



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



October 2009

A Month of Sundays

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

- Oct 4** **“Three Tales of Worth and Dignity, Told in Honor of Disability History and Awareness Month”**
– **Dr. Michael Franch**
There are great Americans few people have heard of. They should be on postage stamps and known by all. They accomplished great things despite the limitations imposed on them by their bodies, by the built environment, and by our minds. Their achievements benefited themselves, of course, but also our entire society.
- Oct 11** **“Circle of Life” – Rev. Lyn Cox**
Earth-centered traditions suggest that the seasons of our lives move in a circle, with certain themes repeating themselves. Awareness of the environment and reflection on the circle of life offer ethical and spiritual insights.
- Oct 18** **“Between the Head and the Heart” – Rev. Mark Hoelter**
If our heart goes out to others but the words of love are not spoken, we have a problem. If the words spoken are not informed by basic sanity and wisdom of our heads, we have a problem. When head and heart come together in our vocal chords, we have words that sing, and sometimes song that makes a difference. We resume our contemporary exploration for centered, intentional action, using the Hindu “chakras.”
- Oct 25** **“Wheel of the Year” – Rev. Lyn Cox**
Whether we call it All Saints/All Souls, Samhain, or Halloween, the holiday at the end of October brings up thoughts about transitions. We share wisdom across generations, noticing both joy and sadness as autumn leaves display the pageantry of change.

MINI RETREAT – SIGNUP NOW!

Friday, October 9th, 7 to 9pm; Saturday, October 10th, 9am to Noon

The mini-retreat will be a **time of reflection and discussion**. We will explore broad themes **about our ministry together** in order to **develop a practical and spiritual sense of connection**. Registration is free. **Sign up** on the door to the sanctuary and indicate whether you need childcare. Please bring an item for the **potluck dinner on Friday evening** and an appetite for **bagels on Saturday morning**. Please email minister@uufallston.org with any food allergies or other accessibility concerns.

It All Happens Here

- Oct 1-2 Thu-Fri** **Parking Lot Closed:** Weather permitting the contractor will be doing touch up work on the parking lot.
- Oct 4 Sunday** **Clean up time: Major yard work** effort needed **after the Sunday service. Wear your work clothes,** be prepared to get dirty and help make our grounds look great.
- Oct 11 Sunday** **Memorial Gathering for Mary Woodward - 2-5pm:** A memorial gathering in remembrance of Mary Woodward will be held by her family at Rockfield Manor, 501 E. Churchville Rd, Bel Air.
- Oct 13 Tuesday** **Homeless Shelter Support:** See volunteer opportunities below.
- Oct 17 Saturday** **Board of Trustees Meeting – 1:30pm:** All are welcome to attend.
- Oct 17 Saturday** **UUF Singles Group – To Be Announced:** Contact Gail Drew at 410-836-1234
- Oct 18 Sunday** **Social Responsibility Committee Meeting – 12:30pm:** See details below.
- Oct 29 Thursday** **Pizza and Pumpkin Carving:** Information and sign up will be posted.

News You Can Use

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

The **Social Responsibility Committee will meet Sunday, October 18th** in the church at 12:30. We request that all project leaders for the **Homeless Shelter, Neighbors in Need, Mitten/School Supplies Tree, Christmas Family, and Community Action Agency Food Pantry** be present to discuss plans for the upcoming year. All other members of the church are welcome to attend. Please bring your ideas and/or recommendations to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

HOMELESS SHELTER SUPPORT

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

- ♦ Volunteers needed for Tuesday September 13: 2 people - evening support (13th); 1 driver - pm(13th) or am (14th).

YOGA IS BACK!

Yoga classes will start at UUF on Thursday evenings at **7pm beginning October 22nd**. Amy Blickenstaff will conduct the classes. She is a registered instructor with the Yoga Alliance <http://www.yogaalliance.org/>. Amy is preparing publicity materials with information about her classes and the costs that we will post when available.

THE CHAIN IS GONE!

No more dragging the entrance chain around and constantly making repairs of broken links. The **chain is replaced by small signs** on the entry posts indicating that "Parking Is For Church Use Only." Hopefully, this will be sufficient to prevent parking by students and others who think we are a park and ride.

Did You Know

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Our outreach to others this month involved helping one **family headed by a grandmother** who has custody of her grandchildren. She unfortunately fell and broke her wrist which kept her from working for several weeks. That loss of income caused delay in paying some bills. We were able to **help on the delinquent BGE bill**.

In partnership with the Harford County Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Churchville, we covered the cost of pizzas, as well as the set up, serving and cleaning up at the **Sharing Table** on 9/9/09. As we do every month, we also worked and shared expenses with them on meals served at the **Homeless Shelter** in Riverside on the 13th.

We recently received a thank you note from a lady whom we had helped a couple of years ago. She included a donation in **appreciation of our assistance**. I replied with great pleasure and let her know that her gift would be used to help someone else. **Good deeds just keep spreading!**

Minister and President's Columns

MINISTER'S COLUMN OCTOBER 2009

As I write this, my yard is a study in transitions. The herbs we have kept in pots all summer continue to reach for the sun. All our herbs, that is, except the red basil, which was recently discovered by a hungry squirrel. The dogwood trees are beginning to blush on one side, while the sugar maple sports shocking yellow highlights among its green crown. A few pioneering leaves have fallen on the still-green grass. I imagine that, by the time you read this, the fall colors will be center stage, lavishing their leafy abundance on the ground.

October brings dramatic reminders of the seasons of the year and the seasons of our lives. Pumpkins and acorn squash give a foretaste of the family holidays to come, generations of seasonal foods for generations of people. Some folks have begun their Halloween preparations, creating costumes and sweets that connect the young with the young-at-heart. Those who celebrate All Souls/All Saints, Día de los Muertos, or Samhain take time at the end of October to reflect on the transition between life and death and to give thanks for ancestors who have gone before us. Our cultures and the earth itself tell us to pay attention to transitions this month.

At UUF, our theme of the month for October is "Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." This is one of the six sources of the Unitarian Universalist tradition that are named in the UUA bylaws. Ironically, this oldest source of human inspiration is the most recent one to be articulated in relation to Unitarian Universalism. I guess sometimes we take our most precious gifts for granted at first.

Our beautiful surroundings at UUF are an obvious draw for living in harmony with the rhythms of nature. Members take great care of the plants and the environmental details. We have room to work and play on the grounds, inviting us to form a friendship with the earth that supports our religious home.

I am wondering what you think about the sacred circle of life. How do you handle the transitions of seasons and of generations in your spiritual life? What are some ways that we, as a religious community, already live in harmony with the rhythms of nature? How might we do more as a community in relationship to the earth? Change is part of life, yet difficult to handle. How do we support one another in times of transition? I look forward to hearing your answers in the coming weeks.

Speaking of change, I wanted to point out a slight shift in plans for the mini-retreat on October 9 and 10. Originally, we were going to focus on the spirituality of creativity. In chatting with congregational leaders, it seemed clear that UUF already has a pretty good handle on creativity, and that we have a deeper spiritual need to reflect on ministering to one another. With the new plan, we will explore the meaning of religious community as we understood it in the past, as we experience it in the present, and as we hope for it in the future. This will be a "mini"-retreat both in the sense of being a short, manageable time (Friday evening and Saturday morning) and in the sense that we will be exploring "mini"-stry as we form a deeper sense of connection. I hope to see you on October 9 and 10.

- Reverend Lyn Cox

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Well, fall is finally here. I'm so excited to be getting back to church regularly and seeing familiar and new faces. There's lots going this fall including a congregational meeting, a mini-retreat and pumpkin carving for the kids. I know that fall is a busy time for most, but I would like you to take a moment to think about what I said back in May. What are you doing that's just a little bit more? Have you joined a committee? Are you volunteering more? Are you bringing in grape jelly? Are you contributing more financially? Are you making visitors feel welcome? There are a million ways to do more for the church, what have you chosen?

Enjoy your October-

- Alison Elliott

HERE ARE SOME BOOKS LYN WILL BE READING OR RETURNING TO THIS MONTH:

They touch on themes of earth-centered spirituality, the cycle of life, the ways we minister to each other, and thriving in the midst of change. The books marked with an asterisk (*) are available from the UUA Bookstore on-line.

These books will be of interest to families with children, not to mention the rest of us:

- ♦ *Marduk the Mighty and Other Stories of Creation* by Andrew Matthews, illustrated by Sheila Moxley
- ♦ **Aisha's Moonlit Walk: Stories and Celebrations for the Pagan Year* by Annika Safford
- ♦ *Circle Round: Raising Children in Goddess Traditions* by Starhawk, Diane Baker, and Anne Hill
- ♦ *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

These are books of interest to adult readers:

- ♦ *Process Theology: An Introductory Exposition* by John B. Cobb, Jr., and David Ray Griffin
- ♦ **Redeeming Time: Endowing Your Church with the Power of Covenant* edited by Walter Herz
- ♦ *Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu
- ♦ **In Nature's Honor: Myths and Rituals Celebrating the Earth* by Patricia Montley
- ♦ *Earth Prayers from Around the World* edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon
- ♦ **Instructions in Joy: Meditations* by Nancy Shaffer

If you end up using one of these in your book group or reading them on your own, please share your thoughts! Mention it during "Discussion & Sharing," post a comment to <http://revlyncox.tumblr.com> or start a discussion on the Facebook page.



Minister's



Book Shelf