



# *Flame on the Water*

*Celebrate Diversity - Question with Integrity - Build Justice*

**June 2026  
Flourishing Together**

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housing center.

## UUFJC June FORUMS

6/7/2026 - Susan Cook: Habitat for  
Humanity & City of Jefferson Homelessness  
Task Force.

6/14/26: Nathan Elwood, Legislative Library  
Admin, "Walthall M Moore, Missouri's first  
Black legislator".

6/21/26: Taylor Wolz: "Salute to America/  
USA-250". Jefferson City's 4th of July.

6/28/26: TBA

*Spiritual Communities*  
*Flourishing Together*

Spiritual communities that are flourishing:

**-Realize that this time calls for new approaches and are willing to experiment.** While it is helpful to reflect on the past in order to be grateful and to understand who we are and how we were formed, trying to replicate our history is not. Fellowship is no longer the center of civic life. People have reordered their priorities, particularly post-Covid. Younger people aren't joiners. Stalwarts are transitioning to their eternal reward. Newcomers won't arrive on our doorstep just because we have great programming. Congregations that are thriving aren't fighting these realities. They're figuring out, sometimes by trial and error, how to work within them.

**-Have a strong sense of identity.** Flourishing congregations have named their core values and plotted at least a next right step (which might simply be active waiting) based on listening deeply. They understand and use wisely the resources available to them. They don't try to be all things to all people, knowing that if each community understands its niche, everyone will have a faith community that welcomes their gifts and challenges.

**-Have invested lay leaders.** Thriving congregations put into leadership positions people who are spiritually mature, attuned to possibility, solution oriented, and ready to roll up their sleeves to do the work of ministry and invite others to do the same. They also formally or informally mentor those who have been in the

community for a while (i.e., not first- or second-time visitors) so that there is both continuity and creativity in leadership.

**-Prioritize relationships.** Churches that flourish specialize in relationships that are built on the willingness to be curious and vulnerable and to address burgeoning conflict directly, knowing that disagreeing well makes them collectively stronger.

**-Play together.** Attending worship together is great! But to have the non-surface, non-transactional kinds of relationships described above, congregants need face-to-face time in addition to side-by-side time. Thriving congregations play to get to know one another, build trust, and simply experience delight. Standalone events like shared meals, game nights, chili cook-offs work, and it's possible to build in a bit of levity in meetings and spiritual studies too.

**-Work hard at welcoming well.** While not desperate for newcomers, flourishing churches are genuinely glad to see them and ready for their arrival. These congregations have information at the ready and people or processes for helping guests move through the physical plant and connect with members.

**-Partner well with others.** Congregations that thrive aren't trying to go it alone. They collaborate well with other local entities and reach out to other churches and organizations to collaborate. They understand that there is a give and take with these groups that allows all parties to get what they need in order to live into their values and direction.

**-Trust and respect the pastor(s) and other staff.** Flourishing organizations know that staff members operate optimally whe

congregants assume their competence and positive intent. Curiosity, then constructive criticism as needed, is offered out of care for and investment in the staff person and the fellowship. Additionally, staff can ask for what they need, and their requests are heard and honored when at all possible.

What would you add to this list of descriptors of flourishing congregations? Where do you see your church reflected above, and what are some areas to address in your context?



*Flourishing goes beyond happiness, or satisfaction with life. True, people who flourish are happy. But that's not the half of it. Beyond feeling good, they're also doing good-adding value to the world.*

Barbara Fredrickson

Our part-time minister, Rev Tom Bozeman, will be with us again from Sunday, July 26 - Sunday, August 2. He will have a workshop for the entire congregation on Saturday, August 1. All are welcome to attend this workshop. He will also be available for 1 on 1 discussion by appointment.

Drum Circle  
will meet the 2nd  
Monday of the  
month from 7-8 pm  
Next meeting is  
June 8.

Intergenerational Book Club's  
Next read  
***The Brother's Karamazov***  
Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Book discussion on  
June 14, 2026 at 2 pm

Meditation Group  
Meets  
Every Wednesday  
7 pm

Contact us online on our  
homepage:  
**[UUFJC.org](http://UUFJC.org)**  
or on Facebook

Chair Yoga  
Tuesdays @ 11 AM  
By donation

Unitarian Universal Fellowship of  
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**Please submit your Joys & Concerns to our website:**

**<http://uufjc.org/joys--concerns.html>** by noon on Friday or on  
paper forms for in-person contributions as early as possible on  
Sunday mornings.

Housing the Community Jefferson City, (HCJC), has identified a building on Adams Street to be used as a resource center and shelter for our unhoused neighbors.

Initially it will start out as a resource center and then they'll renovate the 2nd floor so it can become the new Room at the Inn (JCRATI), cold weather shelter as well. We invite your voice and your presence at a critical upcoming meeting. The Planning and Zoning Commission will review HCJC's application for 107 Adams Street.

Please join us to make our collective voice heard.

- What: Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
- When: Thursday, June 11th at 5:15 PM
- Where: Jefferson City Hall (311 E. High Street)

Your attendance sends a powerful visual message to city officials that our community cares about this cause. If you are available and willing, you will have 3 minutes to state your support. The HCJC application is the only one on the agenda.

Please let me know of your willingness to speak as soon as you can. I would be happy to talk with you about this if you'd like.

Thanks,

Scott Johnston <[jscott.johnston@gmail.com](mailto:jscott.johnston@gmail.com)>

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