



The Communitarian

April 2013

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!

Web Page: www.communityuu.org

Office Hours: Mon, Tue & Wed
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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The deadline for the May issue of *The Communitarian* is April 20th.
Submit your input to
office@communityuu.org

April 7~
“Forgiveness”

Speaker: Alex Emig

Forgiveness is a tall order, but today we'll learn why it's an important one.

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Ellen Fillion

April 14~
“A Vision for Building”

Speaker: CUUC Members

Who are we? What do we want to do in the world? What should we do now to enable our vision and mission? These are timely questions for CUUC, and we're in the midst of formulating answers.

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Fran Handy

April 21~
“Giggle and Beep”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

Our religious approach does not usually include missionary work that involves going door-to-door. But what if it did? How would you share the good news? What would you wear? Would you be serious or light-hearted in your approach? Most important: why would you ever do such a thing in the first place? Let's give some thought this morning to what—if anything—our religious “mission” might be!

Worship Associate: Scott Wilson

Musician: Justin King

April 28~
“Poems, Prose, and Song”

Speaker: Frank Anderson

Insights, reflections, love, something ventured, ... and sledding.

Worship Associate: Diane Reed

Musician: Mike Truex

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



When the weather permits, I often go fishing for a couple of hours on Mondays after returning to Salem from weekend visits with you in the Tri-cities. My favorite place nowadays is the North Santiam River, the same river that fills Detroit reservoir and provides Salem with its drinking water. I never saw a river like this in the Midwest, where I grew up. Rivers there are usually some shade of green or brown. The Santiam—like so many in the Northwest—runs crystal clear for much of the year. However, it also runs very fast in most places, so don't think that you can just spot fish by eye and cast in their direction!

It took me years of trying before I caught my first salmon and steelhead there. I had to learn the river bottom as best as I could, losing lots of tackle in the process (something that still happens far too often!) I had to find the places where fish tend to "hold" in the water, pausing now and then on their journeys upstream into the mountains. In winter months, these tend to be deep pools where water is slower and the fish hug the bottom. In the summer, they often hold in riffles where the water is very choppy (where it's hard for an osprey or a bear to spot them from above!) or in a spot behind one of the larger boulders. Then there is transitional water, places where a side-stream joins the river.

You almost never make contact with fish in places where the riverbed is too consistently one way or the other. It's more natural for them to hold where the setting is more *complex*. Could this be true of people, too? Don't we move rather quickly in an out of places where we feel either too exposed or too crowded in? There's a lot to be

said for creating church space that is complex, which means something very different from *complicated*. Some people need places where they can be out of the highest "flow" of human activity for a few moments, though they are still far from ready to leave and go home. A cluster of soft chairs here and there, a table or two with a UU World on it, a place by a window looking out into a garden or courtyard—there are so many possibilities!

Of course, there's also the need for a space that's dedicated to the needs of children and religious education. We decided last year to begin a process to create such a space, one that will help to "hold" younger families and their children. But as we move forward, I think that we will discover many opportunities to also create spaces where people of all ages can "hold" and find opportunities for joy and service, and feel the pleasure of what flows all around them—right here, right now.

In fellowship,

Craig

(P.S. Due to a re-scheduled minister's conference, I came three times in March but will only be visiting CUUC once in April. I will also come three times in June.)

Rev. Moro is usually in the Tri-cities on weekends of the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, September-June. He can be reached by email, cmoro@willamette.edu or by phone at 509-205-1871 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. only, except in an emergency).

Board & Committee News

From the President!

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Comstock



Religious Education Children & Youth

RE Children's Program



Kindergarten-Fifth Grade:

We are continuing our "Faithful Journeys" curriculum. You may have noticed our path along the wall of the classroom. Ask us about our stops along the way. Check CUUC's Facebook page for details about each lesson.

Spring started with our annual Easter Egg Hunt and we started planting our vegetable garden by the front wall of the church. We're looking forward to seeing our first seeds sprout.

Middle School:

Our "Don't Laugh at Me" and "Wisdom Walk" curricula continue to help our middle school students handle the emotional challenges of this developmental stage and develop spiritual practices. We also learned a little more about the many rules in the Old Testament book of Leviticus, some of which still apply today (but some really don't work at all).

Youth and Interfaith Youth:

Youth activities are slowly resuming. Last month, the youth had a bonfire at Rob Hogan's house. It was an evening of laughter and community. The

youth decided for now that they'll have monthly or near monthly social gatherings.

The Interfaith Youth Group (IFYG) held its second annual charity fundraiser - Sweets, Songs, and Serving Others. The desert dash and auction brought in close to \$1300. That money will be split between My Friend's Place (a local teen homeless shelter) and Aid for Africa: Children of Uganda (a charity helping children who have lost parents due to HIV/AIDS). Thank you all who helped make this event a success.

Upcoming Events

April 11 -- Religious Education Committee meeting, 6 pm

April 14 -- Teacher Meeting after church

April 14- Interfaith Youth Group Gathering 5-7:00p.m.

Hospitality

Calling all Soup Chefs~



*Souper Sunday is ~
April 7, 2013!*

Please contact Sharon Faletti at 375-0467 if you would consider being a part of the hospitality team.

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.

Alice Strumski~ (509) 488-2527, Jennifer Comstock 628-8638,

Vickie Fausz ~ 783-7797 or 531-8469, Jo Lindenmeier~ 586-3451 or

366-3953, Marla Marvin~ 545-1919, Jenny Rieke~ 545-0659, Bev

Schroeder~ 371-1572, Gail Taff~ 375-3293, Denise Pitts~ 375-6130

CUUC Bulletin Board



Got Ink?

If you have ink cartridges at home, please bring to church on Sunday's and put in the Ink box at the back of the church. Community UU Church recycles Ink and Old Cell Phones and receives a small donation in return for them. Thank You to everyone who has donated there ink and cell phones☺

SPECIAL EVENT

**APRIL 20, 2 P.M., AT CUUC:
"ARE YOU NOW, OR HAVE YOU
EVER BEEN...?"**

Both Unitarianism and Universalism have roots reaching back to the beginning of the Common Era—or even earlier—in spiritual and philosophical discussions that predated Christianity in North Africa and Asia Minor then later spawned religious institutions in Europe. But I think we'd all agree that there's something distinctly *American* about modern Unitarian Universalism. The same could be said about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Both now have a worldwide reach, but where could they have started but *here*, in this unique melting pot of people and ideas?

Today, CUUC members and friends who have traveled in both religious movements will have an opportunity to share their experiences and reflections with the rest of us in an informal conversation and a spirit of both respect and good humor. Please join us, and bring those questions you have always wanted to ask!

Members and friends who have belonged to other religious groups that place high demands on personal and family time (and finances!) are also warmly invited to participate and share.

SHOP AND SUPPORT CUUC!

You can donate to CUUC every time you shop by joining our eScrip program. Register your Safeway card and they will donate from 1 to 4% of your purchases to CUUC. You don't have to do anything but use your card when you shop, and renew at eScrip yearly.

You can also get a special eScrip card at Yokes stores (go to customer service to sign up) which you should use when you shop at Yokes. (If you want to expand the amount you can allocate to CUUC it's also possible to register your credit cards. Check their Web site for details.

It's easy to sign up, just make sure you use our group number 500021492:

- Go to escrip.com
- Click on signup
- Make sure you use our group number 500021492
- Enter your club card number for Safeway
- Consider signing up your credit cards so more of your shopping will benefit CUUC

Voila! Now a percentage of your grocery shopping expenditures help's our congregation. If we all do it, it can really add up. If you have any questions, e-mail Diane Reed at ladybookww@gmail.com

A Daily Dose of Unitarian and Universalist History!

Here's a wonderful resource: a 365-day calendar highlighting the history and personalities of our religious movement.

http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/365_this_day/?month=3&day=24

I hope you'll take some time to check it out. I'm sure you'll meet some people you never heard of-- I know that I'm discovering plenty of them!

Collecting Oatmeal Containers:

In the cold part of the year we eat more porridge. I need round Quaker Oat cylinder boxes, any size, for making crafts with the kids. Please save your containers, with or without lids, and bring them to CUUC. I will collect them through autumn 2013. Eat lots of healthy porridge! Thank you, Sandra Rosenau

Chalice Lighter's Corner



The idea is simple. Ask individual UUs if they'd be willing to contribute \$15 or more up to three times a year to help a congregation in their district complete a special project linked to growth. Chalice Lighter projects generally consist of helping congregations call a minister or construct a building or addition. Other purposes are to establish a new congregation or support campus ministry. Rules vary by district. Participants may, of course, contribute more than \$15 each time if they wish, and many do. More than 10,000 UUs are Chalice Lighters.

Right now CUUC has a 52% participation rate in the Pacific Northwest District Chalice Lighter program. We must maintain at least 30% member participation to be eligible for grants in the future. Something to think about as we start planning the next stages of our church community! For questions about the program please contact Chrissie Noonan, cfnoonan@hotmail.com.

Social Justice Action

Social Justice –

The Literacy program is finding new ways that you can help! Pathways to Literacy is engaging more adults as learners, so there is a need for watching children while mom or dad learns typing or English skills. If you can help a few hours in a week in the evening, please contact Celina Fox at 545-3511, x6202. We will also be advertising on our church sign. If you are able to help change the letters after service on Sunday, please let John Dorian know.

The support for meals at Vista Youth Center will continue in June. We've done a great job with three meals so far, including a taco bar and a potato bar. See Tana Hogan if you wish to know more.

Our next Social justice Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9th at 7:30 pm at CUUC.



An exciting month is in our grasp! We will have a Tri-Cities presence for *Standing On the Side of Love*. This is an interfaith initiative begun after the armed attack on the Unitarian Universalist Church of Knoxville, Tennessee, a few years ago. Your Social Justice Committee will lead a set of activities to highlight the principles of respect & inclusion in society. These activities focus on inclusion and respect for all, regardless of gender identity, religion, or immigration status.

- All month long a project is to take a photograph of the Standing On the Side of Love banner, on loan from PNWD, in a location around the Tri-Cities EACH DAY! We want to have an album of the banner in many different places: parks, your yard or house, churches, or school.

How about at the top of Badger Mountain? John will coordinate this, so please contact him if you want to borrow the banner for a day.

- We are planning an Inclusion Action Hour at CUUC on April 14th. The Boy Scouts are collecting public comments on the membership rules – which currently block gay scouts and leaders. On this day we'll have computers for you to send a message to the BSA. It will only take a few minutes for each of us to lend our voice to the cause of equality, inclusion and justice.
- There will be a public witness event at John Dam Plaza in Richland on Friday, April 19th from 4-6 pm. We'll gather to stand with this non-denominational banner for drivers to see that afternoon. We are inviting congregations from the Interfaith Alliance to join with CUUC at the Plaza; your mere presence will speak volumes!

To learn more about the project see www.standingonthesideoflove.org. If you have other ideas on how the banner can be displayed, please let John Dorian know.

Interfaith News & Updates



Interfaith Alliance Website

Keep up to date on interfaith activities by checking out the Tri-cities Interfaith Alliance on our new website: <http://tri-citiesinterfaith.weebly.com/#/>, or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TCIAlliance

INTERFAITH POTLUCK

**Saturday, April 20, 6 p.m. at Shalom Church—
505 McMurray Street, Richland**

Our next interfaith potluck will happen on April 20, 6 p.m. at Shalom UCC church Richland. We'll join our sister congregations—including the Islamic Center, Congregation Beth Shalom synagogue, Lord of Life Lutheran, Guru Nanak Sikh Organization, and Shalom—for an evening of food and fellowship. In honor of this week's Earth Day celebration, our panel and table talk will focus on "Care of Creation." We'll hear about what each member congregation is doing to care for our tangible, earthly environment. Thanks to our Green Sanctuary Team, CUUC will have a lot to share!

- Childcare provided
- Please bring a favorite dish to share. (No pork, shellfish, peanuts or alcohol, please!)
- For more information, please contact Rev. Craig Moro, cmoro@willamette.edu or call 509-205-1871.

Pacific Northwest UUs Organize Haiti Trip for Fall 2013 by Barbara Nelson, Saltwater Unitarian Universalist Church

Are you interested and able to take a week of your time to make a difference in another part of the world--as well as in your own life? *Think Haiti! *

Saltwater Church in Des Moines, Washington, has several people interested in going sometime around November of this year. Wouldn't it be great to

get a group of 15 or 16 UUs from the Pacific Northwest to make the journey of a lifetime to Haiti to move rocks, carry cement, laugh and sing along with Haitians in the central plateau?

The UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) organizes Just Recovery service trips to Haiti to support the efforts of the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) in the central plateau area. Side by side with Haitians, we work to build homes and villages for people who lost their homes in the earthquake of 2010. This is a powerful experience of recovery done right. True to UUSC's commitment to support the efforts of marginalized groups, our work with MPP is helping to support a grassroots effort to build sustainable agrarian communities. In this case we help build eco-villages for people willing to move away from Port au Prince, creating an entirely new way of life.

Take a look at [*www.uucsj.org*](http://www.uucsj.org) for information on the Just Recovery Service Learning Trips to Haiti. I have made two trips to Haiti, the second one as a trip leader, and am anxious to go again. I am happy to talk with you more about our planning for the next trip. Please e-mail me at haititrip@saltwaterchurch.org if you are interested in the possibility of going or would like to find out more information.

I wish you all the best. M'swete'w tout bon bagay.