



Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley

September 2021 – Vol. 80, Issue 9

Contents

[Journeying Together](#)

[Worship Services](#)

[Special Events and Announcements](#)

[Opening Task Force](#)

[Family Ministry](#)

[Social Justice](#)

[From the Board of Trustees](#)

[Humanist Connections](#)

[Personal Theology](#)

[Partner Church Committee](#)

[Chalice Circles](#)

[From the Executive Director](#)

[Music Matters](#)

Journeying Together

Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins

Beloved ones,

If there's anything we've gotten experienced with in the past year, it's flexibility. Of finding ways to adjust and change course as the reality of each day and each week and each month comes along. And it's been so long since we've been able to gather as a congregation, really gather and be able to know that we'll be able to see one another again the next week. It's been a year since I joined you here in Berkeley, and while many of us have gotten to know one another and work together on Zoom, I've had so little chance to meet so many of you in person. Hopefully the future will change that. But, flexibility in mind of course, not quite yet.

The changing reality of how to keep each other and ourselves safe through this pandemic means we have to keep re-evaluating what we can do. With the delta and lambda variants running around through the population, with the fact that so many of our members are in more vulnerable populations and our youngest members are not yet eligible for the vaccine, and with [our county's transmission data](#) and [new UUA guidance](#), we will remain in virtual worship mode for the time being. I admit that it is a huge bummer to have to say that, because I so want us to be able to move forward. But going slower and keeping each other safe must take a priority.

This is a time for us to be gentle with each other and ourselves. We are moving through a period of collective trauma, one that is affecting each of us differently

depending on our individual circumstances and experiences. As our country moves into the next phase of the pandemic, we are adjusting to the reality that COVID-19 may be with us for a very long time. We've learned that we must find ways to maintain connections with each other, be open to creating experiences that may be very different from what we were used to in the days before the pandemic, and stay committed to building – and serving – community in new and different ways.

The Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd says it well: “We are what the world needs – a place where people can connect safely and lovingly. A place where the community matters first, even before the individual. A place where something real moves within, among and beyond us, giving meaning to the journey and tools for building resilience. One small gesture at a time, we flex this flexibility as we move together to this new season of change.”

Blessings for our shared journey,

Rev. Michelle

Worship Services in September

Sundays at 11 am on [Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube Live](#)

Theme for September: Embracing Possibility

September 5 – 1000 Years. Rev. Catherine Boyle; Worship Associate Cynthia Asprodites. One thousand years is an awful long and short time to exist – depending on if you are a tree or a human. Take a final nature walk with Rev. Catherine under the cathedral of the redwoods as we explore endings looping back to beginnings and say goodbye to our Director of Family Ministry.

September 12 – Bring in the Candles. Rev. Michelle Collins, preaching. Worship Associate Deborah Schmidt. To say that this past year was a rough year in our country is an understatement, and we are sure to face many challenges as we go forward. What possibilities and intentions do we need to carry with us into the times ahead? We'll start with an older Unitarian text, which is just as relevant today as when it was written.

September 19 – Water Is Life. Rev. Michelle Collins, preaching. Worship Associate Karen Elliott. Our world, our bodies, and our lives are intricately connected with water, and yet the water of our world continues to face many challenges. Today we'll explore both our connections and challenges of this vital life force.

September 26 – The Power of the Small (Groups). Rev. Michelle Collins, preaching. Worship Associate Don Klose. In many ways, nothing is more human than gathering around the hearth or its modern day versions, the living room or kitchen tables, and talking and connecting with one another. It's also how our faith movement and many of our congregations were born. Small groups are powerful ways to connect, and we'll explore and celebrate those connections today.

Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following worship on Sundays

After worship we invite you to switch over to Zoom for a time to connect “face to face.” The link to Virtual Coffee Hour is listed below, but we will also share it in the comments on the Facebook Live feed during worship.

Click [here](#) to join us:

Meeting ID: 332 046 821

Password: 810131

Good Neighbor for September

[Developing Indigenous Resources \(DIR\)](#). (DIR) believes that every man, woman and child – in any community – can become an agent of social change when equipped with adequate knowledge. DIR provides situation-relevant training to local residents, and challenges each learner to become a community educator. Focusing on the areas of health, education and income generation, DIR provides an effective, low-cost model to improve overall quality of life in less-privileged communities in developing countries.

Special Events and Announcements

- **Welcoming Our Ministerial Intern: Ken Marino**

This month we'll be welcoming a ministerial intern to UUCB, Ken Marino. Ken is an author, musician, yoga teacher and Reiki Master. He has been involved with music, yoga and meditation throughout his life. He has studied and taught at City University of New York and California State University, where he possesses a Master of Arts in Music degree. He recently graduated from Drew Theological School in New Jersey and is looking forward to returning here to the Bay Area. Let's give Ken a warm welcome to UUCB!

- Cordell Sloan is the Board of Trustees' **Listening presence for September**. You may reach him at Cordellsloan@hotmail.com or 510-388-1492.

- **Sept. 9 & 11, 9:30 am – Vision Board Workshop.** As seen on Oprah! Call it "Manifesting Your Dreams" or "Charting Your Life," creating a vision board is a way to get in touch with yourself and to make your wishes and desires a bit more tangible. Join Rev. Michelle for this in-person event (pandemic-permitting). Safir Room. [RSVP here](#).
- **Sept. 11 – Parents' Night Out.** Hey parents, take the night off! Let us watch the kids* at UUCB while you take a few hours for yourselves. Go to dinner, binge watch your favorite show, or simply sit in beautiful and uninterrupted silence. Just be back by 8 pm. Masks required, bring some snacks. All ages welcome. Sign up at family.ministry@uucb.org.

*human, not goat -we're not licensed for that yet.

- September 15 marks the beginning of **Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month**.
- **Sept. 25 – Bryan Baker & Friends. Reflections.** Bryan Baker & Friends explore how different pieces of music can reflect on each other. Debussy reflecting Bach reflecting Debussy; Florence Price reflected in John Work, and Tan Dun; Chen Yi and Debussy; musical connections in celebrated triangle of Robert and Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms. Solo piano music, and chamber music with cellist Betsy Sadewhite, violinist Carol Schwamberger, and violist Marta Tobey.

Live, in-person, socially distanced, and masked in UUCB's sanctuary.

- **Register for RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2021-22**
No matter in person or online, RE starts September 19th! Register now [here](#). Please note you must submit a separate form for *each* child.
- **Calling for your Animal Photos**
Our Animal Blessing worship service will be taking place on Sunday, October 3. If you have a pet(s) that you would like to be honored and/or remembered in the service, please send their photograph and name to uucbanimals@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, September 29.

Opening Task Force – Update

"There is nothing permanent except change." Greek Philosopher Heraclitus c. 500 BC

Last month we asked this question: “Are we ready for our first in person gathering?” At the time, our ministers, staff and the task force were working to be sure we were ready. And then the Delta variant entered our lives, affirming Heraclitus’ admonition. Now we are balancing our commitment to your safety, our children’s safety, respecting our diversity and commitment to inclusivity with the growing desire to again gather in person in the sanctuary.

By the time you read this column, hopefully many of you will have responded to our Flash Poll to tell us your preferences for indoor, in person gatherings. Your input will help us decide how best to proceed on Sep. 12.

Regardless of the decision about regathering on Sep. 12, the following still holds true for UUCB.

- Masking and social distancing protocols remain in place
- Small church groups can gather at the church following protocols and in coordination with office staff to prepare and manage meeting spaces
- For those who can do it, vaccinations are our best defense and avenue out of this pandemic

We will continue to consider the following as we do anticipate we will regather in person at some future time

- A Master Planning session with key personnel to prepare for regathering
- Training session(s) with ushers and greeters
- Preparing the facility
- A special communication for the congregation to help us know what to expect when we regather
- A training session for small group leaders on how to conduct a multi-platform meeting, in person and virtual at the same time along with a guidance manual for such meetings.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and advice. Please continue to follow UUCB protocols and share any questions or observations with the OTF at planning@uucb.org.

OTF (Opening Task Force) Members: *Patrick Cullinane (Chair), Sheldon Jones, Greg Lemieux, Lisa Maynard, Rev. Catherine Boyle, Tess O’Riva, ED, and Rev. Michelle Collins*

Family Ministry

Rev. Catherine Boyle

Director of Family Ministry

Dear UUCB Congregants,

It is with great sadness that I am submitting my formal resignation from UUCB to care for a critically ill family member with limited time remaining. My last day will be September 5th. I am forever grateful for the deep and transformative experiences I have taken part in here and my ministry will forever carry stories and gifts from this truly special place.



In 2019, I accepted the offer and moved from one coast to the other coast to accept the position of Director of Family Ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Then I did not know the lessons, the gifts and the unexpected joys I would find in this congregation – these things I will never forget and include:

- A Loving Congregation – UUCB enveloped me with love. What makes UUCB UUCB? Its people! The community beats strong as an Olympian’s heart. I am so blessed to be ordained in our faith by such warm-hearted people. Thank you for your heart!
- A Creative Congregation – Singing, dancing, weaving, stand-up, and coding are among many of the creations you shared with me and transformed the way I think about worship. You all are art in motion. Thank you for your art in various forms!
- A Forward Looking and Socially Engaged Congregation – This congregation is bending the moral arc of justice and taking down systems of racial, economic, gender, sexuality-based oppression and injustice piece by piece not just in the UUCB community but in the local community as well. Thank you for your passion and dedication!
- A Resilient Congregation – One of my first Sundays here, the power went out. We still held service that Sunday, gathering in the Atrium like sardines in a can (oh before Covid times!) and held a heck of a service. I should have known then that if a pandemic ever came and UUCB had to jump to online services, that UUCB would be ready and willing, putting up patiently with the bumps in the road as staff and lay leaders figured out this new way of being. Thank you for trusting me as part of that team to guide us forward, and thank you for your patience and grace through many Zoom meetings and worship services.
- A Congregation Committed to the Future – Children and youth are a primary value for UUCB, they are the seeds of our faith surviving in the future. UUCB consistently sought and continues to seek how to make children and youth understand that they have a stake in this community and its future; that it is their home as much as any adult. Thank you UUCB for believing in the future even when the present seems uncertain. Thank you for your faith!

Thank you for all these lessons and more that I will carry forever in my heart. Thank you for the deep development of my ministry. I take everything I learned here forward. Most of all, thank you for being your full authentic selves.

I invite you to say goodbye in person on September 5 at UUCB from 12:30 to 2 pm. We will be masked, socially distanced but there may just be some silly dances.

I wish UUCB the best in the future.

With love and faith,

Rev. Cat

Social Justice Council

Co-Chair's Message

Summer days are ending, and the start of a new liturgical year marks a fresh beginning at UUCB. The Social Justice Council will continue its commitment to two of the Seven UU Principles: The 6th Principle requires us: *To affirm and promote the goal of world community with Peace, Liberty and Justice for All.* The 7th Principle calls for: *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

The Social Justice Council exists to do this work; striving to make the world a better place, with peace, liberty, and justice for every person. The work we do through our sponsored projects -- whether confronting racism and oppression, seeking environmental justice, fighting homelessness, or working for world peace – is so important! We need more warriors to join the cause, to come up with amazing ideas, and to lighten the load. The Council meets monthly on the second Wednesday, from 7-9 pm. We discuss ways to make “good trouble.” Join us in commitment to our principles. Join us as we begin a new church year – a year of community and causes, of interactions and interdependence, of justice and joy!

–Natalie Campbell (nataliehcampbell@yahoo.com)

Good Neighbor Program

Our Good Neighbor program collected \$1000 for the **Lavender Seniors of the East Bay** – a non-profit group that seeks to improve the lives of older LGBTQ residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

In August, we collected funding for the **Diablo Valley College START program for foster youth** that helps empower foster youth as they enter community college.

Looking ahead to September, the program will welcome **DIR - Developing Indigenous Resources**. This non-profit was started by UUCB members, and has been supported for many years. DIR believes that every man, woman, and child – in any community – can become an agent of social change, when equipped with adequate knowledge. Focusing on the areas of health, education, and income generation, DIR profiles an effective, low-cost model to improve overall quality of life in less privileged communities in developing countries.

Generous donations from communities like UUCB help keep these non-profit programs alive; please help in any way you can! If you have a local non-profit that you think would be a good candidate for our 2022 Good Neighbor line up, contact Natalie Campbell at nataliehcampbell@yahoo.com.

Environmental Project: Restoring Our Earth For All

Two wonderful environmental speakers presented at the Summer Forum in August: Teron McGrew, CEO of McGrew and Associates, who also works with the West Oakland Environmental Indicator Project, among many others, gave a Climate Reality-environmental justice-focused presentation. Steve Simon, a UU who has led the Elders Climate Action policy committee and participated in the US Climate Action Network, discussed the new IPCC report and negotiations taking place on the infrastructure bills on August 29. These presentations were critical because now we have a short window of opportunity to advocate at the federal level for the policies we desperately need.

You can use <https://call4climate.com/> to tell our senators we support a strong climate bill, and clear guidance is available on the site. If you're interested in working for a healthy climate and a healthy, resilient environment, we invite you to participate in planning our activities for this year.

Finally, we're continuing with the UU Drawdown 2021 Ecochallenge with the UU Ministry for Earth. Contact Sheila Tarbet at starbet99@gmail.com to learn more about how to get involved with climate advocacy, planning activities for the upcoming year, and our UUCB Ecochallenge team.

Tiny House Village Labyrinth is Finished!

Dedicated volunteers have created a beautiful labyrinth in the heart of the Tiny House Village. (jim.acock@gmail.com)



Renaming the LFDC

President Jimmy Carter designated June as "Black Music Month" in 1979.

The Presidential Proclamation for the month was signed in 2000, with the title African-American Music Appreciation Month.

Music has been included in our programs over the years, and now we have included it in our name. We even have a Literature, Film, Drama & Music Contingent Chorus, which began in 2020, when our book for the month was *Where The Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens. We sang The Crawdad Song, replete with accompaniment on guitar and bongos.

In August, we discussed the UUA's Common Read for 2020-21, *Breathe: A Letter To My Sons*, by Professor Imani Perry. In September, "resilience" is the theme, as portrayed by one of the men who were wrongly accused in the "Central Park Jogger" case. The book is: *Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice*, by Yusef Salaam. (camilleparker@comcast.net)

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)

In addition to offering various supportive services, GRIP serves meals every day to hungry, homeless, and other disadvantaged people in and around Richmond, including families living at GRIP. Volunteers from UUCB participate in this program by making sandwiches (usually from 10:15 to 11 am) and helping to serve lunch (from 11:30 to 12:45 pm) on the fourth Tuesday of every month. We always have a greater need for sandwich makers than servers. If you want to participate in one or both activities, please contact Ray Westergard at raywest2@sbcglobal.net.

Member's Musing

Hope Recycled

by Marsha Saxton, Ph.D.

High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) is a generally recyclable plastic used in food and household containers. But my story is about hope. I was in the shower without my glasses and noticed something on my shampoo bottle. Below the ingredients and instructions, I saw the recycle symbol and read the phrase "50% RECYCLED HOPE."

I blinked, squinted, and pondered this phrase as I shampooed my hair. What is recycled hope? What is this doing on a shampoo bottle? Is this some random New Age-y advice? Is there a program to recycle hope? Is this some organization's name endorsing this product? Why only 50%?

I went down this road, enjoying the warm shower, wincing a bit that we're supposed to be rationing water with shorter showers. I could use some recycled hope. I thought of times when I'd felt hopeful – getting a new job, making new friends, planning a fun trip, making a difference in the world. I've felt hope with important legislation getting passed, supporting competent politicians, and successes in my own work for justice. Hope is motivating. Hope is connecting. Hope is creative and offers resilience. Hope is fun!

I remember as an adolescent, with my growing social conscience, feeling a new kind of hopeful. My older brother was involved in the Free Speech Movement at UC Berkeley in 1964. He took me along to a demonstration on campus – so exciting and scary! Speeches; placards! Police in riot gear; tear gas! But it felt hopeful! I felt it as a physical sensation in my chest. I thought: "Oh, this is the feeling of hope." I felt my young spine straighten and my ribcage expand. I felt hope for our youth movement of the 60s and 70s, that was changing things, and that maybe my generation could end war. My family marched against the Vietnam War, and I felt proud and hopeful that my parents supported my emerging values. I felt hopeful with so many of us fighting for justice.

But, over the decades, I've grappled with the infuriatingly slow battles for justice: Climate Crisis, pandemic, our severely divided country, wars around the world, inequities, everything else. Sadly, my hopeful generation did not fix the world, but only made it worse. I now notice deeply discouraged thoughts going through my mind, cynical thoughts about the low possibility of widespread goodness for the world. Hmm, these thoughts are not going to help.

Could I recycle the hope of my youth? When I put my glasses back on, I could see that with the HDPE information, we were just being encouraged to recycle the plastic bottle. This is a good thing, even a bit hopeful, but not as good as finding HOPE, even only 50%. I laughed, then remembered my youthful sensation of hope and felt my spine straighten. There are many books, YouTubes, and websites about reaching for hope. I did a quick web search and found four hundred million sites about hope! Many of us are offering ideas on hopefulness. We can learn from other's struggles and success. We can catch ourselves in despairing chatter, ask each other: "What would it take to stay hopeful?" "What difference in the world can hope make?" "What are times we've felt hopeful, and how can we reach for that?"

I aim to reclaim and recycle as much hope as I can. Let's find it together and share our stories of recycled hope. Let's aim for higher than 50%!

Marsha Saxton, Ph.D.

marsax@wid.org

From the Board of Trustees

Beth Pollard, President

Are we there yet?

There's a part of our collective journey through Pandemic-Land that reminds me of childhood car trips to grandparents 2,000+ miles away. Four kids and two parents for days on end. Disputes over who got the best of whatever – car seat, cereal, sleeping spot. And then, finally, reprieves – a meal in a restaurant! A motel with a pool!

But mostly, c'mon, aren't we there yet?

The reprieves of late of being with others out in the world have been encouraging. But the urge for three-dimensional togetherness with our whole UUCB community is palpable.

Whatever our timeline is for “getting there” in person, your Board of Trustees has a compass and propeller to steer and move our path forward this coming year – no matter the platform of travel. As adopted and reported in May, [this propeller and petal diagram](#) guides our forward movement in renewing and nourishing, partnering, fighting for justice, engaging with change, and managing stewardship and sustainability.

Moreover, with navigational help from Rev. Michelle, the Board identified Anti-Racism and Leadership as two primary points of interest on our routes in the coming months.

The next highlight on our community road trip? What is most exciting now is anticipating the report from UUCB's Widening the Circle of Concern (WTCOC) Task Force. After the publication of the UUA's Widening the Circle of Concern book on systemic racism and white supremacy culture in the UUA, the UUCB group formed to study the book – with the goal of making recommendations to our congregation with regard to broadening and deepening our anti-racism, anti-oppression work.

In August, the Task Force gave the Board a peek into its work. At our meeting of September 1, the Board will receive and review the full WTCOC Task Force Report, bringing our roadmap to a more anti-racist/anti-oppressive community closer into focus. I look forward to everyone being on board, everyone urging us in “are we there yet,” until we have arrived at being a truly more beloved community for all.

Beth Pollard
President, Board of Trustees

Humanist Connections

Sundays, 1 pm, Zoom

A discussion group to explore our humanity, values, ideas. *“A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” (Fourth principle of Unitarian Universalism.)*

September 5 – Contagion: How Ideas Spread. Marcia Bates.

September 12 – Short Topic Discussion & October topic selection. Ray Westergard.

September 19 – Other Human Species Besides Us. Don Anderson.

September 26 – Our Experience with Mind-Altering Drugs. Ray Westergard.

Zoom links are available under the “Calendar” listing on the UUCB website, and are included with each week’s email notice about the upcoming discussion. For additional information contact Marcia Bates, mjbates@ucla.edu. *Group managers: Susan Singh, Ray Westergard, Al Kueffner, Lee Lawrence, Kris Homme, Anne Fitzmaurice.*

Personal Theology

Sundays, 9:30 am, Zoom

Personal Theology seminars are scheduled to resume in September via Zoom. One speaker is scheduled for September and the hope is to have two speakers per month thereafter. The scheduled speaker for September has presented at Personal Theology in the past and is one of our favorites. Hopefully, his new book will pique your interest. Please check The Week Ahead for specific Zoom information.

Anne Wardell

September 19 – Dr. Steven Herrmann, “William James and C. G. Jung: Doorways to the Self.” Dr. Herrmann is a Jungian analyst, Marriage and Family Therapist, and an Analyst member of the C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco. He

will discuss his new book on William James and C. G. Jung. Info on how to purchase his book will be available at the talk.

Partner Church Committee

Stephanie Ann Blythe

So how did our Zoom call to Transylvania on July 30 work out? On short notice we had Jane Lundin, Jean Gleason and Roberta Shaw join me and Anne. Only Rev. Attila was on the other end. Why? It is high summer in Transylvania and many people are working in the fields! Fall and winter come early at that latitude, and they celebrate their Thanksgiving in late September. We haven't scheduled our next Zoom call, but it may be after the harvest. On our end, we promise to let you know sooner so you can plan to join us.



American Thanksgiving comes from a mix of origins. Harvest festivals are a worldwide and multicultural phenomenon. The Protestant Reformation gave rise in England to a religious celebration of thanksgiving that the Pilgrims brought to America. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln each added a different aspect to Thanksgiving: first a celebration of expelling the British from our shores, and second, Union success in the Civil War.

What is the Transylvania Unitarian Thanksgiving tradition, beyond that of a harvest festival? That could make for a deep topic of discussion with our partners in Homoródújfalú. We might consider how it differs between those who still live off the bounty of the land and those who work in the cities or elsewhere.

Stay tuned for announcements about that next Zoom call. Maybe there is something you would like to ask our friends about. Let us know! Contact Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com or Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net so that we might have it on the agenda.

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circle season is right around the corner! Circles will start back up again in October 2021, and we are excited to welcome both new and returning participants. During the entire month of September we will be signing people up for the Fall, and we are pleased to offer several options.

Chalice Circles will meet every day of the week (except weekends), with groups gathering either from 1-3 in the afternoon or 7-9 in the evening. All Chalice Circles

will be meeting on Zoom for now. We will be offering a variety of choices, to meet your needs. Some Chalice Circles will meet all year long (16 times from October to May). Some will only meet in the Fall (8 times from October to February) and other Chalice Circles will meet for shorter periods of four sessions. We understand that not everyone is able to join a Chalice Circle for a whole year, but would still like the chance to connect with other UU community members. We are here for you! If you are interested in joining a Chalice Circle, please contact Natalie Campbell at nataliehcampbell@yahoo.com.

If you have been thinking about joining a Chalice Circle at UUCB, but want to know more, watch this video to see what it is all about <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VraLIAGz7fQ>

From the Executive Director

Tess Snook O'Riva, Executive Director



I have heard so many stories over the past 18 months of people struggling with the psychological aspects of the pandemic, most notably the isolation. Just as people need connection the most, they are told to stay 6 feet apart, if they can see each other at all.

And still, life marches on. Crucial developmental milestones happen. But without our “normal” celebrations and observances, we feel we are missing out on important events. High school seniors only graduating online. Weddings no one can attend. Births and deaths without family in attendance. And so our standard methods of coping with the changes in our lives have been inextricably altered.

As the world opens up a little bit, UUCB, like many other venues, got inundated with requests to use our facility. Most calls are for future events, like weddings in 2022. The recent events have been memorials – people who have waited the entire pandemic to get their families together to mourn. Communities that need closure. We feel for them, mandate safe health practices in the contract, and have a generous cancellation policy.

Still, I have gotten feedback that there is concern we are sending the wrong message. That we are not being safe by restricting our own services but allowing rentals. Although our congregation has consistently stated they would like to follow the most conservative re-opening process, I continue to follow State and CDC guidelines. Masks are required, attendance is limited to only a fraction of the original room capacity, and food can only be served outdoors.

In addition, the Opening Task Force (OTF) and Rev. Michelle have sent out a congregational poll to gauge the current temperature of the congregation. We will see if we still self-identify as reluctant to begin into in-person services until there is confidence we have reached herd immunity.

Until then, we will strive to improve the ventilation options, work on our livestreaming plan, and do our best to make our spiritual home as physically healthy as possible. We also continue to address other potential challenges, like air quality and disaster preparedness.

Community safety will always be one of our top priorities, and I hope I have addressed some people's concerns. Please feel free to reach out (ed@uucb.org) if you have any questions. Until next time, may you and yours be safe and healthy!

Music Matters

Bryan Baker

Dear Congregation,

A live music event? With an audience? An in-person fundraiser? Can it be? Yes, it can. On Saturday afternoon, September 25, Bryan Baker & Friends, the annual concert to raise money for UUCB, will ring out in a joyful return. The Sanctuary's new air circulation system is up and running ensuring good ventilation, the large space makes social distancing easy, and masks will be required for everyone's safety.



We have so much to reflect on from this past year and a half, and this program is called "Reflections." Debussy's *"Reflections in the Water"* opens the concert, and Duke Ellington's *"Reflections in D"* completes the solo piano portion. In between, you'll hear beautiful pieces by William Grant Still, John Work, Tan Dun, Chen Yi as they shine next to each other and Debussy's *"Gardens in the Rain"* and *"Girl with the Flaxen Hair"*.

Chamber music for strings and piano has been a great joy during the last too-many months when singing and playing wind instruments came with increased anxiety. Violinist Carol Swhwamberger, violist Marta Tobey, and cellist Betsy Sadewhite join me for three marvelous pieces. One movement each by Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms – classical music's famous romantic and music triangle – join to make a reflection of their time and life together.

While the adult choir sang together a few times over the summer, we are taking a break now as infections have been on the rise. Taking a modestly optimistic approach, we have scheduled September 9 for our return to regular gatherings.

However, rehearsals will remain very carefully planned to ensure minimum risk: masks, distancing, and maximum ventilation.

Music is on its way to ringing free again at UUCB.

Yours in harmony,
Bryan



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