

Newsletter

June 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

[Melissa Quirk](#)

Sunday Services, Fundraising,
Nominating

[Sheila McKenna](#)

Sharing and Caring

[Guinevere Morgan](#)

At-Large

[Peggy Taylor, Gonzalo Bermudez](#)

Caretaker

[Dante Hicks](#)

Pianist

[Karèn Tchougourian](#)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsfield



June Sunday Services

June 2: Rev. Rich Hayes and presentation of Social Justice Award

June 9: Eddie O'Toole speaks about Berkshire Amistad

June 16: Circle Sunday: Most memorable Summer Adventure

June 23: SUMMER BREAK - NO SERVICES

June 30: SUMMER BREAK - NO SERVICES (Services resume July 7)

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](#)

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!

Under the Moon in June With a Spoon

Um...yeah. Hello all! It's June, which means I've been President for a year now. Looking back over the past twelve months, I feel that we've accomplished a lot, although there's still so much to be done.

One thing that I really wanted to get done this year - and we did - was to update our Bylaws, which last happened in 2017. I and other Board members took a look at them over the past year, made suggestions, ran them by the rest of the Board, and then presented them for a vote at the Annual Meeting, where they were discussed, clarified if needed, and voted on. I'll be putting those changes into the official copy and also updating our website in the coming weeks. None of the changes substantially alters our mission, but they all make it easier to keep that mission going. They'll be going live in our documentation and on our website as soon as I can get them there.

I feel that I've also managed to streamline a lot of our processes, particularly with regard to media, but there's still a lot to do. I have so many ideas - particularly around community and social justice initiatives - but so little time. That said, I prefer to be too busy rather than not busy enough - be careful what you wish for, I guess! At our August Board Retreat maybe we can develop some of my (and other peoples') ideas and get them implemented this year.

This next year is going to be very exciting, and I look forward to another year of service!

Peace and Joy,
Alexander, UUCP President

Sharing and Caring

I'm excited to announce that we have a new Sharing and Caring Chair: Guinevere (Gwen) Morgan! Gwen will be sending cards and letters to anyone who needs our attention, and also starting a prayer shawl ministry to send crocheted gifts to those who would benefit. If you are interested in participating, or if you are or know someone who needs some love and attention, please drop an email to office@uupittsfield.org and we will direct it to her.

Also, please keep one of our members in your thoughts as she navigates a tough time regarding her living situation. We are doing everything we can to help.

"In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different."

— John Steinbeck

"June is the time for being in the world in new ways, for throwing off the cold and dark spots of life."

— Joan D. Chittister

Lost (but then Found) Dog!

We were very glad to not have to print a notice in this newsletter that our new-ish member Rachel Schwartz had lost her dog, Princess. Princess was lost - for about 18 hours - and then was returned by the person who had found him. Rachel tells us that she was overwhelmed by the help and good wishes from the community. Princess promises never to get lost again!



Around the House

Spring was nice, both days of it! Since we seem to be in summer now, I thought this would be a good time to talk about some tips for giving your air conditioner the best shot at success.

Giving it a good cleaning when you set it up is a necessity. Make especially sure to get as much dust and detritus out of the coils as you can (this will look like either some pipes running back and forth, or a big block of thin metal 'fins' surrounding some pipes) and a vacuum cleaner will help with this. 'Coil Cleaner' may be stocked at your local hardware store, and can also be found online - but try vacuuming and spraying with room temperature water first, to dislodge anything the vacuum isn't moving. Allow the water (or coil cleaner) to dry completely before plugging in or using the unit.

If your air conditioner is stored upside down or on its side - or any orientation other than how it sits when it's in use - make sure to leave it in place once you set it up for at least 4 hours before use. This will allow the refrigerant to settle in the system and prevent inefficiency and possible damage if you skip this step.

Check any air filters that are present on your air conditioner - and make sure to actually open the filter compartments! I remember some years ago, wondering why my brand new air conditioner wasn't working well. I popped open the filter housing to give it a closer look, even though I could see the filter and it appeared to

“I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June.”

– Lucy Maud Montgomery

“Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.”

– Al Bernstein

be fine - only to find a plastic bag from the factory sandwiched between the filter and the housing. After removing the bag (and soothing my bruised ego), the air conditioner worked MUCH better.

Almost all air conditioners will pull water out of the air. Window units and central AC units drain the water outside, but portable AC units (the kind where the air conditioner sits in the room and has an air hose going to a window) might need to be drained every so often - check your user manual for information. If you can't find the manual, you can usually find it online.

If your air conditioner is 5-10 years old or so, it might be worth shopping around for a replacement even if it works fairly well - improvements in efficiency over the last few years mean that a new unit uses significantly less power than an older unit, and may actually be more effective.

Christopher Hicks
Building & Grounds Chair

Sunday Services and Church Events

June 2nd: Rev Rich Hayes and presentation of Social Justice Award to Alex Reczkowski, Director, Berkshire Athenaeum. This service actually occurred before publication, and went very well. We look forward to working more with Alex and his initiatives! While we will miss Rev. Hayes over the summer, we look forward to seeing him again in September.

June 9th - Member Eddie O'Toole will speak about his work with Berkshire Amistad, and the years of work with his family in Honduras in the establishment of a school and community center, as well as his continued work bringing needed items to Honduras.

June 16th - Circle Sunday: Share your most memorable Summer adventure. NOTE: Ice Cream Sunday and the Picnic have been moved to July.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH, FAMILY FUN DAY, 1:30-4:30

If you haven't attended one of these events in the past, they are a lot of fun! Guests are invited (but not required) to bring a dish to share and a teddy bear as we have a sort of potluck teddy bear picnic. Will also have face painting, a craft table, Frisbee, water balloons, etc. Come and bring your family or simply come and be a part of ours!

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH, CABARET AT 7:30. CABARET HAS BEEN CANCELED DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.

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



NO SERVICE JUNE 23rd or 30TH.

Nota Bene:

Summer break till July 7th, the official start of Summer Sundays, an abbreviated, shorter, Circle service with various church members as leader! Step right up, take a seat and preside over your most interesting idea, poetry, herb gardening, music, activism, projects. A special seat in Unitarian heaven awaits those who volunteer.

Sheila McKenna, Sunday Services Chair (edits by Alexander Herrmann)

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!

