



UUFM Fellowship of Murfreesboro
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

UUFM

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The Chalice



Get to Know a Member

We frequently run this feature to familiarize you with our members. This month's member spotlight is on **Carolsue Clery**.

How long have you been a UUFM member?

Roger and I joined UUFM in March of 2009. It was still called Unitarian Fellowship of Murfreesboro (UFM) but soon voted to become Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Murfreesboro (UUFM).

What originally brought you to UUFM and keeps you coming back?

Both of us are long time UUs. Roger discovered UU as a teen and became a member of the raucous Liberal Religious Youth (LRY). This group was affiliated with Unitarianism but existed as an independent group. He eventually became a member of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale in Illinois.

I discovered Unitarian Universalism in the 1970s. I had long since become agnostic in my beliefs and could no longer find a comfortable home in my childhood religion. I found the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale and was hooked on their social activism for causes that I supported.

Roger and I met and were married in that Unitarian church.

When we moved to a friendlier climate with easier access to relatives in Florida and Texas, I had two requirements. It had to be a college town (we had no idea then how big MTSU was) and it had to have a Unitarian Universalist group. We researched and found both in Murfreesboro. Jill Austin was board president at the time and we sent her an email. She answered us immediately and we were impressed. When we came here to look for a house we visited UUFM and have been coming ever since. We feel like we have found a 'family' in Murfreesboro. UUFM is a safe and welcoming place for us to grow as individuals.

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Get to Know a Member (continued from page 1)

How do you like to spend your free time?

Retired. All my time is now free—well, not exactly. I still arrange medical visits (happens as we age), laundry, cooking (or as Roger says “assembling food”), and cat. I enjoy listening to podcasts, reading and try to do a little writing now and then. I have sanctuary time on my front porch when weather allows. Listening to music is an important part of my routine – especially jazz. In fact, I researched jazz radio in the area before we moved and discovered the jazz performances at MTSU.

What is the best vacation you've ever taken and what is one place you'd like to see?

We have traveled much of the US and many places stand out. One that was very special was our trip to New Mexico in the 1980s. Albuquerque was a fun city to visit but our drive to Santa Fe was wonderful. We were able to see a Mozart opera (*Così fan Tutte*) in the Santa Fe open air theater in the mountains. The performances were probably wonderful but I was totally distracted. The back of the stage was open and looked out into the mountains where there was a lightning storm. Awesome.

A dream trip would be to go to Vienna Austria for the Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Day concert. At least it is on PBS every year (our New Year's Day tradition).

If you could create a slogan for your life, what would it be?

I think this quote from Mary Oliver sums it up: “Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.” The perspective of age has given me more desire to be in the moment, to notice everything, to appreciate the connections, to touch and be touched by humanity at its best and at its worst. Don't let life go on without you noticing.



We're Growing!

During our service on January 19, we inducted five new members in our fellowship. Please introduce yourself when you get a chance. We want these folks to know they're welcome here!

Our new members are:

Robbie Burns, Murfreesboro

Marilyn Gilliland, Murfreesboro

Amanda Paddon, Murfreesboro

Joel Paddon, Murfreesboro

Sue Yochum, Woodbury



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Food Insecurity on the Rise

By Joan McCarter, "Daily Kos"

Cruelty is the point for Donald Trump and his minions, to the point of [making more Americans go hungry](#). The work requirements and other restrictions the administration is imposing on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance will mean that more Americans will become food insecure and more will be out-and-out hungry.

Feeding America [reports the need](#). The USDA's preliminary 2019 Household Food Insecurity in the United States report, finds that more than 37 million U.S. residents experience hunger. In 2018, 14.3 million American households reported that they were food insecure, unable to provide enough food for every member of the family. That's more than 11 million children who don't have constant access to full bellies.

The ultimate fix for that is replacing Trump in November with a Democrat who will reverse the SNAP policies and fight for economic justice. But in the meantime, we can help to whatever extent possible. Food banks are going to be absolutely stretched to their limits and need all the assistance they can get from those of us who are in a position to help. Feeding America has tips to get you started, including [a guide to what food banks need](#) and want, basically dried and canned food that is shelf-stable and non-perishable. They particularly identify items like:

- Peanut butter
- Canned soup
- Canned fruit

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FOOD INSECURITY, CONTINUED

- Canned vegetables
- Canned stew
- Canned fish
- Canned beans
- Pasta (most prefer whole grain)
- Rice (most prefer brown rice)

They also have a [food bank finder](#) so you can find your local source easily. They don't just take food donations, and in fact [cash donations](#) can go farther than food donations to help. As Feeding America explains, "our network of food banks works with major manufacturers, retailers, and farmers to secure healthy food" at a much lower cost than retail. If you don't have spare money, but have some spare time and are available and able, you can also [volunteer](#).

It's another direct way we can almost all help fight Trump's cruelty every day, until we boot him out of office.



February Calendar

- Feb. 02: Kitti McConnell: “Imbolc”
- Feb. 09: Doug Traversa: “TBA”
- Feb. 09: Full Moon Pagans meet at 6:00 pm
- Feb. 11: Men’s Group 6:00 pm “TBA”
- Feb. 13: Board Meeting 6:30 pm Kimbro home
- Feb. 18: Women’s Group 6:00 pm “TBA”
- Feb. 16: Rev. Denise Gyauch: “TBA”
- Feb. 23: Rabbi Rami Shapiro: “TBA”

**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

Winter Trees

By William Carlos Williams

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!

A liquid moon
moves gently among
the long branches.

Thus having prepared their buds
against a sure winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.

