



Justice, love, and compassion
in spiritual community



Spirit of Life

June 2017

Sunday Worship 10:30am

06-04-17

“On Fire with Spirit”: Rev. Carol Allman-Morton

Join us for spirit-filled worship today, exploring passion and tradition.

Share the Plate with Agricultural Ventures

06-11-17

Coming of Age: Rev. Carol Allman-Morton

Today our service will be led by our Coming of Age Youth, and the service will be followed by a celebration and reception.

06-18-17

Flower Communion Sunday: Rev. Carol Allman-Morton

We are all invited to bring a flower to worship (from your garden, the side of the road, a wildflower from the parking lot...) to create a gorgeous bouquet at the front of the church. At the end of the service we will bring home a flower shared by someone else. This tradition was brought to the United States in 1940 from the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. This simple service of sharing is a favorite of Unitarian Universalists around the world!

06-25-17

“What it Means to be Church”: Larry Bennett

I am someone who brings the traditions of my Trinitarian upbringing to my understanding of Unitarian Universalism so I will talk about the Knowing, Being, and Doing of this dynamic we call church. We may even (gasp) pray together.

Larry is a new member of UUMSB and a former President of the First UU Church in Wichita, Kansas where he continues to work (remotely) for KMUW—Kansas Public Radio. Larry and Lana moved to East Chatham last Sept. to be near their only two grandchildren who live in NYC.

Music: Marian Rose
Trustee/Greeter: Ray Garnett
Greeter: Sue Protheroe
Hospitality: Richard LaRhette
Hospitality/Chalice: Diane Moran

Music: Bonnie Benson,
Flora Caligiuri-Randall,
Olivia and Anika
Thiemann
Trustee/Greeter: Ray Garnett
Greeter: Sue Protheroe
Hospitality: Karen Clark
Hospitality/Chalice: Dona Burdick

Music: Hilda Banks Shapiro
UUMSB Choir
Trustee/Greeter: Ray Garnett
Greeter: Sue Protheroe
Hospitality: John Farrell
Hospitality/Chalice: Chuck Pierce

Music: Ed Chastain and
Marian Rose
Trustee/Greeter: Ray Garnett
Greeter: Sue Protheroe
Hospitality: Elizabeth Keen
Hospitality/Chalice: Al Thorp

Mission: We come together from diverse traditions as a welcoming, religious community with shared values, seeking spiritual growth, lifelong religious education, and fellowship. We strive to promote justice, acceptance, and compassion in the world.

Reverend:
Carol Allman-Morton

Residence:
1089 Main Street, Housatonic, MA 01236
[Click here for map and directions](#)

Mailing address:
PO Box 783, Housatonic, MA 01236
Tel: 413-358-3877



Dear Ones,

Happy summer! As I mentioned in my last newsletter column, I will be on sabbatical from July through October. For any pastoral concerns while I am away from the congregation, please be in touch with our founding minister, Rev. Kathy Duhon. She can be contacted at kathyduhon2@gmail.com or 518-794-0021. For congregation related questions you can be in touch with Martha Page, our new Board chair and she can help connect you to answers. If you have questions about membership, contact Ray Garnett and Al Blake.

I will be traveling to New Orleans to participate in the General Assembly for our Unitarian Universalist Association from June 19-27. I will be available by phone and email while I am away.

I look forward to bringing back lots of new ideas and energy in the fall, but let's not get too far ahead of ourselves, there is tons of great stuff happening in June, I'll see you there!

Blessings to us all on the journey... *Carol*

If you have any pastoral concerns, please call me to set up an appointment. I am available to meet on Sunday and weeknights. 413-717-5097 or callmanmorton@gmail.com

Second Sunday School will be on break until September. Have a great summer!

Coming of Age Worship Service: June 11



Message from Jan Hutchinson, President

Back in the 19th century, Thoreau could say, “Time is but a stream I go a-fishing in...” Now in the 21st century, it seems that instead of a gentle trout stream, time has become a whitewater current we are riding as on a rollercoaster. We’re wearing our life preservers and clinging to the gunwales, but it’s a perilous ride.

My long-deceased grandparents and parents commented often about how much faster time moves later in life. Now, as a septuagenarian, I’m sure that age has something to do with my sense of time’s rapidity, but it is also quite obvious that our entire culture and much of the world have sped up along with the exponential “advancements” in technology. We now move from place to place faster than Thoreau could have imagined. Thoughts and communications almost instantaneously circle the globe. The question remains: What has been gained and what has been lost with all this speed, these screens, this techno chatter? I blame the Internet and the often-shallow group-think of social media for our current political chaos and the dangerous Twit-in-Chief.

Juliet Schor wrote about the present: “Millions of Americans have lost control of the basic rhythm of their daily lives. They work too much, eat too quickly, socialize too little, drive and sit in traffic for too many hours, don’t get enough sleep, and feel harried too much of the time.” When our lives become fried, frazzled, and frenetic, it takes conscious intent to escape the racket and the swirl. Let’s strive to take back our time. And the children — can a child who is never given time and freedom to wander alone in the woods ever learn to really see?

Has it all been downhill since the Greatest Generation? I wonder if any hectic generation since could produce a man like Chet Kalm. He was an artist, gifted at seeing, who had the eye and the patience to deeply observe and movingly paint nature. He was a man of gracious manners, attentive listening, and stimulating conversation. He was respected wherever he went. He wasn’t too “busy” to be present in the moment to people and to art. He left while we still had things to learn from him about how to live with calm dignity in this world.

The end of the “Time is but a stream we go a-fishing in” quotation from Walden is: “...but when I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slips away, but eternity remains.”

- Jan Hutchinson

What's Happening in June on the UUMSB's Social Justice Front?

Our June **Share the Plate Sunday** will take place on **June 4** for **Agricultural Ventures (AV)**. Martha Page will be introducing the AV representative that Sunday who will tell us the history of their work in Berkshire County. AV is our newest Share the Plate organization and the final one representing the issue of food insecurity. Let's make them feel welcome and be as supportive as possible.

Regarding this theme of food insecurity in Berkshire County the Social Justice Team has been exploring the potential of developing a **UUMSB Community Garden** since we first began this discussion with the **Greenagers** when they came for their Share the Plate Sunday in April. The **Membership Committee** has joined us in partnership to explore this possibility and make this potential project a real team effort. We hope to bring in members of our wider Housatonic community into this discussion as we strategize about a community garden. On that point we plan on surveying our neighborhood here in Housatonic early next month to ask them what they think and might they be interested in becoming involved in such a project?

Please consider joining us on **Friday, June 16** for a potluck supper and community discussion about a **UU/Housatonic Community Garden** – having a garden right here on our own property (with some sharing from the Ramsdale Library). The community survey and invitation to this event (with some neighborhood door knocking) will take place on **Sunday, June 4**, after service. Want to join us? Reach out to Tommie, Al, Ray or Karen.

So – come one, come all on **Friday, June 16 at 6:30** to join the Membership and Social Justice folks for a community supper and discussion (in the Fellowship Room) concerning growing local! We are working on a panel of experts who will add to this discussion with their firsthand experiences of developing shared gardens. Bring a dish and join us! Watch for a flyer on the Action Table during coffee hour.

The next **Justice Team book discussion** has been set for **Sunday, June 25**, following service (bring your lunch). The book we have chosen is ***Lies My Teacher Told Me*** by James Loewen. Questions? Just ask Ray or Tommie.

The annual **UUA General Assembly** is scheduled for June 21 through June 25 in New Orleans. This year the theme is **Resist and Rejoice** and is labeled a **Justice GA**. Three members of our congregation are scheduled to attend – Rev Carol, Bill Young and Tommie Hutto-Blake (yes, the team from last year). We will each head in different directions during the workshops and gather at times for main events and some post talk discussion. You may remember on return last year we shared some of our GA experiences with UUMSB, and we might try that again this year. This is the annual gathering of UUs from all over our nation as well as international UU communities. If you have never experienced a UU GA (whether you are a long time UU or just found us) put a future GA on your bucket list!

What's Happening in June on the UUMSB's Social Justice Front?

The **Ware Lecture** (key note address) at GA this year is noted justice public interest lawyer **Bryan Stevenson** who wrote the acclaimed book **Just Mercy**. Bryan is the founder of the **Equal Justice Initiative** in Montgomery, Alabama and has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned.

Just Mercy will probably be a future shared book read for the Social Justice bookgroup in the months ahead. Consider joining us! Mr. Stevenson's work fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system has won him numerous awards – to mention only a few - the ABA Wisdom Award for Public Service, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Award Prize, the ACLU National Medal of Liberty, the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award, and the NAACP Ming Award for Advocacy. He is a Harvard Law School and Harvard School of Government graduate and has been awarded 26 honorary doctorate degrees and is currently a Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law. On top of all this we hear he is a fabulous and full-spirited speaker!

Please consider joining us in this UUMSB work! The next Social Justice quarterly meeting will be held at 9am on Sunday, July 23.

2/2

In the journey, Tommie for the Justice Team ~ Ricky Bernstein, Al Blake, Valerie Bluhm, Karen Clark, Stu Dalheim, Sheryl Davies, Ray Garnett, Gwendolyn Hampton VanSant, Sandy Noyes, Martha Page, Sue Protheroe, Gary Shaw.



"On April 29th, several church youth participated in Lee's 2nd Annual Greener Gateway



Cleanup, for their community service project. Anika and Olivia Thiemann, Phaedra Duhon, and Colin Thorp, along with Reverend Carol, Carol McKenna, and Paula Duhon collected a carload of bags of trash and recyclables during the 2 hour clean up.

Many thanks from the Lee Greener Gateway Committee for their participation! "



June

- 02 Jessica Hampton
- 04 Julie Chamberlain
- 07 Peyton Duhon
- 09 Gretchen Dix
- 11 Fred Clark
- 20 Carol Allman-Morton
- 30 Gary Shaw

Congregational Joys and Concerns:

If you have any personal joys or concerns that you would like to share, send them to Sheena at info@uumsb.org. Thanks!



Would you like to join?

Come and sing with us!
We rehearse at **9:25 a.m.** before worship on the Sundays we will be singing.

Contact Marian Rose for information.



This month we sing on the **18th**

Membership Directory!

If you are part of our community, but have not yet officially joined the congregation, we would love to add you to our member directory as a friend, so that folks can be in touch with you and we can call you in case of cancellations. Just send an email to our administrator Sheena with your contact info at info@uumsb.org!



The Caring Committee, a part of the Membership and Growth Committee, coordinates and delivers caring services to members experiencing difficulties. We are available for anyone needing assistance in life or family situations that seem to come to everyone from time to time. Our committee finds volunteers from the congregation to help provide visits, food, transportation, and other services, depending on the situation.

Whether you or someone you know may need information, encouragement, a hand or a ride, please call:

- Valerie Bluhm (413) 394-4309
- Zoe Dalheim (413) 243-3617
- Phlox Laucher (413) 281-8351
- Sharon Meyer (413) 528-0956
- Sue Montague (518) 321-5102



[Facebook/uumsb](https://www.facebook.com/uumsb)



and share our events and announcements.
Thank you!

UUMSB Social Media 'Go To' Page

Online UUMSB Google Calendar!

You do not have to be signed in to anything to see it. The calendar will reflect our programs, meetings, and worship information for each Sunday.

Click on this link: [UUMSB calendar](#)

Let Sheena know! Email her at info@uumsb.org

CLICK ON THE LINK:

[BHRSS](#) Berkshire Human Rights Speaker Series

[Clara Barton District](#)

[Construct Inc](#)

[Unitarian Universalist Association](#)

[UU Mass Action](#)

[UUMSB](#)

[UUSC](#)

[HospiceCare](#)

[RSYP](#) Railroad Street Youth Project

[Hands in Outreach HIO](#)

[Multicultural BRIDGE](#)

[350.org](#)

[Twitter/uumsb](#)

[Facebook/uumsb](#)

[Tumblr/uumsb](#)

Four Freedoms website. www.4freedomcoalition.org



Are you a Facebook user?

Check out UUMSB on Facebook, including a calendar of all our events!

"Like US" and help spread our messages to your friends.



[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[Commit2Respond](#)

[PFLAG](#)

[Jan Hutchinson's Raggedy Prayers and Crooked Ladders.](#)

WHERE DO I FIND INFORMATION ON EVENTS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?

The most comprehensive listings are:

- ◆ In the newsletter (print, email and web); On our website (uumsb.org)
- ◆ On our Google calendar:
- ◆ (https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=uumsb1@gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York)
- ◆ Updates and changes are sent out over email and posted on Facebook
- ◆ In the weekly insert at worship; On the bulletin board in the social hall

If you have any announcements to go out by email or to be printed in the Sunday insert, send them to info@uumsb.org by Tuesday each week. If you have something to be posted to Facebook, you can send that to callmanmorton@gmail.com anytime, or post from your account on the UUMSB page.



June 2017



South County Race Task Force	7:00pm: Thursday June 1
Trans Group meeting	7:00pm: Thursday June 1
Membership and Growth Committee meeting	9:15am: Sunday June 4
Small Group Ministry	7:00pm: Thursday June 8
Facility Use Committee meeting	9:00am: Sunday June 11
Trans Group meeting	7:00pm: Thursday June 15
Potluck Supper—community discussion (see page 4)	6:30pm: Friday June 16
Choir Rehearsal	9:25am: Sunday June 18
Board meeting	12Noon: Sunday June 18
Social Justice book discussion (see page 4)	12Noon: Sunday June 25

UUMSB Board

President: *Jan Hutchinson* (413) 528-9588
Vice President: *Martha Page* (860) 597-2612
Secretary/Clerk: *Dennis Downing* (413) 528-3381
Treasurer: *Bill Young* (860) 597-2627
Trustees at Large: *Sheryl Davies* (413) 637-8254
Ray Garnett (413) 232-0248
Dan Haas (518) 329-4229

Our congregation's first meeting was in 1995 with 6 people in attendance. We are a chartered congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We currently have 67 members and maintain strong ties to our community. We are a growing congregation in the liberal tradition that respects ideas, values diversity, and encourages the exploration of spirituality and life's meaning.

UUMSB Church, Housatonic [Click here for map and directions-](#)