



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston



You Are Welcome Here!

September 2009

A Month of Sundays

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sep 6 No Service – Labor Day Weekend

Sep 13 “Gather the Spirit” – Rev. Lyn Cox

Come one, come all, to this celebration for all ages! Water Communion is a Unitarian Universalist ritual that celebrates both our unity and our diversity. Every person brings a unique stream to the river of our shared life in the congregation. You are welcome to bring water (about a quarter of a cup) from a place that is important to you. In case bringing water from that place is impractical, we will have a pitcher of symbolic water from which everyone may draw. Each person or family sharing water may say (briefly) where the water is from and one thing that is special about that place. In addition to the water ceremony, the service will include a story, movement meditation, and music for all ages. Children, youth, and adults will attend this service as a whole community.

Sep 20 “Who You Really Are” – Rev. Mark Hoelter

Have you figured out who you want to be when you grow up? Not "what" but "who?" One way to express what our Sunday mornings are all about is: discovering and then reminding ourselves who we really are.

Sep 27 “Kindle One Flame” – Rev. Lyn Cox

What lights you up? Each one of us is ignited by a unique set of passions. By gathering together, we can illuminate new perspectives for each other. The shared fire of community is a place where mythic stories are told, where warmth and nourishment abound, and where we have enough energy to accomplish great purposes together.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sep 27 Youth Meeting with Rev. Lyn Following the Sunday Service

Youth in sixth grade and up are invited to meet with Rev. Lyn Cox after the service on September 27. Parents are welcome. We'll discuss the goals that youth have for their involvement at UUF. We hope to finish the meeting with ideas for social and service activities that interest the youth. The meeting on the 27th will be an opportunity for Rev. Lyn and the youth to get acquainted and for the youth to ask questions about UU activities beyond the congregation. Families with youth in 6th-12th grade are asked to e-mail minister@uufallston.org to say whether or not they will attend.

It All Happens Here

Sep 12 Drum for Peace – 7pm: All ages are welcome to the drumming circle and extra **Saturday** drums and other instruments are usually available for general use.

Sep 12 Board of Trustees Meeting – 1:30pm: All are welcome to attend. **Saturday**

Sep 13 Homeless Shelter Support: See volunteer opportunities below. **Sunday**

Sep 19 UUF Singles Group – To Be Announced: Contact Gail Drew at 410-836-1234 **Saturday**

Oct 9-10 October Mini Retreat - Save the Dates!

Fri -Sat Save the dates for the “Creative Circle Mini-Retreat.” On Friday evening, October 9, and Saturday, October 10, we will meet at UUF to explore the spirituality of creativity and the importance of each person’s participation in the art of community. Adults as well as youth in sixth grade and up are welcome. Look for a sign-up sheet in the foyer soon.

Religious Education Update

The Religious Education Committee is excited about the return of the UUF kids to our program. We have Jesse returning to teach the Intermediate/Middle School classes, and Kate to teach the Primary classes. Cameron and Claire will be taking over the preschool classes under the guidance of the RE Committee. We are happy to have three classes so as to better serve the needs of our diverse age groups of children.

The initial service on September 13th will be an Intergenerational Service. Reverend Lyn Cox will be leading a Water Communion for all Ages. Families are encouraged to bring approximately 1/4 cup of water from a place that is important to them and their children (or water symbolic of that place). There will be time in the service for everyone to commingle their water and speak briefly about the significance to them of the place it represents.

Following are some web links to give you information about the UU Water Communion ritual. Parents are encouraged to prepare your children by talking about this important UU ritual before our intergenerational service on Sept. 13th. <http://www.uua.org/visitors/worship/holidays/index.shtml> and <http://tinyurl.com/wtrcom>

The RE Committee is delighted that we now have Reverend Cox serving our community. She comes to us with terrific background in working with youth and RE programs. Youth in sixth grade and up are invited to meet with Rev. Cox after the service on September 27. Parents are welcome. She will engage the youth in dialogue about the goals that they have for their involvement at UUF. We hope to finish the meeting with ideas for social and service activities that interest the youth. The meeting on the 27th will be an opportunity for Rev. Lyn and the youth to get acquainted and for the youth to ask questions about UU activities beyond the congregation. Families with youth in 6th-12th grade are asked to e-mail minister@uufallston.org to say whether or not they will attend.

April Fritts, the DRE at the Churchville congregation, asked if any UUF 8th- or 9th-graders would be interested in Our Whole Lives (OWL) program which will be offered at UUFHC. April thinks they will probably offer their class on Friday evenings, but isn't yet sure about the schedule. OWL is an excellent program, and I hope that families with eligible youth will consider it. Interested parents may contact April directly at 410-734-7122 or office@uufhc.net.

News You Can Use

HOMELESS SHELTER SUPPORT

We partner with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County to support the Harford County Welcome One Homeless Shelter on the 13th of every month. Volunteers are needed for various jobs at the shelter. Please contact Alisa Kazmierczak at amdkaz@gmail.com if you can help:

- ♦ Volunteers needed for Sunday September 13: 1 person - evening support; 2 people - breakfast (14th).

COFFEE HOUR - FROM THE HOSPITALITY CZAR:

Cheri's plate is overflowing, so I said I would step in and take over temporarily. Just wanted to let you know of some changes to our coffee hour sign up this year so that you can start planning. I will be posting a sign up sheet soon. It will be located on the cork-board in the kitchen. There will be several spaces after each date. If you want to be responsible for ALL of the coffee hour, sign your name big over the spaces. If you are intimidated by the concept of providing everything for the coffee hour, just sign your name and what you would like to bring in ONE space (for example: Elliott: cheese and crackers, Smith: fruit or veggies, or Phillips: baked goods.) Then others can sign up with you for that date and it will be a shared responsibility (along with brewing the coffee and staying for clean up.)

We are trying this system out to make coffee hour easier on folks. It has become somewhat difficult to get people to sign up some weeks and I feel this is because people get overwhelmed at the thought of providing a spread all by themselves.

One other change: if no one signs up, we will not have refreshments that week. (Coffee and tea will always be made available.) Our congregation has always loved and appreciated coffee hour and have thought of it as a vital part of our church experience. Let's all do our part to keep it alive.

Thanks for your cooperation,

Alison Elliott

PARKING LOT EXPANSION

FINALLY! The paving of our parking lot extension is complete in time for the beginning of our regular service schedule. We are working on getting repair and a seal coating of the old section of the lot and striping of the parking spaces.

Did You Know

CIRCLE OF HOPE

The family that turned to us for help this month received a cut-off notice from BGE. This family is headed by a single mother with four children. In July she completed a medical related training course in Towson. The school is assisting her in locating a job but the downturn in the economy is affecting her search for employment. She sounded very much on top of her situation and seems to be trying all available avenues for help.

The Harford Fuel Fund, through the Community Action Agency, was willing to provide about half their delinquent bill as long as the family raised the remaining amount. They called several churches including ours for financial assistance. We agreed to contribute \$45 toward her bill.

Minister and President's Columns

Unitarian Universalists, including the members and friends of UUF, are a diverse bunch when it comes to our ideas about the universe. The bylaws of the UUA celebrate this diversity by naming six of the sources for our living tradition:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

During the 2009-2010 year, I'll be inviting discussion about the six sources through sermons, adult religious education classes, and newsletter columns. Each month will have a theme related to the sources, either focusing on one source or exploring the richness of the sources together. Guest speakers and volunteer program leaders are welcome to explore the same themes, and are by no means required to do so.

I hope that these themes will nurture depth: spiritual depth, depth of understanding of Unitarian Universalism, depth of involvement by all members in the life of the congregation. I believe that members share an interest in depth, which is what guided you to approve a budget that includes an additional RE class and a Consulting Minister.

The theme for the year and for the month of September is "Gather the Spirit," which is a quote from hymn #347 by Jim Scott. We will be gathering our spirits together, guiding our collective energy toward the congregation's goals. Celebrating our pluralism shows that we "gather the spirit" from a variety of places, yet we pool our energy together in a mutually supportive search for truth and meaning. This is also the underlying meaning of the Water Communion ceremony on September 13. Looking ahead to next month, October's theme will be "The Sacred Circle of Life," exploring Earth-centered traditions.

The coming year holds a lot of promise for the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston. I am grateful to be accompanying you on the journey.

P.S. Please feel free to continue discussion about sermons and newsletter columns by starting topics on the Facebook group or by commenting on my blog: <http://revlyncox.tumblr.com>

- Reverend Lyn Cox

Greetings from the President:

I know we are all busy trying to cram as much summer fun in these last days. I just wanted to take a moment to say how excited I am about the upcoming year. With Lyn Cox as our minister and all the members working hard to make our church grow and make many people feel welcome, it is an exciting time to be a member of this happy little church! I look forward to seeing everybody on September 13th.

- Alison Elliott