

THE ORACLE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF MEADVILLE
346 Chestnut Street Meadville, PA 16335
(814)-724-4023
WWW.uumeadville.org

SEPTEMBER 2017

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Join us for our weekly worship service, religious education and social hour Sundays at 10:30 am.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our **COVENANT** is to be a loving, joyful community that nurtures spiritual growth, promotes compassion, social responsibility, and service in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Our **MISSION** is to be a faith community devoted to love and respect, reason and justice.

In This Issue.....

- Bird's-Eye View- 2
- Worship Matters- 3
- UU Choir- 4
- Water Communion Potluck- 4
- Coffee Hour- 4
- RE Update- 5
- Adult Faith Development- 6
- Stewardship Night- 7
- Garden Evenings- 7
- Church Directory Photos- 4
- French Creek Cleanup- 8
- Greater UU World- 9
- Faith in Action- 9
- Share the Plate- 10
- Save the Date - 10
- Resources- 11



HELLO SEPTEMBER



ROBIN'S BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

REV. ROBIN LANDERMAN ZUCKER,

INTERIM MINISTER

Robin's Bird's Eye View

September 2017

“Walk together. Feel the heart beats. Experience the presence. This is how to be thankful.”

— Amit Ray

Years ago in my first settled ministry (I'm guesstimating December 2002), I offered an Advent Vespers service of music, candle lighting, readings, ritual and silence on a Wednesday night, and it was a bona fide hit. 50 people showed up. One of our musicians (a splendid contemporary pianist named Roald Wilson) agreed to collaborate with me on this service, and when we saw the response, we went all in for a monthly Vespers outing. Folks said they were “thrilled” to have a contemplative monthly worship experience to attend and savor.

Well, it all proceeded well enough for the first several months, but then Roald and I began to notice a fairly precipitous dive in attendance. 35 people in February, 23 in March, a bit of a bump for a Lenten theme in April, and a nosedive to 12 in May. What would June bring?

Roald and I showed up on the appointed Wednesday, arranged the Sanctuary and waited...and waited. The service began at 7:30 p.m. and still, no takers by 7:45. I sat in my chair near the pulpit, as my emotions careened from embarrassment to hurt to surprise to a wee bit of anger, and then I had the proverbial “aha” moment as I heard Roald sheepishly inquire, “Well, what should we do, then, Rev.?”

I looked over at him, fingers perched over his keyboard and responded,

“We'll do the service, just as we planned. All of it. Every word, moment of silence, and measure of music.” He looked bewildered, so I went on. “We are here to facilitate this service. We are here for the service, not for an audience. Let's honor the spirit of why we have been putting in all this time to create these evenings and do what we came to do.”

Roald's expressive face spread into the most joyful smile. And we began. Nothing was altered even though we were on our own. Bet you can guess the outcome. This was one of the most spiritual and memorable worship experiences of my life. It wasn't about numbers or praise or ticking a box of “things to do.” It was full-on in-the-moment immersion.

These 15 years later, I crave that immersion experience whenever we gather in worship, whether we be 15 or 40 or 100 in attendance. I tell this story to underscore that the energy created in worship does not rest in quantity but in genuine presence. Even so, there is something about the crackle of a Sanctuary filled with congregants that creates a welcoming and appealing environment for everyone, especially newcomers.

So, please bring your presence to the Sanctuary on Sundays. Devote two hours of your week (travel, church, socializing, travel) to sustaining our beloved community. I'm not counting heads or taking names, but I will be ever so glad to see you among the shiny faces in the crowd (even if three's a crowd!)

In faith,

Rev. Robin

WORSHIP MATTERS – SEPTEMBER 2017

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

"The Blessings of Our Hands"-

A Service in Celebration of Our Hands.

Karen Schreiber Mason, Co-chair,
UUCM Worship Committee

PLEASE BRING AN OBJECT OR TOOL that represents your labor, occupation, or vocation for a communal altar.

The Shakers have a saying, "Hands to work, and Hearts to God." They believe that your life's calling - your work - should be no less than an act of joy. An act of work is an act of worship. Come and explore the blessings of our hands in this collaborative Labor Day service honoring our callings, labors, and vocations.



SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

"Autumn People" Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker

In the words of a colleague, "Autumn people slow down, enjoy a certain pace." Sounds appealing, doesn't it? Most of us run around being bouncy Spring people year-round and 24/7, not looking very closely at much except our watches and our smartphones. Can you "remember the kind of September that's slow and oh-so-mellow," and if so, would you (could you) follow? As we gather together to begin another church year, we'll explore ways to join the ranks of Autumn people in this sped-up, over-stuffed world.

WATER COM-

MUNION will be part of the Ingathering Service. Please bring a small sample of water from a special place or that represents a special place.



SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

"We No Longer Have the Right to Remain Silent" Ms. Caron Carnahan, Candidate for Credentialed Lay Minister (UU)

The UUA selected the Rev. Paul Rasor's, "Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square" to be its Common Read for 2014-15. Timely when written, and perhaps even more so now, the author addresses head-on our UU tendency to avoid using religious references in our social justice work. This service will share Rasor's premise that engaging in social witness through the lens of our UU principles and spirituality is as powerfully important as using evidence- and reason-based arguments to ground our beliefs in the public arena.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Days of Awe Sunday

"A Semi-Colon is No Place to Stay"

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker

The Days of Awe between the High Holidays of Rosh



Hashanah and Yom Kippur offer us all (Jewish or not) a yearly opportunity to reflect, consider our righteousness and our missteps, seek and offer forgiveness, and venture forth again in a positive, healing direction. Metaphorically, these days could be seen as a semi-colon; the juncture where one could choose to end a sentence, but decides instead to continue the story because there is more to say. We'll explore, from a spiritual perspective, the ways in which a semi-colon is not a full stop, but rather a moment to pause, reckon, and reinvest in relationships, integrity, goodness, community, and life itself.

UU CHOIR- SEPTEMBER 3

UU Choir will begin rehearsing on September 3rd at 9 am. Please attend!!! Please let me know if you plan to be there. We will sing at Water Communion, September 10th. I hope to put together Bring Me Little Water, Silvy. Thanks, Aimee Reash, areash@allegheny.edu.



WATER COMMUNION POTLUCK– SEPTEMBER 10

All are invited to join us for our potluck following the Water Communion service on September 10th. We need volunteers to help set up, clean up, and – of course - bring a dish to share. Sign up to help and bring a dish on the sign-up sheet in the Parish House. If you have any questions, contact Leigh Lynes at 817-602-4148 or leigh@knockdesign.com.

THE SHARED MINISTRY OF COFFEE HOUR HOSTING

The coffee hour/ community table schedule has been published and emailed to the participants. There is a copy on the front counter of the Parish House and one on the refrigerator. Schedule for coffee hour for September:

September 3rd: Amelia Carr and Pete LeBar
September 10th: Potluck Lunch
September 17th: Corinne and Rich Chafey
September 24th: Sue Mallick



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 10!

Hello Fellow UU Friends!

I am very excited to share with you some info on our upcoming RE Classes this fall!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10 – RE ROCKS!

We will be kicking off our first day (September 10th) by participating in a local movement called Crawford County Rocks! The whole congregation is encouraged to participate, whether that be by bringing in rocks to paint or bringing in your children to paint the rocks. Adults: Fret no more! You will also be encouraged to get creative during coffee hour to decorate a rock or two as well! We will let the rocks dry and during the next RE Class we will take the kids out for a walk in Diamond Park to 'hide' the rocks wherever the children see fit.

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 – WINDOWS AND MIRRORS

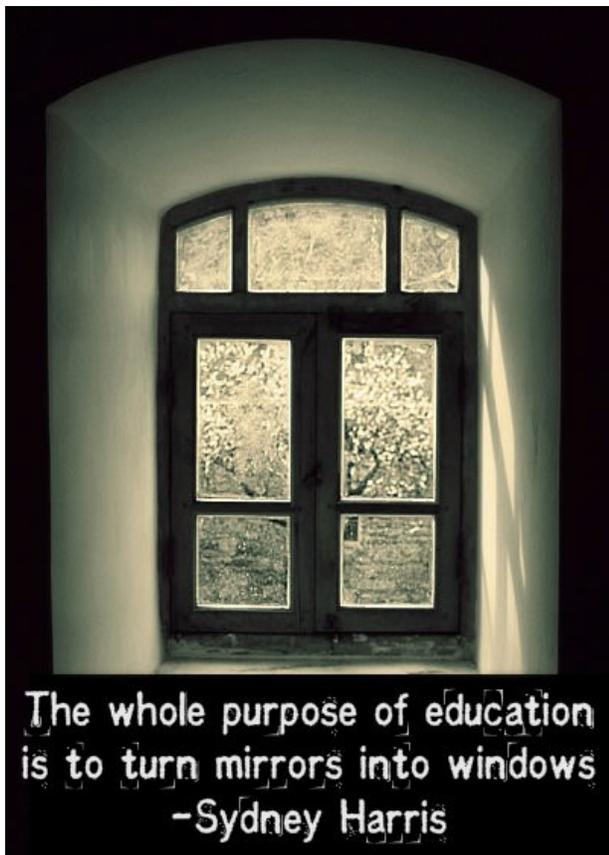
The RE team has been collaborating on various ideas for our fall curriculum and we are excited to engage the children in the program, "Windows and Mirrors." This curriculum focuses on looking into our own selves, searching for and finding meaning in our own individual values, as well as, finding out how to utilize our unique gifts to help our friends, family, congregation, and community.

We look forward to getting the kids involved in bigger projects by connecting them to other community organizations to show them what the world around them has to offer, and what they, as individuals in our congregation, have to offer the world.

Please register each child using this [downloadable registration form](#).

If you would like to get involved as an adult helper for the RE Classes or family-friendly activities and events, please check the boxes on the RE registration form or contact either myself or RE Chair, Jane Anderson. Check back in every month to hear about the wonders of RE!

Thanks again for welcoming me into your wonderful community. I am looking forward to working with all of you! -Kristina Brink, Coordinator of Religious Education



ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

Welcome to Adult Faith Development at UUCM. Our offerings are open to all members and friends, new and longstanding. We invite and encourage you to explore a variety of courses, presentations, and events this fall and winter designed to help you be inspired, connect, and live your values. Our goal is to provide a framework for you to grow (personally, intellectually, spiritually, and ethically) as an individual, as a member of the community, and also as a Unitarian Universalist.

Ideas? Do you have an idea for a program that you would like us to offer, or one that you would like to offer yourself? If so, please contact Rev. Robin rzflowngforce@gmail.com

A Long Strange Trip: Our UU History (in 6 compelling DVDs!)

On three Sundays this fall (and three to be scheduled this winter), we'll watch a one hour DVD documentary about our fascinating history and then discuss what we've learned and how it informs who we are today as UUs.

The program will take place in the Arthur Room. Please feel free to bring a brown-bag lunch. Attend one, or all! The program will be led by Caron Carnahan, candidate for UU credentialed lay ministry and seasoned leader at the Ginger Hill UU Fellowship in Slippery Rock.

Sunday, October 15, 12-1:45 "In the Beginning" (early roots -1553 CE)

Sunday, November 12, 12-1:45 p.m. "The Birth of Unitarianism" (1552-1794 CE)

Sunday, December 10, 12-1:45 p.m. "American Unitarianism" (1620-1860)

TED in Town (with Rev. Robin): A Series of Memorable TED talk screenings (with discussion) about the human journey of mind and spirit

Join Rev. Robin for a series of Tuesday night "TED in Town" screenings of their most popular offerings, (20 minutes or so) with follow-up discussion about the human journey of mind and spirit. The program will take place in the Arthur Room, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12, "The Power of Vulnerability," Brene Brown

Tuesday, October 24, "The Surprising Science of Happiness," Dan Gilbert

Tuesday, November 14, "The Danger of a Single Story," Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Tuesday, December 19, "Your Elusive Creative Genius," Elizabeth Gilbert

Planning Ahead: NEW UU Orientation , 2 sessions

on Sundays, January 21 and 28, 12-2 p.m.; a light lunch will be served.

This program offers a path to membership at UUCM. Part I: "Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys and Getting to Know the UU Faith" (with Rev. Robin); Part II: "Getting to Know Our Church and the Meaning of Membership." (with church leaders) RSVP to the church office

church@uumeadville.org

Check the B&B, Oracle and website for other adult faith development offerings from the Social Action team and other groups within our congregation.

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP EVENING - OCTOBER 7th, 2017

Please join us at 7pm for a wonderful evening of fellowship and tasty locally prepared morsels, and to be with Rev Robin and church leaders as they share their vision of mission and outreach for 2018. We are a church "on purpose" as the saying goes, and the STEWARDSHIP evening is not only a warm celebration of all we have achieved together so far this year, but it is a time to have conversations about what we will value in 2018.

Your personal invitation will be in the mail soon~ contact Peggy Bell if you have already made plans for this date, as there will be a second evening planned for those unable to be with us on October 7th.



GARDEN EVENINGS – SUNDAYS AT 7:00 PM

Garden Evenings--weather permitting~ through September-- Come join us (the first crew consisted of Fran, Anne, Karen and Peggy) on Sunday's at 7pm to do a bit of pruning, weeding and general gardening on our beautiful property. It's a nice quiet time to be on our otherwise busy corner!



SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24. We're putting together a new Directory (with a mobile app as one of its features!) The directory photo shoot is free, although photos will be available for purchase. Lifetouch Directory photographs taken – Sunday, September 24, 12:30 -7:30 p.m. **Sign-ups will be available online beginning August 27 at <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y3pqndym/>**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LOG OUT THE SYSTEM AFTER MAKING YOUR RESERVATION.
We will have a laptop available at the social hour on 8/27 and on the following Sundays, September 3-17

If necessary, we will add time on Monday, Sept. 25 for photos. Please let Jodi know ASAP if you will need to schedule for the 25th from 2-9 p.m., or if you do not have access to a computer, she will schedule you through the computer system. There will not be paper sign up sheets.

SAVE THE DATE: FRENCH CREEK CLEANUP –SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 12-4

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville has been a proud sponsor of the French Creek Cleanup for the past three years. We will collect donations to reach our sponsorship goal of \$250 throughout the summer. Checks can be made payable to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville with French Creek Cleanup in the memo. There will be a collection box in the Parish House. We will also organize another team for this year's clean-up. Last year, our team placed third in the most unusual find category with our antique rim. A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish House. Please include your best contact number and t-shirt size. The drop off and after party will be held at Sprague's Brewery in Venango. I hope to see you there! For more information visit <http://www.frenchcreekconservancy.org/french-creek-cleanup.aspx>.



IN THE GREATER UU WORLD

UUPLAN ANNUAL MEETING 2017 – October 6 and 7

Registration is open for the UUPLAN (Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Action Network) Annual Meeting 2017! This year's event will be held at UU Church of the North Hills in Pittsburgh (Wexford), Friday evening October 6 through Saturday afternoon, October 7. Learn how to organize for social justice, inspire others to join us on the journey, and nourish your own spirit as we bring UU values to the public square in Pennsylvania. See the UUPLAN newly redesigned website for more information and to register. Please speak to Rev. Robin if you'd like to attend but the \$25 fee is prohibitive. Home stays are available, upon request. <https://www.uuplan.org/events/uuplan-annual-meeting-2017/> .



FAITH IN ACTION

SOUP KITCHEN

Every second Friday each month a group of UU volunteers serve meals at the Meadville Area Soup kitchen as a way to help alleviate some of the symptoms of poverty in our region. You are welcome to volunteer.

SURJ: SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

All are welcome to SURJ: Showing Up for Racial Justice in Crawford County We meet Mondays at 6 pm at Pizza Villa, and also for social action witness on the south end of the in the Diamond on Fridays, 12:00-1:00 pm. Find us on Facebook at SURJCrawfordCounty (<https://www.facebook.com/SURJCrawfordCounty/>). Learn more from Shayna Morrison (shaynajmorrison@gmail.com) or Anne Jones (anne.goodwyn.jones@gmail.com). .

BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS (affiliated with Family Services of NW PA)

Is looking for mentors to help with their program. For more information, contact the office or check out the poster in the Parish House. For more information visit <http://www.fsnwpa.org/our-services/parent-education/big-brothers-big-sisters-program/>

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+

A support group for LGBTQ citizens, their parents and allies was formed three years ago in Meadville and has been meeting at Stone Methodist Church. The group recently moved to the UU church, meeting on the third Tuesday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. All persons interested in supporting the LGBTQ community are welcome to attend for discussion, snacks and fun. We are hoping to walk in the Halloween Parade this year, support for this endeavor is welcome. Fall meeting schedule: September 19, October 17, November 14, and December 12. If you have any questions please contact Deb Lehman.

WHY WE SHARE: SEPTEMBER'S SHARE-THE-PLATE RECIPIENT: UUPLAN

Vision Statement: Pennsylvania UUs are aware of justice issues and are called to speak and take action that leads to a better Commonwealth.

Mission Statement: UUPLAN educates and communicates with our congregations and partners to inspire action. We promote our values to policy makers to advance just legislation. We advocate for fairness and transparency in the democratic process.

Thank you for all who donated in August. The recipient was Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center.

SEPTEMBER SAVE THE DATE

UU CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sunday 3rd, at 9:00 am

SOUP KITCHEN

Friday 8th, at 10:00 am

FRENCH CREEK CLEANUP

Saturday 9th, 8:00 am

WATER COMMUNION POTLUCK

Sunday 10th, after service

BOARD MEETING

Sunday 10th, at 12:00 pm

CARING CONNECTIONS

Monday 11th, 3:00 pm

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Tuesday 12th, 12:30– 2:00 pm

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+

Tuesday 19th, 7:30– 8:30 pm

ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

Monday 25th by 9:00 am



RESOURCES

OUR CARING CONNECTIONS

Pastoral care is available to all members and friends, new and longstanding. Our lay pastoral team works with our minister to offer support, practical assistance, and companionship. Please let us know (through our team, staff, musical or affinity groups) of needs for our caring connections. Please contact Rev. Robin.

UU-seful Web Links

UU Church of Meadville:
www.uumeadville.org

Oracle: www.uumeadville.org/Oracles

UUA: www.uua.org

UU Service Committee: www.uusc.org

Ohio-Meadville District:
www.ohiomeadville.org

Amazon Associates Shop

Remember that our church is a member of the Support us when you shop at amazon. smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1322866 and Amazon donates.



2017 Church Officers

President: Deb Lehman
(deblehman51@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Dave Anderson
(david_mark_a@hotmail.com)

Stewardship: Peggy Bell
(Peggytbell@gmail.com)

Secretary: Ariel Denman
(arieldenman@gmail.com)

Treasurer: John Stewart
(johnuucm@zoominternet.net)

Coordinator of Mission & Outreach:
Carlin Almes
(carlin-almes@comcast.com)

Member-at-Large: Stu Rothman
(skrothman@zoominternet.net)

Church Staff

Interim Minister:

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker
rzflowingforce@gmail.com or
(814)- 724-4023 Ext. 302
Minister's Home Study– 412-727-6870
(Talk or Text)
Please see calendar for schedule , or by appointment

Coordinator Of Religious Education:
Kristina Brink
(kbrink1618@hotmail.com)
or (724) 977-2945
By appointment only

Music Director: Aimee Reash
(areash@allegheny.edu)

Office Administrator: Jodi Sipos
(church@uumeadville.org or
(814)724-4023)
Mon-Tues-Wed-: 8 AM – 2PM
Fri: By Appointment

Oracle Editor: Jodi Sipos
church@uumeadville.org or
(814)724-4023)