

## **Volunteer(s) of the Year Award 2021: Alix McKee and Ken Winterberger**

The Volunteer(s) of the Year Award is designed to recognize individuals or groups who have gone above and beyond in support of AUUF. This year's recipients certainly fit that criteria, especially since, in this case, "this year" seems to have started in March 2020 when we suddenly switched to meeting over this new and emerging thing called Zoom. Thanks to the tireless efforts, expertise and calm guidance of Alix McKee and Ken Winterberger, we didn't miss a beat. And so, it is with deepest gratitude and appreciation that we honor them with this year's award. (Previous recipients of this award include Bruce Roberts, Denise Martin, Kalen Saxton, the Project Oversight Team, Carma Reed and The Ministerial Search Committee.)

It seems impossible to overstate the contributions Alix and Ken have made these last 20 months. Together they've worked tirelessly to keep us connected, engaged, informed and able to carry out the work of the Fellowship. And they've done this all (often alone) with reassuring good cheer. Those who've worked closely with them describe Alix and Ken as absolutely instrumental in making The Forum and Worship services possible. They've researched, learned and tinkered with new and emerging technology and then used that knowledge to gently coach staff, hosts and guest presenters. They've quickly and effectively responded to security concerns, figured out how to maximize Zoom's myriad features and consulted with those outside the Fellowship on legal and practical implications for streaming our events. They've put presenters at ease and calmly and expertly guided the less-experienced. They've recorded, edited and published podcasts, actively recruited and trained volunteers and offered valuable input to the team overseeing the sanctuary renovations. In short, they've done all things audio-visual for all of us, and we're honored to recognize them with this small token of our appreciation.