

**Unitarian Universalist Church Urbana Champaign**  
**Lifespan Religious Education Fall Offerings**  
**Fall 2020**



# Table of Contents

Events are in order by their presentation date. If it is a series, then it is listed by the first class date.

<b>A letter from Michele Grove, Interim Director of Religious Education</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A letter from Emily McKown, Youth Coordinator</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Human Rights and Immigration</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sunday Worship Learning Opportunities</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Antiracism Reading Group</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Theology Ablaze</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>There is No Good Card for This: What to say when there are no words</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Popcorn Theology</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Understanding Your Temperament in Challenging Times</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Collage</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>UUCUC's Learning Adventure Series For All Ages</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Transforming Hearts</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>This Is How It Always Is By Laurie Frankel</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Community of Communities</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>1491</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>UUCUC's All Ages Storytelling Channel</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>The Theology of Leonard Cohen</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Seven Principles Class + the 8th Principle</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>A Class in Mindfulness</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Coming of Age for Middle School Age Youth</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>The Parent and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators</b>	<b>19</b>

## **A letter from Michele Grove, Interim Director of Religious Education**



Dear UUCUC Friends,

It may be a different year for Unitarian Universalists but that does not mean it is less exciting. These challenging times present us with an opportunity to think about how we build learning communities. The fall lifelong learning program experiments with different ways to learn and build community. It is our hope that you will join us for opportunities that interest you. This prospectus is not complete. There are other opportunities in the planning stages and we invite you to check back to see what has been added to the collection.

This year, maybe our priority should not be on how much we learn but what we learn. Yes, we will learn about UU history, the principles, social justice, anti-racism, and many other topics. We will also learn new ways to learn as a community and to meet many diverse learning needs. How we do religious education is changing and this community will be ready to engage in new ways. This year's learning has long lasting implications.

This is also the last year of a three year interim religious education process. As the congregation reflects and discerns your lifespan religious education vision, you all will also discern the best religious education leadership to join the staff team.

## A letter from Emily McKown, Youth Coordinator

Hello UU Youth and Families!

I'm eager to connect with you as we support each other through the year. We've brainstormed many ideas to have fun, create, collaborate, deepen our U.U. inquiry, and engage our passions for social justice. As you all know, the YRUU program encourages youth to step into leadership and create activities for themselves! So while we've got a multitude of ideas to offer- it will be up to the youth to create their own calendar of events!



YRUU ZOOM LAUNCH! SEPTEMBER 23rd 7pm!

Youth grades 9th-12th are welcome to join us for our first check-in of the fall. We will be sharing summer stories, swapping school strategies, and creating our digital covenant\*\* (our digital covenant will be a shared document we create together! This will be a list of agreed upon rules/guidelines we share to keep each other safe through all our online gatherings!)

\*\* Is this your youth's first year eligible for YRUU? send me an email and we'll get them connected! [youthcoordinator@uucuc.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@uucuc.org) \*\*

*Here's the shortlist of possibilities for youth programming this year:*

- Bi-Monthly Zoom Parties
- Sunday Morning Playlists
- Podcast Production
- Racial Justice Education
- Movie Nights
- Park Visits
- Service Projects
- Online Mini-Cons with nearby U.U. Churches

Look forward to seeing you all again!

## Human Rights and Immigration

Program sponsored by UUCUC's  
Immigration Justice Task Force  
(IJTF)

Thursday, September 10, 2020  
7-9 PM

Speaker: **Lauren R. Aronson**,  
Associate Clinical Professor,  
Director, Immigration Law Clinic,  
University of Illinois College of  
Law



**Pam Richart and Millie Davis from IJTF will host this program**

**Professor Lauren R Aronson, Director of the Immigration Law Clinic at University of Illinois will lead a discussion on the right to seek political asylum and how current United States' policies on immigration are affecting the rights, health, welfare, and safety of migrants fleeing violence and seeking political asylum here in the U.S.**

**Join this adult religious education program sponsored by UUCUC's Immigration Justice Task Force using zoom video conference platform information below. Please note that there is a passcode to access this program.**

**Michele Grove, UUCUC's Interim Director of Religious Education will serve as tech support for this program. If you need assistance, please email her at [re-director@uucuc.org](mailto:re-director@uucuc.org) or call or text at 605-237-1319.**

**Zoom video conference. <https://zoom.us/j/6604422541>**

**Passcode: UUCUC**

**Or you can call in**

**+1-312-626-6799 OR +1-929-205-6099**

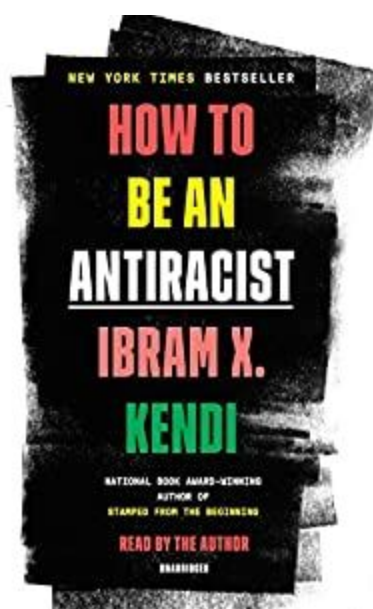
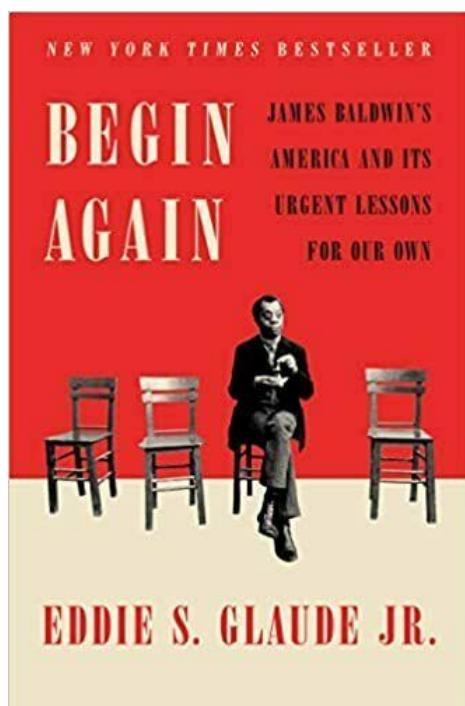
**When you call in, they will ask for the following Meeting ID: 660 442 2541**

**Please note that there is a passcode to enter this meeting.**

## Sunday Worship Learning Opportunities

Worship is for the whole family! Beginning on Sunday, September 13th interactive activities for all ages will be included with Sunday worship. Watch for these activities in association with each week's worship. Soon, a special webpage in the religious education section of uucuc.org will catalog these activities for easy access.

### Antiracism Reading Group



Priscilla Kron and Millie Davis invite you to join us in reading to learn more about #BlackLivesMatter, institutionalized racism, and the defund-the-police movements across the nation and here in Champaign-Urbana so that we can be better supporters of our black and brown neighbors and live up to the UUA's revolutionary report, [Widening the Circle of Concern](#) and our own [UUCUC's Statement on Black Lives Matter](#).

This is suitable for high school -- adults. For information and registration please see:

Our discussions will be guided by a Covenant and we'll begin our reading with two books, Eddie Glaude, Jr.'s [Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own](#), and Ibram X. Kendi's [How to Be an Antiracist](#).

Discussions will be held on Mondays from 6:30-8p.m. on

September 14: Glaude, Jr.--Introduction--Chapter 3

September 28: Glaude, Jr.--Chapter 4--Conclusion

October 5: [James Baldwin Discussion with Dr. Eddie Glaude](#) from The Urbana Free Library

October 26: Kendi--Introduction--Chapter 6

November 23: Kendi--Chapter 7--Chapter 12

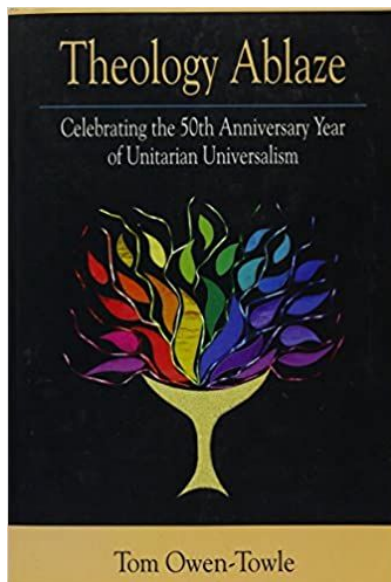
December 14: Kendi--Chapter 13-Chapter 18

Register for this class using this link: <https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/ddc5fa8762>

#### Antiracism Reading Group Covenant

- We agree to create and maintain a safe discussion space by:
- Honoring confidentiality of personal information brought into the discussion
- Listening carefully with an open, non-judgmental mind to the words and ideas of others
- Centering responses on personal experience without judgment of others and their experiences
- Engaging in the reading in advance to focus the discussion on common ideas and language

## Theology Ablaze



Come join Jenny Hunt and fellow UUs in exploring some core theological themes of our faith based on the book **Theology Ablaze** by Tom Owen Towle. Our plan is to split this into two parts, one this fall to begin in mid-September and the second part to begin after the holidays. We will generally cover two chapters or themes (now worries they are short) per session. Together we will share our views and beliefs on topics such as beauty, God, the Sacred, covenant, justice, love and everything in between. Bring your wisdom,

your curiosity and your voice as we join together to figure out more deeply the question “What do we believe?”

This is an online course using zoom video conference. Registered participants will receive online access a few days before the first class.

Required reading (read two short chapters for each session). *Theology Ablaze: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary Year of Unitarian Universalism*. Bby Tom Owen-Towle (Flaming Chalice Press, San Diego, CA, 2011)

The class will run two Thursdays a months from 7-9 PM beginning on September 17th

This is a great class for those who are new to Unitarian Universalism or who have been a part of this denomination their entire lives!

Date	Theme One	Theme Two
September 17th	Catching Fire Theologically	Introduction (1-22)
October 8th	Justice (204-215)	Forgiveness & Reconciliation (262-274)
October 22nd	Covenant	Interdependence
November 5th	Gratitude	Embodiment
November 19th	Beauty	Grace
December 3	Salvation	Hope
December 17	Prayer	Silence

Note about obtaining this book: UUCUC recently discovered that this book is difficult to obtain. Michele has acquired several copies from the author. Thank you, Rev.

Owen-Towle for selling us the last 8 copies of this book that he had in a box in his garage. You can either buy a copy (\$20) or borrow one of UUCUC’s library copies, please email Michele Grove at [re-director@uucuc.org](mailto:re-director@uucuc.org) to make arrangements. This book is also available on Goodreads.

Please register for this class using this link:

<https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/ddc5fa876264>



## **There is No Good Card for This: What to say when there are no words**



[Illustration by Emily McDowell]

**What:** Practical guide to getting out of your own head and connecting with others during hard times

**Who:** Led by Rev Sally Fritsche - geared more toward adult learners, but all ages and skill levels are enthusiastically welcome

**When:** Sundays 1:30-2:30pm, Sept 20-Nov 8

**Where:** Zoom Room (register and you will receive the log in information)

What's the right thing to say when someone in your life is suddenly dealing with a death in their family, a cancer diagnosis, an arrest, a divorce, a mental health crisis, or any of the other million ways life can suddenly throw us off a cliff and into the deep end?

When someone you care about is going through it, you might feel like there's nothing useful you can do to help. Even the most caring and eloquent among us struggle to find the right thing to say.

**This course is a friendly and practical how-to guide for getting past the awkwardness and actually reaching out to one another. Based on the colorful book written by empathy expert Dr. Kelsey Crowe and greeting card designer Emily McDowell, we'll learn about the psychology behind why it can be so hard to ask for and offer emotional support, the dos and don'ts of offering help during hardship, and some basic tips and scripts for talking about life's hardest topics.**

**Every session will focus on actionable takeaways, and will include a chance to practice writing our own creative sympathy cards for people in our lives.**

**You might be a lifelong expert in offering comfort and casseroles, or you might just be wishing your Zoom check-ins with friends could go deeper than "I'm doing fine, how about you?" If you've ever felt at a loss for words or worried about saying the wrong thing, this course is for you.**

**No reading or preparation required. Regular attendance recommended but not required. Bringing your lunch to the Zoom room is encouraged and celebrated. Same goes for kids, pets, and emotional baggage!**

**We'll begin on September 20th and will meet every Sunday afternoon, 1:30-2:30pm, until November 8th.**

**To register for this course click on this link: <https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/492a2c>**



## **Popcorn Theology**

**Our first Movie Event: The Croods**

**September 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

**All ages welcome!**

**This is the first of many opportunities**

**Movies are entertaining and educational. This year, UUCUC will sponsor several movie nights for varying audiences. Since we are unable to gather at the church, we will use the following method. A group of 17 people tried this in August and we had a great time!**

- **First, we gather on a zoom call to light the chalice, say hello to each other and introduce the movie.**
- **Second, everyone watches the first half of the movie in their own home (you pop your own popcorn). Most of the movies we will watch are widely available on streaming platforms like Netflix. If you do not have a Netflix account, the church has one you can borrow.**
- **Third, we gather at intermission and talk about what we viewed and learned to this point.**
- **Fourth, we watch the rest of the movie.**

- Fifth, we gather to discuss the movie in greater length

Some of the movies will be for all ages. Some for adults. Some for youth and adults. The multi-generational opportunities are endless.

Ready to try it with us? The first movie we will watch is: *The Croods*

It is enjoyable for all ages and has some excellent discussion elements for those of us facing change and transition. And, let us face it - we are all facing change and transition.

If you are interested in being a part of this movie night, register using this link:

<https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/ddc5fa>

Michele will send you more information about how we engage in this online, safe, socially-distanced, and entertaining learning event.

## Understanding Your Temperament in Challenging Times

Using the MBTI to understand how you are in crisis

Wednesdays, September 30th and October 7th 7:00-9:00 PM



During World War II, Isabel Myers, a researcher of Carl Jung's psychology theories began his work in practice with women entering the workforce. Myers believed that Jung's theories could help women discover their passions and preferences to the point of identifying satisfying careers. Soon, Myer's daughter, Katherine Myers Briggs joined her mother in her effort and the first Myers Briggs Temperament Indicator (MBTI) was born.

Since this time, the MBTI has been used as a tool for understanding our own passions and preferences and for learning how to apply these preferences to everyday life. On Wednesday, September 30th and October 7th, Michele Grove (a certified MBTI facilitator) will lead participants through an understanding of their own MBTI preferences. Michele will pay special attention to a special twist which occurs when we enter the crisis mode

because these challenging times take us into this realm more often. Understanding how we react and interact in crisis situations is crucial for navigating stress and anxiety.

And did I mention that this is fun? There is no pre-test required. The work will be done in the workshop and participants will enjoy learning about themselves while building relationships with others who have different passions.

Please follow this link register for this class: <https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/0cfb96>



## Collage

**October, 2020 to May, 2021**

For all families (and families come in all shapes and sizes). This is great for children, youth and adults.

The summer multi-generational learning opportunity is now a year-long Unitarian Universalist program for all families. Collage looks at the Unitarian Universalist seven principles. Beginning on the first Sunday of October, participating families will look at one

principle each month including the proposed 8th principle in May. Collage is a take home family kit with activities for all ages. The key to this program is optional, interactive opportunities for small groups of COLLAGE participants. If you wish to participate, sign up and pick up your fist kit from the church on Sunday, October 4th.

And if you were a part of the summer COLLAGE program, you are encouraged to pick up and follow along.

Register here: <https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/a4c60c21>



## UUCUC's Learning Adventure Series For All Ages

Going places and learning as we go! Children, Youth and Adults are invited to join us on the second Sunday of each month in a Learning Adventure Series. We will go on adventures, meet in small groups, engage in social action projects and have fun. Throughout the program, we will follow recommended COVID safety protocols. What can you expect?

- Scavenger Hunts
- A Road Rally
- Small Group games (socially distanced)
- Social Action projects for Channing Murrery, Heifer Project and other local, national and international programs.
- And much more (the creative juices have just begun to flow)

The first event will take place on Sunday, October 11th 4-7 PM. Mark your calendars!

## Transforming Hearts

Friday, October 9th

Time and details to be announced. We will watch a Transforming Hearts episodes to better understand radical hospitality with transgender and gender nonbinary folx and then engage in discussion. Watch for more information.

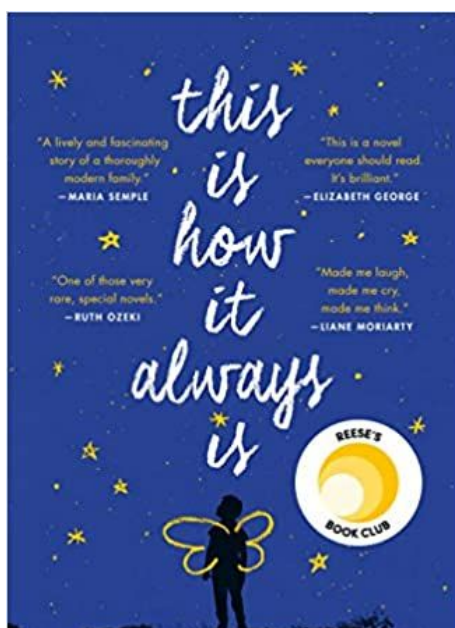


## This Is How It Always Is By Laurie Frankel

### Book Discussion

October 14, 2020 7-9 PM

Join Kathleen Robbins and Michele Grove on Wednesday, October 14th from 7-9 PM to discuss one of Amazon's Best Books of 2017 about



change, secrets, and family. Laurie Frankel's *This Is How It Always Is* is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family.

And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever."

This is the journey of Claude / Poppy and his / her family. He / she is five years old, the youngest of five brothers, and loves peanut butter sandwiches. She also loves wearing a dress and dreams of being a princess.

"*This is how* a family keeps a secret...and how that secret ends up keeping them."

"*This is how* a family lives happily ever after...until happily ever after becomes complicated."

"*This is how* children change...and then change the world."

In the congregation's commitment to understanding and embracing gender fluidity, this discussion will go a long way in helping all of us understand our bias and work to better inclusivity."

To register for this book discussion follow this link:

<https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/a4c60c>

## Community of Communities



**Led by Unitarian Universalist  
Association Leader  
Paula Cole Jones**

**How can we build a community of communities that opens our arms wide to all? This is anti-racist, multi-cultural centered work. We hope you will join us for one of the workshops.**



## October 17th OR October 31st

The same workshop will be offered on two occasions. You can pick one OR come and experience the amazing learning and modeling twice!

We will meet for a total of 6 hours during the day. There will be 3- two hour meetings with large breaks in between.

Mark Your Calendars for this extraordinary gathering. More information is forthcoming.

Photo credit:

<https://www.uua.org/offices/people/paula-cole-jones>

To learn more about some of the amazing contributions Paula Cole Jones has made to Unitarian Universalism, go to

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/origin>

1491

### A book study and discussion

Wednesday, November 4, 11, and 18

6:30-8:00 PM Online

Dear UUCUC Members and Friends,

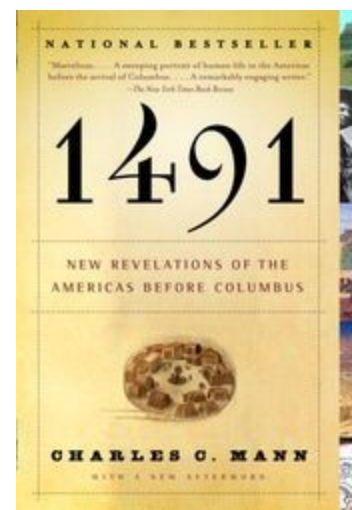
Are you interested in learning more about the America's before the arrival of Columbus and the conquest that followed? So am I.

Last spring, I enjoyed our group study of Roxanne

Dunbar-Ortiz's book, the Indigenous Peoples History of the

United States and I hope we can continue our study. It is the hope

that our learning will lead to action and healing.



**I invite you to join me and a group of others who wish to discuss this book in a three-session online exploration of the book 1491 by Charles C. Mann. Mann's book looks at the land, culture, people and advance civilization of the Americas prior to the destruction brought by Columbus and many of those who pillaged and destroyed.**

**We hope that people from many diverse experiences and backgrounds will join us for this discussion because it makes for rich discussion and learning.**

**The book can be found in printed form and audio. The UUCUC has 2 copies for loan.**

**For more detailed information contact me. My information is below. I look forward to continuing our discussion and learning about the indigenous peoples of the Americas.**

**Andy Townsend narwhaledream@aol.com/605-237-1334**

**To register for this class, use this form: <https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/ddc5fa87>**

**Watch For the following:**

**UUCUC's All Ages Storytelling Channel**

**The Theology of Leonard Cohen**

**The Broken Hallelujah**

**Seven Principles Class + the 8th Principle**

**A Class in Mindfulness**

**Coming of Age for Middle School Age Youth**

## **The Parent and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators**

**Since we cannot add an Our Whole Lives program until we can gather in groups of 15-20, we hope to offer this online program for parents and caregivers so they have the tools to work with their children and youth. If you are interested in this program, please fill out this form. <https://uucuc.breezechms.com/form/a4c60c2134>**

**Once we have a critical mass, we will create a learning group. Our Whole Lives facilitators are on board to lead this program.**