



The UUCC Chronicle

May 2023

SERVICES: Sun., 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/>

May 7

“A History of Mother’s Day”
Deanna Lack, CLM

May 14

“The Human Experience”
Rev. Dr. Karen Langford

May 21

“Tools for Simple Living”
Lisa Luck

May 28

“Flower Communion”
Tracie Craighead

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/>

Facilitator: Linda Delventhal

FRESH PAINT AND CLEAN CARPET!

By Susie Zuller

WOW! What a turn-out of UUCC congregants who volunteered to paint the sanctuary. Over two weekends, volunteers added their stewardship of time and talent to refresh the sanctuary. Although some people could not be present, they donated much-needed painting tools, munchies, and drinks.

Unfortunately, we were so busy that first Sunday after services painting (April 9) that none of us thought to take pics of us busy at work. However, De remembered to take a few pics of the space itself. De also remembered to take pics on Sat., April 15, with some volunteers busy at work.

UUCC’s landlady agreed not to raise our rent if we were able to finish the painting by May 1. We made her deadline.

On Tues., May 25, the landlady hired Coit to come clean the carpet and tile. It looks great!

Many thanks to all who contributed, even if all you were able to do was to wish us well. Your faith in our shared UU faith definitely matters. The painting volunteers all agreed that the experience was fun, tiring, fulfilling, and joyful.

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

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



The front wall is now a peaceful, spring-like shade of green. Jerry donated his time (taking a day off work) to paint the entire wall on Sun., April 9.

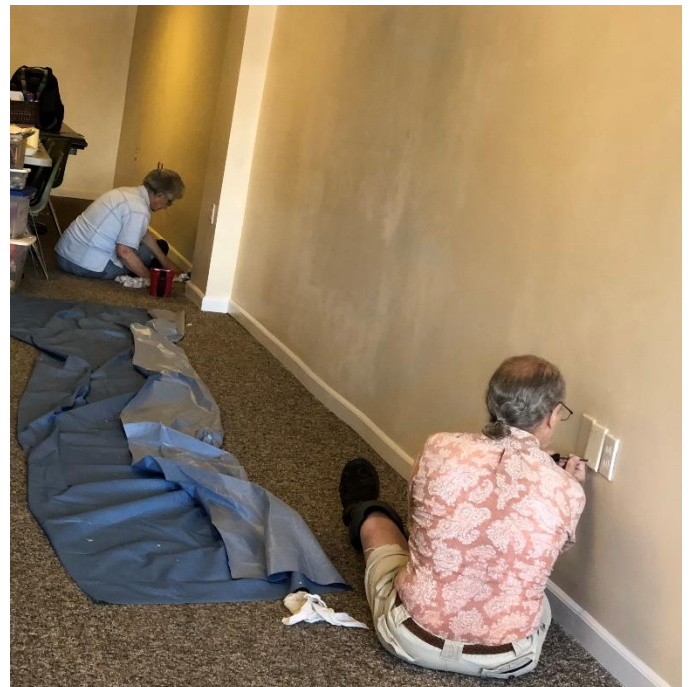


Cassandra does edge painting on the front window.



The back wall is an off-white. Yes, that spot that appears to need some touch-up paint did receive more paint.

Statements made and opinions expressed by the authors of articles published in the UUCC Chronicle are solely the authors' and do not necessarily reflect the opinions and beliefs of the UUCC or its congregants. The UUCC Chronicle is published the first of each month. Please report any corrections to Susie Zuller, editor.



Sandra paints baseboards and Ric secures the outlet covers.



Sandra paints the trim along the window.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAY'S UCC ACTIVITIES

Editor's Note: Below are listed the meetings and events for May. 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. All are welcome to attend. You may also find events listed at <https://uucookeville.org/events/>

Board Meeting:
Sun., May 14, 12:00 p.m.
Facilitator: Cassandra Gronendyke

Chalice Circle:
Wed., May 3 and 17, 6:00 p.m.
Facilitator: Deanna Lack, CLM

Meditation:
Wed., May 10, 6:00 p.m.
Facilitator: Deanna Lack, CLM

Prison Ministry/CMAC:
Wed., May 10, 7:00 p.m.
Facilitators: Deanna Lack, CLM and Andrew Smith

Children's RE Program:
Sun., May 7 and 21, 11:00 a.m.
Facilitator: Kathleen Rozanski

Safe, Affordable, Good Energy for Tennessee (SAGE)
Mon., May 1, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Facilitator: Richard Shaffer

Fourth-Sunday-of-the-Month Potluck
Sun., May 21
Facilitators: Everybody!

Newsletter Deadline (Encouraged)
Fri., May 26
Email submissions to Susie Zuller



FAITH IN THE GROCERY STORE

By Linda Curvin Davenport

Interesting story about this poem. I wrote it as a response to a prompt that another writer and I use to spur our creativity. We enjoy coming back together to see where the prompt took each of us. The prompt was

“faith,” and I felt like that poem had been waiting for a long time and was finally “invited” to show itself.

“Faith in the Grocery Store”

Grocery shopping
 Sunday afternoon
 The woman ahead of me
 Dropped a can of peas she was trying to place in her cart
 I picked it up and handed it to her
 As most anyone would
 She smiled
 And the light in the room brightened
 She said to me
 You are a woman of faith
 I can tell
 The Holy Spirit is in you.
 Jesus is in you.
 Pastor told us this morning
 Today, Jesus will bless you.
 Today, the Holy Spirit
 Will move through the world
 And you will see it.
 I just saw it in you
 And I am praising Jesus!
 I smiled at her
 She went on her way
 Humming a vaguely familiar gospel tune
 At home with my groceries
 Putting cans on the shelf
 I wondered what kind of world we live in
 That picking up a dropped can of peas
 Brings such joy
 Is it a life so devoid of simple kindness
 That one act was enough to spur a religious experience
 Or is it a life so full of joy
 that her heart is practiced
 and good at seeing and celebrating small kindnesses

And praising the god she adores
 I ate a can of chili for dinner
 I dropped it and picked it up myself
 Because I am a woman of faith
 And hungry.

MAY'S GUEST SPEAKERS



Lisa Luck
 “Tools for Simple Living”
 Sun., May 21

Lisa Luck is the Program Manager for the Putnam County Solid Waste Department. For over a decade, she has provided education for the county about best practices of waste management including litter, recycling, composting and reducing waste. She also works for the Upper Cumberland Development District and provides assistance with solid waste matters for 14 counties in the Upper Cumberland.

Lisa has given the message at UUCC several times previously. To view and hear some of her services, go to <https://uucookeville.org/worship/past-worship-services/>.



Rev. Dr. Karen Langford
 “The Human Experience”
 Sun, May 14

A writer and speaker, Rev. Dr. Karen Langford earned her bachelors and masters as a Minister of Metaphysics and a Doctorate in Holistic Ministries. She was a featured inspirational writer in the religion section of the *Herald-Citizen* for ten years and was published in numerous Unity magazines, several local magazines, and the *Upper Cumberland Equality Newsletter*. She also recently published her first spiritual novel titled *Humanity’s Hope*.

Karen has spoken at various venues in Tennessee and the surrounding states. She is currently a full-time caretaker for her 92-year-old father.

Karen has lived on an Indian reservation in British Columbia, worked for entertainer Wayne Newton with his horses, pursued an acting career in both Hollywood and

Nashville, achieved her black belt in TaeKwonDo, and is an award-winning Toastmaster.

Karen has given the message at UUCC several times previously. To view and hear some of her services, go to <https://uucookeville.org/worship/past-worship-services/>.



INTRODUCTION TO UUism: FLOWER COMMUNION

By Charles Zuller

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

Flower Communion (the Flower Ceremony or the Flower Festival) is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. This ceremony was originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Čapek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, and introduced to the United States by Rev. Mája Čapek,

Norbert's widow in 1940. Although Norbert Čapek was killed by the Nazis, his spirit, courage, and commitment live on with us. For as long as plants grow, we seek to be worthy of such a leader.

For Flower Communion, everyone brings a flower and places it on the altar or in a shared vase. At the end of the service, each person takes home a different flower than the one they brought.

Congregants bring a flower of their choice -- maybe garden flowers or maybe wildflowers from the field or roadside. People placing their own flowers signifies that it was by their own freewill they joined with the others. The combining of all the flowers symbolizes a uniting of church fellowship.

Just as no two flowers are identical, no two people are identical, yet each has a contribution to make to the whole. The different flowers combine to form a gorgeous bouquet, but the bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower. Thus, our church community would not be the same without every one of its congregants.

Flower Communion pays honor to our sacred community. The exchanging of flowers shows our willingness to walk together for a while on our individual spiritual quests, disregarding all that might divide or distract us. Each person taking home a flower brought by someone else symbolizes our shared community, a sharing essential to a free people of a free religion.

But we cannot all be regaled by long-stemmed roses. Some of us are simple wildflowers, growing in the shade but providing essential nourishment for others.

Perhaps some of us are just ground cover, simply protecting the soil against erosion. Maybe some of us are even portrayed as noxious or as plants growing out of place. Yet each plant makes a valuable contribution to the environment and occupies a specific niche.

Have you found your niche? Come grow with us and make your unique contribution to our congregation. We would all benefit from it.



APRIL AND MAY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

By Sandra Jordan

In the UUCC mail we received a solicitation for support for the West End programs. Not knowing any of the background information about West End, I looked it up and learned a little about it.

The organization, West End Connection, was created by President Natalie Okorji

(Oh-Core-Gee) alongside other community members. Okorji said she grew up in West End and wanted to keep its story alive. “West End area is historic to the Cookeville city due to it being the only predominant African American community in Cookeville,” Okorji said. “So, our mission number one is preserving the area.”

Okorji said the organization unites residents so that everyone knows a little bit of history that they live. Okorji said by recognizing West End’s importance, people bring more pride to the area.

“It is very special to us,” Treasurer Monica Reynolds said. “We get out in the community and the city and talk to them about West End, and a lot of them have no idea that it is there or exists or how to get there. So, it is nice to sit down and tell people about our home.”

“For ... the summer on every Saturday in June, we will have different programs for the kids and adults to come out and partake in for 2 to 4 hours,” Okorji said. “Everything we do we are doing here in the community to help out residents.”

West End Connection has two weekends of cleanups, a weekend of yard maintenance and a back-to-school bash all planned. Okorji said the organization operates from the park in the community. A place where Okorji and Reynolds both grew up.

“Change has come and we honor the change, because the world is definitely more diverse than ever and the community is more diverse than ever,” Okorji said. “What we are recognizing is we have children that play

together and go to school together. Therefore, let’s connect and bring the sense of community back to the community.”

West End Connection: Cookeville Non-Profit Working For The Historical Community | News Talk 94.1/AM 1600 (newstalk941.com)

2023 Schedule of Events

5-20 Art classes at the park

5/29 2nd Annual Darwin Dash 5k beginning at West End Park

6-17 Juneteenth Celebration

July 3rd Annual Back to School Bash

August 3 vs 3 Basketball Tournament aka “Darwin Dunk”

Fall 2023 Chili Supper/Holiday Meal

*All dates subject to change

I was also curious about why the school was named Darwin. No, it wasn’t after Charles Darwin, the evolutionist.

West Cookeville Junior High School was constructed in 1928 for African American students with funding from the local community and the Julius Rosenwald Fund. In 1936 a high school was added to the junior high school and named to honor J. Claude Darwin, a white Cookeville businessman and member of the Putnam County Board of Education, who promoted education for African Americans. Darwin’s first graduating class was in 1938. Darwin School provided education to the African American students of Putnam and surrounding counties until it burned in January 1963, prompting school desegregation in the Upper Cumberland a year later.

(Tennessee Historical Commission) Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 28 March 2016
schl_drwn.pdf (ajlambert.com)

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cookeville Board wants to support the Darwin Dash 5K May 29th and the Juneteenth Beauty Pageant June 17th.

Included below is some information about these events. There will be a special collection box at services for this specific purpose. Please consider helping to sponsor these programs. If we can raise \$100 for the run, we can be represented on the 5K T-shirt. The collection in April will support the Darwin Dash and the May collection will support the pageant.

Cookeville- 2nd Annual Darwin Dash 5K
Monday, May 29, 2023 @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am
West End Park
West End St, Cookeville, TN 38501

Come out and run in the Darwin Dash 5k & 1 Mile Family Fun Run to benefit the Darwin School Reunion Celebration! For a registration form, contact Monica Reynolds at thewestendconnection@gmail.com
Cookeville- 2nd Annual Darwin Dash 5K | News Talk 94.1/AM 1600 (newstalk941.com)

I couldn't find a whole lot about the Pageant yet. Below are a couple of Facebook links I did find. Also I've included some general info about it.

juneteenth pageant cookeville tn - Search Results | Facebook

TFFJC Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant 2023 | Facebook

For Black communities across the country, a Juneteenth celebration isn't complete without a Miss Juneteenth pageant. African Americans all across the US congregate annually to commemorate the end of slavery on June 19 — better known as Juneteenth — with cookouts, parades, and in some cities and states, pageants. In 2020, when the world was enthralled in the nationwide and global Black Lives Matter protests after the killing of George Floyd, and Juneteenth became a mainstream topic of conversation, the US was introduced to "Miss Juneteenth" the movie by director and writer, Channing Godfrey Peoples.

"Miss Juneteenth" is about a single mother (played by Nicole Beharie), a former Miss Juneteenth who squandered her opportunities, and is now working tirelessly to ensure her own daughter (played by Alexis Chikaeze) is able to participate in the pageant to earn a scholarship and further her studies.

Unlike mainstream American pageants, Black competitions are usually "a visual component of freedom."

According to Kimberly Pllum, author of "Black Beauties: African American Pageant Queens in the Segregated South," the ceremonies serve as a way for African Americans publicly craft their own narrative.

"Miss Juneteenth pageants are emblematic of the rich tradition of Black public assertion

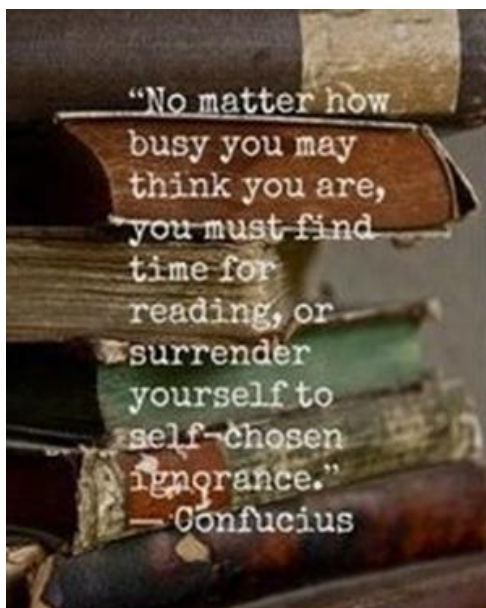
and adornment," the history professor told Insider. It is "central to the African American practice of celebration, image-making, and cultural expression."

The pageants are also scholarship-driven, with events that center around community service, education, and Black history. The pageants usually consist of essay writing and community service alongside talent, evening wear, and a question-and-answer sections on pageant night.

While only three young women were able to participate as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first National Miss Juneteenth Pageant was hosted in Memphis, Tennessee last year by the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.

Saniya Gay, Miss Delaware, ultimately won the title. Before joining the competition, she was among the 25% of Americans who were not aware of Juneteenth.

<https://www.insider.com/how-miss-juneteenth-pageants-showcase-black-beauty-and-history-2021-6>



APRIL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Carol Fleetwood and Susie Zuller

Aiding the greater Cookeville community was a large part of April's Board meeting.

West End Connection requested sponsorship for a 5K at Darwin Dash by May 29, which the Board approved, and a donation box has been set up. If UUCC donates a minimum of \$100, then we'll have our name on their printed t-shirt.

The Board also approved collecting donations in May for the Putnam County NAACP's annual Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant to be held Saturday, June 10, beginning at 10:30 a.m., at the Cookeville Community Center. Young Black youth ages 10 through 18 participate before a panel of judges who evaluate them for poise, personality, talent, and intelligence. This is the second year for the scholarship pageant.

Financial business included a unanimous vote to roll over UUCC's current CD when it matures soon. Also, the Board voted not to participate in the proxy vote with our insurance company, Church Mutual. Finally,

the Board discussed strategy for the on-line auction.

Treasury Report

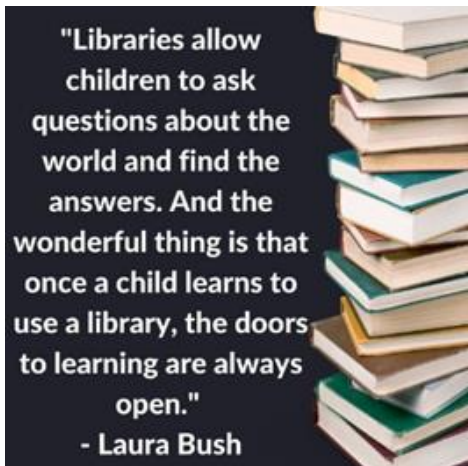
March 2023	Jan. – Mar. 2023
Income: \$4,396	Income: \$8,519
Expenses: \$1,640	Total Expenses: \$4,434

Additional Income:

Part of the total income for 2023 comes from use of our building by other groups (\$450), the Kroger Community Rewards Program (\$108), the Amazon Smile Program (\$41), and the Fair-Trade Project (\$238 returned on \$259 in supplies). If you have any questions about these programs, please talk to any board member or consult the web page.

Stewardship:

Although 2023 promised to be a challenging year for our budgeted obligations, everyone has tried hard to meet pledge commitments. As of the first quarter of the year, 30% of the pledges have been redeemed. Additionally, many people have practiced their stewardship by helping to paint the sanctuary, delaying a rent increase for one year. WAY TO GO!



APF

**AMPLIFYING
 UNITARIAN
 UNIVERSALISM**

**SERVICES MADE POSSIBLE BY
 THE ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND**

By the UUA

Together we can do what no congregation can do alone. The needs of all our congregations - whether historic or newly chartered, urban or rural, small, midsize, or large in size - are widely varied and changing. However, each benefits from the collective strength and support of the whole community of Unitarian Universalists. In association, none of our congregations are alone, for we build our Unitarian Universalist community together. The gifts given to support one another through the Annual Program Fund constitute nearly 50% of the UUA’s unrestricted income, directly impacting the Association’s capacity to grow and improve the diverse programs and services offered to congregations. Below are just a few of the many services and resources that the Unitarian Universalist Association provides to your congregation, supported in part by the continued generosity of congregations to the Annual Program Fund.

- Social Justice Initiatives including the Standing on the Side of Love campaign responding to identity-based violence, exclusion, and oppression; as well as

resources and workshops to start, strengthen, and grow social justice ministries to enable engagement in active advocacy work at the state and local levels.

- Congregational Life and District Services that provide direct support and services to lay and professional leaders of congregations throughout the year as well as sponsoring programs, resources, and training opportunities such as leadership institutes, growth consultation, board training, and conflict management.
- Lifespan Faith Development and Religious Education Curricula for education, worship, advocacy, and social action to address the needs of educators, families, and seekers of all ages, such as Tapestry of Faith and Our Whole Lives. In addition, the Religious Education Credentialing Office provides information concerning professional development and settlement.
- Advancing Excellence in UU Ministry through credentialing and fellowship processes, ministerial search and settlement assistance as well as offering professional development grants and workshops.
- Publications and Online Resources that deepen and spread our faith and values through print and electronic publications, curricula, and resources such as UU World, pamphlets, Tapestry of Faith curricula, Leaders' Library, growth and marketing resources, and other publications.
- The Worship Web online database provides a vast array of subjects, encompassing worship theory, music, multi-generational worship, the use of technology, and lay lead worship guidance, plus

ceremonies, sermons, readings, and meditations generously shared by their authors.

- Congregational Stewardship Consultation Services and Congregational Growth Resources provide consultation and advice on conducting annual budget drives, capital campaigns, financial feasibility studies, strategic planning, practicing hospitality, and membership development.
- Advocacy and Witness for Social Justice Resources to promote a more welcoming, inclusive, empowering, and just faith for all, particularly those marginalized because of racial-ethnic identity, sexual orientation, or mental or physical disabilities. The UUA supports leadership development, strengthening the capacity and application of anti-oppression knowledge and principles to transform congregations and our wider communities through programs such as the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, the new Tapestry of Faith curriculum Building the World We Dream About: A Welcoming Congregation Curriculum on Race and Ethnicity, and the online resource Accessibility Touchstones.

This vision has been brought to life through the gifts shared by every one of the congregations joined together in covenant within this liberal religious tradition. Every member congregation is asked to pledge and contribute each year to the Annual Program Fund. Your APF contributions make it possible to continue to develop and refine these essential resources and services to all of our congregations.



**ADOPT-A-ROAD
LITTER PICKUP**

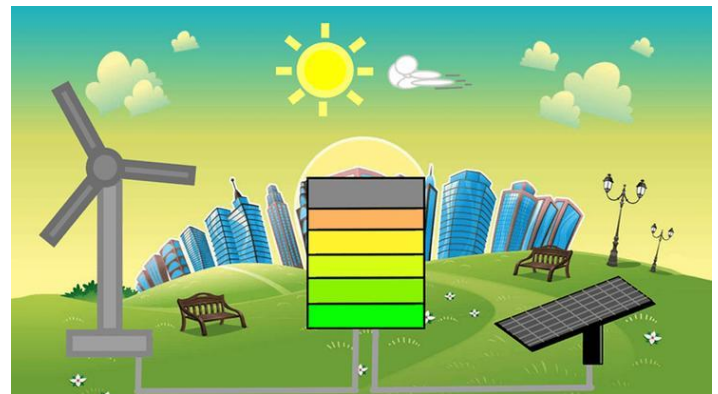
By Susie Zuller

Approximately 30 pounds! That’s how much litter that UUCC volunteers gathered from our Adopt-a-Road event. Six individuals enjoyed the fresh air, clear skies, and bird songs in the Ficosa parking lot on Earth Day Sat., April 22, at 9:00 a.m. After some brief socializing, we split into two groups to gather litter along a one-mile stretch of Highlands Park Blvd. east to the roundabout at Venture Dr. and west to Tennessee Ave.

As usual, UUCC will get credit for our numbers, and Rob Wright, executive coordinator with the Keep Putnam County Beautiful -- Clean Commission will send a report on our volunteer efforts to the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). “TDOT,” Wright stated, “provides grants [to counties] based on the number of volunteer hours.” UUCC donated 12 volunteer hours.

Many volunteers view partnership with the Clean Commission as an extension of our past Sunday services on climate justice with

Crys Zinkiewicz, chair of the Creation Care Committee at West End United Methodist Church in Nashville. Also, we have had and continue to have services on climate justice and living with the Earth in mind with services by Lisa Luck, program manager for the Putnam County Solid Waste Department. Lisa will be speaking at UUCC on Sun., May 21, on “Tools for Simple Living.”



**SAGE TN
MONTHLY ACTION REPORT**

By Richard Shaffer

Safe, Affordable, Good Energy (SAGE) Tennessee had a busy and productive month of April. A successful production of an Earth Day picnic at Cane Creek Park was a significant action. Carol, Rochelle, Leanne and I attended.

Here is a brief description of activities:

4/3: SAGE TN held a first Monday monthly meeting via Zoom and in person at UUCC. Organizational activity was reviewed and reset. A successful and on-going landowners outreach campaign was

reviewed. Planning for Earth Day continued.

4/4-4/21: SAGE planning and participating within a broad coalition CleanUpTVA.org is initiated and continues. SAGE's focus is on Earth Day and TVA Board of Directors actions at Norris, TN May 9-10.

4/22: SAGE produces an Earth Day picnic. There is a verbatim article front and center in the feature section of the *Herald-Citizen*. Credit to SAGE media lead Erin Walker. A success with a surprising result of 17 people signing up for travel to Norris in May. An alliance with Putnam County Democrat organizer Sayota Knight was achieved with Anne Austin involved with recognition.

4/24-25: SAGE helped with finalizing and releasing a petition. It will be delivered to the TVA board on May 9th.

4/26-30: SAGE activity includes outreach to landowners, possible Norris action attendees, the Democrat infrastructure committee, and others. An action for petition signatures is ongoing.

A milestone contribution from UUCS and UUA is that Westside UU Church and Minister Carol Budeau signed the petition yesterday. She also will distribute flyers after thanking us for our outreach ~ om sweet om.

May/June Calendar

5/1: Mayday and monthly meeting of SAGE at UUCS, 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. All

UUs and interested people are welcome to attend.

5/1-5: Petition drive and organizing for actions in Norris, TN.

5/6: SAGE attends SOCM Roaring River Chapter picnic. Planning to show solar powered filming with equipment received by grant through Appalachian Voices.

5/8: TVA Board of Directors Listening Session Action. Delivery of petition with an all peoples gathering at Roane State Park for supper time.

5/9: TVA Board of Directors Meeting Action. Widespread petition distribution and media outreach.

6/3: SAGE as a Rainbow level sponsor will have a booth space at UC Pride Dogwood Park. Co-located with Putnam County Democrats.

Prayer—Our world is of difficulty. We do not control it, though we would like to. We cannot control it, though we wish we could. Yet here today, we would find new acceptance of ourselves despite our shortcomings, knowing that in teaching we can learn, by helping others we can become our better selves. (John Keohane)

UU WINTER WORD SEARCH: Find words listed at the bottom of the page and circle them in the grid. They may be found in straight lines forwards, backwards, up or down, or diagonally.

Enjoy! ~Janie Finch, puzzler

H E A R T L T N E M T I M M O C R I
 D O F E T A L O C O H C T O H J N X
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BLANKETS
 CARING
 CHALICE
 COMMITMENT
 COMMUNITY
 DIGNITY
 FIRE
 HEART
 HOLDING
 HONESTY

HOT CHOCOLATE
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 INCLUSIVE
 JOYFUL SERVICE
 LOVING KINDNESS
 MEANING
 MUSIC
 PEACE
 REFLECTIONS
 SCIENCE

SHARING
 SILENCE
 SINGING
 SLEDDING
 SNOWFLAKE
 UNITARIAN
 UNIVERSALIST
 WARM HUGS
 WINTER
 YAWN