

First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist Association*

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Celebrations of Life

Sunday Services begin at 10:55 a.m.

September 5 *Bread and Roses*—The Rev. Dawn Cooley

Other than it marking the end of summer for many people, why is it still important to celebrate Labor Day?

September 12 *Water Sharing: Roads and Waterways*— The Rev. Dawn Cooley

We celebrate the journeys we took as individuals and as a community in this yearly tradition. *Bring your water!!* If you forget to bring water, fear not—there will be magic water to represent whatever you need.

September 19 *Gershon Has a Monster, What About You?*— The Rev. Dawn Cooley

At this time of Yom Kippur, we will examine the transformative effects when we allow ourselves to forgive.

September 26 *HIV/AIDS: Where Do We Stand?*—Jo Ann Dale

Over the course of twenty-five years, the face of HIV/AIDS has changed, but the challenges remain enormous, and the Unitarian Universalist commitment remains strong. Where to from here?

October 3 *Our Connections Matter (Association Sunday!)*— The Rev. Dawn Cooley

Next year, the Unitarian Universalist Association celebrates 50 years since consolidation. But this year, Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church here in Louisville is celebrating *its* 50th anniversary. What do these anniversaries mean to us (as we celebrate 180 years!)?

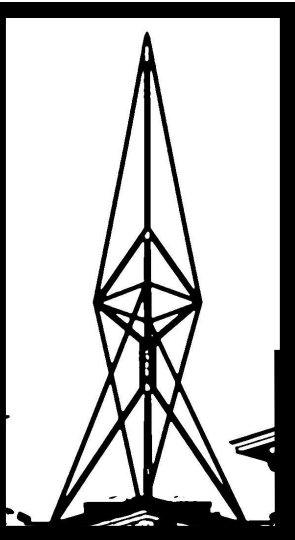
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Love is the spirit of this church...

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Steepletalk



Minister's Musings

During July, we loaded up the kids and the car and drove out to the Outer Banks, NC, to visit my in-laws at the beach. Along the way, we stopped to visit my brother and his family in Richmond, VA.

My kids are good travelers—they bring along stuffed animals and dolls for imaginative play, DVDs for catching up on, and electronic toys for in between. We make the usual pitstops, but we don't sightsee along the way. Though I normally drive a bit above the speed limit in an effort to make up for those pitstops, the fact is, I usually like these journeys.

I love to drive. I love seeing how the landscape changes on long journeys—going from flat to mountainous to a slim strip of land with beaches on both sides of the road. Whenever I drive through West Virginia, John Denver appears in my inner ear and I can't help but belt out "Almost Heaven!"

Arriving at the home of loved ones brings physical relief from the driving, and it feeds me emotionally to restore their faces upon my eyes. The kids get out of the car and are happy to have arrived.

Whether concrete or abstract, physical or metaphorical, journeys can be good for us. They shape who we are as human beings. I am reminded of the sea glass that my mother in law collects—what used to be litter or junk has the rough edges sanded down, the shine and gloss disappears, and yet the glass becomes more beautiful and collectible than it was when it was new and unblemished.

Though I am not a beach person in general, I could feel my rough edges getting sanded down as I listened to the surf. Something in me unwound as I gazed up at the Milky Way on a clear night. The physical journey, while enjoyable, was but a prelude to the inner renewal that came with the spiritual and emotional journey.

Our annual Water Ceremony is all about journeys this year—Roads and Waterways. What types of journeys have you taken? Please share them with me before the Sept. 12 service (email, phone, or the blue slips of paper available at church) and I will incorporate them into the service.

I hope your journeys, wherever they may have taken you, renewed your spirit.

—*Dawn*

Council Corner

The reorganization the church undertook a couple of years ago had the primary goal of simplifying a structure that had become balkanized by proliferation of separate committees. A secondary goal was to relieve the Board of the distraction of day-to-day management: Essentially, the Board found itself spending too much time directing traffic instead of devoting its attention to policy.

Your Ministry Council is working to continue the progress in these two areas. One step has been to install a Board member as chair of Council. Kathy Drehmel has graciously agreed to take on this role, making it clear that she is a liaison and a facilitator, but she is not a decision-maker or executor. The effect should be to keep the Board informed of program issues without drawing it into the decision process.

The other major step taken by your Ministry Council is allocation of the non-pledge offering, which the congregation designated for program use. We have adopted a relatively simple system:

- The non-pledge plate income on the second Sunday of each month will go to a UU organization (Heartland, UUA, UUSC).
- On the fourth Sunday, the money will go to a community helping organization (HELP, House of Ruth, and so on).
- On the first, third, and fifth Sundays, that money will go toward in-house program expenses. Each of the Ministries (Member, Outreach, Religious Education, Resources, and Worship), plus the Council Task Teams (Publicity, Chalice Night, Multigenerational) will submit any funding requests to Council, which will then prioritize based on the best interests of the church as a whole.

We of the Ministry Council are feeling very good about these steps. We believe that as your program team, we can help the church achieve its goals. Won't you let us know how we are doing?

—*Jo Ann Dale, on behalf of Ministry Council*

STEEPLETALK

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Love is the spirit of this church...

Religious Education News

First Unitarian Welcomes Our New Director of Religious Education!

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Ancient wisdom (and common sense, for that matter) would lead us to believe that every step we take leads us exactly where we are supposed to be. That seems not only logical to me but also very exciting. Besides, this is the only explanation I have for why a boy who was brought up in a Southern Baptist Christian home could now be partnered with a Unitarian congregation!

This adventure with First Unitarian has come at a wonderful time in my life. After spending the past ten years in a UCC community, I find that this is the next step in a progression that is shaping me. I can add this to an ever-growing list of beautiful, unexpected joys ... embracing my gay orientation, spending time with various faith communities, learning from a world of spiritual paths ... all of these experiences and more filling my life with wonder and color.

I thank you for calling me to serve with you here and for believing that this is a partnership that will deepen and mature as we learn to work together for common good. I am more than excited. I am open to the road ahead and look forward to walking side by side, hand in hand with each of you.

Thanks for being patient with me as I learn the ropes!
—Edward

Fall 2010 Children and Youth Religious Education (RE) Curricula

Welcome to the start of our new church year! This year we will be introducing new curricula from the UUA's *Tapestry of Faith* program. Curricula are online and available for viewing at www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml. **Classes begin September 19.**

- *Preschool*—“Celebrating Me and My World,” a celebration of the wondrous qualities of self and the world.
- *Kindergarten–2nd grade*—“Wonderful Welcome.” Children identify intangible gifts central to Unitarian Universalism such as friendship, hospitality, and fairness, and share these gifts with others.
- *3rd–5th grade*—“Love Connects Us.” Celebrates important ways Unitarian Universalists live our faith in covenanted community. Moved by love and gathered in spirit, we embrace our responsibility toward one another and the world at large. We encourage one another's search for truth and meaning. We strive to be active in peace-making and other efforts to improve our world.
- *Middle school (6th–8th grade)*—“Riddle and Mystery.” Each session introduces and processes A Big Question.

- *High school (9th–12th grade)*—Senior high youth and adult advisors will work together to choose from a selection of curricula available for youth from the *Tapestry of Faith* program. Choices include “Sharing the Journey: Small Group Ministry with Youth,” “Exploring Our Values Through Poetry,” and “Families” (a photodocumentary curriculum).

Parents, remember to complete a new registration form for 2010-2011. Youth group participants (6th–12th grade) will need to complete and sign a current year behavioral expectations form. Members of the RE Ministry and the DRE will be available after the Celebration of Life services on Sept. 12 and 19 to distribute forms and answer any questions or concerns regarding RE programming. Also, please feel free to call the church and leave a message, or send an e-mail to dre@firstulou.org.

Religious Education Calendar of Events

- **Religious Education Ministry (REM) meeting:** Tuesday, September 7, 6:30-8:30pm, Open Classroom.
- **Second required parent meeting for Middle School Our Whole Lives (OWL) program:** Thomas Jefferson Unitarian, Wednesday, September 8, 7:00–9:00pm.
- **Training session for all children and youth RE teachers and youth group advisors:** Sunday, September 12, 9:30am, Open Classroom. Youth advisors: please arrive at 10:00am.
- **Middle School OWL classes** begin September 12 at 1:00pm. Location to be announced (TBA).
- **Middle school and senior high youth group programming** begins September 12 with a youth/adult potluck from 6:00-8:30pm. Youth and parents, please plan to attend—all interested others are welcome. Elections of youth and adults to the Youth Adult Committee will take place at this event.
- **Final Coming of Age quarterly meeting** for candidates and their mentors: Friday, September 17.
- **RE Classes begin September 19!** Kindergarten through high school: teachers, children, and youth begin their day in the Celebration of Life service (10:55am) and are dismissed to their classrooms. Preschool teachers and children meet in the Preschool Room.
- **Middle school and high school youth groups** have their first meetings September 19, 1:00–2:30pm. Lunch will be provided at 12:15pm in the Open Classroom. Youth and parents, please check your e-mail for more information as it becomes available.
- **Second session of middle school OWL:** September 26, 1:00pm. Location TBA.

Money Talk\$

Beginning a New Year

July, the first month of our new fiscal year, was pleasantly uneventful financially. Expenditures are on track so far!

The Endowment Fund

As of the August Board meeting, the Endowment Fund had \$540,486.89 in it. This changes from day to day, of course. In July, we received the last of the 2009-2010 quarterly disbursements from the Endowment Fund and will forego the next three (October, January, and April) to pay back the \$20,000 advance we took last spring. Next July, we should return to the regular quarterly disbursements that have been the plan for the Endowment Fund all along.

Special Sunday Collections

You may recall that we made a big change in our 2010-2011 budget regarding the ministries (Member, Mission & Outreach, Religious Education, Resources, and Worship). With one minor exception (\$250 for resources to cover tuning the pianos and organ), they all began the year with zero budgets. Of course, they *will* have expenses, and these will come from some of the “plate money”—the money collected on Sundays other than pledge payments. There was no figure for that on the



Income side of the 2010-2011 budget—another innovation. How will this work?

Well, here is the plan: Regular pledge checks and cash put in blue pledge envelopes will be separated from the collection, and the remaining plate money will be allocated to various groups by the Ministry Council. Some of the details are still being worked out, but the plan is to use the **money collected on the first, third, and occasional fifth Sundays for the ministry budgets**, to be divided by the Ministry Council. Money collected on the **second Sunday will go to various denominational organizations**—the UUA, the Heartland District, and the UUSC, for instance. That leaves the **fourth Sunday for special causes**, such as the Help Office. The Council plans to announce these in advance so you can come prepared to help your favorite charity.

If you operate on a cash-free basis, you can always write two checks—one for the pledge and one for the plate money. Mark them clearly. You can even put both contributions in one check, but the Memo line needs to say something like Pledge \$5,000; UUA \$2,000. (The amounts don't have to be this big, but the printing has to be *legible*; if not, you can expect a phone call.) This whole system is new this year, so please let us know how you like it!

—Maureen Taylor and Pat Triplett, co-treasurers

Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Faith development focuses the Sunday Morning Adult Round Table (SMART), which meets each Sunday in the church library, 9:30–10:45am, for programs on a variety of topics. Participants engage in their own faith development and contribute to that of others who are present.

Youth are encouraged to participate. Child care is available at 9:30 for infants and preschoolers. Adults are welcome to bring children in their care. For more information or to suggest a program, contact Jasmine Walston at jasminegld@aol.com or leave a message in the RE mailbox in the volunteer area. Upcoming programs:

- **September 5—Shelter from the Storm: Unitarian Universalism as a Safe Harbor.** A sermon by the Rev. Tony Johnson. This is the last of our Summer Conversations and part of the Great Sermons Series.
- **September 12—To Love Alike.** Learn about great thinker

Francis David and the beginnings of Unitarianism in Transylvania in the 16th century! The Rev. Dawn Cooley will lead the program.

- **September 19—Life Possibilities for People with Down Syndrome.** An overview of the talents and challenges of people with Down syndrome, and a discussion of the lifelong support and programming that Down Syndrome of Louisville offers. Guest speaker Diana Merzweiler, Executive Director.
- **September 26—Taking Care of Each Other: Being Active Within Community.** Member Ministry leader Rita Sasse will talk about the ways members of our congregation do, and need to, take care of each other.

Curriculum planning meeting

Wednesday, September 8, 4:30pm, Qdoba, 300 S. 4th. St.

Worship Center Decorations



Celebrate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or commemorate a historical event by providing the decorations for the chancel table for a Sunday Celebration of Life. You may buy or make a decoration or contribute \$15 or more and we will

create an appropriate arrangement. The order of service will include a notice of the person or event being commemorated. Contact Carol Tobe (812 945-5106) or ctobe@insightbb.com.

Interweave

“Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working toward ending oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past.”

Commitments

By voting to become a Welcoming Congregation, First Unitarian agreed to the Commitments listed in *The Welcoming Congregation Handbook*. Commitment #1 states: “A Welcoming Congregation is inclusive and expressive of the concerns of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender persons at every level of congregational life—in worship, in program, and in social occasions, welcoming not only their presence but the unique gifts and particularities of their lives as well..”

Sept. 5 Discussion: “Why Interweave?”

“Haven’t we done all this BGLT work already? What else is there to do? Is the Interweave chapter still relevant at First Unitarian?” If you’ve even wondered about these questions, add your voice to the conversation. Buy a take-out lunch or bring a sack lunch. All members, friends, and visitors of First Unitarian are welcome at our next gathering: Sunday, Sept. 5, 12:30-2:30pm, in the church library.

Polyamory Update

Discuss new developments at the UUA concerning polyamory, related organizations, and ministry. Participants may purchase take-out lunch from a nearby restaurant, or bring a sack lunch. All members and friends of First Unitarian are welcome at the meeting: Sunday, Sept. 26, 12:30-2:30pm, in the church library.

Earth-Kind Landscaping

“A healthy environment begins in your own back yard.” Here are some ideas for you in order to use less water in gardening (xeriscaping). Texas A&M University has developed a program called Earth-Kind Landscaping. You can find this well-developed landscaping program at <http://earthkind.tamu.edu>.

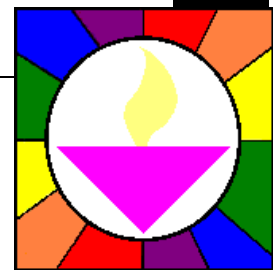
Research in Bryan, TX, showed that 25% of water use is for landscaping. All water utilities now are looking for ways to beat the peak (use of water). Use of plants that are native to the area is recommended, but don’t hesitate to use well-adapted non-invasive plants. Organize areas of your yard in large rectangles or circles that match your irrigation, filling in with smaller areas that may need hand watering.

If you water your grass, here are some tips to reduce water use. Most grasses will green up following a drought, so water isn’t strictly necessary. Mow your grass tall, between 2½” and 3 ½” in summer and shorter in the fall. To

Advocacy

- *A-Z’s of Prejudice, Community Conversation*—Discuss Arizona’s immigration law and the LGBT community. Wed., Sept. 8, 6:30pm, Louisville Library, 301 York St.
- *Statewide Fairness Coalition Fall Summit 2010*—Supporters are invited to strategize for Statewide Fairness with Coalition staff and leaders. Register by e-mailing Laura@Fairness.org. Sat., Sept. 25, 9am–5pm, UofL.
- *Louisville AIDS Walk*—Sept. 26, 1pm registration. The Belvedere, 5th & Main St. www.LouisvilleAIDSWalk.org.
- *Proposition 8*—A federal judge struck down California’s ban on same-sex marriage as a violation of equal protection under the U.S. Constitution, and then ruled that marriages could begin without awaiting the appeals process. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals then issued a stay pending appeals. No same-sex marriages will be allowed before the Ninth Circuit rules.
- *Attitude shifts*—In one August CNN poll, 52% of Americans polled supported same-sex marriage. This is the first poll to find majority support. In 1996, when the Defense of Marriage Act was passed, only 25% of Americans supported same-sex marriage. In 2004, no state had majority support for same-sex marriage, according to *New York Times* research. Today, 50% or more of Americans support same-sex marriage in at least 17 states.

For more information, comments, or questions about Interweave, please contact Interweave Chair Jasmine Walston at interweave@firsttulou.org, or leave a message in the Interweave mailbox in the volunteer area.



reduce stress on your grass from frequent cutting, keep the mower blade sharp; grass tips shouldn’t look torn.

Train your grass to use less water. Grass that needs watering will wilt, show footprints when walked on, and turn a dull gray-green. Experiment with your sprinkler to find the amount of time it takes to deliver one inch of water as fast as you can without run-off. One inch of rain/sprinkler will move into clay soil 6” deep and into sand soil 12” deep. Irrigate when your grass tells you it’s dry, thus training your grass to grow roots at least 6” deep.

Google “efficient irrigation.” Oscillating systems lose 50% of water to evaporation, so they are not recommended. Impact or pulse sprinklers and tracker systems are better.

Information for this article comes from a lecture and book, *Doug Welsh’s Texas Garden Almanac*. Carol Findling has a copy you can look at.

—Carol Findling, *House & Grounds*

Events and Gatherings

Sign Up for Circle Suppers ... with a twist or two!

The concept of getting together for fellowship is the same, but the Member Ministry has changed a few things about Circle Suppers this year. Sign ups will be month-to-month. Sign up at the greeter table on Sunday mornings OR email holly@intent.net. **Everyone will sign up during September for an October Circle Supper.** You will only host once per Church calendar year, and you will sign up on a first-come first-serve basis. On the sign-up sheet, you'll note which months you would be willing to host.

Circle Suppers will take place during the second weekend of the month. The hosts will determine which weekend evening best suits them. In other words, the first Circle Suppers will take place on October 8, 9, or 10. Before signing up, if you are not hosting, please be sure you are available for any of the three evenings. Singles will determine their own partner for the Circle Supper and will be asked to include their friend's name when signing up.

For those of you new to the concept of Circle Suppers, here is how they work: the hosts supply the main dish and drinks. The hosts tell the other six people what to bring to add to the meal, like a salad, side dish, or dessert.

If you have any food allergies or vegetarian preferences, this needs to be worked out when your host contacts you. And the main goal is to get to know other people.

Due to the changes, Circle Suppers will also take place in November and December. We may continue into the summer, depending on the interest and success of month-to-month sign-ups.

Calling All Readers

Following are books the First U Book will discuss in upcoming months:

- **September 13**—*Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman
- **October 11**—*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford
- **November 8**—*A History of God: The 4,000-year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam* by Karen Armstrong
- **December 13**—*Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson

We meet in the Parlor on the **second Monday of each month at 6:00pm** Please join us.

Chalice Night Under Construction!

Come to the first Chalice night of the season on **Wednesday, September 15** about 5:30–6:00pm or so, have a good meal prepared by Tiffany Taylor and Jack Jackson, and be ready to share your ideas for programs, services, and activities. (Your helping hands and commitments to serve will also be welcome.) See you then!



Worship Associates 101

Are you curious about how our Celebrations of Life happen on Sunday mornings? Are you interested in becoming one of our Worship Associates (WA)? Do you want to find a way to participate in the life of the congregation?

If any of these are true, please plan to attend the WA training on **Saturday, Sept. 18** from 9am–3pm. Topics will include worship theory, using the hymnal, and much more.

Some light reading will be required before the class, so please contact Dawn for details and to sign up. Hope to see you there!

Attention Brownbaggers (and Potential Brownbaggers)!

Our next meeting will be **Monday, September 20**, in the church library from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Come tell us what you have been doing this summer and help to choose our programs for the next nine months. All are welcome!

Women's Alliance—Annual Muffin & Yogurt Brunch



The Women's Alliance invites all women of First Unitarian to brunch on **Saturday, Sept. 25**, 9:30am in the Social Hall. We will decide on programs, events, and projects for this church year. Please come and enjoy the brunch and the Sistership, and have your say! Questions? Contact Kathy Thackeray, womensalliance@firstulou.org.

New Member Session

If you're a new member or friend and would like to know more about First Unitarian Church, please join us **Sunday, September 26**, about 12:00 in the Parlor, across from the church Library. We'll cover a short history of the church, take a tour of the building, and discuss how to get involved with church activities and groups. If you have questions, contact Bev Daly at 491-4963 or bev.daly@insightbb.com. We look forward to getting to know you!

CUUPS—Mabon Celebration

The First Unitarian Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) group invites everyone to join us for our Mabon celebration, which will be held at the church on **Sunday, September 26**.

Mabon, or the Autumn Equinox, is considered the time of the second harvest. After completing the corn and grain harvest at Lammas, our ancestors turned their attention to apples and fruits of the vine, nuts, berries, and vegetables.

Join us for a potluck meal at 6:00pm followed by our celebration circle at 7:00. The circle will include an Earth Healing for the Gulf area.



September 2010 Calendar - Click link to view up-to-date calendar

Wednesday, Sept. 1	Wednesday, Sept. 8 11am—Staff meeting	Wednesday, Sept. 15 11am—Staff meeting	Wednesday, Sept. 22 11am—Staff meeting	Wednesday, Sept. 29 11am—Staff meeting
Thursday, Sept. 2 5:30pm—Ministry Council 7 pm—Choir	4:30pm—Round Table curriculum planning, Qdoba	5:30pm—Chalice Night	Thursday, Sept. 23 7pm—Choir	Thursday, Sept. 30 7pm—Choir
Friday, Sept. 3	7pm—OWL parent meeting, TJ Unitarian	Thursday, Sept. 16 5:30pm—Worship 6pm—Member Ministry 7pm—Choir	Friday, Sept. 24 <i>Steepletalk Deadline</i>	Friday, Oct. 1
Saturday, Sept. 4	Thursday, Sept. 9 5:30pm—Personnel 7pm—Choir	Friday, Sept. 17	Saturday, Sept. 25 9:30am—Women's Alliance brunch	Saturday, Oct. 2
Sunday, Sept. 5 9:30am—Round Table 10:55am—Celebration of Life 12pm—Red, White, & Blue Pie Sale 12:30pm—Interweave	Friday, Sept. 10	Saturday, Sept. 18 9am—Worship Associates Training	Sunday, Sept. 26 9:30am—Round Table 10:55am—Celebration of Life 12pm—Visitor Info. 12:30pm—Interweave 6pm—CUUPs	Sunday, Oct. 3 9:30am—Round Table 9:45am—Youth-Adult Committee 10:55am—Celebration of Life 12:30pm—Interweave
Monday, Sept. 6	Saturday, Sept. 11 9:30am—RE training for teachers and advisors	Sunday, Sept. 19 <i>Religious Education classes and youth groups begin</i>	Monday, Sept. 27	Monday, Oct. 4 7pm—RE Committee
Tuesday, Sept. 7 6:30pm—RE Ministry	9:30am—Round Table 10:55—Celebration of Life with water sharing 6pm—Youth/adult potluck	9:30am—Round Table 10:55am—Celebration of Life	Tuesday, Sept. 28	Tuesday, Oct. 5
	Monday, Sept. 13 6pm—Book Club	Monday, Sept. 20 11:30am—Brownbaggers		
	Tuesday, Sept. 14 6pm—Finance	Tuesday, Sept. 21 6pm—Board of Trustees		

Red, White and Blue Pie Sale

Sunday, September 5, after the Celebration of Life in the Social Hall near the windows. This year, we will offer both sweet and savory pies. As you prepare for your gatherings on Labor Day, remember to pick up a homemade pie for your event, while supporting the Women's Alliance programming for this church year.



New Art in the Entry Hall

A painting by Stan Bogue and a batik by Kanti Lall have been hung in the Library Lane entry. The Bogue painting is a gift from Joan Johnson. Stan Bogue (deceased) and his wife Beth and children Stuart and Nila were active members of the church in the 1970s.

Artist Kanti Lall created the batik depicting Hindu symbols for a traditional Deepavali service at First U in the early 1970s. The Reeds had it framed, and the aesthetics committee had it restored. A key to the symbols will be hung beside the batik.

UUSC, UUA Launch Pakistan Flood Relief Fund



The massive flooding in Pakistan continues to worsen, compelling UUSC and the UUA to launch the UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund (www.uusc.org/content/uusc_uua_launch_pakistan_flood_relief_fund).

The floodwaters are overwhelming relief efforts, and the number of affected people is estimated at 17.2 million and rising. Vast areas of the country are under water, and huge numbers of people are on the move in search of food, water, and shelter. The current aid response cannot meet the vast needs of the survivors, of whom nearly half are children.

Two of UUSC's partners are responding to the crisis in Pakistan. **Bedari** is working to protect women and children displaced by the floods. **Barakat** is helping refugee families who have fled to the district of Attock, Punjab (a town of Afghan refugees). Please consider supporting the UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund to ensure that women and refugees in Pakistan can access the immediate relief they need. The situation in Pakistan is dire and worsening. Your support can make a big difference.