



# The Communitarian

January 2012

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](http://www.communityuuu.org)

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9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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

January 1~  
“Memories and Visions”

*Speaker: CUUC Members and Friends*

This year, Sunday falls right across the line between the old and new years. A good time to share memories of old and visions for the new.

*Worship Associate: Alex Emig*

*Musician: Mike & Shannon Truex*

January 8~  
“Get There By Yesterday”

*Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro*

Good science fiction deals in big ideas. It imagines whole worlds, their origins and their destinies, much like religious scriptures do. It suggests possibilities and alternatives to what we see around us. Let’s travel through time and space to explore some of these together.

*Worship Associate: Chrissie Noonan*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

January 15~  
“Mightier Than The Sword”

*Speaker: CUUC Members and Friends*

When words manifest values, there is real power. Let’s look at what was behind the words of Martin Luther King Jr.

*Worship Associate: Mike Truex*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion & CUUC Choir*

Note: Today we will collect the “Guest at Your Table” donations.

January 22~  
“Why Would Amos Shame Us?”

*Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro*

Amos is known as one of the “minor prophets” of the Bible, but his message is a big one. Are we big enough to hear it, and take it to heart?

*Worship Associate: Denise Pitts*

*Musician: Fran Handy*

January 29~  
“Inherent Worth and Dignity”

*Speaker: Guests from the local Parent, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) organization*

Marriage equality and more.

*Worship Associate: Alex Emig*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

## From Our Minister



### Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



In 1995 I joined my wife Pamela as she conducted research on a type of Buddhist temple festival that takes place during the dry season in northern Thailand, from January through April. The festivals are called *poy luang*, and usually happen at night. Some took place in the city where we were staying and we could sometimes walk to those, but most were in outlying villages. We would hire a truck and head out through fields and jungles after dark. The truck driver's whole family would join us, since these festivals are great fun. Larger temples would book carnival rides and outdoor movies and a huge variety of food stands offered countless treats.

Big or small, each festival featured a procession of dancers and musicians from neighboring temples, showing off their skills in a spirit of friendly competition. Every delegation brought along a small, beautiful tree, decorated with money, which would be used to help the host temple with a building project—a new dormitory for the monks, repairing a roof over a Buddha image, replacing a cracked foundation. The temple complex would be transformed into a complete little village for the night. Monks chant and give sermons in one corner while teenagers sip sodas in another, flirting or watching an American horror film projected on a whitewashed wall. Indoors and out, a great time is had by all while offering each other both moral and financial support.

The Alternative Gifts Fair transforms CUUC into something like a village for a day. We don't have rides or horror movies, but the joyful spirit is with us. It has become one of my favorite days of the year. For me, it's an opportunity to spend long hours with people whom I often only meet in

passing after a Sunday service. Some of our conversations are light, some serious but all take place in what feels like a warm sea of good will. I usually have a hard time sleeping the night after AGF, but I don't mind that feeling of drifting in and out of the memory of a day full of faces and voices. I haven't had so much fun since those *poy luang* years ago!

If the AGF were just a party, you'd have to say it's a party to remember. How wonderful that it also supports so many charitable organizations and their clients—local, national, and international. While serving these others with our time, space, work, and spirits, CUUC is served as well. Many thanks to all who made this happen! What a fine example of *Joy and Service: Right Here, Right Now!*

Happy New Year,  
Craig

(P.S. During these winter months, I'll need to leave soon after each Sunday service in order to avoid driving the Gorge back to Salem in winter darkness. If you would like to meet with me, let's make an appointment for some time Friday or Saturday, or else talk on the phone. 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. (This month is an exception—he'll be coming on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends.) He can be reached by email, [cmoro@willamette.edu](mailto:cmoro@willamette.edu), or by phone, 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 Holidays and Merry Christmas everyone, The song we sing to our children after story time says go now in peace, may the spirit of love surround you everywhere you go. I believe the spirit of love is everywhere, and that I need to open the door to the possibility that it is already within me. I hope that my mind and my heart (guided by reason) will show me my path to understanding my true spirit. In the metaphor of the tree of life, I believe that the Spirit of Love is the root system (the very foundation) and the network of vanes and arteries that bring the life giving nutrients of grace to every branch and every leaf. I believe that we are each leaf and branches, all together in one tree of life. That it is up to us to learn from the strong tree trunk of wisdom from the world's religions, strengthened with the words and deeds of prophetic women and men. I try to recognize my unity with the whole tree while reaching, growing toward the diving lights (within, around and beyond) in some kind of spiritual photosynthesis to express the spirit of love through and as me. Jen asked me what I get out of serving on the board, but it is not as much what I get but the opportunity to give that is important to me. Giving to our church congregation is giving to this community; it is giving to the greater tree of life. Giving is part of my self discovery, through giving I discover how much I have to give (providing insight into my true inherent worth). Board News: Big thanks to Meryl Birn for her years of passionate service with CUUC. Meryl has accepted a job in Olympia that starts at the end of January. The board, the worship committee and the congregation will miss your passion and your spirit. Also, we have received the Chalice Lighter grant funding of \$13,272. We are now cautiously starting to fund priority items on the

2011-2012 church budget. We will use the Chalice Lighter funds wisely to help implement our strategic plan throughout this church year.

I am so happy and thankful that Duane Faletti joined us last Sunday and that Frank Anderson continues to have the strength to come to our services. Please join me in giving thanks for their continued recovery and health. To all that read this may you have a happy and healthy holiday.

Thank you

David Comstock

Peace and Blessings to each of you

## Religious Education Children & Youth

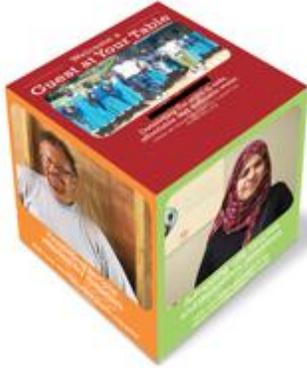
RE  
Children's Program



### *Guest At Your Table wraps up January 15:*

Please turn in your collection box (or a check to CUUC with "UUSC" or "Guest at your Table" in the memo space) at the January 15 service. If you can't make it to that service, you can turn in your contribution anytime -- just put a check or your donation box in the offering basket, or leave it at the Business Office during the week.

If you haven't picked up a collection box yet, there are more on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. The "Stories of Hope" inside each box is a particularly good way for children and youth to learn about human rights issues, and participate in the solution. For more information, visit <http://www.uusc.org/guest>.



### ***New Year's Day "Buddy Day" program***

On January 1st, pre-K through 12th grade will gather together. Instead of our regular separate classes, we will have fun with our "buddies" of different ages.

### ***Kindergarten-Fifth Grade:***

The Kindergarten-Fifth Grade class rehearsed two Christmas songs on Sundays in December, in preparation for their performance at our Christmas Eve service. They also prepared treats for the birds, some of which were hung on trees by 6th-12th graders during their Winter Solstice celebration. Others were hung on the maple tree in our playground, so look for birds enjoying the treats when you come to church!

### ***Middle School:***

The Middle School class is enjoying being together, even though the class size is small (Renner, Clarity, Carson and Lizzy are its core members). We're tackling weighty subjects about peace and social justice and international human rights. For example, we discussed Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance." It's great when UUism and the world community are in perfect synch and it's been fun to point that out to the Middle School kids.

### ***YUuth Group:***

High School YUuth have begun to explore ways in which they have helped others either individually or in social groups. We are looking at internal and external factors that influence taking social action. An evening of Solstice celebration was enjoyed by all who attended the activities on December 22 at the Dorian residence. This month we may try to identify a worthy service project.

### ***Interfaith Youth Group (IFYG):***

On December 3 many of the youth from the IFYG helped at the Charity: Water booth at the Alternative Gift Fair. Approximately \$1000 was received to help build a clean water well. The group met on Dec. 11 for a dinner and meeting to discuss future social justice projects. They are planning a musical event to raise money for My Friend's Place, a homeless shelter for teens.

### ***Upcoming Events***

Jan. 8 5-7 P.M. Interfaith Youth Group meets at Shalom UCC (date may change)

Jan. 9 6:30p.m. High School OWL Parent Orientation @ Shalom

Jan. 12 6:30 P.M. Religious Education Committee meeting

Jan. 22 5-7 P.M. Interfaith Youth Group meets at Shalom UCC (date may change)

## *Hospitality*

Calling all Soup Chefs~  
Souper Sunday ~  
January 8th!



## *Green Sanctuary*

Dear Supporter:

Everyone knows recycling is good for the environment, but did you know that recycling is also good for Community Unitarian Universalist Church? We have just partnered with Planet Green, a printer cartridge and cell phone remanufacturing and recycling company, to start an exciting new fundraiser that recycles mobile phones and used printer cartridges and we want you to be part of it!

If you use a printer, each spent cartridge could earn Community Unitarian Universalist Church up to five dollars! Any old cell phones in your drawer? Those can make up to \$40.00. One phone may not seem like much, but if you get your family, friends and members of the church involved- recycling is a great way for everyone to go green, while raising money for a cause.

Taking part is easy~ simply drop off your used inkjet cartridges and old cell phones with us~ you can include cell phone batteries and even cell phone chargers. The drop-off location is 2819 W. Sylvester St, Pasco WA 99301

Your participation in this recycling campaign will raise greatly needed funds for Community UU Church. Let's work together, one cartridge and cell phone at a time, to clean up the planet and raise money for a worthwhile cause!

Thank You for your continued support!

## *Chalice Lighter's Corner*

The second Chalice Lighter call of this church year will be in your mailbox or Inbox in early January. This is a very important call for one of our larger congregations, UU Church of Eugene, Oregon, which is putting the finishing touches on a new facility. Eugene's growth to a program level congregation has been stymied by the lovely church in the woods of South Hill that is occupied for 50 years. That church has been sold and the congregation purchased a former fraternal lodge in a densely populated area on the edge of downtown. The site is accessible by auto, city bus, and bicycle. They now have the space and location for sustained growth. The worship area, while providing over twice the space of the old church, is flat. In order for the choir and presenters to be seen by all, they need to be on a raised platform and risers. The cost of that necessary feature is substantial, and the cost of a mobile lift to make the platform accessible for presenters or choir members with limited mobility is also substantial. The total cost to the congregation will be \$38,702, amounting to barely 1% of the total project cost, but representing 1/8 of the amount needed to complete the renovation and remodeling. The congregation has invested over \$2.5 million of its money and volunteer labor and has a substantial mortgage to repay over the coming years. A Chalice Lighter grant of \$38,702 would be a record setter, but it is not unattainable. If each and every PNWD Chalice Lighter responds to this call with a donation of just \$17, Eugene would get their needs met.

Eugene has almost one half of their congregation enrolled as Chalice Lighters and has pledged to not only reach 50%, but maintain that level of involvement to be able to help other congregations on future calls. So watch for your letter or email and respond generously. Donations must be received by March 5, 2012 to go towards this call. Need more info about the Chalice Lighter Program? Want to become a Chalice Lighter or help out? Contact Chrissie Noonan for more information and to volunteer.



## Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

@12:00p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Faletti



Women's luncheon will be in the meeting room at The CUUC Church. Hope to see you there!!

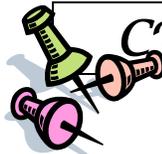
## Hands & Heart



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
- Denise Pitts 375-6130

## CUUC Bulletin Board



*Points East: Asian Religion Class*

### Asian Religion Class Announcement~

Classes scheduled for November 5 and 19 and December 3 and 17 have been cancelled due to changes in many class members' schedules, which made attendance difficult. Watch for more adult religious education opportunities in 2012, to be announced in the Communitarian!

### *A Common Read—led by Chrissie Noonan and the Rev. Craig Moro*

“In his memoir, *Acts of Faith*, Eboo Patel shares his faith journey as an American Muslim and the call to religious pluralism which led him to found

## CUUC?

the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC). *Acts of Faith* frankly discusses the appeal of religious fundamentalism to young people, observing that young people's spiritual hunger entwines with their desire to make a mark on the world. Patel challenges those who believe in religious pluralism to support young people, providing what is needed to help them ground themselves in a faith that both fuels their deepest passions and feeds their cooperation across faiths to make the world a better place. Although Patel's memoir focuses on young people, his call to interfaith understanding and respect through side-by-side service and justice making work resonates with adults of all ages and life stages." [From the *Acts of Faith* study guide]

*Acts of Faith* has been selected by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a "common read", to be studied simultaneously in as many congregations as possible. At CUUC, we have the added benefit of being part of an ongoing interfaith alliance. This book discussion group will be open to participation by members of all of our sister congregations, including Shalom United Church of Christ, Temple Beth Shalom synagogue, and the Islamic Center of the Tri-cities. Rev. Craig Moro and Board leader Chrissie Noonan will co-facilitate two sessions on Saturday afternoons starting in February—information on exact time and dates to follow soon!

If you plan to participate, please order your copy of *Acts of Faith* now, available from the UUA Bookstore [www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1415](http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1415), or Amazon.com, [www.amazon.com/Acts-Faith-American-Struggle-Generation/dp/080700622X](http://www.amazon.com/Acts-Faith-American-Struggle-Generation/dp/080700622X)

**Know someone interested in learning about membership in**

Membership is planning our next membership "coffee". Who can we invite? If you know someone that has thought about joining our congregation we would love to hear about it. Membership will be hosting a coffee for interested people. We will be meeting at the church for discussion and pastries. It will last an hour or a little longer if the conversations call for it. If you know someone, please call Scott Wilson (509-947-7308 ) or email ([scottwilsonuu@charter.net](mailto:scottwilsonuu@charter.net)). If you need more information call Scott anytime. Let's grow our community.



## 2012 District Assembly

Workshop proposals for the **2012 District Assembly** - May 18-20 in Anchorage - are being accepted through December 2. The Alaska Unitarian Universalist Fellowships (Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau) seek UUs interested in sharing their insight and expertise through educational workshops offered at this annual gathering.

The 2012 District Assembly will provide a forum to celebrate PNWD's 50th anniversary. In 1961, Unitarian and Universalist faiths consolidated and the following year, the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) evolved into a new organization. We'll look back at the spark that kindled the UUA, and explore progress and milestones spanning five decades. With a nod to the flaming chalice as the official UU symbol, we will also look to the future

as we *Carry the Flame* to promote UU principles to a world clearly in need of more justice, equity, liberty, compassion, tolerance, respect, peace and spiritual growth.

Details for submitting a workshop proposal can be found on the PNWD website. For more information, contact PNWD Training Coordinator, Lori Ragona, 206-299-4747.

Diane Brinson, District Administrator

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425-957-9116 - local or non-PNWD  
413-502-2002 - fax  
[www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org)

### *WA State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice Legislative Priorities Named,*

At its annual Legislative Conference November 12<sup>th</sup>, WA UU Voices, our statewide legislative advocacy organization, named the four top issues it will address during the 2012 state legislative session -- a session that will be focused on budget constraints and needs to preserve life-giving services for Washington residents.

The four WA UU Voices 2012 advocacy priorities are:

- Raise revenue
- Protect services for low-income persons
- Economic reform
- Restore the democratic process

Read more about the conference at:

<http://www.uuvoiceswa.org/6thLegConfNotes.pdf>

**Addressing these critical justice priorities will take all of us working together.** WA UU Voices needs your help more than ever. Subscribe to our email newsletter at [www.uuvoiceswa.org](http://www.uuvoiceswa.org).

Throughout session, we'll keep you posted on justice advocacy days, let you know when your phone call or email to our legislators is essential. Help us bring a hopeful, justice-inspired UU presence to the 2012 legislature!

## **NEWS FROM WASHINGTON STATE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST VOICES FOR JUSTICE**

The 2012 Washington State Legislature convenes Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at noon, and legislators face difficult decisions about increasing revenue and reducing expenditures. At risk are the Basic Health Plan, in-home care for the elderly and disabled, children's services, and programs that protect the environment and the quality of life for all Washingtonians.

More than ever, Washington State UU Voices for Justice needs your presence in Olympia as advocates for social, economic and environmental justice. When you attend legislative advocacy days, make those phone calls and write those letters, you let our legislators know that you support legislation to increase revenue that maintains critical programs for all residents and the environment.

WA UU Voices for Justice's 2012 legislative priorities are:

- Raise revenue
- Protect services for low-income persons
- Economic reform

- Restore the democratic process

Want to be part of an interest group formed around each WA UU Voices priority? Learn more about them by subscribing to our newsletter at: [www.uuvoiceswa.org](http://www.uuvoiceswa.org), then contact WA UU Voices at: [coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org](mailto:coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org)