

THE ORACLE

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

OCTOBER 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.



Happy Halloween

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ROBIN'S BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

REV. ROBIN LANDERMAN ZUCKER,

INTERIM MINISTER

Despite the steamy weather, it *is* nearly that time of year when we change the clocks or "fall back," as it were (on November 5th, actually). The days are getting shorter, and here in NW Pennsylvania what will certainly be "falling back" are the leaves! Our yards and tree-lined streets will be carpeted with them - yellow, and orange and red and brown; it's a beautiful and special season. In the words of New England poet Robert Frost, "the same leaves over and over again fall;" this is the way it is in our world. And, by gum, that means it's the season of raking and bagging and mulching (and blisters and sore backs, too!)

Ask a kid about a yard or field full of leaves, though, and they're likely to exclaim: "Leaf pile!" Once again, our youngsters seem to have their priorities straight and a sense of balance that can elude us grown-ups...joy first, work later!

On many autumn days during my years in New England, as I would be out walking in my bucolic Concord, MA neighborhood, I'd come upon a gaggle of local kids gathered in Cousins Field. They'd be jumping in and out of a huge leaf pile, peels of delight ringing across an ever-browning meadow.

So, I'd stop to watch and smile and sigh. After the pile had flattened out, they stood around it, looking furtively at one another. One of the boys held a lone rake. Apparently, they were waiting for somebody new to step forward to do the *work* of creating another leaf pile. Eventually, one of the gang yearned to jump into the leaf pile so urgently, he went ahead and grabbed the rake and undertook the task. After awhile I'd walked on, but I'm guessing that each child ended up taking a turn raking (because it's "fair") and everybody enjoyed the fruits of that buddy's labors. Rake, assemble, leap, joy, repeat.

This got me to remembering how my now young adult kids, Sam and Michaela, always loved to swing from a rope on a big ash tree in our front yard and fall into the soft center of the huge leaf pile. One day, Michaela asked me, "Mom, why don't *you* ever jump in the pile?" Well, I could only think that the leaves had become ALL work to me; and although the raking was often meditative, and even "rewarding" at times, it was still a "chore."

I figured that the jumping part (the "play") was now for my kids alone. But they coaxed me and I was re-anointed by autumn's splendor one October afternoon as I sunk down into a crackling mass of maple leaves with them and came up laughing, small leaf fragments in my hair and that wonderful woody smell clinging to my sweater.

So, two morals to this tale – 1. Pitch in to rake and assemble the leaf pile (be a good and fair steward - whatever form that takes in your personal, professional or congregational life) and 2. Put down your rake and take the plunge -- you're *never* too old to learn to love a leaf pile. Let's strive for a balance in life that reminds us that we should not become too busy or too jaded for joy. As Emily Gibbs, heroine of the American classic play, Our Town, reminds us: "It all goes so fast."

In faith,

Rev. Robin

WORSHIP MATTERS – OCTOBER 2017

OCTOBER 1, 2017

“On Salvation” Rick Holmgren

Please join us for a reflection on

“Salvation” as we consider who is being “saved”, from what, and by whom.



OCTOBER 8, 2017

“20/20 Visions: Seeing is Believing”

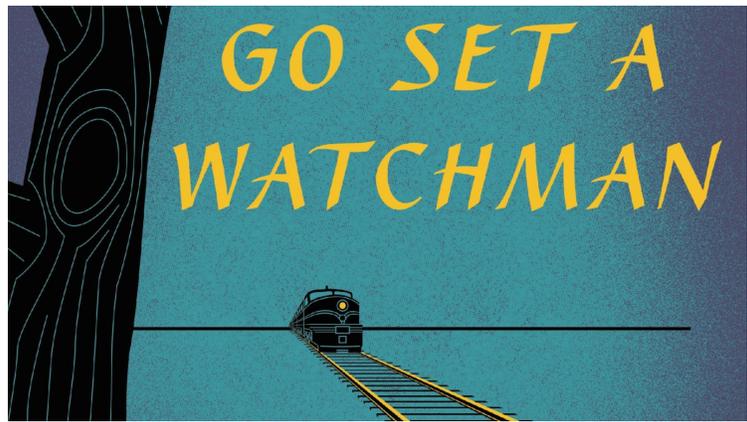
Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister

Stewardship undergirds everything that our community does and calls us into deeper connection with each other. As we launch our annual stewardship campaign in order to fund our current and future needs and goals, we'll explore together the “vision” behind the dollars and how “seeing” (focusing on what matters) is truly a form of “believing.”

OCTOBER 15, 2017

“Who's Afraid of the Dark?” Stephanie Gannon

Autumn is a season of transition and letting go. We look outside and see the leaves changing colors and falling. The interfaith calendar for this period contains two holidays that contemplate the relationship between light and darkness--Diwali, which takes place this coming week, and Samhain, at the end of the month. What is it about the coming darkness that makes us so uncomfortable? What feelings does it evoke? Join me this week as we explore the spiritual practice of walking in the dark.



OCTOBER 22, 2017

“Go Set A Watchman. Let Him Declare What He Sees”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister

The publication of Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* prequel, *Go Set A Watchman*, unleashed a torrent of opinion pieces, critiques, applause, and befuddlement about the recasting of Atticus Finch from paragon of white virtue to an emblem of deep south racism. Mary Louise goes home as an adult and sees a different shade of Atticus than she had seen through the adoring eyes of Scout. In this sermon, we'll explore the disturbing, empowering, and liberating ways our lives, our world, and the people in it, become more real when we are willing to “declare what we see” through unblinking adult eyes (even with the thickening vapor of half-truths and fake news). How do we reconcile the beautiful with the ugly, the vile with the just, the illusion of a leader with the reality, the fondness we have for friends and family when it is sullied by expressions of prejudice? And what will we do with the truths we see? “When I was a child, I reasoned like a child...but when I grew up, I put away childish things.”

OCTOBER 29, 2017

“Make a Joyful Noise: Feel the Music” John Hyatt Karen Schreiber-Mason, Aimee Reash and Evan Andrae

Music. Maybe we'll talk about it, maybe we'll just sing. Come and see. Come and sing.

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 October:

October 1st: Gladys Corpuz

October 8th: Bruce and Marty Thaeler

October 15th: Bill and Fran Smith

October 22nd: Carlin Almes

October 29th: Deb Lehman and Melissa Mansfield



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello Fellow UU Friends!

WINDOWS AND MIRRORS - OUR FALL CURRICULUM

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

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 rzflowingforce@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, October 24, "The Surprising Science of Happiness," Dan Gilbert

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

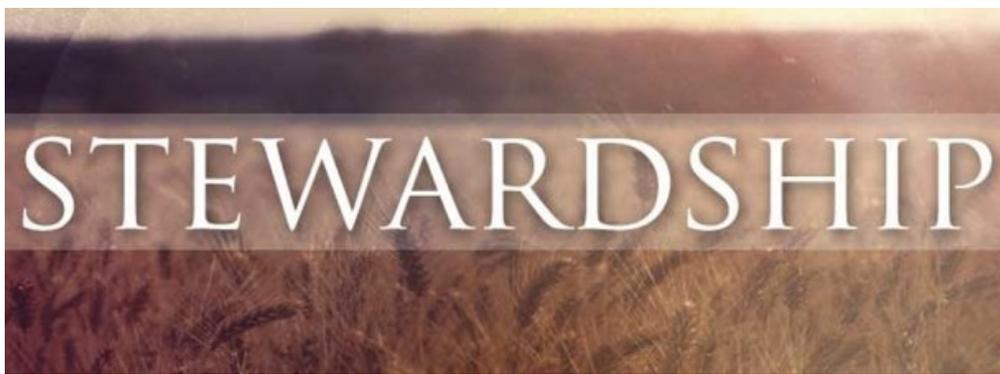
Tuesday, December 19, "Your Elusive Creative Genius," Elizabeth Gilbert

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 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.

WE NEED MU-LA-LA FROM THE OOH LA LA!

U.U. Friends: As you may know, a while back we started an account down at the local consignment boutique. A few of you have generously donated and so far we've made about \$100! But we really need more participation so we are asking you to go through your closets and donate any light fall items that you may want to part with. Cardigans, light jackets, vests, ponchos, long sleeve shirts, jeans, neutral colored pants, dresses (not formal, however) and of course purses, shoes, scarves and jewelry!! This is an easy way to make money for our church while keeping your closets nice and orderly. Feel free to drop them off at the church or directly at the boutique (located in downtown mall next to Big Lots). Just ask for the UU / Peggy Bell account. And thank you all so much for helping us to make a little extra money!

HELP WANTED

Do you know someone who is age 55 or older, low income and handy who is looking for part time employment? The Church has the opportunity to hire a maintenance person through the Path Stones Senior employment program. If you know anyone interested please refer them to our own Gladys Corpuz at Path Stones.

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.: Open meditation. Everyone is invited to join Harmony in the Parish House in this quiet inward-focused meditative time led by our longtime yogi. It's been meeting outside during the summer, but now is shifting to the Parish House, which should be open when the choir arrives to practice.

SHALOM Y'ALL - October 4 7:00 p.m.

Join a young Southern Jew in the first of a series of occasional Wednesday night films brought by the Social Action Team exclusively to UU members and friends (sorry--legal issues, but you can borrow the DVD). Brian Bain, the filmmaker, begins to question what he had felt to be his seamless identity as Jewish and Southern. Shalom Y'all (2002) is an engagingly personal and historical documentary trip through the changing experiences and treatment of Jews in the South in the 20th century. Seeing it just after the High Holidays should be a special treat. 7 p.m., Arthur Room. See <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0365746/> and for more materials, the UNC-Chapel Hill resources at https://digitalresearch.lib.unc.edu/exhibits/show/shalom_yall_jewish_south/jewish-assimilation-to-souther and the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life <http://www.isjl.org/>

"SURVIVING WITH STYLE" - October 7 9:00-12:00 p.m.

"Surviving with Style" on October 7 offers free mammograms, courtesy of MMC, along with a fashion show and free breakfast. No insurance required. Open to the public. It's at Vernon Place, 11277 Conneaut Lake Road (bus connections available) from 9-12. However, reservations for the mammos are required: (814) 333-3900. Please pass this information along to anyone you know who might be interested! Fran Smith is the UU connection for more info.

Please see the B&B for other Social Justice opportunities.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - PUMPKIN DERBY

The Community Connections Team seeks to broaden the church's connection to community. We've participated in Second Saturday and First Friday. The next major community event is the Pumpkin Derby, on October 21, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, right in our neighborhood- on South Main St. We will offer a craft activity for kids- making Gratitude Flags. If you enjoy working with kids please join us. The more folks get to know UUs and the principles the better chance we have of creating a peaceful and loving world. Volunteers can sign-up in the Parish House.



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: October 17, November 14, and December 12. If you have any questions please contact Deb Lehman.

BAN EX-GAY THERAPY

The PA Equality Project is sponsoring a rally on October 22 at Noon in Diamond Park to support legislation to ban gay 'conversion' therapy. Members of Crawford LGBTQ + will be participating in the rally. Please stand on the side of love and support the cause with your presence.

WHY WE SHARE: OCTOBER'S SHARE-THE-PLATE RECIPIENT: WOMEN'S SERVICES

Since 1977, Women's Services has worked to help victims of domestic and sexual violence. Women's Services believes that every individual has value and has the right:

- to be safe in mind and body
- to live out of harm's way in affordable housing
- to be treated with respect and compassion

Thank you for all who donated in September. The recipient was the UUPLAN.

NOMINATE

Share the Plate benefits the community by donating one half of non-pledge offering to a local non-profit whose mission is in keeping with UU principles. Each year we ask members of the congregation to nominate local agencies to be a monthly 'Share the Plate' recipient. Nomination forms can be found on the counter in the lobby of the Parish house. Deadline for nomination, Sunday October 29.



OCTOBER SAVE THE DATE

UU CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sundays at 9:00 am

STEWARDSHIP EVENING

Saturday 7th, 7:00 pm

BOARD MEETING

Sunday 8th, at 12:00 pm

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Tuesday 10th, 12:30– 2:00 pm

SOUP KITCHEN

Friday 13th, at 10:00 am

LONG STRANGE TRIP

Sunday 15th, 12:00-1:45 pm

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+

Tuesday 17th, 7:30– 8:30 pm

ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

Monday 23rd by 9:00 am

TED TALK

Tuesday 24th, 7:00-8:00 pm

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

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