



# The Communitarian

January 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!**

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The deadline for the February issue of *The Communitarian* is January 20th. Submit your input to [office@communityuu.org](mailto:office@communityuu.org)

January 6~

**“Happy New Year-Look Both Ways!”**

**Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro**

Here’s a proverb from Japan: “We see the seven shortcomings of others, but overlook ten of our own.” And one from Indonesia: “We don’t notice the elephant on our own eyelid, but can spot an ant on the other side of the sea.” Sometimes it’s amazing how we see the ant but miss the elephant! I see this or that in you and in your actions. But when it comes to me...now that’s another story. Come hear the story on this first Sunday of the new year!

**Worship Associate: Diane Reed**

**Musician: Ellen Fillion**

January 13~

**“Living Faith Through Action”**

**Speaker: Valerie Tolle**

The executive director of the Experience War Project will speak. Once we found the core message we wanted to bring to the world, we do so without betraying our moral convictions. To bring message with unflinching commitment, that was an act of faith.

**Worship Associate: Alex Emig**

**Musician: Justin King**

January 20~

**“Rod, Staff, and Comfort”**

**Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro**

Martin Luther King spoke with a deep authority that made him America’s minister—for liberal and conservative alike. Agree or disagree, love or hate him, he touched everyone, and touched them deeply. No one could just ignore his words that prodded or pulled us like a shepherd’s staff. Let’s reflect on some of those words today as we consider the limits and constraints that make it possible to live in freedom.

**Worship Associate: Mike Truex**

**Musician: Ellen Fillion**

January 27~

**“Project Literacy”**

**Speaker: Diane Hart**

The Social Justice Committee decided recently that literacy is an important project for us to tackle. Project literacy will tell us some ways we may help.

**Worship Associate: Alex Emig**

**Musician: Justin King**

## From Our Minister



### Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



I've been trying to learn Spanish on and off for the past few years. I made a couple of what you could call "false starts"—like enrolling in a university course for one semester but not continuing for the next one. The class gave me a small base, which I've tried to build on by other means. Last fall, I settled into a nice rhythm: first, an hour practicing with Rosetta Stone software, followed by an hour of watching DVD movies with the Spanish soundtrack and Spanish subtitles turned on. I'm now on my third round of watching all of the *Harry Potter* movies this way. They're a good choice, since I know the stories well from watching them earlier with my family (and from reading all the books to my son when he was younger!) Subtitles and soundtrack don't line up exactly, so I'm often discovering two different ways to express an idea. That's real language learning, I think, even if it's still slow going.

For a reading challenge, I've been trying something similar. As a minister and seminary graduate, I know the Bible fairly well. (I've even read a fair portion of the Old Testament in Hebrew.) I bought one Spanish version at a used bookstore, but soon discovered that it was actually Castilian, the language of Spain. I needed a version in the language we're likely to hear in this hemisphere, which has been diverging from Old World Spanish for more than 500 years, since even before our English split off from that of England. Finally I found a Latin American edition, and what a book it is! It comes from the Liberation Theology tradition of social activist priest, nuns, and laypeople. It's laced with photos of poor villagers, of soldiers routing crowds with attack dogs, and of change agents like Martin Luther King and Don Helder Camara.

One photo of a peasant wedding includes a caption that I was able to decipher. It invites us to a party where "God himself will dance with us." Such photos and the abundant footnotes exemplify Liberation Theology's approach to the book: Here is a great story in which you are deeply involved, and—in some ways—*implicated*. Hear this voice crying out from the heart of the ancient Middle East—now put your head out of your own window, and what cries do you hear? Pleas for justice? Shouts of joy? The story you read continues in the story you are living. Let it be a prelude to your day, and a postlude, too—a last look back before you go to sleep.

Now, very few of us would be prepared to give the Bible—or any other religious scripture—such a place in our lives. But we can still ask ourselves: Is there a great story that I belong to as much as it belongs to me? What is my great story? And what is ours? What direction and what "liberation" will we experience if only we can discover it, name it, and connect back to its power? Can we resolve to make that happen, at the start of this New Year? I hope so.

In fellowship,

Craig

P.S.—From November through February, I will need to leave for Salem soon after services end in order to avoid driving the Gorge after dark in winter conditions. Thanks for your understanding!

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Rev. Moro is usually in the Tri-cities on weekends of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month, September-June. He can be reached by email, [cmoro@willamette.edu](mailto: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*



Happy New Year everyone,

#### **Board News:**

Craig Moro has coordinating a tour of the Shalom UCC addition for January 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 starting at 10am.

Please join the RE addition committee for a tour of the Shalom church addition (505 McMurray Street Richland, WA) and lessons learned from their project. Also the RE Committee is promoting intergenerational game nights at church. These will be fun for the whole family. If you are interested in leading a game night please contact Gail, Jen or Vicky.

**Social Justice:** Please sign up to help provide a meal and conversation at the Vista Youth Center. This is a great project. Vista Youth Center was one of the non-profits at AGF, so please help us build a stronger connection with these kids. Please let John know that you would like to help.

**Interfaith Potluck:** January 5, 6:00p.m., at CUUC Please mark this on your calendar. I would like to see as many of you as possible at our next interfaith potluck. These are fun events, with interesting topics and now more than ever we need to build ties throughout our community. Thank you for coming to this great event.

**AGF:** Thanks to all that helped make AGF a wonderful event. This awesome event makes me so proud to be part of this congregation.

**Spiritual Thought:** As this year comes to a close we have so much to be thankful for. Dwell on the wonderful experiences from this last year and fill your heart with gratitude. We also have so much to look forward to in the coming year; I am excited with anticipation of the great works you and this congregation will perform. Thank you.

Joy in service. Right Here! Right Now!  
David Comstock  
Peace and Blessings to each of you

## Religious Education Children & Youth

### RE Children's Program



#### **Save the Dates –**

#### **February 22 and 23 lectures on "Does Faith have a Future?"**

This year's Marvin Cain lectures are being sponsored by Shalom United Church of Christ, and our church is also getting involved. The lectures will be given by Dr. Stephen Patterson, the George H. Atkinson Professor of Religious and Ethical Studies at Willamette University. Dr. Patterson is an historian of religion specializing in the beginnings of Christianity. His research and writing have focused on the Gospel of Thomas, Q, and various aspects of the historical study of Jesus. He summarizes his topic as follows:

What do Americans believe? All sorts of things, it turns out. We believe in angels, demons, heaven and hell, even Bigfoot. But is that what religion really is? Believing in incredible things? In this series of lectures I will explore with you a different kind of faith—a secular faith. A secular faith looks to the world in which we live and breathe and the lives we lead in the here and now to reveal to us transcendence that can both ground us and lift us out of the ordinariness of our day to day existence. And the most surprising thing about this kind of faith is the fact that it is not new, but very old, ancient, even original. It may be

that if faith has a future, it lies buried in its secular past.

All interested adults, young adults and youth are invited.

**Youth Group:**

Our high school Youth Group is currently under construction. All youth are invited to meet with Craig Moro, our consulting minister, on Saturday February 2 to talk about how things are going and what the future might look like. This will be a rare opportunity to hear and be heard by our minister, who is also a former youth group leader. Craig's sermon the following day will also be about fishing with young leaders, and catching a surprise!

**Interfaith Youth Group:**

The Interfaith Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, December 30 at Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland. This will be a game night, so bring a board game!

**Middle School:**

Denise reports that one of the December classes that she taught discussed Leviticus and all the rules and abominations laid out in that book of the bible. We discussed how some people, even school students, hate on gays and wish them dead. People often point to Leviticus as the reason that homosexuality is a sin; an abomination before god. We discussed the fact that Leviticus also says that eating shellfish and catfish is a sin (where are the people picketing Red Lobster and Captain D's?); wearing jeans with spandex in them is a sin (rule against wearing mixed fabric); wearing jewelry is a sin; playing football is a sin (rule against touching pigs and touching dead flesh); and the list goes on (there are not 10 commandments, there are really about 615). Why is homosexuality the only sin that people get so worked up about? Because these people like lobster, crab, catfish, spandex, a pretty necklace, and football. It's easy to call something a sin and to act hateful to the object of that sin when it is something you could never see yourself doing.

Those students who are jocks and hate gays will have to hang up their football uniforms if they don't want to engage in abominations. We had a very lively discussion and the kids left with something to think about.

Students also learned about Buddhism as part of their Wisdom Walk curriculum, and learned the Buddhist spiritual practice of meditation.

The middle school class also planned an overnight party at the church to celebrate the predicted (again) end of the world on December 21.

Upcoming middle school classes include "How Would You Feel If. . ." on January 6, "The Daily Dialogue" on January 13 and the next spiritual practice from Wisdom Walk on January 20.

**Kindergarten-Fifth Grade:**

The kids had fun in December rehearsing for their singing performance during the December 23 service. In January, our class will cover the following topics from the Unitarian Universalist Association's Creating Home curriculum.

Jan. 6 Creating our Worship Home: For members of a Unitarian Universalist faith home, the place of worship expresses itself through the people who gather there. Each time members gather for worship, it evolves into a new expression of faith based on the people who attend and respond together. Children will experiment with artistic and written expression of their own worship experiences.

Jan. 13 Comings and Goings: We will explore how it feels to leave our family home and be welcomed back. Children will observe how the family systems within our family home change when we leave and return, and what does not change, whether we are at home or away. We will identify the constant in our family home, love.

Jan. 20 Mohammed: Children will hear the stories from Islam and the prophet Mohammed. He had strong feelings for Mecca, his childhood home and

the home city of his clan. As an adult, Mohammed followed his deep desire to bring Islam to Mecca and build a faith home in the city of his family home. We welcome your child to come learn about the world's 2nd largest religion. Intergenerational Field Trip January 20 following the Sunday Service

The K-5 RE class will host another intergenerational outing to do bird watching in Chiawana Park in Pasco. Led by wildlife biologist Heidi Newsome, we will do a little bird watching and park cleanup as we walk along the Columbia River. Some binoculars will be available, but bring your own if you have them. We will end the journey with hot cocoa and snacks. Further details will be announced in January.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- 12/30 5-7 pm Interfaith Youth Group's Game Night at Shalom UCC
- 1/6 Note that the Teacher Meeting has been re-scheduled to Feb. 20.
- 1/10 RE Committee meets at 6 pm
- 1/20 Bird Watching walk after church, all ages welcome!
- 1/27 Children's Chapel, Preschool through 12th grade meet together in the K-5 classroom at class time
- 2/6 Youth Get-Together with Craig, exact time to be announced

## Hospitality

### *Calling all Soup Chefs~*



### ***Souper Sunday is January 6th!!!***

The Hospitality Committee would really love to have another one or two volunteers who could assist with special events such as setting up for memorials, assistance with Interfaith dinners, our annual summer picnic, help with packaging of bake sale items for AGF, fill-in during times when we need someone to substitute for coffee duties on Sundays. There are other times as well when extra hands can help. Even if you don't want to have a particular Sunday assigned to you, we'd love to have part timers who could help when called on.

We hope those who have never participated with our hospitality committee might think about this way of serving. It is a great joy to help people feel comfortable and welcome.

*As a side note: It is so nice of those who occasionally drop in on Sunday mornings and volunteer to help clean-up. We had a wonderful volunteer who stayed in the kitchen after Souper Sunday and stayed until the kitchen was clean. This was a gentleman who is not a member, but who has been coming and enjoying our services and just saw this as a way to say "Thank You." We would like to say a big "THANK YOU" back to him.*

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



**Book of Judges Class—3-5 p.m. Saturdays  
at CUUC, led by Rev. Craig Moro**

The *Book of Judges* (from the Bible's Old Testament) poses many questions to us about what we want from our leaders, what they want from us, and what that teaches us about our communities and ourselves. Ehud, Deborah, Abimelech and Samson—is this a hall of fame, a rogues' gallery, a little bit of both, or something more? *Judges* offers a rich selection of leaders to contemplate during an election year.



Please feel free to join us even if you missed the earlier classes!

Some other churches treat the Bible as a book of answers for believers while the Unitarian Universalist tradition treats it as a book of questions, vividly posed to any critical reader. Just bring your copy, and a readiness to engage. Here are the class dates:

January 5 and 19  
February 2 and 16  
March 2, 16 and 30  
April 20  
May 4 and 18  
June 1 and 15

## 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](http://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](mailto:ladybookww@gmail.com).



## *Alternative Gift Fair*

### *New Member Welcome, January 6*

We will have a brief ceremony of welcome for new members of CUUC during the Sunday service on January 6. If you are a new member, please plan to attend! If you have questions about becoming a member, please contact Rev. Craig Moro ([cmoro@willamette.edu](mailto:cmoro@willamette.edu) or call 509-205-1871) or Membership committee chair Scott Wilson ([scottwilson@clearwire.net](mailto:scottwilson@clearwire.net) or 947-7308). Ceremonies of welcome happen at regular intervals and you are welcome to join at any time, but now is a particularly good one!

### **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE**

Looking for members or friends who have not brought back their Guest At Your Table box/donations! Dec. 23 was the announced date to return them; however, we offer you a last chance to get them in for our final tally on January 6. Money goes to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). You may make checks out to them and return to a greeter or put them into the offertory basket.

Thanks to all who have already made contributions!

AGF Bake Sale: Thanks to all of you who baked, wrapped and sold the beautiful and tasty array of goodies at the Alternative Gift Fair. We raised \$516.88 that is shared between hospitality and expenses for the AGF.

Sharon Faletti and Jo Lindenmeier

Many thanks again for all the volunteers who helped make this year such a success! Over \$18,000 in 4 hours--what a wonderful day. With the music, the beautiful craft, all the baked goods & the festive atmosphere it was an amazing afternoon.

And thank-you to the financial wizards who make sure the money is counted & sent off to all the right charities!

A committee to help with next year's fair is in the works--I think we all feel that we would like to keep the fair here in our church community. So, 2013, here we come!

### *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



Be on the lookout for the second Chalice Lighter call of the 2012/2013 church year. You should receive your mailer the second to third week of January. Remember, investments in UU churches in the Pacific Northwest help us all – and enable CUUC to benefit as a future grant recipient. Definitely something to keep in mind as we continue conversations on building the church addition! Please contact Chrissie Noonan if you have questions about the Chalice Lighter program or want to sign up! [cfnoonan@hotmail.com](mailto:cfnoonan@hotmail.com)

## Social Justice Action

### Social Justice – Acting Now!

Wow! This is great – nine people from CUUC signed up in December to support the Vista Youth Center by offering a “meal deal” once a month in 2013. We will provide food for about 20 youth and share conversations with the youth. See Alex Emig if you want to join in this project.

Next up is a chance to help the homeless in Benton and Franklin counties. An accurate count is critical to getting the community services (and funding) delivered effectively. And on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, Washington conducts the annual point in time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons. Gail Brown, of the Dept. of Human Services, needs volunteers to help in the annual Point In Time survey. You can sign-up for 2 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 11<sup>th</sup> to Gail Brown. She can be reached at 783-5284, or [gailb@gov.wa.ca.benton-franklin.us](mailto:gailb@gov.wa.ca.benton-franklin.us), for more

information. See John Dorian if you have questions.

A further area for social justice is literacy. We are still looking at various on-going efforts from AmeriCorps that can use our support, such as Project Literacy in the Pasco elementary schools. Please scan your house for any gently used, or new, books for kids or young adults. If they are ready for a new home, please place them in the collection box at CUUC. We'll deliver them to AmeriCorps soon.

## Interfaith News & Updates



**Interfaith Potluck:  
January 5, 6 p.m., at CUUC**

Please join us for this year's first interfaith potluck, to be held right here at CUUC! Our table talk will be on religion and politics, and the separation of church and state. This will be followed by a panel featuring representatives from each faith tradition—UU, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Sikh—moderated by our good friend John Roach.

- 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](mailto:cmoro@willamette.edu) or 509-205-1871

### WA State UU Voices for Justice 2013-14 Legislative Priorities

- Immigration reform
- Death penalty repeal and criminal justice reform
- Coal train prohibition and environmental protection

- Revenue and taxation reform

### **End the Death Penalty in Washington**

WA State UU Voices for Justice joins the campaign for Safe and Just Alternatives to support legislation that eliminates the death penalty in favor of life incarceration without the possibility of parole.

At a November 29<sup>th</sup> press conference, Senator Debbie Regala of Tacoma and others who lost family members to murder emphasized that the death penalty is a broken and costly system that fails to bring closure to victims' families or to serve as a deterrent to future crimes. She and other murder victim family members urged the Legislature to enact legislation that would replace capital punishment with life in prison.

The **Safe and Just Alternatives Lobby Day** will be held in late January. The date for the Lobby Day will be either Monday, January 28 or Wednesday, January 30 to coincide with a public hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Because of the recent change of leadership in the Senate, that date will not be confirmed until early January. WA UU Voices will let you know as soon as the date is finalized.

### **Lobby Day Training:**

Saturday, January 12, 2013

10:00 AM to Noon

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
2300 East End Street NW, Olympia 98502

Speakers will include advocates from the Safe and Just Alternatives campaign and WA UU Voices for Justice.

**For More Information:** Contact Alice Curtis, WA UU Voices board member, at [olyalice@gmail.com](mailto:olyalice@gmail.com)

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### **Planning Ahead: Justice Advocacy during the 2013 Legislative Session**

**Monday, January 14** The 2013 Washington Legislative Session opens at noon

### **Monday, January 21 POVERTY ACTION DAY**

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event includes morning presentations and workshops, followed by a noon march to the steps of the capitol and visits to legislators.

### **Monday or Wednesday, January 28 or 30 SAFE & JUST ALTERNATIVES LOBBY DAY (See above)**

### **Tuesday, February 5 IMMIGRANTS DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

Workshops, advocacy training, and meetings with legislators will focus on immigrant rights in Washington.

### **Monday, February 11 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ADVOCACY DAY**

Plan now to spend the day in Olympia speaking out for homelessness prevention programs and affordable housing.

### **Monday, February 18 REVENUE RALLY**

Our Economic Future Coalition brings people to the Capitol to call for increased revenue to fund essential programs

### **Monday, February 18 INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY**

Join with people of faith from across the state to advocate for the most vulnerable and the environment.

### **Tuesday, February 19 ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY DAY**

Join the state's leading conservation groups and supporters to advocate for the Environmental Priorities Coalition's 2013 legislative agenda.

WA UU Voices will be an active participant at each of these advocacy days. You will find updates in the WA UU Voices online newsletter and at [www.uuvoiceswa.org](http://www.uuvoiceswa.org)

## ***Interfaith Alliance Website***

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

## ***Need Supplies?***

CUUC is now a non-profit on file with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). What does this mean? Well, for starters it means we can "shop" for unneeded office supplies, furniture, and sometimes even computers! All materials available through the PNNL Donations program must be used for CUUC purposes only - no personal shopping allowed! If you are on Facebook, you can "Like" the PNNL Donations page and monitor when furniture and other large items are being made available to 501(c)(3) organizations. Materials will vary in availability (it's not like going to Office Depot!). Send your committee or staff office supply request to Chrissie Noonan ([cfnoonan@hotmail.com](mailto:cfnoonan@hotmail.com)) and once a month she'll go shopping for you. CUUC saves money and PNNL donates to a worthy cause. It's a Win-Win situation!

## ***2012-2013 Directory***

Be on the lookout for the new Directory in January! Sorry for the delay☺