



## **The UUF Circle**

*Newsletter of the Unitarian  
Universalists of Fallston*

*You Are Welcome Here!*  
**June 2020**

### *A Month of Sundays*

*Sunday Services at 11:00 AM, 1127 Old Fallston Road, P.O. Box 258, Fallston, MD (410-877-3773)*

#### ***Greetings UU Friends, Family, Members***

So, the U.S. is attempting to “reopen.” We are in the process of a multi-pronged study. We hope the results will be out by Christmas.

The UUA has recommended that UU Congregations wait until May 2021 to reopen.

#### ***SUNDAY SERVICES.***

May 24<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Gabby used humor to teach us that humor brings out stereotypes and allows us to view ourselves. Jokes can be used to explain our thoughts and actions. Humor helps us not to take ourselves so seriously. She touched on harmful and derogatory humor.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. Rev. Karyn Marsh – recent graduate from divinity school. Spoke about getting through tumultuous times, and wondering if it is feasible or ethical to “return to normal.”

June 7. Rev. Terry is back at the helm. “We are not alone.”  
This is the final minister-led service until we resume in September.

After the 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be having lay-led services. Mark Nolder is asking members to sign up to lead a service. Please consider your interests, passions, expertise and offer to impart your wisdom upon us. Anything you love has a spiritual connotation and it would be nice to share this with others.

#### ***Terry’s Column***

It’s pretty easy with social distancing to think we are, but this virus gives us a chance to see anew just how connected we are in ways we don’t usually see. Hard times open up new doors. And the loving strength, beauty, and wisdom these less-noticed connections impart are the great treasures of our life.

With the ongoing stress of the virus on our collective health and economy, it is no wonder that we’re seeing unusual actions. I’ve noticed increased crankiness in me and others as the long-term reality of this virus settles in. Yet the shutting down of

the Michigan statehouse in the face of armed invaders - I think that is the proper term - crossed a line for me because it is essential that our democratic institutions weather this stress intact. For me the reasons for that are obvious, especially with Memorial Day just past, and of course we Unitarian Universalists pay particular attention to democratic process as a hard-won and indeed religious accomplishment. So it behooves us all to pay attention not only to the specific content of the many issues before us but also to the manner in which we approach and settle them. It would be a double tragedy if our country sabotaged the principles that won us international respect because we cannot peacefully settle issues exacerbated by this virus.

And of course this peaceful approach applies closer to home as I find differences among those I live with about how to approach issues we all face. My “obvious” solutions don’t necessarily win the approval of others, and so I’m trying to watch my reactions. I am finding this a chance to witness my less admirable qualities and emotions and to practice living as I feel a serious time deserves. Life has become a constant meditation, at which I find myself not so great.

But I’m not expecting perfection anywhere, least of all in me - just conscious, considered awareness with some effort added in. Know that I also wish you well in your efforts to weather this time holding true to your ideals, living them out under stress.

### ***SOCIAL OUTINGS***

Harford County is relaxing some of the restrictions due to COVID 19. Perhaps, we can schedule a walk in the park or have dinner at each other’s homes if we sit outside.

### ***MINISTRY COMMITMENTS***

We are still the “Grape Jelly Church” so bring your grape jelly for the Maryland Food Bank.

We still support Halls Cross Roads Elementary School. School supplies, winter wear, and breakfast items are always welcome. For now, the kids are out of school.

We are still supporting a shelter and the urgent need is for toilet paper, rationed out at 2 rolls per month, per family.

Anne Bredlow sent a list of food pantries in Harford County. They will be included below. The Sharing table still needs donations. Monetary donations can be made online to the Maryland Food Bank. [www.mdfoodbank.org](http://www.mdfoodbank.org); and the Edgewood Food Pantry list is <https://foodpantries.org/ci/md-edgewood>.

# Food Pantries in Harford County

## Mason-Dixon Community Services Food

708 Highland Rd. Street, Md

**410-452-9025**

Food Pantry: Mon-Thu: 9am-12pm DRIVE Thru Only

Delivery Service of food pantry items for those Forest Hill and other northern parts of county.

## First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air

224 N. Main St. Bel Air, MD

**410-838-5777**

fpcbelair@verizon.net

Two boxes of food outside of church and it is self-serve at this time.

If you have a specific client in need, they ask that you email them the situation and they would be happy to help.

## Calvary Baptist Church

206 E. Courtland Place Bel Air, MD

**410-838-6080**

Food Pantry: Tue: 9:30am-3pm Closed Holidays & snow days

## St. John's Episcopal Church

114 N. Union Ave. Havre de Grace, MD

**410-939-2107**

Food Bank & Hot Meal

Fri: 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

## **Centre U. M. Church**

2409 Rocks Rd. Forest Hill, MD 21050

**410-838-4207**

Food Pantry: Wed: 6-7:30pm DRIVE THRU SERVICE; will stay open until food is no longer available Closed holidays & snow days

## **Bel Air United Methodist Church**

21 Linwood Ave. Bel Air, MD

**410-879-2797 / 410-838-5181**

- Hot Meal: Wed: 11:30am-1:00pm DRIVE THRU ONLY
- Food Pantry: 8 am to 4 pm DRIVE THRU ONLY
- Family Food Distribution: 3rd Saturday of the month: 9am-12pm DRIVE THRU ONLY

## **St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church**

1450 Abingdon Rd. Abingdon, MD

**410-676-5119**

Food Pantry: Thu: 5:30-6:30pm, Saturday 9-10 am

## **The EPICENTER of Edgewood**

1918 Pulaski Hwy. Edgewood, MD 21040

**443-981-3742**

Food Giveaway & Resource Fair 2nd Friday of the Month

## **Oak Grove Baptist Church**

2106 E. Churchville Rd. Bel Air, MD

**410-838-9898**

Food Pantry:

3rd Sat of the month 10-11am DRIVE THRU SERVICES at this time.

### **St. Joan of Arc Church**

215 S. Law St. Aberdeen, MD

**410-272-4535**

Food Pantry: HdG, Aberdeen, Perryman, Belcamp Wed: 9:30-11am

Sat: 9:30-11:00am

### **Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall**

1022 Main St. Darlington, MD

**410-836-3587**

3rd Saturday of the Month: 9am-10am Food distribution and breakfast.

Following Social Distancing and only allowing 10 people in for meal at one time.

Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat. DRIVE THRU SERVICES

### **St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**

1021 St. Mary's Road; Pylesville, MD

**410- 879-4015**

Food Pantry: 3rd Saturday of the Month 10am- 12pm

No Service in April, Nov & Dec

### **Twice Blessed Thrift Shop**

2115 Shuresville Rd. Darlington, MD 410-457-0131

Emergency Food Pantry: Mon-Sat: 9:30am-12pm Clothing: \$5.00 a bag

## **Grace United Methodist Church**

110 W. Bel Air Ave. Aberdeen, MD

**410-272-0909**

Emergency Food Assistance:

Wed: 5-6pm. Must bring photo ID.

CHURCH PARKING LOT- DRIVE THRU or WALK UP SERVICES

Non-perishable and meals to give away

## **Grove Presbyterian Church**

50 E. Bel Air Ave. Aberdeen, MD

**410-272-0896**

Food Pantry: Wed: 7-8pm

## **Prince of Peace Church**

2600 Willoughby Beach Road Edgewood

**410-575-3858**

Hot Meal & Food Pantry: Sat 11:30am-1pm

## **Lutheran Mission Society**

531 Legion Dr. Havre de Grace, MD

**410-939-0879**

Must call ahead to plan for food and clothing. One Wednesday a month.

## **Harford Community Action Agency**

13218 Woodbridge Station Way Edgewood, MD

**410-612-9899**

Food Pantry: DRIVE THRU SERVICE ONLY Mon & Wed: 8:00am-5pm

Thu & Fri: 8:30am-4:30pm

## **Trinity Lutheran Church**

1100 Philadelphia Rd. Joppa, MD

**410-679-4000**

Inclement weather call: 410-679-4000 x313

Food Closet:

### ***Joys and sorrows***

David Sliney is happy to be back in Maryland, and not to have contracted COVID 19.

Jeannie Galvin-Clarke is happy to be with her grandchildren in Utah.

Fran found his cat.

Joan and Bonnie expressed concern over the treatment of African Americans in the US and now the resultant rioting. This led to a discussion of possible concrete changes to address this. Per Rev. Marsh: MLK said, "A riot is the language of the unheard."

### ***Announcements***

Please remember to send your donations to UUF, Post Office Box 258. Fallston, MD 21047-0258

## **Unitarian-Universalists of Fallston**

### **MINUTES CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 31 May 2020**

1. Fran opened the meeting at 12:26 and read a draft agenda. There were no comments. Marvin Baer asked to attend the meeting even though he had not officially become a member,

although he planned to. All were delighted to have him join the meeting. Elaine Cook had previously announced that she was unable to attend the annual meeting because of a death in the family. David Sliney stated that he would draft minutes for Fran and Elaine to complete for the record.

2. Patti Rodowski presented the President's annual report. She noted that the UUF had held twelve Zoom Fellowship meetings through Zoom. She thanked several active members for their extra efforts during the challenging year: Fran for the Zoom organization; Mark for organizing Sunday services; Elaine for the Newsletter; Scott for his earlier planning of Sunday programs and the newsletter; etc.

3. Kathy Spinelli, treasurer, presented the financial information and explained that there had been a reduction of number of pledges, but the sum total had remained rather stable. There is an encouraging development that the total pledged amount for this new fiscal year is somewhat higher than in the . The income and expense report was then reported. Income had declined because of loss of a renter and because of loss of rental income as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown. She reported a \$ 4, 616 deficit, but that will reduce somewhat with the addition of the May income. She summarized that a deficit would increase and that a decision would be required on whether to reduce the budget.

4. Budget. Fran Kriston then presented the report of the Budget Committee. He remarked that the Church had really performed remarkably in order to function with the decreased income in recent years. He explained that Kathy had discovered that the BGE bill should have been lower since the UUF was a non-profit, and we had experienced a lower bill without paying taxes on the utilities bill this last fiscal year. He noted that the UUA continues to suggest that our congregation should really pay more than the current \$1,200 item in the budget. K Mann asked why there seemed to be a discrepancy between the past annual expenditures and the budget of about \$ 5k. Fran explained that was actually because the earlier table of income was not for a full 12 months, but otherwise it would agree. It was pointed out by Lucille that the RE costs would not be required if the UUA recommendation to hold no in-person services before April 2021. There was agreement that it needed to be retained as a contingency K Mann stated that the back door was really in need of replacement. Fran explained that there were a couple of funds that might be tapped for this. Anne Bredlow asked about whether Nick would still be able to serve as the RE contractor and also were we still paying the cleaning person; the answer was: Yes.

5. Nominating Committee Report. Steve Elliot stated that there was not a firm report, since one position had not been Fran Kriston was nominated to be the President; Elaine Cook, as Secretary, Patti Rodowski as V-P. Kern had sent out an e-mail for suggested nominations about a month earlier, and a President-Elect position had not yet been settled. Jeanne Galvin was



thinking about assuming that role, but asked for more clarification. Lucille stated that she had volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee.

6. Zoom impression and issues: All seemed relatively delighted with the Zoom meetings. Fran noted that Zoom permitted a distant meeting to present a sermon. It was nice to be able to have a back-up during a blizzard. David Sliney explained that there might be a way to have some music that is not broken up by Zoom. He would check with the UUPB to see how they do it. There was extensive discussion regarding the potential for Zoom bombing and misused. Charlene noted that there was a note appearing on the UUF Facebook page that Michael Redding had asked how to join the meeting, but did not appear even though there was a link on the Facebook page, and David Sliney suggested that the Facebook requester as a past member should be sent the e-mail. It would be good to send an e-mail invite to other past members. Anne Bredlow stated that the Zoom meetings offered a great opportunity to expand our congregation. Fran explained that he had always set up a backup meeting in case the service were to be bombed; but he also thought that our small size might not attract a potential bomber anyway. There was a discussion on the future phases to returning to full meeting, the need for a wi-fi at church, etc. The subject was brought up on the value of having a direct wire payment (rather than cash and checks) to the church since the collection plate was not accessible during the pandemic. This engendered a very lengthy discussion and someone would look into the advantages and potential risks and shortcomings.

7. Grounds Maintenance. Lucile Sonnicshen stated that the grounds were appearing rather poorly. She and David had mulch delivered and this was to be delivered from the Mill. However, she needed volunteers to help spread the mulch. Kern offered to help. She would notify the volunteers.

8. Social Responsibilities Committee. Anne Bredlow had a three-page document that listed all Harford County food banks and distribution. She noted that she had been taking food to the Mason-Dixon Foodservice in N. Harford County.

9. Webpage Update. Elaine Cook had been working with the Philips' daughter to update the webpage. Fran explained that this would be important, since the Sunday Service needed to be included as visitors were interested.

10. Activities. Kathy Spinelli, had thought about proposing a Zoom coffee hours or Zoom cocktail happy hour and a book-club Zoom.

11. Closing Words. Fran thanked Patti for her leadership despite her stressful year from a family standpoint.

## ***FINAL THOUGHTS***

Learning our life lessons is often painful. I wonder if, when we don't learn the easy way, the message has to be delivered in a more direct and clearer way.

Traditional Buddhist Metta: May I/you/we be filled with loving kindness. May we be well. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be whole. Thanks again to Rev. Marsh. Sometimes, "May I/we/you be free of pain, suffering and sorrow; may I/we/you be free," is added to this.