



# Mt Diablo UU Beacon

*Transforming Ourselves and Our World*

Volume 73, No. 9

October 2026

**SUNDAY SERVICE TIME — 10:30 A.M.**  
**SUNDAY MEDITATION — 9:00 A.M. ON ZOOM**

**ALL SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED!**

- <https://mduuc.org/service-stream/>
- [https://youtube.com/ — @MDUUC](https://youtube.com/@MDUUC)

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!**

Search for “MDUUC Beacon Light” on Spotify

**JOIN US ON BLUE SKY — @mduuc.bsky.social**

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

**The Silent Generation Speaks.** In this special service honoring our most chronologically gifted people, led by Revs. Becky Leyser and Rodney Lemery, we will hear from some elders of their thoughts on what makes getting older more meaningful. In a culture that so often worships youth, this is a chance to honor our elders and the insights they bring from life experience. We will also honor our new members during this service.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

**Engaging Curiosity.** Brené Brown defines curiosity as “recognizing a gap in our knowledge and becoming emotionally and cognitively invested in closing that gap through exploration and learning.” Current wisdom suggests that curiosity is a useful tool for speaking to people who have different attitudes, beliefs, or approaches. But what happens if you just aren’t feeling it? Is there a way to jump start the process? Rev. Becky Leyser will explore in her sermon, Engaging Curiosity. Spoiler: Yes, yes, there is.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

**Joy as Heart song.** What if most words of worship were sung? This Sunday, it will be. The welcome, the chalice lighting, the prayers, even the message will be carried on melody, alongside songs from musical theatre that have always known joy is something we must create together. Our children will be up front on cushions with tongue drums, rain sticks, and shakers, adding their music to ours. No singing experience is required. Joy doesn’t audition anybody. It just needs a place to land, and a people willing to make room. Come make a joyful noise with us. This service will be led by Rev. Rodney Lemery, Marena McGregor and Jyvonne Haskin.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

**Honoring All Souls.** In cultures across the world, special observances mark the our continued relationships with our beloved dead. In our Universalist tradition, the marking of All Souls Day notes our belief that all people deserve honor. In this service, marked by palliative care worker Linda Russell’s words, you are invited to help us build an altar by bringing pictures of your beloved dead. And those who are feeling grief this year will be invited to process with a candle—if you think you would like to join the procession, please contact Rev. Becky Leyser at [sabbatical@mduuc.org](mailto:sabbatical@mduuc.org).

## 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

**Community  
Connections and  
Conversations**

**2nd & 4th Wednesdays • 6-8 PM**

**6 PM Community Dinner (Connections)**

**7 PM Book Conversation (Conversations)**

Childcare and book provided • All are welcome.



**Social Change Now: A Guide for  
Reflection & Connection.**

Join us as we come together for reflection, renewal, and meaningful connection. Whether you’re new to the community, looking to meet new people, explore your faith, or simply enjoy fellowship and conversation, these gatherings are a wonderful place to connect and feel at home. Everyone is welcome, we look forward to seeing you. Come for one, some, or all of the programs!

**VESPERS/TAIZÉ, 5PM, Sanctuary and Zoom.** Join us for this brief mid-week gathering focused on recentering and calming with a theme in mind. This is also a good place to hold your grief at what is happening in the world.

- On October 14, join Jo Gelinas, Carla and others for Vespers with the theme of “How do we cradle hope?”
- On October 28, join Jo Gelinas and others for Taizé program.

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & CONVERSATIONS, 6:00–8 PM, Dinner, Discussion, and Justice Formation.**

*Childcare is provided for the full 2 hours. Bortin Hall.*

*What if justice work started with a meal?* Community Connections and Conversations gatherings is for anyone who wants to go deeper into the work of social change, together. We’ll begin by sharing a community meal at 6:00 PM, then move into lively, interactive table conversations at 7:00 PM using Deepa Iyer’s workbook “Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection”.

Iyer’s framework asks the questions that matter: What role do I actually play in movements for justice? What roles does our congregation play? What’s missing, and what’s possible? The evening is designed for real conversation, not lecture, and the workbook gives everyone something to engage with directly.

We have a limited number of copies of Social Change Now available through the church. Additional copies are available for purchase. Contact [Rodney@mduuc.org](mailto:Rodney@mduuc.org) to reserve yours.

All are welcome to RSVP and join the community meal. Please register online to help us honor a headcount for preparation. <https://mduuc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/category/109828>

\$10 suggested donation to help cover costs, but please give what you are able to, and it’s completely optional—it should never be a barrier to attending.

## Rev. Becky Leyser, Sabbatical Minister



I am Rev. Becky Leyser. As Rev. Leslie mentioned, I will be helping during her sabbatical to ensure that all of the amazing programming that you enjoy will keep moving forward in her absence.

I thought it might help to know a bit about me. I come from a conservative Lutheran family from Ohio. I was the first in my family to go to college.

I am married to an amazing person, Jeff, who I met through a brick and mortar dating agency when I joined on a dare. We moved to California more than 30 years ago. He was/is in IT and had gotten a job out here. I worked in administration and was happy to try a new adventure. We had two fabulous daughters, Sara and Rachel, who are currently living on the East coast - one in Burlington, VT and one in Manhattan, NY.

Soon after arriving in California, I was hired at Starr King School for the Ministry where I rose through the ranks from being an administrative assistant to becoming the Dean of Students. Being at Starr King was like a second adolescence for me in that I learned about new ways of thinking, other ways of being, and a whole lot about my own values and choices. I was so lucky! After 16 years I applied to the school and then graduated from Starr King in 2016.

Since then I have worked as a hospital chaplain, a hospice chaplain, a spiritual director, and as a Mission Integration Manager for a Catholic hospital. I currently work as a part-time chaplain for an outpatient palliative care clinic for Kaiser Permanente.

I am excited to be with you and look forward to bringing my experiences to you.

With gratitude—Becky

*Rev. Becky Leyser is serving as Sabbatical Minister during Rev. Leslie Takahashi's sabbatical, which runs through November 24, 2026 and can be reached at [sabbatical@mduuc.org](mailto:sabbatical@mduuc.org).*

## Rev. Leslie Takahashi is on Sabbatical Leave



In our last issue, Rev. Leslie Takahashi shared that she will be taking some time resting in October and November and returning in time for the last Sunday of November. Rev. Leslie also plans to take some additional time in the spring. During her absence, please contact Rev. Becky Leyser who will be serving as Sabbatical Minister.

## GRIEF & TRANSITIONS GATHERING

Rev. Becky Leyser will be supporting this group while Rev. Leslie Takahashi is on sabbatical. The group meets both in person in MDUUC's Fireside Room and online. The link join on Zoom is available on the calendar.

Upcoming dates are:

- Saturday, October 10 from 11-noon.
- Saturday, November 14 from 11-noon.
- Saturday, December 19, 11-noon.

## Marena McGregor, DRE



Greetings and Happy Autumn!

As the season changes and we settle into the rhythms of a new school year, there is so much to look forward to in our Religious Education and youth programs! Autumn is a wonderful time to connect, gather together, and make space for learning, laughter, friendship, and meaningful community. We have lots happening throughout the year, so be sure to check our website and sign up for our RE email lists to stay up to date on programs and events.

One way you can support our youth group this year is by joining us for lunch after Sunday service! Each week, our youth will prepare a delicious vegan beans-and-rice dish to share as an ongoing fundraiser for the youth group. Come enjoy a warm, tasty meal, connect with one another, and support our youth at the same time! Your donations help fund youth activities, gatherings, and special experiences throughout the year. We hope you'll stay for lunch and help our youth group thrive!

This winter, we're excited to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) for grades 10–12 as a special weekend retreat over MLK Weekend, Friday–Sunday, January 15–17.

OWL 10–12 is a comprehensive, inclusive sexuality education program designed to help young people prepare for the transitions and challenges of young adulthood. Through interactive discussions, activities, reflection, and guest speakers, participants will explore topics including consent, communication, sexual health, healthy relationships, and making informed decisions. Our experienced facilitators create a supportive space where youth can ask questions, share ideas, and develop the knowledge and skills they need to navigate relationships and young adulthood with confidence.

## Upcoming Activities You Don't Want To Miss!

### New! Monthly Breakfast Club Starting on October 18, 9 a.m.

Join us before worship for our monthly Breakfast Club, where we'll share a potluck breakfast, enjoy music and movement, play together, and make new friends. Bring a favorite breakfast dish to share (if you're able), and come ready to play, connect, and start Sunday with joy. Everyone from our little ones to our wisest elders are invited to join the fun!

### Holiday Pageant Rehearsals Starting on October 25!

The All Ages Holiday Pageant will be held on December 13 and rehearsals begin Sunday, Oct 25th at 9 a.m. and continue weekly until the day of, skipping Sunday, Nov 29. Please register for the Family Music Program here, <https://mduuc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3757504>

### Save the Date—OWL 10-12 Retreat! January 15–17, 2027!

More information is coming soon, but you can register now on our website. We hope your 10th–12th grader will join us for this meaningful and fun OWL experience! Email me for more information.

Sincerely—Marena

*Marena serves as the Director of Religious Education and is best reached at [marena@mduuc.org](mailto:marena@mduuc.org).*

## Rev. Rodney Lemery Associate Minister

### *What Welcome Sign Hangs on Our Home?*

I think every home sends a signal before anyone knocks to be let in. Sometimes it is a porch light left on or a hand-lettered sign in the window, and other times it is a bare porch that tells visitors nothing at all, which is its own kind of telling. I believe we all instinctively read a house from the sidewalk long before we set foot on the steps. Part of that contemplation is deciding whether it's safe to come closer. So here's a question worth sitting with: *What kind of welcome sign is on our house?*

We are hanging a proverbial sign on our congregation when we say our pronouns out loud, at the microphone, in a meeting, or on a name tag. Picture standing at the bottom of the steps of an unfamiliar house, not knowing yet whether it is safe to enter. Not safe from violence, necessarily, but safe from something smaller and more constant. Safe in the sense that you are unsure whether the people inside will get something as basic as your name and your gender right or whether you'll spend the whole visit bracing for the mistake. Researchers have a name for the toll that takes on a person. Testa (Testa, Habarth, Peta, Balsam, & Bockting, 2015) and her colleagues have documented that marginalized stress specific to transgender and gender-diverse people being called the wrong name or pronoun as "non-affirmation" stress. Another study of transgender youth looked at the number of everyday settings where a young person could use their real name (a mitigation of this marginalized stress). The study found that those students experienced lower depression, lower suicidal ideation, and lower suicidal behavior (Russell, Pollitt, Li, & Grossman, 2018).

Which brings us back to the sign on our door: that small, occasionally clunky thing so many of us now do when we introduce ourselves, saying a pronoun along with our name. This isn't about performing fluency in gender theory, and it isn't about rescuing anybody. We won't get it perfect. People will slip, including me, including you. What matters is whether the house keeps its sign up.

A house doesn't become safe because we nail a small sign on the door. However, a house with no sign at all asks everyone to knock, wait, and find out the hard way as to whether they'll be let in or not. We're not promising anyone a perfect welcome. We're simply trying to make sure nobody has to guess at our door.

Living into Love—Rodney

*Rev. Rodney Lemery serves as the Associate Minister and is best reached at [rodney@mduuc.org](mailto:rodney@mduuc.org).*

#### **For Further Reading**

Howansky, K., Wittlin, N., Bonagura, D., & Cole, S. (2022). [Him, her, them, or none: Misgendering and degendering of transgender individuals. \*Psychology & Sexuality\*, 13\(4\), 1026–1040; Pollitt, A. M., Ioverno, S., Russell, S. T., Li, G., & Grossman, A. H. \(2021\). \*Predictors and mental health benefits of chosen name use among transgender youth. \*Youth & Society\*, 53\(2\), 320–341; Ralston, A. L., Holt, N. R., Andrews, A. R., III, Huit, T. Z., Puckett, J. A., Woodruff, N., Mocarski, R., & Hope, D. A. \(2022\). \*Mental health and marginalization stress in transgender and gender diverse adults: Differences between urban and non-urban experiences. \*Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity\*, 11\(1\), 165–176; Russell, S. T., Pollitt, A. M., Li, G., & Grossman, A. H. \(2018\). \*Chosen name use is linked to reduced depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation, and suicidal behavior among transgender youth. \*Journal of Adolescent Health\*, 63\(4\), 503–505. ; Testa, R. J., Habarth, J., Peta, J., Balsam, K., & Bockting, W. \(2015\). \*Development of the Gender Minority Stress and Resilience Measure. \*Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity\*, 2\(1\), 65–77.\*\*\*\*](#)



# BID4LOVE

## 2026

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS!

SAVE THE DATE! SAT. NOV 7 | 5-9 PM

BE PART OF OUR DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

SCAN ME!

### **BID4LOVE 2026 IS COMING!**

MDUUC is a community that nourishes our spirits, celebrates our gifts, and supports one another through life's journey. Bid4Love is one of the most joyful ways we give back.

Our annual Bid4Love Auction takes place Saturday, November 7, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. This beloved event features online, silent, and live auctions, great food, entertainment, and plenty of opportunities to connect.

#### ***This Auction Is Built by Our Community***

What makes Bid4Love special is the generosity and creativity of our members. Every donated experience, service, meal, baked good, or unique item helps strengthen our community while supporting MDUUC.

#### ***Looking for Ideas? Consider donating:***

- A dinner party or coffee outing
- A hike, tour, or day trip
- Tickets to a show or event
- A vacation stay
- Homemade food or baked goods
- Lessons, crafts, skills, or hobbies
- Something wonderfully unexpected!

#### ***Ready to donate, volunteer, or learn more?***

Scan the QR code or use the link below to fill out the donation form to help us stay organized. Questions? Contact [bid4love@mduuc.org](mailto:bid4love@mduuc.org).

#### **Visit the website to donate and get donation ideas!**

<https://mduuc.org/bid4love-2026/>

### **SPIRITUAL CARE AT MDUUC With Travis MacPhee**

I'm excited to be offering spiritual care at MDUUC in my role as Interfaith Chaplain. I'm here to listen and offer compassionate, nonjudgmental support, especially when life feels overwhelming, confusing, painful, or transformational. My email is [travis@mduuc.org](mailto:travis@mduuc.org).

Warmly,

Travis MacPhee (he/him), M.Div.  
Interfaith Chaplain

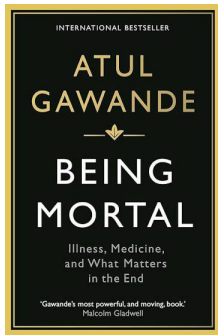
*Travis serves as MDUUC's community minister and can be reached at [travis@mduuc.org](mailto:travis@mduuc.org).*



## Open Women's Group & The League of Women Voters ZOOM: Sunday, October 1 from 10:30–12 p.m.

In the October meeting, the group will be hosting the League of Women Voters for a zoom presentation of the pros and cons of the propositions that will be on the California November ballot. All are welcome to attend. Open Women's Group regularly meets online on the 1st Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Email [admin@mduuc.org](mailto:admin@mduuc.org) to be added to our mailing list. Visit the calendar for the zoom link to join.

## Book Club: "BEING MORTAL"



In September, Rev. Becky Leyser launched a discussion group on *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. Whether you've started the book or are simply curious, you're warmly invited to join. Future sessions will include opportunities to catch up on the reading.

As you read, you'll explore important questions about aging, end-of-life care, and how medical decisions shape our final years. Thoughtful conversations about

these topics can help ensure our wishes are understood and give loved ones peace of mind when difficult decisions arise.

Rev. Becky works in palliative care for Kaiser Permanente. She has lots of experience in how making decisions or not impacts those left behind. The book club will meet on Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. in the Owl Room and will be covering these chapters:

- October 8 - Chapters 3 & 4 (54 pages)
- October 22 - Chapters 5 & 6 (78 pages)
- November 5 - Chapters 7 & 8, Epilogue (50 pages)

If you have interest in joining online, please express your interest by contacting Rev. Becky Leyser, [sabbatical@mduuc.org](mailto:sabbatical@mduuc.org).

## Join us for Music of Our Times! - 4th Sundays After Service -

A brand-new community choir is launching on the 4th Sunday, right after service, 12-1pm in the Sanctuary!

Music For Our Times is an open invitation for Mt. Diablo UU Church and our greater Diablo Valley community to come together in song - drawing from gospel, secular, sacred, and other revolutionary traditions. No experience necessary, no audition required - just bring your voice and your spirit.

All are welcome. Come lift your voice with us!

## Wednesday Virtual 12 Step Program For UUs

MDUUC hosts a weekly 12-Step group for people seeking support for addiction and recovery. The group meets online every Wednesday at noon, making it easy to attend from work or home. The zoom link is on our calendar and give yourself the gift of serenity.

# RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

## Restorative Practices

In these challenging times, finding peace and mindfulness is more important than ever as is remembering the inner resources we have which we can develop to anchor ourselves. These offerings allow you to connect with yourself and our community, whether you're new to meditation or have been practicing for years.

- **Saturday Weekly Mindfulness Meditation Group.** *Did you know that our mindfulness group is still going strong?* Join in person in the Fireside Room or online weekly on Saturdays at 9 a.m. This is a great chance to connect with a dedicated group who make a priority of being mindful. The link to join online can be found on our calendar.
- **Sunday Virtual Meditation, 9:00 a.m.** Email [yoga@mduuc.org](mailto:yoga@mduuc.org) to be added on to the mailing list.
- **Virtual Meditations.** These times call us to remain focused and centered in the midst of a swirling and often chaotic world. A collection of meditations is available any time you need them. To receive new additions, please subscribe to our podcast. Recordings can be found on our website at <https://mduuc.org/virtual-meditation/>



## Nature & Community Care

Saturdays: October 24 • November 14 • December 12  
11:00 am–12:30 pm | Redwood Grove outside Bortin Hall

Join us in MDUUC's Redwood Grove for a monthly space to take care of ourselves by nourishing our relationships with one another and the living world around us. Through time within nature and community sharing, we'll explore relationship in October, listening and receiving in November, and how we carry these practices forward in December.

Come once or come regularly. No previous gathering is needed, and all are welcome. **The redwoods will be there.**

Facilitated by Travis MacPhee, Interfaith Chaplain. Questions or accessibility needs? Contact [travis@mduuc.org](mailto:travis@mduuc.org).

## Help With the Mary Fenelon Shower!

Mary Fenelon was instrumental in making our shower program happen not only for the Winter Nights program, but also for people who need showers throughout the week. Contact Rev. Rodney to help out. We could use more help with washing towels and contribute shampoo, conditioner and liquid soap.



# Community Circles

## Fall Community Circle Groups Are Forming

Our Community Circles have been and continue to be a beloved piece of our small group ministry, designed to explore topics in community and build relationships. If you are a new member, or perhaps a longstanding member, looking for ways to develop a meaningful connection to our faith tradition and other members of the church, Community Circles are for you.

Learn more at: <https://mduuc.org/connect/community-circle>

Each Community Circle Lasts 6 Weeks and Space is Limited!

Before registering, please check your calendar to make sure you can attend all 6 sessions.

- **OPEN - Tuesday Afternoons at 2PM (10/13-11/17)**  
Starting October 13 through November 17, from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Children's Chapel.  
Register here: <https://mduuc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1323216>
- **OPEN - Tuesday Evenings at 7PM (10/20-11/24)**  
Starting October 20 through November 24, from 7-9 p.m. in the Oak Room.  
Register here: <https://mduuc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1319468>
- **OPEN- Thursday Mornings at 10AM (10-22-12/3)**  
Starting October 22 (skipping 11/26) through December 3, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m in the Children's Chapel.  
Register here: <https://mduuc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1323236>
- **OPEN - Thursday Evenings at 7PM (10/29 - 12/10)**  
Starting October 29 (skipping 11/26) through December 10 from 7-9 p.m. in the Oak Room.  
Register here: <https://mduuc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1323251>

## Membership Book Signing October 4 & November 1

Thinking about joining? Have you been visiting and wondering about next steps, or interested in participating and having a voice in our congregation's future? On the first Sunday of each month, you can sign the membership book—a simple way to express your commitment to this community. Look for a minister or board member outside the Sanctuary doors at noon, 15 minutes after the service ends.

## Getting To Know UU - Sunday, October 4

"Getting To Know UU" is a hybrid, quarterly conversation that helps answer questions about who we are and what we care about. Come learn more about what we believe!

Join in the Owl Room or on ZOOM. The zoom link to join and RSVP is available on the calendar.



## A Message From Your Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

Thank you for reading the Beacon and for staying engaged with our congregation.

The Board of Trustees has agreed on our goals for this church year, and I'd like to share two of them with you.

First, we want to encourage everyone to use the Church Center app. It is free to download from the App Store or Google Play. Once you log in, you may view the church calendar and groups, manage your pledge, sign up for events, and more. If you would like help getting started, any Board member will be glad to assist.

Second, at our June congregational meeting, we voted to explore a name change for the church. Over the next few months, Vice President Linda Russell will lead a task force on this question, and we want to hear from you. We are seeking a wide range of perspectives. Please reach out to Linda or any Board member, and we will make sure your voice is part of this discernment process.

Our Bid4Love fundraiser is coming up soon! Join us on Saturday evening, November 7th, at 5:00 p.m. in Bortin Hall for an evening of fun, laughter, and generosity. If you've never attended, you are in for a treat.

We are also living in stressful times. With a contentious election season upon us, feelings of nervousness, fear, or anxiety are completely normal. Please know that this congregation is here for you. If you need a listening ear, reach out to one of our ministers.

That's all for this month. Thank you for being part of this beloved community. In the words of Dr. Sofia Betancourt, "Together, we are a manifestation of the covenant of our living tradition, born of the interconnection between and among us all."

Faithfully,

Mark Chase (he/him/his)

Board President

2026–2027 MDUUC Board of Trustees

## TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER RE-NAMING MDUUC

At our June Congregational Meeting, MDUUC voted to explore a possible church name change. A task force will review options, including keeping our current name, and consider legal and financial impacts. Interested? Email Linda Russell at [boardvicepresident@mduuc.org](mailto:boardvicepresident@mduuc.org) with "Re-Name Task Force" in the subject line.

**DOWNLOAD AND LEARN THE BASICS ON HOW TO USE CHURCH CENTER  
FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: <https://mduuc.org/church-center/>**

## MDUUC Home Build Trip in Tijuana Indigenous People's Day Weekend • Oct 9-12

MDUUC is sponsoring a home build trip to Tijuana, Baja California, in partnership with the nonprofit Doxa. We welcome both builders and donors—the full cost of this trip is \$15,000 for our group of 20 builders. Every donation helps offset that cost so that builders who couldn't otherwise afford the trip may journey with us.

The trip costs \$750 per person, which covers round-trip transportation between San Diego and Tijuana, overnight lodging, all meals in Mexico, and the building materials we gift to the family. Signup early at <https://mduuc.org/home-build-trip> as space is limited and/or contact Mark Chase with any questions [homebuildtrip@mduuc.org](mailto:homebuildtrip@mduuc.org).

## FREE FAMILIES CAMPAIGN

Need some inspiration? Have you been participating in work to support our immigrant neighbors, especially those with children? Are you interested in learning more about what is being done to help end family separation, deportation and detention? Are you in need of a way to have your spirit uplifted by song and connection? If so, please join the weekly Free Families Fridays gatherings which you can register for [here](#). This weekly gathering is designed to boost your spirits as well as connect you with other activists concerned about these efforts.

## Sunday Hot Lunch

Every Sunday, 11:45am to 1:00pm

Every Sunday, ongoing through the church year

All are welcome at the table! Each week, we're cooking legumes and rice from a different culture's kitchen, and every dollar raised supports our youth. Come hungry. Come as you are.



Donations happily received!  
Give what you can, if you can!



Scan To  
Donate

All proceeds go to our Youth Fund, which keeps  
the youth engaged and in community!



Mt Diablo Unitarian  
Universalist Church

55 ECKLEY LANE, WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596  
[HTTPS://MDUUC.ORG](https://mduuc.org) | 925.934.3135

## MDUUC Library - Oak Room Books can be checkout on 4th Sunday, From 12:15-12:45pm

Thanks to a very generous “living legacy”\* gift from our member Suzanne Lofquist, we have a wonderful resource library with lots of information about Unitarian Universalism, Unitarian Universalists and many of the issues with which we engage. The library features the collection of our minister emeritus, the Rev. Dr. David Sammons and many books are now available for checkout. On the fourth Sunday between 12:15 and 12:45 you can check out books and you can also return them. Come on over and learn more!

\*A Living Legacy gift is a memorial gift given while someone is alive. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact our Legacy Committee Chair Tom Adams.

## MDUUC Art Gallery Featuring Smokie Arce



Smokie Arce is a self taught artist from Borikén (Puerto Rico), raised in New York and Chicago and now based in Oakland, CA. Their multidisciplinary practice spans visual art, poetry, and community murals, exploring cultural identity, resilience, and environmental consciousness.

Members and friends of our community display art in the gallery between Bortin Hall and the Sanctuary. Interested in displaying art? Don't have art but have ideas for exhibits —let us know. Contact our Art Committee Chair, Randy Stansberry or Dave Fitzgerald at [artleadership@mduuc.org](mailto:artleadership@mduuc.org).

## MDUUC Ashes and Memorial Plaques

If you wish to have your ashes or that of your loved ones, scattered at MDUUC, please contact Rev. Leslie Takahashi. The congregation recognizing the need for a dignified memorial for these individuals whose cremated remains are interred or scattered in the Memorial Garden has established a memorial wall located on the exterior west wall of the Scaff building. Please email [leslie@mduuc.org](mailto:leslie@mduuc.org) for more information.

### Celebration of Life for John Cooper Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 11 a.m.

Please join in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in Bortin Hall. Visit the website for the guestbook and livestream link at <https://mduuc.org/john-cooper/>

### Celebration of Life for Tony Newey Saturday, December 5 at 3 p.m.

Please join in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in Bortin Hall. Visit the website for the guestbook and livestream link at <https://mduuc.org/tony-newey/>

# **JUST-IN-TIME** Many Ways To Volunteer at MDUUC!

Here are a few simple ways you can help to welcome all.

- **Be a Driver!** Give a ride to those who otherwise cannot come.
- **Help Make Coffee.** Help keep the conversation flowing after services.
- **Help Support Our Shower Program.** Could you take home a load of towels and return them back within a week? Or donate shampoo and other toiletries?
- **Be an Usher!** Ushers are an important role for the church and are regularly needed on Sundays. Join the usher group!
- **Provide Tech Support.** Church Center is our online and smartphone portal for MDUUC. We could use your help to connect to one another, give online, and organize our volunteer service at church.
- **Join the 1st Saturday Work Party!** We could use help now with raking, trimming and planting, and planning for the shift into the upcoming seasons. In December, we'll need help with decorating the Christmas Tree and our annual craft events.

*Gifts of time power our amazing community. Opportunities to volunteer are also listed on the Friday Weekly Email.*

*If you can give community, email [justintime@mduuc.org](mailto:justintime@mduuc.org)*

## Community Concert Series Presents: **Roy Zimmerman** October 16 at 8 p.m.



Roy Zimmerman's signature blend of heart and hilarity has never been more necessary. In a career spanning more than thirty years, Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered hundreds of millions of views.

Roy co-writes these songs with his wife Melanie Harby. Their song parody "Vote Him Away (The Liar Tweets Tonight)" has had over 140 million views online.

Video:

[https://youtu.be/K8\\_tVmIPiT8?si=RLNyLT32FjCVpjT3](https://youtu.be/K8_tVmIPiT8?si=RLNyLT32FjCVpjT3)

<https://youtu.be/dJIV2rOlUdo?si=kVJFuP6odMp5-OQI>

Tickets are \$25 for live show

Livestream tickets are \$10

Get Tickets On Evenbrite or via [ccs.mduuc.org](https://ccs.mduuc.org)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1997510829663?aff=oddtcreator>

Sliding scale tickets will also be available at the door.

- Doors will open at 7:30pm
- Light refreshments will be available.
- Masks are recommended, but not required.

# **HATS OFF!**

## *Honors, Accolades, and Thanks!*

- To David Stanley for the help on repairing the sandbag barriers against the parking lot hillside
- To Jo Gelinias for her leadership of Breath and Spirit
- To SierraLynne White and Bill Wentz for bringing dance and rhythm
- To Crystal Loutzenhiser for her sharing her love of creation
- To Jim Hasse leading in the labyrinth and to all who created the space
- To Yvonne Strejcek and Pamela Roberts for sharing their wisdom through the leadership of the Caregivers' Support Group
- To Jo Gelinias and Carla Winter-Evans for their help with Vespers
- To Matt Smith for his leadership of the Climate Justice Group
- Thanks to all who helped with Rosemary Lowden's service
- To our launderers who keep our linens fresh and ready for events
- To all who keep the community pantry thriving
- To Jo Gelinias and Sharon Solstice for cash counting
- To our Art Chairs Randy Stansberry and Dave Fitzgerald for their leadership in displaying art in the gallery
- To our volunteers who show up at the interfaith vigils
- To all who took home postcards to defend our democracy!
- To Emily Harris, Jaynese Davis and Mary-Helen Binger for their leadership with Bid4Love
- To Kathryn Wellington for the proposal on HVAC in the White Building
- To Sharon Solstice for donating tools, tarp, and the cooperative game for religious education
- To David Stanley, Jeff Hearn, Mark Watanabe, Mary Helen Binger, and Richard Scoby for their help with the sticker service

*We encourage gratitude and appreciation throughout MDUUC. Send "short and sweet" admissions to [thanks@mduuc.org](mailto:thanks@mduuc.org)*

## **Thursday Virtual Homelessness 101 Events** **Contra Costa Health - Register to Join**

Join us for an engaging and informative session designed for anyone curious about homelessness in Contra Costa presented by Jaime Jenett, MPH. Whether you're a concerned community member, have ideas for service programs, or are seeking services yourself, this presentation is for you! Contact [contracostacoc@cchealth.org](mailto:contracostacoc@cchealth.org) if you have any questions.

Highlights:

- Key data and trends on homelessness
- Overview of available services
- Community response initiatives
- Opportunities for involvement
- Interactive Q&A session

Please choose only one meeting to attend:

- Virtual Evening Sessions, Oct 15 [\[register here\]](#)
- Virtual Daytime Sessions, Nov 19 [\[register here\]](#)

## Living Our Values: Actions You Can Take

### Preparation Is The Key • Public Witness Opportunities • Policy • Partnerships

The potential for justice exists in all spaces we cultivate together, including the virtual ones! Visit our web-page to participate in Justice efforts at our local, state, and national levels. This is a great way to live out our UU values, especially when we want to remain safely distanced and engaged. Visit: <https://mduuc.org/living-our-values/>

### Tuesday Interfaith Vigils at Concord Immigration Court

Join Revs. Rodney, Ranwa, Leslie, and others as we provide the ministry of presence for folks lined up to enter the immigration court in Concord.

\*MDUUC ministers will be present from 7:30–9:30 a.m., with the exception of holidays when courts are closed. You are invited to sign up to let us know you are joining. Our interfaith partners will remain on-site until noon. Steps to stay connected for vigils:

1. Register to join and help us coordinate - [HERE](#)
2. Sign up for specific Dates/Times [HERE](#)

### Help Report ICE Sightings

No account required and with real-time reports.  
Report here: <https://juntosseguros.com/>

### Join Contra Costa County's Signal Network Come and Learn More About This Important Way To Organize Our Community

Signal is the most secure way to communicate about upcoming meetings, trainings, and actions. Bay Resistance asks that we each sign up for Signal, a key tool for organizers in cities like Portland and Minneapolis. Use this link to join our CoCo Pod Signal chat: <https://signal.group/#CjQKIEs2U2Tujbtl2h9uIOPPi-7FEai-aTxjvQDHLlaQkGONEhBSedW4e-w5A2qjR2-xSG6G>

## THURSDAY JUSTICE PROGRAMS AT MDUUC

### Climate

Gather to learn about how to engage in Climate Justice in our County and beyond!

~ ONLINE ~  
starts at 6:30 p.m.  
1st Thursdays of the Month

OCTOBER 1

### Racial & Immigration

Gather to learn about how to engage in Racial and Immigration Justice in our County and beyond!

~ ONLINE ~  
starts at 6:30 p.m.  
2nd Thursdays of the Month

OCTOBER 8

### Economic, Food & Housing

Gather to learn about how to engage in Eco, Food and Housing Justice in our County and beyond!

~ ONLINE ~  
starts at 6:30 p.m.  
3rd Thursdays of the Month

OCTOBER 15

Join on Zoom For Justice Thursdays  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82753820159>

## Exploring Whiteness Together "Brave Enough To See Our Whiteness"

October 29, 4th Wednesday, 7-8PM (Online)

A Year of Brave Practice for White Unitarian Universalist. Brave doesn't mean fearless. It means showing up anyway. Each month we practice one kind of courage in anti-racism work, learn from scholars and organizers of color, and make a small promise to try it before we meet again. No expertise required. Join on the calendar and [HERE](#).

### Want To Put Your Values Into Action?



In May, MDUUC hosted a virtual meeting featuring two organizations doing vital work for our neighbors: The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and FAME's CIPN program and the new SAFE Center. If you're looking for meaningful ways to give your time, this is a good place to start. Review Rev. Rodney's Thursday Justice Email for the link to the recording.

### UU The Vote

#### Let's Try to Certify as a Good Trouble Congregation!

The late Congressman John Lewis reminded us, "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something." In that spirit, the UUA are proud to continue the Good Trouble Congregations program. This initiative invites congregations to faithfully stretch their organizing and take bold action that not only makes a meaningful impact in the election, but also strengthens their long-term capacity for justice work.

### 2026 Good Trouble Congregations Criteria

This year, the Good Trouble recognition will be given to congregations that reach a certain number of goals in each of the 3 core areas.

- Voter Engagement
- Community Safety & Defense
- Community Building & Mobilizations

Learn more here and email Rev. Rodney ([rodney@mduuc.org](mailto:rodney@mduuc.org)) if you want to help lead this congregation into good trouble!!!



## JUSTICE SUNDAY - SAVE THE DATES

We welcome you to save these dates that we have planned for the year! Visit our website for immediate actions that you can take. Visit <https://mduuc.org/living-our-values/>

- **October 11, Your Vote, Your Voice.** Come share a meal with us and our partners from the League of Women Voters as we explore what voting means, why it matters, and how all of us, whatever our age, are part of the democratic story.
- **November 8, When the People We Love Say Harmful Things.** Pull up a chair for lunch and an honest, warm conversation about staying in relationship with family and community when bias shows up in the people closest to us. This one is for every generation in the room.
- **December 13, Appreciation or Appropriation?** Join us for lunch and dig into the difference between honoring a culture and taking from it, a timely conversation as holiday traditions swirl around us. Bring your questions and your whole self.
- **January 10, Breakfast Bags for Trinity.** Come roll up your sleeves and share a meal with us as we build breakfast bags together for our neighbors at Trinity. Good work, good food, and good company for all ages.
- **February 14, Colonialism Then and Now.** Join us for lunch and a multigenerational exploration of how colonialism still shapes the world we live in, and what it might actually look like to begin decolonizing our lives and communities together.
- **March 14, Turning Hard Feelings into Fuel.** Come eat with us and spend some time together naming the grief, anger, and fear that justice work stirs up, and practicing how to let those feelings move us forward rather than stop us. Embodied, real, and open to all ages.
- **April 11, Allies and Accomplices.** Join us for lunch and ask together across generations what it really means to show up for someone else's liberation without making it about ourselves. A conversation worth having at every age.
- **May 9, Black Liberation and UU Faith.** Come share a meal and explore together the history and theology of Black liberation, and why centering Black lives is not a detour from Unitarian Universalist faith but the very heart of it.
- **June 13, Kindness, Accountability, and Beloved Community.** Join us for lunch and a closing conversation about how care and accountability work together to build communities where everyone truly belongs. A good way to end the year together.

### Could You Help With Keeping The Community Pantry Well Stocked?

Bring new, unopened, unexpired donations in to the Bortin Kitchen to share with our community. Portable, ready-to-eat, shelf-stable, items that do not need a can opener, individual sized items are especially in need for those who may be experiencing homelessness.

*The food barrel located near the Children's Chapel is for the wider community, Contra Costa/Solano County Food Bank.*

## Our Peace Garden Is Ready For Plants!



Bruce Pennington our busy Grounds Chair, has been hard at work preparing our Peace Garden for the winter growing season and could use a few helping hands. The planter boxes have been refreshed, fitted with protective caging, and are ready for planting.

Bring your vegetable starts (we are hoping to plant spinach, lettuce, sweet peas, and more), work gloves, and find Bruce who is often there in the early evenings,. To access the Peace Garden, find the gravel driveway as you head up to Eckley Lane. It is located near the storage sheds, at the base of the hill. Limited parking is on-site but plenty off-street. If you'd like to coordinate a time to garden together, email [admin@mduuc.org](mailto:admin@mduuc.org) and we'll be happy to connect you with Bruce.

## Save The Date: Saturday, November 1 at 7PM Walnut Creek Jazz Band Fall Concert

The Walnut Creek Jazz Band has been bringing the big band sound to the East Bay for over 23 years. Come to enjoy live jazz in a wide variety of styles, vocal and instrumental, spanning all eras of jazz through the present day. More information will be available on their website, <https://walnutcreekjazzband.com/>

## MDUUC Could Be Your Spiritual Home!

Imagine a faith community where doubt is welcome, questions inspire curiosity, and Love embraces every person who enters. That is what MDUUC strives to be.

As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, MDUUC values exploration over conformity. People from many faith traditions, spiritual paths, and life experiences come together, believing that wisdom has many sources and that each journey enriches the whole.

Membership does not require specific beliefs; it asks for a commitment to community and social justice. Members can vote in congregational decisions, serve in leadership roles, and help shape the future of the church. Joining also affirms support for religious freedom and progressive values.

MDUUC lives its principles through action, providing sanctuary to immigrant families, supporting unhoused neighbors, and advocating for climate justice. Those interested in membership are invited to attend Membership Sunday on the first Sunday of each month, hear members' stories, and sign the congregation's historic membership book, in use since 1951.

## Ongoing Programming

*For the most accurate and up-to-date information on meeting times and dates, please refer to our calendar at <https://mduuc.org/mduuc-calendar/>. While the program descriptions provide a helpful overview of our ongoing offerings, the calendar is your go-to source for event locations, Zoom links, and registration details for events that require it. To stay informed about any changes or new opportunities, we also encourage you to join our mailing list.*

### Elder Journey

Elder Journey is a spirited conversation about life issues and the perspectives of older folks. Please join Rev. Leslie and the Elder Journey Community on Wednesdays from 10:30–11:30 a.m. The group meets weekly virtually and hybrid, in person at the Bortin Hall on the 2nd Wednesdays.

### Vespers

Vespers is a mid-week recharge for the spirit and a chance to connect to the community. This is a great place to check in with your spirit and some friendly community members.

### Ministers' Conversations

Our ministers' conversations Join via Zoom or in-person on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 7 p.m., of the month.

### Virtual Yoga

Mondays, online at 7:00 p.m. The session begins with gentle integrated yoga asanas and stretches, breath work exercises, relaxation techniques, and opportunities to set neural pathways for happiness that include laughter yoga. A 20-minute guided relaxation meditation follows. Email [yoga@mduuc.org](mailto:yoga@mduuc.org) to join the mailing list.

### Tuesday and Thursday Virtual Lunch Groups

A friendly drop in virtual group that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom.

### Saturday Mindfulness Meditation Group

Join us on most Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m., on campus in the Fireside room and online. Email [publications@mduuc.org](mailto:publications@mduuc.org) to be added to the group list.

### Sunday Virtual Meditation

Join Sharon Lawrence online on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email [yoga@mduuc.org](mailto:yoga@mduuc.org) to join the mailing list.

### MDUUC Choir

The MDUUC Choir is a chance to connect with others, deepen your faith, and be part of something truly special. Everyone is welcome to join, no auditions are required. Curious about Choir? Contact [choirsing@mduuc.org](mailto:choirsing@mduuc.org) \*See calendar for all choir events and updates. Join the choir group for reminders.

### MDUUC Bike Group

The MDUUC Bike Group holds occasional bike rides and all levels of ability are welcome. Contact Jim Hughell at [bike@mduuc.org](mailto:bike@mduuc.org) to join the list to receive and communicate plans.

### Black, Indigenous and People of Color Caucus

3rd Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room and on Zoom. Members and friends of MDUUC who identify as people of color are invited to join this gathering where we will create a sacred space of sharing and power. We meet monthly with alternating times—please email [leslie@mduuc.org](mailto:leslie@mduuc.org) to be apprised of our scheduled meeting times.

### Exploring Whiteness Together

4th Thursday starting September 24, from 7:00 p.m. on zoom. Members and friends who identify as white are invited to this gathering to create a sacred space where we can engage in what decentering whiteness means especially in a culture where whiteness is almost always the center. Through guided discussions and personal reflections, participants will explore their experiences with racism, learn about the impact of microaggressions and allyship, to develop actionable steps to become effective advocates for racial justice. Join us in this transformative journey to dismantle systemic racism and build a more inclusive community.

### Open Women's Group

The group will meet on October 1 at 10:30 a.m. The group will be hosting the League of Women Voters for a zoom presentation of the pros and cons of the propositions that will be on the California November ballot. All are welcome to attend. Open Women's Group meets online on the 1st Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Email [admin@mduuc.org](mailto:admin@mduuc.org) to be added to our mailing list.

### Wild and Wonderful Women's Spiritual Arts Group

2nd Wednesdays from 2–4 p.m. in the Owl room. MDUUC women to explore their spiritual lives through creative practices like writing, painting, movement, voice, ritual, and storytelling. Contact [wild-and-wonderful@mduuc.org](mailto:wild-and-wonderful@mduuc.org) with questions or to join the group!

### Men's Breakfast

2nd Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Owl Room or on Zoom. This is a group for those who are male-identified to gather for conversation and to share life experiences.

### YA, Young Adult Group at MDUUC

YA is comprised of adults ages 24–35. This group provides an opportunity for people to gather, meet and do fun things together.

### Xillennial Group (Ages 30s–40s)

This group provides opportunities to connect and gather. The group meets in the Owl Room on the 4th Sundays after Sunday Service. Please email [xillennial-leads@mduuc.org](mailto:xillennial-leads@mduuc.org) to join the list.

### Buildings and Grounds Work Party (\*weather permitting)

1st Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m.–noon. Join the group for a Fall Cleanup on beautify our campus while connecting with members and getting a few tasks done that cannot be done by one person alone! If you can, bring and share snacks to refuel! Contact [admin@mduuc.org](mailto:admin@mduuc.org) with questions.

### Wednesday Virtual 12 Step for UUs

Join virtually on Wednesdays at 12 p.m. as we share our experience, strength, and hope with one another. No matter what addiction you have, you are welcome to join us as we engage in recovery as Unitarian Universalists.

### Grief Group / Transitions Group

This monthly group meets from 11 a.m.–noon, online and in person at the Fireside Room, on select Saturdays. This is a drop-in group for those who have suffered a loss or for people undergoing life transitions to continue to gather support. This group works for people who are going through a change of relationship, retiring or other job status change, experiencing stress or those in the later stages of grief who are rebuilding and reassessing.

### Community Garden Group

Do you have interest in gardening but don't have a space of your own? Want to be involved in growing fresh food for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity? Any excess food grown will be part of the Faith Without Walls program. *Contact [garden@mduuc.org](mailto:garden@mduuc.org) to find out more.*

### Memory Matters Group

This friendly group is for those experiencing loss of memory or new difficulties with familiar tasks to come together to share in memory strengthening exercises, experiences and for support. Please email [sabbatical@mduuc.org](mailto:sabbatical@mduuc.org) to join the mailing list.

### Health and Hope Group

\*1st Saturdays at 4 p.m. Health and Hope is a group for people who have a difficult diagnosis. Please consider joining Rev. Leslie if you could use a space to talk about the challenges of living with a life-altering condition.

### Virtual Monthly Caregiver Support Group

Care-giving for a loved one can be challenging. Our drop-in virtual, monthly support group meets the 1st Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Parent Group

The Parent Group meets on the 1st Sundays from 12-1:30 pm. Childcare will be available.

### Parents and Toddlers Group

The Parents and Toddlers Group meets on the 3rd Sundays from 9–10:30 am. Childcare will be available.

### MSYG, Middle School Youth Group

MSYG meets on Sundays 12–1:30 pm.

### YRUU, High School Youth Group

YRUU meets on Sundays, from 12:00–1:30 p.m.

### Emerging Adults (Ages 18-24)

MDUUC's Emerging Adults supports each other as they navigate life transitions from post high school into adulthood. Whether it's a new skill, game night, or a delicious meal, the emerging adult group is the place to be!

## Dances of Universal Peace - 4th Sundays

Join us for an interfaith, multi-cultural, spiritual practice with singing, moving, prayers to promote inner peace. Led by SierraLynne & Bill Wentz with friends.

No partner or experience needed. All abilities are welcome!

### *Do You Have A Skill Or An Area Of Knowledge To Share?*

One of the joys of MDUUC is to learn about the many talents people can offer. Learning together is also a great way to connect with new people. If you have an idea for an adult class you would like to offer, email Rev. Leslie Takahashi at [leslie@mduuc.org](mailto:leslie@mduuc.org) and put "ADULT" in the email subject line.

### *Did You Know?*

MDUUC has a space for scattering the cremains of beloved companion animals in the Robert De Vight Legacy Garden. If you would like to have a minister participate in helping you with the scattering, please contact Rev. Leslie Takahashi.

#### 2026–2027 Board of Trustees

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## Recorded Meditations Available Online

Visit our website for virtual meditations

<https://mduuc.org/virtual-meditation/>

Listen on Soundcloud! Search for "MDUUC"

<https://soundcloud.com/search?q=mduuc>

Also available on Spotify! Search for "Mt. Diablo Unitarian  
Universalist Church" or "Beacon Light"

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4iQZnnkS3HIXBa94JRuMin>



### Follow Us on BlueSky!

With all the recent attention to the nefarious activities of some of our social media platforms, you might want to be reminded that MDUUC is on Bluesky. You can follow us at [@mduuc.bsky.social](https://mduuc.bsky.social) and Rev. Leslie Takahashi [@leslietakahashi.bsky.social](https://leslietakahashi.bsky.social).

## November Beacon Deadline

Wednesday, October 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Please send submissions to [publications@mduuc.org](mailto:publications@mduuc.org).

All submissions are subject to editing for space and approval.



Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church  
55 Eckley Lane  
Walnut Creek CA 94596

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### MDUUC Ministers and Staff

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Rev. Rodney Lemery, Associate Minister, [rodney@mduuc.org](mailto:rodney@mduuc.org)  
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Podcast on Spotify - Beacon Light

SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US FOR MDUUC'S LARGEST FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR

**BID-4-LOVE 2026 | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 5–8PM**

LIVE AUCTION | GALA EVENT | **We Need Your Donations To Make This Successful!**



We are celebrating MDUUC's 75th anniversary, honoring its history and looking forward at our biggest fundraiser of the year -" Diamond Jubilee - 75 and Still We Thrive!!"

This "sparkling" evening will be a festive and fun way to support this amazing community. There will be music, food and bidding on new as well as treasured auction items and events. The Craft Fair will be open for "Buy It, Take It" handmade items and homemade deliciousness. Look for the Bid4Love table on Sundays outside Bortin Hall for ideas on hosting events and check the [mduuc.org](https://www.mduuc.org) web page and push the pink Bid4Love 2026 button to find the donation form.

Expect an email confirmation of your submitted donation within 5 days. Please contact [bid4love@mduuc.org](mailto:bid4love@mduuc.org) if you do not receive one. *Many thanks to all of you who have already donated— We are grateful!*

TO DONATE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://MDUUC.ORG/BID4LOVE-2026](https://www.mduuc.org/bid4love-2026)