



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



February 2018

A Month of Sundays

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

February 04 "Singing Through the Hard Times" Rev. Terry Ellen

That's how some of us have done it, like our UU hobo/songwriter Utah Phillips. But the rest of us need to find some other ways of keeping our hearts open when we are struck down by life. The good news is that we are surrounded by those before us and around us who have searched for and found paths of dignity, courage, compassion, and hope through adversity and despair

February 11 "The Shaw Redemption" Rev. Anthony Jenkins

On this 2nd Sunday of Black History Month, Rev. Anthony Jenkins will lead us in a worship service remembering the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (one of the first official all-Black Army units in U.S. history) and their commander, Col. Robert Gould Shaw (a third-generation Unitarian). Together we will contemplate the 54th's narrative (chronicled in the 1989 film 'Glory') - inside the complex context of civil rights and Civil War. We'll also consider the vices/virtues of Shaw's life and death through the prism of our 2nd UU principle (justice, equity, and compassion in human relations)

February 18 ""Thank You: Thoughts on Gratitude." Dr. Michael Franch

As a certified Old Guy, I often think about people who have been influential in my life. For example, Miss Dorothy Valentine, my junior high art teacher. She wrote the recommendation that helped get me into a summer art program at the National Music Camp. That fall, I started at the senior high, and never saw Ms. Valentine again. I never told her about what I did that summer, or showed her my artwork. I never thanked her. Oh, I thought that I should thank her--decades later! I've got lots of people like that in my life. We all probably do.

February 25 "Reverence for Life" – Rev. Terry Ellen

The phrase came like a revelation to Albert Schweitzer, illuminating the whole journey of his spiritual life from traditional Lutheranism to universal religion, from Bach expert and organ prodigy to medical doctor in Africa. If you want an example of moral integrity, courage to change internally and externally, and peace at the end of the journey, you have it in Schweitzer. We can learn a lot from this member of our own Church of the Larger Fellowship.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 11 9:45 am Board of Trustees Meeting - In UUF Office - All are welcome to attend.

December 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

UUF - The Grape Jelly Church

Why Grape Jelly?

The Harford Food Pantry gets peanut butter free from Federal Government from the surplus created by their subsidy to peanut growers. The Food Pantry gets day old bread from Giant and other stores in the area. There is a missing ingredient for needy children getting a nice PB&J sandwich in the lunch bag. Jelly. We decided to fill that void with our pantry donation. So we became known as "the grape jelly church."

Rev. Terry's Column

It is a trap I walk into – trying to think of something to say that serves you, ministers to you, earns my keep, as you go about your lives. Because when I think about you the only thing that comes to mind is that you amaze me. Any time I get a glimpse into your life stories, any time I learn about the difficulties you now face or have faced before, any time I pass you before my mind's eye and my heart's center, you amaze me. I suppose in some perfect cosmic court of wisdom you'd each receive some astute corrections to whatever you're doing, but I haven't found the place, and astuteness and corrections evade me.

So that leaves me with simple amazement at the way you, and I, (and everyone, come to think of it - but that is theoretical; you're real) wanders off into thickets and cul-de-sacs, spends long periods licking wounds or losing complete track of our own selves kowtowing to another person or ism, gets overwhelmed by all the details of life that press upon us, and yet somehow, like a ship slowly righting itself after the blow of huge waves or a fallen runner getting back up, comes back to creativity and wholeness and love, finds again a peaceful centeredness that only can be found by ourselves, chooses to continue in this life adventure that is so, so hard and yet so, so beautiful.

And then I realize this self-centering, slowly-righting, doggedly getting back up-ness in us is not simply our creation, though it bears all of our impresses and wears our faces, since it is so common, so universal. Rather, it seems more fair to say we are part of it, so much greater than ourselves.

But to be part of this great healing, self-righting process headed toward love –with each other, each traveling in our own way – is miracle way beyond enough for me.

You, dear friends, amaze me. And I am amazed at what we are all within.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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As of 12/31/17

FOR FISCAL YEAR 6/1/17 to 5/31/18

Operating Income:

Pledges/donations \$ 11,822

Rent \$ 725

Total Income (YTD) \$12,547

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