



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



February 2017

A Month of Sundays

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

February 05 “Not a Moment Too Soon” Rev. Terry Ellen

The huge response to the recent women's march demonstrated the emergence of a huge new and desperately needed voice and power, not just in this country, but world-wide. This emergence has major spiritual as well as political repercussions and so is worthy of our full attention.

February 12 “Do UUs Need a Creed? (Or Do We Already Have One?)” – Reverend Dave Hunter

Dave will explore to what extent shared theological positions bind us together as UUs.

February 19 “Being Scared Since 2016 is a Privilege” - Rev. Kate Lehman

An African-American woman who participated in the DC Women's March told of an interaction with a middle-aged white woman who was in tears over "continuously being lied to" by the new administration. While feeling great sympathy and empathy, the first woman's initial thought (which she did not share) was: "Is this the first time you've been lied to by those in power? As an African-American it's happened to me on a regular basis my entire life."

Those words left me feeling "gob smacked," as the British put it. Intellectually I know the ways in which African Americans and other groups of people have been lied to: the Tuskegee syphilis experiment, and a succession of government treaties the government made with indigenous people that were not honored are but two examples. But until this woman -- a UU, by the way -- shared her reaction, I didn't realize that, as the sign at one of the Women's marches put it: "Being scared since 2016 is a privilege."

Those who benefit from being in a position of privilege – be it based on gender, gender identification, race, sexual orientation, economics, etc. – may or may not be aware of the many lies used all the time to maintain the status quo, or worse yet, improve conditions for those already in power. At this service we'll explore some of these lies, how these lies affect us as individuals and as a country, as well as how people in positions of privilege can respond to these lies so as to truly honor the dignity and worth of all persons.

To be certain, it can be difficult to face these issues. In fact, I passed this sermon blurb by several people because I didn't want to put my ignorance and insensitivity on public display for all to see. However, I am one among many people who believe we are living in a new paradigm, and that nothing will change unless we broaden our understanding, which includes ways in which we are complicit in maintaining the status quo. Unless we change, I'm convinced that things will only get worse and we will not, in fact, do everything we can to uphold the principles of our faith.

February 26 “The Three Marriages” – Rev. Terry Ellen

This from the poet David Whyte's formulation of our needed life-long commitments to our inner life, to those around us we love, and to our work. How do we honor all three? Our answer creates the fullness, meaning, and artistry of our lives.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 12 9:45 am Board of Trustees Meeting - In UUF Office - All are welcome to attend.

February 26, March 5 and 26, & April 2 and 23 12:30 to 1:30 PM - Spring Seminar

Rev. Terry's Column

What a time this is! I put the thirty community service hours (and more!) from for my arrest in Richmond last fall (pipelines, coal ash, climate) into organizing a service in DC honoring Dr. King's Riverside address naming materialism, militarism, and racism as the three "deadly triplets" our country must deal with in order to live up to our promise. So on the afternoon of January fifteenth in D.C. I experienced the beautiful and powerful reality of what Dr. King called the beloved community as Indigenous, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, and Christian voices shared together their perspectives on those triplets and the promise lying beyond them and before us.

That was a glorious ending to a lot of hard work. But then, on the next Saturday, women worldwide astounded everyone and brought together probably the largest demonstration in world history standing up for all the things they hold dear. With children and men alongside, they demanded to be regarded with all the dignity that is their due, to not be pushed to the back of the bus behind males, and to have their concerns addressed with seriousness. In many ways their concerns echoed those of Dr. King years before, but they brought their own voices and specific concerns that even he had no inkling of.

This was a watershed moment. Something indelible has happened. When it seemed this sorry world could go no lower, women entered the picture in unified force, bringing a new perspective and power. Listen to the speeches. Watch the videos. Look at the numbers and the places. If we are ever to value lived life over aggressive dominance and profit, it is the women who will have to help us find the way.

Of course one demonstration does not an overturning of entrenched ways make, but the jubilation and mutual reinforcement of such an event is potent beyond the telling, and the clear message of people leaving the gatherings was that this is not over – rather it is a beginning.

Things elsewhere might be pretty grim, but a huge boost to common, life-giving decency has arisen right in the middle of everything.

Alleluia

Outreach

HARFORD FOOD PANTRY

We are doing a good thing that is definitely appreciated. Please keep those donations coming so we can support this worthy cause. Food Pantry counts on us for the grape jelly we donate on a regular basis. They are always very appreciative of our offerings.

SHARING TABLE

The first Sharing Table for UUF is **Saturday, April 22.**

A Sign-Up sheet will be posted in February.

HARFORD FAMILY HOUSE

UUF will be collecting the following items during February and March for the Harford Family House:

personal care items - toothpaste, toothbrushes (child size also), deodorant, mouthwash, soap of all types, hand and body lotion. Items must be UNOPENED - SEALED PACKAGES

News

SPRING SEMINAR

“Spirituality for UUs”

All are invited to five one-hour gatherings exploring various ways for us divergent UUs to enhance our spiritual lives. We'll meet 12:30 -1:30 following services on Feb. 26, March 5 and 26, and April 2 and 23.

You're invited to come to any you can make: continuity is a plus, but not a necessity. We'll explore what people are

already doing and why and also look at some options other UUs have found helpful. There will be occasional “homework,” but not of an onerous nature.

MAINTAINING A CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10am-11:30am Webinar

UUF member Leslie Sarkin invites you to join her in viewing a webinar for lay leaders and religious professionals. During this webinar you will learn about best practices for maintaining a congregational website. Ideally 3 or more people will attend together from the same congregation. No technical expertise necessary! If interested please contact *Leslie Sarkin* >> leelamae11@gmail.com

FALLSTON UUs at WOMEN’S MARCH

On January 21, 2017, several members of the Fallston UUs participated in the Women’s March in DC. This picture shows, Pat White (not a UU member, Connor Ries’ first grade teacher), Helen Mann, Collette Horn, and Jeanne Galvin-Clarke. Kern Ries is taking the picture. Other members that we know were there include Sherry Delgado, Laurie Caldwell and her daughter Claire Dowley, Mary Mayhew (and her daughter) and Alison Elliot. There were lots of other UUs there from all over the Nation, including several from the Churchville Church. It was an exciting day for all of us.

