



The Communitarian

May 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!

Web Page: www.communityuu.org

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

Consulting Minister:

Rev. Craig Moro
(509) 205-1871
cmoro@willamette.edu

Office Secretary:

Tonia Hardy, office@communityuu.org

President, Board of Trustees:

Dave Comstock, dccjmb@yahoo.com

Religious Education Coordinator:

Gail Taff, gataff@frontier.com

Treasurer:

Scott Wilson, Scottwilsonuu@charter.net



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

May 5~

“Friend, Why Are You Here?”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

Francis David and Giorgio Biandrata were two early founders of the Unitarian movement, back in the 1500’s. They were masters at using new communications media to tweak the sensibilities of the religious conservatives of their day. What fun—even the king was on their side! But then things took a turn that I will share with you this morning.

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Ellen Fillion

May 12~

“Gifts Mama Can Use”

Speaker: Judy Zimmerman

Flowers, cards, candy or breakfast in bed come readily to mind when we contemplate how to remember those who mother. On this Mother’s Day let’s reflect on an unusual gift for Mama. How might institutional nurturing be a wonderful gift? Judy Zimmerman is passionate about facilitating the creation of communities of care in which all members flourish. She is a founding member and current coordinator of Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice, a statewide advocacy network. She served as Intern Minister at the UU Congregation of Salem. Before pursuing ministry she worked as a college professor of psychology & women's studies and as a sexuality educator. Judy graduates next week from Meadville Lombard Theological School, one of our two Unitarian Universalist seminaries, and was recently granted fellowship as UU minister.

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Justin King

May 19~

“The Strange True Story of the 7th-Day Unitarians of Transylvania”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

The title says it all! Come enjoy another story from the early days of the Unitarian movement.

This will be a short Sunday service so that we will have plenty of time for CUUC’s **Annual Meeting** immediately after. Here’s a chance to discuss, share ideas, and vote on matters that are vital to our congregational life.

Please plan to attend!

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Fran Handy

May 26~

“What A Ride”

Speaker: Kay Scheidegger

Surely most of us have seen one version or another of the description of one's life journey ending all worn out, with a cuppa coffee (or shotta booze) in one hand and a chocolate bar in the other. The punch line ends with "Woohoo, what a ride!" Recently, I experienced one of those moments of exhilaration. Come, go for a ride with me!

Worship Associate: Diane Reed

Musician: Ellen Fillion

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



8 year-old Martin Richard was one of many victims of the bombs placed near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 15, and one of three people killed by the blasts. Days later we all saw photos of him holding up a poster he had made at school the previous year. It was just four words on a field of blue: “No more hurting people.” Martin was killed by the bombs. His mother and sister suffered terrible injuries.

What part of “No more hurting people” can we—can anyone—fail to understand? It’s not an unrealistic demand for no pain in the world. Accidents happen. So do cuts and bruise and falls and burns. I’m sure Martin knew this by the age of 7. His poster means: *stop hurting each other intentionally*. Martin’s meaning is perfectly clear. The meaning of the bombs is not. We still want to know that meaning, perhaps even more than we wanted to see the perpetrators apprehended. Meaning is more than motive.

We are now fairly certain that two brothers carried out the marathon attack, and another murder later. The older brother is now dead, the younger seriously wounded. We have been hearing about their ethnic and religious background, and will be probing those for a motive. Perhaps we will find one, but we’ll still be left to wonder: What did they mean to communicate through such actions? What did they want to say, and why couldn’t they do so in another way? If you ask for attention, you are likely to get it. People *do* listen—they *do* read letters, and blogs, and books. Posters and banners, too.

Festive occasions like the Boston Marathon are a breath of fresh air at a time when social isolation

seems to be on the increase. I hope that people do not take from this bombing the message that we are better off staying alone, avoiding each other. Members of CUUC and our Tri-cities Interfaith Alliance certainly heard a different message and (thanks to the caring heart and organizing efforts of our own John Dorian) brought it to John Dam Plaza at the end of that terrible week. We held a yellow banner and posters and T-shirts that read “Standing on the Side of Love”. We waved and smiled, while drivers waved and smiled and honked in return. Several strangers came to stand with us, and stood firm in a howling wind. The meaning was clear to all.

May we learn the wisdom and honor the memory of Martin Richard: *No more hurting people*. Let’s teach that to all children, from the day that they are born. Let’s learn it ourselves, much better than we have. Let’s write it in the sky, in a field of blue, at the start of every week. Let’s stand on the side of love, and look up high, 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 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 May everyone,

Board News:

Visioning: The two visioning seasons were wonderfully thought out with stimulating readings and activities. I think we now have a better sense of who we are as a spiritual congregation and how we provided a unique open and accepting experience to our community. The outcome of our visioning was presented in an April service and will also lead off both our May 4th building discussion and our upcoming church annual meeting on May 19th.

Social Justice I continue to be amazed with the energy that John Dorian and the Social Justice team are creating. Please enjoy John's photo tour of all the places the Standing on the Side of Love banner has been. Being together as an interfaith group on GW Way with the banner was a wonderful expression of Love. The banner's visit with us culminates on May 4 in the Cinco de Mayo parade. Please join in this walk for Love.

Building Addition: I am inspired by Frank Anderson's generosity to help us complete our loan payment on our existing church building. Our mortgage is fully paid off – YEAH! This financial liberation affords us the opportunity to plan for the future. Our congregation has shown that we can successfully manage our mortgage debt. But Frank's generosity will provide us with an even greater opportunity with a matching gift for the building addition. This gift is a true blessing for our congregation. I would like to frame this project as more than a RE addition. To me there are three parts. We will create a beautiful outdoor, meditative sanctuary space that will be enjoyed by all. We will also create the opportunity to repurpose the rooms behind the sanctuary. We could create a space for discussion groups after

the service to sit and enjoy conversation. There are all kinds of exciting possibilities. Please join us for our May 4th conversation on the building addition.

Peace and Blessings to each of you.

May the Spirit of Love surround you everywhere you may go!

David Comstock

Religious Education Children & Youth

RE Children's Program



Springtime Children's Chapels

Weaving provides a metaphor for life with its tensioned balance of warp and weft, form and function, rules and free-play. Depending on materials and techniques, the lessons of weaving translate aptly into our relationships with one another, with other species, and with our world. Because of this, February and March chapels included weaving activities for mixed ages.

We first practiced weaving on a paper loom 'warped' with our principles. The children and youth read them aloud, then chose colored paper strips. Each took a turn sharing with the group *why* they chose a particular strip, then wove it into the paper loom. Older kids assisted the younger ones and we soon had a beautiful woven square. "But some of the words got covered up!" was met with the challenge to recall complete phrases, to use it as a game to recall our principles. You are welcome to check it out: the woven piece hangs on the classroom bulletin board.

Next we moved to looms made from cardboard scrap and warped with cotton string. The children and youth chose warp materials from a varied selection including ribbons, assorted yarns, audio

and videotape. Making design decisions, measuring lengths, threading needles, and controlling slippery materials, they worked to master the ins and outs of a plain tabby weave. So engrossing was the activity, several children took looms, needle & materials home to continue to practice.



The activity following our April Chapel was in support of our fifth principle: each person has a voice in this democracy. Adding an expressive venue to our church-wide visioning process, we launched a piece of community art. Bent pine chair rails representing the letters CUUC became a surface to paint images of community. The rules are simple: *no letters or numbers, no painting over or changing someone's work.* The children & youth first sketched on paper then painted on the wood symbols and designs in a rainbow of colors. Once painted by all congregants of all ages, these wooden shapes will be assembled vertically into a mobile that ornaments our sacred space. Be sure to contribute *your* expression next time the project appears! -*Jenny Rieke*

Middle School:

Middle School RE has been low-key this spring. Topics vary by interest of teacher and interest of the one or two attendees. That trend is expected to continue, with some talk on the Wisdom Walk book and consideration of an end-of-the-year outing.

Denise Pitts reports: On Easter Sunday we discussed the ancient origins of this holiday which began as a pagan festival. It was a celebration of the spring equinox and rebirth. The general symbolism of the story, the death of the son (sun) on a cross (the constellation of the Southern Cross) and his rebirth, overcoming the powers of darkness, was a well-worn story in the ancient world.

The Sumerian goddess Inanna, or Ishtar, was hung naked on a stake, and was subsequently resurrected and ascended from the underworld. One of the oldest resurrection myths is the Egyptian Horus. Born on 25 December, Horus and his damaged eye became symbols of life and rebirth. Mithras (Roman) was born on what we now call Christmas day, and his followers celebrated the spring equinox. Dionysus a divine child was resurrected by his grandmother and also brought his mother, Semele, back to life.

All the fun things about Easter are pagan. Bunnies are a leftover from the pagan festival of Easter, a great northern goddess whose symbol was a rabbit or hare. Exchange of eggs is an ancient custom, celebrated by many cultures.

This led to a discussion of other great stories, Star Wars, The Lord of the Rings, Terminator, The Witch the Lion and the Wardrobe, Harry Potter and others that are all basically the same story, a universal, human story; a story of self-sacrifice with an epic struggle in the name of the common good for all mankind.

In my remaining 3 lessons we will discuss

- 1) Various creation myths from Egypt, Serbia, Norse, Chinese, Aboriginal Navajo, Judeo-Christian.
- 2) Beginning myths: the gift of fire (Greek), the tree of life (Norse), Loki the trickster (Norse), why do we die (West African), etc.
- 3) Fertility and Cultivation: Persephone (Greek), Isis and Osiris (Egyptian), the sword in the stone (Celtic), the holy grail

(Celtic), Glooskap and the Wasis
(Algonquin)

Kindergarten-Fifth Grade:

In April, the K-5 class celebrated Easter in style, will real grass Easter baskets, egg dying, and an egg hunt. The RE committee wishes to thank those who made the day a success. Three cheers to Gail Taff, Sandra Rosenau, and Rob and Tana Hogan for their help with the festivities.

In May, the K-5 class will continue to explore UU traditions through the stories and lives of historical UU figures. Asking questions, speaking out, and getting involved in the community are concepts that UU's value and will be explored through the work of Clyde Tombaugh and Maria Cook. Come find out how these individuals helped shape UU identity. We may also spend some time planting in the Children's Garden in front of the church.

Youth Group and Interfaith Youth Group

The Youth Group is planning another get-together before the end of the school year. The Interfaith Youth Group is looking into some small-scale service projects. They received word from Charity Water that the \$5,000 raised last year has been used to build several public and over 250 family latrines in a state in Uganda, and will also fund an educator to teach about hygiene and reduce the risk of disease. This will make a big difference to the health of the people in those villages.

Teacher Recognition May 5

Please join us for a brief ceremony to honor our volunteer teachers and Youth Advisors during the service on May 5. Let's all let them know how much we appreciate their energy, creativity and dedication.

Upcoming Events

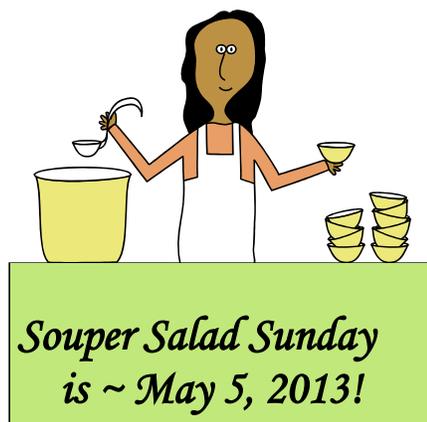
May 5 Teacher Recognition - be sure to thank a teacher!

May 7 Religious Education Committee meets 6 P.M.

May 26 Children's Chapel for K-12
June 2 Last day of classes for church school year
June 16 Summer classes to start

Hospitality

Calling all Salad Chefs~



Please contact Sharon Faletti at 375-0467 if you would consider being a part of the hospitality team.

MAY 5TH IS SOUPER SALAD!!!!

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

COME ONE, COME ALL!
MAY 4, 9:00-10:45 A.M.
AT CUUC

**All-Congregation Workshop—Creating
New Space and Transforming the Old**

Last year we voted to proceed with plans to build new space for our Religious Education program. This will also create opportunities to transform our current church home and the ways we use it. Today let's gather to share ideas and put our imaginations together. We will begin with a summary of our financial picture and the current state of planning, then move into a visionary mode as we pool our dreams and wisdom. We have taken a fairly barren patch of Pasco and changed so much already—but we've only just begun!

Please make time to attend this meeting. We need you here today!

CUUC Bulletin Board



Got Ink?

If you have ink cartridges at home, please bring to church on Sunday's and put in the Ink box at the back of the church. Community UU Church recycles Ink and Old Cell Phones and receives a small donation in return for them. Thank You to everyone who has donated there ink and cell phones☺

***Daily Dose of Unitarian and
Universalist History!***

Here's a wonderful resource: a 365-day calendar highlighting the history and personalities of our religious movement.
http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/365_this_day/?month=3&day=24

I hope you'll take some time to check it out. I'm sure you'll meet some people you never heard of-- I know that I'm discovering plenty of them!

**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.

**Annual Congregational
Meeting on:**

**May 19th, 2013 @
12:00p.m.**

It's easy to sign up, just make sure you use our group number 500021492:

- Go to 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.

Collecting Oatmeal Containers:

STILL COLLECTING ROUND CONTAINERS!
Do you use cornmeal, raisins, oatmeal, cocoa, bread crumbs, or other food products that come in a round cardboard containers? Please bring the empty container, with or without the lid, to CUUC and deliver it to Sandra Rosenau. We need 20 - 30 of them. Thank you all!

Chalice Lighter's Corner



The Chalice Lighter spring call will be issued the last week of April. Be on the look-out for your email or snail mail call for donations. Need more information or want to sign up? Contact Chrissie Noonan, cfnoonan@hotmail.com.

Social Justice Action

Social Justice –

The Literacy program is a great way for you to help directly with children or parents in Pasco. Please see John Dorian if you want more information.

The support for meals at Vista Youth Center will continue in June. See Tana Hogan if you wish to know more.

Our next Social Justice Committee meeting will be June 4th.

April was exciting month for the Tri-Cities presence for *Standing On the Side of Love*. Thanks to all who made one of these activities part of your month. This is an interfaith initiative begun after the armed attack on the Unitarian Universalist Church of Knoxville, Tennessee, a few years ago. Your Social Justice Committee guided a set of activities to highlight the principles of respect & inclusion in society. These activities focus on inclusion and respect for all, regardless of gender identity, religion, or immigration status.



I Stand on the
Side of Love
WILL YOU?

- A few members participated in the project to take photographs of the Standing On the Side of Love banner at locations across the Tri-Cities. We will be assembling the best photos into a booklet.
- About 10 people used the Inclusion Action Hour at CUUC to send a message on the membership rules of the Boy Scouts. Later this month their voting delegates will make a decision about rules that currently block gay scouts and leaders.

- Twenty-plus people from CUUC and the Tri-Cities Interfaith Alliance joined at John Dam Plaza on April 19th for a public witness event. We displayed the banner and signs about the campaign. The rally was met with plentiful honking of horns and waves and an article in the Tri-City Herald on April 20th (<http://www.tricityherald.com/2013/04/19/2364001/richland-rally-sends-peace-message.html>).

BUT WE ARE NOT DONE! The final event is to carry the banner in the Pasco parade for Cinco de Mayo, to be held on May 4th. We are looking for people to march with us to show our community that there is a voice in the Tri-cities for compassion. The parade starts at 11 am. If you are unable to march you are encouraged to join the crowd. Please see John Dorian right away for more information.

The banner will travel next to Eugene, Oregon for a building dedication. We will send along a few pictures of the banner as it visited with CUUC.

Interfaith News & Updates

Interfaith Potluck

Saturday, June 15, 6 p.m. at the Islamic Center, 2900 Bombing Range Road, West Richland.

Our topic will be “Science and Religion”. Scientists from our sister congregations will share their thoughts on how their scientific and religious view inform each other. Jen Comstock will be representing CUUC. You won’t want to miss this!

More information will follow in the June newsletter.

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

