

Newsletter

January 2025

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

January 5 Rev. Rich Hayes: "Moment by Moment"

January 12 Peggy Taylor: "Apocalypse, Pinocchio and Confucius"

January 19 Circle Sunday: Diversity Goals

January 26: Alexander Herrmann: Quilt Series: Islam

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!

Hello, 2025

The shortest day in the year has passed and the Light has returned to give us a new year. I know it's hard for some or maybe all of us to believe that things will be good or at least better in 2025, but I have hope.

From my talk on December 29th:

Nobody is perfect, and honestly, I think that is a good thing. The things that we think of as faults are what keeps life interesting. A cantankerous guy who plows out every neighbor's driveway when it snows...that girl you know who's always late to stuff but is always on hand with a cup of tea when you need to talk...the couple who gets upset if you wear shoes in their house but lets you crash on their couch when you're going through a bad patch...we all know people who both drive us crazy and bring tears of joy to our faces. They may not be perfect, but they're perfect FOR US. And we, with all our faults, are perfect for them too.

So here we are, a bunch of people with faults like everyone else, doing the best we can to help shine some Light into the darkness. Every time we turn around, something's falling to pieces in our church home, we don't have enough people or money to keep everything going, and sometimes, some or all of us just want to give up. We feel like we're stumbling around in the dark, and that nothing we do matters. But the Solstice has come to remind us that the Light always returns. The days will get longer, and warmer, and brighter. We will experience joy. We will make a difference.

My friends, whatever we consider God to be - or even if we have no concept of a god of any kind - we do have the power of the Light, because here, charity and love prevail. As we take a deep breath and gaze into the unknown that is 2025, let's remember that if we have nothing else, we have our love and regard for each other, and that makes us more powerful than all the destruction that those without Love and Light can throw at us.

We are weary, we are battle scarred, we are mad as hell, and sometimes we don't have enough fuel to keep going. But what we do have is each other and our gatherings to plan, make, and feed, and that is not nothing. That is everything. That is what will give us strength to stare into the Darkness, each of us holding up a tiny, flickering candle, and join those little lights to make one big one. We will be okay. We will keep going. We will conquer the Dark. We are all, collectively, God.

*Peace and Joy,
Alexander, UUCP President*

“New Year’s Day is every man’s birthday.”
— Charles Lamb

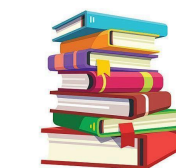
“In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.”
— Albert Camus

Weekly Happenings at the UU

Sundays	10:30a m	Sunday Services
	7pm	1st and 3rd Sunday: Men’s Group
Mondays	7-9pm	Berkshire Lyric Rehearsal
Tuesdays	5:30p m	Crafting Group (bring your own materials, any craft)
	6pm	1st Tuesday: Berkshire Coalition for Suicide Prevention; Healing After Suicide Support Group
	7pm	WordxWord: Poets Creating Conversation
Wednesdays	5pm	Vickie Bandoski Yoga
Thursdays	5:30p m	Pittsfield Sangha Meditation Group
Fridays	7pm	Kim Rivers Aikido Class
Saturdays	9:30a m	(intermittent) Sher Mindermann Tai Chi Class
	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!



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



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.

The Art Quilts

We're starting a new Sunday series, beginning with the last Sunday of the month and continuing with the last Sundays of subsequent months, about the different religions represented by the [art quilts](#) in the Sanctuary. The first presentation, by Alexander Herrmann, is on Islam, followed by Gwen Morgan speaking about Paganism in February. We will be taking the quilts down to clean them one at a time to go with the presentation, culminating with the large piece in the front.

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