



The Communitarian

December 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.communityuuu.org

Minister: Reverend Doak Mansfield
minister@communityuuu.org

Minister Hours
10 AM - Noon ~ Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday, other times by appointment
601.498.0906

Office office@communityuuu.org

President, Board of Trustees
Mark Painter jadeendymion@gmail.com

Religious Education Coordinator
Shannon Hays-Truex
mike.shannon.truex@gmail.com

Treasurer
Denise Pitts denapit@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editors
Gayle Wilde wilde.gayle@gmail.com
Pauline Schafer pauschafer@hotmail.com

The deadline for the December issue of *The Communitarian* is December 16th. Please send news to office@communityuuu.org

December 6

“Religious Freedom: from Legends to Legacy”

Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield

In recognition of the Jewish Festival of Lights, Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 BCE. Doak will offer some thoughts on political liberty and religious freedom.

Worship Associate: CUUC Members

Musicians: Mike & Shannon Truex

“Souper Sunday” follows our service; please bring a dish to share.

December 13

“Unitarian Universalists, Cats and Dogs”

Speaker: Alex Emig

Unitarians and Universalists were once two separate denominations. Today, we'll explore their differences through the lens of cats and dogs.

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Ellen Fillion

December 20

“Light in the Dark & Angels in Hell”

Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield

Doak will consider some meanings for the mid-winter holidays beyond the commercialism, popular cultural trappings, and myths.

Worship Associate: CUUC Members

Musicians: Mike & Shannon Truex

December 24

“Pageant ~ Spirit of the Christmas Tree”

Speaker: CUUC Members

A pageant for the season, some carols, and some cookies. Please join us at **4:00 pm** for the occasion and bring some cookies to share.

Worship Associate: Shannon Hays-Truex

Musician: Ellen Fillion

December 27

“Looking Back, Looking Forward”

Speaker: CUUC Members

Join us as we say goodbye to 2015, sharing what we've experienced and learned this year. Then we'll look into the New Year and share our hopes, dreams and concerns for 2016.

Worship Associate: Alex Emig & Diane Reed

Musician: Ellen Fillion

Minister's Message



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

The nights are steadily growing longer and the longest night will soon be here. This is the farthest north I've ever lived. I understand it is sometimes possible to see the Northern Lights (*Aurora Borealis*) from the Tri-Cities. The idea of living so far north, of long winter nights and of maybe seeing these Northern Lights inspires me... I will do some research to learn when I might see the Northern Lights. But it has me wondering...

Galileo in 1619 noted the phenomena of beautiful shimmering, wispy, prancing, multiple lights in the northern sky that could be seen around the world in the far north. He called it *Aurora*, from the Roman goddess of dawn, *Boreas*, the Greek name for the north wind.

There are cave drawings of the Lights, suggesting this ageless thing people of earth have observed over the eons of human consciousness.

The Cree, the largest groups of Native Americans in North America, whose major territory was what is today central Canada reaching down into the USA, named the sighting, "Dance of the Spirits." Their neighbors farther west and north, the Chipewyan, expanded those thoughts: "the lights were the spirits of their departed friends dancing in the sky, and when the lights shined the brightest it meant that their deceased friends were very happy."

May the often difficult holiday season coming our way be engaged with the attitude of our near neighbors, the First People of America. Holiday stress, loneliness, and unfulfilled expectations are the shadows of these observances for so many

moderns. Let us embrace joy. Honor the gifts from the past. Acknowledge the variety of holy times: the commemoration of religious freedom (Hanukkah, December 6), honoring of spiritual wisdom (Rohatsu or Bodhi Day, Buddha's enlightenment, December 8), the wondrous season of light (Solstice, December 20-21), the celebration of family and heritage (Kwanzaa, December 26-January 1) and the remembrance of blessed messengers of love and community (birthdays of Muhammad, December 2 and Jesus, December 25).

May the Northern Lights and their glimmering swaths of beauty to the eye invite us to recognize with a full heart the love of family and friends and the many joys of living that abide faithfully if we but look above and beyond the darkness.

Love, First & Forever - *Doak*

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, 10:00 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.

President's Message



In this holiday season, let us celebrate with our families. But let us also put positive energy into our community and our world. Remember to come help with the Alternative Gift Fair on December 5,

and put December 18th on your calendar for "Welcoming the Stranger" a community vigil in recognition and support of the plight of refugees around the world.

And as the new year looms, let us contemplate where and how we can have a positive impact in our community and internationally.

Make peace with yourself, make peace with your family, make peace with the world.

Mark Painter

Religious Education For Children & Youth

Elementary kids lash together trellis-like panels, creating a wooden A-frame. Digging in the garden, they install a tree branch support for the walls of their fort. Together, they anchor the base of the structure with landscaping staples and thatch the fort with dried stalks of corn. The final touch, a floor of straw, is added—their shelter is complete! A few kids at a time can enter and sit amongst ears of corn hanging from the rafters. Watch for seasonal changes in decor throughout the garden and know that folks of all ages are welcome to hide away in the new fort!

In December, the Elementary and Middle School groups will explore *Winter Holy Days* and begin planning the Christmas pageant. Next, they will work together in a combined RE session to create *Props* and *Costumes* in preparation for a little Christmas Eve *Action*. Then, they will participate in final *Pageant Prep and Rehearsal*. On Christmas Eve, the kids and choir will present the pageant, *Spirit of the Christmas Tree*, in joyous celebration of the nativity! During our final Sunday of the month, Elementary and Middle School groups will be combined for *Crafts and Quiet Time* following the Christmas holiday.

December 6

Elementary: *Winter Holy Days*

Middle School: *Winter Holy Days*

December 13

Elementary and Middle School: *Props, Costumes, Action!*

December 20

Elementary and Middle School: *Pageant Prep and Rehearsal*

December 24 (Thursday at 4 p.m.)

Intergenerational Worship: *Spirit of the Christmas Tree*

December 27

Elementary and Middle School: *Crafts and Quiet Time*

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.

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 **December 1st.**

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

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 with your questions or suggestions.

Membership

This winter, share your favorite UU principle with a kindred spirit.

To me, CUUC is a place of love and hope and learning. I think our offertory blessing captures our essence "we are blessed with minds to seek the truth, hearts to feel compassion, hands with the potential for great service, and an abundance of love to share in more ways than we may fathom."

In our *Seasons of Conversations* last Sunday Virginia said she starts the conversation about UU with our first and seventh principals. I think our UU principles are a wonderful place to start. I encourage each of you to read our principals and read our CUUC Covenant of Right Relations based on our principals (both are on our website at <http://www.communityuu.org/our-principles>).

Then contemplate what resonates with you and meditate on how you would express that with a kindred spirit.

- David Comstock

Please see the Announcements & Events section for an event for those interested in becoming members.

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.

Announcements & Events

Join the Christmas Pageant Choir

Come all singers and sing together, *The Spirit of the Christmas Tree*, a Joyce Poley holiday extravaganza. All singers are invited to join rehearsals starting on Monday the 30th of November. Mostly we are leading the congregation in carols with a couple of special choral contributions. Your desire to sing is all that is required, so just come if you would like to sing for the fun and beauty of it. If you have questions contact Scott Wilson or Mike Truex.

"And we sing, I've got a light and it shines in me, it shines in the eyes of a little baby. It lives in you and it lives in me. It lives in the spirit of the Christmas tree."

Please join us this joyful nativity pageant.

Rehearsals at 6:30 pm Monday evenings at the church, starting on November 30th.

Alternative Gift Fair

Alternative Gift Fair #9 is almost here! This is a chance to give donations to many local non-profits as holiday gifts for those on your list. Please sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary to help make this year's fair another success. We need many helping hands to continue the work begun 9 years ago. Help give the gift of giving—**Saturday December 5th, noon to 4:00 pm**. Set up will be Friday evening starting at 5:00—able bodies are needed! The bake sale needs baked goods and table volunteers, and we need greeters to welcome

people as they come in. There are many ways to be part of the day—and after you're done, enjoy the fair!

Last but not least--a HUGE thank-you to Peggy Mansfield for volunteering to create a craft table for the kids.

Folk Concert

The Three Rivers Folklife Society concert, *Winter's Return*, will be held at CUUC on **Saturday, December 5 at 7:30 pm**. Pint & Dale and Opland & Freeman will be the performers. Tickets are \$11 general admission, and \$9 for seniors.

Souper Sunday December 6

Please bring a dish to share following the service.

Exploring Ideas with the Minister

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

Eleven hearty souls participated in our first session in November. Our monthly open, casual conversation about things that matter is off to a great start. The circle is open, there is a seat for you. Bring your bag dinner, munchies...drinks provided...and join us.

The next *Exploring Ideas with the Minister* will be **Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30 pm**.

Red Tent Temple

There has been some interest in creating a Red Tent Temple in the Tri-Cities. This is a group dedicated to exploring and honoring women and women's ways. Here is some information about this movement:

"The intention is that we honor our many differences and also, first and foremost, learn to create and cultivate a healthy, woman-honoring culture. One that recognizes that we as women cycle together in our blood cycles. We struggle and rise alone or together in our many stories of fertility, infertility, sexual identities, choices, struggles, dreams and friendships. It is an

opportunity to tell our stories, share our wisdom, cry and laugh and rest inside a place that we collectively create to honor our place in society. Women are known to enter a Red Tent Temple, having never been in one, and simply weep that it exists for them. Women who never come to one also share that they are deeply moved even from afar that there is a place in the world held by women for women just for them."

If this sounds like something you would like to explore, please join the group on **Friday, December 11th at CUUC at 7:00pm**, although the group is not associated with CUUC. Bring a book that has been meaningful to you on this subject, as well as something from home to help us create an altar. All items will go back home with you after. This is a woman-only group. Contact Gayle Wilde at wilde.gayle@gmail.com for more information. Blessed be!

Multi-faith Holiday Peace Vigil

World Citizens for Peace will sponsor the annual peace vigil at the "fingernail" in Richland's Howard Amon **Park Sunday afternoon December 13 at 3:00 pm**. Reverend Mansfield will lead the invocation.

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 **December 15 at noon** and will be a potluck at Sharon Faletti's home, 2147 Cascade Avenue in Richland. Directions:

Go North on George Washington Way through town to Saint Street. Turn left on Saint Street, then turn left again on Cascade Avenue. My home is on the right side and on the corner of the second block. The house is a 2-story off-white (green shutters and green roof). House number is displayed just to the right of the garage door.

For more information contact Sharon at 375-0467.

Vigil for Refugees



Welcoming the Stranger

A Tri-cities community vigil in recognition and support of the plight of refugees around the world.

Come by to pause for prayer, meditation, and quiet reflection on United Nations International Migrants Day

Friday, December 18 at 6:00 pm

At Community Unitarian Universalist Church

Men's Dinner

The CUUC Men's Group regularly 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 **Friday, December 18th**, but because of the "Welcoming the Stranger" Migrant's Day vigil, we will share a potluck DESSERT and discussion at the church following this special service (roughly **7:00 pm**), and remember to bring your beverage of choice. To find out more about the group experience, please leave a voice message for Fred Dunhour (208-522-4657) or e-mail: fred.dunhour@mindspring.com.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Sunday Ev'n, December 20, 2015

Home of Sandra Rosenau & John Dorian
2348 Camas, Richland
375-1727

John Dorian & Sandra Rosenau invite you to a Solstice Evening Celebration at their home in Richland. The Solstice is the longest night of the year and a time to reflect on the warmth of home, friends, & family, and spiritual renewal.

The celebration begins promptly at 4:00 with a chilly walk in the gathering dusk down to the Columbia River. We will spread a gift of food for wildlife, hold a candle lighting ceremony where we can each express our individual hopes for the coming year, and then we walk back with our candles through the darkness. The return to firelight, fellowship and food reminds us of the importance of human connection. An evening of food, talent & fun follows. It's a good idea to wear snow boots for the walk and bring an extra pair of woolly socks to change into!

This is a non-denominational celebration. There will be warm cider for the kids and mulled wine for adults who want it.

Wild Food preparation: Thursday Dec. 10 at 6:30 pm

Solstice Celebration: 3:30 pm Sunday Dec. 20.

Walk begins at 4:00

Bring: Food to share, a talent to show off & share, and dress warmly for the walk!

Potluck & Ceilidh: 5:30ish

Gentle Yoga

Weekly Gentle Yoga Classes are held at CUUC on **Saturday 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

Chalice Circle

Coming in 2016: A new adult program

Chalice Circle is a small group opportunity for members and friends of CUUC to expand acquaintances, build friendship, explore life issues, encourage and support one another as well as serve together CUUC and the larger community. Meetings are monthly and the group includes 7-8 who intend to participate regularly. There is a UUA-created guide that will offer direction for the exploration and relationship development, and we'll adapt as we go along. The hope is to get one co-ed group underway in late January-early February and another group initiated in the spring.

Contact Peggy Owens-Mansfield 601.470.8746 or peggyOM1950@gmail.com for more info and to sign up.

Our Legacy: Honoring a Light Bearer on Christmas Day

In my home Universalist Church in Mississippi (it is really named Our Home UU Church in Ellisville, MS) we always put a candle in our window at home on Christmas Day honoring *Clara Barton* who was born on Christmas Day and was the founder of the American Red Cross. Her story is remarkable when you consider how much she accomplished as a woman in the 1800's. The *Candle in the Window* was a project of the Association of Universalist Women or AUW as it was called in the 1950's. Consider honoring this heroic humanitarian woman with a candle in your window this Christmas. She lived her faith, our faith, with love and devotion.

-- Peggy Owens-Mansfield

New Member Coffee

Membership is having a "coffee" on **Saturday, January 2nd at 10:30 am** at the church. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member please join us. Together we will share stories, answer questions and review our church covenant. In addition to those who are interested in learning about membership, all members are welcome to attend and participate. Please let Rev. Doak, Scott Wilson or Alex Emig know if you will be attending.

The Church Calendar is Online

Significant changes have been made to the website as to how the Church Calendar is maintained and presented. There is a link to the Calendar under "Current Events" in the Navigation Menu, and another in the body of the "Current Events" page. Since the Calendar used to be part of the "For Members" page, there is a link from there also. In all cases you are taken to a full screen Calendar. In the upper right are "Week", "Month", and "Agenda" tabs. "Agenda" provides a list of events. On my desktop, "Month" works best. Unlike previous versions where the Calendar window was restricted within a page, the names of all the events are evident in the full-page version. Click on an event and a detailed description is presented (see, for example, Gentle Yoga or Men's Group). If you are viewing the Calendar on a cell phone, the "Agenda" tab will probably work best. Now tapping an event will bring up its details.

Of course somebody has to supply all those descriptions you see for the events in the Calendar. They have been coming out of the Communitarian as time and availability allows, but the real advantage of an online calendar is its *timeliness*. So if you want your favorite activity to be represented in the Calendar, please get it to Gary Scheidegger (garys@webshy.org) or Jennifer Comstock (jencomstock@gmail.com) for inclusion.

Bring the Keys!

If you have a church key that you don't use anymore, it would be great to have it back, as we are running low on keys. Return it to Gayle Wilde, Doak, or any board member. Thank you!

How would you like your newsletter?

Currently we print out copies of the newsletter for everyone on the distribution list, but we are looking to save paper and money. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email only, please send us a message at office@communityuu.org to let us know, and that will be one fewer copy to print. Plus, it will reduce clutter on your desk! Remember, you can find all the events on our website calendar at <http://www.communityuu.org/>.

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 if you have further questions or need more information about this unique opportunity!

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/CommunityUU