



The Communitarian

May 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.communityuu.org

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9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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

May 6~

“Bearing with Goldilocks”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

When can “tolerance” of certain behaviors be a disservice to everyone involved? Should the Three Bears have simply tolerated Goldilocks—after she commandeered their bowls, chairs, and beds—without ever speaking up? It’s the simplest stories that can sometimes teach us the most!

Worship Associate: Denise Pitts

Musician: Ellen Fillion & Sean Truex

May 13~

“Gnosis = Insight”

Speaker: Frank Anderson

The Gnostic tradition has much for us to consider.

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Ellen Fillion

May 20~

“Is Religion Good for Children?”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

That’s a question worth asking. We can be even more specific: is your religion good for kids? Was your childhood religion good for you? What does the child’s point of view help us to see more clearly than we might see otherwise?

Worship Associate: Scott Wilson

Musician: Ellen Fillion

May 27~

“Wartime deeds”

Speaker: CUUC Members

Unitarian Universalists and war? Yes, Unitarian Universalists have made their contributions during wartime. Today we’ll explore some of the ways this has happened.

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Mike & Shannon Truex

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



What is a sanctuary? To some it means a place where sacred writings are kept, or idols, or even the gods themselves. What does it mean to us? Is our sanctuary a public place, private, or something in between? Here is where we dedicate our children, where we hold wedding, worship, and memorial services. New life, new love is invited to enter the world in this very space. Here we say farewell to those who depart. Is it still a sanctuary when no one's in it and nothing is happening? What makes a sanctuary a sanctuary? What makes sacred space *sacred*?

It starts with a choice, an agreement. From the agreement grows a covenant—a ritual promise. We promise that right here, right now, is not like any other space or time. Here and now, we *keep sanctuary* together. Once we covenant to keep a sanctuary, it begins to be. Break the promise, and it's gone. (It's a bit like a library, where a hundred people can read and write quietly—then a cell phone rings, and no one can.) Whatever its physical limits—concrete walls, or a circle drawn in sand—the most important boundaries of a sanctuary are human ones, delicate ones, to be observed with great care.

It's not always easy to explain Unitarian Universalist worship, any more than it is to say what we "believe". But a visitor from any faith tradition would recognize that *we are a sanctuary-keeping people*. They would see that we try to keep our sanctuary safe from certain things, and safe for others. We are a sanctuary-keeping people. This is one of those things that should go without saying which still do need to be said on occasion. *To be with us is to keep sanctuary with*

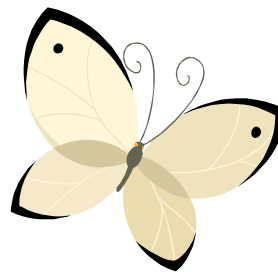
us. I don't think that this can be made into a set of rules, but we can surely make it plain.

Our Covenant of Right Relations is a promise made by our members to each other. Our proposed Responsible Behavior policy (which we'll be voting on later this month) is intended to provide a means of clarifying this covenant when necessary, for members and visitors alike. But covenants and policies won't do it by themselves. Whatever policies we may write, however beautifully they may be crafted it's still up to us to remember what kind of house this is, and—when necessary—to remind those who may have forgotten, or might not yet understand. We keep sanctuary here. And we can only do it together.

In fellowship,

Craig

Rev. Moro is usually in the Tri-cities on weekends of the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, September-June. He can be reached by email, 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 May everyone, I am excited about the RE visioning process that Ministry and Rev Craig Moro are planning. First meeting will be in May. I think a vibrant RE program will be a big part of our future congregation growth. For the last several years we have stayed around 60 to 65 members. For our families and for our congregation growth I encourage all CUUC members to participate in this visioning process.

We had a great season of conversation on the proposed Policy of Right Relations. Thank you for your participation. This proposed policy will be on the Agenda for congregation approval during the May 20th annual meeting. If you would like to review the policy please talk to Chrissie, Bobi, Mike, Teri or myself.

Budgets are tight everywhere these days (State Government, at home and here at CUUC). During this church year our expenses have average over \$320/ month more than our income. In addition, the pledges for next church year have been coming in slowly so the Board is looking at proposing a 10% budget cut to all committee budgets. We are looking at all expense for areas to save, delay or cut back. If you haven't done so already, please complete your canvas forms. Your pledge information is vital to the CUUC budget discussion and vital to the success of CUUC. We will share as much information as we can on the budget in the back of the church, prior to May 20th, so that we can have an informed discussion at the annual meeting.

As always thanks for all that you do for CUUC.
David Comstock
Peace and Blessings to each of you

Religious Education Children & Youth

RE Children's Program



Upcoming Events

Teacher Recognition May 20

Please join us for a brief ceremony to honor our volunteer teachers and Youth Advisors during the service on May 20. Let's all let them know how much we appreciate their energy, creativity and dedication.

Summer (virtual) World Travel with kids!

Have you ever been to, or do you have a particular interest in, a foreign country? If so, please consider teaching a summer class about that country. The World Travelers curriculum has suggested activities, plus information about the country's culture, religions and history. Or you can share your own knowledge and plan your own activity to help kids "explore" that country.

You are also welcome to plan your own class session around an interest or skill that you have (but please check with Gail or the RE Committee in advance - with this age group and a short class time, some plans work better than others).

Summer classes will be held June 17 through August 26. We will offer a Sunday class each week for kindergarten through 3rd grade students (older preschoolers are welcome to join in, and older kids can also attend).

Summer is a great time to try out teaching - it's low-key and relaxed, with a small class and a simple curriculum. Pairs and couples are encouraged to sign up too, as two teachers are required each week. You can spend time with a friend or loved one while getting to know our charming and very fun youngest members. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider signing up to teach one or more classes this summer. Thank you!

Vision for Religious Education

On May 19, there will be a workshop to share ideas about the use of the proposed new religious education wing, and how to make the best possible use of our current space. If you are a teacher, past teacher, Youth Advisor, or anyone with a strong interest in or knowledge of religious education, please join us to ponder the architect's drawing and envision how we can use current and possible future space.

Kindergarten-5th Grade:

The Easter Egg Hunt was a lot of fun, and the preschoolers joined in. Spring weather finally arrived in April, and the class enjoyed two gardening days. Our April 29 all-ages wildflower trek to Badger Mountain gave us a chance to feel closer to nature. Some of our older students, plus a few of the younger middle school students, have started participating in the new 4th-6th grade OWL (Our Whole Lives) comprehensive sexuality education class after church on Sundays. Our class-sponsored activity on May 20 (after our church's annual business meeting) will be a trip to the Playground of Dreams. We welcome all ages to join us - be sure to bring a bag lunch and sunscreen.

Middle School:

The Middle School class continues to enjoy its foray into the gospel according to the Simpsons. The students can be a bit reluctant to delve into any deeper meaning of the episodes, instead preferring to chat and eat snacks, but there are basic truths and reflections on life, which the teachers point out. In any case, it's fun!

High School YUUth:

The high school group was excited about planning another overnigher in April, which was held on Friday, April 20. They spent some time planning and discussing a CUUC adoption of a portion of Chiawana Park in Pasco. Another topic was planning for this year's bridging ceremony for our two seniors, Bethany Dorian and April Scheidegger. We hope you will write a special note to each of these two seniors and place it in the basket by the church mailboxes.

Interfaith Youth Group:

The group meeting was only held once in April due to the holiday and spring break. At that time

interfaith youth debriefed the work that was done for the **My Friends Place Fundraiser** in March. Despite some minor glitches it was a huge success! **All the youth can be very proud of their efforts. The final tally was around \$10,500! Thank you to all who supported this event to help our local homeless teens.**

Calendar

May 6 Interfaith Youth Group Dinner and Meeting at Shalom UCC 5-7 P.M.

May 10 Religious Education Committee meets 6 P.M.

May 19 Vision Meeting 10 A.M.-12 noon

May 20 Teacher Recognition (during service)

May 20 All-ages trip to Playground of Dreams, sponsored by the K-5 class

May 20 Interfaith Youth Group Dinner and Meeting at Shalom UCC 5-7 P.M.

June 3 Last day of classes for church school year

June 17 Summer "World Travelers" class starts for kindergarten-3rd grade



FUN at the PLAYGROUND OF DREAMS!

The K-5 RE Class will have our May outing on May 20, after church, 12:00 - 2:00. All kids (and kids at heart) are invited to join us for fun at the premier playground in the Tri-Cities. Please bring a bag lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, and wear your play clothes.

Directions: Keep taking the 1st Right!

From CUUC, cross over the Columbia River on the Blue Bridge and take the 1st right toward Richland. Take the 1st right to Columbia Park. Take the 1st right at the jet boat display. Then take the 1st left at the yield sign to find the playground (on the right).

Hospitality

Calling all Salad Chefs~
Salad Sunday ~
May 6th



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!

Finance Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Hello friends. CUUC has an opportunity for you to let your light shine! This church community is vitally important to all of us and it requires the support of everyone, in some way. A part of that support is financial but equally important is the gift of your time. Right now CUUC needs your time. We are seeking volunteers to serve on the Finance Committee. We meet monthly as needed but primarily in the months of February through June. We look at church expenses, dreams for the future and growth plans, and then we determine how much money is required to meet these needs. In March Craig will kick off our Annual Canvass. This is the time when we ask our CUUC community to pledge their time and/or make a financial contribution to support the church throughout the year. We use the input from this fund raiser to set the budget for the coming year. We need a strong Finance Committee so that we can have a successful fund raising event and in turn a successful church community. Please contact Denise Pitts at 509-521-4372 or denapit@hotmail.com and volunteer your time. Thank you. Peace.

Chalice Lighters Corner



Imagine the following scenario: What appears to be a routine maintenance procedure (replacing the wood basement floor) turns into a major reconstruction and renovation when it is discovered that the entire subfloor is in fact wet and contaminated dirt, and is moldy and rotting – and, further, the structural walls and stairs are just floating, with no structural supports. Picture rototillers in the basement, loosening up over a foot of contaminated soil so it could be removed! This is exactly what happened to the congregation of the UU Church of the Palouse, and the estimated cost for the remodel ballooned from \$22,000 to over \$50,000. What a doozy and pretty unhealthy! If you are a Chalice Lighter, you will be receiving your third and final call for 2012 very soon. Let’s show our support for the Moscow, Idaho congregation with a donation of at least \$15 each! For more information on becoming a Chalice Lighter, or for more information on the program, contact Chrissie Noonan, cnoonan@hotmail.com.

Ministry

RE VISION 2012: HOW DO YOU SEE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT CUUC?

The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; Not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with our own; Not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth; Not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs. William Ellery Channing – Unitarian Minister and Abolitionist leader “The important and demanding

job of religious education should never be left to one person, even if that person is a professional director of Religious Education.”

UUA Congregational Handbook
Please join the Committee on Ministry and the Religious Education folks on May 19th from 10:00—12:00 to help vision our future – as we imagine a new space at CUUC and a path forward with renewed energy and joy for our RE program. As you can see from the quote above, RE is part of us all. We all can (& should!) have a voice in our religious education--whether as a parent, as an RE committee member or as the RE Coordinator. The RE Coordinator’s responsibilities include the day-to-day running of our program, recruiting teachers, teacher training, help in choosing curricula for classes, & many other tasks both large & small. She is responsible to the RE Committee & to the board.

The RE Committee working with our coordinator, helps with program development, curricula selection, and in many other ways.

Parents & other church members also have an important role—we help teach, we may go on field trips with our community’s children, we may help with youth activities. Even if you don’t have time for these things, your friendly, supportive interactions with kids on a Sunday morning is important! Religious education is one of the most important pieces of our whole community. It is often an entry point for newcomers. It is a source of joy. It is a way for all of us to increase our relationships within our church.

What do you envision for us? Please come and share! This may be the start of an ongoing conversation—all are invited to participate.

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

Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 @12:00p.m.



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

CUUC Bulletin Board



BADGER MOUNTAIN HIKE

It is a great time of year to get out and hike to see the wildflowers on Badger Mountain! K-5 RE program is sponsoring a hike up the Badger Mt Canyon Trail this **Sunday April 29**. We will meet at the playground just past the parking lot at **2:30**. We encourage all ages to attend this fun hike. Please contact Jennifer Comstock (jencomstock@gmail.com; 628-8638) if you have any questions.



You can learn more about the trail at: <http://www.friendsofbadger.org/access.html>

Directions to the trailhead:
Canyon Trail - 1.3 miles (hikers) one way
525 Queensgate Dr, Richland, WA<<http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=46.24121720916947~-119.29027880968631&lvl=14&dir=0&sty=r&where1=525%20Queensgate%20Dr%2C%20Richland%2C%20WA%2099352&form=LMLTCC>> (this link address marks map to Trailhead Park)

- * Directions: Take Keene Rd to Shockley Rd (near Bethel Church), turn right. Take Shockley to the end, where you turn left on Queensgate Dr, and go up the hill to the stop sign, where you turn right on White Bluffs St, and then a left into....
- * The parking lot next to the cinder block pump house. From there, follow the trail around Trailhead Park to the base of the mountain and the trailhead and playground.

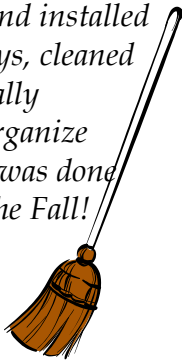
Free Piano

When we moved out of our Albany Ave. church, Elizabeth was dying to start piano lessons and we needed climate-controlled storage for CUUC's

somewhat battered but still good upright piano. So we paid to have it moved to our house and she used it for 5 years. She has now moved on. It worked out great for us and we're grateful to have had the use of it. The piano has a good sound and would be nice for another beginning piano student, or a small church with a small budget. It's on a rolling frame, handy for a church. Elizabeth's teacher thought it would bring hardly anything if sold. Apparently the supply of used upright pianos is a lot larger than the demand. On the other hand, new ones are pretty expensive, so maybe someone would want it. Contact Gail Armstrong-Taff if you're looking for a new-to-you piano!

CUUC Earth Day Spring Cleaning Huge Success!

Thank you to the many hands who made light work on April 22 in our cleanup event. We dusted, cleaned out and washed the fridge, planted flowers and veggies, moved furniture and vacuumed under it, washed windows inside and out, pulled lots of weeds both next to the church and in our native plant area, washed and installed a toddler play structure, disinfected toys, cleaned the oven, raked wood chips, and generally beautified our church. It was easy to organize and because so many helped, the work was done quickly and successfully. See you in the Fall! Thanks, again, Marla (crew boss)



~CUUC~

GROUP EVENT TO HELP THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

COME AND JOIN US FOR 2ND HARVEST'S TAKE A HIKE FOR HUNGER, SATURDAY MAY 5TH. THE CUUC GROUP WILL MEET AT 9:30 AM SATURDAY AT TRAILHEAD PARK (541

QUEENSGATE DR. RICHLAND – TURN ONTO SHOCKLEY FROM KEENE AT BETHEL CHURCH). WE WILL MEET AT THE 2ND HARVEST REGISTRATION TABLE AT THE TRAILHEAD (YOU WILL PASS ANOTHER REGISTRATION POINT AT BETHEL CHURCH BUT IT WILL BE A LOT EASIER TO START FROM THE TRAILHEAD). THE SUGGESTED DONATION IS \$10. I WILL HAVE COPIES OF THE FRIENDS OF BADGER MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWER BROCHURE. WE CAN SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE, LEARN ABOUT AND ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL WILDFLOWERS (LUPINE, BALSAMROOT AND PHLOX ARE ALREADY STARTING TO COME OUT) AND HAVE A WONDERFUL HIKE (FOBM JUST IMPROVED THE CANYON TRAIL THIS SPRING). PLEASE BRING WATER, SUNSCREEN AND A SNACK, THE HIKE IS ABOUT 3 MILES ROUND TRIP. PLEASE CONTACT DAVID COMSTOCK IF YOU PLAN TO GO. (509) 521-8226

Interfaith News & Updates



Interfaith Alliance Website

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

Interfaith Potluck

**May 5, 6 p.m. at Shalom Church—
505 McMurray Street, Richland**

Our next interfaith potluck will happen on May 5, 6 p.m. at Shalom UCC church Richland. We'll join our sister congregations—including ICTC,

Temple Beth Shalom synagogue, Guru Nanak Sikh Organization, and Shalom--for an evening of food and fellowship. Our table talk discussion will focus on cardinal rules and principles that we try to live by. What are your "Ten Commandments," and how do you try to keep and express them in your life?

- 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 call 509-205-1871

OWL Grades 4-6



OWL for grades 4-6 kicked off on April 15. We'll be meeting weekly over the next 8 weeks, wrapping up with graduation on June 17. Classes take place in the K-5 RE classroom, begin 30 minutes after service ends and run for one hour. Due to the Memorial Day holiday weekend we will make one meeting adjustment to accommodate those going out of town. We ask for your assistance in not disturbing class while in session. Signs will be hung on the doors as a gentle reminder! Contact Chrissie Noonan or Alex Emig, our OWL Elementary facilitators, for more information.