



A Spirit of Gratitude and Hope

When I'm working in the community, I often see adults who are struggling—with housing, with familial relationships, with money, and with just being. Everyone wants to tell their story.

I listen as much as I can. Whether it's disheveled people with holes in their pants, people dressed to the nines, all classes of people have suffered—and are still suffering—from a lack of love. As I listen to their stories, I think, Who loved you and what happened to you? Who is loving you now?

There's little difference between me and the people I try to serve. I, too, need to be seen; to tell my story; to be listened to in confidence, the kind of confidence where two human beings connect in passing, and understanding happens.

Sometimes it's a head nod of acknowledgement to the dark-skinned Black man with thick glasses, or the smile to the older white woman with the walker. These gestures acknowledge our imperfection, and the fact that loving oneself is hard in the face of relationship ruptures and fragmentations—because we're more busy protecting ourselves first than connecting. Chronic neglect, abuse, domestic violence, bullying, and very rigid definitions of being in the world have fed our distrust, encouraging us to expect scarcity, cruelty, and loneliness.

Building community in the public requires a heart-centered approach with a mind that is as still as water, so I can reflect the needs of another and appeal towards sustainable possibilities. It includes protecting myself and the people with whom I'm engaged even as it requires vulnerability. It also includes a calm, centered conviction that I am also someone who is of Love, worthy of Love, and loving. This kind of self-compassion is a power that can be cultivated.

The public is full of people—yet that does not automatically make a community. Relationships of trust, and the ability to rest and be in full safety are also necessary. Building relationships requires the risk of being open and curious. Sometimes it requires affirming another person for who they say they are—and not who you want them to be. It requires time, presence, and calm.

Cont. p2

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."

John F. Kennedy



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Jonesboro

201 West Oak Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401
PO BOX 1414, Jonesboro, AR 72403-1414

info@jonesborouu.org

www.JonesboroUU.org

facebook.com/JonesboroUU

Instagram.com/UUJonesboro

Board Members

Dr. Karen Yanowitz, President

Jennifer Clay, Vice President

Betty Stafford, Treasurer

Sue Garrison, Secretary

Newsletter

Betty Stafford, Editor

Jennifer Clay, Layout

NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship meets on Sundays at Temple Israel, 203 W. Oak Ave., Jonesboro. Fellowship starts at 10 a.m. followed by the sacred coffee and discussion ending at noon.

November 3 - Communal Practices

A few weeks ago Karen Yanowitz introduced the 8 spheres of spiritual practice, part of an 8-part workshop on spiritual practices developed by the UUA. Today we will explore the first in this series. Expect a more interactive service.

One of the spheres is communal practices. The service (including discussion and cleanup) will end by 11:30 sharp (or even a few minutes earlier!) to allow those who wish to attend Souper Sunday to go together—communally. Presale is over; tickets are \$20. Children 5 and under are free.

November 10 - Period Poverty - Social Action Day

Jennifer Clay will speak on period poverty and the impact of education in young children with periods. As part of our Social Action committee we will be collecting supplies to deliver to the youth in our community. We are looking for the following: Tampons, Pads, Pencil Pouches or Makeup Bags to store, Individual Handwipes. Please keep in mind this is for pre-teens and teens. Bulky products are not the best options.

November 17 - Guest At Your Table

Betty Stafford will introduce/reintroduce members and friends to the work of the UU Service Committee and its annual fundraiser - Guest at Your Table.

And to test our knowledge of the world in which UUSC works, we'll have the Development Quiz. Groups of 5 or 6 individuals using the team approach will solve national and international conundrums. Which team will arrive at the most correct answers??

Our inaugural Chili Cookoff will follow services.

November 24 - What Would Dolly Do?

Jennifer Clay will talk about the philanthropic actions and just all around goodness of Dolly Parton.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF JONESBORO WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

We come together in freedom,
for pursuit of truth,
service to humanity,
and fulfillment of self.



A Spirit of Gratitude and Hope *Cont. from p1*

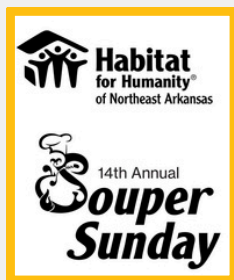
Let there be safe havens where we can feel at ease; where there is nothing to be done but rest our weariness. Let Love be the sweetness that embraces us in the here and right now.

Melissa Jeter, student minister, First Unitarian Church, Toledo, OH

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



FALL BACK!! Be sure to turn back your clock before retiring on **November 2nd** , so you'll get that extra hour of rest, and be on time for services on November 3rd .



November 3rd is Souper Sunday benefiting Habitat for Humanity is in the minds of many the best Sunday of the year. You will enjoy tasting soups from more than 15 local restaurants, vote on your favorites to determine which restaurant wins the much-coveted Golden Ladle— and help Habitat build more homes. Location—Embassy Suites, 223 Red Wolf Blvd., Jonesboro, 11 a.m. to 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$20.



November 1-2 & 4 Early Voting Continues

November 5 Election Day

December 3 General Runoff Election



November 10 Peanut Butter Sunday: Your continued generosity toward those in need in our community with a gift of nutritious PB is a welcome addition to Helping Neighbors' shelves. The Fellowship's October donation was 34 lbs!



November 17th - Inaugural UU Chili Cookoff - Join us for our Inaugural UU Chili Cookoff after services on November 17th. To enter, bring your favorite pot of chili. The fellowship will sample each and vote for their favorites. Winner will receive their name on a trophy.

MEETING

November 24 - The Fellowship Board meets at noon. If you would like to add anything to the agenda, please let Karen know before November 15th.



November 28 UU Fellowship Thanksgiving Meal - Our second year for a group Thanksgiving dinner is in the evening (around 7 pm, to be announced). The Fellowship will provide turkey. Other items can be traditional or untraditional Turkey Day dishes that you enjoy! Sign-ups will be requested so we can plan on how much turkey will be needed and to be better organized than the typical potluck.



Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values.

Dismantling Systemic Oppression

The work of the UU Service Committee began in 1939 when a Unitarian minister and a social worker—Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp living in Wellesley, Massachusetts— took an extraordinary risk, helping refugees escape Nazi persecution in Europe.

Nazi Germany invaded the Sudetenland in 1938, occupying the northern part of Czechoslovakia. Lives immediately unraveled. Thousands of people migrated away to seek safety. The Sharps decided to live their faith and join the refugees in Prague, contributing what they could to the persecuted peoples escaping war. In 1940, the Unitarian Services Committee—the predecessor of UUSC—was established to coordinate humanitarian efforts and offer aid to European refugees during World War II.

Since then, the Service Committee has made its mission the advancement of human rights and social justice around the world. UUSC partners with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizes to challenge oppressive policies. Its work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity.

The Service Committee's work today continues a more than 80-year legacy of activism. UUSC has maintained a steadfast presence on the frontlines of social justice movements around the globe. Although the Service Committee continues to innovate in response to the rapidly changing landscape of human rights advocacy, its core values and vision of a world free from injustice where all can realize their full human rights remain foundational.

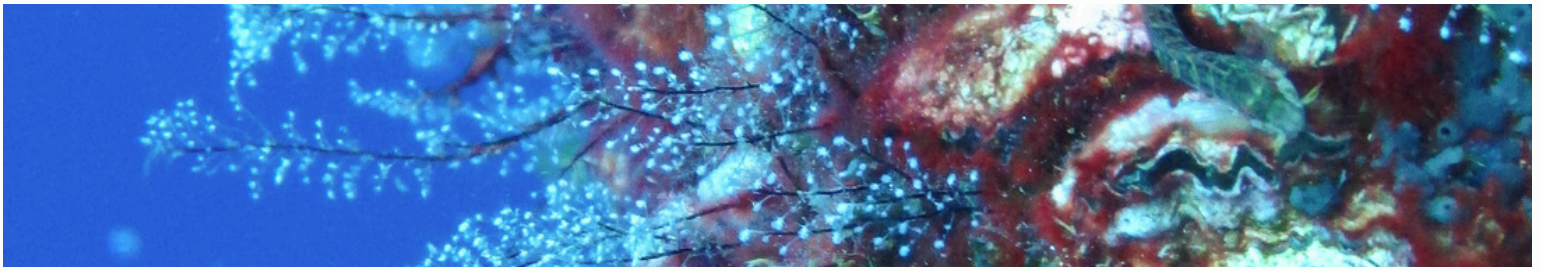
UUSC's name, work, and approach have transformed in the last eight decades, but the flames of activism ignited within Rev. Waitstill and Martha burn brighter today than ever.

Please consider a contribution to the Guest at Your Table program, the major annual fund-raiser for the Service Committee.

We need not to think alike to love alike.



UU World



The Great Web of Life

More than 4,500 square miles of ocean will soon be protected by the Department of Interior off the Central California coast. The third largest marine sanctuary in the U.S. is designated as the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and will be managed in partnership with tribes and Indigenous groups in the area, part of a growing movement in the current federal administration to give tribes a say over the lands and waters that were taken from them. The final sanctuary boundaries are smaller than originally proposed because of California's offshore wind industry.

The new sanctuary will be protected from oil and gas drilling, as well as undersea mining. Fishing will be permitted. It also means more public outreach and monitoring for environmental impacts, something the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration says is vital to understanding how the ecosystem is being affected by climate change.

The new sanctuary is home to a diverse marine ecosystem, where dense kelp forests support a broad array of life, from sea otters to migrating whales. The area is also home to many sites sacred to Indigenous groups, dating back thousands of years.

The Pacific Ocean has been hit hard by climate change, like the massive marine heat wave known as “the Blob,” which dramatically altered the food web from 2014 to 2016, affecting everything from the tiniest creatures to massive whales. “The historic designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary comes not a moment too soon,” says Congressman Salud Carbajal, who represents the area. “As our oceans and communities face unprecedented challenges from a changing marine environment, this new sanctuary comes at a critical time for our region.”

Negotiations between wind energy companies and tribal groups resulted in a smaller sanctuary boundary with a phased approach to expansion, something wind companies say they will support. This commitment seeks to ensure that infrastructure advances with consideration of the natural environment, species of concern, and sensitive natural resources.

Offshore wind energy could be vital for California to reach its goal of getting 100% of its electricity by 2045 from sources that don't emit planet-heating pollution. Offshore wind produces power at a vital time for the state — right as the sun sets and solar farms start turning off.

NOAA plans to manage the new Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary with input from the tribes and Indigenous groups in the area. Since only one band of Chumash Indians, the Santa Santa Ynez Band, is federally recognized, the involvement may look different for different groups, something NOAA is still determining, as they get to know one another and build trust.

The federal government has piloted Indigenous co-management in a handful of places—the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in Washington state and the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. After centuries of displacement and violence, it will take time for Indigenous peoples to repair the relationship with the federal government, but both parties seem dedicated to the goals.

Lauren Sommer, NPR, 10/14/24



Like Our Facebook Page:
facebook.com/jonesborouu

Join Our Facebook Group:
facebook.com/groups/jonesborouu/



Follow us on Instagram:
instagram.com/uujonesboro/