



Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
Stamford

## UU-Blast August/September 2021

A Special Invite for UUC Congregants:

# Coffee & Conversation with "UUC Dreamers"

Hosted & Facilitated by  
Rev. Terri Pahucki and Elizabeth Jenkins-Sahlin

Register today for an opportunity to gather with "UUC Dreamers", other UUC congregants with big hopes and dreams for UUC, and take the first step to making UUC dreams a reality.

Together we will swap stories about what brought us to UUC, reflect on what has made UUC our spiritual home, and envision the possibilities for small group gatherings.



**MULTIPLE DATES AVAILABLE**  
(with in-person & virtual options)

**First Gathering:**  
**Sunday, Sept 12, 2021**  
**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**  
**Location TBA**  
(within a 15 minute walk of UUC)



Location will be shared with those who register.

**Register today via UUC Eventbrite page**  
using the QR code to the left or the link below:  
**<https://bit.ly/3jvpTrt>**

## NEW BEGINNINGS



August 1<sup>st</sup> was a day of new beginnings for UUC. We gathered on our front lawn to greet our new minister, Rev. Terri Pahucki, with song and welcoming words. Jerome Bryant had set out tables and chairs; there was an easel with song sheets (which kept blowing away) and refreshments. While it was not the first time we had gathered in person on our front lawn, this was a

special occasion. We were glad to see friends, including those who had not participated in the Zoom services during the pandemic, and passersby saw a group of people celebrating being together in front of our historic church.

Lynne Lane, our President, opened the “service” and Bobbie Rich, representing the Search Committee of herself, Pam Bruno and Mark Fakundiny, introduced Rev. Terri, using Rev. Terri’s own words to describe the qualities that made her such an attractive candidate for UUC. With Norris Wakefield, Eleanor Dennis, and Lynne Lane leading us, we sang the familiar hymns. And when one of the posters with the words blew away, we finished without needing any prompting.

Afterwards, various questions were posed to Rev. Terri about how she came to be a UU minister and her thoughts on religious education. Her responses confirmed we had made the right choice! Maria Lassman and Ellen Garcia had organized drinks and individual snacks to be shared. It was good to be together again!



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

*Dear Ones,*

*It was a joy to meet so many of you on August 1st. Thank you for the warm welcome! I began my work as your minister officially on August 15th and have spent the past two weeks meeting with Board members and congregational leaders, getting organized online and in my Forest Street office, and learning about all that takes place "behind the scenes" at UUC. It has been a full, enlightening experience!*

*I look forward to gathering for our multigenerational Ingathering Service on Sunday, September 12th outside on the front lawn (and shared remotely via Zoom). You are invited to bring water from a source that is meaningful to you; we will join our waters in a Water Communion ritual as a sign of the healing, renewal, and spiritual nourishment we seek and create in community together.*

*In this time of great challenge and turbulence, I invite us to find strength and sustenance in this community. While Covid numbers are high, we will worship outside or on Zoom (look for the eblast announcements each week for updates). Although we may wish for more certainty, this liminal space beckons us to embrace possibilities we may not have considered before. Let's strengthen our connections by creating opportunities to gather in smaller numbers, safely and responsibly.*

*I would love to know more of your stories and am looking forward to getting to know everyone better. Please reach out if you'd like to chat over tea or coffee. I am available for in person meetings on Sundays 12-3, and Thursdays 10-1, or on Zoom by appointment. You can schedule an appointment with me here <https://calendly.com/uucstamfordminister>. I can also be reached by email [uucstamfordminister@gmail.com](mailto:uucstamfordminister@gmail.com) or phone 845-344-7336.*

*With hope for the year ahead,*

*Rev Terri*

## **GREETINGS FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT**

It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome all of you back for our new congregational year! We are excited to meet our new minister, Terri Pahucki, who joined us as of August 15<sup>th</sup> this summer.

Many things have been going on behind the scenes. I am sure most of you read in the news that our Pride banner was vandalized in early August. Out of that sad moment came some great publicity for our congregation and its principles. Our own Janis Stahlhut was quoted in the Stamford Advocate as saying “-----the banner was a piece of cloth, and that can be replaced. Our core principle here is to uphold the worth and dignity of every person and that has not changed.”

Indeed, we have received contributions to replace the flag from several outside organizations. To that end, we have taken steps to improve the lighting around the outside signage and at the front doorway of our building. We have plans in the works to have a dedication of the new banner and invite the surrounding community.

The Board has met several times to plan and ensure a thoughtful and safe ingathering for our opening service September 12<sup>th</sup>. If the weather is beautiful, (fingers crossed) we will meet with Reverend Terri for an outdoor service on the lawn. If it rains, the service will be on zoom. Remember to bring your water from your vacation for our “Water Ceremony!” Moving forward, our Sanctuary has been prepared so that we can meet safely indoors in the near future.

As I anticipate the crisp fall weather, I note that there is much work to be done. Keep your eye out for the survey that will be sent to you to let you know how you can contribute.

Fond regards to all,  
Lynne

## **WE ARE A WELCOMING CONGREGATION!**

Bright and early on Sunday morning, August 1, a small group of UUC congregants began gathering on the front lawn for only our second “in person” service since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. The setup crew arrived a bit early, as is usual, to arrange seating, display boards, and service accouterments. But something seemed missing....

Norris discovered a torn piece of our Welcoming Congregation banner; obviously cut down and slashed with a sharp implement. In other words, this was not a weather-related incident but an apparent deliberate act of vandalism.

We were saddened and of course upset that someone may have targeted our Pride Banner and its message of welcome. But we quickly turned our attention to “what can be done.” A tip to the local media resulted in two stories in the Stamford Advocate and a television piece, featuring Lynne Lane, filmed by News12. And quickly our attention turned to how we can use this act to educate our children, and bring public awareness to lingering prejudices in our City. DRE Darlene will use the torn piece of banner in this year’s Religious Education Program.



Several organizations, including our former neighbors, First Congregational Church, and CT Playmakers offered to replace the banner. StamfordPride’s Executive Director reached out with support, and from that we have established a dialog with them to co-create youth and other programming in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

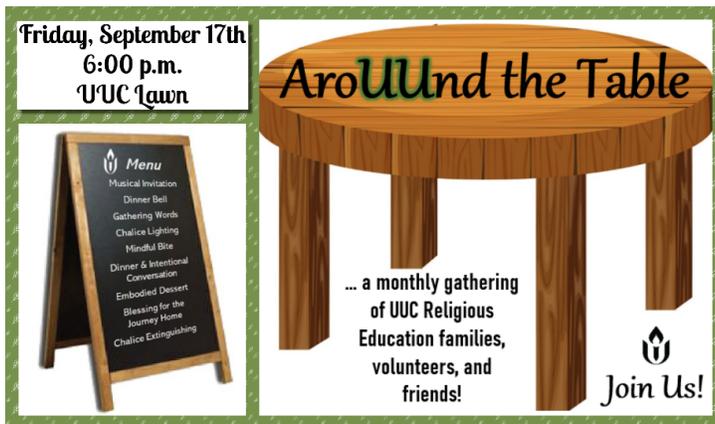
We have ordered a new and redesigned banner, which will be dedicated during a vigil for our old banner. We are also improving our exterior security, especially lighting. And we hope to engineer a more secure display for our corner messaging, which not only includes the annual Pride Banner display, but an ongoing series of banners designed last year for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. *So from lemons, we are making lemonade!*

## FUND RAISING

Another successful tag sale took place Saturday, August 7th. Special thanks to Jerome Bryant, Lynne Lane, Janis Stahlhut, Bob Nixon, Linda Berkoff, and a slew of other UU participants, friends and family members who donated items, helped out, and supported our team. With everyone's hard efforts, we were able to raise \$375 for our Congregation. Ann Preston and Helene Devin were the Prime Movers for this event, and we are very grateful to them!

*Please mark your calendars for the next sale, which will take place on Saturday October 2nd. We look forward to seeing you there.*

### ***"AroUUnd the Table September: Embracing Possibility"***



This year, the newly reimagined Religious Education Ministry Team will be hosting monthly gatherings for RE families, volunteers, and friends entitled **"AroUUnd the Table"**. These events for all ages will be grounded in the concept of "Dinner Church" which you may have experienced when Rev. Aisha

Ansano led us in worship on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

*"Dinner Church is a worship service and a meal woven together to tap into the heart of what it means to be in embodied spiritual community with one another. It is ancient spiritual technology that can be used in a modern context."*

Each of our **"AroUUnd the Table"** gatherings will follow a "menu" of consistent elements; the specifics will change monthly. Our themes will coincide with the Soul Matters themes used in our Soulful Home packets, in worship, and in our Sharing Circles. September's theme is "Embracing Possibility"!

Let's gather **"AroUUnd the Table"** on **Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** on the UUC lawn at 6:00 p.m. (rain date: Saturday, 9/18). Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket or chairs to sit on. We'll have a few tables set up, but we will have to keep our "pods"

distanced. Masks will need to be worn when we are walking around. Please RSVP to Darlene ([darlene.dre.stamford@gmail.com](mailto:darlene.dre.stamford@gmail.com)) so that we will have enough “mindful bites” and “dessert option” activity materials prepared!

\*\*Oh ... and invite your friends to have a little “taste” of Unitarian Universalism and our UUC community!

**Religious Education 2021-2022: Building Community** is coming together! It looks



like our small RE groups will be able to begin meeting in person on Sundays! When worship is on Zoom, RE groups will meet from 12:30-1:30; when worship is in person (outside or inside), RE groups will meet during the service (following the Time for All Ages) from 10:15-11:15. Of

course, just like at school, masks will be required at all times and enhanced cleaning & hygiene protocols will be in place.

Here is what we have planned for each of our RE groups:

**Pre-K – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade = “A New Alphabet for Humanity”** (“word of the day”, story, craft, music); 2-3 Sundays/month

**2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade = “Windows & Mirrors”** (a curriculum that nurtures children's ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about and respect those of others; there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone's viewpoint matters); 2-3 Sundays/month

**9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade = UUC Youth Group** gathering for fun and social action 1 Sunday/month and ... drum roll ... preparation for a June **IMMERSION JOURNEY** to Appalachia 1 Sunday/month

\*\* Families of high school youth will be receiving details about this exciting opportunity shortly!”

**SUUnday FUUnday** = all RE ages, 1 Sunday/month (community-building fun and games) with a simultaneous **Make-up Class in the RE Zoom Room** (to accommodate those children/youth who are not comfortable meeting in person)

Of course, we will also have interactive **multigenerational worship services** about 1 Sunday/month. On those days, Religious Education classes will not meet (Youth Group may).

Our volunteer teams are coming together ... and **we need YOU!** Please contact Darlene (darlene.dre.stamford@gmail.com) if you are interested in finding out how you can get involved and help us to **bUUild** back our RE **comUUnity!**

### **FRIENDS MOVING ON**

*Open Letter to UUC: The Best Laid Plans...*

*Dear UUC friends:*

*This is certainly NOT the way in which we wanted our time with all of you to end. Although this day had certainly been planned, and openly talked about we were not prepared for a pandemic and a simultaneous housing market explosion. We wound up selling our home very quickly, and we have not stopped since then*

*packing, giving things away, throwing things out, etc. We will need a vacation once we arrive at our new home.*

*All said we are left with a large void. Words do not seem enough to convey what UUC has meant to both of us. From our first service we felt welcomed and more importantly, cared about. I'll never forget that just a few weeks of our joining, Armando developed food poisoning. A member of UUC took him to the hospital as I had just started a new job, and it felt as if the entire congregation came to visit. That certainly set the tone for our experience with this amazing congregation.*

Daniel and Armando Beltran have been a huge part of our UUC community. Now they are moving to a home on the Cape, leaving us sad at losing them, but full of good memories of their time with us. Dani held so many leadership positions that we can't recall them all; and Armando was one of our favorite chefs! They asked that this letter be forwarded to all of you.

*I for one will always have a special place in my heart for RE and our EXTRAORDINARY kids. I have learned so much, and have felt so enriched by each and every one of our kids. I send a virtual hug to each and every one, past and present.*

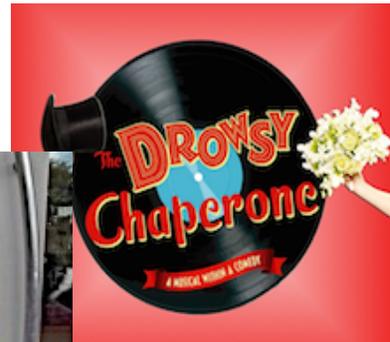
*This letter would be much too long if we were to talk about everything that everyone at UUC has meant to us over the past 20 years. You all live on in us, you have all made us a little bit better than we would have been without having met you. Thank you for giving us our first Spiritual home. Thank you for giving us a community unlike any other. I hope that this resonates for each and every one of you, and that you have felt our love for you over these many years.*

*And now, we must say 'Au revoir.' Until we meet again...*

D-n-A

## **OUR CONNECTIONS TO THE ARTS**

Curtain Call – Several members and friends attended a recent production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* at the Ethel Kveskin Theatre and enjoyed the performance of Jonah Farber in several roles. It was a delightful show and fun to see one of our own on stage!



Intempo – An afterschool music program for underserved children, Intempo had its beginnings in our Sanctuary in 2014. As the program grew, they moved to larger quarters. They held their annual Summer Camp Concert at Temple Sinai on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and it was a great pleasure to see the 75 children showing off their new skills to the assembled guests. Bonnie Currie has been on the Board since 2014 and Christopher Fountain, son of Jay and Christie Fountain, is the newest Board member.

