



The Communitarian

February 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.communityuu.org

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

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(509) 205-1871
cmoro@willamette.edu

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The deadline for the March issue of
The Communitarian is February
20th. Submit your input to
office@communityuu.org

February 6~
“Honoring the Journey”

Speaker: *Shannon Hays~Truex*

What if every step of our journey, we walk on holy ground? What if each step is reverent, each moment is relational, and each experience is one of wonder, communion, reciprocity, and thanksgiving? Honoring the journey allows stories to unfold and gifts to emerge.

Worship Associate: *Mike Truex*

Musician: *Mike & Shannon Truex*

February 13~
“The Voice Behind the Backstop”

Speaker: *Rev. Bill Graves*

We all need the support of that voice, that wing extended as a bridge inviting us to join in realizing our potential, in blessing the world. I first encountered that voice growing up in Walla Walla. This is a meditation on our Third Principle that calls us all to be ministers encouraging each other's spiritual growth, not merely consumers of spiritual offerings.

Bill Graves lives on Whidbey Island with his wife, Frances, but is currently setting up an apartment in Tacoma as he started the first of this year as full time consulting minister of the Tahoma UU Congregation. He was ordained jointly by the UU Congregation of Whidbey Island and the Skagit UU Fellowship on Jan. 22, 2011.

Worship Associate: *Alex Emig*

Musician: *Ellen Fillion*

February 20~
“Compassion as an Action Verb”

Speaker: *CUUC Members & Friends*

To practice compassion, it is not enough to think kind thoughts about other people. Let's explore together what it means be compassionate and how to put compassion into action in our everyday lives. Bring your thoughts and ideas to share.

Worship Associate: *Meryl Birn*

Musician: *CUUC Choir*

February 27~
“Beware of God”

Speaker: *Rev. Richard Davis*

Neuroscientists are now able to scan the brain and observe the effects various thoughts and feelings actually have upon us, for good or ill. Ideas of God (there are many!) is one of the most powerful ideas in human history and now we can see this in new ways.

The Reverend Richard “Rick” Davis accepted the call to be the minister of the UU Congregation of Salem, Oregon in July of 1992 and began his ministry there in January of 1993 after completing a six year ministry at Emerson Unitarian Church in Canoga Park, CA. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology in 1986 and was ordained in 1987. Prior to this he practiced with Zen Buddhist groups in San Francisco and Washington D.C.

Worship Associate: *Mike Truex*

Musician: *Fran Handy*

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



Please continue to hold in your hearts the victims of the January 8 Arizona shootings and their loved ones. We still do not know how much the shooter's actions may be attributed to mental health issues; to a climate of vicious media rhetoric about targeting public servants in our "crosshairs"; or to some combination of these with still other factors. But we can say for certain that now is a time for serious reflection about who we are, who we are becoming, and who we want to be.

Some voices have been calling for all discussion to focus exclusively on the shooter, demanding that we consider only the violent deeds of a single individual without asking bigger questions about the cause and context of his actions--about the political environment and the ready availability of semiautomatic weapons together with such *massacre supplies* (what else can I call them?) as ammunition clips that hold over 30 rounds. We can understand and respect such calls and demands, insofar as they are intended to protect the feelings of those closest to the victims and allow memorial services for those who have died to be conducted as celebrations of life, not occasions for diatribe or debate.

However, we must also remember that the Western religious tradition (which includes, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as well as our own UU heritage) is one that always poses questions and challenges to communities as well as individuals. Every serious concern about you or me leads immediately to a concern about us; every comment about "society" holds a mirror up to each of its members. It is one thing to ask us to refrain from hasty finger-pointing. It is quite

another to demand that we disavow thousands of years of a religious and spiritual heritage that is not the exclusive property of "liberals", "conservatives", or anyone else.

Let us take that time for reflection now, and look very closely at whatever we might see. I hope to share my reflections in a sermon later this spring.

My own November injuries are continuing to heal. I have started physical therapy and hope to be walking within another month or two, and to drive once I can apply enough brake pressure for an emergency stop (not yet, the docs say.) I exercise constantly on the floor and can now crutch-walk around several blocks at a time (followed by a nap!) I hope to return to CUUC on the weekend of March 19-20. Until then, please don't hesitate to contact me by email (cmoro@willamette.edu) or phone (509-205-1871) if you would like to talk. I look forward to seeing you soon!

In fellowship,

Craig



Board & Committee News

From the President!

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Comstock



Happy February everyone,

Please join me in making February compassion month. Plant the seed of compassion each day. Fertilize it with emotion and positive affirmation that our actions make a difference. Let the seeds grow into countless flowers of compassionate action in our daily lives.

Webster defines compassion as “sorrow for the suffering or trouble of another, with the urge to help.” The definition has both the understanding of other and action to help. Please find 10 minutes of quiet time each day to focus on compassion. Let’s cultivate compassion within ourselves and explore options to act and express it in our community.

“Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well.” **Mahatma Gandhi**

From our UU principle we covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Our compassion month will culminate with the “Compassion as an Action Verb” service on February 20th.

Please continue to send your love and prayers to Rev. Craig Moro as his body heals. Please also send your love, prayers and calls of support to Diane Reed as she heals from her back surgery.
David Comstock
Peace and Blessings to each of you

Religious Education Children & Youth



RE Children’s Program

Kindergarten-5th Grade Class:

The K-5 class started out the New Year learning about the truth-seeking quality of the UU faith. We listened to a story about the Unitarian astronomer Maria Mitchell who became the first woman professor at Vassar College, during a time when young women were not “supposed” to even attend college. Ms. Mitchell spent her time exploring the wonders of the universe and eventually discovered a comet. This lesson introduced the Unitarian Universalist Principle that promotes a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We ended the lesson by learning to tell time the old fashioned way and built our own sun-dials.

The rest of the month was spent learning about Buddhism. We will finish up our unit on Buddhism in February and start learning about Christianity, focusing first on the Old Testament.

Middle School Class

The Middle School class continues with its Compass Points studies. We recently explored Jesus' life and why he and others become celebrities. We also spent a session being our own "Jesus Seminars," voting like the group of biblical scholars did, on various statements attributed to Jesus as to the likelihood they were actually said by him, may have been said by him, or were probably not said by him. We also covered the idea of change and will be working on life transitions and how they inform our beliefs.

High School Youth

The High School Youth Group continues to participate in a monthly worship service as well as Interfaith youth activities. They have been researching information on religions of the world and sharing this with each other. This activity will lead to their ability to transform what they have learned into religious and sacred symbols or images for a World Religions Timeline Mural. They have been encouraged to engage in dialogue with CUUC members and friends regarding personal religious experiences. When you say hello to one of our youth, ask them what religion they are studying. You may be able to help them with their research.

The group is also exploring personal attributes. This past month they identified their own personal strengths and weaknesses with an emphasis on what strength they would like to develop more. A few members and friends helped out by writing about the personal strengths they most value within themselves. These writings were shared within the group.

On Jan. 30 our youth attended the worship service rather than having class. They listened to the guest speaker, Naseem Rakha, present a service on the topic of forgiveness entitled "The Crying Tree." We plan to follow up with some discussion.

Interfaith Youth Group

There were two interfaith youth gatherings in January, one on the 9th and the second on the 23rd. The planned Interfaith Youth Group Family Retreat was cancelled due to not meeting the minimum number of attendees. There may be an opportunity to attend another planned retreat in March. There will be more news on that at a later date. Youth in IFYG did a brief presentation at the family Interfaith Potluck at the Tri-Cities Islamic Center on January 29. They also helped with serving dessert and other tasks needed.

Upcoming events:

Feb. 4 - High School Youth Group Sleepover, 7:30 P.M. to Sat., Jan. 5 at 10 A.M.

Feb. 6 - Interfaith Youth Group at UCC Shalom, 6 to 8 P.M.

Feb. 20 - Interfaith Youth Group at UCC Shalom, 6 to 8 P.M

Religious Education and the Green Team

Hospitality

Souper Sunday!
February 6th, 2011



Souper Sunday is Super Bowl Sunday, February 6, but we will be in Pasco, Washington not Arlington, Texas. We can feast & socialize and still have time to get home to watch the game.

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

	366-3953
Marla Marvin	545-1919
Jenny Rieke	545-0659
Bev Schroeder	371-1572
Gail Taff	375-3293

Caring Quilt Project

WHAT? Quilt Top Design Workshop

WHEN? Sunday, Jan. 30, following coffee hour

WHERE? The K-5 classroom (where the light is best)

WHO? Anyone with a sense of color, shape & overall design is welcome!

WHY? It's time to arrange the finished squares & choose coordinating fabrics for backing, binding, and unifying such diverse squares.

QUESTIONS? Contact Jenny Rieke 545-0659

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

Seeking Chairperson

Dear CUUC Community,

For the last year and half I have been the chairperson for the Hands and Hearts committee and have enjoyed the time in this position. As you know, Jeff and I are buying a house in Moses Lake and the commute to church will grow from an hour to an hour and a half. What this means is I am going to have to give up this position to somebody that lives a little closer to the action. If you are interested in being Hearts and Hands chairperson please contact me or another person on the committee before February 20th. Anybody that is a people person and slightly organized would be great for the job.

Just a reminder, you can still talk to anybody on the committee if you need help or just somebody to talk to. Also, if you are concerned about somebody, tell us and we can check in on them.

Remember we do not know about everything and do not know is something is wrong unless you let us know.

Thank you for all the help you all have given the H&H group in the time of need.
Alice Strumski



Join us on Facebook!

CUUC now has a page on Facebook. The page is meant to connect with existing members, and reach out to potential new members. If you are a Facebook user, 'Like' the page, post on the Wall, comment on other postings, or upload photos. Come join our on-line community at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pasco-WA/Community-Unitarian-Universalist-Church-CUUC/>. If you're interested in helping administer the page, please contact Chrissie Noonan or Meryl Birn.

Women's Luncheon!
Tuesday, February 1st,
@12:00p.m.
Submitted by Sharon Faletti



Women's Luncheon meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month. For good food and conversation, please join us at noon on February 1 in the meeting room and bring a dish to share.

For info, please call Sharon Faletti at 375-0467 or Bev Schroeder at 371-1572.

If there is a last minute change, look for a **notice via email**. Mark your calendars now!

Sharon Faletti

Lost & Found

Bethany Dorian has lost a little wood red decorated fan in December at the church. If anyone is to find it, please turn it into the office or to Bethany☺

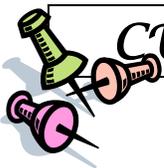
Thank You
Tonia Hardy

Other News

Embracing Joy!

The Pacific North West District Assembly is coming up in February, 2011. The focus is on spirit, art and activism. Please let me know if you would like to go so we can register you for the one day meeting Saturday 2-5-10 in Portland OR. I think we should coordinate a lunch visit with Craig Moro in Salem OR for the group that goes to the district assemble this winter.

Thanks
David Comstock



CUUC Bulletin Board

→ **Points East:**

Asian Religion Class on Saturdays, 3:30-5:30p.m.

No Classes this Month☺

Humphrey, Hartman & Cameron Concert

Saturday, Feb 19@ 7:30p.m.
at Community Unitarian Universalist Church,
Pasco, WA

3 Rivers Folk life Society present Humphrey, Hartman & Cameron. The trio combines guitar, banjo, cello, and lovely harmonies with quirky humor and lots of energy. They play mainly original tunes on topics including mercy, chocolate, goose poop and zambonis. Janet Humphrey plays guitar; Mary Hartman plays guitar and banjo; Michelle Cameron adds cello (it's not just for Classical music anymore!

Read more: <http://calendar.tricityherald.com/pasco-wa/events/show/159404505-humphrey-hartman-cameron-concert#ixzz1Byg3A490>