



The Communitarian

May 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.communityuuu.org

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

Consulting Minister:

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

Office Secretary:

Tonia Hardy, office@communityuuu.org

President, Board of Trustees:

Dave Comstock, dccjmb@yahoo.com

Religious Education Coordinator:

Gail Armstrong Taff
gataff@frontier.com

Treasurer:

Denise Pitts, denapit@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Tonia Hardy



The deadline for the June issue of
The Communitarian is May 20th.

Submit your input to
office@communityuuu.org

May 1~

“The Martian Comicals”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

Oklahoma voters recently passed a measure forbidding state courts from considering international law, the legal precepts of other nations and cultures, or the legal ideas of one particular religion. Guess which one. Could it be the religion of Mars, perhaps?

Worship Associate: Diane Reed

Musician: Ellen Fillion

May 8~

“Stories of Mother”

Speaker: Henry Kidwell, Kay Scheidegger, and CUUC Members

Being a mother, or having a mother, is very different, and a lot more interesting, than a scene from a Hallmark card. And roles often change through life. Two members of our congregation will be sharing their stories. What stories do you want to share on this Mother’s Day?

Worship Associate: Meryl Birn

Musician: Fran Handy

May 15~

“Write Your Own Fatwas!”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

What is a “fatwa”? What is “Sharia” law? And why have such words become associated exclusively with fear and cruelty? Let’s explore these questions this morning and hopefully dispel at least some of the anxiety they provoke! Through good humor and solid information I hope that we can clarify and demystify a topic that has been much in the news but little understood.

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: CUUC Choir

May 22~

“Reclaiming the Common Good”

Speaker: Rev. Carol McKinley

The common good is the moral center on which this country was founded, and has been considered of paramount importance. Yet it seems as if there is a decreasing sense that we are all in this together. This social compact, or covenant, has broken down in the United States as rampant greed for wealth and power has spread. It is time to reclaim our understanding of the common good, reminding ourselves that each of us exists in relationship to others.

The Reverend Carol McKinley serves as coordinator of Washington Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice, our statewide legislative advocacy network that addresses social, economic, and environmental justice issues that come before the Washington legislature. She is an affiliated community minister with the Olympia UU Congregation

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Mike & Shannon Truex

May 29~

“Atheists and UUs in the Foxholes”

Speaker: Bruce Henrickson and Diane Reed

For many in the military, being an atheist or a Unitarian Universalist can be a challenge. There are some UU chaplains, but the majority of spiritual support comes from Christian chaplains. How do our UU brothers and sisters cope in the military?

Worship Associate: Diane Reed

Musician: Ellen Fillion

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



Sometimes clergypersons from other denominations are surprised to hear that few UU ministers have preaching duties in July or August. Instead, we keep an almost “academic” schedule as we use those summer months to prepare for the coming church year. I’ve been known to tease my colleagues: “You folks only have to know *one* scripture, but we have to know *all* of them!” Of course I’m joking, and I have the deepest respect for the learning of my more mainline sisters and brothers in ministry. But there’s an element of truth in this as well.

I think it’s fair to say that most Unitarian Universalists—not only ministers—feel responsible for having more than passing knowledge of the world’s great faith traditions. We need to at least be *aware* that each tradition holds a set of very high ideals, and to be *curious* about what those ideals are. Only then we can begin to ask questions about how well those who hold them measure up to the standards they have set (or feel that God has set for them). We can even call them to task for falling short, provided that we also apply such scrutiny to ourselves. We refuse to be satisfied with what we hear from the “infotainment” industry or cranky chain e-mails filled with dire warnings about this or that religion seeking to conquer us all!

All religious traditions describe the human condition as one that includes struggle against domination of our lives by powers that have no legitimate claim to such dominion. Our own statement of religious principles says that these principles are derived in part from “words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us “to confront powers and structures of

evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.” Please note that the first means of confrontation here is *justice*, held up in the face of those “powers and structures of evil.” Justice first, and only then come compassion and love. If someone took this to mean that the UU movement puts a justice-struggle ahead of peace and love, we could easily understand. If they then jumped to the conclusion that ours is an inherently violent religion, we would probably say (in our best cowboy voices), “Hold your horses there, partner!”

Presidents G.W. Bush and Barack Obama have both affirmed Islam as a religion of peace which some extremists attempt to hijack and misuse. Recently, however, we have witnessed the emergence of certain media figures promoting the idea that all Muslims promote violence, and that among all religions Islam is uniquely malevolent in both theory and practice. This has been a successful strategy for selling advertising space on web sites and TV channels, and for pushing ballot measures. Now here’s an old adage with a lot of truth to it: “What Peter tells you about Paul tells you more about Peter than it does about Paul.” It seems to me that certain media figures and outlets are deeply dependent on violence (seasoned with constant sexual titillation) for their very existence. If Peter is so dependent on violence, why is he jabbing his finger at Paul? I’ll be considering questions like this one in a series of sermons beginning this month and continuing in June. I hope you’ll find them useful in your own pursuit of justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love—in whatever order you choose.

In fellowship,

Craig



Board & Committee News

From the President!

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Comstock



Happy May everyone,
May your flowers bloom. Walk in nature and rejoice. May your spirit be renewed. Within you, may the spirit of life blossom. Tend your gardens and may the spirit of joy and peace fill your heart.

Contemplate and give thanks for the great bounty of our lives, for we are truly blessed. Come and celebrate our local wildflowers with a church hike on Badger Mountain on Saturday May 14, 10am at Trailhead Park.

Board News: Yeah! The new church sign has been installed on Sylvester Street. Thank you so much to all that donated and helped with the new sign. Special thanks to John Dorian for all of his efforts in the design and installation of the new sign. We have the CUUC Annual Meeting coming right up on Sunday, May 22 right after service. Rev. Craig Moro is excited to be back and looking forward to continuing with our congregation for another year. We have church expansion concepts to discuss. We have the Charter of Compassion to revisit. All year the board has been reviewing our church policies and we will recommend needed updates to our policies. We are working on the 2011 annual report and will have that in the mail to you in early May.

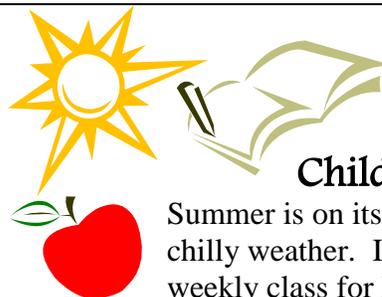
Please continue to send your love, prayers and cards of support to Eleanor Barnes as she is back in Kadlec Hospital.

David Comstock

Peace and Blessings to each of you



Religious Education Children & Youth



RE Children's Program

Summer is on its way, in spite of the chilly weather. In summer we offer a weekly class for kindergarten through 5th grade students (older preschoolers are welcome to join in) and nursery care. Summer teaching is low-key and relaxed, with smaller classes and simple curriculum, so it's a great time to try out teaching. Pairs and couples are encouraged to sign up too, as two teachers are required each week.

Please watch for the sign-up sheet to teach one or two classes, or help in the nursery one Sunday this summer.

Kindergarten-5th Grade:

At the beginning of April, for Spring Break week we made "I'm a UU Kid" door hangers and bookmarks out of colored foam with each child personalizing them in their own way. Later in the month we participated in our church project to become a Green Sanctuary by planting a vegetable and flower garden in hay bales. The planting was exciting and so is watching the plants sprout and grow. The Youth Group joined us in this planting project.

The rest of the month we explored the stories of Christianity. Learning about the life of Jesus and the Easter story of Jesus' death and resurrection, at the time this newsletter is being written, we are making plans to celebrate with a traditional Easter egg hunt on April 24 after the service. In May, we will continue our study of Christianity and how it relates to our religion. We will have another planting session for the Green Sanctuary project on May 22.

We hope that the children are developing a deep foundation in Unitarian Universalism through learning the intriguing, often inspiring and

sometimes very funny stories of the major world religions. Their own religious beliefs should be becoming clearer by learning how our religion is similar to and yet different from each of those religions. The process of planting and tending plants, plus eventually harvesting and eating vegetables, is a more visceral experience of our 7th Principle (honoring the web of life).

Middle School:

As the class continues with the "Compass Points" curriculum, we're moving into Western thought.

We learned about Transcendentalism and the history of Universalism in the United States, and the reasons for the merger of Unitarianism and Universalism.

We then moved on to learning about the ethical principles of Unitarian Universalism. In one lesson, we focused on whether we believed in fate and how much of our lives are, we believe, within our control and how much outside of our control.

We discussed how important our attitude about what we've got influences how we live our lives.

To illustrate the concept of "playing the cards we're dealt," we played cards and discussed both how the cards we got and how we played them mattered to our success in the game. In May we will explore the concepts of good and evil, civil disobedience as a response to injustice, our place in the universe and the meaning of faith.

High School Youth Group:

The High School Youth Group has sprung into action this spring with involvement in several types of activities. Helping the children's religious education classes do planting outside was one of their first mentoring opportunities. They participated in the second Sunday's worship service and have focused on work to develop their personal credos or theologies. Along with their advisors they have held deep and meaningful discussions about what they value, why these things are significant for them, where their beliefs have come from, and how they have or can share these beliefs as well as put them into actions. In June the High School Youth will share their credos in a fully planned and led youth worship

service for our congregation. They have continued to do some work on the World Religions Timeline Mural. Keeping social justice in mind, the Youth Group baked cookies and brownies at their Church overnigher on April 22 to raise more funds for Charity: Water. The baked goods were sold at coffee hour on April 24.

Interfaith Youth Group:

During April the Interfaith Youth Group met just one Sunday because of spring break vacations and outings. At that gathering they participated in dinner discussion of religious rituals and in a cooperative activity. They heard a guest speaker, Lynn Bradach, speak and show a video about the use of cluster bombs by the U.S, and her work to ban their use. In addition, she showed photos of her experiences in Laos where many cluster bombs still lay hidden near villages and cause harm or fatalities. Our youth were encouraged to pick one cause that they believe in strongly and to pursue that in their lives.

Interfaith Youth Group Calendar

May 1~

Interfaith Youth Group Potluck and Meeting 6-8 P.M.

May 7~

Charity: Water Fundraiser Dinner at Tri-Cities Islamic Center Time TBA

May 15~

Interfaith Youth Group Potluck and Meeting 6-8 P.M.



Hospitality

Souper Sunday!
May 1, 2011



Calling all Salad Chefs: Souper Sunday for May 1 is ‘*Super Salad Sunday,*’ something cool for Spring—salads for after-church lunch. This is our season finale. Souper Sunday takes a break for the Summer months. We will resume in the Fall. Many thanks to all our participants!

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

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



Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, May 3,
@12:00p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Faletti



Women's Luncheon meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

For good food and conversation, please join us at noon on May 3rd in the CUUC meeting room. Bring a dish to share.

If you haven't attended for a while, please come again. If you've never attended, we'd love to have you.

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

Thanks,
Sharon Faletti

CUUC Bulletin Board

→ ***Points East:***

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

Our class continues its survey of the major religions of Asia—Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. We are reading Considering the Asian Religions by UU minister (and former university professor of comparative religion) Wade Wheelock. This month we turn our attention to Buddhism. Here's our spring schedule:

**April 30
May 21
June 4 and 18**

2011 Badger Mountain Wild Flower Hike

Saturday May 14, 2011

The mountains are filled with color this spring. The white and pink long-leaf phlox is out in force, the yellow balsamroot is making a good start and the beautiful blue lupine flowers are budding and will be out soon. This will be a family friendly hike at a moderate pace so we can enjoy all the different flowers. We will also talk about the Ice Age Floods and geological history of the area. I will have a Plants of Badger Mountain flower broacher for each family so you can keep track of all the flowers we find. We will meet at the Trailhead Park at 10am on Saturday May 14, 2011. From Keene Rd (in south Richland) turn onto Shockley Rd at Bethel Church. Follow Shockley past the church until it turns into Queensgate Drive. Follow Queensgate Dr. up the hill and turn right on White Bluffs St (first right turn after the West Cliff Roman Columns). The parking lot is immediately on your left. You can also park on Queensgate along City of Richland Trailhead Park past White Bluffs St. Please bring water, sun screen, snacks for the summit and your smile.

Thanks
David Comstock

Other News

3~Rivers Folklife Society Concert

Date: May 7, & May 21, 2011

Where: Community UU Church

Time: 7:30p.m.

Tickets: At the door or Bookworm!

