERGE** from the sidelines of the congregation, **DEEPEN** our youth's involvement within the ministry areas, and **TRANSFORM** the RE Program's relationship with the whole congregation. As we reopen we will imagine, discover and build the RE Program for the future - and create together the most meaningful sustainable program for growing young UUs. We will kick off the start of this **NEW RE PROGRAM ADVENTURE** with an All Congregation, Multi-Gen Scavenger Hunt.

The students will learn about our foundational Unitarian Universalist 6 Sources and 8 Principles through creative, experiential Activity Groups with online aspects (where possible - multi-platform). This includes:

- Focussed creative multi-age groups of like-minded kids.
- Compassion for each other and ourselves
- Relationship building post COVID restrictions

**Activity Groups (See detailed descriptions below):**

1. Creative Edge
2. Into The Woods - Nature's Bounty
3. Dungeons & Dragons
4. Minecraft
5. Mindfulness, Yoga, Meditation
6. Living Traditions - Rotating workshops using the best of Heeding The Call, Bibleodeon, Neighboring Faiths, Coming of Age, Life Hacks, etc. ( 3rd Semester
7. OWL Classes (8th in the 2nd & 3rd trimester 4th & 5th in the 3rd trimester)

### Activity Group/Experiential Learning:

Experiential learning is an engaged learning process whereby students “learn by doing” and by reflecting on the experience. Aspects of experiential learning:

1. Reflection, critical analysis and synthesis.
2. Opportunities for students to take initiative, make decisions, and be accountable for the results.
3. Opportunities for students to engage intellectually, creatively, emotionally, socially, or physically.
4. A designed learning experience - learners engage intellectually, emotionally, socially, and/or physically, which creates a perception that the learning task is authentic.

**The Student Groups:**

**Young Souls** - Kindergarten through 5th Grade

**Wise Peers** - 6th Grade through 9th Grade

**Bright Beings** - Senior Youth

**The Activity Groups:**

- **Creative Edge** - (Largest Multi-Age group Option - also the best option for multi-platform tech). Students will learn how to frame concepts like dignity, justice, and compassion and to capture and convey powerful messages through their chosen artistic medium - Poetry, Spoken Word, Music, Painting, drawing, cell phone or real camera photography, etc. **Teaching Team TBD**
- **Into The Woods - Nature's Bounty** - medium sized - **Outdoor Education** engages participants in practical and active learning experiences, typically in natural settings, for benefits to the person, community and nature. **Teaching Team TBD**

# Religious Education Continued

- **Dungeons & Dragons** (West Marches Campaign Model) - Creative role playing game where students create characters to inhabit that can give kids already grappling with complicated questions about their lives ways to safely explore different aspects of themselves. **Teaching Team:** Ted Hunter, Matt Brown, Steve Ramshur
- **Minecraft** - (another good option for multi-platform) - Immersive gaming environment proven to lend itself to developing UU concepts in a gaming environment. **Teaching Team TBD**
- **Mindfulness, Yoga, Meditation** - All ages. Intention to cultivate awareness (and return to it again and again; Attention to what is occurring in the present moment (simply observing thoughts, feelings, sensations as they arise); Attitude that is non-judgmental, curious, and kind. **Teaching Team TBD**
- **Living Traditions - 3rd Semester** - (a good option for multi-platform) - A Workshop Rotation Model where seasoned teachers bring their gifts from known classes or something they've created into a new setting. Rotating workshops using the best of Heeding The Call, Bibleodeon, Neighboring Faiths, Coming of Age, Life Hacks, etc. (possibly 2nd trimester, definitely 3rd). **Teaching Team:** (Seasoned Veteran teachers teach targeted workshops)
- **OWL Classes** will continue with the alternating schedule as planned by the OWL Coordinator. 8th grade OWL, and 4th & 5th grade OWL will take place in 2022.

## RESOURCES:

### The 6 Sources:

1. **Direct experience** of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in **all cultures**, which moves us to a **renewal of the spirit** and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. **Words and deeds** of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with **justice, compassion**, and the transforming power of **love**;
3. **Wisdom** from the world's **religions** which inspires us in our **ethical and spiritual life**;
4. **Jewish and Christian teachings** which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. **Humanist teachings** which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of **science**, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. **Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions** which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature

### The 8 Principles Kids Version/Adult Version:

- **KIDS - 1st Principle: We believe that each and every person is important**  
Adults - **1st Principle:** The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- **KIDS - 2nd Principle: We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.**  
Adults - **2nd Principle:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- **KIDS - 3rd Principle: We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.**  
Adults - **3rd Principle:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- **KIDS - 4th Principle: We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.**  
Adults - **4th Principle:** A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- **KIDS - 5th Principle: We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.**  
Adults - **5th Principle:** The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- **KIDS - 6th Principle: We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.**  
Adults - **6th Principle:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- **KIDS - 7th Principle: We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.**  
Adults - **7th Principle:** Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
- **KIDS - 8th Principle: We believe in a multicultural, diverse and beloved community by working together to dismantle racism.**  
Adults - **8th Principle:** We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountability dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.



## How do I make a monetary donation to UUCM?

You can visit our website at [www.uumontclair.org](http://www.uumontclair.org). Our homepage has buttons on how to donate electronically. You can also text **UUCM Plate \$5** or **UUCM MESH \$5** (or the dollar amount of your choice) to **73256**. Standard text message rates do apply. Checks may also be made out to **UUCM**. Please use the memo line to indicate to us your intentions (i.e., Annual Pledge, Plate Collection, MESH). You can also make donations via electronic funds transfer (EFT).

## Supporting UUCM on Amazon

Please consider supporting UUCM by shopping on AmazonSmile. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to UUCM. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know—same products, same prices, same service. AmazonSmile has donated over \$200 million to charities worldwide! You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair by shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1526651](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1526651) or with AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app. UUCM recently received \$116.66 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2021.



Whether or not you are writing your first will or updating an existing one, we hope that you'll include a gift to our congregation. Bequests and other estate gifts come in all shapes and sizes and are different from family to family. Anyone who wants to make a gift to our Congregation in their will or currently has the option to do so.



You do not have to be a millionaire to make a planned gift to our congregation. Now is an excellent time to be thinking about the legacy we leave not only to our families but also to the broader world. Our Congregation with its emphasis on both Social Equity and Social Justice is an excellent recipient for a part of that legacy.

Planned Giving is part of Stewardship which is about giving in a variety of ways to ensure the robust future of our Congregation. Stewardship is rooted in giving as a spiritual practice and not just about money. Planned giving can occur today or in the future and it is a donation above and beyond our regular giving through pledges, fundraising, or giving at the weekly service. The basic methods of planned giving are:

- Cash today – a donation to the Endowment or other Congregation fund.
- Cash in the future – part of a will, trust, or a beneficiary designation on a retirement account. If the giving is in the future it is known as a bequest.
- Stocks Given today for a tax deduction or in the future as a bequest.
- Life insurance Policy beneficiary designation which is also a future gift.
- Retirement income today to take tax advantage of the tax benefits.
- An immediate contribution to a pooled income fund for current income and the remainder to the Congregation after death.

If you are interested in finding out more about how to make a planned gift, you can talk to either Judy Lutzky or Michael Mernin. Judy is the head of our Planned Giving Committee and Michael is an attorney who can help you complete all four of your estate planning documents for a reasonable fee.





## A Note on Summer Worship

*From Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, Senior Co-Minister*

Last July our congregation partnered with area New Jersey congregations to provide a months worth of virtual worship. This summer we will be doing the same, but this year four more congregations have joined our effort! Please see the back page for the upcoming schedule.

**Our July New Jersey Unitarian Universalist services will premier live at 10:00 AM. Our August and September 5th worship services will be streamed live from the UUCM Sanctuary at 10:00 AM.**

Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/uumontclair/live](https://www.facebook.com/uumontclair/live)

In August, a small in-person congregation will also be encouraged to attend. A reservation link will be provided via our weekly email and our Realm communications.

**On September 12, 2021 we will resume 9:30 and 11:15 AM worship services.** Please refer to the **detailed instructions** ([tinyurl.com/ROIT0621](https://tinyurl.com/ROIT0621)) from our Reopening Implementation Team for engaging these services from the sanctuary at UUCM. Please note, we will also continue to live stream, after we reopen, to Facebook at the 11:15 AM service only and then upload to YouTube.

**Sacred Wheel CUUPs will be holding their first Lughnasadh ritual.** Lughnasadh, also known as Lammas, or First Harvest is August 1, 2021. The sabbat marks the beginning of the harvest season. The festival's name is Gaelic for "Commemoration of Lugh," Lugh is an Celtic God and a member of the Tuatha Dé Danann. Although the sabbat is named after Lugh, it is associated with his foster mother Tailtiu, who cleared the way for the introduction of agriculture in Ireland. An announcement with date and time to come. Email [sacredwheelcuups@uumontclair.org](mailto:sacredwheelcuups@uumontclair.org) for more info or visit: [facebook.com/groups/UUCMSacredWheel](https://facebook.com/groups/UUCMSacredWheel). All are welcome.



## On That Note...

*From Markus Grae-Hauck, Director of Music Ministries*

The transition into lockdown last year was difficult, not just because it was a change (which we all resist, always) but also because we were heading into the unknown. Our current process is a little less anxiety-filled because we have an idea of what is coming (or at least we think that we do). Still, it is a time that is challenging because it feels in flux, and many of us are hoping to get through this time as fast as possible, so we can "get back to normal."



I too frequently experience this drive to escape the now in search of a presumably more stable future. At times though, I wonder: is it possible that by focusing on that elusive future state, we miss the richness and opportunity of the present? It's a tricky question, because as soon as we try to encapsulate this moment in order to formulate what we can appreciate about it, it is already gone and has given way to a different reality. If we truly want to experience this time in all its fullness, we need to stay aware, now... and now... and now.

Here is a song that expresses this idea in a delightfully playful way: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4UkZ6J9A58](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4UkZ6J9A58). Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you soon!

# Remembrances

*Remembrances will be shared over email, but not in the worship services, from June 20, 2021 through the end of July. Please send your remembrances to [remembrances@uumontclair.org](mailto:remembrances@uumontclair.org) to have them included in the Monday e-blast.. Congregants are still, however, welcome to share their remembrances in the chat on Facebook or YouTube during Sunday service, as they are moved. These shared worship services, will allow our worship and tech teams to experience some well needed rest and they will provide our congregation with meaningful connections to Unitarian Universalist institutions beyond our own. If you would prefer not to have your concern publicly known, email your name, address, phone number to [PastoralCare@uumontclair.org](mailto:PastoralCare@uumontclair.org) and explain your situation or concern.*

- *Michael Hetrick lit a candle of remembrance for his "Big Uncle and Big Aunt," Joe Cirelli Sr. and Judy Cirelli. Joe passed away suddenly Tuesday, June 1, 2021 from heart disease; and his loving wife Judy passed Tuesday, June 16, 2021 following a terrible fall and head trauma. Michael shares, "While they weren't directly related to me, they were a meaningful part of my family and will be greatly missed."*
- *Judith Rew lit a candle of pride and joy for her son Oliver Rew who graduated on June 12, 2021 with an MS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and his wonderful girlfriend Andrea Hamblen who graduated with an MS in Speech Therapy.*
- *We lit a candle of Pride and Joy for our town and our Social Justice Coalition who has worked with our council member Peter Yacobelis to improve the livability of LGBTQI individuals with the passing of the Employment and Township Contractor Non-Discrimination Ordinance and an Ordinance to Require All-Gender Restrooms.*
- *Randi Hawkins, Peter Arian and our congregation's MESH Cafe community lit a candle for Juanita Morgan. Juanita was a guest for many years who recently passed away. She was a wonderful person who only complained if we didn't have a dairy free option... This light shines for Juanita.*
- *Ann Trip and Foxy Pullen lit a candle for their longtime friend Tom Murphy who is currently in the hospital with a bone infection facing surgery any day now. Ann and Foxy also lit a candle of remembrance for Foxy's late husband and Ann's elder Hermotimus. June 12 was his birthday.*
- *Dana Moore lit a candle of healing for Kevin Pierre and his mother Rosina Marina Monsegue. Dana also lit a candle for Peter Arian and his father, Elliot Arian who was born in 1929 and jokes that his parents couldn't afford a middle name... May the chuckle of joy we just felt surround them in their healing and transitions.*
- *Kathryn and Judd Counsell lit a candle in mourning for their friend Mark Jensen, who died suddenly. Mark had an incredibly fun and joyful spirit and a knack for lifting up everyone he met. He adored his wife Maria and his twin boys Wyatt and Waylon. We were lucky to have known him.*
- *The MESH team lit a candle in sadness, marking the passing of Maureen Brady, a frequent MESH guest. May our hearts be with her and her family.*
- *Peg Seip lit two candles of joy for the college graduations of Sam Schuman (from Oberlin) and Zach Schuman (from Occidental) last month. And Peg also lit a candle of joy as she and Tony just celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary! So much joy. We celebrate with the Seip family.*
- *Ami Brabson and her family lit a candle of remembrance for Andre's father, Floyd Braugher. He died 10 years ago on Memorial Day. We miss him.*
- *Dionne Ford lit a candle in remembrance of her uncle, Walter Ford, who died in February at the age of 88; for her friend, Kevin Lyle Thomas who died in April of COVID at the age of 65; her friend, Erik Pedersen who died in January at the age of 85, and their friend Leslie Hirschorn who died in July at the age of 56 of gun violence.*
- *Mary Moriarty lit a candle of hope and support for a friend and member of UUCM who is going through a difficult process of testing and diagnosis.*
- *We lit a candle for the people of Palestine and Israel. This light shines in solidarity with all who suffer under the throes of violence and all those who strive for understanding and peace.*
- *Nicole Gray and Dana Moore lit a candle for the Ellis-Strelnick Family. The adoption of young adult Reine, who has been living with the Ellis-Strelnick family since the death of her father, is being finalized. This light shines to announce the beauty of this family and the possibility of their lives together.*
- *Rev. Ali lit a candle in thanks for the love and support of the congregation and for the beautiful stole that was given to me. I am deeply honored and grateful to carry it with me through my ministry.*
- *The Natto-Moore family lit a of Celebration for the life of Nicole S. Gray who brings so much light (and coffee) to our lives. Happy Birthday, Dear Friend!*



You are invited to join us for our virtual Connection Café every Sunday at 11:00 AM via Zoom. Participants report that this format allows us to build relationships across the congregation in ways that will sustain us as individual participants and support our growth as a community. **Would you like to host and be our virtual barista?** We welcome groups and individuals. Our team handles all of the tech (we hold planning sessions on Saturdays). Virtual baristas get to pick the welcome music, poll the participants/gather needed info, share group/individual goals and activities, and make a call to action (invitation, request for help/volunteers etc.). Visit: [tinyurl.com/y8y9eemg](https://tinyurl.com/y8y9eemg) to view available spots. Email [connectioncafe@uumontclair.org](mailto:connectioncafe@uumontclair.org) for more info. So grab your coffee and join us for a fun way to connect on Sunday morning. All are welcome. We hope you can join us! **Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/98495539203> / Phone # +1 929 205 6099 / Meeting ID: 984 9553 9203



## Find us on social media!

Join us on social media by visiting us at:

Facebook: [UU Congregation at Montclair](#)

Twitter: [@uumontclair](#)

Instagram: [uu\\_montclair](#)

YouTube : [www.youtube.com/channel/UCiu\\_muZvGUZpyiDUft88hMg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiu_muZvGUZpyiDUft88hMg/)



If you have an update or announcement you would like posted through our social networks or on our website, send to [officemgr@uumontclair.org](mailto:officemgr@uumontclair.org).



The Care Team will continue an effort to reach out, by phone, to all members in the congregation. These congregational calls, made twice last year, were very successful. Our goal is to feel connected in a very disconnected time. The purpose of these calls is to ask how you and your family are doing at this time. The Care Team looks forward to reaching out to each family. If we don't reach you,

we will leave a voicemail with our name and phone number. You may return the call or answer it next time when you recognize the phone number. After several tries, we will send you with an email. If you are in need of support or know of someone who could benefit from the services the Care Team provides, such as a call, visit, a ride or meal or help with shopping, please share this with the caller or contact Arlene at [careteam@uumontclair.org](mailto:careteam@uumontclair.org).

**Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?** The UU Care Team Ministry is a wonderful way to do service and help out your fellow UU's. The Care Team and Membership Team are actively reaching out to all members of the congregation. If you are interested in volunteering with this effort or other services we offer, please email [careteam@uumontclair.org](mailto:careteam@uumontclair.org).

Rev. Anya is the point of contact for our Care Team Ministries, but both Revs. Anya and Scott are available for pastoral care. They can be reached at [revanya@uumontclair.org](mailto:revanya@uumontclair.org) or at [revscott@uumontclair.org](mailto:revscott@uumontclair.org).

# Two Communication Transformations

## Gazette Moving to Quarterly, an Experiment

The Gazette is a long established means of community and connection for our congregation. Whenever we ask: "Is anyone reading the Gazette?" We learn back that while the readership is less than ideal it is enough to maintain the publication. Our core staff has determined, however, that a quarterly Gazette is an experiment worth trying. We have heard from some members that we communicate in too many ways, too often, and we hear from other members that they are still missing information. Moving to quarterly will give us more time to focus on preparing a high quality publication, efficiently organized and comprehensive. We expect that this new quarterly will be of service both for our current community members and for our outreach efforts. Please share your reflections on this proposed change with Rev. Anya at [revanya@uumontclair.org](mailto:revanya@uumontclair.org)

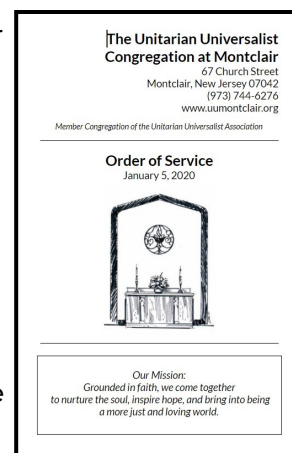


## Printed Order of Service, a Question

Over the last congregational year that we met in person we printed over 100 two page double sided orders of service a week. That is 10,400 sheets of printed paper a year. Over the past year that we met virtually we didn't print any orders of service.

The Order of Service was once important for two main reasons - it provided information on the service elements (such as readings or hymns) and it provided contact information and announcements that promoted engagement in the life of the congregation beyond the worship service. Our worship and administrative staff is exploring how we might offer these same benefits without the expense (time, energy, and environment) of 10,400 sheets of printed paper.

We imagine having a simple handout for visitors that includes information on the usual liturgy (the flow of the service) as well as contact information, we imagine providing a QR code that will allow all congregants to access the service information and pertinent announcements, and we imagine using the projector screen (for in-person worship) and the worship slides (for virtual worship) to guide congregants through the service elements. Please share your reflections on this potential change with Rev. Anya at [revanya@uumontclair.org](mailto:revanya@uumontclair.org).



## UUCM Hiking GroUUp

Our Hiking GroUUp is one of our newest groups at UUCM. It's a great way to make socially distant outdoor re-connections with other outdoorsy UUs. We meet every month on the second Saturday of the month. Our next meeting will be on **July 10 & August 14, 2021** at 10:30 AM. **PLEASE REGISTER** at <https://tinyurl.com/y7zl8cwz>.

Within the registration is the question, "Are you willing to be an ORGANIZING LEADER of the Hiking GroUUp?" **Responsibilities of the UUCM Hiking GroUUp Leaders are:**

- Determine the frequency of hikes
- Plan the hikes - noting information about hike intensity (beginner, moderate, advanced, etc.)
- Provide specific meeting information - parking, (GPS if possible), description, etc.
- Bring your knowledge of hiking and all around love of the outdoors and share it with the group.

**Questions?** Email [hike@uumontclair.org](mailto:hike@uumontclair.org). Happy Hiking!







Since 2001, Covenant Groups have been an important lay led small group ministry at UUCM. They're instrumental in providing the opportunity to build and strengthen social and spiritual connections in our community. Information on our current groups is listed below. Explore our existing Covenant Groups by visiting:

[www.uumontclair.org/commuunity/covenant-groups/](http://www.uumontclair.org/commuunity/covenant-groups/) or contact

Covenant Group Program Coordinator Claudia Sanders at [covenantgroups@uumontclair.org](mailto:covenantgroups@uumontclair.org).

- **Soul Matters Covenant Groups:**

Each will meet monthly and consider the theme of the month and to share personal reflections of our respective life journeys relative to each theme.

- **Monday Soul Matters** meets on the fourth Monday at 4:00 PM.
- **Wednesday Soul Matters** meets the third Wednesday at 7:30 PM.

- **Drop In Covenant Group** meets weekly on Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Looking for spiritual connection in this time of distancing? This group creates connection through a chalice lighting, check-in and discussion. No commitment is required - drop-in any week. Open to High School Youth and Adults. Zoom link: [uuma.zoom.us/j/670520878](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/670520878)

- **New Member Covenant Group** is for new members & visitors who wish to know the congregation better.

- **Art and Soul** welcomes anyone with a passion for the visual arts; anyone who finds spiritual connection and personal expression within the act of making, contemplating and/or discussing visual creation and ideas relating to it.

- The **Poetry Covenant Group** is open to those who enjoy reading poetry and sharing this love with others. After the reading of each poem there is an opportunity for a discussion of the offering. You can also bring a favorite poem to share.

- Our **Food Diplomacy Covenant Group** is returning! Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

- Our **Positive Place Covenant Group** welcomes family members of people with a mental illness. Our mission is empowerment, friendship and support.

- **Writing as Spiritual Practice is our newest Covenant Group!** Prior to meeting, we will write a reflection based on the monthly theme. During the meeting, we will share our written work aloud to fuel a deeper understanding of the topic and what it means to each of our lives.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Membership Poll

The Membership Team is reaching out to better understand the needs of the UUCM community and to make sure our team is visible and connected to the congregation. Please take a moment to take our Membership Team Poll ([poll.app.do/uucm-membership-committee-poll](https://poll.app.do/uucm-membership-committee-poll)) to better serve our community.

### Newcomer Connections

Are you new to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair? Join with one of our ministers and other newcomers to for a short, honest, in-depth conversation. Our next meetings will resume on the first Sunday of the month beginning in October 2021.

### Pathways to Membership Class

Join us for a 2-session Pathways to Membership Class as we deepen our understanding of the intricacies of the UU tradition as well as the complexity of our congregational life. This class is your path to becoming a member and joining UUCM. Details on our next session will be provided soon.

### New Member Covenant Group

Brand New to UUCM, or new in the past few years? This welcoming group is for new members and visitors who wish to know the congregation better. Our next meeting will be held in the fall of 2021.



Please email [admin@uumontclair.org](mailto:admin@uumontclair.org) for Zoom links.

The **Senior Lunch Bunch** meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from Noon to 1:30 PM. Our next meetings will be on **July 14 & 28 and August 11 & 25, 2021**. Our meetings focus on simply sharing general conversation about things that we have done recently and things going on around us. Remember, all UUs and their friends are welcome; there are no age constraints on participation.



Our **UUCM Women's Group** meets on Friday, **July 9 & August 13, 2021** from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Please email [womensgroup@uumontclair.org](mailto:womensgroup@uumontclair.org) to get info or get on the email list. Come and enjoy the company and support of other women! Our intention is to be compassionate to one another by being responsive to each other's needs, maintaining and respecting each other's confidentiality, while being responsible for our own needs.

The **UUCM Men's Group** welcomes everyone who identifies as male to share mutual support and discussions about our lives, triumphs, and struggles. Our next Zoom meeting will be on **July 10 & August 14, 2021** at 8:30 AM. Email [mensgroup@uumontclair.org](mailto:mensgroup@uumontclair.org) for information.

The **UUCM Dream Group** meets on Monday **July 12 & August 9, 2021** from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Are you interested in learning more about what your dreams can reveal about you and your life? Bring a brief written description of a recent or past dream to share. Instructions for new members will be provided.

The **Crazy QUilters** meet on Saturday **July 17 & August 21, 2021** at 11:00 AM. Join this growing community whether you are a novice or expert crafter. Email us for patterns at [crazyquilters@uumontclair.org](mailto:crazyquilters@uumontclair.org). Financial support to help with our supplies can be made using the Donate button at [www.uumontclair.org](http://www.uumontclair.org), for the fund for "Crazy QUilters Donations".

Our **Grief Support Group** provides a caring and confidential environment that allows its members to share their experiences with others around their loss. The group is facilitated by an experienced group leader and participation guidelines are provided. Our next meeting will be on **July 19 & August 16, 2021** at 6:30 PM. Email [griefsupport@uumontclair.org](mailto:griefsupport@uumontclair.org) for info. Zoom link: [tinyurl.com/y3d4wjhg](https://tinyurl.com/y3d4wjhg) / Meeting ID: 912 9182 8114 / Passcode: UUCM

**UUs for Jewish Awareness**, is open to all members and friends of UUCM who have Jewish roots or relatives and/or an interest in learning more about Jewish customs and culture. We meet on Monday, **July 19 & August 16, 2021** at 7:30 PM.

Our **Short Fiction Group** meets on Tuesday, **July 27 & August 23, 2021** at 1:30 PM. We read 30-35 pages of short fiction from various collections of stories each month, and we welcome those who read the stories and come prepared for a good discussionUUCM

**UUCM Theater Group** meets monthly for virtual play readings that incorporate UU monthly themes. No memorization and no rehearsals necessary. UUCM member Laura Thomas will provide scripts a week prior to the meet. We meet on Saturday, **July 24 & August 28, 2021** at 7:30 PM.

## Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

*Submitted by Mary Moriarty, on behalf of Our Positive Place Covenant Group*

July has been designated "Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month." Though mental health issues affect every race and ethnicity, Moore Campbell recognized that access to quality mental health care is not the same for all segments of the US population and she worked to increase that access. While Black and Brown people are already targeted within racist policing systems, their vulnerability in front of the police is heightened yet again when they are suffering from mental illness. In January 2021, the journal "Annals of Epidemiology" confirmed that police will more likely kill unarmed Black men showing signs of mental illness than unarmed White men showing such signs. Each of the following Black or Brown men were in the throes of a mental health crisis when police killed them:



Say his name: Daniel Prude. Killed by police (Rochester NY) in March 2020.

Say his name: Ricardo Muñoz. Killed by police (Lancaster, PA) in September 2020.

Say his name: Walter Wallace Jr. Killed by police (Philadelphia, PA) in October 2020.

Say his name: Angelo Quinto. Killed by police (Antioch, CA) in December 2020.

Though Marcus Smith died in September 2018, it has only recently come to light that this Black man's death was not by suicide. Smith was having a mental health crisis in Greensboro, NC and approached police officers asking for help. Instead they brutally hogtied him, foreseeably leading to his death.

Say his name: Marcus Smith. Killed by police (Greensboro, NC) in September 2018.

The Mental Health Task Force at UUCM has been created to ensure the full inclusion of all members and friends affected by mental health conditions in the full life of our community and to offer a safe space free from discrimination and stigma. For more information, please contact Carol McGough via Realm or email [covenantgroups@uumontclair.org](mailto:covenantgroups@uumontclair.org).

## UUCM's Theater Collective

The Theater Collective continued monthly play readings through the Theatre Group's virtual performance of *I Remember Mama* by John van Druten. Its relation to the UUCM monthly theme of "story" was readily apparent as the drama uses a framing device from opening scene with the narrator Katrin, child of a Norwegian immigrant family in twentieth-century San Francisco, recollecting her youth from the vantage point of a successful writer. The ways struggling groups construct narratives to recall cultures left as well as assimilate into US culture is explored, as well as strong family ties, banking discrimination against ethnic newcomers, and labor issues as well as light-hearted vignettes including amateur veterinarian practice with surprising results that formed the basis of her writing career.



The cast included members Ginny Crooks/Katrin, Sue Raufer/Papa Act I, Gary Sanderson/Mr Hyde, Hank Fandel/Uncle Chris/Nels, Carol McGough/Aunt Trina, and Laura Thomas/Papa Act II, Arne/Soda Clerk/Dorothy /Bell-Boy. Guests included Heidi Knowlton/Florence, Dana Moore/Dagmar, Beth Kearney/Mama, Mary Catherine Nakrosis/Christine, Cathy Thomas/Aunt Jenny, Sarah Nakrosis/Aunt Sigrid.

June's meeting will take on the UUCM theme of "play" by enjoying "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on Saturday, **June 26, 2021** at 2:00 PM. All interested in reading or listening please see the "event" on Realm and RSVP, as this play will be pre-cast to allow readers extra time to prepare the Shakespearean dialogue. For more information, reach out to Laura Thomas at [Theater@uumontclair.org](mailto:Theater@uumontclair.org) or RSVP on Realm.



## Racism As We See It

*Submitted by Jane Gaertner on behalf of the Undoing Racism Team*

As we continue our time of transitions, the Undoing Racism Team looks forward to working with our congregation to live into the Eighth Principle. Building on our work to undo structural and institutional racism, we are proud that UUCM has embraced dismantling racism within our own lives and our congregation. To that end, we are forming a sub-team to assess the congregation's anti-racist environment, and invite you to participate in this initiative starting in the fall.



Anneliese Scherfen is now coordinator of the Undoing Racism Team. I am co-coordinator. There are several new roles for congregational members and guests to become involved in, please view our new 'Charge Document' which outlines these roles and reach out to Anneliese Scherfen at [undoingracism@uumontclair.org](mailto:undoingracism@uumontclair.org).

The Sunday, June 13, 2021 UUCM Service ([youtu.be/kNOo5sZne7w](https://youtu.be/kNOo5sZne7w)) delivered a powerful charge to the congregation to become active in the work to create safe spaces in our community and lead the way in social justice work. As Rev. Ali K.C. Bell passionately preached, it is everyone's work to commit to this work, which is not limited to learning what a microaggression is and how we can support everyone's mental health challenges. We witness violence and injustices. We must learn how to become antiracist daily, not limited to education regarding reparations and/or other justice efforts. We must truly live in covenant.

The first antiracist training URT offered at UUCM in 1992 by the Peoples' Institute for Survival and Beyond changed my life, and many others' lives, in this crucial work. We look to the Sankofa bird for inspiration. We look to one another for accountability.

## Allies for Racial Equity (ARE)

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 13 & August 10, 2021, at 7:30 PM.

Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) is a race based affinity group intended to ground white people in accepting their own whiteness without shame or defensiveness, with curiosity around how whiteness has played out in their family and history to build healthy anti-racist identities. Additionally, ARE disrupts oppression, uproots white supremacy, and plants seeds of justice. This is a ministry of faith which leads all who participate to spiritual growth and wholeness. We honor each other's humanity and capacity for growth by offering ourselves and each other grace and accountability.



To become more familiar with our group, please visit: [tinyurl.com/2fd5furb](https://tinyurl.com/2fd5furb).

## Black Lives of UU Montclair (BLUUM)

Black Lives of UU Montclair (BLUUM) is for all people connected to Unitarian Universalism that identify as Black. We recognize that Identity is a deeply personal and sensitive subject for many of our members and we are committed to creating and maintaining safe, and supportive space for our diverse communities. Our group was created to meet the needs of our growing, diverse communities with the help and Focused Initiative of Intern Minister Ali K.C. Bell, and is coordinated by member Dana N. Moore. BLUUM, as it is affectionately known, meets on the 3rd Friday of each month from 6:00-7:30 PM. We will meet next on **July 16 & August 20, 2021**. We invite all Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color (BIPOC) UUCM Members, and "UU Friendly" folks to join us at one of our upcoming meetings. Please connect with us via email at ([bluum@uumontclair.org](mailto:bluum@uumontclair.org)) and find us on Realm for regular updates.



## Sharing Our Riches

As Unitarian Universalists, one thing that we value is the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part. The health of this web relies on us giving of our time, our talents, and our resources. When you give monetarily to the U, 80% of your gifts will care for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, and 20% will support our justice recipient.

**Our March recipient was [Nancy's Place](#)**, a residential crisis center for youth who have suffered from abuse, neglect, abandonment, homelessness, and human trafficking build a life for themselves. Their values align with our UU values of "inherent dignity of every person - with an equal claim to life, liberty and justice". We collected a total donation of \$437.28 for them.

**Our May recipient was [Wind of the Spirit](#)**, an organization that works with immigrant communities to ensure their access to information and empowerment. To learn more, please visit: [wotsnj.org](http://wotsnj.org). We collected a total donation of \$237 for them.



**Our June and July recipient is the Sharron Miller Academy for the Performing Arts.** A black owned business in Montclair, providing community outreach programs in underserved communities of Essex County is part of their mission. Providing students with dance shoes can be a challenge. **Do you have any kind of dance shoes kicking around the back of a closet?** Children and adult sizes welcome. If you live in Montclair or surrounding towns, Deb Corbett will come and pick them up or you can drop them off on her porch. Please contact her via Realm or email: [sharingourriches@uumontclair.org](mailto:sharingourriches@uumontclair.org).

**Our August and September recipient will be [Isaiah House](#).** Located in East Orange, Isaiah House has been offering comprehensive services to families and individuals since 1988 in Essex County; specifically within the Oranges and Newark. Their mission is to reduce the occurrence of homelessness, hunger and unemployment by providing residential and community programs. They are dedicated to helping those who have been devastated by several crises such as illness, drug addiction, teenage pregnancy and home fires. They offer transitional shelter with the primary focus to preserve the family unit - to ensure that family members remain together. Shelter programs serve teenage girls/boys, disabled single women, women living with HIV/AIDS, mommy and me with on site day care available to residents. Through the residential stay, the programs provided help families make the transition to healthier lives and Isaiah House has been able to report that over 60 percent of the families have successfully relocated to permanent housing. Their Community Service Programs include: Food pantry, rental subsidies, Prevention funds-guidance for assisting with utilities, or back rent. Due to COVI-19, the day care center for the community and the 12 step addiction recovery meetings are not yet active. Despite funding cuts, Isaiah House continues to operate and offers dignified and comprehensive services.



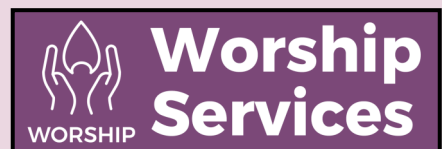


DATED MATERIAL ~ PLEASE EXPEDITE

## Summer 2021

SUNDAYS SERVICES WILL BE STREAMED LIVE AT 10:00 AM  
AT [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UUMONTCLAIR/LIVE](https://www.facebook.com/UUMONTCLAIR/LIVE)

*Find more information on Summer services on Page 9.*



**July 4, 2021**

***"Renewing Together: The Sacred Ground of Interdependence"***

UU Congregation of Monmouth County in Lincroft and The Unitarian Society in East Brunswick

**July 11, 2021**

***"Guardians and Gatekeepers"***

First Unitarian (Fanwood) and the UU Congregation at Somerset Hills and the Co-Ministers from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair.

**July 18, 2021**

***"Regeneration"***

Morristown UU Fellowship and Central Unitarian Church in Paramus

**July 25, 2021**

***"Showing Up Today for the Community of Tomorrow"***

Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit

**August 1, 2021**

***"Well Acquainted with Change"***

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

**August 8, 2021**

***"Emerging Towards A New Truth"***

Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael

**August 15, 2021**

***"Do What Must Be Done"***

UUCM member Charles Loflin

**August 22, 2021**

***"People's Choice"***

Rev. Anya & Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael

**August 29, 2021**

***"Prepare the Way"***

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

**September 5, 2021**

***"We're All Right"***

UUCM member Ghana Hylton