

*Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Danbury*



*Opportunities for  
Service, Enrichment,  
and Fun!*

Rev. Nancy O. Arnold, Interim Minister  
Rev. Peggy S. Block, Community Minister  
Darlene Anderson-Alexander, Director of Religious Education  
Sherry Kyriacou, Office Manager  
24 Clapboard Ridge Road  
Danbury, CT 06811

Phone: 203-798-1994  
[www.uudanbury.org](http://www.uudanbury.org)

September 2016

### **Board of Trustees**

Walt Sizemore, President, 860-915-0675, [wsizemore@charter.net](mailto:wsizemore@charter.net)

Meets Third Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.

Elected by the Congregation. Provides direction and administration for the Congregation's property, employees and business affairs.

Members are welcome to attend Board meetings; please call Walt in advance.

### **Executive Team**

Walt Sizemore, President, 860-915-0675, [wsizemore@charter.net](mailto:wsizemore@charter.net)

Plans Board of Trustees agenda and also considers administrative items that do not require the attention of the full Board.

### **Standing Committees**

#### ***Buildings and Grounds Team***

Gary Mummert, Chair, 203-546-7175, [gmum4530@gmail.com](mailto:gmum4530@gmail.com)

Provides for the maintenance and care of the congregation's facilities utilizing professional as well as volunteer labor.

#### ***DRE Relations Team***

Karen Iannella, Chair, 203-775-6155, [kiannella@gmail.com](mailto:kiannella@gmail.com)

Meets every other month or on an as needed basis.

Serves to provide guidance and support to the Director of Religious Education and as a communication channel among the congregation, Board and DRE.

#### ***Denominational Affairs Team***

##### **Chairperson needed**

Acts as a liaison between the larger UU community and our congregation.

#### ***Finance Team***

David Doyle, Chair, 203-894-9210, [ddoyle99@comcast.net](mailto:didoyle99@comcast.net)

Pete Simon, Treasurer, 914-763-9104, [peter@peterjsimoncpa.com](mailto:peter@peterjsimoncpa.com)

Meets Second Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Responsible for all financial analysis, planning, and execution. This also includes the storage and communication of financial data, assisting the Board and other members concerning financial matters, and the establishment of best practices for all financial transactions including fundraising and purchasing, etc.

#### **Endowment Team**

Responsible for investing our congregation's endowments, and for encouraging contributions to them.

#### **Annual Budget Team**

Responsible for the planning and implementation of the Annual Budget Drive.

#### **Membership Team**

Janet Cory, Co-Chair, 203-616-5326, [janetcory35@gmail.com](mailto:janetcory35@gmail.com)  
Virginia Cook, Co-Chair, 203-205-0767, [vcCook37@mac.com](mailto:vcCook37@mac.com)  
Meets First Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Provides for the welcome, orientation and stewardship of potential, new and current members and friends.

#### **Nominating Team**

Nominates members for Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee positions, and helps identify candidates for other leadership positions within the congregation. Elected by the Congregation.

#### **Religious Education Ministry Team (for children and youth)**

Samantha McCoy, Chair, 203-270-9954, [Samantha.ligon.mccoy@gmail.com](mailto:Samantha.ligon.mccoy@gmail.com)  
Meets Fourth Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Develops and implements a religious education program for our children and youth, with our Director of Religious Education.

#### **Inclusion Ministry**

Bruni Edwards, Coordinator, 203-797-8116, [bruni30@hotmail.com](mailto:bruni30@hotmail.com)  
Meets as needed.

Strives to create a welcoming space for all children, youth, and families at UU Danbury.

#### **Social Justice Council**

Donna Lawrence, Co-chair, 203-438-0276, [donna.del2@att.net](mailto:donna.del2@att.net)  
Gary Mummert, Co-chair, 203-546-7175, [gmum4530@gmail.com](mailto:gmum4530@gmail.com)  
Coordinates the various social action programs undertaken by the congregation.

#### **Comida Food Pantry**

Christine Halfar, Coordinator, 203-730-0763, [chalfar@hotmail.com](mailto:chalfar@hotmail.com)  
Volunteers distribute basic food on the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 2:15 to 4:00 pm. Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially welcome but anyone with a warm smile and generous heart can help make a difference in the lives of our new-immigrant neighbors.

**Dorothy Day Hospitality House Shelter**

Christine Halfar, Coordinator, [203-730-0763](tel:203-730-0763), [chalfar@hotmail.com](mailto:chalfar@hotmail.com)  
Members of the congregation volunteer overnight on the fourth  
Friday of the month.

**Dorothy Day Hospitality House Soup Kitchen**

Judy Lacker, Coordinator, [914-715-2122](tel:914-715-2122), [judylacker48@gmail.com](mailto:judylacker48@gmail.com)  
Members of the congregation prepare and serve a hot meal on the  
first Saturday of the month.

**Gun Violence Prevention Group**

Yvonne Ruddy-Stein, [203-438-3416](tel:203-438-3416), [ruddystein@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ruddystein@sbcglobal.net)  
This group was started in 2012 in response to the shooting at  
Sandy Hook Elementary School. We organized a bus to attend the  
2013 March for Change in Hartford, we have hosted screenings of  
several documentary films pertaining to gun violence, and we have  
organized multiple letter writing campaigns to elected officials.

**Interfaith AIDS Ministry**

Michael Stengle, [845-705-9405](tel:845-705-9405), [Michael.stengle@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.stengle@gmail.com)  
UU Danbury was pivotal in the formation of this vital ministry in  
1989. Interfaith AIDS Ministry distributes fresh meat, dairy,  
vegetables, and fruit, as well as staple goods and personal care items  
every other Wednesday and Thursday to individuals and their families  
infected/affected with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are needed to help  
unload trucks and stock shelves.

**Morris Street School Project**

Charlie Schott, Chair, [203-775-6454](tel:203-775-6454), [cjschott2@gmail.com](mailto:cjschott2@gmail.com)  
This group works with teachers in the classrooms assisting them  
and mentoring students. After-school programs and  
special events at the school are also organized and/or supported.  
The MSS Project is now one of several schools in the ARC KIDS  
Program directed by Charlie.

**Team Green**

Donna Lawrence, Chair, 203-438-0276, [donna.del2@att.net](mailto:donna.del2@att.net)  
Meets Third Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.

Initiates and develops programs and activities which involve the members of UU Danbury in inspiring and instilling positive environmental changes in three areas: personal and family lifestyle choices, Congregational activities, and the greater Danbury community.

***Sunday Services Ministry***

Inge Hill, Chair, 202-494-9651, [ingehill@gmail.com](mailto:ingehill@gmail.com)  
Meets Second Wednesday, 5:45 p.m.

Makes sure all aspects run smoothly on Sunday mornings so that the minister can concentrate on pastoral duties and not have to be concerned with the logistics of Sunday Services. Adjusts the OOS components and flow in conjunction/coordination with the minister and other teams. Develops and coordinates lay-led services each year using other teams, UU Danbury congregates, and outside speakers. This translates into one service each month September - June, and weekly during the summer.

**Special Committees**

***Aesthetics Team***

Valerie Cochrane, Co-Chair, 203-791-1378, [valc1@att.net](mailto:valc1@att.net)  
Lisa Austin-Smith, Co-Chair, 203-748-6307, [lasmithjs126@gmail.com](mailto:lasmithjs126@gmail.com)  
Coordinates and maintains harmonious appearance of Fellowship Hall.

***Adult Programming***

**Chairperson needed**

***Archivist***

Doug Parkhurst, 802-368-7164, [dpark127@aol.com](mailto:dpark127@aol.com)  
Maintains the congregation's historical records and promotes awareness of our local church history in the context of the greater Danbury area and the larger Unitarian Universalist movement.

### ***Common Council***

Walt Sizemore, President, 860-915-0675, [wsizemore@charter.net](mailto:wsizemore@charter.net)

Michele Cousens, Vice-President, 203-205-0626, [mcousens7@comcast.net](mailto:mcousens7@comcast.net)

Rev. Nancy O. Arnold, 516-301-7986, [revnoka@gmail.com](mailto:revnoka@gmail.com)

Meets Quarterly Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Made up of the Board, Staff, and Chairs of Program and Operations Teams/Ministries. Council meetings keep everyone informed, and provide a place for discussion of proposals/ideas that cross committee lines.

### ***Caring Ministry***

Karen Gillotti, Chair, 203-885-9976, [joekarengillo@yahoo.com](mailto:joekarengillo@yahoo.com)

The Executive Committee meets Third Friday Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

This Ministry is comprised of three parts:

**Caring Circle** provides meals, transportation, calls, cards, and visits within local areas for a short time period.

**Caring Companions** are trained pastoral caregivers who provide an ongoing presence for those with a long term need for one-to-one contact.

### ***Right to Flourish***

Meredith Spector, Coordinator, 203-297-4490, [innspect2@yahoo.com](mailto:innspect2@yahoo.com)

Right to Flourish offers practical information and support for concerns about aging, illness and well-being. Also, presentations and workshops are conducted throughout the year, focusing on holistic health and End-of-Life issues.

### ***Events Ministry***

Valerie Cochrane, Co-Chair, 203-791-1378, [valcl@att.net](mailto:valcl@att.net)

Carol Huckabee, Co-Chair, 203-794-1226, [huckabee@gmail.com](mailto:huckabee@gmail.com)

Meets Second Thursday, 12:00 p.m.

The Events Ministry produces the Annual Winter Boutique. It also promotes and coordinates congregational potluck gatherings throughout the year.

### ***Music Ministry and UU Danbury Choir***

Charlie Schott, Chair, 203-775-6454, [cischott2@gmail.com](mailto:cischott2@gmail.com)

Rehearsals Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., September - June

Performs for Sunday Services once or twice a month.

Music is essential to worship and our choir appreciates our special role in enhancing our Sunday Services. We share the joy of singing, the satisfaction of growing together musically, and the pleasure of offering high quality musical performances for the congregation.

***Office I/T Task Group***

**(Help Wanted—**contact Sherry Kyriacou, [sherryUUCD@gmail.com](mailto:sherryUUCD@gmail.com))

Provides support for the information technology utilized by the congregational office and staff.

***Publicity Team***

**Chairperson needed**

Responsible for publicity about our congregation, its activities, events and about UUism in general.

***Safe Congregation Team***

Carl Trammontana, Chair, 845-278-6587, [caplcartl@aol.com](mailto:caplcartl@aol.com)

Rev. Nancy O. Arnold, 516-301-7986, [revnoka@gmail.com](mailto:revnoka@gmail.com)

The Safe Congregation Team (SCT) serves to educate the congregation be a source of information and to respond when necessary to issues of safety in the congregation and community that include raising awareness about abuse and harassment (e.g. sexual, physical, mental) and preparedness for emergency incidents or events (e.g. fire, hurricane, natural or otherwise produced emergencies). Additionally, the SCT serves congregants by providing information regarding available educational resources and preparedness activities for the aforementioned incidents or events. The SCT is appointed by and responsible to the UU Danbury Board of Trustees.

***Transition Team***

Rev. Nancy O. Arnold, 203-798-1994, [revnoka@gmail.com](mailto:revnoka@gmail.com)

The Transition Team works with the Interim Minister to provide insight, organizational and facilitative talent, and willing hands as the ministry proceeds. The Team functions as a “think tank” with monthly meetings during which the members offer their sense of the pulse of the congregation to determine what interim works needs to be done, and how best to do it. Their role is to help educate the congregation about the interim tasks and ensure that they are being addressed.

***Website Task Group***

Charlie Schott, Chair, 203-775-6454, [cjschott2@gmail.com](mailto:cjschott2@gmail.com)

Expanding the interactivity, functionality and ease-of-use of the website.

## **Activities**

### ***Conversations***

Bruce Buzby, Chair, 203-775-6958, [brucebuzby@earthlink.net](mailto:brucebuzby@earthlink.net)  
Meets Second Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Discusses a current issue using as a source an article or book (fiction or nonfiction) selected by the group.

### ***Men Out***

Pete Simon, Chair, 914-760-7947, [peter@peterisimonpa.com](mailto:peter@peterisimonpa.com)

Meets monthly at various restaurants to have dinner and try to fix the world. All men welcome.

### ***Knitting Ministry***

Karen Gillotti, Chair, 203-885-9976, [joekarengillo@yahoo.com](mailto:joekarengillo@yahoo.com)

Meets First and Third Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

The mission and purpose of the Knitting Ministry is to knit shawls for people who are sick, in rehab, or at home recuperating from illness or injury or going through a hard time to provide comfort, warmth and healing thoughts. We knit shawls for graduating seniors, a longstanding tradition, as a remembrance of UU when beginning their new phase in life. We knit a large variety of items for the Annual Holiday Boutique in December to raise funds for UU. We also give away a number of knitted items to charity, such as the Women's Center, Dorothy Day Center, El Comida and others.

### ***Movies with a Message***

Keith Dupree, Chair, 203-947-1009, [kdupree@mmdaccounting.com](mailto:kdupree@mmdaccounting.com)  
Meets Second Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Our objective is to present films of substance in a living room setting and to provide an opportunity to discuss with friends. All are welcome.

### ***Theatre Aficionados***

Keith Dupree, Chair, 203-947-1009, [kdupree@mmdaccounting.com](mailto:kdupree@mmdaccounting.com)

A very informal gathering of members, friends, and friends of friends who enjoy attending local theater together. Look for announcements in the newsletter and on the bulletin board. All are welcome.

*If you are interested in any of these Committees or Activities,  
please contact the person listed or a member of the  
Board of Trustees.*