The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

November 2016 Volume 58, Number 10

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December 2016 Issue
Deadline
Sunday, November 13, 2016
Submit articles to:
submission@uucfl.org

Editors

Valerie Heller Gary Ladka

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

Unitarian \(\frac{1}{2}\) Universalist Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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Established in 1958



Annual Samhain Service
Sunday November 6
at 11:00am
Presented by
Donna Gutierrez
See Back Cover

Second Friday Vespers Service
Friday November 11
at 7:00pm

Honoring Veterans - Jeff Hutt Hosts
Service Info on Page 5





LifeNet4 Families Workday

Saturday November 12 at 9:00am

Cast Your LifeNet to Page 5



Labyrinth Café Presents Rod MacDonald and Ralston Bowles Saturday November 12 at 7:30pm Concert Info Page 6



Giving and Thanksgiving: A Celebration
Sunday, November 20, 2016
at 11:00am



A very special stewardship service and feast where we will make our pledges of support for the ministries of the congregation in 2017. We're trying for 100% attendance See Rev. Susan's article on page 3

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

"When practiced consistently and intentionally, giving can become a spiritual discipline and, even more, a sacred art. When we practice giving regularly and understand that our motivation has some connection outside of ourselves, we have the opportunity to radically transform our lives, the life of another person, even the lives of entire communities...It's about creating an entire lifestyle of generosity." -- Lauren Tyler Wright

As we enter November, we gear up for our annual Pledge Drive. While the economy has recovered somewhat compared to prior years, all of us continue to try and make ends meet as best we can. It is easy to see how making a financial commitment to the UUCFL can be difficult for some...but consider the concept of giving in a different framework. Dollars are critically important for us to pay bills and keep our building in good repair and safe for all, as well as to pay incredibly hard-working people like our minister, our musicians, and our religious education director. For those with fewer financial resources, there are other ways to supplement your donation of "treasure."



"Talent" is always needed at the UUCFL. Are you a teacher or someone with teaching experience? We would welcome you as a teacher in our RE program. Do you have a green thumb? Our beautiful grounds need tending to keep them at their most captivating. Can you cook? Rick and Nelson treat all of us to lunch twice a month...maybe you could help out, or take on coffee hour (with snacks, of course!). Is cleaning one of your skills? We always need help keeping our church looking spic and span.

Lastly, we need your "time". Seeing you on Sundays makes the day brighter for many people. We have many events throughout the year, and your participation is what makes everything we do a success.

As you fill out your pledge card, please consider the wonderful new energy we have at the UUCFL. Your generosity with your "treasure", "talent" and "time" is needed so we can ride the wave of good vibes into the future! I always welcome calls to talk about what's on your mind. I can be reached at (954) 296-0089.

Jim Giblin

We Told You - You Will Be Floored - And More!!

With your help and input, the board has made a decision about new flooring throughout the better part of the building. Areas receiving the upgrade will be the sanctuary, foyer, library, and hallways. The majority of the area will be polished concrete with "click" vinyl planks designed to look like hardwood on the pulpit area. Both options are resilient and will serve our needs quite well and will certainly beautify the church, giving it a whole new look.

We are also working on adding ADA access to the pulpit in the process. We expect work on this project to begin shortly after the holidays.

Also to make our facilities more accessible, you will see a change in the restroom entryway with removal of the wall partition in between the restrooms to make it a larger open area for wheelchairs and walkers to navigate and we will be adding additional towel and soap dispensers that are more easily reachable.

Other improvement projects will include complete resealing of the two large windows in the sanctuary, painting in the Religious Education hallway, more playground upgrades, and new doors coming soon.



Doug Friend/Gary Ladka - Building and Grounds

Caring Committee Commits to Even More Caring



It is time for the Caring committee to regroup. After reviewing dates with Rev. Susan, we decided on Nov 13 (Sun) at 1pm in the church library. I hope you can make it.

Douglas Paul

Rev. Susan's Space

Some religious traditions have overarching hierarchical structures that control the local congregation. They decide where congregations will be placed, who their priest or minister will be and how many resources they will have. Since UUs come from such diverse religious backgrounds, many of us grew up in this kind of system. Modern Unitarian Universalists are organized completely differently. As self-governing, self-supporting "congregationalists," we have gone this different way for almost 400 years. Literally, our congregation is what WE (that means you and me right here in the Greater Fort Lauderdale area) make of it – no less and never more than we put into it.



As we enter into this season of Giving and Thanksgiving we also embark on a sacred rite of the Free Church – the annual Stewardship Campaign. This is the time when we tell our leaders how big our dreams and intentions are. This is the time to ask ourselves how important it is to us to have a liberal religious home and to have our shared values promoted and affirmed in our community.

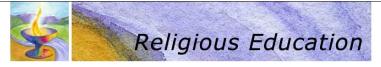
On SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, we want every single member and friend of UUCFL present for our Giving and Thanksgiving Stewardship Sunday service and luncheon where we celebrate all that we bring together here as a community – large financial donations and small ones, lots of volunteers hours and a few here and there, big dreams and good intentions. I assure you that it will be a joyous day with lots of fun, fellowship and good food. Please put it into your calendar right now!

All members and friends will shortly be receiving financial information about how the church is using your donations now and what increased generosity will make possible in the future. On Stewardship Sunday, you will be asked to fill out your 2017 financial commitment form during the service. By the time we've finished lunch, we'll know the size of our commitment to our goals. We'll do follow up phone calls with those who are unable to attend, but please don't miss this exciting, encouraging event. I guarantee you that it will be a perfect kick-off to your holiday season. In the meantime, keep an eye out for your Giving and Thanksgiving mailing and look it over carefully when it arrives.

One very special part of the service on November 20 will be an Ingathering of New Members where we will welcome into our congregation those who wish to take on the rights and responsibilities of membership. If you have been attending for a while, find yourself in sympathy with our faith and wish to go deeper with us on your path, please get in touch with me about joining our congregation and celebrating your commitment during this very special service. As I say on Sunday, "Freely have we received those things that nurture our bodies, minds and spirits. Gladly let us bring to the church and its larger concerns a portion of that bounty." See you there!!

Blessings, *Rev. Susan*





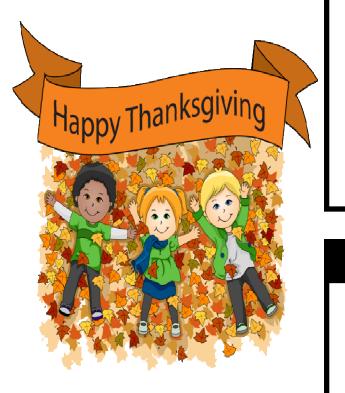
Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend Phone (954) 424-1910 Email tiredmomofbob@aol.com



Our RE kids have had an interesting start to the church year. Last week we celebrated United Nations Day, which is a day to try and explain to folks what the UN actually does. As you might imagine, it was not that easy of a conversation, but, we hung up world flags, discussed what we might do when a bully picks on someone else, and hoped that the wars in the world might someday come to conclusion. We are also working on our "Where Do We Come From?, What Are We?, Where Are We Going?" project. The first bit of interesting data to come out is that a majority of our congregants are from states in the east, north mostly. The interesting bit of info is that there are only a very few (3) who come from states west of Missouri, but a large chunk, 19 people, were born in other countries. This speaks to the diversity of our country, and happily, to our faith. As we move forward in whatever political situation we have for ourselves in our near future, it is with the hope that we can use our diversity to strengthen and build a United States that works for all of us, and hopefully continues to work on the problems that can often divide us.

Love and blessings,

DRE Susan



November Children's Calendar

Sunday November 6, 11am Regular RE

Sunday November 13, 11am RE Fun Day Board Games and Outside Fun!

Sunday November 20, 11am RE Kids Help With Feast!

Sunday November 27, 11am Thanksgiving Lesson

Save the Date

Saturday December 3 from 7-10PM
Join us for the Hanging of the Greens
Help decorate our lovely space while
eating snacks and cookies, making ornaments
and enjoying fellowship.

Lifenet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Program



Thank you to all the folks who have brought donations for the food baskets in the lobby. The CUUPS group really outdid themselves with their wonderful donations from their Fall Event. It was an added delight that each can came with an individual blessing provided by the children. I believe the donation was 247 pounds of food for the folks in our community who are food

insecure, woot, woot!! So now the competition is on with Labyrinth Cafe. Thanks to all of you, and our individual donors as well. We will be having our shared workday with River of Grass UU on November 12 from 9-11AM at Lifenet. We will fill food boxes, stack shelves, empty pallets, or do whatever needs to be done.

Lifenet is located at 1 NW 33rd Terrace, Lauderhill.It is on the corner of Broward Blvd and NW 33rd Terrace, which is between State Road 7 and 31st Ave.

Info or questions

DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

Susan Friend

It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing

We have added a baby swing to the playground and it is getting rave reviews.

Pictured right, Baby Maytham takes it for a test ride.

Look for more upcoming Improvements to our playground



Second Friday Vespers Service



November 11, 7PM, come out to the UUCFL Multipurpose Room for our 2nd Friday Vespers. We are pleased that Jeff Hutt will be presenting an

evening which will honor our Veterans in acknowledgment of Veterans Day.

Vespers is our once a month service between September and May which is short (45 minutes), and features readings, music and meditation. There are no announcements, and the service is reflective, intimate, and inspires introspection. Our evening always finishes with wine, cheese, other snacks and drinks and time for fellowship.

Susan Friend

cUUrious cUUrier -

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.

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 Concerts Presents Rod MacDonald and Ralston Bowles Saturday November 12 at 7:30pm



A pivotal force in the 80's Greenwich Village folk revival, New York's Village Voice wrote of Rod MacDonald, "politics, passion and a sense of humor", which accurately describes Rod's passion for music, and his personal commitment to communicating events that have affected and shaped our world's societies. Rod seamlessly weaves romantic ballads in between his trademark tongue-in-cheek sociopolitical commentaries.

With lyrics and music that are infectious and inspiring, often humorous, sometimes reckless, frequently evocative, usually thought provoking – and – always compelling, Rod's songs will stay in your heart and mind long after the music has ended. "An extraordinarily gifted songwriter who does the topical, humorous and touching folk songs equally well – think Phil Ochs, Loudon Wainwright and Bob Dylan all wrapped in one." (Dans Distractions) rodmacdonald.net

Ralston Bowles, a musician and songwriter who often is called the Ambassador of West Michigan's acoustic music scene, has been making music since he was a child growing up in Gary, Indiana. "The stories are out there," he says. "It's about finding the stories and telling them. That's what Woody Guthrie did. That's what Bob Dylan does." Ralston's first professional job was at the age of 16 when he was asked to make up one of his story songs for a neighborhood party. After graduation he found himself playing in clubs and coffeehouses throughout the Midwest, making up songs about the people and places he visited. His songs have been performed and recorded by Caroline Aiken, Peter Mulvey, Amy Speace, Betty Soo and Rachael Davis. He has received awards from American Songwriter Magazine, NSAI/CMT, Unisong and the International Song Competition, among many others. As a Kerrville New Folk finalist, he found himself opening for such artists as Shawn Colvin, T-Bone Burnett and Arlo Guthrie. He has become a bi-annual favorite at Boston's Club Passim. ralstonbowles.com



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 received in the UU church office no later than Wednesday before Saturday show (or call or e-mail Susan at the contact info above): UU Church of Ft Lauderdale ATTN: Labyrinth Café 3970 NW 21st Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309 Please consider purchasing our Season Pass, \$150 per person, which includes admission to all 9 September-May shows, as well as premium reserved seating and a Labyrinth Cafe Tshirt (designed and printed by Virginia and Erik, Labyrinth Café volunteers).

It's a wonderful way to support the UU church, our performers and the continuation of live, original music!

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

Susan Moss Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

Come on Ring Those Bells!! (or Dreidels!!)

Hang the Greens, Hang the Greens!! Saturday December 3, from 7-10 PM is our annual congregation holiday celebration. You and yours are invited to come and help us decorate our beautiful space for the holidays while imbibing hot mulled wine, cider, holiday sangria, holiday punch, delicious snacks (latkes, latkes) and cookies, and enjoying fellowship. There will be time for board games, the traditional making of the ornaments, and maybe this year we can finally sing some carols.

We are looking for folks who might be interested in helping organize one part of the event or another. All helpers are welcome.

This is one of our best events to invite family and friends, so let's try and make this our best party ever.

Want to Help?

DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

Susan Friend

Coming CUUPS Events

CUUPS is your link to the Old Religion and the Greater Pagan Community. We have no Sabbat in November.

We shall make due with remembering our Witches' Ball, Saturday, October 29.

Thursday evening 7:30 PM Study Groups continue:

November 3: Believe it or Not by George Jewell Pirateer.

November 10: Trading Blanket - swap Magickal Things.

November 17: Annual Gratitude Potluck & Ritual.

November 24: No Meeting. Consider 1 PM Thanksgiving

Luncheon in Sanctuary.

December 1: Animal Protection Ritual and Potluck.

--Kip, Resident Pagan With Blessings, Edie & Marty McAnulty - CUUPS Facilitators TheMoonPath Chapter of CUUPS



Attention: Newbies, Especially but Open to Everyone Forming Group Discussions After Sunday Service

I'm new to the church but come from UU churches in Maryland where we would meet in a circle group after the service to discuss the sermon or another agreed-upon topic, and I would like to try to get a program like that going here at UUCFL. If you would like to get to know people easier/ faster, here's your chance. Contact me at 410-370-6616, pwpw63@yahoo.com (call, text or email) if you're interested.

If we get 5 to 10 people, we may meet after the service in the library (bring your coffee) and let's discuss the ideas shared in the sermon (or pick a topic) and get to know one another. We can rotate with a leader for the group or on a volunteer basis. We are looking to hold these sessions on Fellowship Lunch Sundays. Thank you for your consideration of this.

Patricia Winchild

Thinking in Threes

"Until you can think in threes, you do not understand (leadership) systems." --- Dr. Murray Bowen

One of the major shifts in human understanding has been a move away from seeing ourselves as solitary, independent agents in charge of our destiny toward a more complex awareness that who we are is a direct function of who we are with. We are relational creatures. Everything about us is shaped by our connections (or disconnections) with those around us.

This begins, of course, when we are born. Indeed, it is the first question of faith: Will the world accept, honor, and care for me? Over time, depending on how others treat us, we learn whether we are OK or not-OK, whether we fit in, or can count on others. Every time we meet someone new or enter a new situation, we replay this big question: Is it ok for me to be, to stay here?

Our long childhood means we are especially affected by parents. Indeed whole generations of family "stuff," for good or ill fills our emotional backpack. It is perhaps better to think of ourselves as "embedduals" rather than "individuals." That the world may reject us, or leave us, or hurt us, or even love us is as much a source of anxiety as knowing we live but someday to die.

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the worth of every person. We talk about accepting one another in our totality (warts and halos). But two people encountering each other soon will find there is tension between them. It is hard to keep a balance between being a Self and being Together. After all, each brings varying needs for closeness or independence. Each values things differently. Each has unique ideas and aspirations. This distinctiveness is often inviting and at times frightening:

Can I be me if I am not wholly like you? What if I want something you don't?

I want to be close, but I fear losing me in our "us."

Or, I fear losing our "us" if you get too independent.

As a two-legged stool is easily tipped, tensions arise in any one to one relationship. Then, our first (and, Murray Bowen would argue, inevitable) step is to pull in a third party to stabilize things. It might be quite transparent: "Michelle and I disagree about (something), don't you agree with me that it would be better (to do what I want)?" Or it might be a subtle attempt to shape your perceptions, as in "Hey, Nikkos, did you know that the Minister has a gambling problem?" Even groups get out of balance. Think of all the Hatfields & McCoys stories where one group feels deeply threatened by another, ends up in a fight of some sort, and pulls civil authorities into the middle.

Our Leadership Experience or Presidents Convocation leaders will recognize this as triangulation: An attempt to ease tension between persons A and B, by getting another, C, to take sides. Triangles ease tension; hence, their ubiquity. For instance, I complain about my wife at work; I get irritations off my chest, and go home not even remembering last night's tiff. Gossip is often like that, a kind of social grooming where we play out relationship games of "Ain't It Awful." The next time you read an Ann Landers-type advice column, you have a lab for watching triangles at work — think of all those letters complaining about siblings or parents or ex-spouses! All too often triangles become a way of avoiding one another or even for ganging up on those we dislike.

Leaders need to think systemically, relationally all the time. When a parishioner comes to a Board member with a complaint, the Board member will absorb some anxiety and begin to fret. Sometimes the member feels a need to "fix" things, particularly as it relates to church staff (even more so as it relates to the Minister). When you start carrying someone else's emotional water, when you feel caught in the middle, you've been triangled. Now, no need to feel bad about that; as noted, it's inevitable for leaders.

The question is: How to manage and step out of the triangle? Managing triangles typically has some identifiable steps.

Let's take a typical member complaint brought to you about another member or staff person. The first thing to notice is you are being triangled — that is, the anxious member wants you to alleviate some of that anxiety by siding with them or taking their problem as yours. Just noticing helps you manage.

The second thing to ask is "Whose problem is this really? Is it mine?" Often Board leaders are sought out simply because the member does not know where else to go. Sending a member to someone who can actually address their concern is one kind of de-triangulation.

A powerful way to step out of the triangle is to listen slowly, carefully, ask clarifying questions to ensure you understand what the issue is, and then to say,

"What would you like me to do with this matter?" Quite often, the anxiety is relieved if the person just feels heard. "Oh, nothing, I just needed to blow off some steam about this. Thanks for caring." We all do that sort of thing about our parents, children, spouses, co-workers, and so on.

However, sometimes, the person needs direct help. That's when to employ our usual litany:

Have you spoken directly to A about your concern?

If they say "no" or don't know how, you say, "Well, would you like me to come with you to talk with A. I'm confident we can work this out."

However, as triangles often overlap, a single issue can be part of several. Before you know it, a whole bunch of folk are worrying. As anxiety increases, we seek out ever more people to be on our "side." This is the stuff of conflict in any relationship system. A good sign that you're caught in messy triangles is that you are just plain baffled and feel unexpectedly anxious about what to do. Murray Bowen said, when that happens, don't just do something, stand there. Here's the truth: sometimes things work themselves out if a leader does not add to the confusion with her/his own anxiety — usually expressed as needing to referee, taking ownership of the problem, or offering lots of help.

I need to stop here; this really is the material for a whole day's workshop. However, I want to lift up a good kind of triangle: It's called consulting. When a neutral party is invited into a tense relationship and temporarily holds the tension until it is bearable, people can begin to think through their differences more effectively. The consultant does not absorb the anxiety, but holds ontology enough for people to take their problem back and begin working on a resolution.

Your UUA staff do this kind of intervention in matters small (how to effectively do a program budget) and great (major conflict). Our Southern team is comprised of individuals with considerable skill in many areas of congregational life. If you are feeling tension and are becoming triangulated, that's a good time to pull us in. We'll be your coach and help you find the way to an easier, more loving encounter in congregational life.

As always, breathe, deep and slow!

by Rev. Kenneth Gordon Hurto, Lead Executive, UUA Southern Region Congregational Life Staff

Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War Comes to PBS Inspires Discussions of Refugees

On September 20, 2016 and in subsequent rebroadcasts, millions of Americans tuned in to watch *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War on PBS*. The film by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky tells the courageous story of two Unitarians who helped hundreds escape from Nazi-occupied Europe.

And today, Unitarian Universalists have been energized to carry on the Sharps' legacy, defying hate and fear in our own time.

Defying the Nazis received great media coverage in print, TV and radio. |Over 450 media placements created 1.1 billion impressions, sharing the Sharps' inspiring story far and wide.

Check out the highlights from the weeks leading up to the broadcast and watch Ken Burns and panelists connect the Sharps' story with today's global refugee crisis, the worst since WWII at

https://www.uua.org/pressroom/stories/defying-nazis-and-beyond.



Panelists look on as the Sharps Rescuer Prize is awarded at the "Answer the Call: Defying the Nazis and the Refugee Crisis" event on September 20, 2016 at Community Church of New York City.





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Edie and Marty McAnulty......954-294-4757

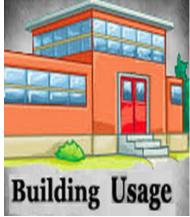
Doug Friend......954-424-1910

Endowment

UU Service Committee

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 - seduua.org

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

Please Patronize and refer the above Friends and Members of the Church as they support the us with their advertising. Make sure you tell them you saw their ad in The Journey.

November Birthdays

Erik Anderson 11/1
Phillip Morse 11/1
Ken Beier 11/2
Coral Horton 11/4
Colleen Coburn 11/28
Hannah Solis 11/30



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



November Calendar



Sat

Fri

Thu

Wed

Tue

Mon

Sun

	2	•9:00am - LifeNet4 Families Workday (See page 5) •7:30pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 6)	61	26	
CIDICII OI II. Landelanie	4	•7:00pm Second Friday Vespers Service - by Jeff Hutt (See page 5)	8	25	Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities"
	3 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	-7:00pm Mens Group -7:30 pm CUUPS	•7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	24 •1:00pm Luncheon Contact Jeff Hutt	Visit our on for late-bre www.u and "Coming
	2 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	6	91	23	30 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal
	_	8 Election Day	15	22	29
	Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4	7 •7:00pm - Board Meeting	4 •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee	21	28
	Every Sunday: 11:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education	•9:30am- UU Sisterhood •1:00am - Sunday Service •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day	• Journey Article Submission • Deadline • II:00am - Sunday Service • I:00pm - Caring Committee (See page 2)	•9:30am- UU Sisterhood •1:00am - Giving and Thanksgiving Special Sunday Service (See page 3) •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day	27 •11:00am - Sunday Service



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Minister: Rev. Susan M. Smith

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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

NOVEMBER 2016

November 6 - "Annual Samhain Service" by Donna Gutierrez - The wheel turns again and we come to the dark half of the year.

This is the time of introspection and ancestors. As we have done for the past 3 years we will have a service to recall, honor and communicate with our loved ones who have gone to the next world ahead of us. We invite you to bring photos and trinkets that help you recall your loved ones for the memorial altar. It's a somber but moving service. The choir will sing.

November 13 – "Gratitude as a Spiritual Discipline" by the Rev. Susan M. Smith.

In November, we turn to our sixth Unitarian Universalist source: "Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." "An attitude of gratitude" may sound like something from a self-help book, but it is also ancient wisdom, universal impulse and even a spa day for body and spirit.

November 20 – "Giving and Thanksgiving – A Stewardship Celebration" by the Rev. Susan M. Smith. Every member and friend is strongly urged to attend this celebration of how our combined gifts make this church what it is. 2017 giving commitments will be made during the service. Lunch will follow. (Please see Rev. Susan's Space page 3)

November 27 – "Whose Land Is This?" by the Rev. Susan M. Smith. The story of the First
Thanksgiving that we received as children, and the more historical perspective to which we have been exposed as adults are both human-centric and make of the earth just one more commodity.
Earth-centered traditions tell a different story entirely.

December 4 – "Give Peas a Chance" by Susan Moss - A no-guilt, no-shame service, exploring the vegan/vegetarian path from the perspectives of health/compassion/environmental/spiritual. A vegan lunch to follow!

