



The UUCC Chronicle

March 2023

SERVICES: Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

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/>

March 5

“Why This War on the LGBTQ Community?”
Deanna Lack, CLM

March 12

“The Fall of the Empire”
Deanna Lack, CLM

March 19

“A Celebration of the Many Ways We Love”
Ken Sizemore

March 26

“Selah: Holding Space”
Deanna Lack, CLM

Reflections:

Sundays, 11:00 a.m.

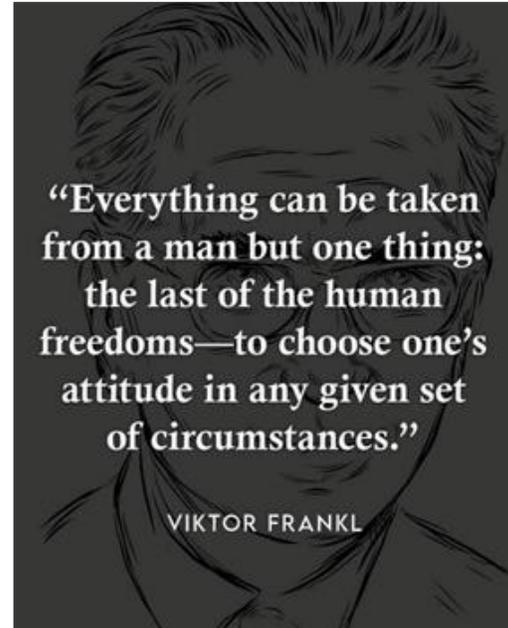
Reflections is an informal, non-judgmental, small-group discussion of the sermon topic. Participants share thoughts and insights or just listen. All are welcome.

Fair Trade:

Sundays 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Facilitated by Linda Delventhal



**MY THOUGHTS ON THE PRAYER VIGIL AT
McCLELLAN AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST
ON FEB. 4, 2023**

By Carol Fleetwood

As many of you know, a prayer vigil was held in the black neighborhood in which a group of Nazi sympathizers with their flag, Proud Boys, and others chose to parade before their intended rally on the sidewalk of Ralph's donuts to protest a drag show at Hix Brewery across the street, Jan 22. The vigil sponsored by the local NAACP was well attended with over 100 people.

The concern and out-pouring of love could have grown if the event had been held inside the church, but it wasn't. There were a dozen or so chairs set up in front of a podium and microphone

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF COOKEVILLE
31 West First Street, Cookeville TN 38501**

**Deanna Lack, UUA Commissioned Lay Minister
Cassandra Gronendyke, Board President**

on the entrance steps, but the majority of people had to brave the wind and cold on their feet for little more than an hour. The program moved along with a line-up of 5 city officials speaking about 5 minutes each followed by 5 local ministers also speaking followed by a prayer. All of this was punctuated by several acapella songs by the audience led by NAACP's chairman Mr. Tom Savage's expressive baritone voice.

The event which psyched me up expecting a banquet of emotional fulfillment gave me a scant appetizer instead. It was not so much what was said but what wasn't. City council member Eric Walker, city mayor Laurin Wheaton county mayor Randy Porter, sheriff Eddie Farris and city police chief Randy Evans spoke. Everyone had the same basic message of denouncing hate while proclaiming that Cookeville was a great city and they loved living here. Mayor Porter added we all should do more praying while Evans and Farris told us they would be there if we ever needed law enforcement. But isn't that their job anyway? And prayer is a personal initiative. The ministers did what ministers do -- preach and pray. Dr. Robert Owens came the closest by quantifying the hate into racial, sexual identifying, and religious categories.

The Nazi flag represents a special kind of hate. It represents white supremacy. That was not called out and it should have been. That flag was responsible for WWII in which 6 million Jews and 5 million Soviet prisoners along with homosexuals, mentally ill, Jehovah Witnesses and gypsies were killed. It represents the white man's arrogance and unmitigated gall in believing he is the superior race and has the God-given right to annihilate everyone else. It is an extension of European colonialism, eugenics, racial injustice, racial genocide, and racial disparity of wealth world-wide.

Although not in its pure evil form of Nazism, white privilege is still here with those of color living with it in one form or another on a daily basis.

I can't be critical of the city officials or ministers because I was entrapped in the same mentality at the city council meeting on Feb 2nd. Audience members spoke for an hour and not one mentioned

the horrific white supremacist and WWII connection it embodies. Not even me. The one man who could have, didn't. He proclaimed he was Jewish and then recounted the Jewish slurs that were hurled to his children in school here. There also was the student at Cookeville High who was a member of the LGBTQ community and had to endure repeated exposures in the bathroom to "kill gays" graffiti. A former city council member's life was threatened as was a current city council member by right-wing fringe in Cookeville. The police dept has Proud Boys on its force and there is a city council member who participated in the Jan 6 insurrection. This city could be the best place to live, but it isn't. Unfortunately, it has all the negative elements of what's wrong with this country. But Tom Savage and the NAACP did what no one else could. He brought our city officials together to denounce hate in a public venue. It was a start. We need to take it further.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ADOPT-A-ROAD

By: Susie Zuller

Saturday, April 1, at 9:00 a.m. UUCS will hold its next Adopt-A-Road cleaning. Plan to meet in the parking lot of Ficos, 2991 Highlands Park Blvd., Cookeville. We will gather garbage along the one-mile stretch of Highlands Park Blvd. west to the roundabout at Venture Dr. and south to Tennessee Ave. (formerly known as Bennett Rd). If there are enough volunteers who wish to do so, we plan to extend our cleaning even farther down the one-mile

stretch between the roundabout to the end of where Highlands Park Blvd. turns from a four-lane into a two-lane road.

If you check out the location either electronically or in person, you'll note the boulevard is a four lane, has sidewalks and a median, lots of grassy areas, and a bridge crossing Cane Creek. The roadway appears to be safe for all types of physical abilities to participate.

For the Adopt-a-Road program, UUCC has partnered with the Keep Putnam County Beautiful - Clean Commission. Remember that UUCC already has the green-on-white signs that indicate we are Adopt-a-Road volunteers. These signs are located at the roundabout and another at the intersection where Highlands Park Blvd. and Tennessee intersect.

Rob Wright, executive director of the Putnam County Clean Commission, will bring to us all necessary supplies such as trash bags, gloves, safety vests, and grabbers. We gather garbage. Bring the full bags back to a designated area. Wright will come with his pick-up to gather the bags, or we can take the full bags to a waste service area. However, at some point, the waste must be weighed and recorded for the Clean Commission's records.

Wright added that volunteers must sign a Clean Commission waiver and that volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. If we discover any hazardous waste or dead animals, then we are to contact Wright. If we wish to recycle any waste, then we may separate it, but we should still weigh it for Clean Commission records.

If you plan to volunteer with UUCC on April 1, please plan to wear your bright yellow "UUCC" t-shirt or bright orange "Side of Love" t-shirt if possible. For a "Side of Love" t-shirt (or any other type of clothing), visit the UUA web site. If the weather is absolutely horrible on April 1, then UUCC will re-schedule for Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day).

Please dress appropriately for the weather with hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, hiking boots or other walking shoes, and lots and lots of water.

So, come on! Plan to put your faith into action. Get some much-needed exercise. Maybe do a bit of walking meditation or even bird watching. Help UUCC maintain its commitment to a cleaner world – our Blue Boat Home.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UUCC ACTIVITIES

Editor's Note: Below are listed the meetings and events for March. The editor strives to be as up-to-date as possible; however, changes may occur. If you plan to attend, please verify the date and time with the facilitator of the event. Members and friends are welcome to attend. You may also find events listed at <https://uucookeville.org/events/>

Board Meeting:
Sun., March 12, 12:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Cassandra Gronendyke

Chalice Circle:
Wed., March 1 and 15, 6:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Deanna Lack, CLM

Meditation:
Wed., March 8, 6:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Deanna Lack, CLM

Prison Ministry:
Wed., March 8, 7:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Andrew Smith

No TVA Pipeline Cookeville:
Mon., March 6, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Richard Shaffer

Food Drive:
Sun., March 19, last day to donate food for Helping Hands of Putnam County
Facilitated by Deanna Lack, CLM, and Susie Zuller

Newsletter Deadline (Encouraged):
Tues., March 28
Email newsletter submissions to Susie Zuller

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

INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM: JOYS AND SORROWS (CONCERNS)

By Charles Zuller

If you are new to the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition or just curious about the group, many of the symbols and ceremonies may be different from what you have previously experienced in other places of worship. Sometimes the symbolism is defined by the viewpoint of the individual congregant.

The Joys and Sorrows (Concerns) ritual is a rare event for some houses of worship. The individual congregants have an opportunity to share of themselves and thus become part of the service. A bowl of water and a collection of stones are made available. Anyone can step forward and drop a stone into the bowl with or without speaking. This ritual is one way that UU's hold one another in community. If you are unable to drop your own stone, someone would be happy to drop it for you.

Although the stones have no inherent supernatural powers, we believe in the power of sharing as a group at these moments. This ritual of the sharing embodies the belief in community. The stones dropped in the bowl of water represent the actions or thoughts of the individual. The bowl of water represents the conscience of the congregation. The ripples caused by the stone demonstrate the effect on the community by anyone's actions or emotions.

Community building requires us to be willing to be vulnerable before the group and to be supportive of each other.

Perhaps you have a joy too great to contain and you want the congregation to share it with you. Be brief but concise and share your joy. How about acknowledging those who helped you achieve your moment of triumph? We are always glad to

celebrate the great joys to be found in life and in living it.

Maybe you have a sorrow or concern so heavy the load is dragging you down. Perhaps you need someone to lean on and share the burden. If you can find the words to describe the sorrow or concern, others may be able to offer words of encouragement. Someone else may have experienced a similar problem and found a way forward. Being vulnerable requires courage, but you may find great synergy from being a member of a caring group.

Lastly, you may be experiencing something you do not have the words to describe or be unwilling to voice. If you are unable to speak of the depth of your pain or the reason for your celebration, drop a stone in silence. We know the life and experience of every person matters and we are stronger together. Let us share the moment with you.

“Lean on me when you're not strong
“And I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on...
“For it won't be long till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.”

Lean on Me by Bill Withers





FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

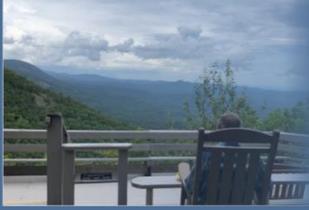
By Deanna Lack and Susie Zuller

As many of you know, UUCC no longer has its own food pantry. Congregants donated food items into the pantry but food was not often taken out. The lack of distribution may be because not enough people in need knew about UUCC’s pantry, so, recently, UUCC’s pantry food was donated to Helping Hands of Putnam County.

Helping Hands was, of course, grateful and expressed a desire for further donations. Therefore, we will hold a food drive to donate all items to Helping Hands.

Please bring any food you wish to donate to UUCC before or on Sun., March 19. Any shelf staples or frozen foods are appreciated. Foods particularly needed include spaghetti sauce, rice, beans (dry and canned), powdered milk, canned peas, and canned carrots. Let us help feed the hungry of Putnam County.





**Music Week
at The Mountain**

Highlands NC
April 23-28, 2023

Tret Fure - Friction Farm - Rod MacDonald

- * explore music w/ national touring songwriters
- * improve your playing, singing, & writing at all levels
- * join in community singing and jamming
- * supportive environment
- * lectures, concerts, hikes
- * peaceful, rustic mountain setting
- * good food for all dietary choices



visit <https://www.themountainrlc.org/music-week>
or email aidan.christine@gmail.com

IF AFTER KIRK...

By Unknown

If after kirk ye bide a wee,
 There’s some would like to speak to ye;
 If after kirk ye rise and flee,
 We’ll all seem cold and stiff to ye.
 The one that’s in the seat wi’ ye.
 Is stranger here than you, may be;
 All here has got their fears and cares,
 Add you your souls unto our prayers;
 Be you our angel unawares.
 —author unknown

Received courtesy of the late Rev. Dr. Richard Henry (1921-2018). A Unitarian Universalist minister in Brooklyn, NY, Knoxville, TN, Denver, CO, and Salt Lake City, UT, he found it quoted in the 1955 calendar of the UU church in Buffalo, NY.

**AFTER KIRK, “REFLECTIONS”
 Sundays, 11:00 a.m. (ish)**

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

FAIR TRADE ORDERS

By Linda Delventhal

Please let me know what you would like to see in the Fair Trade order. I need to put in a new one very soon.



PRIDE AND CMAC STICKERS

By: Deanna Lack, CLM

Because of increasing attacks on LGBTQ rights, CMAC bought these buttons with an inclusive Pride flag in a heart and the words “You can be yourself with me.” If you want to proclaim yourself as a safe space, and you would like one, please let me know. We are selling them as a fundraiser for \$10 each and they come with these nice stickers, too. 100% of the proceeds will help us continue our work of helping incarcerated folks who have no one on the outside to help them with food, hygiene, and clothing necessities.

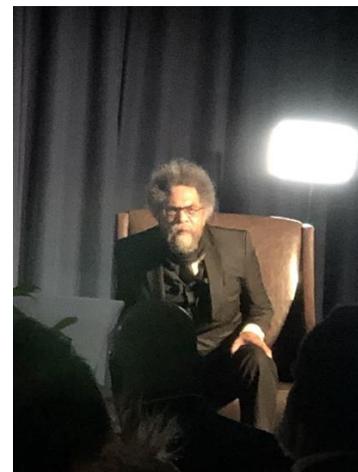
Cookeville Mutual Aid Collective – CMAC



CHILDREN’S RE PROGRAM

By Kathleen Rozanski

Religious Education is up and running. We have had a fun start talking about our chalice and starting to dive into the First Principle. Please come join us the first and third Sundays of the month – March 5 and 19 at about 11:15ish after services. We’ll meet in the children’s area and/or at the conference table. The adults may join in Reflections or join us for some hands-on learning activities.



“JUSTICE IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE IN PUBLIC.”

By Deanna Lack, CLM

On Friday evening, Feb. 24, Cassandra and I went to MTSU, who was hosting Dr. Cornel West for a State of the African American Union speech. In case you’re not familiar with his work, Brother West, as he is affectionately known, is a socialist philosopher and Black activist who has written influential books on race and loves music, having made spoken word and hip hop albums. As

Cassandra said, she didn't know that much about him before we went, but she knew enough that you don't say no when someone texts you and asks if you want to go hear Cornel West speak. That's pretty much how I felt too. My professors all said DON'T miss this.

He really is an unforgettable speaker. He was introduced at a podium, but then he made an amusing show of helping students remove the podium, and then he sat at a broad leather chair with a panel of students asking him questions. I was really struck by the contrast in tone between their studious, serious answers and his reply. The first student asked him a lengthy question and he said, "Ah, sister, you're getting deep right outta the gate." To each student he gave these long, roundabout answers, often wandering off topic to how great the blues artists were, or the legacy of Black giants of preceding generations. He is intense. I can't imagine anyone else giving these rambling answers and sounding coherent, and yet it is impossible not to hang on every word. This is the kind of speaker that you can't help but find yourself muttering "mm," "yes," "amen," and "preach it, brother."

I wish I'd brought something to take notes, but on the other hand I'm glad I just stayed riveted. I did have to pull out my phone to take a note now and then and pluck a nugget of wisdom from his words. The title of this article is something he says often, and it is something I could imagine myself posting on my wall or writing large in my journal. *Justice is what love looks like in public*. That means two things to me: first, that love isn't love until it goes out in public and fights for justice, and that is who I want to be. And secondly, it isn't entirely about me and the individual attitudes, biases, and beliefs that I or anyone else have. Justice can't be justice until we make it public policy.

Here are a few more nuggets I mined from his talk:

He talked a lot to this crowd of mostly young Black folks about success. In that vein he said, "If success means being well adjusted to injustice, you're missing out on the greatness."

He talked about the idea that we're in a post-racial society because we had a Black president. "I don't want to see Black faces in high places, but the structures are the same... Martin went to the mountain top and what did he see? He wasn't looking for Black faces in high places, he always looked for the 'least of these.'" In other words, it doesn't matter if we have a few successful Black people who make a lot of money, if the average people are still suffering.

I was interested to hear what he had to say about mass incarceration and the way it affects people of color. We can't imprison everyone, he said. There will never be enough prisons and police to deal with people in despair.

When a young woman gave an impassioned speech about the ways she is not seen, and how can you get through to people, he told her, "When you're bearing witness, you're not in control of the effects of your witness. The gospel is never to be measured by its immediate efficacy." I thought this was good advice to take to heart for all of us doing justice work who get discouraged.

What about allyship? "Ally?" he asked, almost mockingly. Allies are not what we need. We need people to show up. He returned again to his musical references, saying Greg Errico was a white dude, the drummer for Sly and the Family Stone. "Was he an ally? No, he was in the band!"

He spoke out against anti-racism in a way that surprised me. "Anti-racism is just a parasite on a host. The point of reference is still whiteness." This is really a paradigm-shifting way for us white folks to look at the ways we challenge white supremacy.

I've had Race Matters on my shelf for a while, and I'm now looking forward to diving into it. I recorded Brother West's talk, so if you'd be interested to listen to it, let me know.

REFLECTIONS ON CORNEL WEST

By Cassandra Gronendyke

Having the opportunity to see Dr. Cornel West speak was something I knew immediately I had to

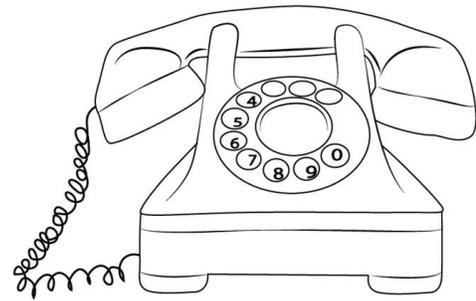
take advantage of. I was not highly familiar with his work, but I was aware of his reputation as one of the foremost living black leaders and thinkers in the country. Needless to say, I was not disappointed. My biggest takeaway from his talk was that if your only goal is to be antiracist, then you are skipping the first step, which is to first love black people. I think that is something most of us, stepped as we are in white supremacy culture, are still learning or need to learn. Dr. West said if you're looking at being antiracist only, you're still framing your thoughts in reference to whiteness. I believe this is a crucial spiritual lesson. We cannot love all of humanity, and therefore cannot be whole, without loving black people specifically. The notion is radical in its simplicity and surprising in its boldness.

Cornel West is well-known as a devout Christian, which led to some tension for me. Overall, the talk made me feel that spirituality is hugely missing from most of society's social justice discourse. It drives everything home in a way nothing else can. But when he would draw on specific Christian theology like God and the trinity, that would hit me wrong and pull me away a little. I don't believe we need to love one another or that we are all connected because "we are all children of god." I just believe those things to be intrinsically true. He took time to acknowledge that all black people are not and have never been Christian, and that it is important to honor and value other religions. He clearly practices a very liberal Christianity, so I do not want to convey that he was intolerant. It's just that the Christian theology was specifically alienating for me because it is not my theology, even if the values he derives from it are values that I share.

The event showcased for me not only the ideas and insights of Dr. West, but also the culture of moral inquiry at MTSU. I attended a small Lutheran liberal arts institution where part of the mission was to impart a sense of civic-mindedness and a desire to do good in the world, albeit through a Christian lens. Since then, I have worked at two public universities where the purpose of an education is understood to be for graduates to be able to get good paying jobs. There is less concern for

education's role in imparting a sense of values, purpose, and meaning to one's life. I felt that ethos in the Tennessee Ballroom at MTSU, and it was like a breath of fresh air to me, especially at a public institution.

This tension between the need to be free from dogma and the need for spiritual depth in our public discourse is one I am still wrestling with, and it is why I have been able to find my home with Unitarian Universalism. I long for a middle ground where we can talk more widely about our common values and journey together toward spiritual wholeness with an inclusive vocabulary that neither depends on deities, nor denounce them. Let us carry on the work of making it so, together.



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FROM "THE PROPHET'S TELEPHONE" SERMON: A CONTEMPLATIVE READING

By Deanna Lack, CLM

Some of us have a negative reaction when we think about "scripture." But while we might not say all scripture is wisdom, we would say there is wisdom in all scripture.

You see, this is not an either/or thing. Either scripture is true, or it is false. Either scripture is sacred, or it is profane. Either scripture is what religions say it is, or it is not what they say it is. What if we approach this with a both/and frame of mind?

Taking away the infallibility of scripture and the idea that it has not changed in thousands of years

doesn't take away the sacredness in it. It adds to the humanity in it. When we take scripture to be a very human thing and also a very sacred thing, it opens us up to dialogue with it as also very human and also very sacred beings. Where have these people gone that I may also have gone? Where have they gone that I have not gone? Where have they gone that I may have yet to go?

Fundamentalist Protestants hold to the Lutheran principle of *sola scriptura*, only scripture. Interpretation is not to be trusted, only the word itself. This leads Protestants in a lot of different traditions to quote single scriptures out of context in answer to any particular religious or moral question. This is called "proof texting." But if we pick apart any text like that, we are going to find it possible to support any stance. To quote Jonau Johnstone again, "Though Protestant fundamentalists' view of scripture may encourage proof texting, they're not the only ones who do it. Anyone who pulls out a quotation to make a point, while diminishing or dismissing the context of the excerpt, is proof texting. This is particularly easy to do when one only has a passing familiarity with a text – or is relying on Wikiquotes! In today's fast-paced culture, skimming the surface has become commonplace, and distorting a religious tradition can be easier than we realize. This also applies to the texts that UU communities sometimes treat in a scriptural way, such as the words of a social justice hero. In fact, we may be even more prone to do so because we assume more readily that we understand the meaning of such texts. To properly respect the religious texts we value, we must avoid proof texting and instead study the text to fully understand context and the richness of what the author and the tradition are saying. Of course, being outside a text's original context, we may never fully understand or appreciate it. The goal is to come closer, not to arrive."

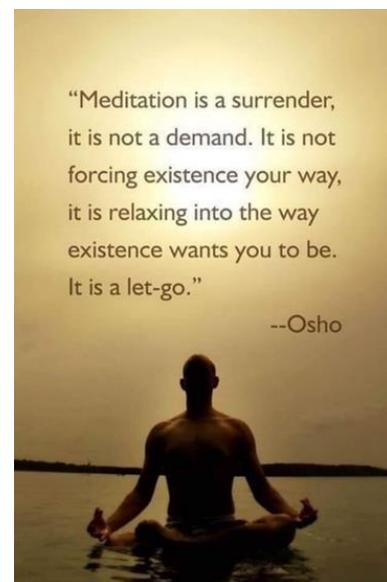
The goal is to come closer, not to arrive. I love that. When we proof text, we are assuming we know what the text means and that it matches our bias. When we get curious, we read more deeply and more broadly, and then we sit with it and see what bubbles up. Then, we can write down a quote from the passage and keep it around, maybe on a paper at

our desk or in our planner or stuck to the bathroom mirror, let the quote call up what the passage originally meant to us. We could do this with a work of fiction when we finish a novel, or a sacred text, or a poem, or the writings of a social justice hero, or a college assignment.

If you have a spiritual practice of reading or meditating already, I invite you into this broader, deeper consideration of scripture, whatever meaning of that word you think you might be able to grow into. After reading a passage or a parable or a story or a poem, just sit with it for a few minutes. You have my permission to stare off into space and let the sacred in it speak to you. You could close your eyes and sit with it in meditative silence. You could write or draw impressions about it. You could do whatever you feel called to do. I invite you to try this out as a new practice with me over the month of March. Maybe, at the end of the month, we can come together on a Saturday or during a Chalice Circle and talk about what this practice is like for us. Either way, *I call on you to question your assumptions about what you know*. As Janie says, don't believe everything you think. Try thinking something new, and maybe in particular, try thinking something new about something old.

(See also: Krista Tippett on a practice of Contemplative Reading at

http://onbeing.org/pause_contemplative_readfall2022)





UPCOMING EVENTS

By Richard Shaffer

- March 6th
Third 1st Monday meeting at UCC
- March XX. Letters to landowners gathering for mailing at UCC
- April or May TBD. Peoples Town Hall
- May 9th TVA Directors Listening Session
Norris, TN
Caravan carpool funding by the Sierra Club
- May 10th TVA Directors Meeting
Norris, TN
Caravan carpools funding by the Sierra Club
- May 18th TVA 90th Anniversary
- May 18-24 Official TVA 90th Anniversary Week
~ Alabama



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Carol Fleetwood and Susie Zuller

A regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Sunday, Feb 12, 2023.

Andrew Smith proposed an outreach to other progressive faiths in Cookeville for a Multipurpose Interfaith Alliance. Faith-based dinners with this group would be open to the UU congregation and the public. There would be free-flowing conversation on current religious subjects. A pilot start-up will run on March 19, March 26, April 2, and April 8. The dinner is planned from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Sandra suggested \$50 for the rent of the entire pilot program. Come to Gather (CTG) the name of the dinner group, will have soup and bread (communion) and pot luck. Andrew also proposed the UCC host a coffeehouse poetry reading and guest talk twice a year with a donation box at door. The event would be open to the public.

There was a continued discussion for using OWL to implement zoom audio. Cassandra will explore microphone and speaker options.

There was a discussion on restarting coffee with Sunday service and once a month potluck after service on the 4th Sunday. All members agreed to restart by acclamation. No vote was taken.

Kathleen, who is director of RE, requested that the last song with her youth students be before reflections instead of making them and the families wait until after reflections. The board agreed by acclamation. Her RE class for youth will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Date for next board meeting is Mar 12.

Treasury Report

January 2023	January 2023
Income: \$2,364	Income: \$2,364
Expenses: \$1,895	Prorated Expenses: \$2,058

Additional Income

Part of the total income for 2023 comes from use of our building by other groups (\$150) and the Fair-Trade Project (\$70 returned on \$81 in supplies thus

far). If you have any questions about these programs, please talk to any board member or consult the web page.

Treasury Correction

This article incorrectly stated last month that the \$1,200 rent increase for 2023 was not included in the posted budget. The posted budget includes \$800 of the \$1,200 increase for 2023.

2023 Challenges

This new year promises to be very trying. We have pledges to cover only about 83% of the posted budget. Although \$1,858 will be carried over from a 2022 fund-raiser, \$400 of the \$1,200 rent increase for 2023 is not included in the 2023 budget. Since UUCU monthly expenses vary greatly, monthly prorated expenses will be posted in 2023 with a running deficit total displayed.

*[\$26,149 (posted budget) + \$400 (rent increase) - \$1,858 (2022 fund raiser)] / 12 = \$2,058.

Any month where the income is less than \$2,058 will add to a running deficit.

**A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
RESPONSIVE READING**

By Mohan Embar (2001)

You don't like responsive readings.
We don't like responsive readings.

Responsive readings run contrary to everything you believe in as a Unitarian Universalist because instead of formulating your own thoughts and opinions in your own unique way, you simply repeat words that I have chosen for you.

Like a store-bought greeting card, responsive readings sap us of the ability to choose the words and expressions that we ourselves would have chosen.

Look! I can make you moo like a cow.
Moo!

Or bleat like a sheep.
Baa!

Repeat after me: I will never, ever mindlessly repeat words that someone else has chosen for me.
I will never, ever mindlessly repeat words that someone else has chosen for me.

And I will always take charge of my thoughts by formulating them in my own unique way.
And I will always take charge of my thoughts by formulating them in my own unique way.



**The National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline is now:
988 Suicide and Crisis
Lifeline**



988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. While some areas may be currently able to connect to the Lifeline by dialing 988, this dialing code will be available to everyone across the United States starting on July 16, 2022.