



UUFM Fellowship of Murfreesboro  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

UUFM

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# The Chalice



## Special Edition

By Jill Austin

These are interesting times. My hope is that our UUFM family—members and friends—are all safe and healthy during this time.

Several decisions have been made related to our services together:

1. We will *not plan to meet at Center for the Arts during the month of April*. The board will determine near the end of April if we will return to regular meetings on May 3 or not. The board approved reviewing decisions made in our community such as whether schools are meeting again, whether there are group meeting restrictions recommended either by the government (city, state, federal) or the UUA leadership. We want to be sure to make this decision to meet again when it is right to do it for the health of everyone.
2. The Stewardship Drive continues. It is important that our members and friends let us know your plans for financial support and volunteer activities for the June 2020–May 2021 year. You can return your completed form by mail (to arrive by the deadline of Sunday, April 5) or you can send an e-mail to Treasurer Andrea Dawson at [aldaws@aol.com](mailto:aldaws@aol.com)—just let her know your plans (you can attach the completed form or simply write your pledge amount and volunteer interest in the e-mail)—this is also needed by April 5.
3. Sunday Services in April: We will continue to provide general content on our formal Facebook page in terms of readings and news stories. And we will provide video content and discussions on our informal Facebook group. The Worship Committee will have a Zoom meeting this week to plan for April Sunday services.

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Last Sunday, there was a short talk and story for all ages provided – we plan to continue these videos for the month of April. The videos are posted to our informal Facebook group. So, tune in mid-morning each Sunday for a video (or two) to review. If you are not a member of the informal FB group, simply ask a member who is on your friends list to invite you to the group. If you are not on FB and you want to receive the videos, send an e-mail to me at [austinmj@gmail.com](mailto:austinmj@gmail.com) and the links can be sent to you by e-mail.

4. PayPal: There is a PayPal account for UUFM and we have a link on our website (first page near CONTACT US and just below the map). If you want to make your weekly/monthly donations to UUFM by mail, you can send to: UUFM, P.O. Box 976, Murfreesboro, TN 37133. It is also fine to contribute through PayPal. (We will have expenses during this time we are not meeting. For example, we have rent to pay and we are paying our UUFM employees—pianist and RE leader. We also have some continuing expenses for supplies, subscriptions, etc.)
5. The UUFM Board will have a Zoom® meeting during its regular meeting day/time to review the budget based on pledges, and to discuss the slate of officers provided to the board by the Leadership Development Committee. Our business meeting is the third week in May, so maybe we will be back at UUFM by that time and we can have these discussions and votes in person!!
6. This has been a surreal time for all of us, our community and this whole world. We will have a new normal at some point in the future. I hope that because our experience in this pandemic, the whole world learns to chill a bit, to care for the welfare of everyone, and to all do our part to make the world a better place. I am looking for more problem solving and fewer shrill voices, more equality in our economic system, and a better life for everyone.

This month's poem (on the next page) you may have read—it was written by Rev. Lynn Ungar (UU minister) about this pandemic.

**UUFM FELLOWSHIP OF MURFREESBORO**

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Murfreesboro, Tennessee (UUFM) is a liberal religious society associated with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). UUFM is a member of the Southern Region and the Mid-South District.

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# Poem

## PANDEMIC

By Rev. Lynn Unger

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.