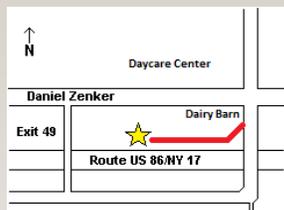


Welcome to the
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Big Flats.

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

President
Ron Telford

Vice President
Carolyn Scopelliti

Secretary
Jackie Wilson

Treasurer
Jen Spicer

Trustees
Sonia Vikin
Janice Fitzpatrick

Programs
Jackie Wilson

Newsletter
Chris Telford

Pianist
Anthony DeLuca

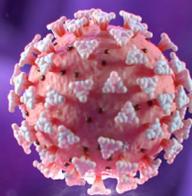


Formal Services are held
September through mid-June
Sunday mornings
10:30-11:30
either in-person or via
Zoom (weather dependent).

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

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

December 2020 Uni-Verse



**COVID-19
EDITION**

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats, NY

Cleveland
Clinic
© 2020



Service Schedule

IN-PERSON Big Flats Worship Services

Meeting outside in person has ended. There are approximately 3-6 people interested in meeting inside on Sunday mornings 10:30am. Contact Jackie Wilson (jacksonita@aol.com) if you are interested. There is a new room air filter, masks would be required. Keeping distanced from others would be emphasized.



December ONLINE Zoom Worship Services

[Click this link to join Zoom](#)

To attend by phone, dial +1 646 876 9923
Then when prompted type in:
Meeting ID: 943 5698 0987

10am December 6 "The Wise Dark" - Rev. Darcey Laine
(captioning available)

This darkest time of winter is full of gifts if we take time to see them- gifts visible to us only when the sun is low and the nights are long.

10am December 13 "It's Tradition" - Rev. Darcey Laine
(captioning available) - Storytellers- Claire Fagan and Sarah Mellon

This year, when so much is in flux, is a great time to take a careful look at our traditions. Which can we keep, which must change, and how did we come to have all those traditions in the first place? This is the 3rd day of Hannukah, so we will mark the occasion with a children's story read by Sarah and Claire, as we also celebrate their years of teaching our children at the Cortland UU Church.

10am December 20 "The Wish Tree" - Rev. Darcey Laine
(captioning available)

In preparation for the Winter Solstice, we offer an earth-centered ritual to connect us to the earth and to ground us in gratitude to all her gifts.



Please see page 5 for special Holiday online services being offered with UUCAS for December 20 evening and Christmas Eve, December 24.

Time to update the directory! Please check the info in the 2020 UUFBF member Directory and make sure it is current and accurate. Send any changes/updates to Jackie Wilson [jacksonita@aol.com] and she will coordinate with Leslie Potter who updates the Directory. It was suggested it would be good to have the "emergency" contact info of a family member/friend if you are a member who is an individual who does not have a partner/spouse [who is a member, also]. Those wishing to have that listed, please send to Jackie also.



Caring Circle

UUCAS would like to invite members of UU fellowship of Big Flats to join our Caring Circle if you would like. When our Members and Friends have been in the hospital, or experienced other life transitions they are often eased by the support of community. That's why we developed an e-mail list we are calling the "caring circle." This e-mail group has been sharing information about such events – for example,

"a member recently was admitted to Guthrie for surgery. She would like cards but is not ready for visitors." This is also a circle we can draw from when a member needs rides to or from the hospital, a hot meal, cards and calls or other support. If you would like to be on a list of those whom I, or others in the church, could reach out to when we know of someone who could use some care, please email

caringcircle@uucas.org

This may be especially important over the coming winter as folks are quarantining, and may need

help with shopping, or support when they feel isolated. A reminder that we only need to help as we feel moved, and as we feel able. None of us can meet every need, but the little things we do for one another help us feel connected and supported.



Do you Pray?



I loved this interpretation of Prayer. What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't just happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends.

That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, 'drive safely' or 'be safe'. That's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone by your heart. *That is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling.

A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being.

Keep praying always

The Help for the Home Shop has had to change it's procedures.

We will continue providing assistance to people who have been homeless, and are in need of household items for new housing.

Due to the Corona virus, we are taking referrals from agencies and churches (usually the pastor) on an emergency basis only, by emailed referral.

Contact information has been provided for three of our Board members and volunteers. An eligible referral to any of them will result in a team of Shop volunteers packing the needed items, and meeting the client by appointment, with safety protocols to ensure their safety and ours.

The Shop itself will not be open until circumstances change and the Board feels it is safe for clients and volunteers.

We will continue to welcome donated supplies. If left at the UU Fellowship building, I will pick them up when there, or come by if notified. The other option is to leave supplies on my enclosed front porch at 531 Partridge St. in Elmira. The list of requested donations remains the same as last year.

Year to date figures, as of the end of September, 2020:

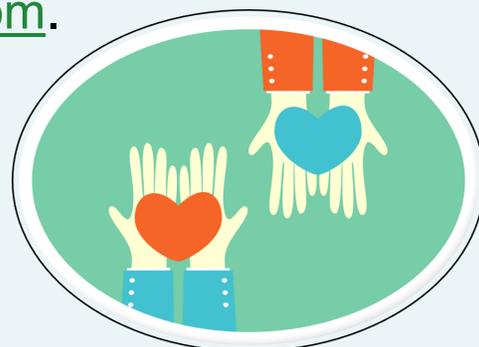
Referrals: 39 Adults: 46 Children: 28.

We closed during the worst of the spring, and then opened for a time while virus numbers were low and stable in the area. The service numbers reflect the few months when we were able to be open safely.

I am always happy to answer questions to my cell phone 607-731-4630 or email marcia531@yahoo.com.

Thanks

Marcia



Holiday Online Services with UUCAS

Sun. Dec 20

Longest Night Service

Rev. Laine & Katie Replogle
7:00pm

The holidays can be a particularly challenging time for folks who are grieving, who are depressed, who are lonely. But these emotions are a sacred part of life, and we want to honor and make space for them. On this solstice, the darkest night of the year, we will create a reflective and supportive space together with music, poetry, silence and candlelight. Join us if you are feeling blue, feeling lonely, or simply want to set aside time in the busy holiday season for the quiet dark places in your own heart. All are welcome.

Thurs. Dec 24

Candle Light Service

Rev. Laine & the Worship Team
7:00pm

All are welcome to our traditional candle light service which celebrates light in darkness and the hope of new life. On this Christmas Eve we will share candle lighting rituals, stories and holiday music from the Christian traditions. Though we share this service online, we end with the traditional passing of the candle flame screen to screen. Afterwards we will gather on our screens or phones for a holiday toast

[Click this link to join Zoom](#)

To attend by phone, dial +1 646 876 9923

Then when prompted type in:

Meeting ID: 943 5698 0987



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats is very saddened to share that our beloved member Ruth Lee Potter died Friday November 13 at the age of 92. Ruth Lee was a constant and loyal presence on Sundays, even in the face of increasing health issues. She will be very missed.

The fellowship has sent flowers. Rev. Darcey Laine lit a candle and paid tribute to Ruth Lee at the Zoom service Sunday. There is not a published obituary.

Rest in peace, Ruth Lee... the Fellowship will not be the same without you.

Expressions of sympathy and condolences may be extended to niece and caretaker Carole Wereski and sister Charlene McCarthy at"

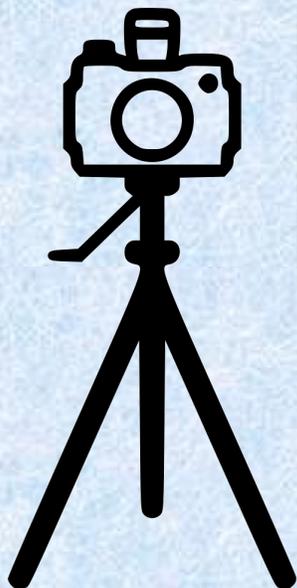


969 Hoffman Street
Elmira, NY 14905
607 731-1109
607 215-3205 cell



*Thank you
to Leslie
Potter for
providing
the UUFBF
photos*

PICS



November 8, Veterans' Day Service



November 29 Outdoor service, led by member Frank Potter



Member Mary Terhune's cat Auggie saying hi to his friend.

President Ron Telford's friend Jay, an arborist, helped the Fellowship take down some dead trees. Sam Telford helped too!



Big Flats Community Food Pantry
PO Box 454
Big Flats, NY
14814

November 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

We would like to share with you that the Pantry has been able to stay open this year in spite of COVID. We have changed personnel and how we hand out food to use non-contact methods but we continue to help our neighbors with food insecurities during these trying times.

It is with sorrow that we share with you that we are not ringing the bell at Minier's this year. We think it is the right and safest decision for everyone involved. The bell ringing has been a wonderful money maker benefiting our Pantry families. On average we collect \$300 to \$800 a day from members of the community over ten days. With the loss of our annual fundraiser we are reaching out to your organization for donations to our pantry. Please keep our pantry in your holiday spirit of giving this year.

Thank you for your support of the Big Flats Community Food Pantry.

Julie Spangenberg-Jolley

*Want to include
something in future
newsletters?*

Easy!

Email by the 15th of
the month before at

**UU.BigFlats@
gmail.com**



From member Jeni P: "A nephew of Dick Cowles lives down the street from me. Yesterday I asked him "How's Dick?," and he replied "He's doing better." He then told me that Dick had COVID for a few weeks, but he was doing better. I called Dick and he was happy to hear from me. He said most of the symptoms are gone, except for extreme fatigue. Dick is 96 years young! He also said I could let the UUFBF fellowship know about this. If you would like to send a card to Dick, or give him a call:

Richard Cowles

1440 Caton Rd., Corning, NY 14830

Ph: (607) 524-6902

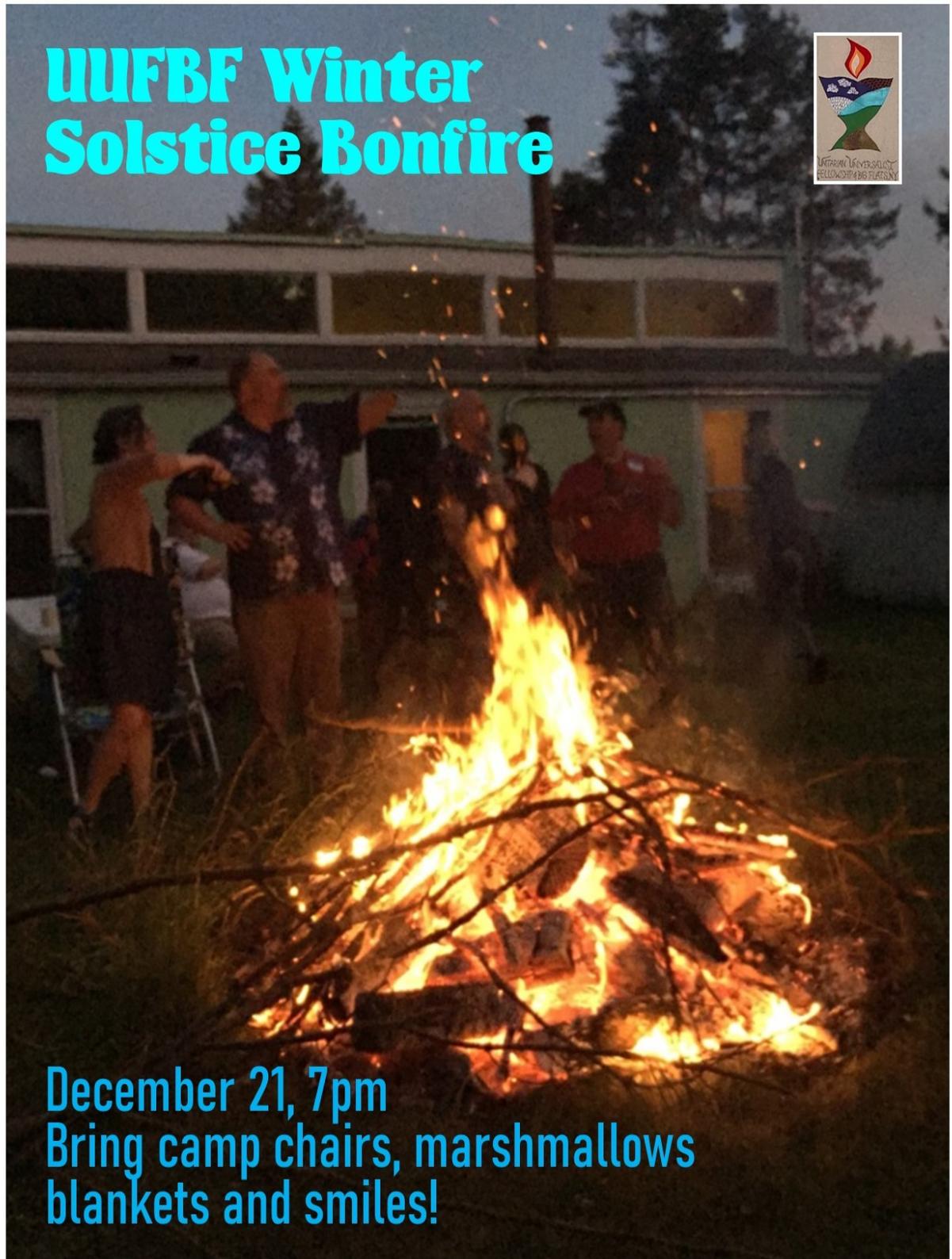
**UUFBF
Board
Meetings
are
continuing to
be scheduled
for the
SECOND
SUNDAY
of every
month after
a brief
coffee hour
following the
service. All
members are
welcome to
attend.**



Join our Facebook Page!

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

UUFBF Winter Solstice Bonfire



**December 21, 7pm
Bring camp chairs, marshmallows
blankets and smiles!**