Our theme for September is “Courage.” In the earliest days of the pandemic, I was in so many conversations about how we find hope. That is still incredibly important, but I’m feeling an even greater call to courage.

When everything is so unstable, so unsure, when the forces of hate and ignorance and oppression can seem so insurmountable, how do I find the courage to keep going? Our Sunday services in September will explore this.

On September we honor Labor Sunday. The sermon will be titled, “Which Side Are You On?” That title comes from an old union song I heard a lot growing up in West Virginia. We’ll try to learn from the old union struggles, both what they got right and where they fell short.

September 13 traditionally, would be our annual Water Communion. Ordinarily, everyone would be invited to come forward and share some water from their summer travels or experiences, along with a story about what the water represents to them. This we add into a common bowl to represent how our many individual journeys become one community. Sadly, we can’t observe this ritual as we normally would; however, we will adapt. **There will be a container in front of the Meetinghouse to drop off your water, even if it just comes from your house, any time between September 10 and 12!** In the service, we will still pour the water together, and reconnect, symbolically, to our common heart. **You are also invited to email me just a sentence or two about one way you have found healing and renewed Life during this past summer, and we’ll share those messages in the service.** This service will also draw from the words and wisdom of Unitarian mystic and transcendentalist Margaret Fuller.

On September 20 our service will focus on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a theologian who was executed by the Nazis for being part of a plot to assassinate Hitler. We’ll use Bonhoeffer’s life and writings to ask the question: “When a society descends into fascism and white nationalism, when propaganda rules over fact, what does a person of conscience do?” This will be a **“Bring-a-Friend-to-Service Sunday;”** you’re encouraged to send the Zoom link to at least one friend, and since we’re virtual, they can be anywhere! This service will be designed especially with new visitors in mind. The road is long and difficult, my friends, and we have so much further to go. But please take courage, because you are not alone.

**Note:** There will be no UUFF service on September 27. You are encouraged to join the service of one of our sibling Cape UU churches.

Yours in the struggle; *Rev. David*
I speak with members of our congregation on a regular basis. Many of us are feeling an odd disconnect between growing anxiety about the future, yet greater comfort levels arising from getting used to the “new normal.” In fact, in spite of the virus, many initiatives are moving forward, including our new Whole Life Learning program. The Board is using our new protocol in which issues are introduced and then studied by a subcommittee that reports back with findings and recommendations to the entire Board.

Our Outreach Task Force is gathering data and has already suggested a few changes that will increase our visibility within the community. UU Falmouth is well represented in the community by individuals and groups of individuals from the Fellowship. For example, we were instrumental in establishing No Place for Hate in Falmouth. As a leading member of the Faith Communities Environmental Network of over thirty faith communities on the Cape and Islands, we helped get towns like Falmouth to pass a Declaration of a Climate Emergency. UU Falmouth has more people attending progressive demonstrations than any other group. We showed up at the State House to support Compassion and Choices. We helped initiate the annual Dr. Martin Luther King annual breakfast, which now draws hundreds every year. We worked with others to establish the annual Alternative Gift Market, which is now a community fixture. We give thousands of dollars to the Falmouth Service Center and many other outstanding service organizations. Our Share the Plate collections have generated thousands of dollars used to provide support and aid to alleviate suffering, such as that experienced by Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.

In my own experience, I chaired a subcommittee of No Place for Hate that included a number of UU Falmouth members. We had heard that although the Falmouth Cape Verden community had contributed greatly to the success of Falmouth sports teams, students of color were significantly underrepresented in the Falmouth High School Athletic Hall of Fame. We worked with the Falmouth school administration to invite Michael Lopes, a former student from the Falmouth Cape Verden community, who led the Falmouth basketball team to a state championship in the 70’s. The high school convened a school-wide assembly where Mr. Lopes gave an inspirational talk. The Cape Verden Club hosted a dinner attended by members of the Cape Verden community, as well as Falmouth and surrounding towns’ non-Cape Verden communities. Local Cape Verdians now consider us to be a major ally in their fight for justice.

However, many of these initiatives are taking place in individual “silos,” without integration among our efforts, or identification of our participants as representing UU Falmouth. The Social Action Committee, chaired by Chris Wheeler, is working with others to examine ways to integrate these activities, and especially to identify congregation-wide causes that would unify us in purpose and increase our impact.

So, coronavirus or no, our UU Falmouth life marches forward. Through Zoom and other contacts in the new norm, we support each other and make a significant difference in the greater community. Thank you for all you do and will do in the weeks and months ahead.

Life is good!

Steve Treistman, President
Whole Life Learning

We would like to thank Joanne Treistman for all she’s done over the summer to help us continue our educational programming, and connect Whole Life Learning to our greater Fellowship and community.

We are at an exciting point in the development of Whole Life Learning. The task force has created a vision and mission statement, as well as procedures for implementing this new program, thanks to the great work of some very dedicated people. Rev. David has brought together a committee that will now take this vision and make it a reality. Stay tuned for more exciting events in the near future.

Vision: The Whole Life Learning Committee is formed to assist in organization, planning, carrying out and evaluating of the Whole Life Learning program. Whole Life Learning is a program to educate and inspire ourselves to live the UU principles in our Fellowship and the greater community.

Mission: To provide multigenerational and age-specific experiences that foster personal growth: ethically, spiritually, intellectually and emotionally; and that reinforce our values within our Fellowship and the community.

Summer Photo Contest!
Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

As we begin to transition into the next season, let’s take a moment to reflect and share our favorite memories from the summer. We will be hosting a photo contest on Zoom where participants will have an opportunity to share a memory captured, and a brief story if you wish. We will vote on favorite submissions, and winners will have their photo featured on UUFF social media! Send your photo submissions and questions to wil@uuffm.org. The login to the Photo Contest will be sent out by email prior to the event.

Small Group Coastsweep!
Sunday, September 20

Want to do something easy for the nearby environment while connecting with nationwide and international efforts? Whole Life Learning invites you to do a beach cleanup, registered with Coastsweep.

Our congregation has had fun making a group effort with our children in the past, cleaning up near Trunk River together every September. This year, no large group sweeps will be held. Instead, we can have fun and make progress in small family and other groups, which we ask you to organize. To sign up, contact: wil@uuffm.org. For more information, go to https://www.mass.gov/service-details/coastsweep-2020-covid-19-notice.
**Summer Kayaking**

The UUFF summer kayaking group continues through September! We meet every Tuesday morning at a different location. If you would like to try kayaking and want to be on the mailing list (which includes a description of the location for the week along with directions), email Gail Donkin at treasurer@uuffm.org. If you’re new to kayaking and would like to see if there is an extra kayak you can use, contact Gail.

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**Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment**

*Edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom*

**Two-Part Discussion: September 23 and 30 at 7:00 PM via Zoom**

Environmental action has long been a passion of many of us at UUFF, and the climate crisis is truly an existential threat to Cape Cod and the entire planet. But did you know environmental action and anti-racism are deeply interconnected? In this two-part discussion, we’ll explore environmental justice and what it means for us to engage this as an act of faith.

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**An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States**

*by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz*

For Native American Heritage Month, we will use this book for three sessions to unlearn and relearn American history, with a focus on what this means for Cape Cod.

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**Anti-Racist Book Discussions**

As part of our commitment to being authentically anti-racist, we will be hosting a series of book discussions over the next few months, and identifying actions we can take. (We began with *How to be an Antiracist in August.*)

You are invited to come to all, or just one. Choose the one that most interests you, or that makes you most uncomfortable. You can read the book, or just come. We will structure conversations to be open to everyone, though of course you’ll get the most benefit if you engage with the book.
AGM Goes Virtual: November 7-15, 2020

The Social Action Committee is happy to announce that the 2020 Alternative Gift Market will NOT be a casualty of Covid-19. The AGM is going VIRTUAL and will be held online beginning November 7 and running through November 15.

More great news—two new sponsoring congregations, Mashpee Congregational Church, and Christ the King Parish in Mashpee will join us this year, bringing the total to nine. The Steering Committee of the Alternative Gift Market, with representatives from each of the sponsoring congregations, believes that nonprofit organizations dedicated to bettering the lives of people everywhere and improving the health of our planet are in need of support more than ever. For this reason, and also a desire to keep up the momentum of this very successful interfaith fundraiser, the committee is working harder than ever to prepare. Five members of our Fellowship - Christine Michelson, Jennifer Alai, Noreen Cavanaugh, Charlotte Harris and Jane Jackson - are active participants in the launching of this year’s market. Feel free to contact them if you have any questions or would like to help.

Auctions in the Time of Corona

UUFF 2020 Fall Auction: November 20-30 Online

We are moving our major fundraising event to the fall this year! It will run from November 20-30. Some of our favorite auction items will be included, but there will also be a new “Holiday Bazaar” feature with fixed price items suitable for gift giving. Please think about items you can contribute to make this a success and help us meet our fundraising goals for the year. We will welcome the usual services, artisan items, quality items needing a new home, and home-cooked meals and delicacies to be delivered to the purchasers.

Our spring 2021 auction will probably focus on services to occur over the summer and home-cooked meals. We hope to hold an in-person auction in the fall of 2021, if it is safe to do so - we'll keep you posted on that! If you would like to help with the auction (planning, computer work, delivering items or other), please contact Ellen Todd at admin@uuffm.org.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth
840 Sandwich Road, East Falmouth, MA 02536
508-457-0449
The Reverend David M. Kohlmeier, Minister

Fred Johnson
Director of Music

Heather Worrilow
Nursery Caregiver

Office Hours: Kit will be working from home 9 to 2, Tuesday through Friday

Kit O’Connor
Office Administrator
Email: admin@uuffm.org

Chris McQuarrie
B&G Caretaker

Our website:
https://uuffm.org

Nancy Wendlandt
Pianist

Maria Souza
Cleaning Professional

Post notices:
announce@uuffm.org
Thank you to all who participated in the UUFF Talent Show on August 26, 2020. Joanne Treistman and her grandson Danny did a wonderful job putting it all together. Over 30 people participated!
UUFF Announcements

Fellowship “Gatherings”

Mah Jongg meets every Tuesday, from 1:00-2:00 PM via Zoom for a check-in and chat. At 2:00 PM those who wish to play are asked to go to realmahjongg.com. If you would like the Zoom login or more information about realmahjongg.com, contact Peggy Sabin.

Men's Breakfast meets every Thursday, 8:00-10:00 AM via Zoom. To get the login information, contact Bob Sabin.

Ladies Lunch will be meeting via Zoom on Thursday, September 10 at 12:30 PM. Please contact Kathe Crew to get the login information.

Brown Bag Book Bunch will start up again on September 16 at noon. If you have any questions or for the Zoom login, please contact Chris Jacobi.

Caring Committee

Can you believe we are coming upon Labor Day? Where has the summer gone? Someday this virus will leave us.

I have no new physical problems to report from the congregation – good news!

Emotional news is the topic of the day. So many are alone and lonely. Please pick a name, any name, from the directory, and give that person a call. Little things make a big difference.

If you are comfortable with outside, socially-distanced visits, call someone and set one up. Many folks need contact and are not good with computers, so be old fashion and call.

Have a wonderful fall, and here’s hoping we can be together soon.

Stay safe!
Marion Flurkey

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

09/01 Charlotte Harris 09/13 Louise Vardack 09/24 Liz Prete
09/03 Nancy Wendlandt 09/16 Joanna McWilliam 09/29 Annalisa Fox
09/03 Ruth Agnew 09/16 Stephen Jumper 09/30 Susan Brooks
09/05 Dorothy Schrumpf 09/19 Virginia Richardson
09/11 Jewel Blake 09/24 Erika Fox
The UUFF central calendar is now linked in real time to the website, UUFFM.org so you can see up-to-date changes as they occur.

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td><strong>Red</strong></td>
<td>Congregation Wide events</td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
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<td>12:00 PM Social Action Cmte.</td>
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<td>8:00 AM Men's Breakfast</td>
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<td><strong>4:00 PM:</strong> Fellowship Tea, Membership</td>
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<td><strong>5:00 PM:</strong> Fellowship Group #2</td>
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<td><strong>12:00 PM Fellowship Lunch</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12:00 PM Religious Services Cmte.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3:00 PM Caring Committee</strong></td>
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*CoastSweep - Small Groups:
10:00 AM Service
3:45 PM Fellowship Group #5