



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston



You Are Welcome Here!
March 2017

A Month of Sundays

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

March 05 "Thoreau's Ethics, Their Origin, and Us" Rev. Terry Ellen

Unitarian Henry David Thoreau has a distinctive moral voice like no other's. Its origins tell a whole tale in themselves, with special relevance for us UUs. But even beyond his own considered conclusions, his example to us in our own spiritual and ethical journeys rings clear as a bell, most especially in these times of varied moral codes and religious grounding.

After the service, 12:30-1:30, all are invited to the first in our five gatherings on Spirituality for UU's. In this meeting, we'll consider what spirituality is and reflect on and share where we currently make room for it in our lives. You might be surprised by the answers.

March 12 "Stigmata" – Rev. Kate Lehman

Many UUs above "a certain age" carry scars from wounds inflicted by their religious upbringing. At this service we'll explore how to value those wounds as well as to use them toward healing.

March 19 "Letting Go of Who You Were" – Rev. Mark Hoelter

I'm amazed at the identity traps I get stuck in – have to be this way, not that way. Amazed at the little repeating rituals I seem to need to feel secure; at the stuck stories, I tell myself about myself. Mostly they're all about who I was. Or thought I was. And thinking about letting go of these ... well, it's like hanging from a rope, suspended above nothingness. If I let go of them where will I land? Who will I be? Anything like that for you?

March 26 "How Racism Drags Us All Down" – Rev. Terry Ellen

Hidden Figures has brought it up anew, and racism surely looks ugly in that movie and book. But even as I start feeling superior to Virginians of the 1950's, I have to consider what I've unconsciously absorbed by osmosis from our wider culture and still carry. And I find this whole issue has deep connections to the climate crisis as well.

After the service, 12:30-1:30, all are invited to the second in our five gatherings on "Spirituality for UU's". In this meeting, we'll reflect on our experience of a UU contemplation practice in which we pick one relatively short poem we particularly love and spend some time with it each day for at least a week to settle into it, let it shape us. (The actual practice is for three months.) So start thinking about poems you love so you can have at least a week with one before this gathering.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 5, 26, & April 2 and 23 2:30 to 1:30 PM - Spring Seminar (See article below)
Sundays

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

Sunday **Path to Membership Class - 12:30pm:** for anyone interested in learning more about our Unitarian church. Babysitter and lunch will be provided. Attendance in the class is required prior to becoming a member but you will NOT be required to join following the class. Please let Helen Mann, Patti Rodowski or Charlene Phillips know if you plan on attending.

Mar 17 "St. Patrick's Day Open Mic" – 7pm: Come to play or come to enjoy!
Friday

Mar 19 Congregational Potluck – 12:15pm: Bring your favorite dish to share.
Sunday

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.

Rev. Terry's Column

This whole anti-immigration lock-down that we have going on now echoes the racism that has been the curse of our country since its founding. It's been our moral blind spot and Achilles heel. We “whites” – an invented term to distinguish us from “blacks” – hopefully have some inkling of the horrors inflicted on the slaves and the resulting prosperity accruing to our common economy from their free labor, but I've been immersed in the coarsening moral effect this “peculiar institution” has had on our side of the intentionally created divide.

I've been reading *Hidden Figures* about the Black women computers in NASA and its precursor in WW II at Langley near Hampton Roads. (See the movie if you can!) Their dignity in fighting through the racism all around is incandescent, but the lack of dignity on the other side of that wall is not only shameful but, even more, morally self-destructive. Explicit, implicit, complicit, you name it, the all-pervading racism around them is like a moral ball and chain dragging us whites down, completely unbeknownst! I did not know Virginia fought school integration more than any other state in the country - and that's really saying something. Prince Edward County even shut its public schools down for five years rather than have black and white kids learn together, creating a Lost Generation of black and poor white students who could not get the education needed to attempt climbing out of poverty. The whites, besides debasing themselves in the book, are also shooting themselves in the feet all over the place in order to preserve their self-described superiority. No wonder, then, that for years the Unitarian Universalist Association has placed its primary justice emphasis on anti-racism work, though recently expanding out into a wider “inter-sectional” understanding of how many seemingly-different issues tie together.

And part of this continuing focus of ours comes from our own Henry David – need I say it? - Thoreau, whose essays I've been reading for a course. Thoreau turns more common conceptual and moral assumptions upside down in a few pages than anyone I know. And his fervent, reasoned objections to slavery rise in a moral crescendo from *Civil Disobedience* (1849), against the slave-holders' land-grab of the Mexican War, to *Slavery in Massachusetts* (1854), in which his own state is turned into a living hell around him as it is legally compelled to side with the slave-holders via the Fugitive Slave Law, to *A Plea for Captain John Brown* (1860), whom almost nobody, then or since, has chosen to defend, let alone elegantly. I guess we've chosen to side with slave-holding Robert E. Lee, who captured him, and see Brown as a Biblically-hallucinating crazed man, which he was certainly not.

I'd maybe sympathize with all of us who, like myself, get tired of hearing about all this, except for the fact that women like these NASA computer women and so many, many others have had to endure the effects of our white ignorance or amnesia, and our resulting indifference – and for the fact we whites still debase ourselves with our inherited unconscious assumptions of superiority.

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 is posted.

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

TEASURER'S REPORT

Report for fiscal year 6/1/16 to 5/31/17

Operating Income:

Pledges/donations	\$ 18,705
Donations for building use.....	2,079

Total Income (YTD)	\$ 20,784
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Operating Expenses (YTD)	- \$ 19,448
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