



# The UU Circle

*Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston*

*You Are Welcome Here!*



**January 2018**

## *A Month of Sundays*

*Sunday Services at 11:00 AM, 1127 Old Fallston Road, P.O. Box 258, Fallston, MD (410-877-3773)*

**January 07 "Complicit" Rev. Kate Lehman**

Compelling evidence indicates that our government has sanctioned -- and continues to sanction -- drug policies that do disproportionate damage to communities of color. Yet, for many, the opiate crisis hasn't become important until the white community began to be affected in large numbers. We will explore some of the evidence of this form of discrimination, as well as search for ways that we might be complicit.

**January 14 "Hope and Faith in a Bleak Time" - Dr. Michael Franch**

At this time last year I was preaching to people who were depressed by the results of the election and dreading the time to come. The past year has been even more dreadful than some of us imagined, Yet I remain, if not optimistic, hopeful. Our faith calls on us to be hopeful, as it also calls for us to be faithful to its vision of a humane society.

**January 21 "Dr. King, Mutuality, and the World We Live In" Rev. Terry Ellen**

King's ethic was based upon what he called an "inescapable network of mutuality." Everything we've been learning since he died reinforces the wondrous reality of that network - in plants, in animals, and so of course in us humans. Living in this reality naturally elicits an ethic he lived by and we need.

**January 28 "Darwin and the Innate Goodness of Humanity" - Rev. Terry Ellen**

You would not think it, after all that the following Social Darwinists made of his evolutionary theory with their dog-eat-dog, bloody survivalist read on it for us humans, but Darwin's study of evolution convinced him of our innate goodness - the very conclusion that our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors came to by other means. But maybe this conjunction of science and religion is not so surprising, since both his and his wife's families were Unitarians. As we look around us now, the two very differing reads on human nature - Darwin or the Social Darwinists - lead to very different ethics

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**January 14 9:45 am** Board of Trustees Meeting - In UUF Office - All are welcome to attend.

**Mindfulness Meditation** will continue its winter schedule. Meetings will be held *every other Wednesday* at 7PM. Need more information? Contact: Leslie Sarkin leelamae@gmail.com

**January 13 Book Club** *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Meeting will be held at the home of Leslie Sarkin: 2106 Putnam Rd. Forest Hill, MD 21050. Time: 7:00 PM. **Please RSVP Leslie** at >>leelamae11@gmail.com <<

## *Reverend Terry's Column*

The most amazing thing about the new year is that it is new. Belaboring the obvious, yes, but the older I get the more I treasure the obvious – that which I've taken for granted, looked past without seeing. And newness beats all. In family systems counseling a whole stuck, hopeless, rock-like and destructive pattern can be changed seemingly miraculously by one person changing their standard way of responding to a situation. One tiny change sends out ripples that change all sorts of other interactions. I've seen it at work. I've even tried it a couple of times myself! What person in a relationship hasn't? Mighty healing power in a little bit of newness. It's even better when good will is added to the change.

Like the Lakotas out at Standing Rock greeting all the well-meaning white folk arriving with "Thank you so much for coming. We ask one more thing of you: as our guests, please follow our lead so that we may handle this our way. Look. Listen. Give up your assumed right to leadership for this time. Try to follow on this, not lead as you are used to." That is new, and it changed everything there, just as similar processes are doing so all around us as indigenous and the neglected show us all new things. (It's this newsletter methodology; by the way, that has made the UU Service Committee such a pioneering, humble, effective, organization.)

So we always, every moment, have this "obvious" extraordinary opportunity of newness to live our lives into what we love, and we also have this extraordinary "obvious" surrounding of human healing efforts and intentions. And on top of all that, we have the "obvious" miracle that we are alive here now in this cosmos beyond the telling. The church calls this the grace of God and the cloud of witnesses. Others talk of the realm of spirit and our ancestors. Others call it the innate goodness of humanity. And on.

A small instance: my brother was moved to tears at the end of an environmental video as the screen rapidly scrolled through for minutes on end just a partial listing of all the organizations around the world working on behalf of a sustainable planet. It became so powerfully clear that there is an enormous upwelling of people organizing all over to meet this common issue. It's so easy to feel alone, and yet this wider reality is hidden right under our feet. His tears were his heart-felt response to realizing the powerful extent of this common quest. And that is just one issue.

So, at this turning time of year when, like Janus, we look both backward and forward, let our gaze in both directions search for the beautiful, the humbly strong, the loving, the good, the true. All of these things need our gazes so they are seen, and we ourselves need them to be seen because our hearts cry out for their beauty and strength.

## *Outreach*

### **FROM THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE**

There is a hat, mitten, scarf, glove tree in the sanctuary. We will collect those items through mid-January.

Sharing Table food, as with the grape jelly, will be ongoing.

UUF 2018 Sharing Table dates are **Saturday, April 14**, and **Saturday, October 6**. Please mark your calendar for serving and/or cooking.

Anne Bredlow and Social Responsibility committee\_

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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As of 10/31/17

*FOR FISCAL YEAR 6/1/16 to 5/31/17*

**Operating Income:**

Pledges/donations ..... \$ 11,822  
Rent ..... \$ 725

**Total Income (YTD) ..... \$12,547**

**Operating Expenses (YTD)..... - \$14,195**