



# The Communitarian

November 2015

The *Communitarian* is the monthly newsletter of the

**Community Unitarian  
Universalist Church**  
2819 W. Sylvester Street  
Pasco, Washington 99301  
Services begin at 10:30 am

Joy and Service – Right Here!  
Right Now!

Website [www.communityuu.org](http://www.communityuu.org)

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[minister@communityuu.org](mailto:minister@communityuu.org)

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The deadline for the December issue of *The Communitarian* is November 20th. Please send news to [office@communityuu.org](mailto:office@communityuu.org)

**November 1**

**“Keeping Sane in a Crazy World”**

*Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield*

Doak will consider the challenges of coping with a culture and world that tests our patience and many times confounds our hopes.

*Worship Associate: Denise Pitts*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

“Souper Sunday” follows our service; please bring a dish to share. Daylight Savings Time ends. Turn clocks back 1 hour Saturday night.

**November 8**

**“Islamic Questions”**

*Speaker: Ahmad Qayoumi*

Ahmed Qayoumi will speak about current topics and frequently asked questions of Islam.

*Worship Associate: Alex Emig*

*Musicians: Mike & Shannon Truex*

**November 15**

**“Honoring Skepticism”**

*Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield*

Curiosity comes first for me, but doubt accompanies most assertions of “truth” I confront. I’ll look at that trait in human nature.

*Worship Associate: Bobi Wilson*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

**November 22**

**“Reflections on Thanksgiving”**

*Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield*

Doak says of this topic, “For me the observance of Thanksgiving is the most sacred of holidays and most UU in meaning. I’ll explain why I have these feelings.”

*Worship Associate: Diane Reed*

*Musicians: Mike & Shannon Truex*

**November 29**

**“Thankfulness”**

*Speaker: CUUC Members*

After the Thanksgiving holiday we’ll take time to explore thankfulness.

*Worship Associate: Mike Truex*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

## Minister's Message



### Notes from the Journey *The Reverend Doak M. Mansfield*

For most of my 40 years as a UU minister I have dealt with other *come-outers*. They are former somethings: mostly Protestants -- Baptists, Methodists, various fundamentalist/evangelical denominations -- but also a goodly number of Roman Catholics, and a few who were born into the Jewish tradition. A decade or so ago the trickle of *come inners* began. They do not want out of something, they want to come in. What they know about religion comes from popular culture. Their expectations are quite different from those who grew up with religious traditions. That trickle nowadays has become a strong current and has an important influence on our being and becoming.

I've learned *come-inners* are on a *quest of spiritual discovery* not so much a *struggle for spiritual recovery*. Open to spiritual language and not uncomfortable with religious symbols, they show an eclectic interest in all sorts of paths of faith. They are informed by a troublesome hunger for community, practice rugged independence, and demand social relevance. They are *heart and hand* people. The previous generations of UUs were more *head and hand* people. Of course such a generalization is risky and refinements are always required.

I encourage all of us, whatever our place in the spiritual diversity of CUUC, from atheist to mystic, traditionalist to free spirit, rational to intuitive, scholar to poet, *come-outer* to *come-inner*, and all the positions in between to practice our Covenant of Right Relations. That covenant is

based on our UU principles and the ideals of kindness, choice, inclusion, and participation. *Let us devote ourselves to the healthy development of our beloved community guided by honoring spiritual and religious freedom, and our dedication to serve consciously the interdependent web of all existence.*

I'm persuaded that we are in truth all *pilgrims* and *artists* on a journey of discovery, creativity, and celebration. We may have arrived here from out of another religious traditions or we may have arrived looking to come into a meaningful religious experience. What tools and resources we use for navigation and expression are varied and can only honestly be evaluated by how well they serve us and our shared life. *Diversity of opinion, feelings, methods, and ways is a great strength of ours and vital to our character and promise.*

Together - **Doak**

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*Doak leads and offers a message the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month. There may be an exception from time to time for special observances.*

*He has office hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 AM - Noon. Please call the church office: 509.545.6777 or Doak directly: 601.498.0906 to confirm his presence at the church as he may be called away or have meetings. Other times by appointment can always be arranged.*

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### Exploring Ideas with the Minister

*Second Wednesday of each month 6:30 – 8:00 pm*

*Exploring Ideas with the Minister* is an opportunity to expand ideas shared on Sunday morning as well as perennial topics in spirituality, faith, and human history with our minister, The Reverend Doak M. Mansfield. The style is causal and interactive. Bring a brown bag supper, coffee and juice provided.

The first *Exploring Ideas with the Minister* will be on **Wednesday, November 11.**

## President's Message



The Board is continuing to work with Doak to establish more activities for the congregation and community. Our concept has been for the last year to support program activities that members are willing to facilitate. Please let us know if you have an activity that you would like to share with the congregation.

As we enter the holiday season, let us find time in our busy schedules for solitude and quiet time. A time for ourselves, a time for our families and friends, a time away from the complexities and noise. Maybe an evening walk in the park, or a few hours with no electronic devices. Meditate, or pray, or contemplate in silence for a time, then rejoin the world with a renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

We will be communicating more in the coming months on social justice issues. We will look at the issues and groups that our congregation is already supporting and at new issues that we might not know about.

Blessed be,  
Mark Painter

## Religious Education For Children & Youth

Engrossed in artistic expression, elementary and middle school kids used fabric paints to create prayer flags. Contemplating the virtue of peace, they painted words, images, and symbols to convey their ideas. Rainbow colors, birds in flight, a heart, *peace* written in different languages, a dragon, a cross, and even a wolf are

some of the things that the kids chose to represent peace. The prayer flags now hang against windows in the RE room next to the office, the sunlight making them luminous. Feel free to enjoy their splendor!

In November, the Elementary group will celebrate the *Day of the Dead*, while the Middle School group explores the UU youth advice column, *Dear U-ey*. Next, Zoe Comstock will share her *Adventures in Australia* with both groups in a combined RE session. Then, Middle Schoolers will journey into the *Twilight Zone* while the Elementary group learns about *Loaves and Fishes*. Next, Middle Schoolers will engage in more *Explorations through Art*, while the Elementary kids explore how *Kids Can Serve, Too II*. During our final Sunday of the month, Elementary and Middle School groups will be combined for *Fun and Games* following the Thanksgiving holiday.

**November 1** Elementary: *Day of the Dead*

Middle School: *Dear U-ey*

**November 8** Elementary and Middle School:  
*Adventures in Australia*

**November 15** Elementary: *Loaves and Fishes*

Middle School: *Twilight Zone*

**November 22** Elementary: *Kids Can Serve, Too II*

Middle School: *Explorations through Art*

### Mentors, Assistants, and Guests

Being an RE mentor, assistant, or guest is a fun way to contribute to community as well as a way to foster warm relationships across the generations. If you would like to be a mentor, assistant, or guest or have a special interest or activity you would like to share with the kids, please contact Shannon Hays-Truex at [mike.shannon.truex@gmail.com](mailto:mike.shannon.truex@gmail.com).

### Nursery/Preschool Needs

We need more mentors and assistants for the Nursery/Preschool group. The primary emphasis in this group is *free play* and *fun*! Please let me know if you are interested in participating in this way.

## Board & Committee News

Board of Trustees meets on **the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30p.m.** This month's meeting is **November 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

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### Hands & Heart



The Hands and Hearts Committee would like to remind you that we are here to help, not just for big events where we all cry or laugh, but also for the little things as well. We are here to help you out in any way we can. You can seek us out at church (our name tags have the heart stickers) or call us up at home. (If one of us doesn't answer, keep on trying other numbers). If you know of somebody who needs looked in on, or if you want to discuss your own situation, please give us a ring. Bev is our card person, if you know someone who needs to receive a get-well card, sympathy card, etc. please contact her.

Denise Pitts	375-6130
Jennifer Comstock	628-8638
Jo Lindenmeier	586-3451
	366-3953
Marla Marvin	545-1919
Bev & Bryan	371-1572
Schroeder	308-0548
Gail Taff	375-3293

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### Buildings & Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee can always use a little help. We find joy in sharing the wealth... the wealth of our service to our CUUC home and our community of users. We are focused on the day-to-day maintenance and incremental improvement of our lovely CUUC facility. We seek new committee members to lend a hand, whether you're a crafty do-it-yourselfer or

a born organizer, we would love for you to have just a small share of our joy and service through the Building and Grounds Committee. Please contact Fred Dunhour at [fred.dunhour@mindspring.com](mailto:fred.dunhour@mindspring.com) with your questions or suggestions.

Here's a special shout out to recognize our CUUC Lawn Crew for their dedication and service this year. The following volunteers took turns mowing our lawn each week during the past growing season: Ava Eriksen, John Dorian & Sandra Rosenau, David Comstock, Alan Joly, and Henry Kidwell. Thank you all!!

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### Membership

The CUUC Membership Committee, in partnership with the Committee on Ministry (COM), would like to initiate an "Invite a Friend to Church" effort this fall season. We are very excited about the new energy Rev. Doak Mansfield brings to CUUC. During November, please think about members and friends you haven't seen since Doak's arrival. Give them a call and invite them to an upcoming service. Doak will be giving sermons on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. To build on our outreach to members and friends, COM will host a season of conversation right after the service on November 15 to discuss inviting *kindred spirits*. This will be an exciting discussion to help share about our great community and prepare us to welcome others. Please join us in sharing the magic of this wonderful community.

Thanks,  
David Comstock

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## Worship

Mike Truex, Alex Emig, and Diane Reed are the current members of the worship committee and work with Reverend Mansfield to provide Sunday services for CUUC. A key element of our effort is collaborating with Reverend Mansfield in support of his Sunday services. We also discuss, plan, and bring in a variety of outside speakers throughout the year. We work within the congregation too, having members of the congregation lead or participate in Sunday services. Our activities include preparing each week for the elements of the Sunday service. It's quite rewarding to participate on the committee and to be involved in the genesis of service ideas and with Sunday service programming. While it may seem daunting, we have a good system in place and Reverend Mansfield is a steady guide for our efforts. If you have questions or interest in joining the committee, please contact Mike Truex at [mike.shannon.truex@gmail.com](mailto:mike.shannon.truex@gmail.com).

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## Social Justice

### **An Update on the LFO practices in Benton County Courts**

During the past few years there has been a public outcry against the unjust way courts charge legal financial obligations upon sentencing for felonies and misdemeanors. These LFO's are court costs additional to jail time, fines, and restitution that a prisoner already owes, and are leveled against even indigent and many times mentally ill people. These LFO's are then compounded by 12% interest if unpaid, often resulting in debts of thousands and tens of thousands of dollars over time. When a payment hasn't been made, people are picked up to serve jail time to pay for the lapsed payments, which makes re-entry into society as a productive citizen even harder.

In order to effect changes in this practice, I have spoken briefly to our congregation and Dee Willis, the chaplain for the Benton County jail has given a sermon on the subject. Petitions by NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), our church, and others have been sent to judges and commissioners. Many letters to the editor and editorials have been written. Dee Willis, a prison chaplain, has helped the ACLU write a report on this practice and how detrimental it is in the lives of these people. The report was used in a nationally aired NPR program in a series of reports in which Benton County was highlighted. Earlier this year a case was decided by the Supreme Court of Washington in which the court suggested counties reform their practices regarding jailing people to pay for LFO's. In this way the ACLU was able to get counties to alter the way they issued fines, but Benton County has continued the practice as usual.

Because of this inaction, the ACLU and others have become more aggressive in asking the court for clear-cut guidelines in the charging of court fees and costs. A case was appealed from Benton County District Court a few months ago which will be heard by the Court of Appeals. The measure will clarify whether an individual can be forced to use disability or SSI money to pay fines. This decision could possibly affect a major portion of the people being fined in the court. More recently, the Washington State chapter of the ACLU has brought a civil lawsuit against Benton County based upon constitutional issues regarding the constitutionality of these Benton County practices. Hopefully these actions will at last pave the way for change in the sentencing of LFO's.

Marjie Reinig

### **Alternative Gift Fair**

**On Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>, noon to 4:00 pm,** come help, invite friends, and join in the fun and festivity that is the annual Alternative Gift Fair.

There will be a sign-up sheet out the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, so please choose a way to support the fair. Donations have topped \$130,000 in 8 years, and on we go! This year we have some specific needs, so if you can help please let Teri or Alex know. We need volunteers for the craft table; if you have a creative and simple craft idea to share it will be much appreciated! We can use more volunteers to help prepare items for the bake sale. We need someone to bring the snacks we always have set out in the back for our charity (and church) volunteers. You will be reimbursed for what you spend. The publicity flyers to distribute will be ready to pick up by November 8th. The yard signs will also be ready to take home & put up. The day is always busy--with music, crafts & treats--together let's make it another great year!

## Announcements & Events

### Women's Luncheon

All women of the congregation are invited to lunch on the third Tuesday of each month for fellowship and fun. This month's luncheon is **November 18 at noon** and will be a potluck at the church office. For more information contact Sharon Faletti at 375-0467.

### Men's Dinner

The CUUC Men's Group meets on the third Friday of the month, beginning at **5:30 pm**. Do not be afraid to be fashionably late! We are now primed for thought provoking debate. The world has turned, it's time to expand the conversation and get our creative juices flowing. The topics are often "out of this world."

Our next meeting is **November 20<sup>th</sup>** and we are still seeking our next gracious host. Dinner will be provided, or we may have potluck, but bring your own beverage (BYOB). To find out more about the group experience, please leave a voice message for Fred Dunhour (208-522-4657) or email: [fred.dunhour@mindspring.com](mailto:fred.dunhour@mindspring.com).

### Thanksgiving Dinner

Let's celebrate Thanksgiving together! Join us at the church at **11:30 am on Thanksgiving Day**. Turkey and ham will be provided; bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. And you're welcome to invite friends. RSVP so we know how big the bird should be: call 601-498-0906 or email [minister@communityuu.org](mailto:minister@communityuu.org).

### Gentle Yoga

Weekly Gentle Yoga Classes are held at CUUC on **Saturdays mornings 9:00 am - 10:15 am**. Gentle yoga is a fun and lighthearted class for students who want a more gentle approach to yoga. Classes emphasize the mind/body connection through breathing, stretching and movement with traditional and modified poses. Chairs and other props are often used to help make poses and movements more accessible. Join us as we explore techniques to relieve stress and ease body and mind into improved strength, flexibility and balance.

Yoga mats and props will be available to use or you can bring your own. Drop-ins are welcome. Classes are \$15 each session or you can purchase a 'punch card' of 10 classes for \$120. Instructor Bobi Wilson has completed the 200-hour Teacher Training through Pacific Yoga of Seattle and Yoga Community of Kennewick. Please contact her with any questions @ 509.585.2558 or [bobiwilson2@gmail.com](mailto:bobiwilson2@gmail.com)

### Interfaith Alliance

CUUC hosts a quarterly gathering of the Tri-Cities Interfaith Alliance, which includes a program and potluck dinner, **Sunday, November 22 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm**. Help is needed with set-up and clean-up. Contact 601-498-0906 or [minister@communityuu.org](mailto:minister@communityuu.org) for more information. The Interfaith Alliance website is [tri-citiesinterfaith.weebly.com](http://tricityinterfaith.weebly.com) and their Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/TCIAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/TCIAlliance).

## Souper Sunday November 1

Please bring a dish to share following the service. You'll have an extra hour to prepare something, as Daylight Savings Time ends the night before!



## *The Nutcracker*

Youth of CUUC will be part of this season's Mid-Columbia Ballet production of *The Nutcracker*. Both Nolan Newsome and Lemat Joly have parts this season. This is a wonderful community production featuring community dancers, ballet students and professional ballet performers. The ballet is always professionally done and features guest dancers from professional companies. This year Vanessa Zahorian of the San Francisco ballet and Gonzalo Garcia of the New York City Ballet will be the featured dancers. Please come and support the youth of the congregation by being a friendly face in the crowd during their time on stage. The performance takes place December 11, 12 and 13. There are 7:00 pm performances on Friday and Saturday evening, and 2:00 pm matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets go on Sale November 1st, and are available on line at [www.MidColumbiaBallet.org](http://www.MidColumbiaBallet.org), in person at The Dance Boutique in Richland, or by phone at (509)946-5417. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$18 for seniors (62 and older) and students, and \$13 for children under 12. The production takes place at the Richland High School Auditorium.

## Looking for more ways to Donate to CUUC?

Did you know that CUUC has a brokerage account with Waddell and Reed Financial Advisors (<http://www.tricities.wrfa.com/>)? The Board has worked hard to provide this avenue to congregation members that would like to donate stocks, bonds or other non-cash assets to the church. As the end of the year approaches and you are looking for tax deductible ways to manage your finances, consider donating to CUUC. The Board would then work with the professionals at Waddell and Reed to maximize and secure the benefits of any donation for CUUC. Please contact our current treasurer, Denise Pitts at [denapit@hotmail.com](mailto:denapit@hotmail.com) if you have further questions or need more information about this unique opportunity!

## Save the Date for District Assembly

The Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be having a one-day District Assembly **Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at University Unitarian Church in Seattle.

### Find us on Facebook

Visit our page to see timely announcements and thoughtful links, including Monday meditation. If you don't have a Facebook account, just visit [www.facebook.com/CommunityUU](http://www.facebook.com/CommunityUU). If you're already on Facebook, don't forget to "Like" us!