



The Communitarian

April 2011

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.communityuuu.org

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

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cmoro@willamette.edu

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The deadline for the May issue of *The
Communitarian* is April 20th.

Submit your input to
office@communityuuu.org

April 3~

“Springing into Spring After Falling in the Fall”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

I was seriously injured in November while going up to work on my roof. Today I will reflect on that experience and on the varieties of pain that we all experience. I will also take the opportunity to thank you for your kindness and support, and to encourage support for this caring institution during our annual stewardship campaign!

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Ellen Fillion

April 10~

“Hearing Hidden Voices”

Speaker: Mark Lee

Mark Lee, the executive director of the Vista Youth Center, will share about at-risk youth in the Tri-Cities. He will touch on the services at Vista Youth Center and the services coming from My Friend's Place.

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Fran Handy

April 17~

“Faster Than a Speeding Bullet”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

In January we witnessed yet another mass shooting, this time in Arizona. Almost as soon as news of it began to reach us, we also began to hear reflections on its meaning and possible causes. And then came the calls to silence all such conjecture or limit discussion to the criminal acts of a single individual. What guiding principles from our religious tradition can we turn to when deciding how to respond to events like these? And what can Superman add to the discussion?

Worship Associate: Meryl Birn

Musician: CUUC Choir

April 24~

“A Sense of Renewal”

Speaker: Irene Hays & Mike Truex

More sun, warmth, and some nourishing rain. New inspiration. Lifting a burden. Spiritual awakening. A new chance.

What gives us a sense of renewal?

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Mike & Shannon Truex

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



The past few months have been exhausting for anyone who follows the news closely. I usually watch BBC's international edition at 5:30 a.m., but if I'm not careful this can mean starting the day already overloaded with too much information. Political struggle in North Africa and the Middle East; earthquakes first in New Zealand then in Japan, followed by the devastating tsunami that rolled all the way to cause damage and death in Oregon and California. Thousands of people dead or missing, nuclear plants rocked by explosions, threats of radiation leaks or even a meltdown—it's almost too much to contemplate and it just keeps coming.

Such news once took years to reach us, if we ever heard it at all. Next it was months, weeks, days, hours, and now it's almost instantaneous. So many people have cell phones, and most of those are equipped with cameras that can send out videos on the spot from any location. Human compassion and understanding have never been tested quite like this with such global awareness before, and a kind of stress that's unprecedented. How much should I watch, how much should I care, what am I personally responsible for?

Times like these prompt many to retreat from complexity into the comforts of isolation, xenophobia, and fundamentalist millennial religion. Much has been made (including a big budget movie) of how the ancient Mayan calendar stops at 2012. Surely that must signal the end of the world! One popular religious broadcaster has dismissed this prediction as a fairy tale. Turning to his Bible, he has promised that May 21 of this year will mark the end of the world. 2012? Silly heathen nonsense! All you need to know about

past, present, and future has been available in a single book for 2000 years already!

Retreating from information about the complexity of our world seems like a dead end to me. At the same time, it's good to know when to turn off the TV, radio, or computer and give it a rest. Still, I was very interested to hear how tsunami survivors in Japan report that, while the 2011 disaster has been much worse than the 1995 Kobe earthquake, they have been comforted by today's steady availability of information. Just to know, to have information flowing in, provided by our fellow human beings, makes us feel better even when food, water, and shelter are in short supply. Look at any religious scripture, and you'll find that prayers saying, "Know me!" are at least as common as those begging, "Help me!" Sometimes to be known *is* the biggest help of all.

For now, if you'd like to help our sisters and brothers in Japan, here's a link to our religious association's relief fund:

www.uua.kintera.org/japan (or Google "UUA Japan Relief Fund".) Thanks for your generosity!

In fellowship,

Craig

Board & Committee News

From the President!

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Comstock



Happy April everyone, I really enjoyed the 3/19/11 interfaith potluck. The topic was who goes to heaven and what about the other person. Listening to the panelist speak I loved the idea that the panelist believed they were all talking about the same God (from a Lutheran,

Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, and Unitarian Universalist perspective). The Lutheran minister spoke passionately about Jesus saying the Kingdom of Heaven is within and about living his life filled with this love. I was unfamiliar with the Sikhism and learned much from the description of that faith. Sikhs believe in the equality of humankind, the concept of universal brotherhood of man and One Supreme God. I think the Universalist perspective of a universal love and universal salvation for all is just as beautiful. I believe in an infinite divine love that is throughout all things, within all life and within each of us. CUUC will host the next interfaith potluck and I hope you can attend.

Board News: With the warm weather the new church sign will be installed soon on Sylvester Street. We have also just awarded a contract to help improve the condition of the church parking lot. Also we have awarded a contract to create a concept sketch for a church expansion to add additional RE space. As soon as we have a sketch we will have a season of conversation with the congregation to start the discussion on a potential expansion of the church.

What a wonderful Sunday we just had with both Rev. Craig Moro and Diane Reed back with us. Please continue to send your love, prayers and cards of support to Eleanor Barnes as she heals. David Comstock
Peace and Blessings to each of you

The board has set the date of 5/22/11 for CUUC Annual Meeting. We need to have the committee reports in time to print the annual report. Please start thinking about your annual committee report. The committee reports are due by 4/25/11. Thank you to each of you that have already sent in your reports.



Religious Education Children & Youth



RE Children's Program

High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group started the past month off with their volunteerism in our community's worship service. In addition, they joined the Kindergarten-5th Grade class one week to help them establish a small hay bale garden and plant seeds. In class, group work was continued on their personal credos and research of Unitarian Universalism for the World Religions Timeline Mural. Many of these activities will continue through this month. The next High School Youth Overnighter will be on Friday, April 22 at 7:30 P.M.

Interfaith Youth Group

Many of our youth participated in the two Interfaith Youth Group gatherings in March. Their focus was making plans for service projects and working on the World Religions Timeline Mural. On the evening of March 18th, youth and advisors from our different faith congregations came together to organize an Interfaith Youth Group Yard Sale held at CUUC on March 19th from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to Charity Water.org when the youth have reached their goal of raising \$5000 to build a well in an underdeveloped country. Three CUUC youth and one of our High School Advisors joined a group of Shalom UCC youth and advisors on the weekend of March 11-13 to gather at Camp-N-Sid-Sen near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho for an interfaith retreat with youth from many United Church of Christ congregations. All participated in a number of interfaith group activities. Good times were had by all who attended. You will find April's calendar below.

Interfaith Youth Group

Calendar Events

April 17 **Interfaith YG Dinner and Meeting at CUUC**
Other Events TBA (Will include a cookie sale)

Middle school:

The Middle School class has been learning some of the history of our faith. We have discussed the founding fathers in the USA like William Ellery Channing who was the first person to define and describe American Unitarianism. He believed that people should use reason in determining religious beliefs. We compared him to Jonathan Edwards who was probably the greatest preacher of his time but who was a Calvinist and preached about an angry God who was disappointed in people and who would show them no mercy no matter how good they were. This was the atmosphere that our original Unitarian and Universalist brothers and sisters struggled against. On a related note, we discussed taking responsibility for your own actions and how the things we do have consequences that not only we but others will have to live with. Actions have consequences!

Kindergarten-5th Grade:

February began the exploration of our Jewish and Christian roots. The children helped build a “library” of books, and learned that there are many books that make up the Bible. They understand that a book can come in many forms: paper with binding, a computer file, data read on a Kindle, or even an ancient scroll! Over the next weeks each lesson tells a Bible story and will be followed by activities such as play acting, artwork, and discussion.

We have completed the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, and Cain and Abel. Our discussions and play-acting revolve around a UU perspective of each story. For example, after the sad tale of Cain and Abel the children practiced simple ways to soothe hurt feelings and restore peace between angry playmates and siblings. It was astonishing to watch them catch the idea of peace-making so quickly and effectively. During the story of Noah and the Ark we explored the idea of respecting the worth and dignity of every

person and the interconnectedness of all living things. We had a great discussion about the Jewish and Christian God losing his temper and destroying his creation, and how we can deal with disappointment and frustration in more positive ways. The Adam and Eve story allowed us to talk about things that scare us and how we can handle our fear in a positive way.

We'll focus on Christianity in April, learning the stories of Jesus and of course, Easter, and how they relate to Unitarian Universalist principles. We're also looking forward to our Easter Egg Hunt after church on April 24!

Another successful Guest at Your Table program!

This year we were able to raise \$650 through our Guest at Your Table program. This is in addition to the money raised for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through the Alternative Gift Fair. Your gift goes to grassroots organizations all around the world to work for human rights. Thank you for your generosity. Kids learn by example and by doing; adding money to the Guest At Your Table box each year is an excellent way to teach them generosity, as well as benefitting people who really need it.

The UU parenting blog is still going strong. . .

Michelle Richards, a longtime Director of Religious Education, mother of two, and author of the 2010 book, *Tending the Flame: The Art of Raising Unitarian Universalist Children*, is the author of the blog. Each week, she initiates a conversation about some of the unique challenges and joys of raising UU children. We hope you'll join in, and bring your friends. She has some great insights.

You can find the blog at <http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting>. Or just search for 'UU parenting blog.'



Hospitality

Souper Sunday!
April 3rd, 2011



Soup Contributions most welcome for
Souper Sunday, April 3rd!

Thanks,
Fran

Green Sanctuary

CUUC Green Sanctuary

Paper Project!

We have started with the electronic distribution of our monthly newsletter. Now it is time to continue reducing our paper use and use more recycled paper product. We plan to dive into the bathroom next.

We are working on re-usable towels for hand drying. Whites at our house are always the smallest loads so we will not have any extra loads to clean the hand towels each week. So we will not be increasing our water or electricity consumption to clean the hand towels. In addition, the detergents we use are environmentally friendly and super concentrated to reduce packaging.

We are also working on Seventh Generation 100% recycled tissue paper. If every household in the US used 12 rolls that would save 3.8 million trees, 1.3 billion gallons of water and 9.8 million cubic feet of landfill space.

Thanks
David Comstock

Hands & Heart



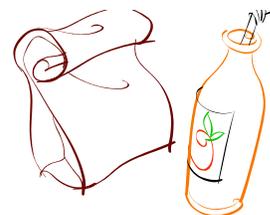
The Hands and Hearts Committee would like to remind you that we are here to help, not just for big events where we all cry or laugh, but also for the little things as well. We are here to help you out in any way we can. You can seek us out at church (our name tags have the heart stickers) or call us 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
	531-8469
Jo Lindenmeier	586-3451
	366-3953
Marla Marvin	545-1919
Jenny Rieke	545-0659
Bev Schroeder	371-1572
Gail Taff	375-3293

Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, April 5,
@12:00p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Faletti



Women's Luncheon meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Bring a dish to share.

For info, please call Sharon Faletti at 375-0467
*If there is a last minute change, look for a **notice via email**, or call me Sharon at 375-0467 or Bev Schroeder at 371-1572.
Mark your calendars now!

Please join us -- *your s* is the essential voice!

CUUC Bulletin Board

→ *Points East:*
Asian Religion Class Resumes on Saturdays, 3:30-5:30p.m.

Committee on Ministry

SEASONS OF CONVERSATION 2011

Sunday, April 17th & 24th

Seasons of Conversation is a time devoted to bringing our voices together. What matters to us? What are we ready to do? What's working and how do we build on it? How do we put it into practice? Your voice, newcomers & long time member alike, are vital to this discussion.

This year's focus is *Ideals*. What are our *ideals* on the larger scale as UU's and as a church community here at CUUC? Awareness gained in discussion gives our Board and committee members tools for planning the coming year and all of us an opportunity to build our awareness for what will be a more engaged reevaluating our Mission/Vision long and short term goals in the coming years.

- Sunday the 17th we'll discuss the large scale perspective: *What do we as UU's hold up as our ideals?* Reverend Craig Moro will help begin the discussion.
- Sunday the 24th we'll focus on our particular congregation. What *does* this mean? How do we choose to express those ideals? We will reflect on our current goals and respond with, "*what next?*".

After being so rudely interrupted by an injured minister, our class resumes its survey of the major religions of Asia—Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. We are reading Considering the Asian Religions by UU minister (and former university professor of comparative religion) Wade Wheelock. This month we will conclude our survey of the variety of "Hindu" religious expressions and turn our attention to Buddhism. Here's our spring schedule:

April 2, 16, and 30
May 21
June 4 and 18



Pick An Era Dance and Potluck
Saturday, April 2
6 to 9:30 P.M.

Let's celebrate spring with a potluck and swinging dance. Pick your favorite era of music (40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's to the present) and wear that era's type of clothing if you are willing (including hats if you so desire). Bring your own CD's if you have any favorite songs. We will be playing music from all eras. Of course, bring your favorite dish to share for the potluck. Childcare will be provided. We will also have live music performances if some of you would like to share

your talents that evening. Please call Vickie Fausz to let her know (783-7797) or email mgoblue76@frontier.com.



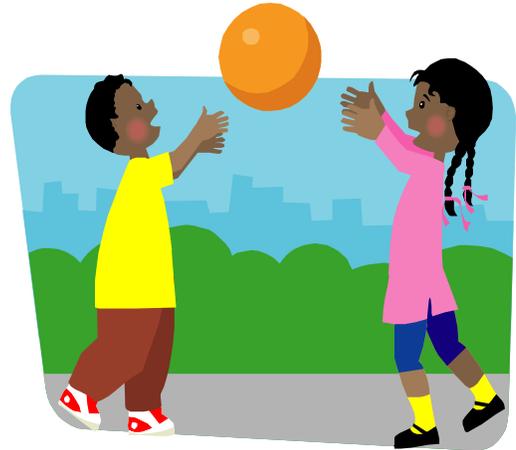
New member welcome service April 3rd

We will be welcoming our newest members during our service on April 3rd. Come join our celebration of growth. If you have been considering joining and would like more information please contact Scott Wilson at 509.947.7308 or scottwilsonuu@charter.net. If needed, we will hold a membership coffee on April 2nd for anyone that would like to discuss what membership means or simply to learn more about our Unitarian Universalist congregation. Individual discussions can be arranged if necessary just contact Scott Wilson or Rev. Moro.

Playground Work Parties!

Our kids are looking forward to a safe place to run and a refurbished boat to play on. There are also plans for a Story Circle of stumps. We will be working to make the planned fenced playground a reality. Work parties are planned for Saturday, April 16 and Saturday, April 30, from 10am till noon. We plan to cap the sprinkler heads, remove the sod, and hollow out a base to keep the boat stable. Work will also start on stripping and repainting the interior of the boat.

Please join us! There are sign-up sheets in the back of the Sanctuary, or you can just show up. If anyone has a pickup truck for hauling sod to the dump, please contact Gail Taff or any member of the Religious Education Committee before April 30.



Other News

3~Rivers Folklife Society Concert Featuring Tracy Morgan

Date: April 16th
Where: Community UU Church
Time: 7:30p.m.
Tickets: At the door or Bookworm!



