



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Monthly **COMMENT** Newsletter

*Welcoming all in a spirit of compassion, inquiry, and service*

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JUNE 2021

## From our Consulting Minister



*"If we believe that Unitarian Universalism has a saving message and a vital mission in the 21st century and beyond, our challenge in response to the growing number of 'nones' is to magnify our footprint in the world, to raise our visibility in our communities, to move beyond our congregational walls to meet people where they are, because the 'nones' are overwhelmingly not going to come looking for us."*

--Wren Bellavance-Grace,

Congregational Consultant for the UUA's New England Region

Dear UUCD Members and Friends,

As we near the end of my 3 years as your half-time Consulting Minister, I am mindful of what thoughts I want to leave you with. High on my list is to encourage you to explore ways that you might meaningfully collaborate more robustly with other area UU congregations. Who might you talk with, think with, or simply dream about connecting with in some more substantial ways as we all continue to find our way into this 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Within 25 miles of 24 Clapboard Ridge Road in Danbury are the following other UU congregations:

- Mattatuck UU Society in **Woodbury** (64 members)
- The Unitarian Church in **Westport** (371 members)
- The UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester in **Mt. Kisco**, NY (100 members)
- UU Church of **Greater Bridgeport**, in Stratford (35 members)
- Fourth UU Congregation of Westchester County in **Mohegan Lake**, NY (47 members)
- UU Congregation in **Stamford**, CT (56 members)

Multi-UU-congregational collaboration can take many forms--here are just some examples:

- 5 UU congregations in **Central Illinois** engaged in an 11-week session working through the *Widening the Circle* UUA COIC Report with 65 people enrolled in the series;
- 3 UU congregations in **downeast Maine** collaboratively host an Intern Minister;
- A **Southern Oregon UU Partnership** of 3 congregations, 2 of which are lay-led only, share an Intern Minister along with other programs;
- In the **western New York / Pennsylvania** area, there are multiple UU congregations that have led joint worship services and also held a spirituality retreat together;
- In the **Denver, Colorado** area, UU congregations have recently initiated and provided support for an online UU community, The Mountain Top, for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, that is open to participants world-wide;
- A 5 year collaboration between 5 UU congregations in the **Milwaukee, Wisconsin** area has created a "Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs" organization "which came together to facilitate racial justice education within our congregations and to coordinate and amplify the voice of Unitarian Universalists in racial justice work and actions within the greater Milwaukee metro area";

(continued)

- The "**Potomac Partnership**" includes the UU congregations of Fairfax, Virginia, River Road in Bethesda, Maryland, and Cedar Lane, also in Bethesda, and they are engaged in shared Sunday services, musical events and classes, sharing music resources for services, sharing in pastoral care training and support, stewardship discussions, Adult Education programming, anti-racism curriculum, art classes, sexuality educator training, and middle and high school fellowship events;
- Closer to those of us here in Connecticut, the **Long Island Area Council of UU Congregations** brings together all 11 UU congregations on Long Island for "education, advocacy, service and spirituality" --they also have a website--<https://www.liacuu.org>;
- "**The Baja 4**" in Southern Arizona--4 UU congregations that "have been doing worship together online since March 2020, as well as some collaborative religious education and justice work before and during pandemic"; in October 2020 the Boards of all 4 of these UU congregations--whose congregational memberships number between 76 and 289 people--met together and crafted a common purpose statement: "We transform lives and our region, living our values at large as Unitarian Universalists in Southern Arizona. We derive and amplify our strength through collaboration."

Around 2015, some significant UUA energy was put into distilling certain approaches to multi-congregational collaboration and gathering examples of these ideas in action. You can see those, here:

<https://www.uua.org/growth/multisite/ways>.

In brief, that MultiSite effort identified 4 types of multi-congregational collaborations:

1) **Branch and Campus** (sometimes called "satellite") models that emerge as a congregation grows another site (campus) or reaches out to an existing congregation to offer support (branch). A "hub church" anchors the network, offering support to sister communities or creating a new sister "site" that extends reach.

2) **Yoked** congregations are congregations that "join forces to create a larger staff team or to achieve a full-time ministry," but retain their own budget, bylaws, and Boards.

3) **Partnering** congregations create a distinct covenanting community with an expanded mission. Several of the examples above are partnering congregations.

and 4) **Merging** models sometimes seek to create "one church in multiple locations"--they share everything from staff to mission--and are thus able to "achieve a higher profile in the community they serve."

Let the wondrous inspiring percolations of our larger UU community settle in your heart and mind, and ponder whether or not you might feel moved to make something new or more substantial happen between our UU congregations in Southwestern Connecticut and Southeastern New York. May *you* find a way to deepen your part in the ways things develop for UUCD in the near and long-term future, nourish your spirit by connecting with UUs near-and-far, and imagine and make real the activities that bring us together as neighbors, faith siblings, and fellow travelers. May it be so!

If there is anything you would like to talk with me about, I'm (still!) always glad to hear from you. You can reach me best by e-mail, cell phone, text, first-class U.S. mail, or Facebook Messenger if you just have a quick question or comment. I look forward to hearing from you in whatever way is best for you. I will be traveling from June 30 through July 13, and will then be in the throes of moving, but please, don't hesitate to reach out if there's something you'd like to say or check-in about before my time as your Consulting Minister concludes officially on July 31. Thanks so much for all your engagement and support along the way! Happy Trails!

Warmly,



Rev. Heather

*Our Mission Statement:*

*The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is an open religious community that welcomes a diversity of people, ideas and beliefs. We celebrate together that which is good in life, and offer comfort and care in times of need. With others, we work to create a just society and a sustainable Earth. We stand as a beacon for independent thought, and encourage lifelong spiritual and intellectual exploration.* - Adopted by this congregation May 16, 2008

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is a UUA designated “Welcoming Congregation.” Our congregation is welcoming to people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. The Welcoming Congregation program is consistent with our first UU principle in which we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We welcome all – regardless of age, race, disability, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, religious background, or political affiliation – factors that can separate people in our larger culture.

**Deadline for the July/August Comment –  
Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Share our Services!**

Feel free to invite friends and family to our service. We will share the link on Sunday mornings for security reasons. Anyone can also add themselves to our UUCD e-list to receive the link directly on Sunday morning by emailing Sherry at [officemanager@uudanbury.org](mailto:officemanager@uudanbury.org) with that request.

**June Services – One Service at 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**                      Bridging & Flower Communion                      Sierra-Marie Gerfao and the RE Ministry Team  
This service will not be a service of sermonizing so much as ritual. We will honor the journey of high school seniors, who are passing over the bridge between youth and young adulthood. We will bless them for the journey, and we will bless one another with the beauty of flowers.

For our June 6 Flower Communion and Bridging service this year, we'd like to invite each and every one of you to **Bring On the Flowers**. Send in (to Sherry Kyriacou at [officemanager@uudanbury.org](mailto:officemanager@uudanbury.org) or text to 203-731-0047) a photo of you with a flower -- a Flower Communion Selfie! If you are able, consider taking another UUCD member, friend, or family a flower or two, and taking a selfie with them! Who might you take flowers to in the next few days? Sherry needs to receive your Flower Selfies by Tuesday, June 1, to incorporate them into the slideshow for June 6. Please join in celebrating the bouquet of personalities that is this community by sharing a Flower Selfie with us! --Rev. Heather & Rev. Sierra-Marie, DRE

**The Annual Meeting of UUCD will take place following the 10:00 a.m. service.**

**Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**                      May WE Love and Disrupt Stigma                      Rev. Holly Brown  
Mental Health and Mental Illness have an impact on everyone in some way. Stigma is not only harmful it is discriminatory and can be deadly when it prevents people from seeking the help they need. During the extended period of the pandemic, many have been feeling the impact of global trauma, isolation, and anxiety due to uncertainty. While there is hope and a return to interaction with loved ones due to the vaccine, that trauma and anxiety continue to impact the lives of many. Awareness and acceptance of these things are essential so that we may support and hold one another as fully as possible.

The Rev. Holly Brown (pronouns: they/them) was recently ordained by and currently serves as a ministerial intern at Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church in Charlotte and Salisbury, NC. They were raised a United Methodist pastor's kid (PK) primarily in Eastern North Carolina. Holly worked for NC State Historic Sites and as an Interim Director of Religious Education at the UU Congregation of Greenville, NC before pursuing ministry. They graduated from Methodist Theological School in Ohio with a Master's in Divinity in 2019. Holly is actively involved with the Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice, MeckMIN (Mecklenburg Metropolitan Interfaith Network), and Forward Together: The UU Justice Ministry of North Carolina.

**Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Forever Redefining Family

Rev. Heather Rion Starr

Father's Day for me is always a time to contemplate biological and non-biological family, families of origin, families of choice, and the families we create through our collective commitments. Join me in this exploration!

**Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**

Ari Rosenberg

Rabbi Ari Rosenberg grew up in Waterford, CT. He has a BA in English from Rutgers University, and a rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College. He served congregations in Massachusetts, New Jersey and Connecticut before becoming Executive Director of the Association of Religious Communities almost exactly one year ago. He is engaged to be married next week, and he enjoys his blended family, including two boys, two girls, a dog, a cat, five chickens and a snake!

**Our Caring Circle is Available**

Our 'Care Coordinator' receives requests and answers questions for the Caring Circle.

**Bob Bollinger** is the contact person for **June and July**.

**Joan Campbell** is the assistant.

If you have a need, please contact **Bob**.

Please note that your call will be returned as quickly as possible but it may be at the end of the day.

**Outside at the Ridge** - We have a portable restroom onsite. Please make a reservation for your outdoor meetings with Sherry at [officemanager@uudanbury.org](mailto:officemanager@uudanbury.org). A waiver is required to be signed. Kindly abide by CDC and State of CT protocols.

**Call for the Annual Meeting of UU Danbury  
June 6, 2021  
following the 10:00 a.m. service via Zoom**

Every May, or the first 10 days of June, as specified in the By-Laws, we hold the Annual Meeting of UU Danbury. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to “hear reports of officers, committees, and staff, to elect new officers and trustees, to adopt an annual budget, and to transact any other business that may properly come before the Congregation.”

**SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION 2021-2022**

The Nominating Team, Yvonne Ruddy-Stein, Jane Leff, and Bob Bollinger, offer the following slate of Officers and new Trustees for the Board of Trustees, to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on June 6, 2021. Persons to be elected are in **bold** type.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION 2021-2022

**To Be Elected to The Board of Trustees**

Co-President:	<b>Michele Cousens</b>	1 year term until June 30, 2022
Co-President:	<b>Margaret Henderson</b>	1 year term until June 30, 2022
Secretary:	<b>Samantha McCoy</b>	1 year term until June 30, 2022
Trustee:	<b>Debra Oria</b>	2 year term until June 30, 2023
Trustee:	<b>Diane Purvis</b>	3 year term until June 30, 2024

Remaining on the Board of Trustees

Treasurer:	Marie Dupree	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term until June 30, 2022
Trustee:	Peter Horton	3 <sup>rd</sup> year of 3 year term until June 30, 2022

Remaining on the Nominating Team

Chair	Yvonne Ruddy-Stein	3 <sup>rd</sup> year of 3 year term until June 30, 2022
Member	Jane Leff	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 3 year term until June 30, 2023
Member	Bob Bollinger	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 3 year term until June 30, 2023

Roberts Rules of Order prevail at all Congregational Meetings. Our bylaws also state that there must be a quorum of at least 15% of the membership. At an official membership of 137, this means there must be at least 21 members present at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting for the meeting to proceed.

Article 111, Section 1. from our by-laws state: General: Any person, at least 18 years of age, who is in sympathy with its purpose and program, signs the Membership Book, and makes and fulfills an annual monetary pledge, may become a voting member of this Congregation.

Voting rights extend only to those who have been members for at least 60 days, which, for this year’s meeting, means anyone who signed the membership book prior to **April 6, 2021**. Absentee ballots are allowed. Absentee ballots are to be requested and returned to **Melody Levy** by **June 5, 2021**.

## From the Board of Trustees

by Melody Levy, President

As the Board of Trustees President for the past two years, I am deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the meaning we made, and the work we accomplished together. It is the end of a church year and the beginning of a new period of time. We have adapted, been impacted, and we have changed. How will we live into broader ministries in a post pandemic world? How will we breathe new life into our guiding mission and long held principles?

In 2005 we were the first Unitarian Universalist congregation in Connecticut to become a Welcoming Congregation, explicitly welcoming and inclusive of GLBTQ people and families. Here we are, 16 years later, anticipating another favorable outcome, as the first UU congregation in the state to vote in support of *adopting the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle*. The 200th year anniversary of the Danbury Universalists is 2022. We will celebrate our history and continue expanding our reach to include and engage; to witness a community whose purposeful religion does not yield to stagnation. We are eye level with BIPOC UU's who are asking for our souls to grow. Will we offer a blessing to our future by building together what we cannot do alone?

This has been my home church since 1991. I have precious memories of the old brown barn on Pickett's Ridge Road. It was the birthplace of my belonging here. While Fellowship Hall was under construction we kept sanctuary at WCSU until our home base on Clapboard Ridge Road was complete. We have a track record of steady and strategic planning. We've actualized big visions knowing full well that progress is incremental.

Our trend forward will include multi-platform accessibility and informed benchmarks and changes in order to be COVID current. Our fears around the pandemic are being tempered with understanding; our burdens are lightening; we have endured the pain of loss – and, we made it.

The Flower Communion and Bridging ceremonies will be June 6<sup>th</sup>. On June 13<sup>th</sup> we will have an opportunity to meet outside at UUCD with Rev. Heather and share our gratitude for her Ministry; for growing joy, for allowing the space for change, and, most memorably for attending to our needs throughout the COVID crisis. Goodbyes do not pretend to be easy, but it is important to acknowledge an ending, as there will be another beginning.

With summer coming, I am reminded of when I grew up. Downtime was when we became ourselves, lying in the grass, drawing in the dirt or playing stickball in the street. Playdates weren't a thing and boredom (or doing nothing) was akin to necessity. As our freedoms are being recovered and our friends and families are reuniting, let's keep an eye to the margins. Welcome a newcomer, invite your neighbor, talk loudly about why a kinder, more compassionate world matters. Challenge intolerance, *Side with Love* and make time to meet up in the parking lot. I have chalk, a ball, and a deep need to be in community with you, until then.

Thank you, Rev. Heather, Sherry, Jerry and Sierra-Marie, and all our members and friends who have given from the largest measure to the smallest gesture. We all make the difference and are bettered by it. I hope your summer is peaceful, warmhearted, generous and gentle.

It is a privilege to be in community with you.



by Sierra-Marie Gerfao, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth

### **Congratulations 2021 High School Graduates!**

Nine youth who grew up at the UU Congregation of Danbury are bridging into young adulthood. Six of them will be participating in our Bridging service on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Names of all high school seniors are below, along with biographies where available. Congratulations graduates!

#### **Drew Cousins**

*Drew Cousins began attending Religious Education (RE) at UUCD in the fall of 2010, when he was in the second grade. His favorite RE experience was "Neighboring Faiths", which sparked a love of studying religious and spiritual paths, although he considers himself to be an atheist. Drew attended several CONS (youth conferences), and volunteered at Dorothy Day on Team #4 for many years. He will always be grateful for his time at UUCD, but followed his mind and heart and discontinued participating in RE during his sophomore year. Drew is known for being a compassionate friend to everyone he meets. He is an accomplished artist and creative writer, and spent the past three years researching and collating his family tree, which became his Senior Capstone project. Drew was accepted to UCONN for the Fall of 2021, where he plans to major in History, with a minor in Creative Writing.*

#### **Lily Haffner**

*Lily Haffner will graduate in June from Joel Barlow High School in Redding, CT. She has been attending UUCD with her family since approximately 2010. Lily has enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of her RE and youth group peers, teachers, and the broader UUCD community. Beginning this August, Lily will attend George Washington University in Washington, D.C. to study Political Communication. Following her internships last year in Congressman Jim Himes' District Office in Bridgeport, and with State Senator Will Haskell's successful re-election campaign, Lily will build on her passion for progressive politics as a Democracy Summer 2021 Fellow this summer. Lily will miss her youth group friends and looks forward to keeping in touch while attending college. Lily would like to thank all of her RE directors, teachers, and other volunteers for their help and support over the years, especially Sam McCoy and Alison DiPinto.*

#### **Leah Hall**

#### **Marielle Iannella**

*Marielle Iannella has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) community since she was three years old. The UU Values have become a part of who she is. In the fall, Marielle will be attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison studying Communications. Marielle is a member of the National Honor Study, enjoys studying and loves learning about the world around her. Marielle is adventurous and loves scuba diving, wakeboarding, and surfing. Like her Dad, she also enjoys whipping up gourmet meals. Marielle is honored to be a part of the Bridging Ceremony this year.*

**Sage Liotta**

*Sage Liotta of Bethel, Connecticut is finishing his high school education this year after homeschooling and attending Naugatuck and Norwalk Community College. He is a Mentor for the Two Coyotes Wilderness School in Newtown and has a strong interest in Native American Social Justice. In his free time, he enjoys mountain biking, snowboarding, woodworking and reading. Next year he will attend Bard College in NY on a full academic scholarship to study History and Government.*

**Gia Parr**

*Gia Parr has been attending UUCD and participating in religious education since 2009, when she was in first grade. As she completes her senior year, she is a high honors student and athlete, youth leader and national LGBTQ advocate. At New Fairfield High School, she was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Peace Club and student government. She was just awarded the CABA Student Leadership Award, presented to student leaders across Connecticut. Outside of school, she is one of the founding champions of the national storytelling campaign The GenderCool Project and a youth ambassador for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Gia and her story have been featured on ABC News, Today, The New York Times, People, USA Today and CBS This Morning. She recently published a book, A Kids Book About Being Transgender. In 2019, Gia was featured in Gap's 2019 Pride campaign and guest starred in the season 2 finale of Pose opposite Mj Rodriguez and Billy Porter. She will take a gap year to pursue more modeling and acting, before attending the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where she was awarded a Presidential scholarship and will study communications.*

**Taegan Smith**

*Taegan Smith has been attending the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury (UUCD) since 2003 and was dedicated at the WestConn campus on her first birthday. She has been an active member of the school community at Newtown High School, serving in National Honor Society (Historian), Thespian Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, NHS Hope Squad, NHS Hawks Honor Society (Co-President), Link Crew, Class Council (Secretary), Quiz Bowl (Co-Captain with Advisor Jacqui Kaplan!), NHS Dance Team, and NHS Drama Club as Dance Captain. She co-founded the NHS History Club, one of her proudest achievements. She is a 13 year Girl Scout and just earned her Gold Award, creating a dance program for our sister school in India through the Newtown International Center for Education. Dance is her greatest passion and she has trained and performed with the Newtown Centre of Classical Ballet and the Danbury Music Centre since age 4. After spending a summer with ABT NYC, she knew where she wanted to be for college. Taegan will attend the Alvin Ailey/Fordham Dance BFA program at Lincoln Center in the fall. She wants to thank all of the RE teachers and staff for an amazing UU introduction. Good luck to all of the other Seniors!*

**Serena Stein**

*Serena Stein has been attending UUCD since 18 months of age. She has been active in RE and her Youth Groups for the past 16 years. One of her favorite activities at UUCD was creating the Young Women's Forum in 2019. She has very much enjoyed her connection with resident filmmaker Luchina Fisher and may major in film studies! She is graduating from Ridgefield High School and will attend Macalester College in Minneapolis-St. Paul in the fall. She was a competitive gymnast for many years. She is on the track and cross country teams at RHS. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She volunteers at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House.*

**Emily Zagorec**

*Emily has been attending UUCD since 2nd grade. After graduation from Ridgefield High, she will attend Northeastern University in Boston. She is undecided as to her area of study, and looks forward to the college experience in Boston. Emily has many good memories of UUCD RE, especially the year of visiting neighboring faiths and the Baptist Church in Danbury.*

### **Upcoming In Children and Youth Religious Education (RE)**

**Our last day of regular Religious Education programming on Sundays until the fall will be June 6th**, when we have our Flower Communion service and celebrate the Bridging of high school seniors into young adulthood.

However, families please save the date: **Sierra-Marie will host a meetup at a park on Friday, June 18th from 4-6PM.** We will celebrate the end of the school-year, hangout, and chat about the upcoming year so children, teens, and adults will all know what to expect. Details to come!

Additionally, the **Parent Covenant Group will meet on Wednesday, June 16th from 7:30-9:00PM.**

### **Religious Education Return Plans**

Parents of children and teens, please take five minutes to let Sierra-Marie know about your plans to attend in-person or online in the fall using [this survey](#).

### **Religious Education Save the Date Announcements**

Families with children and youth, please mark the following dates on your family calendar:

- **Sunday, September 19th** - Homecoming service
- **Friday, September 24th through Saturday, September 25th** - "Camping Con," an outdoor youth conference experience for Unitarian Universalist high schoolers across Connecticut
- **Sunday, September 26th** - Sunday programs to resume for K-7th grades
- **Sunday, October 3rd** - Sunday programs to resume for 8th-12th grades

### **Seeking Volunteers!**

The Religious Education Ministry Team and our Director of Religious Education are looking for volunteers for next year's Religious Education programs. We are not doing traditional Sunday School in all groups, so the opportunities are many and varied. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to [dre@uudanbury.org](mailto:dre@uudanbury.org) with the following information:

- How frequently are you interested in volunteering (once or twice during year; three or four times during year; once or twice per month; most Sundays)?
- Are you interested in helping with planning, preparation, or committee work, or is your preference to work directly with program participants?
- What is your preferred style of interaction (for example, do you prefer to be in charge, or are you more interested in mutuality; do you like to have structure or do you prefer to interact in more flexible ways)?
- Is there a particular age group with whom you are best suited to work?
- Do you have a special skill you can offer the children's community in either behind-the-scenes or direct work (some examples might include making music, doing research, telling stories, creating props and sets for stages, art of any type, etc.)?

### Director of Religious Education Office Hours

Sierra-Marie Gerfao, our Director of Religious Education for children and youth, will not have regular office hours in June and August, but is available and happy to meet with community members online by appointment. She also has limited availability for in-person meetings during this time. She will be out of the office for much of July and will not be reading emails sent during that month. Have a great summer!

With Love,  
Sierra-Marie

### A warm Ciao from Pat Coulston

It is so close, it looks official! My house has been creeping towards, an unspecified, June closing date, since I accepted an offer on the 24th of April (after only two days on the market); the sale of my car is tied to the same date, due to the two-fer-one insurance policy. Only after I have my Visa in hand will I know the exact date of departure, and the airline. At least, I believe, I am flying out of JFK.

**I have learned at UUCD that Finding what brings Joy to you, and fills a need in the community, is the best way to serve others:** These last ten or fifteen years have been the most rewarding, engaging, challenging years I have ever spent in one congregation. I will treasure the time, the lessons, the friendships shared, with all of you, regardless of how far away you or I have moved. I will especially hold dear those moments of inclusion or acceptance, like the time Ross Fenster asked me to be on the Membership Committee - that opened a door that I had never imagined, before. I had just become a member and that gesture, which he, and many of us have, dreaded, was a hand of welcoming, an invitation to belong, to contribute, and it changed my relationship to a spiritual community. I have always regretted that I never expressed that to him, none of us expected to lose him so soon. That one spark led to all the friends I made during my three years in Kitchen Ministry; and the three years in the nursery waiting for babies to come. Those were magical, empowering, humbling, precious, experiences. I wish that for each one of you - to find something that brings that much joy to you, as well as serving the whole UUCD family, or the wider Danbury community...

Thanks to the talent, commitment, and hard work of the Sunday Service Ministry Team and the core group of techies, and all who have presented and participated, you have made it possible for us to be together every week in Worship, in Friendship, or in Working, online; and I will continue to be present for the foreseeable future.

I will be living and thriving with my Granddaughter, Jett Quintanar, and my Grandson-in-Love Hans Rippel, in Hua Hin, Thailand. Many of you may remember Jett and her mom, Nikki, when they lived with me and attended UUCD. Please, hold onto my email, [Wonderingi@mac.com](mailto:Wonderingi@mac.com), and I am on Facebook, Telegram, Duo, and FaceTime - all ways to have video chats.... I am, also, on Skype, for the time being, as WonderingWho.

Thank you, again for the richness you have brought to my life, and the niche you let me fill. I really feel like I am saying, "ciao," to family.

With Much Love,  
Pat Coulston

# Ministry/Team News

## From the *Social Action Council*

by Margaret Henderson

Social Action Council has struggled a bit through the last few months, but we have accomplished some things. We held a virtual **Share-the-Plate** collection on May 16, which raised \$95.00 to assist domestic workers through the Connecticut Worker Center. UUCD SAC has officially joined the **Recovery for All Coalition** ([recoveryforallCT.com](http://recoveryforallCT.com)), a combination of labor, community and faith groups working to reduce inequity in Connecticut. The **Dorothy Day** team continues to provide sandwiches and hot meals to the homeless, and this summer **Team Green** will once again sponsor the small organic garden at UUCD, thanks to Deb Oria. SAC will continue to monitor developments in the state legislature until the session ends on June 9. Fortunately there are a number of bills supporting equity that look likely to pass.

I will be stepping down as SAC Chair effective June 30, and as of this writing no one has agreed to take over for me. Perhaps there will be more interest in the fall, once UUCD begins meeting in person again. Thank you to everyone who has contributed time and/or support over the last year. I feel privileged to be part of a community that consistently works to make the world a better place, and I'm looking forward to being Co-President of the Board next year!

## Soup Kitchen Corner

by Judy Lacker

On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, some members of Soup Kitchen Team #4 (Team Leader **Michele Cousens, Joanne Davidson, Michael Stengle, David & Gia Parr, Bruni Edwards, Yvonne Ruddy-Stein & Serena Stein, Rik & Drew Cousens, and the Bonansinga/Twombly Family**) will be returning to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Spring Street to help serve take-out meals that were cooked in volunteers' homes as well as bagged sandwiches for lunches and breakfasts, (to be delivered to the Super 8 homeless shelter), also prepared in volunteers' homes as well as through donations. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to serve the guests a meal inside because of the Covid pandemic.



You can also help feed our neighbors with a gift card in any amount from any local supermarket. In addition, you can still continue to make food donations to the Daily Bread Food Pantry (25 West Street - entrance off Terrace Place). Donations are accepted on Mondays between 11 am and 2 pm and on Fridays between 8:30 am and 11:30 am. **Lynn Taborsak** has also been scheduling the sandwich donations so we have just the right amount each day at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. If you are interested in making sandwiches, please email her at [ddhhsandwiches@gmail.com](mailto:ddhhsandwiches@gmail.com). We can all be an important part of the fight to end hunger in our community!

# Upcoming Events

## Meet Up and opportunity to say goodbye to Rev. Heather

A *Bring Your Own Lunch Meet Up* is planned for June 13th after the Zoom Sunday service. This **in-person** gathering is from 12:30 to 2:30. Please meet us at UUCD for an outside Meet Up to spend time together AND say goodbye to Rev. Heather. We are asking everyone to bring their own chairs/blankets, lunch, and anything else needed to be comfortable for an outdoor gathering. The Membership Team will supply beverages and cake. We will not have access to the Fellowship Hall or Cottage. There is a Porta Potty on the property for our use. Contact **Bruni Edwards** if you have any questions about the Meet Up.



**UUCD Men Conversing over Coffee** will meet via Zoom on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Any UUCD men who would like to join, please contact **Joe Gillotti or Gary Mummert**.

## Women On Our Own

This group is for women who are living on their own. Our circumstances will be similar, but different, and we will be talking about what works well, what is lacking, and so on. We will meet in the UUCD Zoom Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. June dates are the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. All those who identify as women, are UUCD members or friends, and are living on your own are welcome to join us. We hope to see you. Bring your ideas. Contact **Jane Leff** for more information and the Zoom links.



On Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, the **Book Conversations group** will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss **The Code Breaker** by popular writer Walter Isaacson. This book is about Jennifer Doudna who won a Nobel Prize recently, gene editing and the future of the human race. While these are weighty topics, the book reads like a mystery novel. It features brilliant scientists engaged in a fierce competition to develop the CRISPR technology. CRISPR was used to quickly develop vaccines against Covid-19. Mary Ann Kulla will be moderator. For more information and the Zoom link, please contact **Mary Ann Kulla**.

