



The Communitarian

February 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!

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The deadline for the February issue
of *The Communitarian* is February
20th. Please send news to
office@communityuuu.org

February 7

"An Unconventional Theology of Mardi Gras"

Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield

A celebration of debauchery and excess is a possible description of this annual partying event in New Orleans (aka 'The Big Easy') as well as Mobile, AL, both French legacy cities on the US Gulf Coast. Could there be some wisdom and insights into matters spiritual in this wild occasion? Doak will ponder and offer some thoughts.

Worship Associate: Bobi Wilson

Musicians: Mike & Shannon Truex

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

February 14

"The Journey"

Speaker: Rev. Kevin Lawson

In the Taoist tradition the spiritual teacher Lao Tzu is quoted, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." As we gather this morning, a reflection upon the 30 days of love. Where are we as we embark on the continuing journey? An alternative translation to Lao Tzu's quote is stated, "the journey of a thousand miles begins beneath one's feet." Where do we stand? What is our work? What are some steps forward?

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Ellen Fillion

February 21

"Are they really incompatible, the Mystic and the Scientist?"

Speaker: Rev. Doak M. Mansfield

"Through diversity is strength." That idea will be examined. Don't assume you know what Doak might offer on the subject.

Worship Associate: Denise Pitts

Musicians: Ellen Fillion & CUUC Choir

February 28

"Why I love Church, part 2"

Speaker: Scott Wilson

Years back I spoke about why we should love The Church. In part 2, we'll refresh that and see CUUC is that church. Informed by history, acting in the present, with a vision for the future.

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musicians: Mike & Shannon Truex

Minister's Message



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

Many of my UU ministerial colleagues take themselves much more seriously than I take myself when it comes to this ministry thing. In my four decades I think I've learned some humility and perspective on who I am and what this calling is about, its potential and limits. I'm a pilgrim and my "job" involves offering thoughts, feelings, expressions, and impressions of the sights, shrines, cast of characters, and wonders — good and bad — that I've experienced as well as witnessed. Some have taken up and publicized what they call their social media or Facebook ministry. In my social media postings I try to be honest, thoughtful, and express ideas that I feel are worth sharing. Some are snarky but most are intended to provoke thoughtful consideration of subjects that I take to have spiritual dimensions. I can be a troublesome, stiff-necked Puritan sometimes. I own that! I do adhere faithfully to the old admonition to preachers: "Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." I do like the work. Here is a recent Facebook submission: "An issue for the future is not a choice between a secular or religious culture. There will be religion. The real question is what will be the core beliefs and directed actions of religion? Will religion offer compelling guidance for the relationship of a human towards all that is other? Will there be appeals to acceptance and a creative response to the interrelated, interdependence of all elements of life? All the drama over atheism, theism, whateverism is a problematic diversion. Those are quarrels over language, symbols, hopes and

ultimate unknowns. Too often they lead to very dangerous divisions. What is our place in the plan? What does life need from us? What can we contribute? From whence our joy? Those are religious concerns and central to our being and becoming. Who, what will you serve? How do you choose to use your life? Shall it be devotion to a God whose personality and job description others have designed and you simply endorse? Does this blind acceptance result in selfishness and fear? Or shall you embrace the wondrous mystery that we little understand but behold in awe and appreciation? Shall you devote yourself to a life which encompasses all that is other but which is marvelously related to love and faith. Yes, there will be religion but for what purpose? Detachment and rescue or confirmation and empowerment."

Harmony and Balance,
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, Thursday, 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.

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. If you're already on Facebook, don't forget to "Like" us!

President's Message



This winter we are looking at Social Justice in our community. Themes over the last couple of months have included slavery here in our community, the refugee crisis worldwide and here in our community, homelessness in our community. This is who we are - activists for justice and peace. Find a group of people that share your passion for action and put in that blood, sweat and tears that makes things happen. If we don't do it, who will?

Joy and service, right here, right now!
Mark Painter

Religious Education For Children & Youth

Round rocks, flat rocks, grey rocks, white rocks. Some fit in a child's palm. Others are bigger than their fist. In the eyes of a child, each rock they select has special qualities. Using markers and paint, the children add eyes and mouths, beaks and wings, noses, feathers, and fur. Inspired, they create a mystery creature with multiple eyes, a Seahawk, Iron Man, an owl, and more. The kids are intent on their task, knowing that the pet rocks they make will be used to raise money for a local animal shelter. In this way, they move beyond self-interest as they endeavor to serve the needs of homeless pets in our community.



In February, the elementary group will learn about *Druidry* while middle schoolers explore the UU youth advice column, *Dear U-ey*. Next, the elementary group will ask *What Color Is Love?* and the middle school group will consider how they can *Be The Change* they wish to see in the world. Then, elementary and middle school groups combined will continue their *Pet Rock Project* that will benefit a local animal shelter. On the final Sunday of the month, the middle schoolers will again journey into the *Twilight Zone* while elementary kids ponder *Leap Day*.

February 7

Elementary: *Druidry*

Middle School: *Dear U-ey*

February 14

Elementary: *What Color Is Love?*

Middle School: *Be The Change*

February 21

Elementary and Middle School: *Pet Rock Project, continued*

February 28

Elementary: *Leap Day*

Middle School: *Twilight Zone*

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.

Marla Marvin	545-1919
Bev & Bryan	371-1572
Schroeder	308-0548
Gail Taff	375-3293

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 was moved a week earlier and took place on January 26th.

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

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.

Ministry

Seasons of Conversation: after church February 21 and 28

As a community, sharing in conversation can spark our creative energy. We'll take two opportunities in late February to explore how our collective contributions can enrich our community.

Worship

Mike Truex, Alex Emig, Donna Brown, Virginia Tomlinson, 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.

Social Justice

Homeless Initiative

There have been some conversations on 'should' and 'how' CUUC might be involved in a caring and effective response to the homeless situation in the Tri-Cities. A meeting has been set for Tuesday February 2, 6:30 pm to talk about this. Initially, we hope to get some guidance from professionals with knowledge of the status of the homeless in the area and be briefed on what exists to help. We will consider what gaps exist and ways we at CUUC might engage. Included in our considerations is a humanitarian direct 'charity' outreach as well as a strategy and plan for working for systemic solutions.

– Doak Mansfield (601.498-0906)
minister@communityuu.org

Alternative Gift Fair Update

Our 2015 total ended up being \$15,904.64--good job everyone! (and if we had made only \$96.00 more we'd have gone over \$16,000.... next year!) We are discussing possibilities for 2016 which may help us get more people in our doors and increase what we can do for local charities. Special thanks to Peggy Mansfield for her wonderful craft idea, To Denise, Diane & Bruce for manning that all-important "money"

table, to Diane for the publicity piece and to Mike for getting the musicians to add to the festive atmosphere. And last but not least, to Alex the best MC and all round team support. See you all at #10!

- Teri Robertson

Announcements & Events

Souper Sunday February 7

Please bring a dish to share following the service.

Exploring Ideas with the Minister

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 casual and interactive. Bring a brown bag supper, coffee and juice provided.

The next *Exploring Ideas with the Minister* will be **Wednesday, February 10th 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 **February 16th 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 **February 19th** at the church.

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.

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

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.

Contact Peggy Owens-Mansfield 601.470.8746 or 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@webshy.org) or Jennifer Comstock (jencomstock@gmail.com) for inclusion.

Would you like an email-only newsletter?

A few of you have said that you do not need a printed paper copy of the newsletter. Thank you for helping us keep costs down and save resources! 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/>.