



# The Communitarian

January 2016

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](http://www.communityuuu.org)

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

**January 3**

**“Taking Inventory and Restocking”**

*Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield*

Reflections on the change of the year and the challenge of taking stock and renewal in less than auspicious times.

*Worship Associate: CUUC Members*

*Musicians: Mike & Shannon Truex*

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

**January 10**

**“Music Sunday!”**

*Speaker: Alex Emig*

How are we inspired through the experience of music? We’ll explore a spectrum of meaningful and fun music today.

*Worship Associate: Mike Truex*

*Musicians: Ellen Fillion, Mike & Shannon Truex, CUUC Choir, and more*

**January 17**

**“More Than Platitudes and Rhetoric”**

*Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield*

It is a lot easier to commend heroes and martyrs than actualize their teachings and make real their idealism.

*Worship Associate: CUUC Members*

*Musicians: Ellen Fillion*

**January 24**

**“Service Sunday”**

*Speaker: Donna Brown, Alex Emig, & Mike Truex*

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has a long history of social justice actions. One way our congregation supports the UUSC is through the “Guest at Your Table” program. What does the UUSC do – and why? What are our congregation member’s local service actions – and why? *Worship Associate: Shannon Hays-Truex*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

**January 31**

**“A Conversation: Big Dreams and Small Steps”**

*Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield*

An opportunity to think out loud about the present and future of CUUC.

*Worship Associate: Donna Brown*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

## Minister's Message



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

*“Like sands through an hourglass, these are the days of our lives.”* Persons of a certain age know that iconic line from the heyday of daytime radio and TV soap operas. An aside: ‘Soap’ operas got their name from the sponsorship of home products manufacturing giant Proctor & Gamble. The shows commercials marketed their soap products: Ivory soap (“It floats!”) and their laundry and dish washing products. I became gray headed in Cincinnati, the home of mighty P & G serving at what is now Heritage UU Church, 1975-85. I am honored to have been named Minister Emeritus at Heritage a few years ago. My boys and I rooted on the Big Red Machine in their glory days, ate unique White Castle burgers and Gold Star Chili, and listened to WLW Radio. I love Cincinnati! 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my high school graduation in Fayetteville, Tennessee at Lincoln County Central. Unbelievable. In so many ways I still feel 17. It has been and is a wondrous journey. So many miles (resident of 8 states), so many experiences, ideas, people, joys, and hurts. So many grains of sand.

If one is reflective, the days of our lives constitute a spiritual journey. Through discernment (honest embracing of feelings, ideas, fears, hope, about who we are as related to all else) we can consider a relatedness that gives life meanings. That intellectual and emotional engagement may be productive of wisdom, *“the ability to apply relevant knowledge in an insightful way, especially to different situations from that in which the knowledge was gained.”* Knowing

much, especially specialized information, does not equate to being wise. Wisdom is knowledge applied for a purpose, for an idea, for a hope: *“the discretionary use of knowledge for the greatest good.”* What shall, should be our hope?

How to use our knowledge for a good purpose? I hope you’ll take time during these days of calendar change to think on that. I am. I also am going to promise myself to be open to new learnings and open to gaining broader and deeper wisdom. It will be a challenge and opportunity. I see it as participating in life, not just being alive.

Happy New Year!

*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, 10:00 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



Take some time to breathe deep and relax this holiday season.

Good things have happened this year in our community.

Another successful Alternative Gift Fair.  
A real live minister in our midst.  
Amber is now in a home that looks like it will  
work for her.  
I was informed that the last Judge in Benton  
County that was putting people back into jail after  
serving their sentence but not paying fees and  
fines has retired.

We have many things to be thankful for.  
Let us rejoice.

Joy and Service,  
Right here,  
Right now!

Mark Painter

## Religious Education For Children & Youth

In an explosion of activity, kids rummage through  
costume possibilities—a skirt for Mary, a robe for  
Joseph, a cloak for a shepherd, and a gold-  
trimmed cape for a Wise Person. They select  
appropriate headgear and use cotton balls to create  
sheep ears. One boy constructs a manger out of  
cardboard while two girls paint an image of a  
stable on a backdrop of scrap packing material. In  
this way, the pageant takes shape through the  
collaborative creation of props, set, and costumes.  
The magic of the holiday season is embodied in  
the enthusiasm and imagination of kids in RE.

In January, the elementary and middle school  
groups combined will *Ring in the New Year*.  
Next, the elementary kids will engage in  
*Explorations Through Art* while middle schoolers  
explore the UU youth advice column, *Dear U-ey*.  
Then, elementary and middle school groups  
combined will embark on a *Pet Rock Project* that  
will benefit the local Humane Society. The  
following Sunday, elementary kids will

experience a *Winter Surprise* and middle  
schoolers will journey into the *Twilight Zone*.  
During our final Sunday of the month, elementary  
kids will celebrate *Backward Day* while middle  
schoolers engage in *Explorations Through Poetry*.

### **January 3**

Elementary and Middle School: *Ring in the New  
Year*

### **January 10**

Elementary: *Explorations Through Art*  
Middle School: *Dear U-ey*

### **January 17**

Elementary and Middle School: “*Kids Can Serve*”  
*Pet Rock Project*

### **January 24**

Elementary: *Winter Surprise*  
Middle School: *Twilight Zone*

### **January 31**

Elementary: *Backward Day*  
Middle School: *Explorations Through Poetry*

### **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 always need more mentors 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.

I look forward to collaborating with you all to  
create another fun year of RE!

## Board & Committee News

Board of Trustees meets on **the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30p.m.** This month's meeting is **January 5.**

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.

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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

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## Membership

### New Member Coffee

Membership is having a "coffee" on **Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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).

## Announcements & Events

### Souper Sunday January 3

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, January 13 at 6:30 pm.**

### 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 **January 19 at noon** and will be a potluck at the church.

### 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 **January 15th** and will be a potluck at the home of Gary Scheidegger. Remember to 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).

### Seminary for a Day in Portland

*Seminary for a Day* will be returning to First Unitarian Church in Portland on January 23rd. Our Keynote Presenter will be Rev. Susan Ritchie, founding Director of the new UU House of Studies at Methodist Theological School in Ohio and long serving parish minister. Susan recently completed service on the UUA Board of Trustees as Secretary of the Association.

Her keynote address is *Children of the Same God: The Historical Relationship Between Unitarianism, Judaism, and Islam*. Long before Unitarianism and Universalism merged in the United States, Unitarianism was inherently multi-religious. This address focuses on the implications, dangers, and promises of this Unitarian Universalist identity in an increasingly Islamophobic America.

Registration and additional program information will be available in the New Year at [www.firstunitarianportland.org](http://www.firstunitarianportland.org)

### Folk Concert

CUUC will once again be the venue for the monthly Three Rivers Folklife Concert, held every third Saturday. This month's performer will be American country-folk singer/songwriter Dan Weber. That's **January 16 at 7:30 pm**.

### 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)

## Chalice Circle

### Coming soon: 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](mailto:peggyOM1950@gmail.com) for more info and to sign up.

## 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@websby.org](mailto:garys@websby.org)) or Jennifer Comstock ([jencomstock@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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/>.

## WhaleCoast Alaska 2016

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2016** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local

UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. Visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org), email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org), or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

## 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!

## Social Justice Activity

On Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Washington conducts the annual point in time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons. In 2012 in Benton & Franklin counties, there were 324 homeless persons with 73 not in shelters – do you think there are more or fewer in 2016? Why not help find out!

An accurate count is critical to getting the community services (and funding) delivered effectively. Melinda Diaz of the Department of

Human Services needs volunteers to help in the annual Point In Time survey. You can sign-up for two hour time blocks throughout the day (8 am to 6 pm). There is a one hour orientation in the week before to attend as well. Please pick up a form at CUUC and send it by January 13<sup>th</sup> to Melinda. She can be reached at 737-3903, or at [Melinda.Diaz@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:Melinda.Diaz@co.benton.wa.us) for more information. See John Dorian if you have questions.

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