



Dear Envoy,

October is right around the corner and many of you are getting ready for UN Sunday! Below in the section on UN Sunday I have listed those congregations whose UN Sunday dates I know. (If your congregation is not on my list yet but you have a service or event scheduled, please let me know.) While this annual event of course offers us the chance to dedicate a worship service to focusing on the UN and that year's theme (2021-22: "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability"), it shouldn't stop with just a worship service. The issues at stake with this theme are vast, and there are many ways for congregations to be involved.

Many congregations are already actively engaged in some climate, environmental, or sustainability action - some are even certified as Green Sanctuaries! This year's suggested UN Sunday action has to do with supporting sustained involvement in these efforts throughout the congregation. We have ideas for how to act for food equity and sustainability as part of the Green Sanctuary 2030 program. [Learn more here](#) and reach out if you have questions or ideas!

[Here are the minutes](#) from the September Envoy meetings. Our next monthly Envoy meeting will be October 19. [Please RSVP here](#).

In faith, love, hope, and justice,



*Allison Hess*  
International Engagement Associate

Email Allison



## FOR YOUR CONGREGATION'S NEWSLETTER

*A monthly message from the UUA Office at the United Nations.*

In September the United Nations kicked off the 76th Session of its General Assembly, when world leaders traditionally converge in New York City for high-level diplomatic sessions. After a virtual-only GA in 2020, this year many Heads of State travelled again to New York to address the General Assembly, while others submitted a pre-recorded video. Amid calls for vaccine equity and pleas for more collaboration on pandemic relief, a lot of focus at this year's General Assembly and surrounding summits has been looming climate catastrophe. COP26, the UN Climate Summit, is swiftly approaching in November, alongside escalating warnings from scientists and frontline communities that current commitments to address climate change are wildly insufficient. That summit will be a chance for countries to revise their Paris Agreement climate commitments, which must be done quickly! To help Unitarian Universalists gear up for the summit and connect with local climate initiatives, the UUA Office at the UN and UU Ministry for Earth are jointly offering a 2-part workshop series in October. Part 1 on October 6 will focus on strengthening local climate commitments in light of the recent "Code Red" report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Part 2 on October 28 will focus on priorities and positions to look out for at COP26 and what actions we can take. [Learn more and register now!](#)

### EVENTS

*A look behind, a look ahead*

*All events are virtual. Click Calendar below to view details about any of these events.*

**September:** 2022 Seminar Planning Committee convenes

**September 6:** UUA offices closed for Labor Day

**September 21:** International Day of Peace

**September 21:** September Envoy Conference Call

**October 6:** "Strengthening Local Climate Commitments: Take Action for Global Impact"  
Panel hosted by UUMFE and UU@UN

**October 16:** World Food Day

**October 19:** October Envoy Conference Call

**October 24:** United Nations Day (and United Nations Sunday!)

**October 28:** "Preparing for the COP: Your Actions and the UN Climate Summit" Panel  
hosted by UUMFE and UU@UN

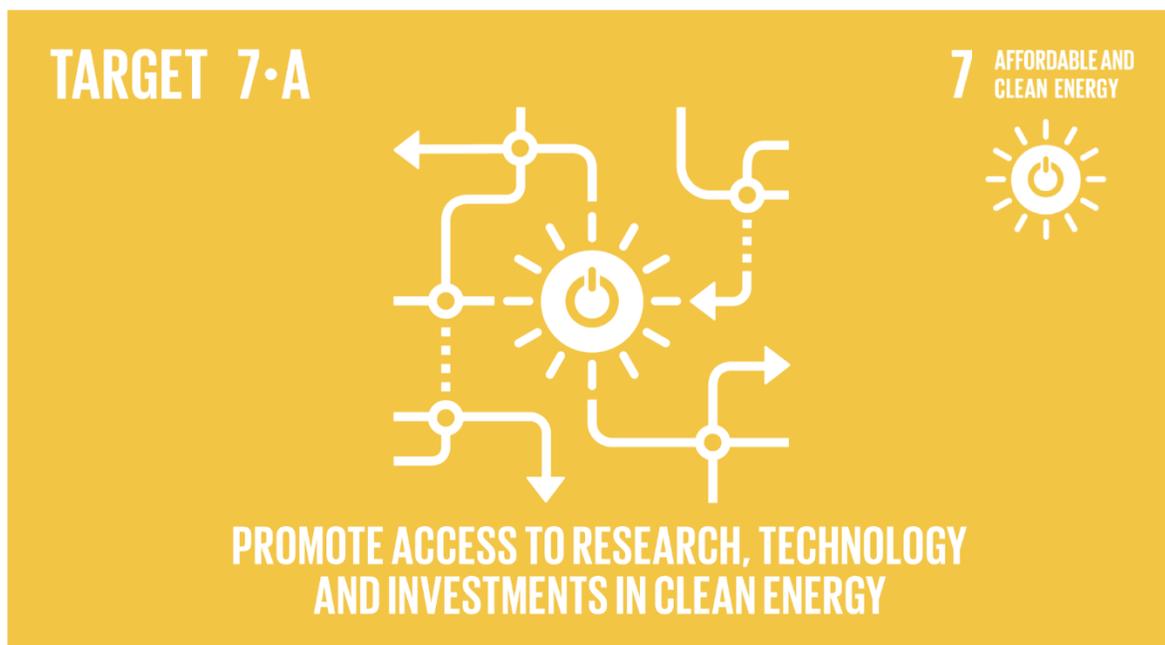
**December 10:** Human Rights Day

## TIME TO ACT

The following "Time to Act" suggestions for August 2021 will be related to the [Seven Sustainable Development Goal: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all](#) - focusing on target 7.4 (*By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology*)

With the landmark UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, coming up in November, now is a key time to amp up the pressure on our countries' leaders to take bold climate action. Wealthy nations must follow through on their promise in the Paris Agreement to fully fund developing nations' transition to renewable energy and sustainability through the Green Climate Fund.

This October, the UU@UN and UU Ministry for Earth are jointly hosting a 2-part series to help Unitarian Universalists engage with this work! [Join the session on October 6](#) to learn about how to take action to strengthen local climate commitments for global impact. [Join on October 28](#) for a Model-UN-style session to learn about what to expect from COP26 and how Unitarian Universalists can be involved.



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## UNITED NATIONS SUNDAY

### *Resources available for worship, RE, and taking action*

This year's UN Sunday theme is "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability." If you haven't yet, click below to check out the UN Sunday resources, which include materials for planning a service and related congregational action along this theme. Below is a list of the congregations I know of that have a UN Sunday service or event scheduled (and if either Bruce or I will be making a virtual appearance):

**October 3:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, NY (Bruce)

**October 17:** Kingston Unitarian Fellowship, ON (Bruce)

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale, CA (Bruce)

First Unitarian Church of Staten Island, NY (Allison)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY (Allison)

**October 24:** Unitarian Society of Germantown, PA (Bruce)

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Watertown, NY (Allison)

Chalice UU Fellowship of the Conejo Valley, CA (Allison)

San Marcos Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, TX

Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, CA

**October 31:** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau, NY (Bruce)

If your congregation's service is scheduled but it's not on my list, please send a note so that I can add it! (Apologies if you already let me know and I've lost track.)

UN Sunday Resources

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**FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLOG**

Find more at [www.UUA.org/international/blog](http://www.UUA.org/international/blog)



## Global Complexity and Urgency

*By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director*

We are living in extraordinarily complex times that demand urgent and unified action. At the UN General Assembly this week, UN Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the twin global challenges of climate change and the COVID pandemic. He emphasized that we need global cooperation to deal with these global issues.....

[Read the post](#)



## Recovering from COVID's Second Wave in India

*By UU Holdeen India Program*

India is now emerging from Covid's devastating second wave. After months of frantic searches for oxygen and overflowing hospitals, infections are declining. But the trauma of so much loss still cuts deep. Every family was touched in some way by the crisis. As we learn more of what happened on the.....

[Read the post](#)



## A Call for Inclusion and Sovereignty at the UN Food Systems Summit

*By Allison Hess, International Engagement Associate*

In a few days, the UN will convene people virtually from around the world for a Food Systems Summit aimed at transforming food systems globally to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2015, the UN set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable.....

[Read the post](#)

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## NEWS: UNITED NATIONS

*Keep yourself and your congregation informed about important news coming from the UN*

**Covid & Inequality** - The ongoing [COVID-19 crisis](#) has caused and perpetuated “truly shocking” [inequality](#) that has affected the world’s most vulnerable individuals, UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet told the UN Human Rights Council, in a call for greater coronavirus vaccine solidarity and a human rights-led post-pandemic economic recovery. The High Commissioner for Human Rights maintained that the inability of countries to uphold fundamental liberties - such as justice, quality education, decent housing and decent work - had “undermined the resilience of people and States.”

**Climate crisis** - The UN chief told the Security Council that no region is immune to climate disasters, warning that “[our window of opportunity](#)” to prevent the worst climate impacts is “[rapidly closing](#).” Drawing attention to the “deeply alarming” report of the IPCC last month, Secretary-General António Guterres spelled out that “much bolder climate action is needed” to maintain international peace and security. He urged the G20 industrialized nations to step up and drive action before the UN Climate Conference in early November.

**Profile: Indigenous activist** - For almost 30 years, Brazilian activist Joenia Wapixana, has been [fighting for indigenous land rights and against “institutionalized discrimination” in Brazil](#). In a special interview with UN News, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, she says it’s time to dedicate more resources to this fight. (The Durban Declaration was adopted in 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.)

**Abuse in DRC by WHO** - [Sexual abuse and exploitation allegedly carried out by World Health Organization \(WHO\) staff](#) during the UN health agency’s response to an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is “a sickening betrayal of the people we serve,” Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said on Tuesday. An independent panel commissioned by the WHO identified more than 80 alleged cases of abuse during the outbreak, including allegations implicating 20 WHO staff members.

[More UN News](#)



Office at the  
United Nations



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