



The Communitarian

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

June 5~

“The Grammar of Faith”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

One of the things we know least about the Qur'an is how much we know already! It's such a familiar cast of characters and issues. Jesus, Mary, Moses, and Abraham; faith, compassion; the struggle for peace and justice: these live in the Qur'an just as they do in the Bible. However, they are presented less in narrative fashion than as a voice speaking directly to you—the listener or reader—right here, right now. Add to this the unfamiliar language and script of the original, and we may need some extra help in approaching it. Today we'll explore two famous passages of Islam's sacred text and try to unpack their meaning in a close study of language and imagery. Can grammar be exciting? Come and find out!

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Ellen Fillion

June 12~

“Be the Bridge”

Speaker: YUuth (High School Youth Group)

One of the most important things we can do for our youth is to support them into adulthood, to keep them connected to Unitarian Universalism, and continue to minister to them as they become adults. Please join us today as our youth lead the worship service in every detail, inviting the entire congregation to *be the bridge* over which our graduating seniors cross into young adulthood.

Worship Associate: YUuth Advisors

Musician: YUuth and Families

June 19~

“Naked Noah”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

What happened to Noah and his family after the “floody-floody” which many of us remember from Sunday school and Bible camp? It's a somewhat embarrassing story, with the accent on the “bare” part! Come see this religious patriarch in a new light for Father's Day.

Worship Associate: Meryl Birn

Musician: CUUC Choir

June 26~

“Reflections on Haiti”

Speaker: Heather Hill

In January 2010, Haiti was devastated in a massive earthquake. Local resident Heather Hill has visited the island nation twice on medical and humanitarian missions since the quake. Come hear her reflections.

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Fran Handy

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



Osama bin Laden was killed last month during a raid on his compound conducted by an elite unit of U.S. Navy SEALs. While many took to the streets celebrating in front of the White House and at Ground Zero in New York, President Obama declined to release photos of Bin Laden's corpse, saying that it would be inappropriate on such a somber occasion for people in the U.S. to be seen taking a victory lap, or "spiking the ball". Contrary to early reports, Bin Laden had not been holding a weapon when he was shot. He had resisted, however, and the SEALs were concerned that he might detonate a suicide vest. It turns out that he was not wearing one. We will never know if he would have put one on had he known that the raid was coming, or if he would have put it to use.

Suicide bombing has become a common event in recent years, associated by many with the mostly young males who share Bin Laden's distorted vision of Islam. We may not be aware that before 2001 techniques such as the suicide vest had been perfected in Sri Lanka, during the long struggle between that island nation's Tamil (and mostly Hindu) minority in its struggle for autonomy from the Sinhalese (mostly Buddhist) majority. The (mostly) female Tamil suicide bombers never for a moment thought that they were acting on behalf of an evil or harmful cause. In their minds, they did what they did for freedom, which most people consider to be something good, perhaps even the highest good. I suspect that few if any who commit such acts think to themselves first: "I will now do something that's thoroughly wrong to do."

Bin Laden and the late Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, like many others, learned how to exploit a human religious tendency that

transcends any particular religion—the willingness and even the desire to *sacrifice*, especially to sacrifice on behalf of what seems to be the ultimate good. In order to serve that good we can be persuaded to sacrifice anything from a few coins, to a pint of blood, to our very lives. Animals sometimes die to defend their mate or their young, but only humans can anticipate the possibility of sacrifice, or grasp its dimensions of *meaning*. This is something quite unique, and quite wonderful. It can also be something terrible, as Bin Laden's career reminds us.

The writer Ayn Rand (whose works include an essay titled "The Virtue of Selfishness" as well as the novels *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*) is currently enjoying a revival as the spiritual guide for a very vocal political movement. Her rejection of the sacrificial spirit—which extended to a deep contempt for the life and teachings of Jesus, among other religious figures—is being blended with messages and issues of the so-called "Christian right" into a very strange concoction indeed! Somewhere between the urge to grasp and keep everything that we think is rightfully "ours" and to give it all up for what seems to be the greatest good, I hope that we can find a middle way. But please, no victory laps or ball-spiking if we do.

Speaking of balls and running, sport and recreation: I hope that you enjoy a safe and refreshing summer! I'll be on vacation in July, on call in August, and look forward to seeing you in September.

In fellowship,
Craig



Board & Committee News

From the President!

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Comstock



Happy June everyone, and happy summer solstice, The summer solstice, the longest day of the year, and the official start of summer will be here soon on June 21. I have been reading a book called *The Golden Thread, God's Promise of Universal Salvation* and it describes an infinite loving God, with universal love for every person and universal salvation forever soul. The book says that the message of the Bible is that salvation belongs to those who do good works (Salvation requires more than following a formula of belief). In addition, the Bible is filled with the message of universal salvation for all. The book's author sites an article in *Christianity Today* that used just 23 verses from the New Testament supporting the theology that accepting Jesus is your only pathway to salvation. The book's author found 551 verses throughout the Bible supporting Salvation by Good Works and the author found 273 verses in the Bible supporting Universal Salvation for all. The Bible makes a strong case for our Universalism. It makes sense to me that an infinite loving God could love all and immediately or eventually save all. I look forward to learning more about Universalism.

Board News: We had a good turn- out for the Annual Meeting. Thank you for joining us after service on May 22nd. Please welcome Bryan Schroeder as our new board member at-large. Also big thanks to Dave King for his service on the board during the last three years. We will continue with the same power house officer team including Frank Anderson as Vice President, Denise Pitts as Treasurer and Chrissie Noonan as Secretary. I am happy and thankful to have such a great team. At the Annual Meeting we approved getting a new heat pump for the sanctuary to replace the 10+ year old unit that died this winter.

We approved our annual budget, affirmed the Charter of Compassion and renewed Rev. Craig Moro's contract for another year. There are several extra copies of the 2011 Annual Report and I encourage you to pick one up and read through the committee annual reports.

David Comstock

Peace and Blessings to each of you

Religious Education Children & Youth



RE Children's Program

Kindergarten-Fifth grade:

The K-5 class is continuing our 4 month long study of Christianity. In April the children learned about the life of Jesus, the meaning of Easter, and enjoyed a traditional Easter egg hunt, thanks to Tana Hogan and helpers. The Old Testament story of Esther taught the importance of bravery, prayer, and human persistence in the face of adversity. Now that Spring is here, Shannon Hays-Truex led a lesson on planting two experimental "hay bale" gardens, which are growing very well. Several other adults, the Youth Group and one middle school student joined in setting up the gardens. Photos of the process are posted in the Sanctuary (in the display case near the kitchen). Stop by the front lawn and check out the lettuce!

Middle School:

The Middle School class will conclude its Compass Points curriculum on Memorial Day weekend. The class seems to have enjoyed the lessons, which inspired good, growth-inspiring conversation, and the teachers enjoyed teaching it. On June 5, the Middle School class is celebrating the end of the class year by taking a hike along the Columbia to see Ice Age Flood features. We'll

drive to Twin Sisters Towers near the Wallula Gap, enjoy the hike, have a picnic, and return to the church.

High School Youth Group:

Spring is a time of growth so it seems appropriate that our youth have further identified their areas of personal growth during several of their classes. This has helped them in work on their individual credos. On Sunday, June 12, CUUC Youth will be presenting the entire worship service on the topic of "Beliefs." They have been using some of the class time to plan this service. During May classes they also spent time helping the K-5 class plant another section of garden using hay bales. They also attended the May 22 worship service to hear the guest speaker. During Interfaith Youth group meetings, they have shared important faith values or beliefs with other youth as well as continued service projects. **The youth are planning an overnighiter here at CUUC on Friday, June 10 starting at 7 P.M.**

The youth welcome all CUUC members and friends to attend their June 12 service. In addition to the sharing of their credos during this service, there will also be a bridging ceremony for our two graduating seniors, Cass Excell and Sean Truex. Come wish them well in their new journeys and enjoy the service as our youth share their gifts and talents!

Interfaith Youth Group:

The Interfaith Youth Group has continued to meet twice a month for regular meetings. They have shared about their faith values or beliefs during dinner conversations and have discussed ideas to further carry out social justice work. They are planning for a peace walk to different faith houses next Sept. 11. During May they held a dinner at the Tri-Cities Islamic Center to raise funds for Charity: Water, a non-profit organization helping villagers to build clean water wells in developing countries. They succeeded in raising \$780 more toward their goal of \$5000. As of this date they have raised more than \$2500.

Interfaith Youth Group Calendar

June 5 Interfaith Youth Group Meeting/Potluck~ 6-8 P.M. at CUUC.

June 18 Interfaith Potluck for All-Ages at CUUC~ 6 P.M. (Youth to share important faith values)

Other Activities TBA

OWL (Our Whole Lives):

Our church will be hosting an OWL training next fall, sponsored by the Shalom United Church of Christ (UCC). The tentative dates are October 7-9. The 22-hour class prepares people to become OWL leaders for junior high and senior high youth. While the "mini-OWL" comprehensive sexuality education classes led by Planned Parenthood in the past few years have been wonderful, they have not included the religious component of the OWL program. Ideally, we will train equal numbers of female and male leaders. We aspire to offering a joint (CUUC and Shalom UCC) full-scale high school OWL course next year, starting in October or January.

We're excited to be able to offer the use of our building for this training. Thanks to the CUUC Board of Trustees for approving it. We hope that some of our members will be interested in becoming OWL leaders for these age groups. If you are interested, please contact Gail Taff or any member of the Religious Education Committee. Scholarships may be available.

Summer Program:

Our summer religious education program will start June 19. If you can sign up to teach once or twice this summer, it is a great opportunity to get to know some of the kids in our congregation. The program will be a short, modified version of the Chalice Children and Rainbow Children curricula, so you can choose whether to teach a social justice or Unitarian Universalist identity lesson. The program is designed for kindergarten through 3rd grade, and older preschool kids are also welcome to participate.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary, if you're interested in volunteering. You do not need to be an experienced teacher. The summer classes are shorter and simpler than our regular classes, and the lesson and all materials will be provided. Pairs of people are also invited to volunteer together - it's more fun with a friend!

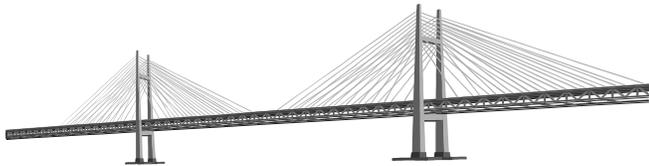
Teacher Appreciation~

June 5, 2011

Come to the June 5 service and celebrate our religious education teachers, Youth Advisors, and nursery-preschool caregivers. Children and youth will be giving a token gift to each of our main volunteers: Alex, Alice, Bruce, Dave A., Dave C., Denise, Jenny, Marla, Rob, Sandra, Tana, Teri, Theresa, and Vickie. (Those who can't be there will be honored in absentia.) They are often invisible to the rest of the congregation, working faithfully in the classroom wing of the building to share their inspiration, knowledge, compassion and passion for justice with everyone from babies through high school seniors. If you get the chance, please thank a teacher personally - let them know their dedication is appreciated!

"Be the Bridge"

June 12th



Speakers: YUuth (High School Youth Group)
One of the most important things we can do for our youth is to support them into adulthood, to keep them connected to Unitarian Universalism, and continue to minister to them as they become adults. Please join us today as our youth lead the worship service in every detail, inviting the entire congregation to *be the bridge* over which our

graduating seniors cross into young adulthood.
Worship Associates: YUuth Advisors
Musicians: YUuth & their families
Jenny Rieke
Youth Advisor, Community Unitarian
Universalist Church

Hospitality

No Souper Sunday
Until Fall!



There will be no Souper Sunday during the summer, we will continue in the Fall.

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

Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, June 7th,
@12:00p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Faletti



Women's Luncheon meets at noon on the 1st Tuesday of the month (June 7th).

For the rest of the summer, we'll be having a brown-bag luncheon at Howard Amon Park. Go to the east end of Lee Blvd near the river. Look for us on the right side of the street.

If the weather is inclement, we'll be inside the Richland Community Center on the river side of the large lobby. If you haven't attended for awhile, please come again. If you've never attended, we'd love for you to join us.

For questions or additional info, call Sharon Faletti (375-0467) or Bev Schroeder (371-1572).

Hands & Heart

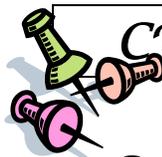


The Hands and Hearts Committee would like to remind you that we are here to help, not just for big events where we all cry or laugh, but also for the little things as well. We are here to help you out in any way we can. You can seek us out at church (our name tags have the heart stickers) or call us 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



CUUC Bulletin Board



→ Points East:

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

This month our class continues its survey of the major religions of Asia—Hinduism, Buddhism,

Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto—pausing in July and August until we continue next fall. We are reading Considering the Asian Religions by UU minister (and former university professor of comparative religion) Wade Wheelock:

June 4 and 18 RE main room

Interfaith Potluck at CUUC – Saturday June 18, at 6 p.m.

We'll join our sister congregations—including Beth Shalom synagogue, Guru Nanak Sikh Organization, Shalom UCC, and the Islamic Center of the Tri-Cities—for an evening of food and fellowship at CUUC. Tonight's activities will include an open microphone and an opportunity for participants to share thoughts about this question: "What would you value about your religious tradition—that you wish you could share with others?" We especially look forward to hearing from participants in the multi-congregation Interfaith Youth Group!

- 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 509-205-1871

CUUC Spiritual Cinema – Hereafter for the Adults and Wall-E for the kids

Hereafter stars Matt Damon and was directed by Clint Eastwood. The film is a fascinating look at two intertwined stories exploring a near-death experience had by a television personality and

how a psychic (Matt Damon) runs away from and then ultimately re-embraces his gift.

We are going to have our third movie Friday night June 24 at church from 6-8 pm. To help with attendance we will have pizza, drinks, and popcorn so bring the whole family and come have some fun. We will have *Hereafter* on the big screen in the sanctuary and watch a kids movie in one of the RE classrooms. We will have a sitter to keep an eye on the kids. Please RSVP to dccjmb@yahoo.com so I can order enough pizza. Hope to see you at the movies
David Comstock



CUUC May 14, 2011 Badger Mountain Wild Flower Hike

Thankfully the morning drizzle stopped before 10am and we had blue sky over Badger for our wild flower hike. We followed the new gentle Sagebrush trail that was just completed last fall. We say white, yellow, pink, red and blue flowers. There was lots of pink and white phlox all over the mountain. There was a multitude of arrow leaf balsam root with each plant having a group of great big yellow flowers. Then there were bands

Other News

3~Rivers Folklife Society Concert

Saturday, June 4th
@
CUUC Church
7:30p.m.



of flowers that seemed to have a favorite elevation on the mountain. We found the delicate Douglas Brodiaea blue lily about half way up the trail, followed by a zone of the pink Columbia milk-vetch. Then as we gained the eastern ridge line and had views to the south of Badger we found a zone of the small yellow Piper's daisy and the white fleabane daisy, finally we saw the beautiful blue lupine flowers near the summit. We found several types of sagebrush along the trail including the purple sage that has a wonderful minty smell to it. We also saw some rosy balsamroot whose yellow pedals turn to rosy red as the flower fades, similar to an oak leaf turning colors in the fall. We probable saw 12 different types of flowers and 4 or 5 different types of sage. The wild flower brochure we used to identify the native flowers is available for free at www.freinedsofbadger.org. You can also find directions to the trailheads and more information on the mountain on the Friends of Badger Mountain website. I hiked on the Badger trails again this weekend and the slender yellow hawk-beard flower is now blooming. There are plenty of flowers left that are worth a hike to enjoy.

