



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



April 2011

A Month of Sundays

Sunday Services at 11:00 AM, 1127 Old Fallston Road, Fallston, MD (410-877-3773)

Apr 3 "Imagination & Rejection" – Bill Feiss

Is there room in your spiritual practices for imagination, or does the preservation of tradition tend to reject the new and different? We will examine the natural skepticism of the new and different as it relates to our church.

Apr 10 "Sojourn" – Rev. Lyn Cox

As we approach the spring freedom holidays of Passover and Easter, we consider the role of the sojourner, otherwise known as the stranger. Celebrations of this season call us to remember when we were strangers, and to care for those on the journey.

Apr 17 "This is Your Brain on God" – Rev. Mark Hoelter

I learned how to wiggle my ears while reciting the "Apostles Creed" in a church service. It might be related to contacting God. I'll explain as we explore some of the neuroscience connected to the God (or the "God-ing") experience, and perhaps reach to the "Emptiness" or "Nothingness" beyond God. Sounds heady. I'll do my best to make it both visceral and spiritual in this second in my series of "How to (Not) Think About God."

Apr 24 "Second Chances" – Rev. Lyn Cox

Reconciliation is a thing of beauty, although getting there can be messy. On large scales and small, whether brokenness comes from malice or misunderstanding, it takes courage to leave room for grace.

May 1 Union Sunday at First Unitarian Church in Baltimore (Lay led service at UUF)

The first Sunday in May members of UU churches in the area join together at the Baltimore church for a Union Service. We encourage members of our congregation to attend this service, meet fellow UUs and see this historic church. The First Unitarian Church of Baltimore is where William Ellery Channing spoke on May 5, 1819 at the ordination of their first minister Harford County native Jared Sparks. On that occasion, his groundbreaking sermon "Unitarian Christianity" affirmed the use of reason in the interpretation of scripture and the unity of God. Directions and parking information for this 11am service are at the website: <http://www.firstunitarian.net/>

Our Happenings

Apr 13 Homeless Shelter Support: Contact Paul or Maureen North for volunteer opportunities. See Sunday information below on current volunteer needs.

Apr 17 Board of Trustees Meeting – 9:45am: All are welcome to attend. Sunday

Apr 17 Soulful Sundown: “And the Light Was Good”– 6pm: A Celebration of Creation, Rebirth and Sunday Spring. The focus will be on sacred texts of various traditions and what they have to say about Creation, Rebirth and/or Spring. The music and all forms of artistic expression are welcome to support the theme.

Apr 21 Easter Egg Hunt - after service: Please have children bring a basket to collect eggs. Rain or Shine. Sunday

News You Can Use

ANNUAL PLEDGE PACKET MAILED

The annual pledge packet was recently mailed with the Proposed Budget for 2011-2012. An email version will be sent as well so that you can email your pledge instead of using the paper form. We need everyone's support. As we develop plans to advance our vision and goals, it is important that we establish a sound financial foundation for our future growth.

Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Thank you to our youth for the refreshments they provided for the March 26 Open Mike. The proceeds earned from the snacks will be donated to the Circle of Hope.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - School Supplies

School Supplies are needed, it's not too late to donate! See the collection box in front of the meeting room.

"Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Outreach

CIRCLE OF HOPE

• Neighbors in Need

We had two calls for help in March. They were similar in that they both came from women in financial need, but their circumstances were very different. One young woman had lost her job and gotten behind in her rent. An eviction notice was posted on her door. After she asked her family and friends for help, she had no idea what to

do for the remainder of the needed money until she went to the landlord's office. The clerk suggested she start calling churches, which she did – a new experience for her.

The second call came from an older lady who was homeless. She had managed to save enough for a month's rent on a small apartment. She felt confident that she would be able to pay future rent on a monthly basis but she needed assistance in getting the required deposit.

It was good that we were able to help both of these women by sending checks to the landlords.

• **Sharing Table**

The 2011 dates for the Sharing Table are as follows: July 9; October 1; and November 12. The reason we have two months in a row is because we could not do the January 1st date that was assigned to us and we only had one other option to choose from.

• **Welcome One Homeless Shelter**

The Homeless Shelter in Riverside is always looking for overnight and breakfast help on the 13th and morning of the 14th of every month. If anyone is interested please contact Maureen North at mnorth@ccps.org.

Minister's Column

MINISTER'S COLUMN – REVEREND LYN COX

It might seem, on the surface, that our sixth UU principle is redundant: “the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” We’ve discussed “justice, equity, and compassion,” and we’ll cover “the interdependent web of all existence” next month. Yet current events remind us of our human kinship, reaching across borders and cultures, beyond what we might think of when we consider compassion or the web of life. From the coffee many of us drink to the fuel that gets us where we need to go, we affect and are affected by the conditions of peace and liberty all over the world.

In the elementary class this month, the children are exploring a variety of perspectives to inspire them to “work for a peaceful world.” It’s a big topic, so they are taking it in small samples. The shared heritage of all life on earth, Biblical tales of justice, and stories of friendship and trust are all avenues for peace.

I am curious about your perspectives on peace and world community. What reminds you of your connections with people all over the planet? How do you cultivate peace in your personal life and beyond?

At UUF, the way people treat one another is a form of peacemaking. When we trust one another enough to speak kindly and directly (“speak the truth in love,” as they say), our actions create ripples of peace. When we choose to channel our talents as a form of blessing, we make good use of liberty. Practicing justice makes room for all of us to share our gifts, be they large or small, hidden or obvious.

May this spring find you with new discoveries of your gifts and ways to cultivate them at UUF.

