

**SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 15, 2025
UUFJC OPEN HOUSE
1-4 PM**

**-Enjoy old and new friends,
Refreshments, & building tours!**

February 8, 2025

Dear Friends,

As the granddaughter of immigrants, this spoke volumes to me.

The Long Path Forward on Immigration

by Steve Eckstrand, Co-convener, UUSJ Immigration Team

In school, I was taught that the U.S. was a country built by immigrants and descendants of immigrants. I and many of my fellow students knew the final words of Emma Lazarus's poem *The New Colossus* by heart:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*

These words had meaning for us since, like me, several of my friends were also great-grandchildren or grandchildren of immigrants, and several of their ancestors had started local businesses in our small Ohio town. In the 1950s and 1960s, few new immigrants settled in our town, but those that did were welcomed.

During the past two decades, immigrants have been the primary driver of demographic growth in the U.S. We will continue to need immigration as the number of U.S.-born working-age adults decreases as the baby boom generation retires.

We will face many challenges during the next four years, but we Unitarian Universalists must keep the faith. We must affirm that all people are sacred beings with inherent dignity and worthiness and work to be a diverse, multicultural, beloved community where all thrive.

Therefore, we Unitarian Universalists need to join with other faith-based groups in a long-term effort to change the overall narrative about immigrants. We must stay focused on our long-range goal of a comprehensive update of our immigration system that reflects our values.

This week's Adult Forum: Alex LeCure will speak about advocating for children in crisis and listening to the child's voice.

Next week's Forum: February 16-Rod Chapel, Missouri NAACP President

This week's sermon: "Out of the In-Between" By Rev David Schwartz

UU Moment: "Unitarian Universalism's Heresy - Love at the Center of Living"
By Rev. David Schwartz

Children's Religious Education - 10:30 am

Children attending in-person are welcome to join RE Instructor Dr Samantha Porter for a lesson during the service hour.

This month's theme: Inclusion

This Week's Joys and Concerns:

For Gwen Grogan's mother-she fell and broke her femur. She is in a assisted living facility in Columbia.

Rich Burdge recently lost his uncle, Dick Doub.

If you have a joy or concern that you would like to have read during a service or shared in our weekly email, please submit it by noon on the Friday before through our website: <http://uufjc.org/joys--concerns.html>

We will also have paper forms available Sunday morning for submissions.

Submissions made after noon on Friday may not be read or shared until the following week.

Lunch After Services

Please join us for lunch after the service. This week's lunch is at Dragon Kitchen.



Book Club



The Intergenerational Classical Book Study has a new facilitator in Josh Swart!! The next great read is *Roots* by Alex Haley. Next meeting date is February 9, 2025, at 2:00 pm, in the Forum Room in our UU Building.

5th Annual February Baby Wipes Drive

Common Ground partners with Capital City Diaper Bank to provide diapers and wipes onsite for our clients. For the past four years, Common Ground with partner churches has held a drive for Baby Wipes and Pull-Ups. Since the Diaper Bank spends all of its cash donations on purchasing regular diapers, Common Ground hosts this annual drive to ensure that the Diaper Bank has wipes and Pull-Ups to supply to its partner agencies. You can bring your donations to Common Ground or To UU. There is a place to put them in the entryway. Read more about the Diaper Bank at <https://capitalcitydiaperbank.org/>

Caring Committee

Contact Heidi Atkins-Lieberman at hal.AtkinsLieberman@outlook.com for assistance.

For more events, see our online calendars:

[UUFJC Events](#)

[Building Use \(other\)](#)

[Community Events](#)

[And visit us online at http://uufjc.org/](http://uufjc.org/)

[Virtual Gatherings.](#)

[Affiliated Events](#)

[Religious Education](#)

Blessings Always,

Mary Jo LaCorte

Administrator

Got Venmo? You can now make a payment through our Venmo app.

