



THE NUUSLETTER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA
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NOVEMBER, 2013

A LIBERAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

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DWELL IN POSSIBILITY: WINDS OF CHANGE *by Rev Pam Rumancik*

A cool wind is blowing around the edges of the church today and you can feel a new season waiting to take hold. We have enjoyed the deep warmth of summer – along with its rich growth and fragrant offerings -- but now we move into a time of rest.

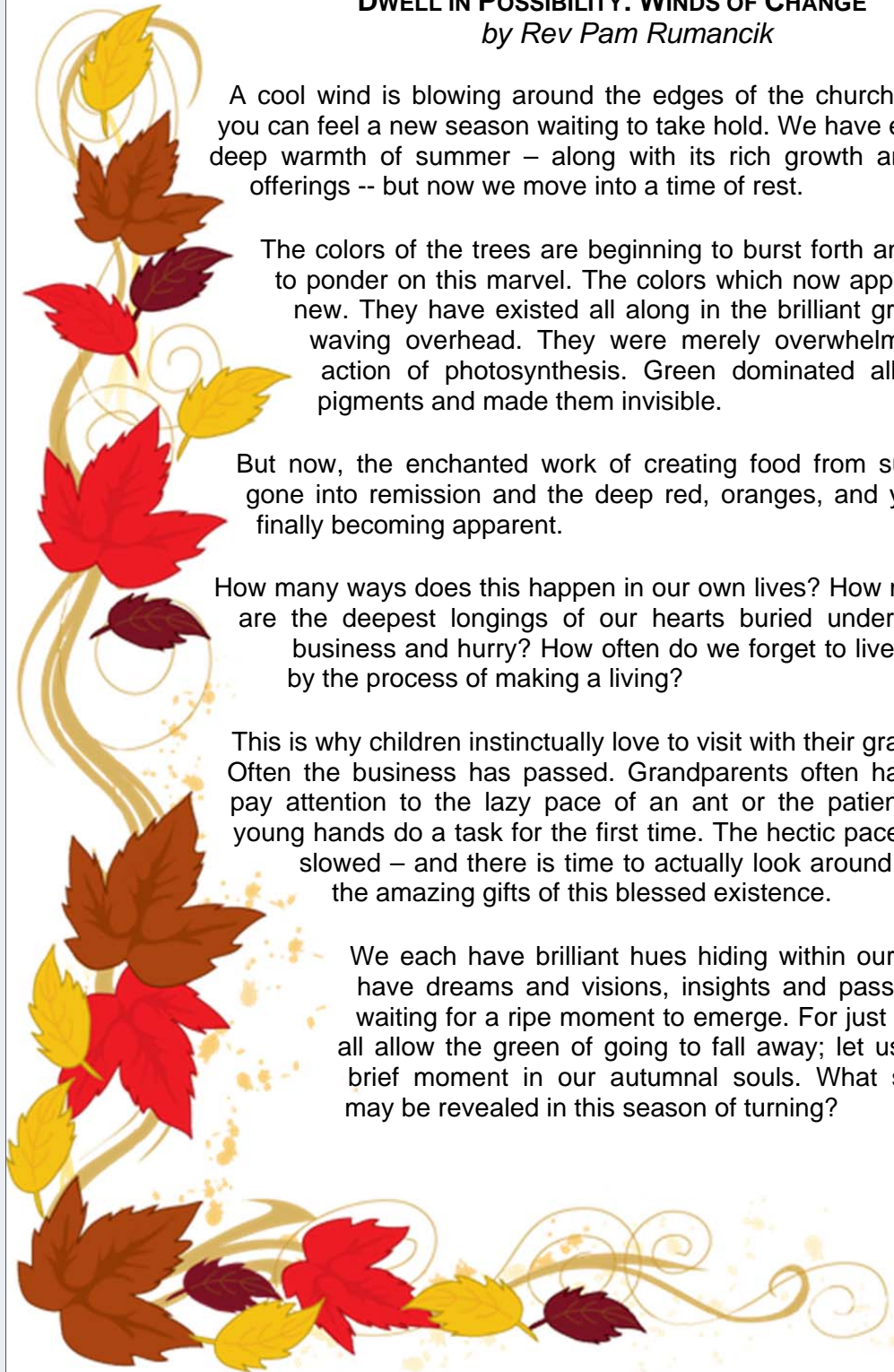
The colors of the trees are beginning to burst forth and I am led to ponder on this marvel. The colors which now appear are not new. They have existed all along in the brilliant green leaves waving overhead. They were merely overwhelmed by the action of photosynthesis. Green dominated all the other pigments and made them invisible.

But now, the enchanted work of creating food from sunlight has gone into remission and the deep red, oranges, and yellows are finally becoming apparent.

How many ways does this happen in our own lives? How many times are the deepest longings of our hearts buried under too much business and hurry? How often do we forget to live, distracted by the process of making a living?

This is why children instinctually love to visit with their grandparents. Often the business has passed. Grandparents often have time to pay attention to the lazy pace of an ant or the patience to help young hands do a task for the first time. The hectic pace of life has slowed – and there is time to actually look around and notice the amazing gifts of this blessed existence.

We each have brilliant hues hiding within our souls. We have dreams and visions, insights and passions gently waiting for a ripe moment to emerge. For just a bit, let us all allow the green of going to fall away; let us rest for a brief moment in our autumnal souls. What soul colors may be revealed in this season of turning?



**SERVICE TITLES & DESCRIPTIONS
NOVEMBER, 2013**

Connections meets every Sunday at 10:45 in the sanctuary. *Connections* is a time of personal sharing for members, friends, and visitors. The worship service begins at 11:00 am.

November 3: The Meaning of Membership: This church is the community of ourselves, its energy and resources are our energy and resources. What does membership offer – and what does it demand of us? We will welcome new members to the UUCC community during the service. Rev Pam Rumancik

November 10: Of War and Peace: Remembering our veterans and exploring the tremendous costs of war. How do we create a culture of peace? Rev Pam Rumancik

November 17: UU Kids Take the Lead on Forgiveness: Exploring what it means to say you're sorry and what it means to be forgiven. Our UU kids will share perspective and talents that can help all of us live richer lives. Kay McCurdy & UU Kids

November 20: Transgender Day of Awareness – Wednesday evening at 7pm. An evening vigil honoring those who have been killed by hatred and ignorance. Let our voices remember the light they brought. Lay Pastoral Care Team

November 24: A Time to Give and a Time to Receive: With Thanksgiving almost upon us we reflect on the many blessings we share. In a political environment turned selfish and 'me' focused, can an attitude of gratitude widen our lenses? Rev Pam Rumancik

FORUM

The forum meets each Sunday at 9:30 downstairs in the last room on the left.

Nov.3: Dave Cook of the Times Free Press, **What's Happening Now**

Nov. 10: tom kunesh, **Christian Privilege in UUism**

Nov. 17: Councilman Chris Anderson, **The City of Chattanooga, Now & Future**

Nov. 24: Nancy Anderson, **Guest at Our Table**

<p>UUCC Board of Trustees, 2013-2014</p> <p>President, Frank Caperton President-Elect, Leslie Brock</p>	
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**TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 7:00PM**

The **Transgender Day of Remembrance** was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28th, 1998 kicked off the “**Remembering Our Dead**” web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester’s murder – like most anti-transgender murder cases – has yet to be solved.*

Although not every person represented during the Day of Remembrance self-identified as transgender – that is as a transsexual, crossdresser, or other gender variant – each was a victim of violence based on bias against transgender people.

We live in times more sensitive than ever to hatred based on violence yet even now the deaths of those based on anti-transgender hatred are largely ignored. Over the last decade more than one person per month has died due to transgender based hatred or prejudice, regardless of any other factor in their lives. This trend shows no sign of abating.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people and publicly mourns and honors the lives of people who might otherwise be forgotten.

Through the vigil, we express love and respect for all people in the face of national indifference and hatred.

This national day of remembrance reminds us that transgender persons are our sons, daughters, parents, friends, and lovers and gives allies a chance to step forward and raise their voices in support.

This service is open to all and will be led by our Lay Pastoral Care Team. Contact Rev Pam or Wendy Sapp if you would like to participate.

* www.rememberingourdead.org/day/what.html

SPECIAL MUSIC

On Sunday, November 10th, Nathan Shew, a percussionist from Muncie, Indiana, will be our special guest musician. Nathan Shew is an adjunct instructor at Ball State University and plays with various professional orchestras, including the Munci Symphony Orchestra, the Marion Philharmonic, and the Anderson Symphony Orchestra. He has even subbed for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, one of the top professional orchestras in the county. We are delighted to hear music from this exceptional performer and teacher!

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR
SINGING “IT’S A WONDERFUL WORLD”**



**STITCHES IN TIME
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20
6:30-9:30**

Bringing your yarn and join us for an evening of
knitting or crocheting
Contact Lynne Higgins for more information
lynne.123@epbf.com / [706-891-6868](tel:706-891-6868)

THANKSGIVING AT THE UCC

As in the past, we will be gathering at the church on Thanksgiving day to share in the bounty of the season and enjoy food, friends, and fellowship with our fellow UUs that may not have family nearby or those that cannot travel this holiday season. We will gather to eat at 2:00 pm in the main sanctuary. There will be a signup sheet available so we can get an approximate number of who will attend. We will need assistance with the dinner for set up, clean up, and for everyone to bring something to contribute to the dinner. Look for the sign-up sheet in the fellowship area.

We will cook them but we will need one or two more **turkeys** depending on how many people sign up to attend.

We will also have the special treat after lunch of beginning the Christmas decorating of the Sanctuary.

OWNING YOUR RELIGIOUS PAST – ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT OFFERING
Nov 2, 9, 16, & 23
9:00 – 11:00 am

Rev. Pam Rumancik will be presenting this workshop on four consecutive Saturday mornings in November. It will provide simple tools through which people may reexamine and retrieve positive aspects of past religious connections. The workshop is designed to provide both group sharing and private exploration, using journal writing exercises. This workshop is not just for “converts.” Longtime and life-long Unitarian Universalists also experience change, sometimes profoundly, in their religious identity. This workshop is enriched by the participation of people of varying tenure as Unitarian Universalists.

The majority of Unitarian Universalists come into the denomination from other religions; often there have been several stops along the path into our congregations. Some bring with them angry and unresolved feelings about experiences in other religious institutions; others have warm memories. Some move easily into an identity as a Unitarian Universalist; others experience a traumatic estrangement from family and from the center of their culture.

Our churches and fellowships have frequently neglected to understand and acknowledge the widely varying needs of members regarding this process. We can be most fully and completely present in our religious identity when we see our path as a continuum rather than a series of unrelated episodes. People who feel whole in this identity are more likely to make solid, healthy commitments to religious communities. Because we are usually more certain of what we left in another religion than what we bring forward from it, some tools are needed by which people may establish connections, bridges, and resonances between past and present. Such activity also provides clues about the possible future direction of those paths.

The program’s exercises invite participants to revisit religious spaces and people from childhood in a way that promotes greater self-understanding and personal peace.

Goals:

Participants have an opportunity to explore:

- who they are religiously,
- what their past religious perspectives and experiences have been, and
- who they hope to become in their Unitarian Universalist faith.

Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall or call the office. Please request Childcare in advance. There is no fee for this offering. Minimum of 5 participants must register.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
by Paige Maskarinec

Fall is here! Temperatures are refreshingly cooler, food is gratuitously pumpkin flavored, and Small Group Ministry is now in full swing at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Our three monthly groups have all gotten off to a great start, and we have our wonderful facilitators to thank.

During their opening sessions, each of our groups explored what it means to deeply listen to one another. I don't know about you, but that is a message I definitely need to hear as we enter this new season. While I love the changing leaves, fall also seems to bring an inordinate amount of "busy" to my life. The lazy days of summer are gone, school is in full swing, and holidays are right around the corner - it's enough to make anyone a little breathless. You might find that amidst the schedules and activities, it's easy to miss out on meaningful interactions.

So why not practice a little SGM in your everyday? Try really listening to someone today, even if you just have a second. It's my sneaking suspicion you'll be glad you did.

SILENT AUCTION

Beginning Sunday, November 3, we will be pleased to offer, for silent auction, a selection of amazing photographs by Robert Copeland. The selection is a feast for the eyes. From the early morning sunrise on a Tuscan hillside to the evening glow of a small fishing village in downeast Maine, Robert Copeland waits for that precise moment that makes his photographs come alive and pulls the viewer into the scene.

Robert Copeland attended Brooks Institute of Photography in the 1970s, obtaining a degree in Industrial and Scientific Photography. Since graduation, his living has been made first as a medical photographer and later in portraiture. He sold landscape images in the U.S. and over 20 countries through Westlight and Corbis stock agencies.



For the past 30 years he has used large format 4x5 and 4 1/4 cameras in his photography, adding digital cameras in 2004. Using Photoshop, a pressure sensitive Wacom tablet, and an Epson 9900 ink jet printer, he is able to obtain the high quality of photographic art he is seeking. Robert has chosen fine art watercolor paper and canvas along with long lasting pigmented inks that will outlive traditional color prints by decades. All photographs are matted and framed.

The photographs will be available for viewing in the Sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Viewing will be permitted in the sanctuary Sundays in November 9:30 - 10:45 and 12 - 1:00, and by appointment.



There will be a special reception on Sunday, December 1, from 12:30 – 2:00 to announce the auction winners.

INTERDEPENDENT WEB*by Juniper Russo*

One of the most interesting stories in the Bible is the story of the Fish and Loaves Miracle, or “Feeding the Multitudes.” It goes something like this: five thousand men, plus an unspecified number of women and children (who weren’t yet, at that pointed, counted as people), followed Jesus out into the desert, where he healed the sick and weak among them. One of Jesus’s disciples suggested sending them away, since they were far from home and needed to head back to town to get dinner.

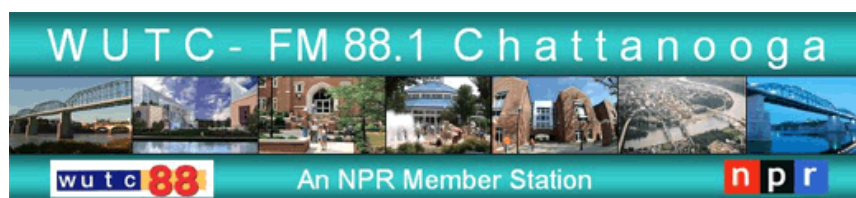
Jesus, as you might expect, didn’t tell them to go home. Instead, he looked at the five loaves of bread and two fish that they had on them, and said that he would feed them all using only this tiny amount of food. He broke the loaves and bread and told the disciples to distribute them, and soon, every single person in the crowd was fed—with twelve baskets full of bread left over.

I think it’s time to rethink this miracle. At this point, if you believe the story of the Bible, Jesus had already done plenty to show that he had the power to perform miracles. One more “magic trick” wasn’t necessary. There was something deeper to be said about this, and I think that the miracle wasn’t a matter of divine intervention at all: it was a miracle of *human kindness*.

What exactly happened when Jesus, with only five loaves and two fish, said that he would feed the masses with them? I suspect that, inspired by this act of generosity, the people in the crowd who were carrying food with them—something that many would have done anticipating a day-long trek through the desert—were inspired to do the same and share their food. All it took was one man saying, “I don’t have much, but here it is, everyone!” for everyone else to decide to do the same.

It’s something of a first-world cliché to joke about feeling guilty for not finishing our meals, and many a disappointed mother has reminded her kids about third-world starvation when her kids haven’t met the criteria for the Happy Plate club. But the amount of food—and other resources, like shoes, clothing, toys, and electronic devices—that we throw away reminds us that we don’t live in a world with too few resources to care for its people. We simply live in a world where resources are unevenly distributed—where some members of the crowd are carrying a dozen loaves of bread, while others haven’t eaten in days.

I challenge my fellow UUs to take a look at this powerful story and take its lesson to mind. Next time you have something “extra”—even if it’s not much extra—take the bold and important step of sharing what you do have. The ripple effect is powerful, and people do pay it forward. You just might find out that those five loaves and two fish miraculously feed a crowd of thousands.



Did you switch off WUTC while their pledge drives was going on? Come up for air. It's over! But if you didn't give then, you can still send your gift to UGCC and designate it for WUTC, including arranging for monthly payments from your checking account. With the money we've collected already, we'll begin underwriting announcements promoting UGCC on WUTC no later than the start of the new year. The more money we collect the more coverage we get and the more support goes to WUTC. Considering year-end giving? If you itemize, it's still fully tax-deductible. Remember to write your check to UGCC and put “public radio” in the memo line.

FOOD NOT BOMBS - MILLER PLAZA – NOON – SUNDAYS*by Melissa Reese – Social Justice Co-Chair*

If you've been down around Miller Plaza mid-day on Sunday, you may have wondered who was giving out a hot meal to anyone gathered there. For fourteen years, the Food Not Bombs organizers in Chattanooga have met each Sunday morning and cooked nutritious food and shared the meal with anyone in need or who might just pass by Miller Plaza. They receive donations of food from a few places and Panera donates breads and bagels. This is good food that would otherwise be discarded. They meet at Sluggos Vegetarian Cafe (to use a certified kitchen) on Frazier Avenue around 9:30 am to prepare the meal. They have stressed to us that their primary goal is to take useful food that would be discarded and utilize it; with an end result being feeding those in need. It's not about buying food to feed people; but utilizing the abundance of resources available. They do however need some staples to add to the meal. Frances Starkis and I have helped on two Sundays and learned more about how things are prepared and supplies that are required to distribute the meals each Sunday.

Our Social Justice Committee has designated **Food Not Bombs** as our **November Share the Plate – Sunday, November 17**. In addition to our monetary donations, we wanted to add a little different twist to the November collection. We literally want to share our plates with this group by asking each of you to bring in a staple item, some spices or some supplies they can use in preparing and then sharing the meals downtown. Please be mindful that they are vegan and do not use any meat or dairy in their meals. Lentils, quick cooking beans, rice, and spices that do not contain MSG can be brought into the church and placed in our collection box. Since Thanksgiving is this month, we felt donations of staples can be our way of giving back for the blessings each of us have; of knowing we have food each day and a roof over our heads.

We are also asking for donations of "Dixie" brand bowls. These are paper bowls that are sturdy enough to hold hot soup, and can be recycled. Plastic spoons, forks and cups are also used. Gloves for the volunteers who hand out the food can also be donated. You may bring in your plastic shopping bags. People who receive food downtown often ask for a plastic bag to carry things in.

I am sharing some info from <http://www.foodnotbombs.net> and our local group also made a You Tube public service announcement that can be found by searching for Food Not Bombs Chattanooga TN psa.

The three principles of Food Not Bombs: **(1)** Always Vegan or Vegetarian and Free to Everyone. Our food is vegan or vegetarian and free to anyone without restriction, rich or poor, stoned or sober. First, the potential for problems with food spoilage are greatly reduced when dealing strictly with plant based foods. Second, we want our food to reflect our dedication to nonviolence and that included violence against all beings including animals. We only prepare food which is strictly from plant sources so people will always know and trust Food Not Bombs that our food is safe and nonviolent. At times, we do get donations of dairy and meat products which might and redirect it to soup kitchens that aren't vegetarian because we believe eating is more important than being politically pure; however, we NEVER cook with animal products ourselves and only share breads that might have dairy when it is not possible to know for sure. **(2)** Each Chapter is independent and autonomous and makes decisions using the consensus process ~ there are no leaders, presidents or directors and no headquarters. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the decision making including those who depend on Food Not Bombs for their meals. And **(3)** Food Not Bombs is not a charity and is dedicated to non violent social change.

Would you like to be a Volunteer to help Food Not Bombs? Our Social Justice Committee is hoping to organize a schedule of those who might want to go downtown to help cook and/or serve. If enough people want to participate, we could rotate Sunday's. If you are interested, please call Melissa at (423) 507-3842 or email seaturtle531960@gmail.com or our UUCS office. ~ Thank you

Social Justice Committee
by Frances Starkis, Social Justice Co-Chair

“for in the end, we conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.” – baba dioum

I wanted to share this link to one of my favorite shows. It is good for all ages; always very interesting and well worth checking out – ESPECIALLY if you have kids or grandkids.

<http://www.curiosityquest.org/cggoesgreen.html>

25th Annual Tennessee River Rescue

A few of our UUCU members participated in this year’s Tennessee River Rescue on Saturday, October 5. Three zones were improved as a result. **Frances Starkis** and **Melissa Reese** helped with a zone in Soddy Daisy. **Elaine Watkins, Kay** and **Sophia McCurdy** helped along Citico Creek and **Sandy Kurtz** in the South Chickamagua Creek area. We are the ‘hands’ of our Mother Earth!



MOVE TO AMEND: MAKING IT HAPPEN*by Judith Pedersen-Benn, Social Justice Committee Member*

Move to Amend (MTA) was formed in September 2009 and is a broad coalition of hundreds of organizations and tens of thousands of individuals committed to social and economic justice, ending corporate rule, and building a vibrant democracy that is genuinely accountable to the people, not corporate interests.

In order to accomplish this MTA is calling for an amendment to the US Constitution to unequivocally state that inalienable rights belong to human beings only, and that money is not a form of protected free speech under the First Amendment and can be regulated in political campaigns.

MTA's strategy is to work on the local level before moving on to the state or federal level; to build a grassroots movement organized and powerful enough to force Congress to act. MTA's primary organizing tool is local resolution campaigns. Resolution campaigns are a powerful way for communities to send a message to Congress and let their representatives know we want this amendment to pass. In addition, many towns and cities passed resolutions through their City Councils.

Passing an amendment to the constitution is not as daunting as it might seem. An amendment has to be proposed either by a 2/3 vote of both houses of Congress, or else by a constitutional convention convened when the legislatures of 2/3 of the states so request. The amendment has to be ratified either by the legislatures of 3/4 of the states, or by conventions in 3/4 of the states, depending on which means of ratification Congress proposes. All of the amendments to the Constitution, of which there are now 27, were proposed by Congress, and all but one were ratified by state legislatures. The convention route has never been used for proposing an amendment, and was used only once for ratifying an amendment (the 21st, which eliminated Prohibition).

The amendment MTA is promoting is in alignment with the 2013 Unitarian Universalist Actions of Immediate Witness. At the UUA General Assembly the amendment was seen as crucially important NOW and it needs your support and energy. If you are interested in signing a local petition, signing the national petition and/or working with your local Move to Amend Affiliate please contact: Judith Pedersen-Benn at 49jpedersen@gmail.com or call 423-602-7496, or visit the national website at www.MoveToAmend.org.



Sadly, **Santa** will not be visiting our church this year for pictures as he has the past three years. Due to weekend work and travel schedules of the photography committee, a common time to take pictures this year eluded us.

You can see our own Santa Rick at Hamilton Place Mall this year.

GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE

by Sandy Kurtz



Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.

~ Elizabeth Lawrence

BIBLICAL SUGGESTION: ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST

What if you wanted to finish up your life on earth in a more natural way? --One minus embalming and casket with processes more compatible for the web of life. **Elaine Hill** and I have been wondering about green burials so we did a little research. Did you know that in Tennessee a vault or casket is not required for burial? In fact, you don't even need a cemetery as a body may be buried on your private property (a permit in some cases is required). You may want to have your remains placed in a biodegradable basket, shroud, or favorite blanket rather than an impenetrable casket.

According to greenburials.org website

A natural burial takes place in a natural environment where native flora and wildlife flourish. A green cemetery provides habitat for endemic birds and animals, returning lands to their native grasses, flowers and shrubs.

A green burial reduces environmental impact and conservation easements preserve our open spaces, important not only to plants and wildlife...we find serenity when close to nature. Interment in a beautiful and natural setting honors those we love.

It is clear that nature has intended that our bodies be reunited with the earth. All organisms that have lived, have died and returned to the soil...only to be recycled into new life. Constant microbial activity in the soil breaks everything down. Nature creates no waste. Everything is recycled.

Green burials are quite popular in the UK, and demand is growing in the U.S., but there are no official green cemeteries in our area. A highest value option for green burial would be in an area associated with conservation where a natural burial will most benefit the ecosystem. Three close by are The Honey Creek Woodlands located near Conyers, Georgia on the 2,100-acre campus of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, The Ramsey Creek Nature Preserve in Westminster, SC, and Pine Forest Memorial Gardens in Wake Forest, NC.

Of course, a natural burial is much less expensive. Burial space prices vary starting at about \$900, with no casket cost, no funeral home expense, and no expensive tombstone (may have a stone or flat marker).

A green burial is a way to be reunited with the earth for an ecological eternity.

Plant Exchange/Gift Away: Sunday, November 10th ~ Bonny Sinclair, with the help of Marge Pasch, will host a plant exchange on November 10th in the Fellowship Hall 5 minutes after the service. If you have a plant or plants that you would like to give away, bring them to the church before the service. You receive a ticket for each plant you bring. Ticket holders get first choice in the order of numbered tickets. Anyone else may choose one plant after the ticketed exchange. If there are plants left over, second and third choices will be offered to everyone. Bring the plant in a container that goes away with the plant, is clean, and free of bugs. Provide a slip of paper with the plant name and information such as soil, water, and light requirements. Lenten Rose plants will be available to anyone for a voluntary donation to the Social Justice Committee. Contact Bonny Sinclair if you have questions.

INVASION OF THE SUNSHINE SNATCHERS

For over seven years now a few UUCU weekend warriors have been fighting a slow battle against "**exotic pests**" that have taken control over the 'wild' land on our 7-acre woods. You may not have noticed it as it's a slow process that usually takes place in the 'brown' fall and winter months and will span a couple decades. As part of our commitment to maintaining UUCU as a "**Green Sanctuary**", our congregation committed to ridding ourselves of invasive plant species on our property. Some of these plants are downright beautiful, such as mimosa (Asia), Tree of Heaven (Chinese sumac), Japanese honeysuckle). But they are sun-suckers that shade out native trees and shrubs. The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council (www.tneppc.org) calls them "persistent and aggressive weeds" and lists the following plants (currently flourishing on our property) as "**Severe Threats**":

- trees
 - *Tree of Heaven* (from ±1775)
 - *Mimosa* (from 1745)
- shrubs
 - *Chinese Privet*
 - *Common/European Privet* (from ±1830)
- vine
 - *Japanese Honeysuckle*
 - *English Ivy*

We consider each a Severe Threat, possessing "**invasive** characteristics [that] spread easily in native plant communities and displace native vegetation." They look nice, but they're destroying our rock wall, shading out poplars, oaks and walnut trees, crowding out any trails we make, and killing our bigger trees.

Our Landscaping Committee has implemented a slow but steady "response action to prevent establishment and spread", and is committed "to eliminate the use of invasive exotics in landscaping, restoration, and enhancement projects." **You can help** our effort by joining us on our annual "**Privet (& Pest) Patrol**" on **Sunday November 3rd** after the service. We have tools. Wear sensible shoes, bring gloves, and let's have at it!

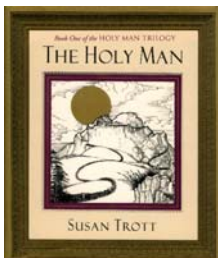
RETURN OF WEDNESDAY EVENING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT UUCU

Beginning Wednesday November 6th

5.30pm - **weekly meditation**

6pm - **potluck dinner** - bring some food to share

7pm - **Adult RE**



"**The Holy Man Trilogy**" is a 6-part "weekly discussion led by tom kunesh on Wednesday evenings (7-8.30pm) that starts November 6th (November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11). 'The Holy Man Trilogy' is 3 small fiction books written by Susan Trott: *The Holy Man*, *The Holy Man's Journey*, & *The Holy Woman*, available online for \$12 (used) and electronically. Discussion is based on the books' stories which entails easy reading of a 1/2 book each week. The books are very easy reads, and use very little 'religious language', making them especially attractive to atheists and religious 'Nones', Buddhists & Taoists, who are still interested in the search for meaning in community.

Each chapter of these little books tells the tale of a pilgrim and his/her problem. There is a man who is incurably jealous, a woman filled with envy, the grandmother who never receives thank-you notes from her grandchildren, the war veteran who can't forgive himself the lives he took, the famous man who learns humility. As their stories unfold, we come to realize that we are all in here, with our wounded egos, insecurities, bad tempers, impatience, and ambitiousness. These simple and beautiful tales help us unravel the knots of everyday anxieties with profound ease, humor, wisdom, and elegance. Through them we understand that a holy man never cures us, simply shows us the good things we are but cannot see.

Sign up by emailing <adult_re@uucc.org> or on the sheet in the office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
LIVING OUR PRINCIPLES
by Kay McCurdy, RE Director

Why must people kneel down to pray? If I really wanted to pray I'll tell you what I'd do. I'd go out into a great big field all alone or in the deep, deep woods and I'd look up into the sky....up,up,up....into that lovely blue sky that looks as if there was no end to its blueness. And then I'd just feel a prayer.

~ L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

On October 6th, we held our inaugural **We Serve** Sunday, featuring seven of our very own UU Kids, with special assistance from the wonderful Marge Pasch. *We Serve* is a new program where our UU Kids spend the first Sunday morning of each month doing projects around the church: washing windows, cleaning out the fridge, sweeping the walkways, for example. Our goal is for the kids to invest their time and energy in our church, and to understand the value of service. Judging by their level of energy and enthusiasm for the tasks at hand, I'd say *mission accomplished*. Next month for *We Serve*, Marge will lead us in planting several varieties of daffodil bulbs.

The easiest part about teaching our kids to value service? Allowing them to learn from the example of the adults who serve our church, tirelessly and with their whole hearts. The old adage "children learn what they live" certainly rings true in this case. They notice that Paul Adler takes great care to insure their safety in the building, and that Mary Hunter shows up extra early to spiff up the sanctuary. They are aware of Santa Rich working in the sound booth, and Elaine Watkins greeting everyone who enters the building with a warm and welcoming smile. They hear the joy in Martha Berry's voice as it rings out from the choir, and they see Tom Kunesh on the hillside, clearing out the debris and uncovering the beauty of our church grounds.

So, for the kids in our program who are growing up in the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, prayer often means something quite different than bowing their heads in reverence. (Don't get me wrong, I've nothing against reverence. If Bob Dylan walked into our sanctuary, I'd be the first one to kneel down and give thanks.) Their ideas about prayer are as varied and unique as their ideas about the origins of life and the mysteries of the universe. What form might prayer take, for them? Marching in the gay pride parade, volunteering to pick up trash in a creek bed, standing in solidarity at a candlelight service for Trayvon Martin. And yes, planting daffodil bulbs.

INAUGURAL COMING OF AGE PROGRAM
UCC TEENS
KICK-OFF: NOVEMBER 2013

The goal of a coming of age program for youth is to mark their transition from childhood to adolescence and toward young adulthood. With our inaugural Coming-Of-Age program, our UCC Teens will be paired with an adult mentor of their same gender (mentor must undergo a routine background check, in accordance with our safe church policy.) Working with the mentor, the teen will craft a personal belief statement to be read to the congregation at our May 4th ceremony.

The mentor will receive training and support throughout the journey, and will commit to working with the teen a minimum of two hours each month for the next five months.

We are excited to begin this program, and believe the rewards will be great for both mentors and teen who participate.

Interested? Contact Kay McCurdy at dre@uucc.org

2,050 210,080 41
 32,450 42,052 102 3,159
 162,050 -4206 45,211 240

These numbers have something in common. Can you guess what it is?
 Answer is on page 17.

WE CARE



A super-duper **thank you** to the following UU Kids (and very special friend Marge Pasch) who showed up early on Sunday, October 6th, and worked on several projects for the beautification and sustainment of our church! **Victoria Henry** and **Marge Pasch** swept and tidied the walkways, steps, portico and balcony of the church. **Lily Joyner**, **tashi kunesh Kurtz**, and **Isabella Vanderhoof** cleaned and re-organized the Games Cabinet. **Caroline Vanderhoof** and **Sophie McCurdy** washed classroom windows and swept the Memorial Garden. **Lauren Solomon** and **Isabelle McCurdy** scrubbed and organized the fridge/freezer, and tidied the kitchen. We'll be doing these, and other projects, on the first Sunday of each month because....**We Care!**



SPONSOR A UU KID!



The Grateful Gobbler Walk

This year, as in years past, a team of our UU Kids will be participating in the Grateful Gobbler Walk, to benefit Chattanooga's homeless community. The walk begins at 8 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning, and we are excited to once again carry the UUCC banner and represent our church in this worthy cause. For \$25 you can sponsor a UU Kid to walk, and contribute to the agencies which serve the homeless of Chattanooga

PAGAN GROUP

The discussion for November will cover pagan rituals of this time of year when the sun begins to wane and darkness gains on the light. This discussion will be led by James Joyner.

The month of November brings us to the following events and celebrations:

11/1-2	Day of the Dead (Dia de Muertos)
11/03	New Moon
	Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am
11/17	Full Moon
11/28	Grateful Gobbler
11/1-30	We have celebrations all month... see below.



This month takes its name from the Latin word *novem* for “nine”. Originally, it was the ninth month in the Roman calendar. In numerology, nine is a sacred number, based on the triple trinity (3x3=9). November is also associated with spiritual devotion. During this month people work on forging closer connections with the Divine.

As the year wanes, the harvest season draws to a close. The outer world falls still, leaving time to consider the inner realms. Long, cold nights invite contemplation, especially with the light of a hearth fire or candles to shine against the darkness outdoors.

Some deities associated with this month are: Cailleach, the Celtic crone goddess who oversees birth and death. Her Festival is on November 1. The Festival of Het Heret (for the Egyptian goddess Hathor) and the festival of Odin (Norse father god) are both on November 2. Remnants of early English celebrations for the Lord of Death linger on in the bonfires and pranks of Mischief Night on the 4th. Bacchus relates to wine and celebration. His festival of Vinalia (a favorite of modern pagans) is on the 11th. Mehregan on the 21st is a Zoroastrian holy day symbolizing the battle between dark and light. The Hindu goddess Lakshmi (prosperity and sexuality) and Diana, maiden goddess of the Moon (hunting and the wilderness) both have celebrations around the 22nd. Baba Yaga is a crone goddess and a powerful Witch from Russia and her feast day is the 24th.

Of all the seasons, autumn offers the most to man and requires the least of him.

~ Hal Borland

CHRISTMAS PROJECT DONATIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Granola bars, packs of peanuts/almonds, boxes of dried fruit, packaged crackers - anything that is a good snack that can be carried easily will be collection during the month of November to add to our Christmas Project donation items. Please place in our collection box.

Our social justice committee has also discussed the idea of a cookie bake to give out cookies the evening that we distribute our Christmas gifts. Keep this in mind for next month.

SHARE THE PLATE ~ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH ~ FOOD NOT BOMBS

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, pick something to share off your plate ~ staples such as lentils, quick cooking beans, rice and spices; supplies - spoons, forks, “Dixie” brand hard paper bowls and place these in our collection box. Our usual monetary collection will also take place. (Please read the Social Justice article in this newsletter for addition information.)

Month	Share the Plate with	Amount Donated
November 17th	Food Not Bombs	
October	Breast Cancer Support Services	\$258.71
September	NAIA-TN	\$318.35
August	Family Promise – Children’s Uniforms	\$745.83
July	Fan Fund 2013	\$323.00
June	North Side Neighborhood House	\$308.00
May	AIM Center	\$341.95
April	Chattanooga Arboretum & Nature Center	\$258.00
March	Chattanooga Cares/Strides of March	\$354.98
February	Minister’s Benevolence Fund	\$648.00
January	Guest at your Table, UUSC	\$642.93



MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Include Us in Your Will and Help Shape the Future

Without much effort, you can make a long-lasting impact on the future of Unitarian Universalism. In addition to its simplicity, a bequest to support UUSC ENDOWMENT will allow your assets to be available to you throughout your lifetime. An unrestricted direct bequest in your will or trust of a specific sum of money, a percentage of your estate or a particular asset will help ensure a secure future UUSC. For additional information contact Chris in the office and request a member of the endowment committee contact you.



Congratulations!

UUSC members **Chuck Mehan & Harriet Cotter** graduated from the Chattanooga Organized for Action (chattaction.org) Social Justice School on October 17th. Both are also members of the Progressive Student Alliance at UTC.

ANSWERS TO NUMBERS QUESTION ON PAGE 13*by Daidee Springer, Treasurer*

All the numbers appear, along with a host of others, on the September Income & Expense Statement. All have dollar signs in front of them. Some were selected intentionally, others were picked randomly. There are a lot numbers on the report and to paraphrase George W. Bush, *It's clearly a financial statement* (he said budget) *It's got lots of numbers*. George W. didn't elaborate; he just waved the document at the cameras. I'll elaborate.

Two of the numbers stand out: \$210,080 and \$ - 4,206.

- \$210,080 is our total budget for the fiscal year. Because that number is the same for both income and expenses we have a balanced budget. Whether or not it remains balanced at the end of the fiscal year is up to us. We hope to take in more than we spend (nice) but we may have to spend more than we take in (not at all nice).
- \$ -4,206, is the deficit between income and expenses for the month of September. So far our annual income/expense is up by \$3,159 (bet you didn't guess what that number represented). We're ahead for the year only because a number of folk paid their entire annual pledge at the beginning of the fiscal year and we didn't start paying a Music Director until September. Our positive number, again that's \$3,159, is dwindling fast. I anticipate that it will have entirely evaporated when we look at the October financial statements.

Stay tuned. There will be a monthly nUUsletter update on the numbers and what they mean. But I need your help. What I consider important numbers might not matter to you. You might want to know about something entirely else or you might want to know the answer to what the other numbers represent. Let's make this interactive. Email me at treasurer@uucc.org and let me know what you'd like to see addressed and/or explained.

ADVENTURE DINERS

Thursday, November 21st, carpools will be arranged and we the UU Adventure Diners will travel to Rising Fawn Georgia to dine at **Canyon Grill**, 28 Scenic Hwy., Rising Fawn, Ga. 30738. The gathering time will be 6pm. Reservations will be scheduled for 6:45. Again, I will attempt to arrange for seating of four (4) to a table or booth. This restaurant is a BYOB and there is no coupon (this event has been changed from its original date of November 7th). RSVP uuacd@gmx.com

December 8th, brunch will be at **12:30 pm at The Chattanooga**, 1201 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN. There is a coupon for one complimentary brunch with the purchase second brunch. This will be the final event for the year. And, it is an outstanding venue and positively fabulous brunch. Seating will be 4-6 per table or both. Please join us (note, this is a date change from December 3rd) RSVP uuacd@gmx.com.

**ENLIGHTENED AND RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR
SUMMARY OF UUCC'S BOARD RETREAT**

"Like healthy people, systems promote their health through *enlightened and responsible behavior*" (Peter Stinke, author of *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times*). Stinke's book was recommended for members of UUCC's board to read by our consultant for the Board Retreat, Marguerite Mills, Director of Lifespan Religious Education at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville. Stinke writes:

They (The Board of Trustees) set a tone, invite collaboration, make decisions, map a direction, establish boundaries, encourage self-expression, restrain that which threatens the integrity of the whole, and keep the system's direction aligned with purposes.

On Sept 21, the UUCC board of trustees used their retreat to create a time line of events starting in July 2012, write a covenant for the board, and set goals with implementation dates for the coming church year.

Time Line of 2012-2013 events in our church: Minister resigns; some members leave; new board President; no interim minister identified; Rev Pam Rumancik comes!; no covenant at Board retreat; Elaine Watkins joins the board; office is rekeyed; social justice committee reorganized; weapons policy controversy emerges; members leave; new music director hired, John Standridge; congregational time line started; email policy becomes necessary due to feelings associated with the weapons policy; board member leaves; conflict in communication among some board members; Buck O'Rear joins the board; DRE resigns, later retracts resignation; congregational vote on weapons policy resulted in no policy.

Covenant for the Board of Trustees:2013-2014 . After finding words that represent common values a covenant statement was drafted. The covenant is presented on the next page.

Goals for the Coming Year:

1. Develop board job descriptions
2. Define committee charges
3. Support development of Pathway to Membership
4. Launch Stewardship Campaign
5. Nourish Leadership development and discuss conflict
6. Clarify roles of Board/council
7. Identify developmental minister

Immediate To Do List:

1. Job Descriptions for each board member will be drafted by December board meeting with final job descriptions approved April 1st.
2. Draft of charge to committees to be shared at first council meeting by Leslie Brock. Rev Pam will assist Leslie to look for a template. Final version finished by April 1st
3. Buck O'Rear to invite George Helton to next board meeting with a request to have a projected timeline for Task force for Pathway to Membership
4. Stewardship committee to be identified by Buck.
5. Nourish Leadership: Resources to be identified by Leslie from UUA and other UU churches in our cluster,
6. Board/council clarity: Best practices from other churches will be gathered to assist with Clarification of Board and Council. Daidee Springer, with Leslie Brock's help, will present in January.
7. Frank Caperton completes application for Developmental Minister and have town meeting with approval by January 31st. Nicky Ozbek will assist,

Members of UUCC's 2013 Board:

Frank Caperton , President; Leslie Brock, President elect; Jim Welborn, Secretary; Daidee Springer, Treasurer; Buck O'Rear, VP Ministries; Nicky Ozbek, VP Congregational Life; Elaine Watkins, VP Outreach Ministries

BOARD COVENANT
Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga
September 21, 2013

As members of the Board of Trustees, and guided by the Seven Principles, we covenant to keep the best interests of the congregation at heart and to carry out the trust placed in us as guardians of the Mission of this Church and guardians of its resources. We will embrace and share our experience, wisdom, and gifts in carrying out this work. We will celebrate our diversity by working to create an environment in which all are heard and respected. We will speak the truth in love. As we seek consensus, we will give and accept constructive feedback.

We will faithfully attend and be fully engaged in board meetings. We will show our commitment by being prompt, prepared, and focused. We will support the decisions and policies of the Board.

We covenant to stay at the table, even when in conflict, and to call each other back to the table when necessary.

We will be honest and realistic in our expectations and commitments, both individually and collectively. At the same time we will accept and forgive our failures. As part of a faith community, we will seek to minister to each other, sharing our joys, sorrows, successes, and struggles.

In this spirit, we covenant to further the work of this Congregation.

BOARD MINUTES

To help the board communicate the events of the board meetings in a timely manner, the minutes will be posted on the church website. Minutes from the current and previous board meetings can be found at

<http://www.uucc.org/about-the-uuc/board-meeting-minutes/>

CHATTANOOGA INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCE

November 9th, 10:30 A.M-noon

A Kind of Truth: Poetry as Discovery
Presented by Finn Bille

Finn will begin by sharing his story, "Recycled Poetry." He will read a selection of his poetry, allowing our interaction, as well as discuss how his poetry has helped him discover who he is and his relationship to other people and the world. He will also let us know about more opportunities around Chattanooga for hearing spoken word performances.

Finn has been writing poetry since he was a teenager, and has studied, taught and written about poetry. He performs his story, "Recycled Poetry" on his CD: *Marzipan: Stories with Music*, with Rick Davis playing the hammered dulcimer. Finn has published about one hundred poems. His poems are included in *Southern Light: Twelve Contemporary Southern Poets*. His poetry collections are *Rites of the Earth*, 1994, and *Fire Poems*, 2011 about the fire that destroyed his and Jeanne's house in 2003. He hopes to publish *Every Time Poems* in 2014. With KB Ballentine and John C. Mannone he has written, but not yet published, the book, *Rules for Revising Poetry and How to Break Them*. He is a member of the Chattanooga Writers Guild and Tennessee Mountain Writers.

*This is the first in a series of occasional articles about church committees and the person currently serving as chairperson. In this issue **Marge Pasch** interviews **Monique Lewis**, WoWzer Chair and asks:*

What in The World is a WoWzer?

Monique: “WoWzer,” is short for “Working on Worship.” It is a committee that assists the minister in planning quality Sunday services. Committee members seek out and are responsible for speakers and services when the minister is out of the pulpit.

Who are the committee members? Pam Rumancik, Anne Johnson, George Helton, Mary Hunter, Maurine Olin, Nicky Ozbek, Steve Hollingsworth, Monique Lewis and tom kunesh.



Monique Lewis, WoWzer Chair

What are the duties of the committee? The WoWzer committee meets regularly with the minister to coordinate the Sunday worship schedule. The members take turns as “worship leader” and are responsible for communication with the guest speaker, board representative, musicians, and sound technician. Many aspects of the service are planned in an effort to provide an interesting and introspective experience.

How often do you meet? Every one to two months.

Do you enjoy the work the Wowzers do? I feel that it is very important that we do a wonderful job in presenting quality Sunday services, and therefore, I appreciate and enjoy the work that we do. We have a great team of caring and resourceful members that take their jobs seriously. We’re always looking for more help!

Where were you born and raised? I was born in Nice, France, came to the U.S. at five and was raised in Chattanooga.

When and how did you decide to be a UUer? My family was Jewish, but when I returned to Chattanooga in 1981, a friend of my mother’s suggested I visit the church with my two young sons. I signed the membership book the second Sunday that I attended.

What are your hobbies? Besides taking care of my family, I love to garden, read, and watch good movies.

What kind of jobs have you had? I have a Master’s degree in Special Education with an emphasis in teaching both emotionally disturbed and gifted children. I have taught school in Kigali, Rwanda, and in Hamilton County and Catoosa County.

What church committees have you served on and what church jobs have you performed? I have served on the Board twice, been DRE once, was in charge of the Stewardship campaign, chaired the membership and R.E. committees, been co-ordinator for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (now Family Promise), taught many years in R.E. and am now on the Wowzer, Membership & Memorial Garden committees.

What is it that you like about the UUCC? I consider our church an oasis for those who wish to work at learning and growing. I realize that, like all human beings, “the church” has strengths & weaknesses, but I try hard to accept the imperfections and be grateful for the comforting love and acceptance I feel each time I allow myself to be a part of this church community.

Are you interested in joining the WoWzer Committee? Contact Monique at niquelewis1@gmail.com

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

DATE	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27
TOPIC	The Meaning of Membership	Of War and Peace	UU Kids Take the Lead on Forgiveness	A Time to Give and a Time to Receive
LEADER	Rev Pam Rumancik	Rev Pam Rumancik	Kay McCurdy & UU Kids	Rev Pam Rumancik
GREETERS AND USHERS	Ken Nickerson Mary Hunter Pris Shartle	Link Christensen Jim Welborn Sue Welborn	Sue Knight Jill Simpson Kristie McKinley	Elaine Hill Carol Hobbs Pat Mann
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Roger Davis	Catherine Long	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



Find us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Unitarian-Universalist-Church-of-Chattanooga/301318569903599>

Or search Unitarian Universalist of Chattanooga



Follow us on Twitter.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT WISDOM...

To attain knowledge, add things every day. To attain wisdom, subtract things every day.

~ Laozi

We don't receive wisdom;
we must discover it for ourselves, after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us.

~ Marcel Proust

The wise man questions the wisdom of others because he questions his own,
the foolish man, because it is different from his own.

~ Leo Stein

Knowledge can be communicated, but wisdom cannot.
A man can find it, he can live it, he can be filled and sustained by it,
but he cannot utter or teach it.

~ Hermann Hesse

November, 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 9 am - 11 am Owning Your Religious Past (Medievals Rm) 12:30 - 5:30 pm UCG 7 - 10 pm Pagan Group Gathering
<u>3</u> 9:15 - 10:15 am Choir Practice 9:30 - 10:30 am Forum 9:30 - 10:30 am Pagan Group 10:45 - 12:10 Connections & Service 11:15 - 12 RE 12 - 3 pm Privet Patrol	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 12 - 3:30 pm DRE Office 1 - 5 pm Minister/Office	<u>6</u> 1 - 5 pm Minister/Office 6:3 - 8:30 pm SGM (Forum Room) 7 - 8:30 pm The Holy Man Trilogy	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 9 am - 11 am Owning Your Religious Past (Medievals Rm) 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Chions 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG
<u>10</u> 9:15 - 10:15 am Choir Practice 9:30 - 10:30 am Forum 10:45 - 12:10 Connections & Service 11:15 - 12 pm RE 12:10 - 12:40 pm Garden Plants Exchange 12:30 - 2 pm RE Committee	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> 12 - 3:30 pm DRE Office	<u>13</u> 12-2 pm SGM 6:30-8:30 pm Finance Committee 7 - 8:30 pm The Holy Man Trilogy	<u>14</u> 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Social Justice	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> 9 am - 11 am Owning Your Religious Past (Medievals Rm) 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG 6 pm - 10 pm India Association
<u>17</u> 9:30 - 10:30 am Forum 10:45 - 12:10 Connections & Service 12:15 - 1:15 pm Landscaping Committee (Sprouts Rm)	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> 12 - 3:30 pm DRE Office	<u>20</u> 9-11 am LPC 5:30-8:30 pm Transgender Day of Remembrance 6:30-9:30 pm Stitches-In-Time 6:30-8:30 pm SGM 7 - 8:30 pm The Holy Man Trilogy	<u>21</u> 7 pm - 9 pm Board Meeting	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 9 am - 11 am Owning Your Religious Past (Medievals Rm) 12:30 pm - 7:30 pm UCG
<u>24</u> 9:15 - 10:15 am Choir Practice 9:30 - 10:30 am Forum 10:45 - 12:10 Connections & Service 11:15 - 12 RE	<u>25</u> 6:30 - 8:30 pm SGM Facilitator Meeting	<u>26</u> 12 pm - 3:30 DRE Office 12	<u>27</u> 1 - 5 pm Minister/Office 7 - 8:30 pm The Holy Man Trilogy	<u>28</u> 10 am - 11 am Grateful Gobbler Walk	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG