

TJMC Partner Churches Day at Ten Thousand Villages Sunday, December 6, 1-5pm

Did you know that outside of North America the largest populations of Unitarians in the world are in the Transylvania area of Romania and the Khasi Hills of North-east India? Did you know our congregation has partner churches in both of these regions?

As part of our Unitarian Universalist purpose of promoting equity and ending oppression, we engage in cultural exchange and provide financial support for our partners. The minister of our Partner Church in Oltheviz, Romania, Rev. Istvan Torok, visited our church not too many years ago with his wife Melinda and Daughter Karola. Our children in Religious Education wrote letters to the children in our partner church in Khasi, India last year. However, interaction with our partners is infrequent and challenging because of their remote locations.

In the past, several church members visited our Partner Churches. They brought gifts from our church and came home with gifts from their hosts and described the experience as life-changing.

On Sunday, December 6 from 1-5 pm, Ten Thousand Villages shop in downtown Charlottesville is offering us an opportunity to raise funds to support our partner churches by participating in their first Community Shopping Event of the season.

It is a very pleasant event. 10,000 Villages will donate 15% of net sales for the day to us.

We will set up a display of some of the beautiful items that we have received over the years from our partner churches, provide cookies, wrap gifts for shoppers and tell people about our cause. Last year lots of UU's and friends came to visit, shop and drink delicious coffee provided at the shop.

We can use your help. If you can staff our area for one hour, two or all four hours, please contact Margaret Gorman through Leia Durland-Jones at the church. And please come shopping and bring your friends.