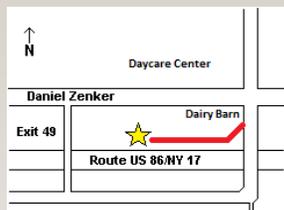


Welcome to the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Big Flats.

We are an intentionally  
inclusive congregation,  
welcoming all!

UU of Big Flats, NY  
48 Hibbard Road Extension  
Big Flats, NY 14814  
<http://www.bigflatsuu.org/index.php>



### UUFBF Chairs

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*Ron Telford*

Vice President  
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*Jackie Wilson*

Newsletter  
*Chris Telford*

Pianist  
*Anthony DeLuca*



Formal Services are held  
September through mid-June  
**Sunday mornings**  
**10:30-11:30**  
with a casual coffee hour  
following.

Informal Summer Services  
are held July through the  
beginning of September.

No matter what time  
of year...  
Please join us!

# April 2020 Uni-Verse



## COVID-19 EDITION

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats, NY

Cleveland  
Clinic  
© 2020



## Service Schedule

**All in-person worship services are canceled, until further notice.**

The Rev. Evin Carville Ziemer, our Congregational Life Consultant, passed on these words from a colleague, the Rev Peggy Clarke:

*“Closing public spaces, forcing people to spend more time home, or staying still, is an act of kindness. This is how we take care of each other. Certainly, many of us don’t have the option to stay home, but for anyone who does, this is what we are called to do. This is not hysteria. This is responsible community living. Closing schools, shutting down Broadway, suspending services on Sundays is what Love looks like.”*

That said... We are still meeting ONLINE using the Zoom video-conferencing platform. These services can be joined as simple as clicking on the link, entering the meeting ID # (if not logging in - it is free to sign up!), and joining in! Give it a try! It’s not as difficult as you may think! Worship will be less formal, and a bit more homey. Feel free to dress up or come in your pajamas or leave your video off if you prefer that privacy. Bring your cats, your dogs, your stuffed animals. Bring your own chalice to light if you’d like.

**April 5: 10:30 am – *Marion Lutz from Cortland***

**Zoom Service link & Mtg ID#:** <https://zoom.us/j/817377469> , Meeting ID: 817 377 469

**Zoom Coffee Hour link & Mtg ID#:** April is Poetry Month. Please bring a poem or something visual to share - <https://zoom.us/j/631026308> , Meeting ID: 631 026 308

**April 12: 10:00 am – *Rev. Laine and Rev. Jo* will lead a multi-congregational Easter Service via ZOOM. Please watch for an email & FB notification for the link to this.**

**April 19 & 26: Watch for an email & Facebook notification-**

# Member Musings - Thoughts in these times...

Hello, everyone! It's been a long couple of weeks, since we were last together in person- but I'm glad to report that I spoke to almost everyone in the congregation last night, by phone, and everyone is reporting good health and enough food and supplies. If you're reading this and need any help or support, PLEASE reach out to me! I'll do whatever I can to either help you myself or arrange for it to happen. At this point, there is still no way to tell when we can responsibly resume Sunday services, but am glad we have the virtual meeting place of Zoom. The March 29 service, led by Darcey Laine and joining us w/ Athens and Cortland, was great - bringing together about 40 members! We'll be posting links to similar services, going forward. Thank you, all, for your continued presence and support of the organization, during these times. Take care and take comfort- and know that you're in our thoughts. We'll get through this, TOGETHER.

❤️ ~ Ron T (UUFBF President)

It was so wonderful to be a part of the online service led by Rev. Darcey Laine on Sunday, March 29, using Zoom technology or even calling the phone number from a landline phone.



Remembering Doug Wilson...

I am doing ok but I have my moments when I think I am symptomatic, but as of today I think I am fine. The Fellowship is such a huge part of my life and I was thinking it will be a part of my life for as long as I can attend. Heck, maybe if I live another two decades, we will be broadcasting all the services online for those who are homebound. I am a very social person so I did not know how I would deal with this, though on the other hand I also spend a lot of time alone. I really am feeling afraid to go anywhere, I got a little emotional before I went in Wegmans yesterday, wondering if I should be there and I felt a little different seeing people I know, but I did talk to a few people, just not in the same carefree manner I usually enjoy. I heard from Tom Reynolds. He seems to be doing well and his family is growing and thriving. ~ I think of all of you and look forward to the time we can be together again.

~ Jackie W (UUFBF Secretary)

My family and I are well and I am hoping the best for all of you. Attached is a photo of my Easter critters practicing social distancing. I appreciated the call from Ron and hope we have more Zoom church services.  
~ Peace.

~ Jeni P



COBBLESTONES WEDGED DEEP LINE THE WINDING COUNTRY ROAD  
MAPLE TREES DIPPED IN GOTHIC ARCH SHIELD THE SCORCH OF THE  
SUMMER SUN AS PATCHWORK FIELDS OF WHEAT, ALFALFA, OATS AND  
CORN ROLL OUT IN THE BRILLIANCE OF SOLOMON'S CACHE.

LONE, FADED BRICK RED DAIRY BARN, SILENT AND STILL AT HIGH NOON  
AS RESTING COWS CLUSTER IN THE COOL SHADE ALONG SIDE A  
RUSHING BROOK

PLAYFUL NEWBORN LAMBS ROMP IN AND OUT OF CLOVER-FILLED FIELDS,  
THEIR FAMILIES GRAZING IN NONCHALANCE, HONEY BEES AND BUTTERFLIES  
FLUTTER AMONG THE PASTEL BLUES AND PINKS OF HOLLYHOCKS, WILD ROSE  
MORNING GLORIES WEAVE DELICATELY INTERTWINING THE  
WEATHER WORN TIMBER FENCES MARKING CENTURY OLD BOUNDARIES

A GUST OF SOUTH WIND FANS AND RUSTLES THE LEAVES AS ROLLING  
ACRES OF TIMOTHY SWAY IN A SLOW DANCE AS A THUNDERHEAD CLOUD  
BURSTS OPEN TURNING THE GOLD DAY TO GRAY FILLING THE SKY  
WITH IRIDESCENT LIQUID DIAMONDS CREATING RIBBONS OF GLISTENING  
RIVULETS ON THE COUNTRY ROAD AS STEAM RISES AND DISAPPEARS ATOP  
STACKS OF WHEAT WELCOMING THE FRESH FRAGRANCE OF SUMMER'S RAIN.

~ Resident Poet Sara H.

# Member Musings - Thoughts in these times...

Hi everyone. You've heard from my husband, Ron. I echo his sentiments. ~ I have been riding a bit of a roller coaster with everything, but it's just a kiddie coaster; good days and then challenging ones. We are not struggling with necessities, nor COVID, and I remind myself of this. All in all, this is [so far] just a long stay-cation at home with the family; neither Ron nor I am working anymore, primarily driven by keeping Hank healthy. ~ While Ron busies himself outside, accomplishing many long-standing projects, I keep the laundry clean, snuggle up with Henry, and have rediscovered the love of reading—actual BOOKS! It's wonderful. It takes my finger away from mindlessly scrolling Facebook and those repetitive and often-frustrating news sources, and drops me into a different time and world. Why had I ever put this hobby aside? ~ The kids are fine. School work is getting 'done.' In a quarantine-kinda-way. I predict schools stay closed thru the end of the year, which will create a whole new can of worms. But nothing that won't be a blip on the radar after this has passed. A story for the history website and grandkids... Love and hugs to y'all.

~ Chris T (Newsletter Editor)



Instead of feeling deprived, I am feeling gifted with free time and opportunity. I have a beautiful blooming set of red flowers inside; I have a bunny who enjoys hanging out under my pine tree outside; cardinals, blue jays and robins in the yard. ~ I have made almond bread, vegetarian chili, stew, roasted beets... ~ Reduced coffee to one cup a day, and enjoying herbal tea instead. ~ Doing a little Red Cross work from home, and taking the occasional walk around the neighborhood, staying 6 feet away from neighbors. ~ I'll try for new tech skill for the service next Sunday... ~ Sent donations to the Food Bank and Meals on Wheels... ~ While I am concerned about the COVID crisis, and those ill or on the front line, I am surely happy at home!

~ Marcia A

Curiously, I've had Christmas on my mind. Every December I send a Christmas letter to stay in touch with friends who live far away. And I compose my letter using our engagement calendar, an aide to remembering what took place in our life during the year. So today I'm leafing through the last couple weeks and the month of April, and what I'm seeing is a bunch of crossed-through events. It's become a very messy-looking calendar! In some cases the cross-outs have been replaced by Zoom meetings, like last Sunday's service. Wow. Short newsletters this December—those sent and received!

There's a pattern for making face masks beside my sewing machine. The machine is out because I just finished making the upper tier of our kitchen's café curtains. The bottoms have been waiting for three years. I may not have the right materials for the masks, though. I'll make one for practice, then decide whether or not to chance a visit to JoAnn Fabrics.

The link Katie Replogle gave during the joint UU service on Sunday 3/29 has proven comforting. Although an hour long—I watched it in three segments—it provides a degree of reassurance that other sources haven't. Just follow the rules: maintain distance (3 to 6 feet), keep your hands clean, don't touch your face. Here's the link. It's worth your time: <https://vimeo.com/399733860>

Now if someone would only tell me where to buy Purell!

~ Leslie P

# A couple member-submitted memes...

**Me after I eat all of my quarantine snacks in one night**



**Can anyone explain this?**



**We thought we'd have flying cars by 2020.**

**But no, here we are teaching people how to wash their hands**



**Going outdoors is not cancelled, listening to music is not cancelled, quality time with our families is not cancelled, reading a book is not cancelled, sharing with friends is not cancelled, singing out loud is not cancelled, laughing has not been cancelled, sharing **HOPE** with others has not been cancelled. Let's **EMBRACE** what we have.**



# EARTHRISE: EARTH DAY GOES DIGITAL

50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020

<https://www.earthday.org/campaign/earth-day-earthrise/>

Click on infographic for direct web-link...



|   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|  <p>Do a plastic audit</p>         |  <p>Compost creatively</p> |  <p>Read, don't stream</p>         |  <p>Take the Earth Day pulpit pledge</p>        |  <p>Create for the Earth</p>    |
|  <p>Support your mental health</p> |  <p>Tag 3 friends</p>      |  <p>Become a citizen scientist</p> |  <p>Go plant-based for 1 meal/day this week</p> |  <p>Fix and DIY – Don't buy</p> |

worrying won't stop the bad stuff from happening it just stops you from enjoying the good.



Thank you for being you!



## COVID-19 UPDATE

### SOUL HEALING WORKSHOPS WILL BE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

We wish you and your family well during this time. May you have peace and calm while this transition flows past us. We will be ready to start anew in a very short time and rejoin our time together.

Until then, we are grateful for technology, our hearts, our souls and our minds to connect in all ways possible.

- Healthy Souls & CrowCalls

Want to include something in future newsletters?

**Easy!**

Email by the 15th of the month before at

**UU.BigFlats@gmail.com**



**Every Friday Night**  
@ UUFBF, 7pm-10pm

*Thank you to all essential workers.*



## Fellowship Hosting Schedule

The hosting schedule below is a *prediction* of when we will be able to reopen. This is subject to change, of course... but just in case we're on track to reunite in person in May...

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Hosts</b>         |
|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>May 3</b>  | Telford, Wilson      |
| <b>May 10</b> | Helfinstine, McCall  |
| <b>May 17</b> | Scopelliti, Paquette |
| <b>May 24</b> | Spicer, Fitzpatrick  |
| <b>May 31</b> | Martin/Glenn, Fender |
| <b>June 7</b> | Wosinski, Potter     |

UUFBF Board Meetings are normally held on the **SECOND SUNDAY** of every month after a brief coffee hour following the service. All members are welcome to attend.



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Search for "[Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats](#)" and click 'LIKE'