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Something to think about

Since its conception in 1922, the Union University Church has always tried to be an inclusive community. In those earliest years, to be inclusive meant to welcome all Sunday worshippers regardless of their denomination, which may not seem very radical today but in the early 20th century, Christians were staunchly loyal to their denominational affiliation. Most churches of that time were like the Lutheran church Garrison Keillor describes in his tongue-in-cheek ode to

Lutheranism:

“We sit in the pew where we always sit,
And we do not shout Amen.
And if anyone yells or waves their hands,
They’re not invited back again.”

The members of the first UUC congregation, by welcoming all Sunday worshippers regardless of affiliation, established the importance of an inclusive community and the tenet of inclusiveness became central to our identity as a church. Over the decades, our understanding of inclusiveness came to mean not only an acceptance of various denomination backgrounds but also a willingness to practice differing baptismal traditions and communion rituals, opening leadership positions and the pulpit to women, a dedication to pursuing racial justice, and of late, the full inclusion of every person into our membership regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Many years ago, a detractor told me that our church’s openness meant that the Union University Church “doesn’t stand for anything,” but in fact, what we stand for *is* openness. For those who haven’t tried it, such radical inclusiveness may seem like a wishy washy easy path of anything goes, but for those of us who have tried it and live with it year in and year out, we know that inclusiveness is hard work. It requires humility, careful listening, compassion, and a willingness to put aside our own discomfort in order to make room for others.

While we most often think of inclusiveness in terms of categories of belief or identity, the church is also called to be inclusive of all personalities. If we are each truly created in the image of God, then extroverts are no closer to heaven than introverts (and vice versa,) the scatterbrained are just as godly as the highly organized, the procrastinators as divinely loved as the planners, and the firebrands as called as the cautious. In my experience, I have seen more tension in church meetings caused by personality conflicts than I have by policy differences, and yet without the diversity of personalities, God’s work might never be accomplished. The extroverts would always

be talking and the introverts always hiding their light under a bushel; the procrastinators would always be putting things off and the planners would be overwhelming us with their lists; the firebrands would rush off to action before they had all of the facts and the cautious would never take a step afraid that there was yet one more thing that needed to be considered. Our personality differences can cause a lot of friction but as a church, we are at our best when we play off of one another's strengths and allow each person's unique approach to the world to inform our calling.

The need to support a variety of personalities becomes more acute when facing the kinds of crises that 2020 has brought upon us. As our society struggles with the anxieties of the pandemic and the social unrest brought on by injustice, we will be most affective in addressing our communities' needs if we support the differing gifts our personalities bring to the work. Too often, we believe that if we are "just not the kind of person that joins protest marches," there is nothing we have to contribute to bringing about God's vision for a more equitable and caring world, but such thinking negates the biblical witness that we are all created in the image of God, that we are all called by God to do God's work, and that the church is strongest in service when it acknowledges and supports the variety of gifts and personalities we bring.

Deepa Iyer, a racial justice advocate and strategic Advisor for the Building Movement Project, describes a multitude of roles that people can play in helping to bring change to our world. In the graphic on the next page, she labels the many ways in which people can contribute to the work for social justice. While we most often associate social justice movements with the "disrupters" in the graphic — the marchers, organizers, boycotters, and speech makers — Iyer encourages us to recognize that the disrupters will be more effective and change will be more likely to occur if the healers, builders, artists, caregivers, and others also find ways of contributing to the work of social justice in roles appropriate to their personalities and passions.

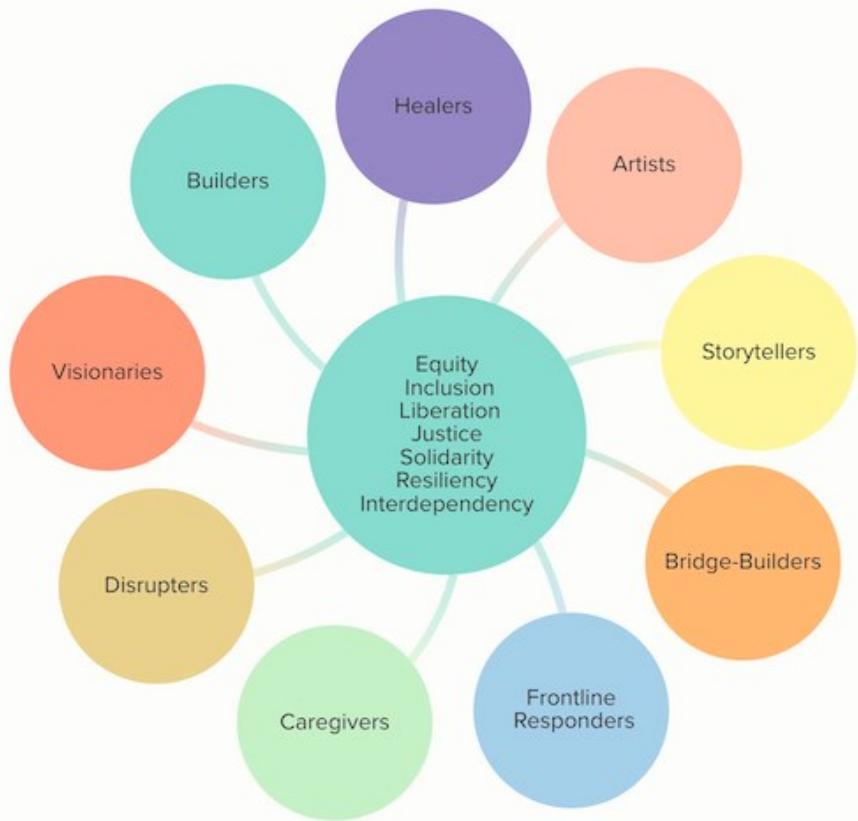
I encourage you to look through the roles described in Iyer's chart and consider where your strengths and passions lie. How can you use your personality traits and gifts to serve the work that needs to be done to bring God's justice and compassion to bear on a broken world?

As we strive to address the many needs of our society, may we be true to the mandate of the Union University Church and be intentionally inclusive of the variety of roles we play in this work. May we celebrate and encourage each member of our church to discover their unique calling and individual means of service so that we may be the body of Christ for the world.



1. http://deepaiyer.com/2019/10/my-role-in-a-social-change-ecosystem-a-mid-year-check-in/?fbclid=IwAR3YPPvthR_NMXrG2RPRdol0HbbJ1wmhfoST67MfNrMy8QpDlyph68y8JeQ

My Role in a Social Change Ecosystem



This work is licensed by Deepa Iyer under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.
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Church News & Events

Summer Worship

Zoom church will continue during the summer hosted by John Buckwalter with members of the Board of Elders leading worship. On Sunday, August 9, the Reflection will be provided by Sarah Jacoby Murphy. Sarah earned her B.A. from Houghton College in 2013 and her M.Div from Duke Divinity School in 2018. She has spent most of her career working in the nonprofit sector and has a particular interest in the areas of immigration and the environment. She lives in Hammondsport, NY with her wife, Sally, and her dog, Blueberry. You might be interested in the following article, "Learning to Listen," written by Sarah. <https://themennonite.org/learning-to-listen/>

When the Pastor is Away ...

While Rev. DeMott is away this summer and you have concerns about worship-related or spiritual matters please contact Larry Casey, chair of the Board of Elders. If there are concerns or needs relating to members of the congregation, please contact Diaconate members Amie Acton or Sharon Burdick.

Senior Gifts

The Diaconate will be delivering gifts to all graduating seniors for UUC this week - key chains to each of the boys and blown glass hummingbirds to the girls with a special message.

Scholarships were awarded at graduations to Luci Lee, Isabella Powell, Will Tormey, Noah Napolitano, and Preston Ordway. Congratulations to all!!



Praying for...

Mindy Smith, Catherine Chambers, Fiona Cormack, Ding Jiaxi and family, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Lois Stiles, Sharon & Roger Smith, Wes Bentz, Barbara (Beverly Snyder's sister), 3 year old Lowin (requested by Cathy Rees), Jim Rausch, Dick Borst, Lavern Hopkin (family friend of Myrna Berrios), Sue Lange & family on the death of Woodie Lange. Condolences may be sent to Sue Lange 7 Portwalk Place, Unit 1202, Portsmouth, NH 03801.



From

The Hornell Area Family YMCA:

The Hornell Area Family YMCA would like to thank you for allowing us to use the Church Center space for the Food Drive last week to benefit the Almond and Alfred Food Pantries. We could not have done the food drive without your support. In the end we had around 25 boxes of food and paper goods donated in the 2 days. Both food pantries were extremely thankful. Thank you again for supporting us in this project. Sincerely Jason Nilson

Kim Gallicchio: *Thank you so much for the recent monetary gift and thoughtfulness from my "secret" supporter during the difficult time experienced by many in the pandemic. With sincere, humble appreciation, Kim @ the Nail Parlor*

Alfred Area Food Pantry: *On behalf of the Alfred Area Food Pantry and the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, we extend our warmest thanks for your kind donation to the Food Pantry. It is the dedication and generosity of the community members that help our area residents in time of need. We are indeed grateful for the valuable contribution you make to our community. God bless you for your generosity. In His service, Linda S. Butts*

To

Zoom Church musicians: Laurel Buckwalter, Peter O'Connor, Luanne Crosby, John Buckwalter, Genie Meltzer, Emma Brown-Shaklee, Lana Meissner, Catherine Chambers, & the Jen & Tim Smith family

Sanctuary trim workers: Laurel & John Buckwalter, Lana Meissner, Walt Schulze, Myrna Berrios.

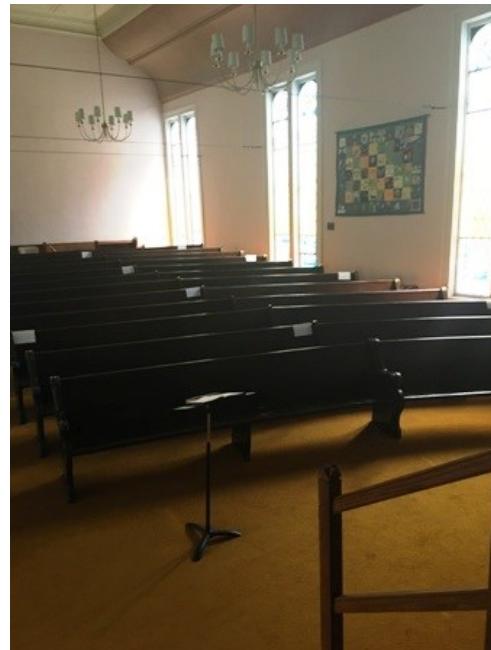
Outdoor maintenance: Laurel & John Buckwalter, Lana Meissner, Jerry Jusianiec, Steve Smith, Jenella Bellows

Church News & Events cont.

In-Person Worship to Begin

August 16, 2020

Assuming New York Covid 19 status remains stable in its decline, we plan to resume in-person worship on August 16, 2020 and will also live-stream the service via Zoom. In order to prepare the sanctuary for social distancing we need to know how many people are likely to attend in person. Masks and social distancing will be required. There will be no singing, greeting, or coffee hour. The pictures below will give you some idea what distanced seating will look like. Families will be able to sit together as a group and each of the white papers in the picture indicate a seating position whether for a family unit or an individual.



Next week you will receive an email survey with the following question. If you do not receive email or would prefer to respond in person you can call the Church Center 607.587.9288 and leave a message with your name and response.

On August 16th, we hope to begin a hybrid church service with socially distanced in-person worship in the sanctuary (masks, spaced seating), while also live-streaming to Zoom. We need an estimated count of how many will attend in-person. Is it likely that you/ your family will attend in-person worship:

- Frequently
- Occasionally
- Not for the foreseeable future but will continue to attend via Zoom

We look forward to being able to worship in person but are also pleased to be able to continue to offer a worship experience for those unable to meet in person.



*We are not people of fear
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own
safety:
we are people who protect our
neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.*

By Rev Dr Barbara Glasson, Pres. Methodist Conf. (Gt. Britain)

People

Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

Lord of Life Abundant,

do not let us fall into the temptation to believe that fear leads our lives.

Do not let us believe that your Spirit of Love and Power left us aside and adrift.

Do not let us fall into the temptation to close ourselves in on us and believe that there are only grey mornings with drops of despair, anguish and desolation.

do not let us fall into the temptation to believe that virus contamination can outweigh your strength, power and mercy.

Do not let us believe that we are paralyzed, without courage, afraid to fail in the way of your gospel for not finding a word of encouragement to lead the discouraged.

Lead us Lord to the clear path, to the diaphanous and divine light that comes from your presence, that gives us unity and brings us together to encourage our lives and tells us, over and over again, "DO NOT BE AFRAID".

Have mercy, Lord! And lead us not into temptation. Amen.

*Cristina Dinoto, Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina
Translation: Red Crearte*



#StayAtHome
#PrayTogether

Emma Tyme Brown-Shaklee

Emma is a multi-talented young woman who has joined with us at UUC for several years sharing her moving songs and exceptional musicianship during worship. She studied liberal arts and agriculture at Alfred State College and is pursuing degrees in music and gerontology at Ithaca College.

Emma has been instrumental in setting up a Facebook group - Southerntier Resource Coordination - with the objective to "combine the efforts of several counties in New York State's Southerntier. This area is rich in natural resource, art, and agriculture. Our objective is to build on existing relationships with land and her inhabitants to foster resilience and enhance our sense of community." Emma is especially interested in finding ways to ameliorate food insecurity. Southerntier Resource Coordination lists local goods, services, businesses, farmers, and artisans. For more information you can contact Emma at emmatyme9@gmail.com.

Savannah Lee

Savannah Lee was part of an 8 member Enactus team from Roberts Wesleyan College that earned fourth place in a national competition. Savannah is a former UUC Youth Group member who has been active in Enactus during her college career. Enactus "welcomes students from ALL majors that want to use their creative minds and passion to be world changers in helping with projects that improve the livelihoods of individuals and entire communities."

"The Roberts presentation, which was virtual this year, focused on the theme of growth in our projects that were all geared towards our city, Rochester, NY. The team enthusiastically put in countless hours and showed unbridled spirit!

"Roberts Wesleyan competed against 44 teams nationwide and advanced to the Final Four after a successful semi-final round at this year's Enactus National Expo. In addition to Roberts Wesleyan, the Final Four also included University of Missouri-Kansas City, Brigham Young University and North Central College. Brigham Young was selected to move on to international competition.



A Morning Prayer (North American Moravian Daily Text 182)

*Merciful God, even when we feel that you are far away,
help us to always remember your love and mercy.
Forgive us when our worries in this life overcome our reliance on
you.
May we always hear you when you call our names. Amen*



July

July 19 - August 9 Rev DeMott will be
away from the pulpit

July 20 - July 31 Office closed (Lana away
with limited email access)

July 19 - Zoom Church

July 26- Zoom Church

August

August 2 - Zoom Church

August 9 - Zoom Church

August 16 - Rev. DeMott returns. Tentative
resumption of in-person worship with
masks and social distancing. Details to
follow. Video streaming will be available.

August 17 - 21 Office closed (Lana away
with limited email access)

August 24 - Regular office hours resume.





July Board Members of the Month

Deacon.....Amie Acton (actona85@gmail.com; 607.382.3143)
Elder.....Larry Casey (lcasey1834@gmail.com; 607.382.2772)
BOCE.....TBD
Fellowship.....TBD
Trustee.....Laurel Buckwalter (laurelbuckwalter@gmail.com; 607.968.0669)

August Board Members of the Month

Deacon.....Barb Willis (bjw2112@verizon.net; 607.382.8636)
Elder.....Jen Smith (smith08family@hotmail.com; 607.661.0320)
BOCE.....TBD
Fellowship.....TBD
Trustee.....Denise Grandusky (dgrandusky@hotmail.com; 585.596.5149)

Who 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.

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	Lay Leader	Flowers	Usher
July 5	L. Casey (EOM)	Communion	Zoom
July 12	J. Buckwalter	Zoom	Zoom
July 19	Amie Acton	Zoom	Zoom
July 26	L. Buckwalter	Zoom	Zoom
Aug 2	J. Smith	Zoom	Zoom
Aug 9	Volunteer needed	Zoom	Zoom
Aug 16 In-person worship resumes	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	TBD
Aug 23	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	TBD
Aug 30	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	TBD

Just for Fun



THE PRIEST CARVES OUT SACRED SPACE AT HOME
IN ORDER TO RECORD LITURGY FOR SUNDAY.

The Bible TL/DR (Too Long/ Didn't Read) Version

GENESIS

God: All right, you two, don't do the one thing. Other than that, have fun.

Adam & Eve: Okay.

Satan: You should do the thing.

Adam & Eve: Okay.

God: What happened!?

Adam & Eve: We did the thing.

God: *Guys!*

THE REST OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

God: You are my people, and you should not do the things.

People: We won't do the things.

God: Good.

People: We did the things.

God: *Guys!*

THE GOSPELS

Jesus: I am the Son of God, and even though you have done the things, the Father and I still love you and want you to live. Don't do the things anymore.

Healed people: Okay! Thank you!

Other people: We've never seen him do the things, but he probably does the things when no one is looking.

Jesus: I have never done the things.

Other people: We're going to put you on trial for doing the things.

Pilate: Did you do the things?

Jesus: No.

Pilate: He didn't do the things.

Other people: Kill him anyway.

Pilate: Okay.

Jesus: *Guys!*

PAUL'S LETTERS

People: We did the things.

Paul: Jesus still loves you, and because you love Him, you have to stop doing the things.

People: Okay.

PAUL'S LETTERS PART II

People: We did the things again.

Paul: *Guys!*

REVELATION

John: When Jesus comes back, there will be no more people who do the things. In the meantime, *stop doing the things.*

THE END





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July/August, 2020 Newsletter