



# The Communitarian

October 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](http://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](mailto:cmoro@willamette.edu)

Office Secretary:

Tonia Hardy, [office@communityuuu.org](mailto:office@communityuuu.org)

President, Board of Trustees:

Dave Comstock, [dccjmb@yahoo.com](mailto:dccjmb@yahoo.com)

Religious Education Coordinator:

Gail Armstrong Taff  
[gataff@frontier.com](mailto:gataff@frontier.com)

Treasurer:

Denise Pitts, [denapit@hotmail.com](mailto:denapit@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Tonia Hardy



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

October 2~  
“Abimelech”

*Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro*

Abimelech was a judge over Israel in its very early days, and he died with only one regret! But how do we judge his character, and what do the things that we regret tell us about who we are? These days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have traditionally been a time of reflection and atonement, and Abimelech’s story provides a perfect entry to the spirit of this season.

*Worship Associate: Mike Truex*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

October 9~  
“The Practice of Mindfulness”

*Speaker: Chris Murray*

Join us today to meditate. Our guest speaker, Chris Murray, leads meditations with the local Buddhist group.

*Worship Associate: Meryl Birn*

*Musician: Fran Handy*

October 16~  
“Reading Signs”

*Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro*

There is almost nothing in the human or natural world that people have not tried to “read” for hidden meanings, “signs” and “omens” *Alomancy* uses salt--interpreting patterns that form when it is dropped or thrown.

*Tasseomancy* involves reading the patterns left by the dregs of tea in the bottom of a cup. Do chance arrangements of objects speak to us about a moment in our lives, and what is it that they say? We’ll look at China’s *I Ching* along with other examples while exploring this question today.

*Worship Associate: Diane Reed*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion & CUUC Choir*

October 23~  
“When Politics and Religion Collide”

*Speaker: Wilbur Reese*

This is a time when political debates are heating up and religion seems very much at the forefront. Should religion have anything to do with politics? If so, what? If not, why not?

*Worship Associate: Mike Truex*

*Musician: Mike & Shannon Truex*

October 30~  
“Association Sunday”

*Speaker: Diane Reed*

The leap of faith we celebrate this Association Sunday has nothing to do with doctrine or dogma. It’s a challenge to recognize that we are connected to one another and to all living things. This is what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.

*Worship Associate: Diane Reed*

*Musician: Ellen Fillion*

## From Our Minister



### Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



Last summer in Berkeley, I went most mornings to a bench near a church to exercise. I used to exercise by the same bench when I was in my mid-to-late twenties and attending seminary just a few blocks away. For that matter, I was doing mostly the same exercises, with just a few variations due to the injuries I sustained last year. I was a bit surprised that I could still do them, most just as well and some even better. Surprised and a bit delighted, too. One involves bending forward and pulling my face and to my knees. Another involves swinging my leg so that my foot reaches well above my head. “Not bad for someone who’s now in his mid-to-late *fifties*,” I thought to myself, without actually saying it out loud.

A somewhat older man passed by one morning as my toe was passing the brim of my hat and said, “That’s pretty impressive. You’re very limber, with all those stretches.” Pleased by the compliment, I responded: “And I’m pushing sixty, too!” (Crowing a little, yes, for sure.) He replied, “A gold star for you, then.” I heard the humor in his voice, sprinkled with just a dash of sarcasm. But I must tell you that I also enjoyed my gold star all that morning and the next one as well, when he passed by and we chatted a little. I explained my crow-call of pride the day before, mentioning the added delight in being able to move like this after suffering so much recent physical damage. He got it. And I got to keep my star. I hadn’t had one since elementary school.

Such a star is not exactly a reward. It’s not just a compliment, either. It is *shaped praise*, a *shaped blessing*. And that’s a rare and wonderful thing. Shaped curses or critiques are very common.

(Think of how often you’ve been offered one— or seen one offered—on the tip of a thumb or a finger!) We may feel too shy to shape our praise or blessings carefully. You might worry that it will sound sarcastic, or foolish, or not fully spontaneous. But remember the pleasure you felt when you got those stars. It’s October now, and Halloween comes at the end of the month. We might enjoy that holiday even more if we imagine every treat we give or receive at the door as a small, shaped blessing. Small bars of chocolate, small kids in costumes—blessings all. Like morning exercise, blessing improves with practice. What better place to practice than church, at the front door, in the halls, or deep inside the sanctuary?

In fellowship,

Craig

---

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. 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



Welcome to our new church year, Big Thanks to all who participated, organized, and helped with the Interfaith Peace Walk. What a great success. I am proud to be a part of this spiritual community. I believe there is a universal Divine energy that is everywhere, full of unlimited possibility. I believe

this Divine light is within and throughout all things, including you and me. This idea helps me see the Unity of all life. To me this is the Unity in our Unitarianism. We are One with the Whole and One with each other. This helps me understand teachings like "Love your neighbor as yourself". The Divine energy that is in my neighbor is the same Divine energy that gives me life. Imagine a world where everyone recognizes the inherent Divine worth of every person. The light within me really sees the light within you and recognizes that we are One. Imagine a world where we each commit to treat one another with justice, equity and compassion in all of our relations.

If you feel separate and alone, please let us know. We are a people of faith with open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.

Board News: Heidi Newsome has graciously agreed to fill our vacant board position. Please join me in welcoming Heidi and supporting her in her new position. YAHOO!!! CUUC will receive a chalice lighter grant for our HVAC repairs. Big Thanks to Chrissie Noonan for all of her chalice lighter work. Please sign up and support the fall chalice lighter call.

I believe in the power of prayer. Please find a few quiet minutes to sit calmly in meditation, and give thanks for your health and happiness, the health and happiness of your family, our congregation, this community and especially focus your prayer of health for Frank Anderson and Duane Faletti. Thank you  
David Comstock  
Peace and Blessings to each of you



## Religious Education Children & Youth



### RE Children's Program

#### **Kindergarten-5th Grade Annual Harvest Fair**

Our annual seasonal festival will be Sunday, October 30 during service plus 30 minutes. This highlight of the children's year emphasizes outdoor fun and hands-on activities. Parents and congregation members will be needed to supervise activities, provide food, and help with decoration; please sign up to help any way you can. As always we follow a "simple" theme that allows the children to experience an old-fashioned way of life with active games and hearty foods. Costumes welcomed!

#### **Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk**

On Sunday, October 2 from 2-5 pm, members of the Interfaith Youth Group will participate in the annual CROP Hunger Walk across the Blue and Cable bridges. This annual event raises funds for local, national and international grassroots efforts to end hunger. Donations can be directed to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee or other approved international hunger-fighting agencies, and up to 25% of individual donations can be sent to local food banks. Please support this social justice action by youth in grades 6-12 from our church and other local faith communities by signing up to donate.

#### **OWL update**

The OWL training for leaders of junior high and senior high OWL, sponsored by Shalom United Church of Christ, will be held at our church on the weekend of October 7-9. Several people from both churches volunteered and been accepted into the training. Our plan is to hold a joint high

school OWL class (with high school students from both Shalom UCC and CUUC) starting in January.

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

We are planning monthly outings outside the Sunday service. This gives the kids a chance to build friendships and socialize together outside of class. In September, we went to the Richland Rollarena and had a great turnout! Thanks to everyone who attended. In October we plan to go to the Country Mercantile and check out the pumpkin patch and corn maze. Other upcoming activities include taking a fall hike, caroling, and ice skating. Look for announcements on the website, newsletter, and on the CUUC Facebook page. As always, all ages are welcome to help foster intergenerational relationships.

### **Middle School:**

Bruce Garrett, Denise Pitts, and Marla Marvin will again be the teaching team for the Middle Schoolers. We will spend most of the year with a well-known (to us teachers) curriculum, "In Our Hands, a Peace and Social Justice Program." According to a UUA website, this series "has been the 'classic' Unitarian Universalist religious education curriculum addressing the topic of peace. Wisely and prophetically, the authors link peace and justice in the title and the content, explaining in the introduction, 'Peace and justice are necessarily interdependent. Each requires the other. Real peace is not possible without justice. . . In addition, true justice is not possible without peace.'" The CUUC Middle School class will intersperse lessons on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the "In Our Hands" curriculum.

### **High School YUUth Group:**

The High School YUUth Group started classes on Sept. 11 by sharing personal information to help everyone in the group to get to know each other better. The group has two new members this year, Jack Dorian and Bentley Hogan. They began working on their covenant as to how they will be in relationship with each other for this church year. Other topics were their future participation in Interfaith Youth Group and the opportunity for

them to possibly begin to host a congregational game night. During other September classes the group agreed upon their new covenant, discussed ideas for activities this year that will foster peace and social justice, and talked about events or activities that would be coming up in October. In addition, one of the youths, Bentley Hogan, volunteered her service to take family or individual photos for our church directory.

A date was set for their annual fall ritual, a bonfire on Saturday, October 15 at 8 P.M. YUUth will participate in the Harvest Festival on Oct. 30 during and after the service.

### **Interfaith Youth Group:**

The first Interfaith Youth Group gathering for this fall will be on Sunday, October 2. Youth are invited to participate in a community CROP Hunger Walk (see details in calendar below) that starts that afternoon. After the walk (around 5-5:30 P.M.) we will have an early dinner at CUUC. We will end around 7:30 P.M. We will have a second gathering on Sunday, Oct. 16 from 6-8 P.M., our usual time for potluck and activities.

In September the Interfaith Youth Group successfully implemented a Peace Walk in commemoration of the events that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. Over a hundred people of different faiths participated. CUUC congratulates all of our youth from all the faith houses as well as their youth advisors. Keep up the good work!

### **Upcoming Events**

**\*Oct. 2** Interfaith Youth Group (grades 6-12) CROP Hunger Walk 2-5 P.M. Registration at 1:30 P.M. Riverview Park, Pasco 5 mile walk around both bridges

**\*Oct. 2** Interfaith Youth Group Potluck and Gathering 5 or 5:30 P.M. at CUUC

**\*Oct. 15** High School YUUth (grades 9-12) Bonfire at Jenny Rieke's house begins at 8 P.M.

Bring snacks/beverages to share and ideas for class topics or activities.

**\*Oct. 16** Trip to Country Mercantile Pumpkin Patch by Kindergarten-5th grade class, 1 pm, all ages welcome (Cost: \$6.50)

**\*Oct. 16** Interfaith Youth Group Potluck and Gathering 6-8 P.M. at CUUC

**\*Oct. 30** Harvest Festival during and after the service for Kindergarten-5th grade; high school YUUth to assist.

Personnel	Chrissie Noonan
Religious Education	Chrissie Noonan
Social Action	Dave Comstock
Space	<b>Vacant</b>
Worship	Meryl Birn



## CUUC Members & Friends

As a reminder to CUUC members and friends, the Board of Trustees works directly with committees in lieu of a Program Council. The following table identifies each active committee and the assigned Board liaison. Please work with your Board member to bring needs and concerns to the monthly Board meetings as needed. This way we can stay informed of your joys and pains and can work proactively together. Thank you!

*Exciting things are happening these days!*

- \* Westside UU Congregation in Seattle has grown to 173 members over the last three years, and has a church building of their own, because they were able to increase professional staffing at a critical time.
- \* Quimper UU Fellowship uses their new commercial kitchen and sound system to host all kinds of community meetings in their new church in Port Townsend, WA.
- \* Atkinson Memorial Church in Oregon City, is welcoming new and old parishioners who can now get to the sanctuary and the new RE classrooms using the newly installed elevator.
- \* Remote fellowships in Alaska are benefitting from advice and assistance from consultants and ministers whose travel costs are more affordable to the congregations.
- \* Our own congregation is part of the current Chalice Lighter call - open for contributions through November 7. This grant request will help us recover the \$15,300 costs to replace our aging and non-energy efficient HVAC system.

Committee Name	Board Representative Liaison
Aesthetics	<b>Vacant</b>
Buildings & Grounds	John Dorian
Committee on Ministry	Dave Comstock
Finance	Denise Pitts
Hearts & Hands	Denise Pitts
Hospitality	Bryan Schroeder
Membership	Dave Comstock

These congregations, and numerous others over the past 22 years, were able to broaden and strengthen themselves because of grants made possible by UUs throughout the Pacific Northwest District. The money for these grants comes from more than 2400 **Chalice Lighters** -- UUs who agree to contribute \$15 or more to three requests per year.

If finding a UU congregation has been a powerful experience in your life, consider helping congregations throughout Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington offer the same opportunity to people in their communities. Chalice Lighters, by providing the money for grants, support projects designed to help a congregation grow or respond to growth.

All you have to do is enroll in person with Chrissie Noonan (Board secretary and CUUC Chalice Lighter Ambassador) on any Sunday during social hour, and you will receive three requests (one in fall, one in winter and one in spring) to make a tax-deductible gift of \$15 or more to a congregation that has been screened by the Chalice Lighter team. You can get more information about the Chalice Lighter program on the Pacific Northwest District's website, [www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org).

By the way, by becoming a Chalice Lighter, you are not only helping your neighboring UU congregations, you help us remain qualified for our current grant application and any future grants!

*Country Mercantile  
Pumpkin Patch*

*Oct 16, 1pm*

K-5 RE classes are planning monthly outings outside the Sunday service. This gives the kids a chance to build friendships and socialize together

outside of class. In September we went to the Richland Rollarena and had a great turnout! Thanks to everyone who attended. On October 16 (1pm following church) we plan to go to the Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch at the Country Mercantile in Pasco. Cost is \$6.50. Other upcoming activities include taking a fall hike, caroling, and ice skating. All ages are welcome to these outings to help foster intergenerational relationships. Look for announcements on the website, newsletter, and on the CUUC Facebook page.



## *Hospitality*

Calling all Soup Chefs~  
Souper Sunday returns  
October 2



*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

Bev Schroeder 371-1572  
Gail Taff 375-3293

## Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

@12:00p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Faletti



## Hands & Heart

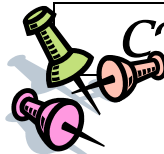


The Hands and Hearts Committee would like to remind you that we are here to help, not just for big events where we all cry or laugh, but also for the little things as well. We are here to help you out in any way we can. You can seek us out at church (our name tags have the heart stickers) or call us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

It will be in the meeting room at the church and will be a potluck.

## CUUC Bulletin Board



*Points East: Asian Religion Class*

*on Saturdays, 3:30-5:30*

*led by Rev. Moro*

This month our class resumes its survey of the major religions of Asia, now exploring Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. We are reading Considering the Asian Religions by UU minister (and former university professor of comparative religion) Wade Wheelock, which is readily available through online sources. If you would like to join us, now would be a good time. Just let Rev. Moro know [cmoro@willamette.edu](mailto:cmoro@willamette.edu)

or 509-205-1871). We meet at CUUC in the RE main room:

October 1 and 15  
November 5 and 19  
December 3 and 17



## *Know someone interested in learning about membership in CUUC?*

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 talk 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.

## **AGF 2011!**

As a church we all feel a call to social justice. One of the ways we do this is through the Alternative Gift Fair which would be in its 5<sup>th</sup> year this December. In order for us to hold the fair again we need a few more volunteers. We do not have a charity liaison at this time—and that is obviously one of the most important pieces of the fair. The charity liaison coordinates with the chosen organizations to get them up and running

for the event. Many of the charities would be returnees and already know what to do. Last year’s charity liaison, Lila Bartozek, created a Charity Coordinator Action List which lays out what needs to be done in a really easy to follow format. No “re-inventing the wheel!” The Committee on Ministry also discussed possibly asking the Interfaith gathering churches to be involved this year. If we move forward with that it would help broaden this event to the wider community. We will also need help with publicity, with set up the night of the event and with the bake sale, which is our main fundraiser to support the fair. I will continue to be the logistics person this year. If you are interested please contact Teri at 543-9330, [teresarobertson53@gmail.com](mailto:teresarobertson53@gmail.com) or at church. Any input is helpful! Many thanks -- Teri



**Oregon UU  
Voices for Justice  
Annual Meeting  
October 15, 2011**

Come and learn about issues affecting Oregon that will come before our state legislature in the 2012 session. Engage in dialogue about statewide issues that concern each of us and our congregations. We want your ideas and vision as we decide priorities for the coming year. Be part of a growing chorus of UUs who are courageously stepping forward so that our values of justice, equity and compassion ring out loudly in the public square.

Held 10-4p.m. at the UU Congregation of Salem, 5090 Center Street NE, Salem, OR 97317. For more information contact Barbara Dow [bdowpdx@gmail.com](mailto:bdowpdx@gmail.com) 503-385-1686 or Judy



Zimmerman [jzimmerman15@yahoo.com](mailto:jzimmerman15@yahoo.com). 503-324-9377.

**WA UU VOICES FOR JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 12**

Join UUs from across the state at WA State UU Voices for Justice's 6<sup>th</sup> Legislative Conference Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am-3pm, at East Shore Unitarian Church, Bellevue.

Driven by the state's budget crisis, this year's agenda will focus on the need to preserve critical state services through equitable revenue policies. Speakers will address important social and environmental issues that will come before the 2012 Legislature, and offer ideas for effective ways to bring UU values of justice and equity to our legislators.

For Legislative Conference updates and other information on bringing our values into the public square, subscribe to the WA UU Voices newsletter at [www.uuvoiceswa.org](http://www.uuvoiceswa.org) or contact UU Voices Coordinator Carol McKinley, [coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org](mailto:coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org).



