



## Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offermann '16

## October 2017: Theme — Curiosity/Imagination

### Mark's Trail

Rev. Mark Walz



Theater, more than film or TV, has the stronger appeal for me. Theater scripts that survive to be performed over and over, do so because of their unique quality. These special dramas and comedies live forever because of what they say about our human condition and our human journey.

And a great play that is re-staged through the years always has something new or revelatory to say to us, when performed for each new generation. I have often used some of these moments to build my sermons. Such as this from Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. His protagonist says, "Before a majority of people can know something to be true, one man must know it."

This line reminds me of our UU journey. We must always be listening to that new voice among us; each of us brings something of value to the community; each person's story is unique; and each contains hard-earned wisdom that makes us a better church.

And Moliere's play *The Misanthrope* has a special moment as well. It comes near the end and involves Moliere's protagonist *Alceste (the Misanthrope)* and his best friend *Philinte*. Alceste despises the phoniness and pretension of the times and wants to leave the company of men to find some remote, lifeless place where he can begin anew and speak from his heart with honesty and passion. Philinte answers his friend by pointing out that philosophy and virtue--so admired by Alceste--are the tools created by humans to survive the insanity of the world. That if everyone was honest and true, and exactly the same, we would have no need for humankind's best creations. In fact, Philinte insists, it is our ridiculousness that spurs our journey to an elevated state. I believe that religion is also one of those tools we have created to cope with a crazy world. Those of us who seek a religious community, know instinctively that we need a font of patience and grace to live in this world. We need a place where we can come as we are, dragging our disappointments behind us. We need time and space to share our experiences, collect our wits, and begin again. We need an enriching element to our lives that transcends the daily grind.

I have found it in our faith, and it is energized and enriched with you, in our lovely sanctuary here on Barcelona Road. Thank you.

See you in Church--

## President's Column

Penny Beed



All we need, all we need is hope  
And for that we have each other  
And we'll rise up, rise like the waves  
We'll rise up in spite of the ache  
We'll rise up... and we'll do it a thousand  
times again.

—Andra Day, "Rise Up"

The following essay by **Rev. Sean Parker Dennison** has resonated with me as I struggle to maintain hope for our country and world. I thought I would share it with you this month.

"I feel like I'm on a constant hunt for hope these days. I have to be: every time I look at my phone or open my laptop, I'm overwhelmed by stories of violence, disrespect for life, greed, and selfishness. When I listen to my friends and loved ones or to conversations in coffee shops, it feels like everyone is dispirited and disheartened. And that is dangerous.

The danger of hopelessness is a double danger. First, hopelessness makes us feel it's useless to take action. It fools us into believing there's nothing we can do, or that our efforts won't make a difference. Once we abandon hope, there's no stopping the momentum of the unscrupulous, who are willing to cooperate with evil in order to get ahead.

The other danger of hopelessness is that we can lose each other. In times of hopelessness, it's easy to get scared of everything and everyone. It's easy to start believing that your neighbor is the problem and that hoarding is a better strategy than generosity. The problem is that when community starts to break down, we lose the most important source of hope we have: each other.

The message of hope that still blazes bright for me in these hard times is that I am not alone. I don't have to face the world alone and I don't have to fix the world alone. When I need hope, I find it in on the faces of my people. I find it in their hearts, when we find each other again and stop hiding out, thinking we are the only one. I find it when we come together in community to sing, to bless one another, to mourn, to strategize. All we need is hope...and for that, we have each other."

*Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect.*

Samuel Johnson

## October Sundays at UUVC

**August Attendance: All Souls webcast: 40, UUVC: 416**

Share the Plate: Humane Society of Garland County: \$1,163.00

October Share the Plate:  
Project Hope Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

October 1, Worship, New Member Ceremony, Rev. Mark Walz

October 8, Insight, Rabbi Levy

October 15, Worship, Rev. Mark Walz

October 22, Insight, Jazz Service

October 29, Insight, Pat Farnum

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Pam Harrison

### NEW MEMBERS

It is with great joy that we welcome 7 New Members into our church family on October 1. They are: Katherine Wheeler, Janet & Mike Holt, Debbie Bostick, Tracey Arnaud, Susan Berkley and Becky Hamilton.



### 15 Years MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE

Ann Simpson – Oct. 6

Phil Simpson – Oct. 6

Pat Hearn – Oct. 16

### 25 Years MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE

Meg Koziar has been an active member of UUVC since October 4, 1992. Thank you, Meg!

### FAREWELL

Sadly we are saying goodbye to Madelyn and Robin Young. They are moving to Franklin, Tennessee. In his 14 years with UUVC Robin as served as President, Board member, Interfaith Council Representative, and as an Insight Speaker. We wish them well as they continue on their life journey. They will be missed.



## Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan



Through the first two months into our fiscal year, income exceeds budget by \$3,608 and expenses are under budget by an almost equal amount of \$3,159. Income variance tends to be related to those who are meeting their annual pledge commitments early in our fiscal year.

You may notice some changes when reviewing our August statements. The Finance and Board were in agreement to eliminate the Memorial Fund as a separate financial entity for tracking purposes within our financial statements. In the past, purchases by members of columbarium niches was recognized as income to the Memorial Fund, offset by future expenses for engraving. Additional expenses associated with our memorial plaque were also classified as an expense of the Memorial Fund.

We have simplified our accounting process by categorizing the cash balance in the Memorial Fund as a balance sheet liability. This now shows in account "27300 Columbarium/Plaque Maintenance" with a current balance of \$2,535. This account will be used as the mechanism for recognizing additional funding and offsetting expenses associated with memorial related transactions.

Another change implemented by the Finance and Board was refining the definitions of expenses associated with the Building Fund. Early on, at the time of the initial purchase of the UUVC church, any expenditure, no matter how small, was paid out of the building fund...rather than from operating expense. Now that the church is fully furnished, there was agreement that only expenses exceeding \$1,000 should be paid out of the Building Fund. Other small, expenditures are considered part of the normal operating procedures and will be funded out of the annual operating expense budget.

## SAVE THE DATE!!

On October 29, following the Sunday service there will be another Congregational Conversation with light lunch in the Community Hall. As before, your UUVC board will provide Subway sandwiches, drinks etc. Sign-up sheets will be in the Community Hall so that we know how many sandwiches to get.

While enjoying your Subway sandwich and nibbles we will hear Mary Ann Rittenmeyer share some highlights from a church music conference which she recently attended in Arlington, VA.

If time remains, our Rev. Mark Walz will be there to field some questions. By that Oct. 29th date Rev. Mark will have been our part-time minister for nearly three months.

## ART WALL CHANGEOVER

Daryl Wedwick



The final changeover of 2017 will take place on Friday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m. The rest of this should be familiar to all readers by now, but just in case there are some new readers (or some old readers who have mislaid their July newsletter), here are the details again.

The wall has room for 15 new works of two-dimensional art but we need at least seven to make it presentable. Each piece of art must be an original work signed by the artist who must be a UUVC Member or Friend. It must be appropriately framed and have a wire hanger; no sawtooth hangers, please. On the back of each work, the artist must attach a tag which lists the title, medium, the name and phone number of the artist, and the value of the work for insurance purposes. Please deliver the paintings, photographs, stained glass, quilts, etc. to the Community Hall by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 6. If that time is not convenient, perhaps you might be able to leave your artistic works in the church office earlier. The works of art currently on the wall may be picked up when your new ones are delivered.

 **Annual Jazz Service at 10:00**

**Sunday October 22, 2017** 

Featuring John Leisenring and the Spa City Stompers. Lots of great music that celebrates the spirit and spirituality of American Music. This year the focus will be on music with a happy, joyous theme: *Sunny Side Of The Street, It's A Wonderful World, Blue Skies, Hello Central, Get Me, Dr. Jazz,* and others. And of course, *When The Saints Go Marching In.*



## Coming Soon!!! HEALTHY LEADERSHIP 101

Penny Beed



Good news for those of you who would like to increase and sharpen your leadership skills! The UUA-offered course “Healthy Leadership 101” is being offered soon. UUVU has committed to paying the course fees for up to 10 people who would like to take the course. The format will be an independent online course, coupled with small group meetings at the church. There are 8 parts (modules) to the course and the information/work for each of those parts is released online every two weeks (which will take approximately 2 hours of work on the computer). Then, once a month for 4 months, the small group will meet at the church to discuss and process the learning together. If you are interested in taking the class with other UUVU folks, please contact Penny Beed at [pennybeed@gmail.com](mailto:pennybeed@gmail.com) or 501 209-2800.



## Social Action Committee

Meg Koziar

### Changing Attitudes the Key to Stemming Teen Pregnancy

Thanks to all those who contributed last month to the Village Outreach Shoe Fund. We’ve done our part to change the barefoot part, now let’s see if we can help with the pregnant part!

The October Share-the-Plate collection will be to assist a Project Hope program on Teen Pregnancy Prevention. While teen pregnancy has dropped throughout the world, it is still high in the U.S. Arkansas has a higher rate of pregnancy for girls ages 13-19 than any state except New Mexico. And, you might be surprised to learn, Garland County has more teen births than any county in Arkansas!



Comprehensive reproductive health education has been credited with successfully reducing teen pregnancy in the U.S., but getting the schools in Arkansas to adopt anything but ineffective abstinence-only programs has not happened. Project Hope (the Garland County organization which you might associate only with supplying food to local food pantries) aims to change that.

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program has a three-step approach: first, changing the attitude of the local adult population regarding reproductive health education. School Administrators will not adopt it until parents back it. The group has prepared a 12-minute presentation demonstrating the extent of the problem and introducing the solution, and are asking supporters to invite them to their organizations, whether civic groups, schools, or government bodies. Help with that if you can.

Funding is needed for the second and third phase: Second, to purchase samples of the variety of evidence-based curricula for the perusal of educators, administrators and parents. These cost from \$30 for a single teacher’s guide to \$550 for a classroom set. Third, to train teachers, vital to the success of any program.

Two members of the Hot Springs UU Church are leading this initiative, and will be here Oct. 1 to tell us more. Please be generous.

# What's Happening?

## DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS: Fall Cluster in Little Rock

Myra Rustin

Have you attended an AR UU Cluster yet--or are you ready to attend your first one? If you are unfamiliar with Cluster, its offerings reach out in many fine directions. Cluster gives UUs in Arkansas the ability to explore beyond what we do in our own congregations. Areas experienced are fellowship, education, support, and promoting UU values throughout the state.

The Unitarian Church of Little Rock (UUCLR) is hosting Fall Cluster on October 27 and October 28, under the title RACISM: NEW INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE. Program activities begin on Friday and 5:00 p.m. and end no later than Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Registration forms and more detailed schedule information are available by email request to [Arcluster@uuclr.org](mailto:Arcluster@uuclr.org). Please feel free to flag me down when you see me, call, or email me as well. I hope many of you will consider attending what looks like a great event.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock (UUCLR) invites all Arkansas Unitarian  
Universalists  
to

### **RACISM: NEW INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE**

October 27 & 28

More information will be sent soon, but we want to inspire you to put it on your calendar now.

Registration, Lodging Information, and Schedule can be obtained by email request to [Arcluster@uuclr.org](mailto:Arcluster@uuclr.org) and it will also be sent to your congregation.

### OFFERINGS

- ∞ Exciting programs with very accomplished speakers! You will want to be part of this conversation!
- ∞ Childcare provided if registration is received by October 13.
- ∞ Limited Home Hospitality, first-come, first-serve, \$40 per person or \$60 for two in a bed (helps defray Cluster costs), no meals provided.
- ∞ Registration due October 20: \$25 prepaid, \$30 door; Family with children - \$60 prepaid/\$70 door.
- ∞ Scholarships available for registration and for home hospitality (See third item!)
- ∞ Lots of delicious food – Heavy Hors d'oeuvres Friday, Light Breakfast and Lunch Saturday
- ∞ Special rates for motel
- ∞ Music
- ∞ Social time
- ∞ Starts Friday at 5:00 p.m. and is over no later than 4:00 Saturday.
- ∞ Everyone is invited to stay to hear Rev. Jan K. Nielsen at the pulpit on Sunday.

**Purpose of the AR UU Cluster:** The Arkansas UU Cluster gives member congregations the ability to do great things beyond what we do in our own congregations which include fellowship, education, support and promoting UU values throughout the state.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Contact [Arcluster@uuclr.org](mailto:Arcluster@uuclr.org) or call Cas Rifkin 501-454-3814. Please call if you do not receive a return email within 48 hours to let us know a problem exists.

## DOINGS AROUND THE CHURCH



UUVC entered a golf team in the 2017 Kiwanis Open Golf Tournament on September 16. We shot a blistering 67 and finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the tournament! Team members are from left to right: Tom Tirrell, Pam Harrison, Mary Ann Rittenmeyer and Dave Welch.



### Birthdays

10/1	Joyce Peebles
10/7	Janet Enders
10/7	Pati Trippel
10/9	Phyllis Johnson
10/9	Rev. Mark Walz
10/15	Elizabeth Foster
10/18	Dora Cialone
10/19	Martha Thomson
10/21	Cindy Nance
10/21	John Swinburn
10/23	Cliff Harrison
10/23	Joe Stout
10/24	Alicia Fetters
10/29	Julie Daniels
10/29	Michael Sowers
10/30	Janet Holt



### Anniversaries

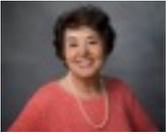
10/8	Pam & Cliff Harrison
10/20	Shirley & Court Mathey

*Curiosity is looking over other people's affairs,  
and overlooking our own.*

Herman Lincoln Wayland

## Social Committee

Cloe Bayer, Chair



The Social Committee met to discuss the upcoming Oktoberfest party, Thanksgiving dinner arrangements, and other miscellaneous items.

Upcoming field trips were mentioned. The possibility of our planned mid-April After Tax party being skipped, in order to give the Board an opening to schedule the Service Auction next spring was mentioned. The committee agreed to cede the date, if necessary, and we would reschedule this unique party to April 2019. We await input from the Board on this matter.



### Volunteer Luncheon



## Fourth Friday Film Fest

Cloe Bayer

MEGAN LEAVEY is based on the true-life story of a young marine corporal (played by Kate Mara) whose unique discipline and bond with her military combat dog saved many lives during their deployment in Iraq. When she is assigned to clean up the K9 unit after a disciplinary hearing, Leavey identifies with a particularly aggressive dog, Rex, and is given the chance to train him. Over the course of their service, Megan and Rex completed more than 100 missions until an IED explosion injures them, putting their fate in jeopardy. Some critics comments: "Quite touching and effective"; "Megan Leavey does the feel-good job it intends, an interesting story straightforwardly told"; "It's hard not to like a good, old fashioned, drawn from life girl-and-her-dog story"; "A very moving film that doesn't slip into melodrama or sentimentality, earning its tears from viewers honestly". If you agree that this sounds like a good choice for Movie Night, please join us on October 26 to see it with us. This movie is rated PG -13, and Rotten Tomatoes gives it a rating of 84% positive.



By the way, this movie will be the last one for 2017, with November and December being reserved for holiday celebrations in the fourth Friday time slot. When we resume showings in January, the choice will be "Maudie", another feel-good film you probably have never heard of, but everyone who's seen it, loved it.

## Resolve Your Conflicts

Steve Rittenmeyer

The Conflict Resolution Committee stands ready confidentially to assist members and friends in resolving disputes and misunderstandings with other congregants that affect their lives in church. For more information about the conflict resolution process, please contact:

Steve Rittenmeyer, 915-0575,  
SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu

or

Cloe Bayer, 922-3810,  
cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net



**In Memoriam**

## Conflict Resolution Committee

Tom Henderson

The Paper Re-Visited: The paper uses the Mission of the Paper to 'prove' that we should not "presume" that just complaining about something doesn't necessarily mean that we should or shouldn't complain.



Just as complaining about some mission doesn't mean we should or shouldn't complain. That's a whole different question on a whether to complain or not. Just as Rev. Mark Walz says, "we should not be BAMBOOZLED."

Or as CLOE BAHER says, we shouldn't be "GLIB", about our proposals.

Cheers, Tom H.

*Imagination rules the world.*  
Napoleon I (Bonaparte)

## Book Corner

Bette Clark

*Braiding Sweetgrass*, new in our library:

We modern Americans inherited from our European ancestors a few simple truths from the people who greeted them when Europeans came to occupy American soil, such as the best way of growing corn and such. However, author Robin Wall Kimmerer has so much more of native wisdom to share in stories of how those, who were here first, view their relationship to the land.

As we Unitarian-Universalists move with courage into the future, there is much to be learned from these stories from the past and from those who today put into practice those principles that sing loud and clear the message of the 7th affirmation of our covenant: "RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART."

With tales from across the continent, Kimmerer, Professor of Environmental Biology and citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, capture the beauty of nature that will touch the softest part of your heart while turning your mind to the necessity for survival to uphold that principle in our daily lives.

Try it. You'll love it.



**Find us on Facebook: UUVC**

**Try the UUVC Website:**  
[www.uuvc.org](http://www.uuvc.org)

# Interest Groups (IGs)

Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator



Enjoy the company of people with a similar interest by participating in one of the Interest Groups (IG). Stop by the IG table on Sunday mornings to check out the folders that provide information about each group. It's great to participate in more than one.

Also, if you have a special interest that is not currently represented, contact me (501-781-8489 or email: [vzuege@gmail.com](mailto:vzuege@gmail.com)) to inquire about starting a new group.

## Game Night



Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (October 14). Game night will be held @ **5:00 PM**. We will eat first and play games afterwards. Bring a dish to share. It's always a surprise! (Marjorie Lakey)

## Fourth Friday Film Fest

Please watch the bulletin for information on the film selection but please mark October 27, at 7pm on your calendars for the next film night. (Cloe Bayer)



## Grief Support Group

The Grief Support group is taking a hiatus. However, if you would like to have a one-on-one conversation about some subject relating to grief/loss, you may contact Liz Miller at 922-5457.



## Meatless Lunch Group

Meatless Lunch Group will hold its organizational meeting Oct 9th @ Laura Nick's house. We will meet at 11:00 and decide which day and time works best for the group. There are no officers, dues or other meetings. We will enjoy a potluck of non-meat dishes and share recipes. It's a time to laugh, get to know each other better and enjoy different dishes. There will be a sign up sheet on the IG table. Please contact Sue Loberg, [suecloberg@gmail.com](mailto:suecloberg@gmail.com) or 204-2597 with any questions.



## Table Tennis

Table Tennis will resume sometime in the fall. Look for the announcement on the calendar.

## Mah Jongg



Ronnie Zuege is offering Mah Jongg lessons and play on Tues nights. Contact her at 922-3878 for further information.

*He who has imagination without learning  
has wings and no feet.*

Joseph Joubert

*The world of reality has its limit; the  
world of imagination is boundless.*

Frederick Williams Robertson