



Community Connections Mini Edition for Homecoming 2021

Join us for Homecoming Sunday on
September 12, at 11 am
Our First In-Person Service in 2021- Will be Live-streamed Too!
Come in person or go to the website www.ccny.org to view

9/19 - Community Church, Past, Present and Future
9/26 - Our last Worship in the Hall of Worship

Plan to stay afterwards for after worship activities too!
There will be a special Congregation Meeting following on 9/26

More Details on page 11

A Summer Message from Rev. Peggy

Every year the graduating class in my high school picks a quote that gets painted on an exterior wall of the school. Ours was “What a long, strange trip it’s been” from a Grateful Dead song. After this last year and a half, the only appropriate response to my high school self is to laugh out loud.



I wanted to open this little Connections entry with some kind of gleeful declaration, an exhortation marking our grand opening. I should have known better. Every time we’re thinking we’re returning to normalcy, we’re reminded that “normal” isn’t normal any more, that an exaggerated confrontation with the unexpected is now part of our everyday lives. It’s OK. I can’t say I’m getting used to it, but I can say that the ongoing experience of uncertainty is becoming more familiar.

We thought we’d be vacating our buildings in June, 2022. Then it was January, 2022. Then we were told it would be July, 2021. We drew the line. No. We had to be back in person, together in our Hall of Worship in September. It was moved. October 1, 2021. We had meetings, sent email, let everyone know this was happening. Our staff kicked into high gear (I can’t tell you how complicated it is to orchestrate this transition), and we were getting ready. But, nothing is certain. As I was writing this, the date moved again to January 1, 2022, and then over to September 27, 2021 which is where it stands. Probably.

Same with COVID restrictions and guidelines. The roller coaster just doesn’t stop. 73% of the state is vaccinated (more by the time you’re reading this), but the new Delta variant has everyone scrambling. The virus is sweeping through nations with lower vaccination rates, altering the trajectory of this pandemic. What does that mean for us vaccinated New Yorkers? We don’t know, nor do we know what it means for our kids who don’t have access to a vaccine yet. We continue to live in the meantime, that space between what was and what will be.

The gift of this time, if such a thing exists, is the invitation to live in the moment. We don’t know what lies before us, so we focus on today. It is what we have. It’s not what we thought it would be, certainly not what I thought it would be two years ago when I started as your Senior Minister. I didn’t know from “long strange trips” when I walked in our doors in August, 2019. But I do now. We all do. So we focus on what’s in front of us and what we know to be true. I know we are in this together, that none of us is alone. We know that open minds and open hearts have served us well. And I know that I love you and I’m grateful to be on this particular trip, strange as it may be, with you.



General Assembly 2021 Reflections from Our Delegates

General Assembly 2021 was my first live GA experience; I viewed some recorded events in 2020. I'm sure there were some aspects that felt different from previous years, since we've been virtual but organizers seemed to be incorporating as much of the usual as possible. The focus on accessibility and accountability is what stood out the most to me. I appreciated the many options to view and participate in events. And when those options fell short, the moderators

were quick to recognize the shortcoming and make plans to address it. There was explicit guidance to speak loudly and slowly enough for those who needed it and for caption purposes. The moderators also recognized every issue that came up in real time like misgendering attendees and not including prominent POC UUs in celebrations or remembrances. It seemed radical to me because I've never seen such a transparent event. I've since been told that all GAs have this level of interaction between participants and moderators. I would love to see Community Church continue to tackle accessibility in a practical way as we continue to interact with each other in a virtual/hybrid way. It would also be great to see how we could incorporate a formal accountability process for when our actions and words hurt members in the community.

- Darlene Jeanty

This was my first GA. I was thrilled to be a CCNY delegate. Did I know what I was in for? Not really! As a result, the policy-making focus came as good surprise. Intentional policy-making is a wonderful creative experience. Beforehand I knew basically nothing about our governance issues and recent UUA internal history. In getting ready for GA, I began reading the arguments and philosophies of people who were competing for places on the board. Then came my learning about the reforms being discussed through the Article II study process. Next came my introduction to the deep ongoing work to actualize multi-racial democracy in the UUA. (When the 8th principle was introduced at CCNY months before, it had felt like a *fait accompli* but I hardly knew the internal political context.) As GA approached and soon during the meetings, it grew clear that what "liberation" looks like is still contested in our own houses of worship. Nevertheless our GA votes turned out to be unambiguous. We voted overwhelmingly in support of more progressive ideas of liberation. I hope this moment of our internal political complexity has given us power to demand multi-racial democracy around the world. The most avowedly liberal religious tradition seems to have elected an agenda. Naturally, throughout our GA business work we were led by religious creativity and resources in the form of personal voices, visuals and music. Operationally, this GA taught new skills in using multiple tech platforms simultaneously, supported by chaplains monitoring covenantal practices in digital chatrooms. Large groups and small groups were given their own creative spaces for UU idea-sharing and making new connections. I met wonderful strangers in these settings and will build relationships from our conversations. New heroes are on my list to learn from. I can only imagine GA in person!

- Dana Burch

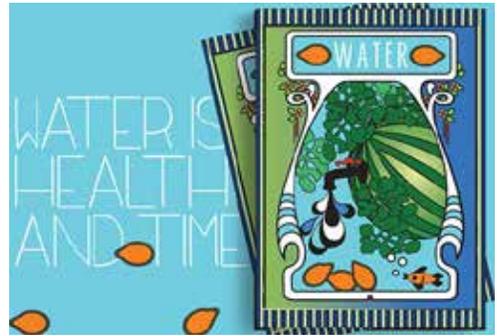
General Assembly had an ambitious agenda for amending UUA By Laws largely initiated by the Board of Trustees to make the elections process more workable and to allow more timely responses. An amazing job of moderating by Greg Boyd made for smooth and productive votes which even allowed for a consent agenda which was adopted. This high level of functionality at General Assembly bodes well for our institution. I attended break-out sessions on UUA Principles and Social Justice. Attendees were invited to tell stories about their own principles and about why they were motivated to pursue social justice. This is consistent with revisiting Article 2 which is an effort to revitalize our denomination. Love them stories! Focus on Identity Politics has reached a level where we might at times be mistaken for a circular firing squad. Wealth and power can indeed be barriers. Or means to address ever so many international issues. Everyone matters. Everything is connected.

- George Garland

From the Doolittle Committee

CoCoDA Conference

Members of the Ethelwyn Doolittle Fund committee were invited to participate in Companion Community Development Alternatives (CoCoDA) 2021 Sun and Water Conference held on Zoom April 17-18. Kevin and I attended and were fortunate to learn, in detail, about the work of this organization that has received past (and I hope future!) grants from Community Church of New York UU through the Doolittle Fund.



“Since 1992, CoCoDA has been connecting United States citizens, churches, service clubs, universities, and organizations with grassroots cooperatives and community development organizations in El Salvador. To build such strong relationships between the people of the United States and Central America that the United States will never again subsidize the oppression of Central Americans.”

The conference introduced us to two communities and their water board members in El Salvador and Nicaragua. We heard first-hand about their sun and water projects. Simply explained solar panels are installed near the water source to run a pump that will move the water uphill to a distribution tank and then to homes via gravity, pipes and spigots. The water sources are nearly always a steep way down from the villages. This saves difficult and time-consuming treks to fetch water and do laundry whilst also treating the water so it is safe to drink. We saw a video of such a walk. I can't imagine climbing back up carrying anything much less a large water jug or wet laundry with all the children in tow! Life changing for sure.

CoCoDA works with the community to establish ownership of the project by the community. The whole community must participate, partially fund, supply much of the labor, create a Water Board, meter and bill households to save for future repairs or equipment replacement. The community is the owner/operator and the CoCoDA gives them knowledge, advice, best practices with the financial support coming from donations or grants such as the ones from our Doolittle fund. If you are interested in learning more please see CoCoDA's website - <https://www.cocoda.org/> or ask us a question. --Anna-Lisa Hafgren-Willis

Nominations for 2021-2022 Grants - Deadline October 12, 2021 - E-mail submission only

The Doolittle Committee administers the Ethelwyn Doolittle Justice and Outreach Fund which provides financial support to organizations outside of the Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist. These organizations must provide direct assistance or advocacy to designated communities in need. Their work must also fall within the areas of human rights, civil liberties, racial justice and/or environmental concerns. They must also have a 501-C3 designation.

Potential Grant recipients must be nominated by members of Community Church of New York UU in the fall of each year. We cannot consider organizations that apply without being nominated by a church voting member. Questions? Contact doolittleccny@gmail.com

Click for the [Justice page](#). You may also e-mail doolittleccny@gmail.com to request that a form be mailed to you. The Doolittle Committee will need the name, contact person, address, telephone, email and website of your nominee. **Nomination forms must be returned by e-mail no later than October 12, 2021 to:** doolittleccny@gmail.com

Membership at Community Church

Have you started attending Sunday worship or other programs at Community? Are you just curious about Unitarian Universalism? Are you thinking of becoming a member? You are invited to attend introductory sessions that will be scheduled for this coming fall.

Pathways 1 – Let's Get Acquainted

Rev. Peggy will offer an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and Community Church. This session will give people a chance to ask questions about our church as well as what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.

Pathways 2 – Our Community and the Meaning of Membership

This session is devoted to sharing our spiritual journeys and exploring what Community Church offers. Our congregation provides an opportunity for people to grow spiritually and to help their community in many practical ways. This session will explain what it means to be a member of our church.

The New Member Welcome is expected to be held sometime in November or December. Contact Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator, at vlynch@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext. 126 to let her know you are interested in attending or need more information.



Cybersecurity - A Message from Jeff Loveland Director of Finance and Operations



As we continue in these pandemic recovery time, the hackers are busier than ever with new spoofing, phishing and other scams to attempt to lure you into giving them your money and your identification.

Do not open emails from websites that you do not recognize. If you put the cursor of your computer on the sender's address, it will show the real address, if different. Do not hesitate to delete it without opening it.

We are again seeing emails purportedly from Rev. Peggy and other staff members, and recently even fellow church members, asking for gift cards. This is a scam. Delete it!

You may receive phone calls from people claiming to be from a bank, or from the IRS or other government agency. Never give out your social security number, even just the last four numbers, or account password over the phone!

If you are expecting to receive gifts by mail, please make sure someone is available to accept them – a doorman or a neighbor. Thieves will prowl the streets looking for unattended packages.

Contact Jeff Loveland for more information - jloveland@ccny.org



Such an Amazing History

The staff has been going through the archives and discovering so many amazing pieces of Community Church past. We found correspondence from Oscar Hammerstein II and President Dwight D. Eisenhower; photos of our previous ministers, documents referring to our social justice work... What a joy it has been to view.

We are doing this work in preparation for the move. These items will be carefully stored, and will be ready for our new library planned for in our new building. If anyone would like to take a look before they are stored contact Erol Delos Santos, Communications Coordinator, at esantos@ccny.org to make an appointment.



The Last Picture Preparations are in progress for our new fall exhibit which will feature twenty-eight artists, past and current members of the collective, showing artwork as a tribute to Gallery35.

The Last Picture Show is Gallery35's way of saying goodbye to our space on 35th Street where we have been mounting exhibits since 2004! After showing our artwork online since the spring of 2020, we had planned this exhibit to be both a

gallery re-opening—as well as a “last picture show” at our brownstone location. However, CCNY’s building redevelopment preparations have progressed more quickly than we thought and there was simply not enough time!

But the show(s) must go on! ...so we invite you to “visit” ***The Last Picture Show*** at our virtual home—on our website—where our exhibits will continue to be presented. Gallery35 is adapting but not going away, as we excitedly anticipate our new future physical gallery!

Exhibiting artists: Bev Thompson, Cari Clare, Denise Fryburg, Denisha Wright, Dianne Martin, Ellen Mandelbaum, Jean Messner, Jil Novenski, Jody Leight, John Devaney, Juanita Gilmore, Kenly Dillard, Lin Yang, Liza Renia Papi, Lois Ross, Marilyn Boddewyn, Marsha Peru, Michael Davis, Patricia Garbarini, Peter Robinson, Phyllis Malinow, Reena Kondo, Rick Perez, Susan Harris-Demmet, Teresa Hommel, Valerie Lynch, Virginia Asman.

Link Here to View: <https://gallery35nyc.com/on-exhibit-now/>

Community Connections is published on a seasonal schedule. You are invited to offer articles, photographs, poetry, artwork or for future issues. The deadline for the upcoming Fall issue is Wednesday, September 15.

Please send your submissions, comments, thoughts or suggestions to Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator, vlynch@ccny.org.

Thank you for reading!



Community's Religious Education Programs for Children and Youth

Sunday Chapel & Learning Workshops
Begins Sunday, October 3
9:30-11 am on Zoom (on Zoom)

All8 Teen Photography 10 Week Workshop
Begins Monday, October 4
6-7 pm (on Zoom)

Parent Circles
Begins Tuesday, October 5
8-9 pm (on Zoom)

Inspiration Hours for children in grades K-8
Begins Thursday, October 21 (3rd Thursdays of the month)
7-8 pm (on Zoom)

More programs are in the works - The Teen Zine Project, UU story corps type activity, and kids' podcasts. Watch for more details coming soon.

Visit <https://ccny.org/children-and-youth>

Contact Jil Novenski, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth for more information. jnovenski@ccny.org

Our Regular Activity Calendar

Sundays

Worship on Zoom @ 11 am - Fellowship Hour follows the service.

Youth & Children's Chapel - Summer Chapel - 9:30-10:30

Register here - Contact Jil for more information - jnovenski@ccny.org

Young Adult Group - Whether a member, friend or just visiting - you are invited to check out the group! September Date TBD - Contact [Jen Chard](#) for more information and Meeting ID number.

Mondays

Poetry Circle @3:15- 2nd Mondays - Nest session- September 13.

Elder Matters Chat @7:00 - This is a supportive space to be with members and friends discussing age related concerns. Hosted by Esther Rosado

Young Adult Group - Whether a member, friend or just visiting - you are invited to check out the group! September Date TBD - Contact [Jen Chard](#) for more information and Meeting ID number.

Tuesdays

Breathing Exercises and Guided Meditation with Nafisa @ 6:00

We will begin with a short 10-minute check-in and then proceed with exercises that focus your attention on your breath, the inhale and exhale. Join us as we set aside this designated time to reduce stress and increase calm in our day. Total time is 30 minutes.

Thursdays

Art with Ellen @ 2:00 -Note Schedule Changes - Sept 9 / Sept 23

For non-artists and artist alike. See things in different ways. Have art supplies handy.

La Hora del Café-Spanish Language Appreciation @ 7:00

Fridays

Evening Centering with Janice Marie @ 8:00

Saturdays

Anti-Racism Action Group: Building a Just Community -Saturdays @ 12:00

For the month of August the group is reading "*The Sum Of Us*" by Heather McGhee.

Anyone wanting to drop in and participate is welcome.

Activities are held on Zoom - www.zoom.us/join

For Most Sessions - Meeting ID 2126834988

Passcode 10016

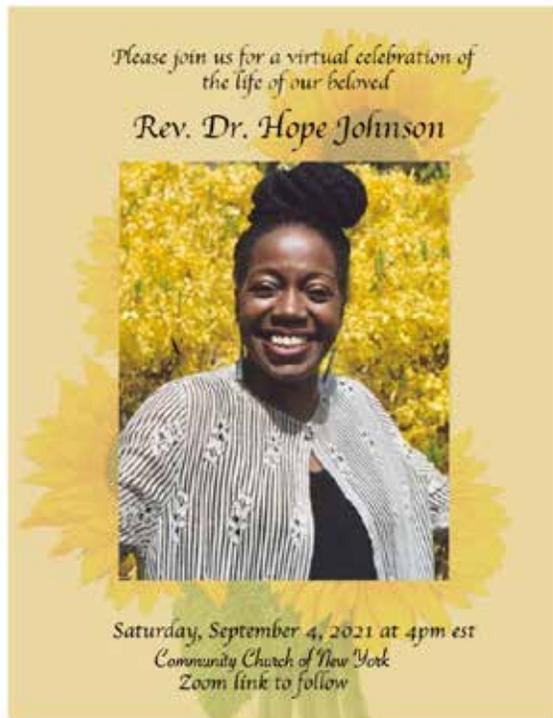
Questions? Suggestions? Contact Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator, at 212-683-4988, ext 126 or vlynch@ccny.org.



Community Church is thrilled to welcome Darnell White, our new Musician in Residence!

From Jerry Brown, Director of Music: "I have talked with Darnell White several times and I look forward to collaborating with him on the music for the services. He has so much to offer Community Church."

To learn more about Darnell see our Art and Music page on our website:
<https://www.ccnyc.org/art-and-music>



A Virtual Celebration of the Life of our beloved Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson will be held on Saturday, September 4, at 4 pm.

A special Zoom space has been set up. Please use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/RevDrHOPE>

Members and Friends of Community Church are warmly invited to attend but must pre-register to participate.



Important Announcements for September

Sunday, Sep 12 - Homecoming!

Everyone is on board. Rev. Peggy will be joined by Rev. Chris, and an enlarged music team. Vaccinated people are encouraged to attend in person. Masks will be required, both during and after the service. The service will also be live-streamed directly from the website www.ccnny.org - **NOT ZOOM** Following the service, join us live or on our regular [zoom](#) for wonderful conversation, recording memories, taking photos and more.

Sunday, Sept 19 – Community Church, Past, Present and Future

Join us in person or online, live-streamed from the website. Following the service, bring your memories and perhaps mementos from your special times at Community.

Sunday, Sept 26 – The last service in our Hall of Worship

Afterwards, we're having a critical, special Congregational Meeting to approve the contract for our building plan. The contract will be available to read by appointment in the office of Jeff Loveland, Director of Finance and Operations- jloveland@ccny.org, over the weeks prior to the congregational meeting. A fact sheet/contract summary will be available at our upcoming cottage meetings (on Zoom) and upon request for Voting Members. More details will be sent soon.

These services will be in person and live-streamed from our website www.ccnny.org. After service social activities will be live and on our regular [zoom](#) space.

Join us in person or online for our final 3 services in our Hall of Worship.