

Luminary Program



 UnitarianUniversalist
Congregation of Asheville

The UUCA Luminary Program

IT'S ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS

This program is intended to provide a clear path, or a road map, to getting connected and therefore engaged in this community. It is intended for newcomers who are just getting started and for people who have been around a while who would like to go deeper.

A basic premise that guides our work at UUCA is that participation in this religious community changes lives. At our best, this religious community seeks to provide opportunities for everyone, of all ages, to

- Experience the holy, the indescribable place in our beings where a fundamental sense of trust and love resides that connects us with all people and all things
- Speak and listen to each other in ways that result in real depth and caring of the other
- Extend ourselves in ways that open our hearts and our eyes such that we awaken compassion and feel called to put that compassion to work in the world

Participation is the key here. We welcome people into membership in this congregation, but we believe that it is by our members participating in the life of this community that our mission will be achieved, that we can nurture individual search for meaning and work together for freedom, justice and love.

Our goal, then, is to encourage everyone in our community to participate at a level that feels significant to her or him. That means taking ownership of your own spiritual journey and pursuing those activities that call you. It also means taking the covenant of this congregation seriously by sharing in the work and the play that advance and deepen our community: showing up, taking your turn, saying “yes” when asked to help, and sharing your wisdom and your gifts. And it means carrying your insights, your epiphanies, your courage and commitment, your faith into the larger world in ways that serve

our vision and values, which serve the cause of justice and our hopes for a beloved community.

The Luminary Program presents a variety of ways for anyone to become fully engaged in the life of the congregation. We believe that people join a church with the intention of becoming a high-commitment, high-connection, high-investment member of the faith community. Consequently this guide is intended both as a straightforward roadmap to help newcomers connect and commit to our community and as a resource for longer term members and friends to deepen their involvement and perhaps explore new ventures.

Fully engaged members

Worship

Spiritual Deepening

Living Our Faith

Serving Our Congregation

Fair Share Giving

Worship

Weekly Sunday worship is a central focus of our community. In common worship we join in creating a dramatic, symbolic work of art that declares what we believe to be true and valuable in our lives and the world. Regular participation in worship builds connections to the community and invites us into deeper reflection on our faith and action to the world.

Spiritual Deepening

Because we are a religious community, in some ways everything we do is spiritual deepening—we are called to make meaning of the world around us. However, we understand specific activities as direct engagement with our theological and spiritual growth. These faith development options are centered on teaching, facilitating and participating in religious education and small group ministry of all kinds. By participating in or leading these activities, we are engaging directly in our own growth, and developing tools to help us in our day-to-day lives.

Living Our Faith

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to deep engagement in working for justice, equity and compassion. We understand that working for justice along with members of our faith community is a core spiritual practice, and ascribe a high value to supporting causes with our bodies and our time. Activities in this category are opportunities to be transformed by service outside of the congregation, to build relationships within UUCA as well as in the community around us, and to contribute to increasing justice in the larger world.

Serving Our Congregation

As participants in this volunteer organization, we understand that the work of the congregation is accomplished by the people in the congregation. Committee work, logistical help, office and building support, and many other volunteer tasks create the foundation for the spiritual work we do, while at the same time keeping the place running and the doors open. These are opportunities to use our expert abilities, learn new skills, and build relationships within the congregation.

Fair Share Giving

Faithfully sharing what we can with others is one way to add meaning to our lives. UUCA depends for its very existence on its members faithfully sharing what they can. We recognize, though, that our Members and Friends have varying abilities to give. So, we have selected the UUA's Fair Share Giving guide to help our congregants understand what levels of support we need from Members and Friends. We think that the use of percentages of income, increasing with increasing income levels, along with suggestions on when "income" should be adjusted before making a decision, is a fair and equitable way to ask for support. We hope you do, too.

We know that some have unique financial situations that make this category feel challenging. That is, in some way, our intent – to challenge you to get involved with congregational life on a deeper level than you have in the past. But if it feels uncomfortable for you, we hope that you will communicate with us. If these or any other situations cause you to have questions about

your participation in this community, please contact Rev. Lisa Bovee-Kemper. She'll be able to help you sort out the issues.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT AND CONNECTION

Worship Opportunities

September-May, Sunday mornings, 9:15am or 11:15am
 June-August, Sunday mornings, 10:00am
 Weekly meditation, Wednesday mornings in the Sanctuary, 8:00am to 9:00am (drop in any time)
 Buddhist Fellowship Group, second and fourth Tuesdays in the Sanctuary, 7:00pm

Opportunities for Spiritual Deepening

<p>Teach or join ANY religious education class</p>	<p>Joy Berry, Director of Lifespan Religious Education drle@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x206</p>
<p>Join or lead any small group (Theme, Covenant, Reflection)</p>	<p>Joy McConnell, Member joyelayne@aol.com 828 808 4710 or Nora Carpenter, Member noracarpenter7@gmail.com 202 341 4000</p>

Become a Worship Associate	Rev. Mark Ward, Lead Minister minister@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x203
Serve as a Pastoral Visitor	Rev. Lisa Bovee-Kemper, Associate Minister assocmin@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x202

Opportunities for Living Our Faith

MANNA Packs: transport or filling packs	Joyce Sexton, Member joyce.sexton1@gmail.com 828 236 2633
Pritchard Park breakfast program: prepare/bring food	Joyce Sexton, Member joyce.sexton1@gmail.com 828 236 2633
Room in the Inn – all volunteer opportunities	Martha Shepard, Member msatyakima@aol.com 828 424 7330 or Allison Jordan, Member aljordan0415@gmail.com 248 514 4817
Habitat for Humanity Interfaith House Build Volunteer	Ian Fischer iafischer123@gmail.com 828 772 5228
Summer Feeding Program Volunteer	Joyce Sexton, Member joyce.sexton1@gmail.com 828 236 2633
Attend UUCA-Recommended Marches/Rallies/Vigils	Watch <i>eNews</i>

Voter Registration Work	Watch <i>eNews</i>
Black Lives Matter	Elizabeth Schell, Member Elizabeth@lainschell.com 828 505 7108

Opportunities for Serving Our Congregation

Welcome Team – Ushers, greeters, connectors, connecting stewards, and more!	Venny Zachritz, Connections Coordinator connect@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x219
Incident Supervisors: On duty on Sunday mornings as part of Emergency Response Plan	Linda Topp, Director of Administration administration@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x201
Organize Thanksgiving Dinner	Linda Topp, Director of Administration administration@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x201
Regular clerical help or closet organizing for administrative office	Tish Murphy, Database Coordinator info@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x200
Regular clerical help or closet organizing for religious education	Kim Collins, Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator lrecoord@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x210
Support Beginning Points & Connecting Points classes	Venny Zachritz, Connections Coordinator connect@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x219

Be part of the Auction Team	Linda Topp, Director of Administration administration@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x201
Help with the Annual Budget Drive	Linda Topp, Director of Administration administration@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x201
Be a Book Sale volunteer	Ephraim Schechter, Member eischech@earthlink.net 828 225 4235
Special Events Assistance	Linda Topp, Director of Administration administration@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x201
Kitchen Crew organizes kitchens	Linda Topp, Director of Administration administration@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x201
Grounds Crew	Bill Agrella, Member coachagrella@gmail.com 828 299 4663
Building Managers	Linda Topp, Director of Administration administration@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x201
Memorial Reception Team	Nancy Gouin, Member nanlog@buncombe.main.nc.us 828 285 2438
Assist or chaperone children and youth religious education experiences	Kim Collins, Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator lrecoord@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x210

Sing in the choir or contribute musical talents	Les Downs, Music Director music@uuasheville.org 828 254 6001 x216
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Be a Fair Share Giver

The Fair Share forms we use to estimate our annual giving to this congregation are those provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association. You can access them at http://www.uua.org/sites/new.uua.org/files/fair_share_contribution_guide.pdf. There are hard copies of this two-sided sheet available from the church office.

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Social Groups

In addition to the many opportunities we have available for becoming a high-commitment, high-connection, high-investment member of the faith community, we also have numerous social groups that are organized by our lay members. For information about these groups, check our website or pick up the brochure, "UUCA Groups."