DECEMBER
2020

Have Yourself a
Virtual
Merry Christmas

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Virtual Forum & Sunday Services...

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Virtual Forum: “Outlook for Manipulation of Future Voting”</td>
<td>Patrick Miller, PhD</td>
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<td>Dr. Patrick Miller is Assoc. Professor in Political Science at KU and specializes in American politics and research methodology. In view of the recent election, he will discuss the outlook for gerrymandering in Kansas &amp; Missouri, and if the conduct of the 2020 census might lead to voter suppression.</td>
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<td>As the holiday season gets underway, we begin to think about how to observe in new ways the cherished traditions that go with this time of year. We might well ask what it is that makes Yuletide so meaningful in a largely secular/urban culture, even for religious skeptics. Is Christmas good for us, even if we don’t ‘believe’ in either Santa or Jesus?</td>
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<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Virtual Forum: To Be Determined Later</td>
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<td>It is hard not to embrace the advice of the late John Lewis, to “get into good trouble.” Our 16th century Unitarian martyr Michael Servetus would have said the same, and so would Judah Macabee and his guerilla resistance army celebrated at Hanukkah. There is an appeal to breaking the rules, which the past four years have amplified for many people. Where do we draw the line?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Virtual Forum: “Reforming Police, Government, Health, &amp; Education Systems”</td>
<td>Sheila Albers</td>
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<td>In 2018, Sheila’s 17-year-old son, John, was shot 13 times by a police officer who had been called for John’s welfare. From that tragedy, Sheila has led a movement to build human-centered government systems that are transparent and purposefully designed to help people and communities thrive.</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>Virtual Service: “Solstice Song”</td>
<td>Rev. Kendyl Gibbons</td>
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<td>Winter solstice signals the turning of the year from increasing darkness to growing light, but there is a lot of cold and snow yet ahead, and this ‘winter of discontent’ may be more difficult than most. What can we learn from the world of nature to help us hang in and hold on, while we nurture our dreams, and lay the groundwork for seasons to come?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 24</td>
<td>06:00</td>
<td>Virtual Christmas Eve Service: “To Share This Light”</td>
<td>Rev. Kendyl Gibbons</td>
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<td>Winter solstice signals the turning of the year from increasing darkness to growing light, but there is a lot of cold and snow yet ahead, and this ‘winter of discontent’ may be more difficult than most. What can we learn from the world of nature to help us hang in and hold on, while we nurture our dreams, and lay the groundwork for seasons to come?</td>
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Virtual Sunday Services cont...

10:00 Virtual Forum: “Soapbox Sunday”  
Moderator, Craig Volland

An annual tradition, this is your chance to be heard for five minutes on the subject of your choice. If you’d like to participate, contact moderator, Craig Volland at hartwood2.kc.rr.com. Participants will be accepted until the available 50 minutes are filled.

Rev. Kendyl Gibbons

From the Fourth of July weekend, our first co-operative summer service features Rev. Gibbons considering the power of symbols to shape the future that we can imagine for our country and our communities. As we move toward the end of 2020 and into a new year, and new decade, what do we need to preserve from the past, and what should we be willing to let go?

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Status Update from Endowment Committee: As of September 30th, the value of the investments in our combined funds is approximately $1.4 million. This has been an up and down year for our investments, as it has been for all investors. We lost money in the 1st quarter, and made money in the 2nd and 3rd quarters, for an overall calendar year-to-date gain of about $25,000 as of September 30th. It is too early to tell how the 4th quarter will end up so we will report on it in our next update. As you know, our funds are managed by the UUA Common Fund, also known as the UUCEF, and the good news is that the 1-year return for the UUCEF as of September 30th is 8.3%.

CLICK HERE to read full article:  
https://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/congregational/relational-groups/endowdec2020/
We have a new president-elect, and there are several promising Corona virus vaccines on the horizon. So far, our community is holding on, as volunteers and staff work together to keep the wheels turning during these days of unprecedented challenge. 2020 is almost over. There is much to be thankful for. Yet with the virus still spreading, and hospitals and health care workers once again stretched beyond the limit of reasonable demands, we have miles to go before this pandemic will be done with us. The prognosticators at our national UU Association were correct when they advised us, last summer, to plan for a full program year of online services and virtual meetings. We now have members of our congregation who have tested positive for COVID, and others who have lost family members and dear friends to the virus. Our own front line workers and social justice advocates continue to observe safe practices as much as they can, while they take the on-going risks of serving and caring for those who need various kinds of help. All of us feel disrupted in our daily activities and human connections.

These are the kind of times when people turn to their faith traditions for sustenance and hope. Our UU heritage has no supernatural intervention to offer, but we do believe in providence and miracles and magic of a certain sort. We believe that the same laws of nature that have always governed the world we know, can guide us to understand the workings of this virus, and thus ultimately to live safely in a constantly evolving environment. We believe that people can learn new behaviors, and create new patterns of interaction, and that we care enough about each other to want even random strangers to be safe. We believe that hope for the future will be stronger than the fears and losses that we are facing right now. We believe that none of us is entirely free, or safe, or whole, until all of us can be free and safe and whole together. We believe that a nation, with the participation of all its inhabitants, might yet grow into its most noble promises of liberty and justice.

None of these beliefs is easy, for they all require of us to do the work of connection, liberation, and truth-telling. When we turn to our religious communities for reassurance and encouragement, we must also be willing to hear the prophetic demand for our own effort and cooperation that comes with that message -- even if that cooperation just means staying at home and doing without our Sunday morning hugs for a little while longer. Or making the effort to get familiar with a novel technology, so that we can nurture our networks while still protecting each other. Or letting someone know that we are experiencing some kind of urgent need. Or sharing a little more generously of our abundance to help meet those needs. Every piece of it matters.

As we approach Christmas Eve, it is clear that it won’t be safe for us to be in the same room this year, and that is another loss. So let’s do what we can to create a time of beauty, connection and reverence to share virtually. Our musicians and tech folks are already hard at work preparing their offerings, and now we need YOUR help. Our efforts will mean so much more if you take a few moments ahead of time to participate. What we need everyone to do is make a quick video -- your cell phone is perfect for this -- and send it to Anthony before December 13. You will need a dark-ish room, your phone, and two candles. Prop your phone so that it records your face and upper body. Light one candle, and set it on a stable surface out of the picture. Start the recording, wait five seconds, then pick up and light the second candle and bring it into the picture, hold in front of your face for 15 seconds, then blow it out and end the video. Have each member of the family do this, if they can. When Christmas Eve comes, you will be glad you did. Thank you!

And, be sure to sign up for your free Sunday Plus lunch on December 6, courtesy of the Board of Trustees, in place of our traditional First Yulebock of the season. Also, if you are up for hosting a game, conversation, or other interactive event as a virtual Yulebock this year, we can offer you a live tech host and support. Check out details elsewhere in this Flame.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season!
Virtual Mitten Tree

Real children still have cold hands when winter comes, so we don't want to neglect our traditional mitten tree this year. Here is how it will work. Starting on Sunday December 6, you will be invited to contribute to our virtual mitten tree in honor of a child or children that you love -- the ones whose hands you want to always be warm. You will receive a personally inscribed sparkly mitten decoration to send that child for their tree, AND their name will appear on our animated mitten tree each week during the holiday season. Let's make this festive and fun; help us keep adding warm hats, scarves, and gloves to our mitten tree every Sunday in December!

CLICK HERE:
https://allsoulskc.breezechms.com/form/a4192e3
to sign-up for the Virtual Mitten and your gift will be directed to the child in whose honor you are making the donation.
The **All Souls Movie Group** continues to meet via Zoom on the first of the month. Are you looking for an interesting movie to watch during December? What the Dickens, why not check out this film based on the novels of Charles Dickens?

[CLICK HERE](https://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/news/newsletter/moviedec2020/) for full article:

NeedleHearts Group meets Thursdays, December 3, 10, and 17 at 10:00 AM — 12:00 PM

[CLICK HERE](https://allsoulskc.org/uncategorized/nhdec2020/) for full article:

**From the Green Sanctuary — Sustainable Living Tips**

December is a month for celebrating with friends and family. Do your holiday celebrations and plans for the new year reflect your values?

[CLICK HERE](https://allsoulskc.org/all-posts/news/newsletter/gscdec2020/) for full article:

**Humanist Book Club**

At our **December 14**, Zoom meeting at 7:00 P.M. We will discuss the movie "*Daughters of the Dust*" which is a fictional movie about former slaves. This movie may be available on Amazon Prime, free on Vimeo, and/or at the library.

[Click the link below to join via Zoom:](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070238388?pwd=ZTVHekNwcmx0SFNqQktvWUpFSUlkQT09)

**LET’S GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

*Sara Ann Butler*
Sunday Plus Lunch, Yulebock 2020-2021, Attendance, Financials...

DECEMBER 6th SUNDAY PLUS — YULEBOCK CELEBRATION

The traditional Board of Trustees sponsored First Yulebock of the season will have a different format this year, since COVID cases are increasing locally. On Sunday, December 6, our Sunday Plus meal will be FREE for everyone who orders, with compliments of the Board. We will have Swedish meatballs (regular or vegetarian), with noodles and gravy, lingonberry jam, a zucchini side dish, dinner roll, and home made holiday candy assortment from Lamar and Dixie Hicks. Get your reservation in soon, and watch for announcements about fun ways to participate together that afternoon.

CLICK HERE for full article: (https://allsoulskc.org/sunday-mornings/sunday-plus-lunch/ )
CLICK HERE to place your order: ( https://allsoulskc.breezechms.com/form/Sunday_Plus56794398245 )
ORDER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd at 7:00 P.M

JANUARY 10th SUNDAY PLUS

Will be a Tex-Mex meal in support of the Carver Amigos Program prepared by Carol Cowles and the Carver Volunteers.

Yulebock 2020-2021

It’s that time of year for Yulebocks! With all things 2020 we are getting creative.

At a traditional Yulebock someone has to clean up their house, provide a beverage for whoever might drop in and guests would bring finger food to share. This year we are going virtual.

For more information: CLICK HERE
https://allsoulskc.org/get-involved/yulebock-2020-2021/

Virtual Attendance Figures for October 2020:

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<th>Oct. 04</th>
<th>Oct. 11</th>
<th>Oct. 18</th>
<th>Oct. 25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaming</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>50</td>
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CLICK HERE: to view October Financials:

A convenient way to contribute: To donate to All Souls please type allsoulskc.org/giving/ into your browser or use this QRC.
(please note the purpose of the gift)
FLAME JANUARY 2021

Submissions deadline: 9am, December 20

Sunday Morning bulletins & Friday
e-mail deadline: 9 a.m. Wednesdays

Send submissions:
Le Aúndra Salazar-Slaughter,
office@allsoulskc.org and
Sherry Anspach, sherry@allsoulskc.org

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