



Rev. Dr. Roberto Che Espinoza, Pastor

Pastor's Office: 607-587-9288

Email: uucalfred@gmail.com

Rima O'Connor, Administrative Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Office Hours: Thursdays and Fridays 1:00—5:00

Office phone: 607.587.9288

Office email: uucalfred@gmail.com

Website: www.unionuniversitychurch.org

Join us on Facebook



A year ago, I made a commitment to a colleague and friend that I would join her delegation to El Salvador. So, when this year rolled around, I needed to fulfill my commitment and join the delegation. I took two students with me on this trip. It was certainly NOT a



vacation! We were up at 7am most days to have breakfast and then get into the van to see different ministry sites. One day, we got up at 4am to go to the jungle to see how a non-government organization is helping the community farm and plant fruit trees, so this community can be sustainable. I learned how different communities are relearning how to tend the earth and steward their land in ways that are in line with how we are to treat the earth. One of the most moving days was when we went to the martyr's museum and learned of the six Jesuits who were assassinated; it reminded me of how I have been

terrorized by white supremacists for doing justice work. There is a cost to walking the walk that Jesus has called us to walk, and we must be wise as serpents to outfox the empire. While this trip was not a vacation, and I was walking and hiking upwards of 4 miles a day, I was reminded of how important it is to renew our faith in community. This trip did that for me; I am renewed and I hope to share more details of this trip with each of you in the months that follow!



Church News & Events



Mission of the Month

Heifer International: Fill the Ark Lenten Project

Submitted by Lana Meissner

It's time to vote for your top 3 choices for our Lenten Project giving. You will note that we have added 3 new options this year: garden seeds/saplings, and 2 water projects. There are 3 ways in which you can vote:

1. Via email uucalfred@gmail.com
2. Via an online poll <https://forms.gle/YZXAS3DZAMZqk1W47>
3. Via paper bulletin insert, coming soon



FLOCK OF CHICKS (\$20) Your gift of a flock of chicks will provide a family in need with a starter flock of 10 to 50 chicks and training to empower them to turn your donation into a lifetime of opportunity.

FLOCK OF DUCKS (\$20) Donate ducks to help reduce world hunger and poverty. Your flock of ducks gift donation helps families in need with eggs for nourishment and a reliable income.

HONEYBEES (\$30) A Heifer honeybee gift donation includes a bee package, hive, box and training in beekeeping techniques. When you buy



bees for a family in need, your gift increases the global honeybee population to support the environment.

GARDEN SEEDS (\$60) Your gift of garden seeds includes a variety of fruit and vegetable seedlings and saplings, along with education about healthy soil.

GOAT (\$120) The gift of a goat provides milk, cheese and butter for nourishment. On small farms, goats are often the key to a family's survival.

PIG (\$120) By providing much-needed protein and nourishment, a pig donation can help pull a family from under the crushing burden of hunger.

SHEEP (\$120) The wool sheep provide is a valuable resource, providing warm clothing for families and children living in harsh environments. Sheep can also provide milk for hungry families.

WATER BUFFALO (\$250) Your gift of a water buffalo will provide rich milk that is high in protein and nutrients. Water buffalo also make farming easier by tilling fields and providing fertilizer.

CLEAN WATER (\$300) Your Gift of Clean Water will help families install treadle pumps, practice water conservation and use organic fertilizers to protect drinking water to improve their health.

HEIFER (\$500) Heifers bring health, prosperity and peace. Heifer cow gift donations can change lives, giving hope to families in even the most dire of circumstances.

WATER FOR LIFE (\$750) Clean water is rare in many parts of the world. Give the gift of water for life with solar-powered wells, water kiosks and irrigation systems.

January Benevolence Choices

- ◇ Les Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders)
- ◇ UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency)

Church News & Events

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Submitted by the Pastor and Congregants

Shrove Tuesday, February 13: We had around 45 people receive pancakes tonight. Thank you all for the generous support you provided on this first Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

Happy “Fat Tuesday” - the day before Lent starts! Back in Medieval times, communities would gather for a party on this day to share the booze, fat, sugar, pork, and all the other delicious stuff they wouldn’t be consuming during the penitential season of Lent. This is the origin of Carnival & Shrove Tuesday & Mardi Gras & Fat Tuesday.

Comments from Congregants:

“I think this could be the start of a new tradition at UUC!”

“A huge shoutout to Dave and Jan Porter for shopping , organizing, running , and cleaning up resulting in the pancake dinner being a success!”

“As a guest it was a delightful evening meal”

“We're so glad to hear the pancake supper was such a success. All of your enthusiasm is making us wish all the more we could have been there!”



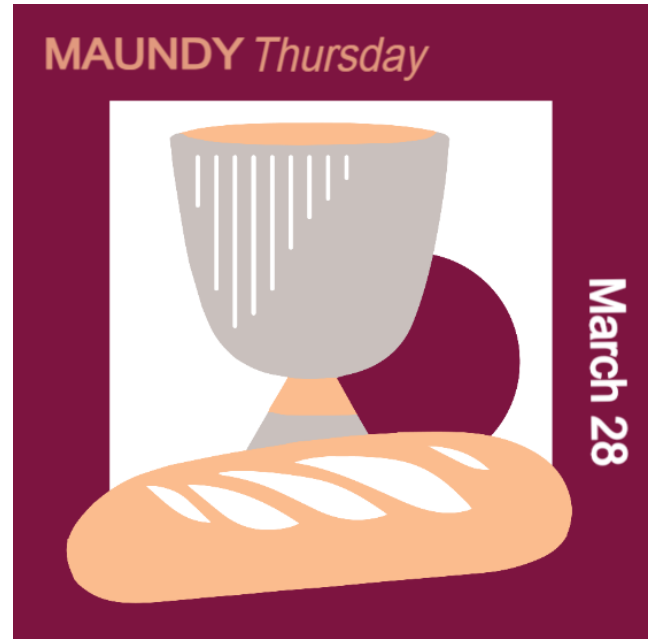
Church News

Maundy Thursday Candlelight Service

Submitted by Lana Meissner

This year the Board of Elders has decided to return to celebrating Maundy Thursday in the King David Room. The service will be held at **7:00 pm on Thursday, March 28**. The following description was written by Michele Hluchy in 2004. While the specific details may vary, the atmosphere created in this deeply spiritual moment has remained consistent until Covid hit.

“Setting: Tables were arranged to form a large cross. They were covered with white linen tablecloths and decorated with green palms, crystal holders with white candles, and gold place settings (consisting of a small gold paper plates and napkins). Under each plate was a lilac-colored program and a pink song sheet. At the head of the cross (formed from the tables) was our church’s large wooden cross draped with a deep purple cloth. One lonely palm was tucked in the drape and on each side of the cross were very large vases filled with green palms. One Christ Candle was in front of the cross and tall candelabra were on either side of the

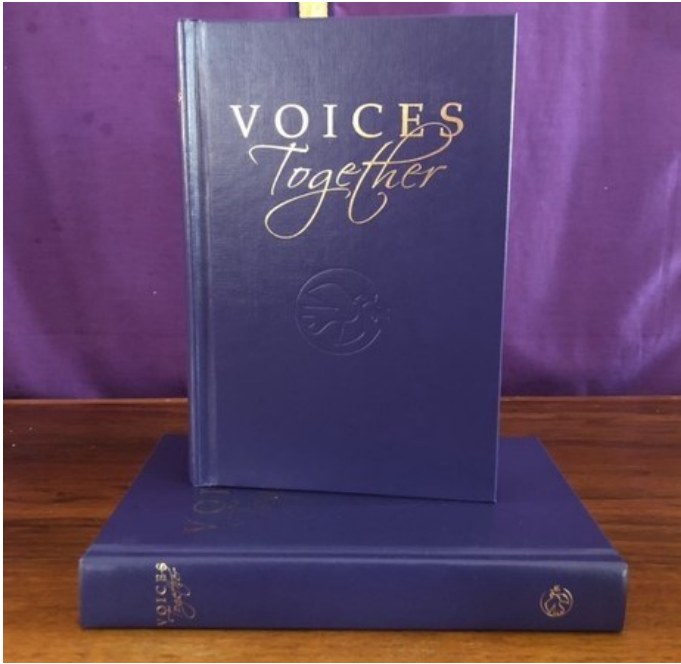


cross. Window curtains were completely drawn throughout the room.”

At the end of the service the candles are extinguished and all leave in darkened silence. All are invited to this year’s renewal of a cherished UUC tradition.



Church News & Events



Easter Plant Memorials

Submitted by Lana Meissner

If you would like to contribute an Easter plant in memory of a loved one for our Easter Sunday service please notify the Church Office by **12 noon on March 27** so that names can be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Plants should be brought to the Church Center on Thursday or Friday, March 28 or 29, or to the Sanctuary on Saturday March 30 at 1:00 pm. Contact Lana Meissner if you have questions 607.661.5159.

Here is a picture of last year's Easter Garden!



The New Hymnals Have Arrived

Submitted by Lana Meissner

The Board of Elders is pleased to let you know that with the approval of the Board of Trustees, we have selected a new hymnal to replace the current hymnals which are over 30 years old. The new hymnal, "Voices Together," published in 2020, includes many beautiful new hymns as well as old favorites. We will begin using our new hymnals on Easter Sunday.

Those who have the names of loved ones in the old hymnals may take those hymnals home. You may request replacement memorial bookplates for the new hymnals if you like. We also encourage you to make contributions to our hymnal fund to offset the cost of the new hymnals which cost about \$30 each. If your contribution is in memory of someone, we will make a bookplate for them. Checks should be made out to UUC with "hymnal fund" In the memo line.



Church News

Presentation by Stuart Smith

Submitted by Regina Burke

Dr. **Smith Smith's** presentation on "The Shadow of the Civil War: Differences Between the North and South in 2024," was attended by church and community members on February 9 in the King David Room.



Book Series You May Enjoy

From the Editor

I'm currently reading a murder mystery series that made me think of you all. Author Julia Spencer-Fleming was born in Plattsburgh and earned one of her degrees at Ithaca College. Her stories take place in a small town in upstate New York, and one of her main characters is a priest. Note the titles of her books! Sometimes her writing is a bit heavy on the tropes, but she also enjoys crushing stereotypes. The



Snorkeling With Captain Chris

Submitted by Joan Schulze

Myrna Berrios recently shared an article on her son, **Christopher**, who is living his dream as a marine biologist in Florida. He is the owner of **FLIPPIN' AWESOME ADVENTURES**. As Captain Chris Farley, he conducts marine wildlife and snorkeling tours in the Gulf of Mexico and St. Andrew Bay. He still considers Alfred his home. For more information see **Flippin' Awesome Adventures.com** or call **(850) 276-4796**.



priest, for example, is a female ex-army chopper pilot from southern Virginia. So far I've read *In the Bleak Midwinter*, where there are some great scenes in which Rev. Clare is driving her **MG** in winter conditions and not enjoying it! I had to laugh when the author noted that some folks think 4 wheel drive means you can go at speed through the snow, that it's somehow connected to the braking system! Her murder-solving buddy, the Chief of Police, tries to get her to switch to a 4 wheel drive but she's not having it. Maybe by Book 8 she'll have a Subaru. The Alfred Box of Books Library has the books.

From Church Art Pro, March 2022



In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



**Mission of the Month
and
Lenten Project**

Dawn and resurrection are synonymous. The reappearance of the light is the same as the survival of the soul. ~ Victor Hugo

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	2
3 10:30 Worship Communion Lent 3	4 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	5 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm Boy Scouts	6	7 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 3:30 Book Group 6 pm: Knit Night	8 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	9
10 10:30 Worship Lent 4	11 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	12 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm: Boy Scouts 7 pm: BOE Mtg	13	14 11:30 am: Nutrition 1 pm: UUC Offices 3:30 Book Group 4:30 Advisory Mtg 6 pm: Knit Night 6 pm: AAUW Mtg	15 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	16
17 9:30 Youth Breakfast 10:30 Worship Lent 5	18 11:30 am: Nutrition Site Farmers Market Board 7-8:30pm	19 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm Boy Scouts	20	21 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 3:30 Book Group 6 pm: Knit Night	22 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	23
24 10:30 Worship Lent 6 <hr/> 31 10:30 Worship Easter	25 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	26 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm Boy Scouts	27	28 11:30 am: Nutrition 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 4 pm: Maundy Thursday 6 pm: Knit Night	29 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	30

March Board Members of the Month

Deacon Mary Beth McDonough (marybethmcdonough1@gmail.com; (607) 661-2529)
 Elder Mary-Lou Cartledge (cartledge@zoominternet.net; (607) 324-3755)
 BOCE
 Fellowship
 Trustee..... Anna McHale (mchale@alfred.edu; (607) 725-0708)

Whom do you call? Flowers or lay leading—call an Elder; greeting or coffee hour—call a Deacon;
 Sunday school—call BOCE; building issues—call a Trustee.



A Prayer for Lent

From Church Art Pro (Newsletter Newsletter, Feb. 2024)

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me.

~Aelred of Rievaulx (12th century)

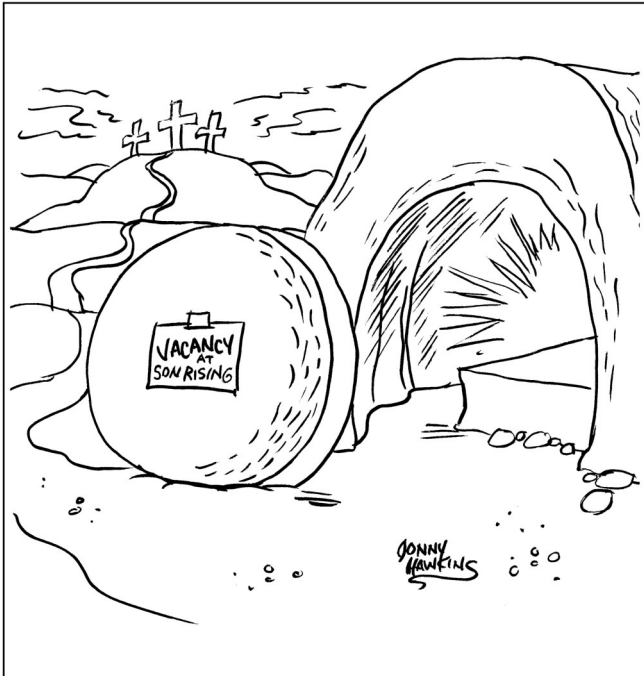
Upcoming Sunday Leaders

If you are not able to serve as scheduled, please switch with someone listed on the charts below and notify the Church Office. If you are unable to find someone to switch with you, please contact either the Elder of the Month or the Deacon of the Month.

Date	Greeter	Lay Leader	Flowers	Coffee	Usher
March 3	D. Stephens	Rick Stephens	Communion Lent 3	Anna McHale	J. Meacham
March 10	Cartledges	H. Meacham	Lent 4	Fasano/Heineman	J. Meacham
March 17	B. Heineman	N. Evangelista	Lent 5	Watsons	J. Meacham
March 24	Jusianiec Family	D. Stephens	Lent 6: Palms	McDonough	J. Meacham
March 31 Easter	Jan & Larry Casey	J. Buckwalter	Lana Meissner	Diaconate	J. Meacham
April 7	Sharon Burdick	Lana Meissner	Lana Meissner	Mindy Smith	Jusianiecs
April 14	Watsons	Dave Porter	Regina Burke	C. Chambers	Jusianiecs
April 21	Schulzes	T. Watson	T. Watson	S. & S. Smith	Amie Acton
April 28	(Installation)	Caiti Dewey	S. Burdick	(Installation)	Amie Acton

Just for Fun

"Easter" = East = Dawn



Modern Times...



"We'd love to have you speak, Ezekiel, but we're a non-prophet."

Knowing the Flock

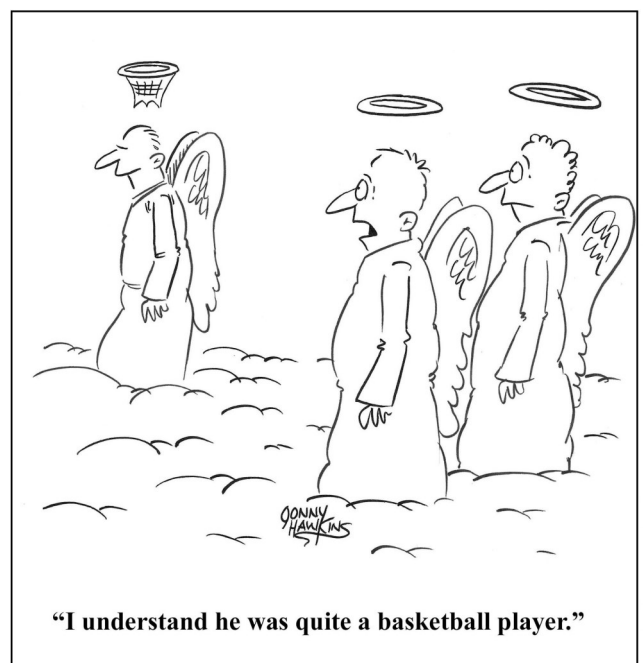
The pastor had just come to a new church. He was talking to one of the deacons and the deacon said, "Pastor, we have been talking among ourselves about what to call you."

The pastor said, "What did you call the last pastor?"
The deacon replied, "We called him the 'Hog Caller.'"
The pastor looked a little surprised and said, "At the last place, they called me the 'Shepherd of the Flock,' but of course you know your own people here better than I do."

—Tal Bonham, in *Treasury of Clean Church Jokes*



Custom Halos!



"I understand he was quite a basketball player."



29 North Main Street
Alfred, New York 14802-1027