



The UUCC Chronicle

January 2023

Service: Sunday, 10:00 AM

Access codes are available at <https://uucookeville.org/2020/06/10/new-virtual-service-meeting-information/>
Past service recordings at <https://uucookeville.org/worship/past-worship-services/>

January 1

"God is Change"
Deanna Lack, CLM

January 8

"Abortion Access"
Elle Robinson

January 15

"MLK Day Service"
Andrew Smith

January 22

"Fire Cleanses" (a.k.a. Burning Bowl)
Deanna Lack, CLM

January 29

TBA

Reflections: Sunday, 11:00 AM

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

Board Meeting: 12:00 PM Sunday, January 8

Chalice Circle: 6:00 PM

Wed., January 4 and 18

<https://uucookeville.org/events/>

Facilitated by Deanna Lack, CLM

Meditation: 6:00 PM

Wed., January 11

<https://uucookeville.org/events/meditation/>

Facilitated by Deanna Lack, CLM

Fair Trade:

Sundays 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

<https://uucookeville.org/2020/05/22/fair-trade-table-curb-side-pickup/>

Facilitated by Linda Delventhal

Email: lindadel48@gmail.com

Prison Ministry:

Wed., Jan. 11, 7:00 p.m.

At UUCC and via Zoom

Facilitated by Andrew Smith



WINNER OF UCC'S RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

By Susie Zuller

The winner of the UUCC fundraiser for a free week in San Antonio, Texas, was Art Nava, head of the Tech Team and a lay leader at Arlington Street Church in Boston. Art purchased the winning ticket on November 20, at 6:48 p.m.

Arlington Street ran our fundraiser in their weekly newsletter -- they were so impressed with our "moxie!" -- and Art posted it to social media. Art writes, "I bought something like ten tickets because it was such a good cause. I'm originally from El Paso, TX, and have siblings in the Dallas / Fort Worth area and Austin, too. I'm in the middle of a job search so can't really take the week in San Antonio, but I knew that they would definitely enjoy the stay. I'm in touch with my oldest sister in Fort Worth and my younger brother in Austin to work out final details."

UUCC sold 204 tickets to raise a total of \$1,787.66, which will be added to the general fund.

We are ever so grateful to Chris and Jeff Bakle for their generous donation, to everybody who helped support UUCC by purchasing tickets, and especially to Richard, Carol, and Sandra for all their hard work to market the fundraiser.

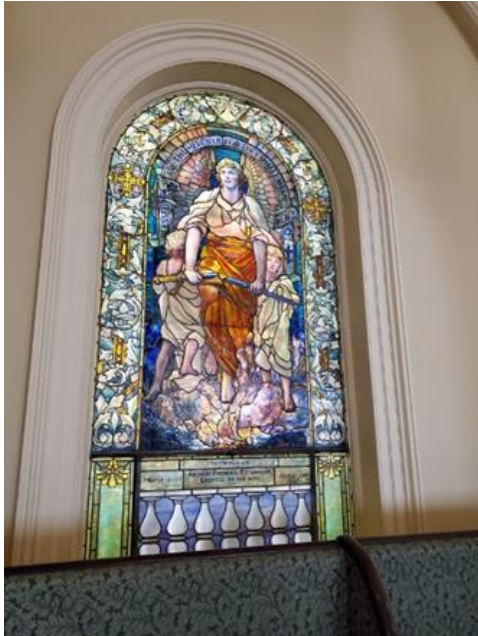
We are sorry that Art himself is unable to enjoy his stay. However, in true UU spirit, he is donating it to Texas family. May they enjoy!!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cookeville

31 West First Street, Cookeville TN 38501

Deanna Lack, Lay Minister

Cassandra Gronendyke, Board President



Arlington Street Church in Boston is known for its many Tiffany windows. The winner of UUCC’s raffle, Art Nava, is a lay leader at Arlington Street. He posted our fundraiser on social media, and has volunteered to help UUCC with any future on-line fundraising.

UUCC VOTES

On Sunday, Dec. 11, we voted as a congregation to adopt the 8th Principle! It reads as follows: “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 accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” (Note that this 8th Principle is different from the proposed Article II that we discussed at a service a couple of weeks ago.) More info here: <http://8thprinciple.org>

The *UUCC Chronicle* is published the first of each month. Please report any corrections to Susie Zuller, editor.

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF ABORTION ACCESS COOKEVILLE TO BE GUEST SPEAKER

By Elle Robinson



UUCC’s guest speaker on Sun., Jan. 8, will be Elle Robinson (she/her), founder and director of Abortion Access Cookeville (AAC).

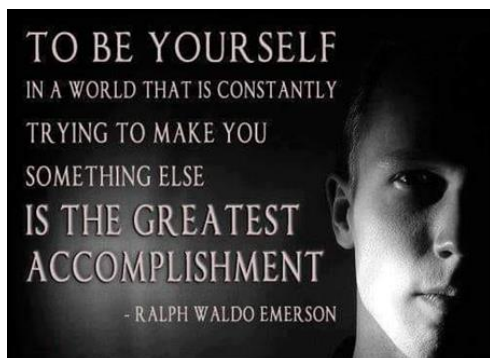
Elle became involved in abortion advocacy work in the days following the leak of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision that would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Outraged, she attended several protests in Nashville. Being loud and hard to miss, Elle made connections with abortion advocates in Planned Parenthood and Abortion Access Nashville and was invited to speak at several rallies. When protests occurred in Cookeville, she attended and, being loud and hard to miss, helped organize them into effective demonstrations. AAC grew organically from the ad hoc team of organizers that independently arrived on the square with unique individual skills and plans. In the days and weeks that followed, the team formed the organization with the help of the contacts Elle had developed in travelling to Nashville.

In the months since, Elle and the rest of the organizers with AAC have educated themselves and others on the legalities and processes of abortion. They have become familiar with the content of the law, the steps necessary to obtain an abortion, and resources available for those in need. Though abortion access is their focus, they see it as only the most visible and immediate manifestation of the

struggle for reproductive justice, which intersects with issues of race, class, and gender and sexuality.

AAC seeks to educate the community on the nature of abortion access and available resources, build and deepen community ties to build political power and systems of mutual aid, and provide support for those in need of abortion access. They seek to increase their visibility and membership, so that more people in the area are part of and engaged with the community, and thus information and support gets to as many people as possible. When someone needs help, they need to know someone who can help, or know someone who knows someone who can help. By building a community and disseminating information as far and wide as possible, more and more people know AAC, and more and more people have access to the support they need.

Elle is a local Cookevillein, moving to town with family at three years old. She graduated from Cookeville High School and then from Tennessee Technological University. She volunteered with the Catholic Charities Service Corps in Buffalo, New York, through which she worked as a community organizer. She lived in Ann Arbor for several years and returned home in the summer of 2019. Elle is currently a student at Middle Tennessee State University, where she is obtaining a bachelor's degree in philosophy. Her major areas of interest are social and critical theory, and her ultimate goal is to obtain a Ph.D. and enter the academy, though she will never not be in the streets shouting and organizing and making friends. Her experience as an organizer and her studies inform her belief in the power and necessity of building an informed and engaged community.



Look at me! I'm on a poster lol #chemistry #science #lgbt #lgbtq #queer #chemist
 Before moving to Texas for a Ph.D., Dylan was a long-time member of UUCC. Dylan and spouse Brian (also a member) met at UUCC.

REMEMBERING
 (Posted Sept. 26, 2022)
 By Bill Dockery

Bill writes, "This is a repeat of last year from Chris Buice. It is about the most profound thing I ever read about religion and faith. It should be tattooed on the hearts and foreheads of everyone who professes to be a believer."

"... the most important experience is the gospel of the present moment, the light that illuminated the past means very little unless it also illuminates the present." ~ Chris Buice, minister of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville, TN

MINI SERMON

By Misha Sanders, Minister
Northwest UU Congregation

Here's a mini sermon I'm fixin to preach to myself.
Maybe you can use something in it too?

Our reading today comes from Sister Lizzo: "Just
walk your fine ass out the door."

Disastrous first/last date.
I knew almost immediately.
But we gave each other the courtesy of about an
hour and a half anyway.
My knowing that it was a NOPE got even stronger
as the evening regressed.
As we hugged goodbye, he told me he'd love to see
me again. (!!!!!!)
Instead of screaming IT'S A NO FROM ME
DAWG, I said, "Well, let's just see how we feel
tomorrow."

I kinda kicked myself the rest of the night for not
taking the Clear Is Kind approach I'm learning
about in my Integrity work.

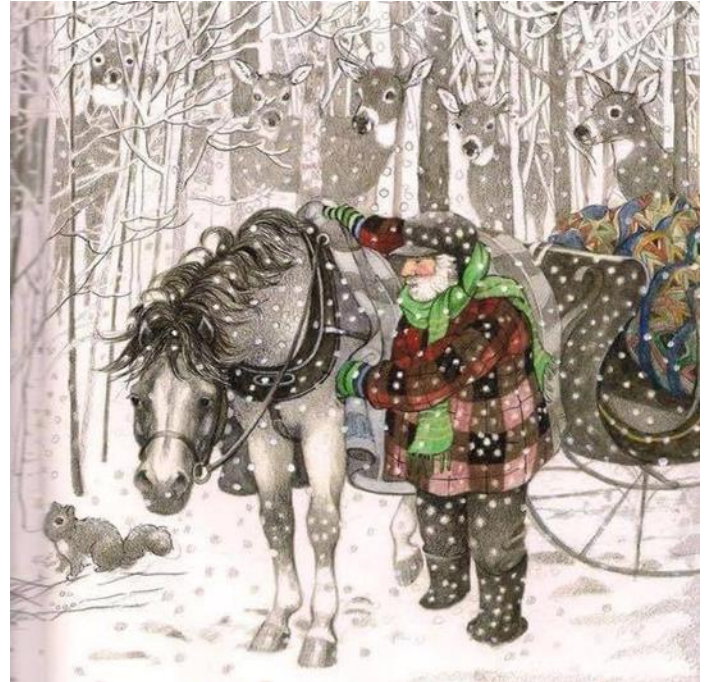
BUT HERE'S THE THING, Y'ALL.

I ***DID*** need to wait until tomorrow. I really **DID**.
Not because I may have changed my mind. But
because I **DESERVE TO SLOW DOWN MY
RESPONSES ANY TIME I NEED TO!!!**

If he contacts me today, I will be ***so*** much clearer
and more elegant and articulate with my No than I
could have been in the high-stress moment!

**GIVE YOURSELVES AND EACH OTHER THE
GRACE OF A DELAYED RESPONSE WHEN
YOU NEED TO!**

Our benediction today comes from Sister Ariana
Grande: "Thank you. Next."
BlessedBurtsBee, Ashé, Amin, and Amen.



Artist Susan Jeffers

STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

By Robert Frost (1874-1963)

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.
My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

MERRY MYTHMAS POEM

By Andrew Smith

no more good myth envy
making one good myth dominate
every other good myth

mythopoetic mystic accepts
gently all the good stories
never get boring

no war now not even
my comparative interpretation of
solstice vs. christmas

is better than your
comparative interpretation of
christmas vs. solstice

no more crude criticisms
of commercial christmas
by middle & upper class people

who get paid vacations
remember the people who
need to work on holidays

to survive because capitalism
which is why the "Santa is Karl Marx"
meme makes sense to me

all the workers
even the reindeer & elves
need to be free

go back far enough &
all the myths get tangled
like green vines

like dirty roots in the
dirty ground when
everything is connected

including heaven & earth
including solstice baby to
become a man by beltane

with a beltane bride who is
goddess who is also matron Mary
who conceives on the spring equinox

which is why Christmas is in December though
then don't even get me started
about the Green Man

the Winter King or the King of Kings
where Jesus & Santa & the
wild generous masculine

all get tangled into life life life
are you reading Sophie Strand
I am a Christian & a neopagan &

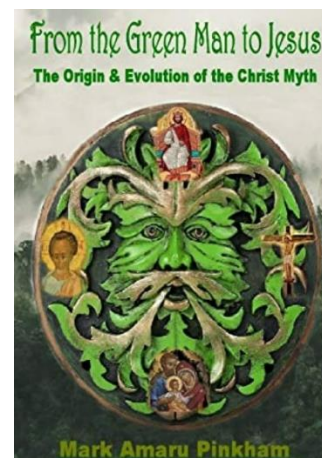
let's all sing in the angel band
or organize the feral shepherds
who love the forest or forage for liberation

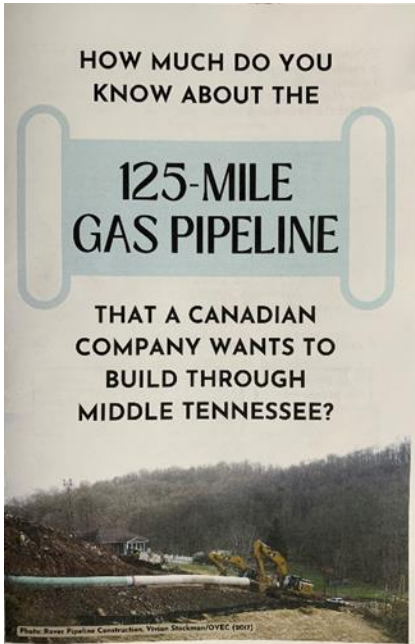
I am most known & mind blown
where from one cosmic cloth
all these stories get sown

every possible liberation theology
collapsed into winter ecology dream
of a better world includes psychology

Green santa red santa green jesus
even rainbow psychedelic christ too
we can drink a toast to every good myth

before these holidays are through
Andrew/Sunfrog
12-24-22





NO TVA PIPELINES MEETING

By Richard Shaffer

UUCC will be hosting a planning and strategizing meeting for volunteers of the No TVA Pipelines Tennessee Coalition on Monday, Jan. 2, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending in person or via Zoom, please email me at: richardshaffersme@gmail.com.

Representatives from Appalachian Voices, AppVoices.org, the Sierra Club, SierraClub.org, and No TVA Pipeline Cookeville, NoTVAPipelines.com, and “No TVA Pipeline” Public Facebook Page, will be presenting on how one can help to influence the TVA decision to build or not build this pipeline. The alternative is green energy from solar-powered electrical generation.

**START WHERE YOU ARE.
USE WHAT YOU HAVE.
DO WHAT YOU CAN.**

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

By Susie Zuller, Carol Fleetwood,
and Sandra Jordan

Cassandra opened the UUCC Board meeting on Sun., Dec. 11, by announcing that UUCC’s Discord server is now set up and ready to use. The Board has begun using it already, whereas the congregation and community can begin using it later. According to a Google search, “Servers are the spaces on Discord. They are made by specific communities and friend groups. The vast majority of servers are small and invitation-only. Some larger servers are public. Any user can start a new server for free and invite their friends to it.” There will be channels for chats, personal message sharing, and file sharing. The Board is hopeful that Discord will allow for an easier flow of information within the UUCC congregation and beyond.

After discussion and comparing rates of return from several financial institutions, the Board voted to invest a total of \$10,000 from UUCC’s savings into CDs with higher rates of return than the savings account.

Other financial discussions included the shortfall of the 2023 pledge drive (only meeting 78% achieved; \$20,380 of the \$26,170 budget) and the rent increase.

In light of upcoming inclement weather, the Board decided that if services were needed to be cancelled, then that responsibility would be with the minister and the Board president.

Richard requested and received permission for the No Pipeline group to rent the UUCC space for their meetings to be held the first Monday of every month from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for Sun., Jan. 8, at noon after Reflections.

Treasury Report

November 2022	Jan – Nov 2022
Income: \$1,490	Income: \$24,993
Expenses: \$5,283	Expenses: \$21,419

Additional Income

Part of the total income for 2022 comes from use of our building by other groups (\$620), the Kroger Community Rewards Program (\$154), the Fair-Trade Project (\$353 returned on \$392 in supplies thus far), and the Amazon Smile Program (\$165). If you have any questions about these programs, please talk to any Board member or consult the posters on display.

Pledged Income

After paying the six-months rent payment, UUCC will likely finish the year in the black again thanks to YOU. Everyone has really tried to maintain their pledge commitments. After 11 months (November), about 85% of the pledged amount has been redeemed. Please be sure to get your pledges in by the end of December for tax purposes for 2022.



CLARIFICATION OF THE EIGHTH PRINCIPLE

By Deanna Lack, CLM

“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 accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

On December 18, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cookeville unanimously adopted the above statement as an eighth principle in addition to the seven principles we have had since our inception.

We discussed the eighth principle several times before we officially adopted it, joining some 200 other congregations in doing so. There was some confusion during the discussion, because we discussed this in a recent sermon, and then also recently discussed the proposed Article II from the Article II Study Commission. So I want to make some clarifications.

The Eighth Principle was proposed in 2013 by Paula Cole Jones to address systemic racism directly in a way the other seven principles do not, not quite (though you could make a case that it is implied).

If the UUA is rewriting the principles, why bother? Because we can and should be known in our community as a group who actively opposes the grip of white supremacy on ourselves, our congregation, and our community. It is not enough to not be racist; we must be antiracist. And I love that we have been proactive about it. We will work now on getting a new poster made so that we can display our support of the eighth principle in our window (along with a new vision statement!).

Thank you for considering this big step and thank you to the board for putting this on the agenda for our congregational meeting this year. But this adoption is not the end of our work, only a step on the path. May we continue to grow into its promise.

