



The UUCC Chronicle

April 2020

Worship: 10:00 AM

April 5

She Persisted

Deanna Lack, Speaker

April 12

Dance with the Goddess

Deanna Lack, Speaker

April 19

Earth Day

Norma Scarlett, Speaker

April 26

Holding Love and Grief for the Earth

Deanna Lack, Speaker

May 3

Workers' Rights: International Workers' Day

Troy Smith, Speake

Reflections: 11:00 AM

Every Sunday after Worship, approximately 11:00 AM; Co-facilitated by Susan Ford and Deanna Lack

Reflections is an informal, non-judgmental, small-group discussion of the sermon topic. Participants share thoughts and insights or just listen. All are welcome.

(Online Service Note: As the service wraps up, attendees will take a short break. Remain in the meeting session if you would like to attend Reflections.)

Principle 7 of Unitarian Universalism

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Earth Day

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22. Earth Day is noted as being the largest secular day of observance, with people throughout the world recognizing the importance of having a sustainable impact on our planet. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day.



UU CC Services Go Online

There are very few people on the planet who have not been affected by Covid19. The pandemic has changed the way folks do—well, everything. One change that has affected so very many people is the coming together of religious communities in a sacred space.

Congregations have been faced with the challenge of togetherness in a time when normalcy is unachievable.

Our Board and CLM rose to

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31 West First Street, Cookeville TN 38501

Deanna Lack, CLM

Traci Craighead, Board President

Events

Due to our present circumstances, any events that are hosted by the UUCC will be online. If you have Facebook, events will be posted there. Check your email inboxes for any events that organizers may share via that method. In addition to online services, our CLM, Deanna Lack, is considering a weekly virtual get together on Google hangouts. She may be emailed for details at uucookevilledl@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report

March 2020	
Income:	\$1,767.51
Expenses:	\$ 866.72



Highlights of the Board Meeting

Of March 20, 2020

By Susie Zuller, Board secretary

Susie's notes: Any information placed within brackets was added in consideration of social distancing. The Board meeting occurred before the coronavirus impacted daily life.

The Board of Directors happily announces that Lydia Kramer stepped up to leadership to become your third member-at-large. Lydia was unanimously voted into the position. The Board now consists of the goal of seven members: Tracie, president; Charles, president-elect; Jenifer, treasurer; Susie, secretary; Lydia, Cassandra, and Norma, members-at-large. Considering the 2020-2021 potential Board members, there is still an opening for president-elect (who would be president during the 2021-2022 term). Please contact any Board member for information.

Deanna updated that she has been accepted into the Commissioned Lay Minister program. She and the other four members of the program (from other states) have been meeting via Zoom. De said she does not have a mentor yet but probably soon will. As to networking with other area churches, De said, "I have three ministers from other local liberal churches who wish to get together." These include Michael McLaughlin from First Presbyterian, James Bowman Harris from United Church of Cookeville, and Ann Marie Beale from Unity Church of the Cumberland.

De and Annie Black with the Quakers have been discussing having Spiritual Friends. De said that seven UUCC congregants have signed up already. If you have any questions about Spiritual Friends or wish to become one, please contact De.

Gates announced that the UUCC food pantry is up and running. Gates said, "You just need to bring and take (food items) as needed." The pantry is located in one of the back storage cabinets and is labeled "Food Pantry." If you wish to donate, just bring your non-perishable items. If you need items, please feel free to take as needed. [If you wish to either donate or require food and do not have access to UUCC, please feel free to contact any member of the Board. Somehow, we will make certain that your food needs are covered.]

Gates further announced that Cassandra volunteered to become a service coordinator. Service coordinators and greeters are still needed. The Board discussed the duties of the greeters with the decision being that greeters should do whatever they feel comfortable doing. If you would still like to be either a service coordinator and/or a greeter, please contact Gates.

The Board discussed that Compassionate Communication is no longer occurring because of the need for a facilitator. If you would like to facilitate this important piece of faith development, please contact any Board member.

UUCC still awaits a facilitator for the Social Justice Committee. If this is where your faith passion leads you, please contact any Board member or Deanna to volunteer.

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this challenge. In early March, they made the decision to move our Sunday morning service to an online format. With the help of friends of the congregation, the first service was streamed via the BlueJeans application on March 15, 2020. The first service had an attendance of 11 in-building and 14 online attendees. Beginning with the March 22, 2020 service, the entirety of the service was held online. Attendance for online services is approximately 30.

While there have been some technical difficulties, there have also been some really pleasant aspects to having online services. Our congregation have been able to share sacred space with members who live hundreds of miles away, and reconnecting with these folks has been a joy for all. Members have been able to take the service to the great outdoors (Emily Dickinson would have been proud). Another positive aspect of streaming our services is inviting folks that may be hesitant to enter our building to join in the service with us.

There is a link available for anyone that would like to be part of Sunday morning service. Currently the link is:

<https://bluejeans.com/490876029?src=calendarLink>

To Call In: 18882402560 Meeting ID: 490879029

Please continue to check your email and Facebook for updated links as this one could change.



Some keep the Sabbath

by Emily Dickinson

Some keep the Sabbath going to the Church –
I keep it, staying at Home –
With a Bobolink for a Chorister –
And an Orchard, for a Dome –

Some keep the Sabbath in Surplice –
I just wear my Wings –
And instead of tolling the Bell, for Church,
Our little Sexton – sings.

God preaches, a noted Clergyman –
And the sermon is never long,
So instead of getting to Heaven, at last –
I'm going, all along.

UU Online Service Readiness Kit



A recent “survey” was conducted among our online service attendees, and we have come up with a list of items—partly in fun and partly in seriousness—for optimizing your online service experience:

- Fair Trade Coffee and Tea
- Fresh Air (Don't forget that you can take the service outdoors!)
- Cozy Blanket
- Your four legged church buddy (Who is sure to be a show stopper during Reflections!)
- Multiple devices for connection contingencies
- Your Yarn/Thread Art—Crochet/Knitting/Embroidery

And, last but not least Refreshments are in the kitchen, for if you enjoy refreshments!

A Heartfelt Wish

I want to go from town to town
 And scatter pixie dust around
 So magically the world will be
 A place of peace for you and me.

A place where love and joy prevail,
 And fear and strife does not assail
 Our lives as we live day to day
 In the most fulfilling way.

Race or gender won't divide us.
 Our greatest creed - one to unite us
 In the need to save our planet,
 Instead of taking it for granted.

Not based on reading holy pages
 Or fear of where the hellfire rages.
 Nor even 'cause of pixie dust,
 The truth within is what we trust.

Around the globe, we'll sing and shout it,
 Telling one and all about it.
 Regardless of from where we came,
 In different ways we're all the same.

By Sandra Jordan



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In consideration of the EF-4 tornado that tore through parts of Putnam County on March 3, Gates said, "We are going to be working with Providence Baptist Church and hopefully some other churches in the area to create bags of books for students who have been affected by the

tornadoes (particularly Baxter middle school students). The intention is to bring comfort and normalcy to these children who have lost everything." Gates will collect and store donated books. If you have books to donate or wish to help in any other way with tornado assistance, please contact Gates. [Or contact any Board member who will direct you to how to contact Gates.]

Rochelle, UUCS's community outreach director, stated that our Vroom grant of \$2500 was written to encompass four counties but is actually closer to 14 counties. Her activities this month included distributing over 250 children's books, giving training to youth-serving organizations in the Upper Cumberland, and reaching out to area Head Start programs.

Jenifer reported that UUCS is still operating in the black as monthly income is keeping pace with expenses. Norma said she had received \$89 from the donated books taken to McKay's and the check was given to the treasurer.

The Board decided how to best equitably and easily conduct the service and goods auction. If there is more than one of the same item (e.g., help with technology), then each bidder receives the item at their own bid. If there is only one item (e.g., the green Buddha), then the highest bidder wins. If there are, for example, ten bids for four items (e.g., boxes of personal care products), then the highest four bids win. Charles volunteered to be responsible for announcing the winners, collecting the bids, and giving the bids to the treasurer. [The auction is on hold during this time of personal distancing. It will resume when Sunday services begin again within the UUCS sanctuary.]

The Board voted unanimously to retain only the past seven years' worth of old treasurer's notes. The Zullers volunteered to shred any paperwork older than 2013.

Cassandra said she is still working on updating the UUCS brochure. The brochure is placed in the holder outside the UUCS door for passersby. It is available on the entry table for visitors. It is also distributed by congregants when attending outside gatherings such as Pride.

The next Board meeting was set for Sunday, April 12, at approximately 11:45 a.m. [This meeting may be conducted online. If you would like to attend the meeting via your electronic device, please contact any Board member. If the meeting occurs remotely, information will be posted on the UUCS website; UUCS Facebook group and page; and sent to you via email. May we all be well and give one another only virtual hugs.

Pledges and Offerings

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cookeville is a self sustaining congregation, relying on and grateful for the support of people like you. Although we cannot be together during this time, we still must pay for rent, utilities, and other necessary expenses. We are in the process of obtaining a PayPal account for easier transactions. In the meantime, pledges and donations by check may be mailed to: **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cookeville, 31 West 1st St, Cookeville TN 38501**. Thank you for your continued support.



"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make."

—Jane Goodall

"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children."

— John James Audubon

The Pulse Of Life

These are anxious days. Hair-pulling, hand-wringing days. We are bombarded from all sides with new and unprecedented developments. Grave threats to our national values and institutions on one hand, and countless calls to action on the other... and then the flood of critique and analysis. Whose strategy is winning? How do we outmaneuver the other side? These are indeed uncertain times.

And yet, there are some things we do know for certain. We know that our blue boat home continues to rotate on its axis, continues its familiar sojourn around the sun. The sun sets and rises, and if we remember to pause we may lose ourselves, but for a moment, in the glorious play of light and color on the horizon.

Beneath the crust of cold earth, the crocuses and the daffodils are stirring in their winter hibernation. The energy of life and living is pulsing in them and in the latent blades of grass and the unseen maple buds. And it's pulsing in us, too.

The pulse of life calls us to nourish our bodies with good food and movement, to nourish our spirits with art and song, friendship and tenderness, and quiet.

When we heed the pulse of life, we know what we need to do:

- To rise in the morning and rest into darkness.
- To put our hands, hearts, and minds to work.
- To meet those in our midst with compassion.
- To join with the vulnerable and speak truth to power.
- To play with our youngest and hear the wisdom of our elders.
- To heal the sick and wounded.
- To grieve the dying and remember the dead.
- To be of use, and sometimes, to be still.

The pulse of life is beating in each and every one of us. Amidst the clamor of these times, let us heed its sure and steady rhythm.

By Jennifer Johnson

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/pulse-life>