



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



November 2011

A Month of Sundays

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

Nov 6 "Story and Spirit" – Dan Layman-Kennedy

Human beings love telling stories about ourselves; the way we connect with our lives, our history, and our spiritual traditions is by organizing them into the structure of story. Dan Layman-Kennedy examines the role narrative plays in our lives with an exploration of what it means to be the storytelling animal.

Nov 13 "Sharing" – Rev. Lyn Cox

As Unitarian Universalists, we cultivate awareness of connections. When we volunteer, when we break bread together, and when we invite others to join us in joy and sorrow, our sharing is a recognition of interdependence.

Nov 20 "Abundance" – Rev. Lyn Cox

Each one of us has a unique set of gifts. That set may include perseverance, attention to detail, or a capacity to love unconditionally. That set may involve music or math or medical care giving. Part of our shared spiritual life is to encourage each other to develop our gifts, and to give each other opportunities to share them.

Note: November 20 is Stone Soup Sunday! Keep an eye out for announcements about how you can participate in this traditional feast.

Nov 27 "Reaching Down Into Courage" - Rev. Mark Hoelter

Reflecting on the sufferings of friends, I wondered, "What does it mean?" I discovered that is the wrong question. And the right question is ... I'll tell you.

Dec 4 "The Myth of the Post-Racial Society: Why Race Still Matters" – Cheri Wilson

Program based on the work of Tim Wise, see: <http://www.timwise.org>. Video clips will be interspersed with Q&A and discussion.

◆◆◆◆ FRIDGE CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE MEMBERSHIP TABLE ◆◆◆◆

Our Happenings

Nov 12 Sharing Table – 10am-1pm: We will host the Sharing Table in Edgewood on Saturday October 1st. Saturday More details below under Outreach. **We need volunteers, please sign up at the bulletin board or contact Maureen North at mnorth417@gmail.com if you can help.**

Nov 13 Board of Trustees Meeting – 9:45am: All are welcome to attend. Sunday

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

Winter Weather Is Ahead!

UUF SNOW POLICY

It's Sunday morning and it's snowing. What to do?

If it's after 9:30am and you wonder if the church service has been cancelled.

1. Check your e-mail. A message from the church office will be issued, or
2. Call the church (#410-877-3773) and listen to the recording. (It will be changed by 9:30am if there is a closing due to snow.)
3. For anyone who just shows up at the church, there will be a notice posted on the door.

The condition of the parking lot is the key to making a decision to close. It is too expensive to keep clearing the parking lot if it is snowing. So if the snow has stopped and the contractor has time to clear our lot by 10:30am or if the snow is insignificant, we will have a service as usual. Ice can be a hazard as well and may affect the closing decision.

Membership

"Ours is a Caring Community"

Help us be the caring community we want to be; let us know if you or someone among us needs our support.

Helen Mann khcries@comcast.net; Susan Mannion suenfrnk@verizon.net;

Charlene Phillips charlene_phillips@usa.net; Cheri Wilson cwillson366@comcast.net

Outreach

CIRCLE OF HOPE

If you would like to contribute to our community outreach programs, a check to UUs of Fallston noting it's for the Circle of Hope may be placed in the collection plate or mailed to the church at P. O. Box 258, Fallston, MD 21047-0258.

• Neighbors in Need

Three families turned to us for financial help because they received eviction notices in October. In one case the single father was injured this past summer and can no longer work. The doctor is helping him apply for disability payments because of the severity of the injury.

The other two families are headed by single mothers. One, who is the sole support of three children, has just recently begun to receive disability payments. The other is the mother of two small children. She lost her Section 8 housing assistance for three months because she says the bank was slow in providing the paperwork necessary for her recertification with HUD. This resulted in her receiving a large bill for the delinquent amount HUD would have usually paid in that period. (It has now recertified her eligibility but it does not retroactively cover that three-month period.)

We are glad to be able to assist these people to keep a roof over their heads.

• Sharing Table

We will host the Sharing Table in Edgewood on Saturday November 12th. We start the day around 10am

and are finished by no later than 1pm. Meals are served at: Prince of Peace Church, 2206 Willoughby Beach Rd, Edgewood, MD 21040. It's a fun experience and everyone is invited to join us.

• **Welcome One Homeless Shelter**

As we do each month, we made a donation to cover the supplies used on the 13th at the Homeless Shelter when UUs prepare and serve meals. The Homeless Shelter in Riverside is always looking for overnight volunteers on the 13th and breakfast help the morning of the 14th of every month. If anyone is interested please contact Maureen North at mnorth417@gmail.com.

charlene_phillips@usa.net; and Cheri Wilson cwillson366@comcast.net

Minister and Co-President's Columns

MINISTER'S COLUMN – REVEREND LYN COX

I played softball for two summers in elementary school. The first year, I somehow got swept into a team with a bunch of kids who were really good at the sport, kids who hoped for a future in high school and college sports. I was not one of those kids. Although baseball and softball are important in my extended family, I had never bothered to pay attention to decent throwing technique or analyzing the pitch on its way to me. We won a lot of games, but mostly I remember getting minor injuries and feeling like I didn't have anything to offer.

The second year, I played on a team in my neighborhood with kids who just wanted to have fun. I loved being in center field, yelling encouragement to my teammates that could be heard behind home plate. Figuring out what positive things to yell also helped me remember what to do in the field and at bat. We won sometimes. If I had it to do over again, I would pick the second team every time. I would much rather have something asked of me, to develop a new skill in an atmosphere of encouragement, than to sit on a box of success, holding the lid down. The thrill of challenge and the joy of companionship are multiplied in sharing.

This year in Fallston, we're exploring what it means to live as Unitarian Universalists. We spent time last month listening to the voices of history and heritage. Next month, we'll explore what it means to live as UUs in multifaith families and a pluralistic world. Our theme for November is listening to our own open, generous hearts.

What gifts would you like to develop through your participation in UUF? Perhaps you have always wanted to play live music, or to read your own poetry out loud. Maybe you need a place where you can learn to slow down and to be mindful of the moment. It could be that you've been meaning to try out 52 difference recipes for cookies, and you need a willing audience to test your experiments each week. There is a whole universe of possibility ahead, and a group of encouraging people ready to support your journey. Let's play.

Peace,



BOARD CO-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – PAUL AND MAUREEN NORTH

We would like to thank our committee coordinators for sharing their committees' goals and ideas at our congregational meeting, which was held on Sunday October 30. With the help and support of the congregation, we feel confident many of those goals can be achieved this year through the work of the committees.

We plan to invite each of the committee coordinators to participate in one or more of the Board meetings this year to help foster a greater degree of support and information sharing between the Board and the congregation as a whole.

Based on an earlier suggestion from the congregation, which was to more openly share church financial information, we are including a graph that shows planned vs. actual pledge contributions to date. Please feel free to send us any comments regarding this information or any other ideas you may have.

Our next Sharing Table event is scheduled at the Prince of Peace Church starting at 10:00 on November 12. As always, we need your support as a volunteer to make this endeavor a success.

Respectfully,

Paul & Maureen North
Co-Presidents