

Newsletter

December 2024

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

Zoom Sunday Service Link:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/891
22019151](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](#)

Collector

[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](#)

At-Large

[Peggy Taylor, Gonzalo Bermudez](#)

Caretaker

[Dante Hicks](#)

Pianist

[Karèn Tchougourian](#)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield



December Sunday Services

December 1 Rev. Rich Hayes "Be the Lamp or the Mirror"

December 8 Peggy Taylor: "Advent, Mangers and the Rabbi's Gift"

December 15 Circle Sunday: "Unexpected Spiritual Encounters"

December 22 Diedre Bollinger: One-Person Adaptation of *Scrooge Musical*

December 22 Alexander Herrmann: "Return of the Light"

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

[Building & Grounds Committee members](#)

[Building Use Committee members](#)

[Social Responsibility Committee members](#)

[Sharing & Caring Committee members](#)

[Fundraising Committee members](#)

Find us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

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

That's My Secret

Note: this article is partially built off the text of a talk I gave at the church on Sunday, November 24. The talk in its original form is available to listen to on our web site at <https://www.uupittsfield.org/listen/>.

It's been a month since the US elections, and I can see that people are, once more, increasingly saying the quiet parts out loud. It makes me afraid, but it also makes me angry. Nobody should have to worry that their very existence is going to be made illegal, but here is where we are in the United States in the 21st century. I've been telling people for years that if we're NOT angry, we're not paying attention, but I guess we have not been angry ENOUGH. Or maybe the people who want to see the end of anyone who isn't white, heterosexual, and cisgender were angrier. Many of them certainly have seemed so.

As UUs, we think of ourselves as people who are not governed by anger. This is because anger is thought of as a negative emotion, leading to destructiveness. Or to quote my good friend Yoda, "...Fear leads to anger; anger leads to hate; hate leads to suffering." We think, perhaps, that anger IS hate, is an absence of love, which as UUs, we are supposed to extend in an active way to others, no matter the relationship or lack thereof we have with them.

So what do I do, what do WE do with our anger? There are a lot of things we could do, but I think the most effective thing we could do is turn it into Love. Not just kisses and cuddles - although those are great - but into action. If there were ever a time when we need to recognize that Love is a verb, this is it. We must protect those who will be most negatively affected by what is coming.

No matter what Yoda says, my anger will not lead to hate. Instead, my anger is because of and is empowering love. As much as I'd like to crawl into bed and pull the covers over my head for the next several years, or hurt somebody else as much as I've been hurt by this election, I am not going to let Hate win. Because when Hate wins, haters win. And they don't get to win.

I -we - are bruised. We are bloody. We are angry. But we will never stop fighting for what we know is right: Community and Social Justice, powered by our great Love for the Earth and all that is in it. Or, to quote one more fictional character - Bruce Banner - "That's my secret...I'm always angry."

*Peace and Joy,
Alexander, UUCP President*

"Of all the months of the year there is not a month one half so welcome to the young, or so full of happy associations, as the last month of the year." — Charles Dickens

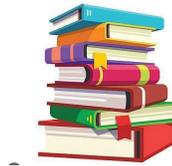
"May and October, the best-smelling months? I'll make a case for December; evergreen, frost, wood smoke, cinnamon." — Lisa Kleypas

News from Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO)

SAVE THE DATE! - BIO's Annual Convention will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Exact time and location to be determined, but please put it on your calendar and plan to attend. This is an important yearly event for BIO and provides an opportunity to update members about BIO's accomplishments over the year, share goals for the next year, as well as install new officers. Please plan to attend to show your support, find out how to become more involved, and stay informed.

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!



Holiday Carol Sing

We're having our annual Holiday Carol Sing on December 24th! It will begin around 4pm and last about an hour. We will have some silly hats to loan; feel free to wear your own. We will also have all sorts of delicious snacks and of course hot chocolate. Come and sing with us!



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



Office for Rent

We have an office for rent! Room 23, which is right at the top of the stairs to the 2nd floor, is now vacant and is being cleaned and painted by our Building & Grounds Committee. Please contact Rachel Occhiogrosso-Schwartz, our Building Use Chair, for more information at uupittsfieldbuildinguse@gmail.com.

New Year's Party

We are hosting a New Year's Eve Party on December 31 at the church from 8pm until just after midnight. We will be playing board games, and other fun activities. Please join us!

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