The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

March 2018 Volume 60, Number 3

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April 2018 Issue
Deadline
Sunday, March 11, 2018
Submit articles to:
submission@uucfl.org

Editors

Valerie Bressler Gary Ladka

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A Center for Liberal Religious Thought and Social Action in Fort Lauderdale

Unitarian (4) Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue Oakland Park, Florida 33309 954-484-6734 www.uucfl.org

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Established in 1958



Fuel the Flame

We ask all members to please turn in pledge cards. If you have not received one, please see Rev. Susan or our Treasurer, Nelson, at Church. We are looking forward to having a wonderful 2018

Vespers Service
Friday March 9 at 7:00pm
Alba Kauffman presenting
Service Info on Page 5





All Church Work Day Saturday March 10 at 8:00am Work Your Way to Page 7



Labyrinth Café Concert Saturday March 10 at 7:30pm Wabi Sabi (George Wurzbach and Dan Pelletier) Concert Info Page 6



Ostara Celebration

Saturday March 17 at 7:00pm Hop on Over to Page 7

BOLD Justice Rally Tuesday March 20 at 7:00pm



Merrell United Methodist Church, Lauderdale Lakes Be BOLD - Go to Page 8



Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft Lauderdale
Mission Statement:

To come together as a caring community and sanctuary for seekers of spiritual growth, truth, and meaning.



President's Message

"No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear." - C.S. Lewis



It seems like every month there is something else to be devastated about since I have been writing these articles. Last week we experienced the devastation of the fourth worst mass school shooting in history in our own backyard. 18 school shootings in the United States by the 46th day of this year. What are good people to do? Well, first we become shocked and horrified. Then we gather and share our horror and grief. This we do in an effort to right ourselves again so that we are at least capable of moving through our days and able to perform our daily monotonous tasks. Meanwhile we are submerged in newsreels of interviews and commentaries that we do not wish to experience continuously. It overwhelms even the best of us. It is at this point that we need to resolve to make conscious decisions of how we are to proceed with our lives in order to live up to our own sense of morality.

We can proceed to look at what we can do to work at making changes in the current state of affairs in our communities. We can live every day loving the people around us. We can live our best lives every day and encourage those around us to do the same. As we look at our children, parents, grandparents, and friends, we can treasure and enjoy every moment of our times with each one. We will eventually get back to our daily lives, however changed by the experience of the deaths of innocents and those protecting them we may be. And when we do we should remember that our institution and community needs our touches and care in many ways. As your Board just went through the budgeting process for this year, we have assessed the needs we have here and now at the UUCFL. They are many. Some are monetary, some are the need for giving of time and abilities, and some for ideas and leadership. Our existence is so very important in times like these when we need the comfort of others who have embraced a liberal religious viewpoint. Please give some thought as to how you can add to the continuance of our valued institution and enhance our beloved community. In the meantime, remember to care for yourselves, as self-care is the only way you can ensure your own ability to be there for yourself, your family, your friends, and your community. As our hearts go out to those who have lost a beautiful light in their lives.........Healing thoughts and Blessed Be.

"You gave me a forever within the numbered days." - John Green "The Fault In Our Stars"

Sandy Lange

Get your Raffle Tickets while they're Hot!

This month we are raffling off a Cuisinart Convection Bread Machine \$100+ value - New in the box!

See Marty McAnulty on Sundays or at CUUPS on Thursdays to purchase \$5.00 chances. 100% of \$\$\$ raised goes to the Church!







Rev. Susan's Space

The mass shooting at Marjory Strongman Douglas High on Valentine's Day hit all of us very hard. For a few of us who knew people who lost someone or who had a previous relationship to this school, this was very personal.

But even for the rest of us, this was too close to home to put easily out of our minds. It is hard to imagine how deeply it has impacted our children and youth and those who teach in and work in our local schools.

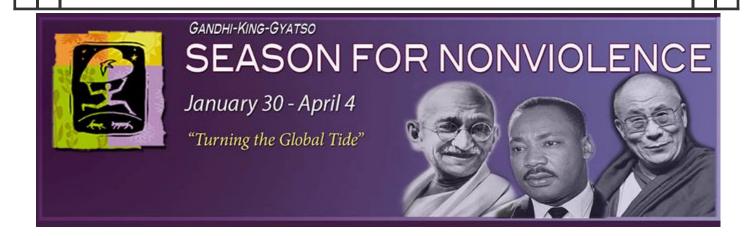


It was particularly poignant for me to be in the midst of studying what distinguishes the United States from other countries in measures of peacefulness and what happens in a human brain that leads to violence to have all of these things occur nearby. I picked these focuses for this Season for Nonviolence way back in June of 2017, yet if I had decided what to preach about on February 15 of this year in the wake of this shooting, these are the subjects I would have wanted to address. These are the central questions of our time: Why do these crimes happen in the United States but nowhere else on earth? What has gone awry both on the surface and deep in our collective heart that has caused the death of these innocents and their protectors? And what can an individual or a small church do?

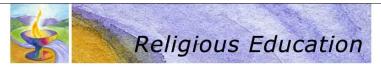
A common theological statement that is made at times like this is to say that the perpetrator is evil or the act is evil. As a theologian, alarms go off in my head when I hear this. I think when people speak of evil they are speaking from a mythos no less ungrounded than talk of heaven or hell. They are evoking the presence of powerful forces against which our little human efforts will have no effect. Evil is a dragon that cannot be slain, a wind that flattens all the world, an insatiable fire that cannot be contained. If it existed, it would take a supernatural good to defeat it. It is understandable that we have failed to rise above what we label "evil" and perhaps we always will. This story absolves us of our responsibility and distances us from our shared humanity. In the human heart and mind, it is more than possible to conceive of and execute acts of violence without being overwhelmed by any outside force or befuddled by obvious mental illness. It is also possible to rise above our worst impulses if we learn to examine our lives and be a loving parent to our self-interested, self-deluding, and impulsive inner teenager. This is why we return to the great teachers of nonviolence. They are not quaint relics of another time and another struggle. They speak a word to our hearts in all times and all circumstances – Peace, Peace, Peace.

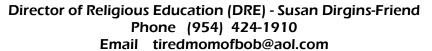
Blessings,

Rev. Susan











I am very sad, angry, frustrated, and confused. I try to believe that most people in the world have good intentions and that when I disagree with someone, it is because we have different ways of solving problems. The last couple of weeks have made me question this belief in the goodness of people's intentions. Children have suffered, their parents, the neighborhood, our entire community has suffered, and there seems to be a complete lack of empathy by a good number of people in our country. It is heartbreaking. I mourn the loss of any life, but especially the loss of a child. We react strongly to these horrible events, and we want things to change, but if we think about it, there are so many unnecessary deaths from gun violence in individual lives and homes and businesses every day. Children and adults dying or being maimed one at a time. Lives ruined one at a time, rather than 17 at a time. It truly is time to not back down, not give up, not accept what the NRA is doing. This is our America, not the NRA's. End of rant.

One good thing that happened in the last couple of weeks was our super fun Chinese New Year Sunday Service on February 18th. The kids were super cute, as always, and I thought our parents did an excellent job, with the help of the kids, of decorating the sanctuary with lots of red, and lanterns. Our parade was fun, and the children did a great job reading their parts of the service. Thank you to all our parents, including Michael and Colleen, Janet, Kirsta, Meredith, and Grandparents Bob and Donna, who made sure our kids got to church, learned their lines, and encouraged their efforts. Big thanks to Susan Moss, who helped me lead the service and to Gary Ladka for technology help. Rev Susan was supposed to have a day off, but in addition to the fabulous job she did creating our videos and slides, she was there to wrangle all the details that slipped by me (offertory, oh yes, I'm supposed to mention that and get the trays going). Thanks Rev Susan. Finally thanks to Rick and Nelson for helping serve lunch. We ordered Chinese food, just so our Kitchen Kings could enjoy a Sunday off, but that did not stop them. Thanks guys. Days like that give me hope for our future. Our kids are the future. Watching the great kids from Stoneman Douglas High School kicking butt and taking names gives me hope as well. We have a lot of work ahead, but let us not give up hope. We owe it to the future. Love and blessings,

DRE Susan



March Children's RE Calendar

Sunday March 4, 11:00am Discussing Non-Violence Ostara Decorations Work

Sunday March 11, 11:00am Ostara Decorations Work

Sunday March 18, 11:00am Kids in Service Ostara Intergenerational

Sunday March 25, 11:00am Easter Egg Dyeing



Loaves and Fishes Study Group

Loaves and Fishes (our chapter of the UU Christian Fellowship) will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:30am in the multi-purpose room. All are welcome and invited. For more information contact me at cathywaltz@bellsouth.net.



Cathy Waltz

Daytime Community Group

Retirees and people with daytime hours free, Unite! Retirees have so much to offer to the UU based on life experiences. We also have the luxury of choosing to spend time to give back. Aging has to have SOME advantages.

I propose forming a daytime community at UUCFL.

We have so many night gatherings but I am usually too tired to come to those. We can choose to be a class, a service group, a lunch group, a book group, mentors, buddies or all of the above.



The possibilities are open-ended. I have found great friendships and support in my experience in the sisterhood community. Hopefully we can create another special group. Please contact me at stcavish12@gmail.com.

Molly St Cavish

Vespers Service Friday March 9 at 7:00pm



In honor of Women's History Month, the March Vespers will be about The Goddess. Join us as Alba Kauffman guides us as we ponder, chant, meditate and lift up the names of our Divine Mother.Come, let's honor, let's cherish The Goddess.

To the Percussion Instrumentalist: you are encouraged to bring your instrument. Second-Friday Vespers is a UUCFL program that offers attendees time to exhale the events of the past week or inhale the hopes of our weekend in speech, music, and meditation.

Do you have a topic you would like to share? Yes? Then choose one of the dates below, contact Rev. Opal Murray – opalom18@gmail.com or 770.265.6242 and voila! You are doing Second Friday Vespers. Let's meet in this circle as we link inspiring sounds with life-affirming silence.

Rev. Opal Murray

Here are our 2018 dates: 4/13; 5/11; 6/8; 7/13; 8/10 9/14; 10/12; 11/9 and 12/14



Lifenet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Program



Thank you to all the folks who are taking home the reusable bags and filling them with muchneeded food for the Lifenet 4 Families pantry. A big thanks to our UU Sisterhood for taking over this project and collecting and transporting the food to the pantry. Remember that if you want a chance to volunteer, you can work with our fellow UUs from River of Grass on the 2nd Saturday of every month at their scheduled workday in the pantry, from 9:00-11:00am, at 1 NW 33rd Terrace, Lauderhill FL 33311. If you would like to volunteer at another time you can contact Lifenet directly; their phone number is (954) 792-2328 and the website is lifenet4families.org

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalists

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



Labyrinth Café Presents Wabi Sabi (George Wurzbach and Dan Pelletier) Saturday March 10 at 7:30pm



"There is a kind of laid-back smart-aleckness where one has to sit back, slack-jawed with awe. It's his tone that gives the listener the impression of George Wurzbach as a bemused watchful observer. The ever-astonishing comedy of human errors is his playground. Gentle, mocking humor, often directed at himself, is his palette." - Richard Cuccaro, Acoustic Live Magazine www.georgewurzbach.com

Sit for an hour with Dan Pelletier and you'll walk away chuckling, shaking your head, wanting a long, cool drink and the red, tender lips of someone to love. He will show you himself, yourself, your lover, your family and friends and quite a few characters you may not know, but will instantly recognize. They jump out of his songs full of beauty and blemishes, brilliance and foolishness, insanity, humor, intensity and tenderness. www.danpelletier.net



Reservations requested but not required: Contact Susan at OzWoman321@aol.com or 954-478-8637

\$20 at the door, plus non-perishable item for our local Cooperative Feeding Program (canned meats, beans, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, dried milk, pasta, rice, cereal, baby food and baby formula); Advance Reservations: \$17, checks (made out to artist) received in the UU church office no later than Wednesday before Saturday show (or call or e-mail Susan at the contact info above). Mail advance payment checks to the church.

Thanks to all who purchased our Season Pass for \$150 per person, which includes admission to all 9 September-May shows, as well as premium reserved seating and a Labyrinth Cafe T-shirt (designed and printed by Virginia Anderson, Labyrinth Café volunteer). It's a wonderful way to support the UU church, our performers and the continuation of live, original music! [Because the September concert had to be cancelled due to Hurricane Irma, rather than giving a credit we are asking you to bring a friend to any concert on the schedule, on us... ③

Visit www.labyrinthcafe.com for further details and the artists' websites, and our Facebook page to give us a thumbs-up, which will then keep you informed of upcoming concerts:

Saturday, April 14, 2018 – Nick Annis and Peter Mulvey Saturday, May 12, 2018 – Lis and Lon Williamson and Amy Carol Webb

Can't wait for you all to join us once again for song and camaraderie!



Susan Moss Coordinator - Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

UUCFL Choir Now Rehearses Sunday Mornings - Join Us!

Choir rehearsals will now take place <u>every</u> Sunday Morning at 9:30am prior to service. We hope this will accommodate more people's schedules. We need you! To see the pieces we are rehearsing visit http://www.uucfl.org/choir-rehearsal. If you would like to join the choir, contact me at 954-536-5220 or pianoyesmh@bellsouth.net. We would love to add your voice!





cUUrious cUUrier and Journey Newsletters-

If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, the cUUrious cUUrier or a mailed copy of The Journey newsletter visit our website at www.uucfl.org and click on "Subscribe" to sign up

Name Tags -

If you have not yet received a name tag lanyard, please sign up in church on Sundays. You have a choice of designs between a picture of the church and a chalice. Please wear your name tags each Sunday so our veterans and our newer members and visitors recognize each other better.



Coming CUUPS Events

CUUPS Special Event

Saturday March 17 - Open Ritual to Celebrate Ostara at the UU Church of Fort Lauderdale -Wear ritual garb and bring a drink & potluck dish to share. 7:00PM Gather, 7:30PM Ritual. We collect canned goods for the local food shelter as well. \$5.00 suggested donation.

CUUPS Study Group takes place every Thursday at 7:30pm at the Church. \$2 Suggested donation. Bring healthy snacks to share.

March 1 - 7:30PM - Topic: Gaia Theory with Birch (the tree).

March 8 - 7:30pm - Topic: Loving Yourself First

March 15 – 7:30PM - Topic: Ostara Meditation and ritual planning.

March 22 – 7:30PM – Topic: "The Fool's Journey – Major Arcana of the Tarot" with Moonday.

March 29 - 7:30PM -Topic: The Male Aspect in Ritual with Hoof & Horn, a Men's Mystery Group.

Edie & Marty McAnulty - CUUPS Facilitators - The MoonPath Chapter of CUUPS

Stay For Eclectic Mind Shoppe at UUCFL on Second, Third, and Now Fourth Sundays After Service - 1:00pm

This month, the Eclectic Mind Shoppe introduces a new series to be held on the fourth Sunday of each month: World Mythologies and Folklore! There is a suggested \$5 donation per class.

3/11 - Spiritual Philosophy - Discussion led by Sarah Paulus - Game of Thrones.

3/18 - Wicca 101 - Otsana - Class continues every month until June.

3/25 - World Mythologies and Folklore - led by Sarah Paulus and Peter Brown. This month's topic: American Folklore and the stories of Paul Bunyan, John Henry and Johnny Appleseed.

First Sundays will remain inactive for now, and we invite other church members who would like to teach a class to contact Edie McAnulty at ediemoonday@gmail.com.

Eclectic Mind Shoppe

Building and Grounds News

Building and Grounds Workdays continue the second Saturday of each month (March 10) starting at 8:00am and going to about noon. Join us any time during that span to lend a hand in giving our church home some love. There are projects to be done inside and outside for all abilities. Much thanks are given to everyone for their tireless work inside and out on our work day.

We Are Trying So Hard to Be Cool!

We are facing a fairly large challenge with replacing the air conditioning unit in the Sanctuary between designs, the work that will be involved, backorders of equipment, and, of course, the cost. Unfortunately this is not a Home Depot - We Can Do it - They Can Help project. We thank Doug Friend for the research and legwork as we try to solve the situation as soon as possible. We are asking for special donations as you are able toward the funds needed. If you are able to make a love gift large or small, please see Sandy Lange, President, or Nelson Lamis, Treasurer. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. We are working on other projects around the building, but this has taken top priority. Meanwhile we will enjoy nature's natural cross-breeze(with a little help from electrical fans) with added help from high-tech handheld portable self-cooling devices.







Building and Grounds



Thanks to BOLD Justice, ALL Broward Sheriff Organization officers will soon be required to take "Crisis Intervention Team" (CIT) Training. The 40 hours of training will provide skills needed when dealing with individuals suffering from a mental illness. We expect to celebrate a major victory on that issue this year.

The tragedy at the Rehabilitation Center in Hollywood Hills which claimed 14 lives dramatized the importance of the Green House Project for the seniors of Broward County

Some progress has been made, but the fight to redirect ALL youthful non-violent offenders to Civil Citation programs to change their behavior instead of saddling them with arrest records that follow them for life is still ongoing.

Reports from the Research Committees on where we stand on all of these issues and what the next steps are will be presented at the:

BOLD Justice RALLY

Tuesday, March 20th at 7:00pm Merrell United Methodist Church

3900 State Road 7, Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319

The rally helps to fire up enthusiasm for the Nehemiah action itself, where our show of strength, <u>hopefully over 1500 people this year,</u> will enable us to demand meaningful action from our public officials.

Thanks to extra "Listening Sessions" this year and to Marie's continuing recruitment, we have a core of Justice Network Members who will be calling some congregation members and friends to tell them about BOLD Justice and invite them to the Nehemiah Action. (Hopefully, we can increase our ranks of volunteer workers even more next year.)

Most of our people seem to prefer to drive straight to the site of the Nehemiah Action. So we're staying with the carpool for the few who come to our church first again this year. Perhaps a bus is in our future.

Join the fight for social justice in Broward County as we "Stand BOLD, . . . for Justice!"

Nehemiah Action Monday, April 23rd at 7:00pm St. David Catholic Church 3900 S. University Drive, Davie, FL 33328

See www.uucfl.org/bold-justice (a link from the Social Justice page of the UUCFL Website) for background and history. BOLD Justice questions can go to Betty Brantley or Marie Turner.



Douglas Bonar, and Casey Curson; and the SE UU Cluster at the

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches 635 Prosperity Farms Rd., N. Palm Beach, FL 33408 http://1stuupb.org/

\$20 per person advance by mail until postmark April 21, 2018

Please make check payable to SE UU Cluster and mail to Kathy Jens-Rochow, Registrar, 1420 SW 13 St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312 Childcare: \$20 per child 1-11 years old by mail registration only until postmark April 21

PayPal registration: http://uuflorida.org/awakening/

\$25 at door, cash or check. Registration incl. Lunch & Continental Breakfast

http://www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster seuucluster@gmail.com

At the end of the Symposium we will have a free will offering for the Pachamama Alliance.

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Jerry Waltz waltzj@bellsouth.net954-527-5275
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Edie and Marty McAnulty ediemoonday@gmail.com954-294-4757
UU Service Committee
Michael Coburn michael@coburn.org305-409-7340

SOCIAL AND MINISTRY GROUPS

Second Monday Every Month:

•6:30pm - All Committee Meeting Night •8:00pm - Board Meeting



Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue

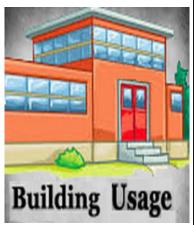
Minister: Rev. Susan M. Smith

Office 954-484-6734
Minister 318-550-8462
E-mail: uucfl@aol.com
Website: www.uucfl.org



Building Usage Scheduling

With all of the activities going on in the building, especially with all of the exciting new things coming along, it will be very important to keep a close look at the calendar to make sure we have room for all events and renters that we



have, and to have scheduling conflicts kept to a minimum. Please email me at dgriswold2001@hotmail.com with any inquiries or to schedule an event at the church. Thank you.

Dave Griswold



Supports:



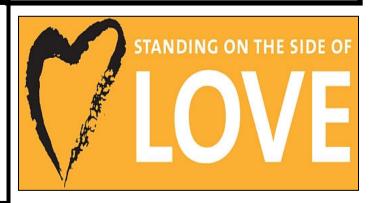
Expand Your UU Horizons

Learn more and how you can become more involved beyond our walls

UU Association - uua.org

UU Southern Region - uua.org/southern
UU Southeast Cluster -

facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster



Remember the Hungry People Around Us

Please continue to fill the Food Baskets at the church with nonperishables for the LifeNet for Families |Cooperative Feeding Program.



Learn more about the CFP and other ways you can help.

Visit www.lifenet4families.org or call (954) 792-2328



"Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!"

~ Sitting Bull

March Birthdays

Alan Ruck Martinez 3/3
Linda Gallun 3/11
Susan Dirgins Friend 3/13
Donna Gutierrez 3/13
Eileen M. Lancella 3/18
David Armstrong 3/23
Rachel P. Donelson 3/27
Tyler Coburn 3/29
Linda Joan Heissenberg 3/29
Helen Siedel 3/31



If you would like to see your birthday announced here and in the cUUrious cUUrier email newsletter, please contact the office to make sure we have your updated information in the computer



March Calendar



Fri

Thu

Wed

Tue

Mon

Every Sunday: 11:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education	Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4	Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities"	n line for gevents 1.org g Activities"	 •7:30 pm CUUPS	2	3
4 •9:30am - Choir Practice •9:30am - Sisterhood •11:00am - Sunday Service	2	9	7	8 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	9 •7:00pm Vespers Service (See page 5)	•8:00am - Building and Grounds Workday •7:30pm - Labyrinth Café Concert (See Page 6)
Jurney Article Submission Deadline 9:30am - Choir Practice 9:30am - Loaves & Fishes 11:00am - Sunday Service 12:30pm - Lunch 12:30pm - Membership Info	12 •11:30am - Sisterhood •6:30pm - All Committee Meeting Night •8:00pm - Board Meeting	13	4	1.5 •7:30 pm CUUPS	91	7 •7:00pm Ostara Celebration (See page 7)
•9:30am - Choir Practice •9:30am - Sisterhood •11:00am - Sunday Service •1:00pm - Eclectic Mind Shoppe •1:00pm - Interfaith Planners	61	•7:00pm BOLD Justice Rally at Mereill UMC (See page 8)	21	7.30 pm CUUPS	23	24
9:30am - Choir Practice 9:30am - Loaves & Fishes •1:00am - Sunday Service •1:00pm - Eclectic Mind Shoppe	26 •11:30am - Sisterhood	27	28	29 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	HAPPY PASSOVER Begins at Sunset	31

Unitarian (**) Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue

Oakland Park, Florida 33309

Minister: Rev. Susan M. Smith

Office Phone: 954-484-6734

Minister Phone: 318-550-8462
E-mail: uucfl@aol.com

Website: www.uucfl.org

Sundays Service & Children's at 11 am: Religious Education

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

MARCH 2018

March 4 – "Resisting Violence" by the Rev. Susan M. Smith. As we continue to observe A Season for Nonviolence, we have turned to personal and psychological causes of violence and our 2nd UU principle: "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." We examined the violent mind in late February; now we ask how to control our worst human impulses.

SPRING FORWARD! --

March 11 – "Growing More Peace" by the Rev. Susan M. Smith. How do we heal the violent mind and nurture nonviolent children and youth in society and in our midst? Choir sings. Lunch follows.



March 18 – Ostara: Celebrating the Magick of Rebirth by Alba Kauffman.

Alba leads our CUUPS-inspired celebration of Ostara. We will welcome the warm fresh earth while observing this sacred time of balance, fertility, new beginnings, hope and passion. It will be egg-celent! This Intergenerational Service is coordinated by Rev. Opal Murray.

March 25 - "Nothing But Peace is Enough" by the Rev. Susan M. Smith.

We will conclude our observance of the Season for Nonviolence with a celebration of the peaceful heart and mind and the ultimate goal of the Just and Loving Community.

