

Newsletter
March 2025

Sunday Service at
10:30am, in person and
online

Zoom Sunday Service Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89122019151>

Meeting ID: 891 2201 9151

Board and Staff



President, Social Responsibility,
Social Media

[Alexander Herrmann](#)

Treasurer, Personnel

[Carol Moak](#)

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[Francine Germaine](#)

Clerk, Building Use

[Rachel Schwartz](#)

Social Hour

[Ben Foley](#)

Building & Grounds

[Chris Hicks](#)

Membership, Canvass

[Bob Shepherd](#)

Religious Education

[Open](#)

Sharing and Caring

[Guinevere Morgan](#)

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[Peggy Taylor](#), [Gonzalo Bermudez](#)

Caretaker, Administrator

[Alexander Herrmann](#)

Pianist

[Karèn Tchougourian](#)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield



March Sunday Services

March 2 Rev. Rich Hayes: “Liminal Spaces - the Challenge and Opportunity”

March 9 George Pinney: “The Inflection Point of Inspiration”

March 16 Circle Sunday: TBD

March 23 TBD

March 30 TBD

We are looking for the following personnel. Please contact us at office@uupittsfield.org if you are interested:

[Building & Grounds Committee members](#)

[Social Responsibility Committee members](#)

[Sharing & Caring Committee members](#)

[Fundraising Committee members](#)

[Nominating Committee Chair and members](#)

Find us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

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If you'd like to write for the newsletter, please email the Social Media Director at uucpsocialmedia@gmail.com!

[In the Air](#)

I can almost feel Spring sometimes when the temperature goes above freezing. It's this indefinable sort of "whoosh" sensation when the temps creep up towards 50 (which would be cold at any other time!) and a gentle breeze hits my face, and I think, *Any minute now...*but it's not yet. Soon, I hope, because I'm getting tired of sliding around. Although at least walking in the city, no matter how bad the streets are, is easier than walking around my previous house, where the part of the street I was living on literally has not been fully plowed out since the beginning of the year. At any rate, living in the city will make it much easier to reintegrate the church with the Downtown Pittsfield community, something that has been sorely lacking in the last few years. I'm looking forward to being able to attend meetings with DPI and also with various other Social Justice and community oriented groups in the area without the 25 minute commute from my previous house.

As you probably heard, we were having some serious issues with the church's very old furnace in February, leading us to cancel services twice, and also postpone our Cocoa Cafe. However, as I write this, the last of the repairs are being done, and the furnace has been working consistently except for one bobble (unfortunately during the March 2 service) for the last couple of weeks. We haven't given up on the Cocoa Cafe: it will take place in April, and then I'm hoping we can hold it every year around Valentine's. I love chocolate and it's a great tradition to have.

The Youth Group has been on hiatus due to the heating issues and conflicting schedules, but it will resume March 15th. We're hoping to reach more teens and perhaps also some volunteers, so please let us know if you or someone you know is interested.

I'm very much looking forward to our next service (March 9) with George Pinney. He'll be speaking on "The Inflection Point of Inspiration", which will be a welcome change from the doom and gloom so many of us have been experiencing lately. Sheila, who has worked with George quite a bit, will be our service leader, which will also be wonderful.

I hope that you're all keeping warm, and that soon it will be warm. It went up to 50 degrees today! Spring is coming!

*Peace and Joy,
Alexander Herrmann*

“March bustles in on
windy feet and sweeps
my doorstep and my
street.” – Susan Reiner

“You’ve gotta dance
like there’s nobody
watching, Love like
you’ll never be hurt,
Sing like there’s
nobody listening, And
live like it’s heaven on
earth.” – William W.
Purkey

Weekly Happenings at the UU

Sundays	10:30am	Sunday Services
	7pm	1st and 3rd Sunday: Men’s Group
Mondays	7-9pm	Berkshire Lyric Rehearsal
Tuesdays	5:30pm	Crafting Group (bring your own materials, any craft)
	6pm	1st Tuesday: Berkshire Coalition for Suicide Prevention; Healing After Suicide Support Group
	7pm	2nd Tuesday: WordxWord: Poets Creating Conversation
Wednesdays	5pm	Vickie Bandoski Yoga
Thursdays	10am	Vickie Bandoski Yoga
	5:30pm	Pittsfield Sangha Meditation Group
Saturdays	10am	Berkshire Lyric Childrens Chorus Rehearsal
	1pm	Teen Youth Group (Crafting / Games / Social Justice)

Announcing the UU Used Book Sale!

The used book sale is still going on! Until further notice, we will be holding an ongoing Used Book Sale on a table in our Social Hall. More donations of books are desperately needed! Please put book donations on the table in the Social Hall. There will be a box to put donations/payments in. This is a great chance to do some decluttering at home - and to find new books for your holiday reading!



“When you hate, the only person that is suffering is you because most of the people you hate don’t know it and the rest don’t care.” – Medgar Evers

“Never dull your shine for somebody else.” – Tyra Banks

Kindness Is Resistance

I no longer watch the TV news, nor read news from any mainstream publications. It’s not that I don’t want to know what’s going on in the world, but I realized that following the news closely wasn’t making me a better citizen, or a more informed voter, and it definitely wasn’t making me a kinder person. What it was doing was playing on my deepest fears, insecurities, and sense of tribalism. “Us versus them” will always be an attitude that causes oversimplification and deepens divides.

If our goal is a just, peaceful world, then there’s no way to leave anyone behind. The petty tribalism that causes so many divisions, so much bigotry and misinformation and suffering, needs to be eradicated.

I want to be clear: I am not telling anyone to join hands and sing Kumbaya with our oppressors. What I am saying is that justice for all means justice for all. It means that even people I don’t always understand or even like, need safety and security. I need to show Republicans and finance bros and yeah, even the most loyal of Trump supporters, the same kindness and compassion that I show to people I love.

Now is the time to double down on kindness. It might sound cheesy, but I do think that this is the strongest tool in our arsenal. The current administration is betting on the fact that people are paranoid and mean, that we are only looking out for ourselves and that they can divide and conquer.

The thing they’re missing, I hope, is that most human beings are doing their best. Most human beings care about their communities and would rather suffer themselves than witness the suffering of another. In times of crisis, most of us pull together and show tremendous love to each other. That’s what I’m betting on. I’m betting on us.

Peace, love, and solidarity forever.
Rachel Occhiogrosso-Schwartz

News from Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO)

BIO’s Annual Convention was held on February 2 at the Lee Congregational Church. Along with conducting yearly business such as the election of officers, we heard from representatives of our two current campaigns, Housing and Transportation, and spoke about the situation facing immigrant groups in the Berkshires. BIO’s work is very important, and we encourage more folks from the UU community to participate. Please talk to Bob Shepherd or Alexander Herrmann for details.

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.” – Edward Everett Hale

“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.” – Charles Dickens

From Habitat for Humanity

Habitat is helping the City of Pittsfield to gather feedback from our Spanish-speaking community on how the CDBG Funds should be spent in this year's plan so that their voices can be heard.

If you have any relationships with those from the Spanish-speaking community, can you please share the news of this gathering at the Iglesia Fuente De Salvación Misionera Inc. at 549 North St on Wednesday, March 19 at 5:30 pm. Refreshments and child care will be provided.

We want our Spanish-speaking community members to be able to gather in a safe place where they can feel comfortable expressing their opinions and ideas. Please see the below (in Spanish).



Juntos ... mejoremos nuestra comunidad!

El Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad solicita la opinión del público sobre el uso de los fondos federales de la Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) en Pittsfield para el Plan de Acción Anual 2025 y el Plan Consolidado 2025-2029.

Cuándo: Miércoles 19 de Marzo a las @ 5:30 pm

Dónde: 549 North Street. Iglesia Fuente De Salvación Misionera Inc.

Se brindará cuidado de niños y refrigerios

Queremos escuchar su opinión sobre temas que afectan su vida, tales como:
Rehabilitación de Viviendas - Demolición de Edificios Desocupados -
Instalaciones Públicas y Mejoras de Parques - Desarrollo Económico -
Programas de Servicios Públicos



Utilice el código QR para completar un breve cuestionario y decirnos dónde, para Ud. están las mayores necesidades en nuestra comunidad

Si no puede asistir a la sesión, envíe sus comentarios escritos u orales comunicándose con el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, City Hall, 70 Allen Street, Sala 205, Pittsfield, MA. Llamando al (413) 499-9358 o TTY (413) 499-9340. Puede también enviar sus comentarios por correo electrónico a njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org. Las personas con necesidades especiales deben ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario. Haremos todo lo posible para satisfacer su solicitud. El Plan Consolidado de cinco años y el Plan de Acción Anual 2025 abordarán las necesidades de las personas y hogares de ingresos bajos y moderados, según lo requerido por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU.

We thank you for your support! Please use this QR code to donate to our church or mail a check to: Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield, 175 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield MA 01201



Social Hour Needs You!

We are all so appreciative of Ben running the social hour following services. Sign up to help using the sheet in the Social Hall on the table, and passed around in Sunday Service during Joys and Concerns - it makes such a difference!



Image by brgfx