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Harrington**

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***the nUUsletter*  
Editor  
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### MINISTER'S MUSINGS

This month's theme is FAITH. Faith is not an easy word to define, especially in a Unitarian Universalist congregation. What does it mean to be a people of faith? Do you think of yourselves as people of faith? We are a heretical faith, but a faith nonetheless.

Martin Luther King said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." That resonates with me. I remember when I left a successful career to go to seminary at age 47 and took on student debt to answer my call to UU ministry. I likened it to getting in a row boat and heading across the sea. When I lost sight of the shore behind me, the horizon in front of me was endless and wide with no destination in sight, for not just months but years! Taking one step at a time, not seeing the "whole staircase" only the next step in front of me, I trusted that the calling that I accepted was real and meaningful. It must have been faith or foolishness.

Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel once wrote, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, but indifference between life and death." Wiesel believed that the greatest sin of humanity is indifference. Wiesel was liberated from a Nazi death camp in 1945 by American troops. In a 1999 speech, he spoke about the perils of indifference:

Fifty-four years ago to the day, a young Jewish boy from a small town in the Carpathian Mountains woke up, not far from Goethe's beloved Weimar, in a place of eternal infamy called Buchenwald. He was finally free, but there was no joy in his heart. He thought there never would be again.

Liberated a day earlier by American soldiers, he remembers their rage at what they saw. And even if he lives to be a very old man, he will always be grateful to them for that rage, and also for their compassion. Though he did not understand their language, their eyes told him what he needed to know -- that they, too, would remember, and bear witness.

It was indifference that gave license to the Nazi's atrocities. Roosevelt turned away a ship carrying 1,000 Jews seeking refuge in the U.S. back to Nazi Germany. Wiesel said:

I don't understand. Roosevelt was a good man, with a heart. He understood those who needed help. Why didn't he allow these refugees to disembark? A thousand people -- in America, a great country, the greatest democracy, the most generous of all new nations in modern history. What happened? I don't understand. Why the indifference, on the highest level, to the suffering of the victims?

Indifference is the scourge of humankind and it happens to us all. We get distracted, we get busy, tired, and overwhelmed. Compassion fatigue sets in when our efforts seem for naught. But, our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us back to our senses and we are reminded once again of our humanity and the humanity of others.

*Continued on page 2.*

**SERVICE TITLES & DESCRIPTIONS ~ FEBRUARY, 2016**

The Sunday service begins at 11:00 am. This month's theme is **Faith**

Feb 7: ***Growing Wings*** by Rev. Cathy Harrington

Faith is less about *what* we believe and more about *how* we believe. Faith is a verb, an action, the willingness to take the next step. William Sloane Coffin once said, "I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, and then you grow wings."

Feb 14: ***I Love \_\_\_\_\_*** by UUCU Teens

Join our UUCU teens, as they present their annual service. This year's theme, *I Love \_\_\_\_\_*, concerns the random nature of love: familial, romantic, and platonic.

Feb 21: ***Faith Without Certainty*** by Rev Cathy Harrington

What does it mean to be a people of faith? What is the sustaining message of our Unitarian Universalist faith? In his book, *Faith Without Certainty*, UU minister Paul Rasor writes, *Liberal theology is not for the faint of heart. It points us in a general direction without telling us the specific destination. It refuses to make our commitments for us, but holds us accountable to the commitments we make.*

Feb 28: ***Black Lives Matter: Towards Racial Justice***

In an interview with the New York Times, philosopher Judith Butler said, "If we jump too quickly to the universal formulation, 'all lives matter,' then we miss the fact that black people have not yet been included in the idea of 'all lives.'" How do we dismantle racism and work towards a community where all lives really do matter? What can UU do?

**MINISTER'S MUSINGS**

Continued from page 1.

This prayer by Howard Thurman's comes to mind: *Keep fresh before me the moments of my High Resolve, that in good times or in tempests, I may not forget that to which my life is committed. Keep fresh before me the moments of my high resolve.*

Our UU faith may be heretical, but it is anything but indifferent. It is a life-giving and life-saving faith, and we are called to be better people, to be compassionate, to bear witness, to be angry at injustice, and to work together to create a better world. This is what it means to be a people of faith.

In faith and love,  
Cathy



**CANDLELIGHT VESPERS  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 7 PM**

Join us for a simple meal at 6 pm followed by a time of quiet reflection with music, prayer, and a Unitarian Universalist communion ritual of hope and solidarity. Rev. Cathy Harrington will be Vespers Service leader.

**FORUM**

Forum meets each Sunday morning at 9:30 downstairs, the last room on the left. All are welcome!

**February 7: Cécile de Rocher -- Evolution of the English Language**

Let's explore the evolution of English from its earliest roots to modern day texting.

**February 14: TBA**

**February 21: Martin Rice – Grammar Nazis and the Evolution of Language.**

The only thing certain about language is that it undergoes constant change. But something almost as certain is that people are so resistant to these changes. Why do people find change so threatening? How do they fight change? Why do they always lose?

**February 28: David Benn & tom kunesh – Native American Religious Beliefs**

What can we say about Native American religious beliefs during the Woodland period in the upper Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri rivers?

**INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM: TENETS & PRACTICES**

*February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10*

*7:00-8:30 pm*

A new community adult Religious Education class will be offered in February and March. Introduction to Islam: Tenets and Practices will be taught by Hammad el-Ameen of Dalton, Georgia. This free class is intended for non-Muslims and is open to all.

Feb 11: The five pillars of Islam explained

Feb 18: The belief systems of Islam

Feb 25: The Prophet Muhammad

Mar 3: Women in Islam

Mar 10: The Quran

Mar 17: Visit to a mosque

**POETRY CIRCLE**

**POETRY CIRCLE** will meet February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. In the Sophia Fahs room. Bring a poem or two to share or just come to listen to others choices. All are welcome.



**FROM YOUR LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM:**

*Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.*

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

*by Monique Lewis, President, Board of Trustees*

*Stewardship—the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.*

I really like this definition of stewardship and believe it not, our stewardship campaign is not that far away. We will be considering different ways of presenting the 2016-2017 budget to you. Most likely, we will have the table talks, with meals, after our Sunday services, as we did last year. Did these gatherings help you to answer some questions about the budget, what your fair share should be, or what our funds are spent on? Each year the stewardship committee attempts to present a clear and concise picture of the church's needs. If you have some ideas for spreading the word or what you feel the church needs at this time, please share them with me. ([niquelewis1@gmail.com](mailto:niquelewis1@gmail.com))

All of us have done a terrific job in following through with our pledges and I thank you for your commitment to our church. We have made some significant progress and I know that with hard work, we can continue to make even more progress in our relationships, in sustainability and in our growth.

See you Sunday!

**FACEBOOK AND TWITTER**



Find us on Facebook!

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



**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @UUOFCHATT**

Or search Unitarian Universalist of Chattanooga





**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

by Kay McCurdy, Director of Religious Education

“As soon as I saw you  
I knew an adventure  
was going to happen.”



- On **February 14th**, our UCC teens will present their annual service in our sanctuary. Entitled **I Love \_\_\_\_\_** they'll dissect the (seemingly) random nature of love.
- **Our Whole Lives (OWL)** classes scheduled in February: Senior High on February 14th, 12:30-3:00 p.m.; Junior High on February 17th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. OWL facilitators are Cecile de Rocher and Eric Tittsworth. Lunch/Dinner for all participants is included.
- RE families had a Meet & Greet in January to unveil the details of our upcoming **Family Civil Rights Trip** to Birmingham, Alabama. Scheduled for **March 18-20**, we'll visit the 16th Street Baptist Church, Civil Rights Institute, and walk the Civil Rights Heritage Trail. If you are interested in joining us, please contact DRE Kay McCurdy by February 15th.

- We still have **openings** on our Sprout (ages 5-8) and Teen (ages 13-18) teaching teams for the winter/spring semester. Teachers cover one Sunday per month, and are always assisted in the classroom by another adult. Contact Kay if interested, [dre@ucc.org](mailto:dre@ucc.org)
- Many thanks to **Bart Solomon** and **Diane Berry Solomon** for the donation of a new playhouse with swings for the kids -- take a look at it over on the north side of the building. And thanks to **Paul Adler, Ron Pasch, Greg Cruz, David Benn, Bill Kurtz, Rich Dwyer** and **Wayne Poppe** for undertaking the Herculean task of taking it apart, transporting it across town and reassembling it in our big backyard. The kids love it!



*Above: New playground equipment*



*Left: David Benn installs climbing rope*


**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

by Judith Pedersen-Benn, Social Justice Committee, Chair

**As Unitarian Universalists we are called to respond to the Social Justice issues of our times.**

It's a new year, 2016, there will never be another like it! And, there will never be a better time for you to give some of your time & energy to making this world a better place. The World (people, animals, plants, everything) is calling out for our love and for our actions. The time is ripe to open your heart. Join us....you will be glad you did!



 T- Shirts: if you truly WANT a T-SHIRT please pay for it so we can send an order off. We would like to do this in February.

**You are invited to join us for the following:**

- Sign up to fix or deliver a dinner to the Welcome Hospice on the first Friday of the month.
- Sign up to join the “Third Way” non-violence group...we are collaborating with them to pursue non-violent actions and to work for gun legislation at all levels of government.
- Mercy Junction Peace and Justice Center has a discussion group for Activists on Thursday evenings at 7:00 (these are fun and are well-coordinated). We participate in these when we can at 1918 Union Ave.
- Join us as we march in the Martin Luther King parade on January 18, at 3:00 pm at N. Moore Rd and Brainerd Rd. Show your solidarity with Non-violence, Peace and Justice!
- Join the Anti-Racism Training that will be held at our church on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 10-3. And, invite others to attend.
- Look for the following **videos** we will be hosting at church:
  1. Admissions: what happens when a terrorist and a victim of terrorism die together?
  2. Dakota 38: Native Americans forgive and commemorate hangings in Minnesota.
  3. Andrew Harvey on Hope and Sacred Activism.
- Look for the following **activities** we will be hosting to build Community:
  1. Drumming Circles
  2. Dance/moving Circles
  3. Singing/sounding Circles
  4. Book Discussion (probably this summer) on Radical Hospitality

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|---|--|
| <p><b>UUCB Board of Trustees, 2015-2016</b><br/> <b>President, Monique Lewis</b><br/> <b>Immediate Past President, Leslie Brock</b></p>                 |  |
| <p><b>VP, Resources Ministry, Buck O’Rear</b><br/> <b>VP, Congregational Life Ministry, Greg Cruz</b><br/> <b>VP, Outreach Ministry, Linda Park</b></p> | <p><b>VP, Religious Growth Ministry, Cecile de Rocher</b><br/> <b>Secretary, Pam Johnson</b><br/> <b>Treasurer, Daidee Springer</b><br/> <b>Assistant Treasurer, Bill Derrickson</b></p> |

**GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE**  
*by Sandy Kurtz, Green Sanctuary*



## WILD LOVE

With this being February, one thinks of Valentine's Day and love. Of course there are all kinds of definitions and different words for love. For example, there's *eros*. *Passion, intimacy, endearment, affection, and adoration* all generally refer to erotic or romantic attraction having to do with sexual pleasure or desire for another person. Then there is agape love, the unconditional, selfless and sacrificial love that one might have for God or as patriots do who lay down their lives for country. Other kinds of love can be brotherly love (*storge*) or love among family members (*philia*). At UCC we speak of the beloved community.

None of these definitions seem quite right when one speaks of love of nature. Oh, there's plenty of *eros* in nature what with all the strutting, dancing, nest decorating, and sperm catching schemes. The urge to reproduce is strong. The male deep sea anglerfish permanently fuses himself to the female body finally dissolving except for his sperm which the female can access whenever she is ready to lay eggs. Now that might rise to the level of sacrificial *agape* love.

Our love of nature, however, means more than that. A promotion for the film *Love Thy Nature*, reminds us: *We've lost touch with nature. This hurts our health, dims our spirit, and threatens our future.* *Love Thy Nature is a mesmerizing journey through the beauty and intimacy of our relationship with the natural world. And it shows that a renewed connection with nature points to a highly advanced and conscious new era.*

Nature love speaks of connectedness and relatedness to the interdependent web both in the past and for the future. Have you ever had a vision or a mystical moment where you felt you were one with the Universe? That sense of oneness is perhaps connected to our concern for the continued health of nature. Because we are part of the web of life, it is also a calling for the wellbeing of future generations not just of humans, but all Life. The Paris Agreement speaks to that kind of love as we move toward a new healthy energy era. Perhaps we need another love word.

## BOARD

Last month's Board minutes by UCC Secretary Pam Johnson are available at [www.uucc.org/secretary/last-mins.pdf](http://www.uucc.org/secretary/last-mins.pdf) . For previous months you can use the standardized naming format of 4digit year - 2digit month + "mins.pdf", like so: [www.uucc.org/secretary/2014-12mins.pdf](http://www.uucc.org/secretary/2014-12mins.pdf). The listing of online UCC Board minutes can also be found at [www.uucc.org/congregational-life/board-minutes/](http://www.uucc.org/congregational-life/board-minutes/)

**PASSOVER SEDER—SAVE THE DATE**  
**APRIL 22, 2016**

Some might say we're breaking with tradition by not holding our Unitarian Universalist Passover Seder on Good Friday; but others will say we're holding with tradition by celebrating during Passover. Be that as it may, because Good Friday and the beginning of Pesach (Passover) are almost a month apart this year, it's time to break the mold. Another advantage to this change is the fact that more kids will be able to participate since Spring Break will long be over. More details about the Seder will be published in the March and April newsletters. For now we just want to alert you to the date. Put April 22 on your calendars. You don't want to miss this event that feeds your spirit and your stomach in equal measure.

**MONEY MATTERS**

*by Daidee Springer, Treasurer*

- \$228,285 is our budget for fiscal year 2015-2016
- \$100,669 is what we spent in the first half of the fiscal year
- \$112,031 was our total income the first half of the fiscal year
- \$ 20,665 was our pledge income in December, 2015
- \$ 10,010 was our pledge income in December, 2014

Yes, you are reading this right. Our pledge income in December, 2015, was double that of December, 2014. And even though we're anticipating some relatively heavy regular operating expenses in the last two or three months of the year (probably to the tune of some \$7,000), we're looking good. At least right now!

**UCC ON WUTC**

Looking at the billing statement from WUTC, I can see that, although our support for them may seem fairly modest, we have been frequent enough and regular enough that they have rewarded us with a significant number of bonus spots. It's good that we can provide that level of support because I hear in many ways from many people that they're hearing us on the air. It's good for building our image in the community, a beacon for newcomers, and a great morale boost for our old-timers. Let's keep it up.

Many UCC members who support our local NPR station make designated gifts to UCC. You can, too. It's easy. Write your check to UCC with WUTC in the memo line. WUTC gets the money; UCC gets underwriting announcements. There are also options to make monthly donations. Contact Chris in the UCC office or call Steve Hollingsworth at [\(423\) 240-3619](tel:4232403619).



**UWOMENSPIRIT SPRING RETREAT - MAY 11-15, 2016**

UWomenspirit is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has hosted all-women retreats since 1987. Our retreats emphasize and celebrate the Divine Feminine in her many forms. Our next retreat will be held on May 11-15, 2016 at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC.

Our theme for this event is We Walk with HER, as One and will emphasize our connection to Mother Earth.

For more information about UWomenspirit, please visit our website, [www.uuwomenspirit.org](http://www.uuwomenspirit.org).



**FEBRUARY 4: “UU DINERS” IS BACK!**

Come join fellow UUCC foodies for Italian fare in a very casual atmosphere at Portobello’s, on Hwy. 58, Thursday, February 4, at 6 p.m. UU Diners is a great way for us to get to know newcomers better. Bring your own wine – no corkage fee -- and credit cards accepted. Be prepared for a wide array of delicious and fresh entrees at this family-run establishment, 4976 Highway 58N, two miles east of Hwy. 153.

RSVP by Monday, February 1, by calling Linda Helton at 423-413-2417 or emailing LKWH67@gmail.com.

**ART ON THE WALLS**

*by Carol Hobbs*



Through February, the artist group MMIA (Mixed Media Inspired Artists) continues their presentation “Contemporary Spectra,” an exhibit of newly created paintings. The group, led by Sandra Paynter Washburn, consists of 17 members who incorporate dimension in their work through the use of textured medium, stenciling, stamping, collage paper and layering.

In addition to Washburn, exhibiting at UUCC are members Caroline Berk, Jeannie Brice, Lee Glascock, Lupina Haney, Peggy Jennings, Janice Kennedy, Janice Kindred, Kathleen Pacenti, Lorraine Perkins, Vicki Styons, Jane Starner, Faye Wolfe, and Judy Wright. The group wishes to contribute 10% of sales to UUCC.

*Original Intentions  
by Vicky Styons  
Mixed Media*

**CHIONS**

**BEYOND PARIS: SLOWING CLIMATE CHANGE**

February 13, 2016 Meeting

10:30 A.M-noon

Presenters: Sandy Kurtz

The Paris Agreement adopted on Dec. 12, 2015 establishes a framework for climate change action to slow the rising of planet temperature. What is the trouble? Should we care? Why should we be addressing it? Can we do anything that will make a difference and if so what and how? We will consider these questions and the part, if any, we can individually play. Sandy Kurtz was present during the COP21 negotiations in Paris, and will guide us in this exploration for answers.

As a long time environmental educator and activist Sandy has written curricula and trained countless volunteers to conduct educational trail activities and mount environmental campaigns. With an undergraduate degree in elementary education and a masters in Administration & Supervision, she has been a classroom teacher, founder and president of TN Environmental Education Association, Executive Director of Chattanooga Nature Center, Education Specialist at the TVA Energy Center and consultant for many schools and environmental organizations. She leads South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance, a citizen advocacy group, and sits on the boards of TN Environmental Council, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and Urban Century Institute. She writes the monthly Shades of Green column for The Chattanooga Pulse.

February, 2016

| Sun   | Mon                                    | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| 31  | Feb 1<br>10 am - 1 pm<br>DRE<br>Office | 2<br>10 am - 2 pm Minister<br>10 am - 1 pm DRE<br>12 - 1 pm Luncheon<br>6 - 8 pm SGM<br>6 - 8 pm Service<br>Auction Committee<br>7 pm - 9 pm SGM  | 3<br>10 am - 2 pm<br>Minister/Office<br>10 am - 1 pm<br>DRE/Office<br>6 pm - 7 pm<br>Soup & Bread<br>Supper<br>7 - 8 pm Vespers            | 4<br>5:30 pm -<br>7 pm<br>Dinner<br>6 - 8 pm<br>UU Diners<br>(Porta-<br>bella's Hwy<br>58)           | 5<br>12 - 2<br>pm<br>Tran-<br>sition<br>Team | 6<br>12:30 -<br>5:30 pm<br>UCG                                   |
| 7<br>9-10:30 Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 - 10:30 Forum<br>9:30 - 10:30 Pagan<br>11 - 12 Worship Service<br>11:15 - 12:15 pm RE<br>12:15 pm - 1:45 pm<br>Membership Journey  | 8<br>10 am - 1<br>pm<br>DRE<br>Office  | 9<br>10 am - 2 pm<br>Minister/Office<br>10 am - 1 pm<br>DRE/Office<br>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm<br>SGM Leaders Meeting  | 10<br>Ash Wednesday<br>10 - 12 SGM<br>10 am - 2 pm<br>Minister/Office<br>10 am - 1 pm<br>DRE/Office<br>6:30 - 8:30 pm<br>Harvest the Power | 11<br>6 - 9 pm<br>Weekly<br>Dinner &<br>Islamic<br>Intro<br>6:30 pm -<br>7:30 pm<br>Finance<br>Comm. | 12   | 13<br>10 am -<br>12:30 pm<br>CHIONS<br>12:30 -<br>5:30 pm<br>UCG |
| 14<br>9 - 10:30 Choir Rehearsal<br>9-10:40 SGM Facil.<br>9:30 - 10:30 Forum<br>9:30 - 10:30 am RE Cte.<br>11 - 12 Worship Service<br>12 - 2 pm WOWzers<br>12:30-3:30 pm OWL<br>12:30 pm - 1:30 pm<br>Parenting Support Group<br>4 - 8 Humanist Assembly | 15<br>10 am - 1<br>pm<br>DRE<br>Office | 16<br>10 am - 2 pm<br>Minister/Office<br>10 am - 1 pm<br>DRE/Office<br>11 am - 2 pm<br>Lay Pastoral Care Comm<br>6 pm - 8 pm<br>SGM (Forum Room)<br>7 pm - 8:30 pm<br>Auction Committee | 17<br>10 am - 2 pm<br>Minister/Office<br>10 am - 1 pm<br>DRE/Office<br>6 pm - 9 pm<br>OWL<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm<br>Board Meeting               | 18<br>6 - 9 pm<br>Weekly<br>Dinner &<br>Islamic<br>Intro   | 19   | 20<br>12:30 -<br>5:30 pm<br>UCG                                  |
| 21<br>9 - 10:30 Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 - 10:30 Forum<br>11 - 12 Worship Service<br>11:15 am - 12:15 pm RE<br>12:15 pm - 1:45 pm<br>Membership Journey  | 22<br>10 am - 1<br>pm<br>DRE<br>Office | 23<br>10 am - 2 pm<br>Minister/Office<br>10 am - 1 pm<br>DRE/Office<br>7 pm - 9 pm<br>Social Justice<br>Committee   | 24<br>10 - 12 SGM<br>10 am - 2 pm<br>Minister/Office<br>10 am - 1 pm<br>DRE/Office<br>6:30 - 8:30 pm<br>Harvest the Power                  | 25<br>6 - 9 pm<br>Weekly<br>Dinner &<br>Islamic<br>Intro   | 26   | 27<br>10 am -<br>4 pm<br>Anti-<br>Racism<br>Training             |
| 28<br>9 - 10:30 Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 - 10:30 am Forum<br>10-10:45 Poetry Circle<br>11 - 12 Worship Service<br>11:15 am - 12:15 pm RE   | 29<br>10 am - 1<br>pm<br>DRE<br>Office | 1   | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |