

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!

November 2024

Our Sunday Schedule
Worship at 10:30 am
is now in-person and virtual via Zoom

November Services

Believe in America

Rev. Jaye Brooks

November 3

In this month when our learning and worship theme is repair, we look around at the nation, at the world, and wonder—what will it take to heal the wounds, to bring comfort to those who grieve, to find common ground? And, with a presidential election only two days away, can we assure ourselves and all others that there is reason to believe in America?

Breathing Room

Rev. Jaye Brooks

November 10

One thing that's true about any object that needs repair: it has to come apart before it can be restored to wholeness. Is that at all comforting today? Possibly not. But if we can take a moment to breathe, to create a little room for others to breathe, perhaps we can find healing within ourselves; perhaps we can support others in their own healing.

Second Sunday Collection

A potluck luncheon follows the service.

B4 Workshop follows potluck.

Expanding the Welcome Table

Worship Committee and UUSC

November 17

This Sunday you will hear from 1) young climate activists in the Marshall Islands, LGBTQ+ leaders in Ukraine, Haitian academics researching racism's impacts on migrants, and Trans organizers forming networks of Safety. Learn more about UUSC's Guest at Your Table program on pages 5-6 and during this special service.

Stone Soup

Rev. Jaye and Jenn Blosser

November 24

In this Thanksgiving service for all ages, we re-enact the ancient story of Stone Soup. The weary travelers come to a village that's feeling scarcity in all its mot fearful

forms. Yet the suggestion that somehow these travelers can make a delicious soup from water and stones somehow opens the door to a new way of being. To help our children tell this story, please bring in pre-cut vegetables (in baggies suitable for lifting by tiny hands). Also welcome: a few experienced chefs who can pre-start a pot of soup so that by the end of the service there's some ready to share. (Yes, it's magic.)

From Our Minister

Repair

THE HEBREW PHRASE

"Tikkun olam" means "repair the world." Although the specific meaning of "repair" has changed over the centuries, the world's need for healing and repair has never been greater. Humanity has learned to be more humane over the years, at least in its treaties and UN conventions, but in the world writ large we still seem to struggle with simple kindness.



It's easy to scoff at a minister who wants everyone to be nice. Scoff away! But, really, wouldn't it be wonderful to live in a world where various governments did not rain down death and destruction on noncombatants and children? I'm having more and more difficulty with the divergence between the ways that human beings can be kind to their neighbors while their governments are having weaponry slugfest.

I'm old enough to remember the poignant question Rodney King posed, after his entirely unprovoked beating at the hands of white police officers touched off a firestorm of protests. He said, memorably, "Can't we all just get along?" Can't we?

This is the month when we have a presidential election. It has been a stunning (not in a good way) to read and hear the things our political leaders say. Setting aside for a minute the criticisms of one another's characters, it's

astonishing to see 21st century elected representatives impugning whole swathes of ethnic groups—or insisting, using the othering word “they,” that specific human beings somehow caused hurricanes to afflict those who oppose them.

There is truly a need for repair. That need will not decrease after the election regardless of which party wins. And this is where Tikkun olam is a serious responsibility—not only for Jews but also for Unitarian Universalists, regardless of whether they are Jewish. Look around. Repair the world. Start at home, expand to the neighborhood, let the healing grow. Don’t stop at one action. Tikkun olam is a constant series of actions, like breathing.

Let’s breathe together—keep breathing—and repair the world.

- Rev. Jaye Brooks

From Our President

I want to thank everyone for a successful initial UUFHC Project Fair on Sept 22. Based on the reception, I’m certain we will use this same approach again. That said, we are always open to additional volunteers! Don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you have an interest or ability that you want to share with the Fellowship. It’s a tremendous way to engage and connect with your Fellowship. If you have an interest supporting our community outreach, fundraising, membership, safety, buildings & grounds, spirituality, technology, or any other area ... let me know!

During our September Board meeting we agreed to amend our facilities rental agreements to provide for a more regular cleaning of the facility. We also discussed how to best share the church calendar. Are you aware that we have a church Google Calendar? You can access the calendar so that events are visible along with your personal calendar on your laptop or mobile phone. If you would like access, reach out to office@uufhc.net. We are also discussing having the calendar visible on our monitors.

Finally, I’d like to recognize a few of our members. Thanks to **Erin Gallagher** for organizing our presence at the Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride Festival and Silent Witness event. I also want to thank **Cindy & Bob Veidt** for their efforts in assembling the Silent Witness stands. Also a shout out to **Shawna Brinkerhoff** for clarifying the ownership of the special purpose funds to improve the administration.

As always please feel free to reach out to me at any time with your questions or feedback. You can reach me after service or at any time on my email at president@uufhc.net.

*Yours in service,
- Mark Davis*



What’s New in Faith Formation

Sunday Classes for Children & Youth in November

November’s theme is repair and our young folks will be exploring this topic together through stories, crafts, and much discussion. Each Sunday we have class, children and youth will meet in our gathering room to learn about the different class choices that day and then select which they’d like to attend. Then, they’ll follow facilitators to their chosen classroom to let the learning begin! Afterwards, they’ll return to the gathering room to await parent pick-up. We began using this system in October and it’s worked very well to keep everyone organized and engaged, providing socialization time as well as instructional time.

Our class options remain the same year-round:

Loving Hearts & Faithful Hands

This is our crafting class where younger participants can enjoy lessons tailored to them while older participants can take on leadership roles and help their younger classmates.

Hopeful Minds & Truthful Actions

This is our discussion based class where older participants can share what they know and freely delve into “rabbit holes” of discussion about the topic of the week while working on a collaborative art project, which younger participants can assist with as well.

Here’s what our young folks will be exploring in both classes this month:

November 3 - Covenant & What to Do When it Breaks

In September, the children and youth began to rework our Classroom Hallway Covenant (originally written in 2022). In this session, both classes will explore the purpose of covenant in UUism and how we repair it when we break it—and we’ll continue working on our covenant as well!

November 10 - UUs for Fat Liberation

Classes this week will celebrate body diversity and encourage destigmatizing body size (as well as race, dis-

ability, gender expression, etc.) In Loving Hearts & Faithful Hands, we'll use story and art to celebrate the wonderful ways bodies help us to live our lives and all the different, beautiful ways they look. In Hopeful Minds & Truthful Actions, we'll discuss the history of fatness and why society began to frown upon body fat as well as what we can do to repair our personal and collective outlook on body size.

November 17 - UUs & Anti-Racism

Classes this week will explore the work of anti-racism UUs have engaged in throughout our history—as well as times we've fallen short of our ideals, as a faith. Children and youth will be invited to consider how they can be anti-racist and how their faith calls them to this work.

Children & Youth Worship With Us on November 24!

On the last Sunday in November, children and youth are invited to join us for a very special Stone Soup all-ages worship service! There will be plenty of opportunity for them to help tell this beloved story and maybe even make some special soup themselves!



- Jenn Blosser, DFF

Volunteer of the Month

Election day is fast approaching. We thank **Hazel Hopkins** as our Volunteer of the Month for leading the successful **UU the Vote** effort this year. Many members took the time to write and send postcards to potential voters in the swing states that may decide who our next president will be, as well as for members of Congress. Hazel went one step beyond and recruited members to be election judges, a critical role in a time when getting enough election workers is a challenge. Thank you, Hazel, for making a difference this year.



Holiday Bazaar

Friday, December 6, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday, December 7, 9:00 am to 12 noon

This is a great shopping opportunity and our second largest fundraiser. We have holiday decor, many gorgeous gift items, some very good jewelry, tons of toys, and handmade wreaths and center pieces which will update your decorating. All at very reasonable prices. Come check out what many in Harford County have already realized—this is probably the biggest and best holiday bazaar around.



The volunteer work schedule is in the lobby. Please sign up to work the Bazaar, it's important for our church and it's **Fun!**

And remember, after the holidays we start accepting donations in January when you are putting away your decor, please donate the items you don't use any longer.

Thank you for your support and donations.

- Trisha Tatam-McQuate

The Holiday Bazaar Cookie Walk

The time is fast approaching—the UUFHC Holiday Bazaar will be upon us before we know it! As you think about the cookie walk of years past and what we hope to create this year, consider the following:



*What are some of your favorite holiday cookies?
What are the special cookies that you make that your family and friends really enjoy?
What are the ones that you most enjoy baking?*

Whatever that special cookie happens to be, please consider making a batch or two—**or five!** for the holiday bazaar. Just like your family and friends, our visitors to the bazaar will buy and enjoy them too. Variety is key—our visitors buy more when they have more to choose from!

Once again, we are asking volunteers to make and donate **five dozen** cookies. Amazingly we sell almost all that we receive. The cookies are a big part of the holiday bazaar and raise a lot of funds for the Church. The five dozen that you contribute will translate directly to dollars for the Church.

This year, we will be providing recyclable tins and lids for your cookies. We'll let you know when and where you can pick them up. In the meantime, start thinking about the special cookie that you will bake! We'll provide all of the details shortly through NUUwsbytes.

We're also happy to let you know that our youth will play a significant role in helping the Cookie Walk to be a success! They will be baking and selling side by side with the rest of us.

So ... much more information to come. However, if you have any immediate questions, please contact Elesa Eisenhart at eisenhart@gmail.com or Kathy Kraft at kkraft2312@gmail.com.

Remember—the Holiday Bazaar takes place Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7. You can bring your cookies to church on Thursday, or very early Friday morning.

- Trisha Tatam

Have You Ever . . . ?

Wanted to help out in a small way at church?
Wanted to meet new people?
Had a free Sunday with nothing to do at service?

I've got just what you've been looking for! Yup! We are in need of **greeters** here at UUFHC. The presence of a person holding the door and a second person at the greeting table adds a tremendous welcoming spirit. Please consider signing up to be a **greeter** by contacting Hazel at hazelhopkins2@gmail.com or talk to me the next time at church.

- Hazel Hopkins

Building and Grounds News

Summer is definitely behind us now. The summer work party anchored by Ed Roberts, Pat McQuate and Bob Veidt has continued its work. They generally meet on Tuesday mornings and have been joined at times by Dan Feldman, Dwain Felts, and Bill Hofherr. Dwain has donated material to continue the soffit work at the school and is going to pay for a crew to work on the grounds. Our crew did a lot of grounds work around the rental house this week. If anyone is interested in joining the work party some morning, contact Bob Veidt or Ed Roberts.

It is always good news when I can report we are saving money! Our dumpster service was costing us \$217/month for pickups every other week. We have switched to 96 gallon cans for the school and for the Fellowship. There will also be a separate can for recycling, service we have not had in the past. The total cost for this new service will be \$87/month. There may be an occasional event with extra trash that may require a trip to the dump or someone to take a bag of trash home, but the savings make it worth the extra effort.

Thanks to Ed and Kim Roberts who again shampooed the sanctuary carpet. It looks **great!** Please thank them when you see them.

Maureen North, Bill Peirson, Rick Saucier and Bob Veidt have continued keeping the weeds at bay. Bob again tackled the vegetable garden. If anyone is interested in utilizing the vegetable garden area, let Cindy Veidt know. We need to put this area to use for something other than growing a large crop of weeds in the lovely composted soil. Bob actually removed six wheelbarrow loads this past week.

Take care, everyone
- Cindy Veidt

Upcoming Spiritual Development Opportunities

November brings adult education opportunities here at UUFHC to connect with our fellow members. The Central East Region of the UUA also offers opportunities for adults to learn and grow. Following are just some of the many opportunities for adult spiritual development. Find more by going to our webpage, www.uufhc.net and scrolling down to "Spirituality."

Music and Community

Saturday, November 9, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm in the UUFHC Sanctuary

If you love music and want to have more of it in our church life, this retreat is for you! Join us as we deepen our connection with one another, explore how music affects us and our community, and share ideas for bringing more musical opportunities into our congregation. You do not need to be a musician to take part in this retreat! Brenna Kupferman will facilitate. RSVP by November 8 to music@uufhc.net.

A Day Around the Medicine Wheel

Saturday, November 16, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm in the UUFHC Sanctuary

Native American Grandmother Fireheart and teachers of the Buffalo Trace Society will teach us about the Medicine Wheel. Grandmother Fireheart is a Cherokee Metis teacher, and she will share with us how this can help with challenges in our lives and to reconnect us to earth-based practices. Weather permitting, we will visit the medicine wheel that is on the grounds of UUFHC and we will have the opportunity to create a wheel of our own. Contact Beth Wood-Roig or Cindy Curry at onwordjourneys2@gmail.com to register.

And from the Central East Region

Taproot: A National BIPOC Gathering
Monthly beginning Wednesday, November 13, 8:00 to 9:30 pm via Zoom.

BiPoC Leaders in UU congregations are invited to take part in this monthly, virtual gathering as we explore these pillars:

- Rest and Renewal
- Analysis Building
- Leadership Development.

These pillars create means by which to ground ourselves and run resilient communities of care. This year, Taproot's theme is "Leadership as Spiritual Practice," focusing on integrating spiritual groundedness with leadership development. The group explores how personal biography and resilience contribute to effective leadership, and addresses challenges like responding to micro-aggressions and internalized supremacy. To find out more, and to register, go to <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/events/taproot-2024-25>.

UU Wellspring Programs

There are a limited number of UU Wellspring memberships at no cost to congregations smaller than 300 people. The membership includes access to both a UU Sources course and "Love at the Center: UU Values and Covenants. Learn more at <https://uuwellspring.org/>.

UUFHC Hosts True North Concert Series

True North Project will be presenting a concert series at UUFHC beginning in November.

On Saturday, November 23, at 7:00 pm, the **Kennedys** will perform UUFHC. Tickets are \$20 each.

The Kennedys began their writing and touring life three decades ago as members of Nanci Griffith's Blue Moon Orchestra, eventually developing their own sound. Along the way, they hosted "The Dharma Cafe," a nationwide

radio program on Sirius/XM, wrote and released sixteen CDs of original music, and have been core artists on folk radio. In addition to singing and writing, The Kennedys are multi-instrumentalists. Acoustic and electric guitars, a vintage steel guitar, a gospel-inflected piano/organ mix, and even a slide ukulele all add colors to a songbag of sounds that have drawn us together over the years.

"If you get a charge from a rich folk rock vibe, love a super sharp guitar lick, or appreciate a moving story song, you will find all of that on The Kennedy's Headwinds. Pete Kennedy's astonishing range on any guitar he touches deftly underpins every mood of Maura Kennedy's warm, lyrical voice." ~ Marilyn Rea Beyer, Host, WFMT's The Midnight Special & Folkstage.

You can learn more about the Kennedys at <https://www.kennedysmusic.com/>. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.gotrueorth.org/>. Talk to [Pam Burns](#) about the concert series.

Future performances at UUFHC include:

- David Roth - December 14
- Goldpine - January 11
- Chrys Matthews - February 16
- Danny Schmidt - April 26

November Birthdays

We send best wishes to another group of Harvest Season birthday honorees. Our November honorees get an early start on holiday celebrations.



Congratulations, and have a wonderful year.

Kay Saucier	November 2
Martina Kuzenski	November 2
Beth Wood-Roig	November 11
Rebecca Slentz	November 19
Lynn Kirylo	November 21
Emily Whaley	November 23
William Pearson	November 23

UUSC's Guest At Your Table Begins

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Guest At Your Table this year. The theme is "Expanding the Welcome Table." As

in past years, UUFHC members participating pretend to invite one of the four guests to a meal and set aside money in a box to cover the meal. At the end of the campaign, which begins on Thanksgiving and runs through the end of the year, participants count up the money from all the meals they shared with the “guests” and send a check or donate on-line to UUSC. This is their biggest campaign of the year.

This year, the four guests are:

Konea Ishimura helps his community heal from the destructive legacy of nuclear testing by the United States while envisioning a sustainable future for the Marshallese people.

Anna-Maria Tesfaye offers resources and companionship to the LGBTQ community in Ukraine who have been impacted by Russia’s invasion.

Suleyman Wellings-Longmore researches the ways racism is impacting the experiences of migrants of color in the United States.

Pink Haven Coalition creates networks of safety and welcome for trans and gender expansive people forced to flee unsafe states in the United States.

UUSC works with over 50 grassroots partners in more than 20 countries to solve problems stemming from Climate Change, racism, homophobia, food and water insecurity, migration, unsafe living conditions—with just about every world problem. Go to [Guest At Your Table](#) to learn more about the programs. UUSC also offers activities to students to discover the importance of inviting these Guests to the table.

Check Out *InSpirit*’s Holiday Cards

InSpirit, the Unitarian Universalist Association’s bookstore, does offer a wide array of books on spiritual and social justice issues as well as children’s books and UU gifts. *InSpirit* also offers 25 beautiful holiday cards, many from the Syracuse Cultural Workers with a peace and justice theme. These beautiful cards, with messages such as: “Celebrate the Holidays with Joy, Compassion and Community.” Packs of 12 cards are available for \$13.95.

While you are shopping at *InSpirit*, you may find the perfect book as a Christmas gift for a friend or relative.

There are also UU-themed apparel, jewelry and note-cards, also perfect for gifts.

Visit *InSpirit*, the UUA Bookstore at [UUA Bookstore](#). The menu for cards, books and gift items is on the left.



Keep Up With News from the UUA

UUFHC Members receive a subscription to the UU World, but everyone has the opportunity to receive the Unitarian Universalist Association’s digital newsletter, *Wayfinder*. Sign up for this twice a month newsletter at [Wayfinder Newsletter](#). As a *Wayfinder* subscriber, you will get the latest news and storytelling from the writers and editors of *UU World* to help you chart a course that aligns with the Shared Values of Unitarian Universalism. Expect of insight, inspiration, joy, spiritual nourishment and more!



Break Barriers, Build Beliefs (“B4”)

As the first step in the Fellowship’s mission and vision process (part of the interim ministry work), every Fellowship member and friend is encouraged to fill out a truly fascinating survey from the UUA B4 team. It’s online-only at [this survey link](#). The results will inform UUFHC and the B4 team prior to the B4 workshop the Board has scheduled for after the potluck on **Sunday November 10**. Yes, it’s coming soon—so the B4 work-

shop leaders need our responses in advance. And (this is cool), we are the first UU congregation scheduled to have this workshop before we hold our mission/vision Faithful Conversations. We are testing a new approach! In the past, the B4 workshop occurred in the Fall of the year of search for a new minister. The Board thought we would all benefit from doing the B4 training sooner, so it can inform our Faithful Conversations on mission and vision. The UUA agreed and is excited to have UUFHC pioneer this approach. So please complete the survey as soon as possible.



Thanksgiving, Plymouth and the Pilgrims

During November, as we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, we remember our Pilgrim ancestors who sailed from Plymouth, England and Leyden, Netherlands on the *Mayflower* and *Speedwell*. They landed at Plymouth Rock. Right behind Plymouth Rock is First Parish of Plymouth on the site of the Pilgrim's church. Today it is a Unitarian Universalist congregation. The First Parish of Plymouth's website states:

"The congregation has a long tradition of religious freedom and faith that dates back to the pilgrim landing and beyond. We trace our origin back to the year 1606 when a group of dissenters from the Church of England banded together in Scrooby. In 1620 part of the Leyden congregation set sail aboard the *Mayflower*, seeking the freedom to worship according to the dictates of their own conscience in the New World. This history brings us a sense of pride and joy, but we also realize that the present and future need a fresh commitment to maintain a religion of the open mind and heart. Freedom of belief is foundational to Unitarian Universalism. We affirm the worth of all human beings and the integrity of individual thought and action. As a liberal religious community, we share the quest for a practical religion based on deed, not creed."

How has UU faith in the United States evolved from the early Pilgrim church? The Pilgrims were separatist Puritans, but differed from the other Puritan branch in that they sought to separate themselves from the Anglican

Church, rather than reform it from within. They sought to practice Christianity as was done in the times of the Apostles. Following Martin Luther's and John Calvin's Reformations, they believed that the Bible was the only true source of religious teaching. Extras such as clerical vestments and the use of Latin were opposed.

The Pilgrims settled in Plymouth and nearby towns and set up many congregations. There was no central governing body for the churches. Each congregation was left to determine its own standards of membership, hire its own ministers, and conduct business as member saw fit. The church was also the social center of the town. Education of the young happened through the church, and the church was responsible for discipline, rather than civil law. The townspeople could be censured or "put out" if they did not conform with accepted religious and social norms.

Although the Pilgrims had a strong belief in the supernatural, there were only two accusations of witchcraft. One never came to the trial, but another woman was tried and acquitted.

There was a first Thanksgiving feast probably held in October 1621. Perhaps it wasn't as idyllic as the myth, but 53 surviving pilgrims along with Wampanoag leader Massasoit and 90 of his men celebrated three days on numerous types of waterfowl, wild turkeys, fish and deer.

sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plymouth_Colony

- Kay Saucier

Our Next Sharing Table Saturday November 2

Please consider making a few pounds of goulash so that UUFHC volunteers can feed 375 people. It takes a village to put this together. About twice a year UUFHC sponsors the lunch and provides vegetable, salad and dessert. Volunteers provide the main entree. Go to [Sign Up Genius link](#) to sign up. Contact Maureen North, mnorth417@gmail.com with questions. Ask her to send the recipe. It's easy! She will let you know about drop off locations close to the date.

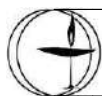
Remember to continue to bring in items for the **Health and Hygiene Pantry**. Especially needed now are bath soap, shampoo, toothpaste, laundry soap, dish soap, disinfectant spray and toilet paper. Marge Calvert comes in to stock the pantry a few times per week. Think about bringing in items when you come on Sunday morning.

The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Harford County
PO Box 535 | 2515 Churchville Road
Churchville, MD 21028

Building Liberal Religious Community
Please Join Us!

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net



Please note: Next Newsletter deadline is Sunday, November 10, 2024



Minister:	The Rev. Jennifer Brooks
Director of Faith Formation:	Jennifer Blosser
Church Administrator:	Karen Kurrle
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle):
Tues & Thurs: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Wed (Home Office): 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Minister's Office Hours:
Sun, Wed & Thurs: Afternoon

Director of Faith Formation Office Hours:
Thurs: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tues, Wed & Fri (Home Office): 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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Wayside Pulpit

We all do better when we all do better.

– Paul Wellstone