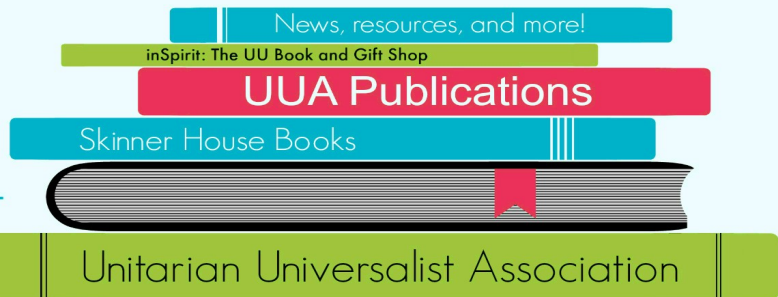


May Publications Update



[The Darkness Divine: A Loving Challenge to My Faith](#)

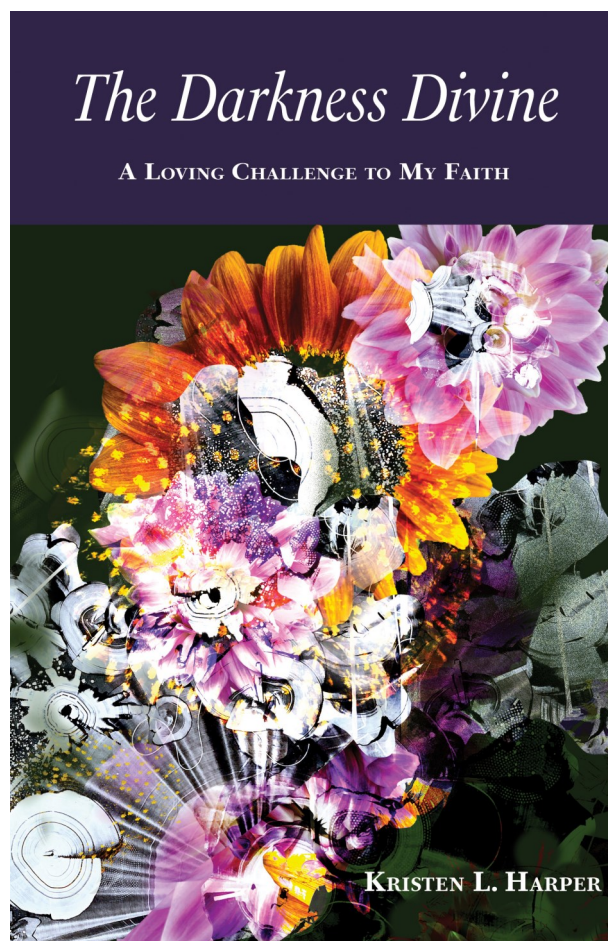
Too often in U.S. culture—and notably in faith communities—a culture of white supremacy is reinforced in damaging but unexamined ways. In *The Darkness Divine*, minister and poet Kristen L. Harper confronts and unpacks the language, imagery, buzzwords, and cultural touchstones that demean and dehumanize Black people but are so commonplace they can easily escape notice.

More importantly, in a brilliant arrangement of essays and poems in the vein of Claudia Rankine, Harper lifts up the strength, beauty, and resilience of Black people and outlines a path forward. She invites readers to explore what they have learned and assimilated so they might de-center whiteness and stretch their understanding and imagination to radically transform perceptions of blackness.

While directed at her own Unitarian Universalist tradition, *The Darkness Divine* is a powerful and loving challenge to all those committed to the work of dismantling white supremacy.

Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper is the minister of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, Massachusetts, where she has served for 18 years. Rev. Harper previously served in Ormond Beach, Florida. She received her D.Min from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1999, and was only the second Black woman to be called to a Unitarian Universalist Congregation as sole minister. She has contributed to [Voices from the Margins: An Anthology of Meditations](#) and [Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry](#).

Now available
to [pre-order!](#)



News, resources, and more
from UUA Publications

For more information visit uua.org/publications.
All products are available at inSpirit: The UU
Book and Gift Shop at uua.org/bookstore

New from Skinner House

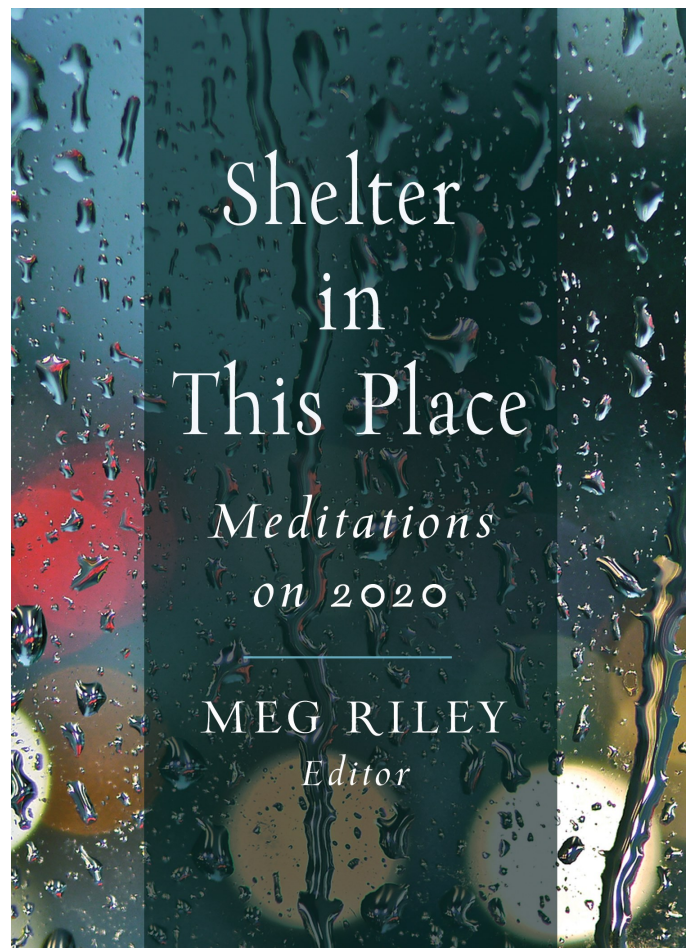
[Shelter in This Place: Meditations on 2020](#)

2020 was a year unlike any other. A year of masks and marches. A tale of two pandemics, COVID-19 and the deep-rooted pandemic of white supremacy and structural racism. *Shelter in This Place*, the 2021 volume of the inSpirit Series, is an anthology of poems, prayers, and reflections from Unitarian Universalists about their experiences of 2020—offered as a testament to our collective grit and grief, rage and resistance, love and loneliness.

With readings that come from a variety of perspectives, identities, and geographies, and were written throughout the long year, *Shelter in This Place* captures the complex reality of 2020. Editor Meg Riley writes in her introduction, “My deep hope is that this collection of writings allows each one of us to know that, even in the separateness of our masked and socially distanced grief, we are not mourning alone.” And yet despite the grief and loss collected in these pages, the writers describe resilience and joy too. They take solace in the birth of ducklings and the unfurling of new leaves. They persevere. May this book contain words that heal, comfort, and inspire you in the days ahead.

Rev. Meg Riley, a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, was raised in congregations in Charleston, West Virginia, and Akron, Ohio. After serving for 38 years as a religious professional in a variety of capacities, Rev. Riley retired in the summer of 2020. She now serves, with Charles DuMond, as co-moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She lives in Minneapolis, nestled in with her family, animals, gardens, deep friendships, and a vibrant activist community. She is also the editor of [Testimony: The Transformative Power of Unitarian Universalism](#).

Now available
to [pre-order!](#)



News, resources, and more
from UUA Publications

For more information visit uua.org/publications.
All products are available at inSpirit: The UU
Book and Gift Shop at uua.org/bookstore

Announcements and Resources

Mental Health Month Resources

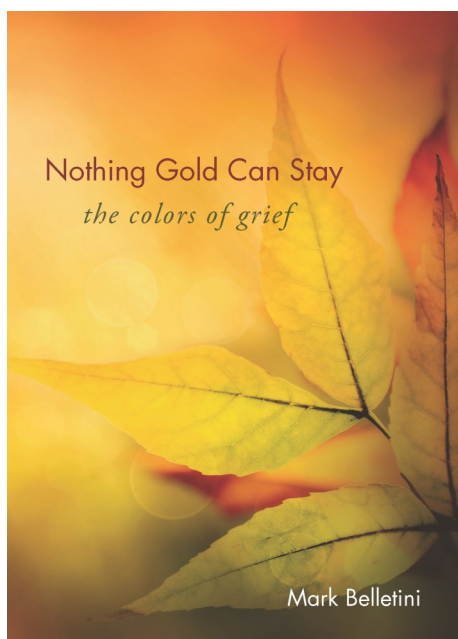
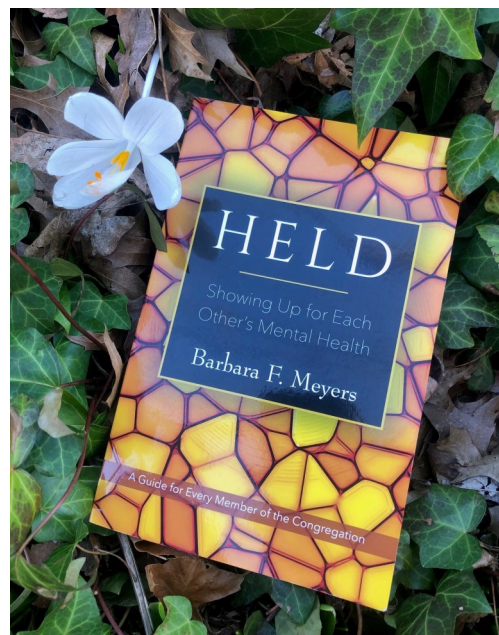
May is Mental Health Month and we recommend the following books about mental health and recovery:

[*Held: Showing Up for Each Other's Mental Health*](#) by Rev. Barbara F. Meyers—Mental health advocate Rev. Meyers illustrates how members of liberal religious congregations can be supportive to those living with mental health problems.

[*Stubborn Grace: Faith, Mental Illness, and Demanding a Blessing*](#) by Rev. Kate Landis—With unflinching honesty and humor, Rev. Landis chronicles the hardest parts of her young adulthood as well as her poignant journey to faith and community.

[*This Day in Recovery: 365 Meditations*](#), edited by Rev. Lane Campbell and Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris—Offers a short, daily experience to help bring readers back to their spiritual center in the daily moments of struggle and questioning.

[*Twelve-Step Unitarian Universalists: Essays on Recovery*](#), edited by Ken and Cathlean—Unitarian Universalist writers reflect on their experiences in Twelve-Step programs.



May's Goodreads [Book Club](#) Pick

May's group read is [*Nothing Gold Can Stay: The Colors of Grief*](#) by Rev. Mark Belletini. In twenty-two simple yet profound reflections, minister Mark Belletini explores the many and varied forms of grief. His honest, poetic essays serve as a prism, revealing the distinct colors and manifestations of grief in our lives. He addresses the way we respond to loss of people in our lives, loss of love, loss of focus, and loss of the familiar—understanding that grief is as much a part of our lives as our breathing. Belletini uses specific and personal stories to open up to the universal experience. *Nothing Gold Can Stay* is a gift of awareness, showing how the shades of grief serve our deepest needs.



News, resources, and more
from UUA Publications

For more information visit uua.org/publications.
All products are available at inSpirit: The UU
Book and Gift Shop at uua.org/bookstore