



THE UU-LINK

January 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

January Services

January 1

So What's In Your New Year?

Rev. Robin Capoor

Join Rev. Capoor & her unique team of Worship Creators to ring in the New Year! Expect the unexpected.

January 8

Prophets Are People, Too

Emma Finkle

Many prophets of days gone by were ordinary, run-of-the-mill folk called upon to use their words and deeds to build a better future. As we ring in 2017, how can we develop our own UU brand of self-fulfilling prophethood to bring about a more just, peaceful, and loving world?

January 15

Extremists for Love

Rev. Libby Smith

When Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was accused of being an extremist, he suggested that our world was in "dire need of creative extremists." In these divisive times, what does it mean for us, like King, to be extremists for love?

January 22

Prophecy 101

Sue Weber

What does prophecy mean in the different world religions? One definition is to forecast or predict the future. How do we have the power to shape this future for ourselves.

January 29

To Tell the Truth

Rev. Libby Smith

We may think of prophecy as foretelling the future, but often it is more a matter of waking up to what is all around us, seeing clearly and naming what we see.

DonSense – by Rev. Don Garrett (Rev. Garrett is on sabbatical January -February. This column comes from our SoulMatters partners)

Our Theme for January:

What Does It Mean to Be Community of Prophecy?

Prophets are known for their condemnation. Images of an angry bearded man shouting and predicting God's judgment come to mind. But for Unitarian Universalists, the prophetic voice has always been less about shouting "You're evil!" and more about pointing out "We're all asleep!" The prophetic message, for us, is not so much "Repent!" but "Wake up!"

Recent political events are relevant here. On election day, many of us realized we had been living in a bubble. We existed in an echo chamber but told ourselves we had a clear picture of the world. Whether it was class, condescension or comfort, something distorted many people's view.

And so if election day was about realizing we were asleep in a bubble, the question on Inauguration Day becomes, Are we ready to wake up? And let's be clear: this is not a politically partisan thing; liberals and conservatives both have a ton of waking up to do. One unemployed Michigan factory worker was quoted after the election saying, "I vote Republican because I won't vote for anyone who doesn't see and respect me." On the other side of the political fence, black, Latino, Muslim and LGBT families are struggling with real fear about what's been unleashed and what may be unleashed against them. And they are wondering if this country will wake up to and take their fear seriously.

Bottom line: we need prophetic communities now more than ever. As Rebecca Parker says, we need circles of brave and bold people who are willing "to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what they know." Which means that being a community of prophecy is not just about helping people wake up to each other's realities and fears; there is also the matter of waking up to and being wide-eyed about the need for resistance. Most of the time, holy work is about finding common ground among differing world views. But sometimes, holy work is about prophetic judgment and knowing when some views need opposed. As that activist said, "I am not crushed. I am awake."

So many ways to wake up. So many people who need us to do so. Sleep is no longer a luxury. In the end, maybe that is the most prophetic message of all.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I just got back from dropping my sister off at the Philadelphia airport to go spend Christmas with her daughter in New Orleans. On the trip down, we had a long discussion about various happenings at the UUCLV...a wonderful opportunity for me to think about, talk about, and clarify some things for myself.

The day before was the Sunday I spoke to the congregation about the Transformational Planning effort underway. One of the points in my talk (and to my sister) was that a goal of our work is to strengthen the foundation of love within the congregation to enable us to nurture our souls and to grow by encouraging others to come and be nurtured among us.

Patrick Lencioni, the organizational consultant whose work is guiding our efforts, notes that the leaders of healthy organizations make decisions by identifying all viewpoints. Where there is disagreement, successful leaders manage the process by allowing all views to be heard, discussing all relevant points, and then coming to a decision by consensus.

Here's the hard part: after the decision is made, ALL of the leaders must unite in support of the decision, **even if they disagreed with the majority opinion (i.e., "lost the vote")**. After all, one of our seven principles is: "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large". Our leaders at the UUCLV *must* accept the decisions borne of consensus for the good of the UUCLV. To continue to proclaim a minority viewpoint only invites dissention and bitterness and, in the long term, undermines the organizational health of the congregation...and, if we are not a healthy organization, our ability to nourish our souls and to offer that nourishment to others will be compromised. So, who are our "leaders"? Does the process only apply to the Board of Trustees? Certainly not. Leaders include the board, minister, staff, committee chairs, and committee members; in short, everyone who accepts a role in the workings of the UUCLV.

As we enter a new year, please ponder your role(s) in the life of the congregation and reflect (Dare I say "pray"?) about how you can help the UUCLV become a more fertile spiritual garden in 2017. Make it a New Year's resolution to think about your relationships with other individuals in the congregation and how you can

move toward improving the love and respect that nurtures those relationships. Then, after you ponder, pray, and think, please act...for the good of the congregation.

Peace and Love, **Bob**

2ND ANNUAL UUCLV CHILI COOK-OFF - JANUARY 21ST!

The Second Annual UUCLV Chili Cook-Off Saturday, January 21st in the gym. To benefit the biannual Coming of Age Boston Trip . Time: dinner is from 4:30 to 6:30pm; games to follow from 6:30 to 9pm.

The cost of the event is \$10 per adult and \$6 per child or \$30 per family. This includes chili, salad, bread, beverages and dessert. It is followed by games, music and merriment. To sign up to make a chili, please contact Brian Hartlaub at brianhartlaub76@gmail.com. We want all types of chili from all bean, vegetarian, turkey, gluten free, spicy, sausage, and many more.

SHARED PLATE FOR JANUARY

The Shared Plate for January is Doctors Without Borders. Founded in 1971 as a "without borders" movement, it is an international alliance made up of mainly dedicated doctors and health workers providing assistance to victims of disaster and armed conflict irrespective of race, religion, creed or political convictions.

THE UU-LINK

The UU-Link is published and mailed monthly, and is also available on our website.

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We're on the web at www.uucvpa.org

JANUARY HOSPITALITY REPORT

We will start 2017 with hospitality provided by the North group led by Dora Davenport. If you live in zip codes 18017, 18031, 18032, 18051, 18052, 18059, 18067, 18078, or 18080 please sign up to be a greeter, usher, donate flowers or provide some snacks when the invitation arrives in your in box from SignUp.com. We welcome your children to join you to greet or "ush." Snacks do not need to be homemade, store bought is just fine. Thank you for making our Sunday morning welcoming for members and visitors. Please direct any questions to hospitality_north@uuclvpa.org

PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Our current UUCLV Church Directory and 2016-17 UUCLV User Guides can be picked up at the Welcome Table during Coffee Hour, following the Sunday service.

THE 2017 UUCLV FOURTH FRIDAY FILM SERIES

January 27, 7:15 PM

Requiem for the American Dream

The film and discussion will focus on the history of the American Dream and why it is fading for the 99%.

February 24, 7:15 PM

Planetary: Reconnect to Something Bigger

The film and discussion looks at our relationship with our environment and the world around us.

March 24, 7:15 PM

Program on Democracy in the 21st Century: Is Everyone Represented?

Using short videos, we discuss gerrymandering reform, how to get more involved in elections/voting, and minimizing the role of money in politics.

April 28, 7:15 PM

We're Not Broke: Corporate Tax Cheats of America

The film looks at our economic/political system which cuts public programs to allow for greater profits for economic elites.

JANUARY BREAKFAST FORUM

January 1

Bertrand Russell, Public Intellectual

Peter Stone, Presenter

Stone, Ussher Assistant Professor of Political Science at Trinity College Dublin, will discuss "Bertrand Russell, Public Intellectual," a new anthology co-edited by Stone and Tim Madigan. The book introduces Russell as a public figure and surveys his life as a public intellectual.

January 8

Birth of Islam, Pt. 3

Cari Poole, Presenter

We'll watch the last segment of a documentary about Islamic growth produced by PBS and narrated by Ben Kingsley covering the history of the Ottoman Empire and its ambitious sultans through the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent.

January 15

3D Animation

Nick Zabolotnyi, Presenter

Join us for an insight of how 3-D animation plays a role in today's growing entertainment and tech industries. Nick, a Savannah College of Art and Design graduate, discusses and explores how the medium is being shaped for our viewing pleasure

January 22

Healthy Eating in 2017

Anne Walker, Presenter

Part 2 of "What in the World Should We Be Eating?" (June 2016). Why is food advice always changing? How do I know which advice to take? How can I make healthy eating simpler and more appealing? Recipes, ideas, and tips will be shared. Anne Walker is a certified Health Coach and a retired public health administrator.

January 29

The Front Porch Project:

Preventing Child Abuse is Everyone's Business

Donna Novak, Presenter

FPP is a community-based program that teaches participants how and when to safely respond when they're concerned about a child in their neighborhood or in a public place. Novak, a Community Health Nurse Practitioner at the Bethlehem Health Bureau, will describe this initiative and invite group discussion about how we can help protect our community's children.



FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

There are some exciting programs starting in January – one class is for adults

interested in exploring their relationship with their religious past through the program *Owning Your Religious Past*. This class is not just for people new to UUism. I was raised Unitarian Universalist but growing up, my congregation was quite science oriented. Ideas like faith and mystery were missing from my religious upbringing. My religious past, even though UU, is different from where I am now. Although I still consider scientific inquiry to have a religious component, I have added other beliefs and values that were not part of my childhood religious development. I look forward to co-facilitating this class with Robin Capoor and uncovering other ways that my beliefs have evolved.

The other class is for Kindergarteners and first graders and their parents – Our Whole Lives for K-1st grade. Our Whole Lives nurtures and supports the three R's of early childhood sexuality education: *Respect, Relationships and Responsibility*. Some goals of the Our Whole Lives for Grades K-1 program are:

- To strengthen each child's sense of self and self-esteem.
- To help children understand the place of sexuality in human life and loving.
- To help children gain an understanding and accurate information about human sexuality, reproduction and gender identification.
- To help children prepare for the normal changes they will experience as they grow and develop.

The RE Committee will be reaching out to parents of Kindergarten and first graders. We hope to have a successful start to this new program.

In faith, **Jansen Wendell**,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
(lec@uucvpa.org)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

ANNUAL MULTI-GENERATIONAL CHILI COOK-OFF AND GAMES NIGHT

On Saturday, January 21st, join us with a batch of your home made chili and your favorite games for an evening of festivities, fun and flavors. See details Page 2.

OUR WHOLE LIVES: KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE:

(First class on Sunday, February 5th.)

Our Whole Lives curricula exist for age levels from K-1 all the way to Adult. The award-winning curriculum is regularly offered for our Middle School students. This winter we will offer it for our Kindergarten and first grade students. This program nurtures and supports the three R's in early childhood sexuality education: *Respect, Relationships and Responsibility*. Following a Parent Meeting and Parent/Child Orientation, the 8 sessions engage children with stories, songs and activities and include a weekly HomeLink - a homework project for parents and children to do together. It promotes dialogue between parent and child. Contact Jansen Wendell at lec@uucvpa.org if you are interested.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

OWNING YOUR RELIGIOUS PAST

(1st session is Sunday, January 8 at 9:00am, RE library)

A 5-session class for members who are new to UUism and those who have been long-term UU's. This program is designed to help participants articulate and come to terms with their religious upbringings and integrate them into their current religious lives.

MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

(Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30, the Community Room)

With the help of conscious breathing, we are able to touch and be nourished by the peace and joy that are available within and around us, in the here and now. With continued practice, we shall touch and understand the roots of the pain that lie deep within us, such as fear, anger, despair, thus making transformation and healing possible. Contact Rev. Don Garrett at minister@uucvpa.org, or Janice Lovegrove, co-leader 610-882-1136, for more information.

LONG STRANGE TRIP: 2000 YEARS OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY (DVD series):

This 6 DVD set traces the history and evolution of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the merger of the two into today's Unitarian Universalism. If you want to find out how our "Uncommon Denomination" came to be what it is today, from roots in the Reformation, to the American Revolution to the Civil War to the Transcendentalist Movement to the present, these movies are entertaining and captivating. Contact Jansen Wendell to arrange to borrow DVD's.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR: JANUARY 2017

Jan 1: Multi-generational worship service; no Religious Education classes

Jan 8: Story for All Ages followed by regular RE classes; RE Committee meeting in rm. 212 at 9:00 am

Jan 15: Multi-generational service: Martin Luther King

Jan 21 (Saturday): annual chili cook-off & games night.

Jan 22: Story for All Ages followed by regular RE classes

Jan 29: Story for All Ages followed by regular RE classes and Chinese Dragon parade.

Jan 29: K-1st Our Whole Lives parent meeting at 12:00 noon in room 208

WHY THIS CHURCH/ WHY THIS FAITH

"Why this Church/Why this Faith" (formerly New UU) is a class for anyone who wants to learn more about our church and the Unitarian Universalist faith. If you are considering becoming a member, or just want to learn more and meet some of our folks, this is the class for you!

There are two Winter classes. Class 1 is on Sunday Jan 29, 2017 at noon following coffee hour in room 304. Class 2 is more in depth and is on Sunday Feb 5, same time and place. They will last no more than 90 minutes and include lunch and childcare! Ceremony to become members is on Feb 12 during the service with a potluck lunch to follow. For more information please stop by the Welcome Table during coffee hour. Email Cari at fyicp@yahoo.com for snow dates or more information.

JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSION

Our next book discussion is **January 8th** at 12:00 noon in the RE Library. The book for January is *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance. Mr. Vance offers a compassionate, discerning analysis of the people who feel left behind. He tells us of the feelings which have driven the politics of rebellion. Please join us. For more information, please contact discussion@uuclvpa.org

FEBRUARY MEN'S GROUP

There will be no January meeting of the UUCLV Men's Group. Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6 in the FM kitchen. The discussion topic will be what we expect individually for the New Year. Do you have any "resolutions?" Is there anything you would like to accomplish or improve in yourself this year? Have there been any resolutions made and actually kept in the past that have influenced your life.

The UUCLV Men's Group is open to all men affiliated with the UUCLV and their male friends. Please bring food and/or beverage to be shared. For information: men@uuclvpa.org or Frank Claps at [610-346-7629](tel:610-346-7629).

JOIN US FOR A LINK PIZZA PARTY!

Consider yourself invited to join us for the monthly UU-Link Pizza & Mailing Party! Every month, volunteers meet in the FM kitchen at 12 noon on the 2nd Wednesday after the 3rd Sunday of the month for Link-folding, labeling, socializing and fresh, delicious pizza from Lehigh Pizza. If you'd like to join in the fun and help out, just RSVP to the office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org.

THANKS TO YOU!

Through its shared collection plate each Sunday, UUCLV contributed to these social concerns organizations during the last five months

July: Community Bike Works - \$207.00
August: Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley - \$143.00
September: UUPLAN - \$193.00
October: Lehigh County Conf. of Churches - \$183.00
November: Global Mamas - \$221.00

Your continuing generosity is greatly appreciated.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." -- Winston Churchill

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Rev. Garrett Joins with Community Leaders in Promoting Respect

An Interfaith Statement Against Bigotry and Division

As interfaith leaders in the Lehigh Valley, we are aware of a climate of tension and anxiety in our community and nation. We lift our voices together, as people of faith, to call upon all people to remember that we are all Americans, who are not merely united by the concord of our national polity but we are called to build the "Beloved Community."

As faith leaders, we commit to overcome hatred and discrimination in our communities, schools and places of worship. We are deeply troubled by actions and language that vilify persons based upon their race, nationality, faith, gender or sexual orientation; we reject the targeting of particular groups in our society, and the promotion of hatred and fear. We unapologetically witness against bigotry and bullying that targets individuals because of their identity or faith expression. We acknowledge that there is a global state of division and discord, fueled by intolerance and xenophobia. As people of faith we challenge this dynamic and express our witness against it.

Our faith traditions — Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist — call us to love our neighbor, reconcile with our enemies, and strive for the inclusion of all in our communities, especially the most vulnerable. We share with all Americans the responsibility for creating a society where our differences are respected, where dialogue on critical community concerns is the norm, and collective action for the common good transcends our narrow agendas. We yearn for a time when all our people can live and work in mutual respect, while advancing the well-being of our communities and nation.

Our role as leaders is to proclaim by what we say and what we do that God is a God of love, and we are people of love-for all of God's children. In order to further our witness, we therefore encourage people throughout the Lehigh Valley to commit ourselves specifically:

To act respectfully toward others, including those representing other faith, and ideological perspectives.

To refrain from personal attacks on individuals or groups while maintaining the right to vigorously disagree.

To set an example for our youth to find ways to peacefully settle disputes and refrain from acts of bigotry and bullying.

We also call upon members of our faith communities to participate responsibly, respectfully, and faithfully in community building. We urge listening to diverse voices, dialoguing with people across faith and racial boundaries, and creating opportunities to break down walls of division, while creating bridges of hope within our community.

WE ARE NOT ALONE – Signed December 2016:

Dr. Jack Felch, Executive Director, Lehigh Conference of Churches; Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens, Ecumenical Director, Lehigh Conference of Churches; Chaplain George Altounian, Center Valley; Rev. Dr. Becky J. Beckwith, Sr. Pastor, St. Johns UCC, Fullerton; David E. Bennett, President, Moravian Church, Eastern District; Timothy Bingham, The Interfaith Action Committee, the Lehigh Conference of Churches, Allentown; Rev. Sherry Blackman, Pastor, Presbyterian Church of the Mountain, Delaware Water Gap; Ms. Janice Bonge, Member, first Presbyterian Church (USA), Bethlehem; Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope, Director, Pastoral Care Services, Phoebe Ministries, Allentown; Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope, Pastor, St. Matthew's United Church of Christ, Kunkletown; Rev. Dr. Carol S. Brown, Vice Moderator, Lehigh Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA); Rizwan Butt, President Eastern Phillipsburg Muslim Association, Easton; Rev. Ruth Ann Christopher, Minister of Word & Sacrament, Faith United Presbyterian Church, Pen Argyl; Rev. Tom Cormier, Co-chair, the Interfaith Action Committee, the Lehigh Conference of Churches; Dr. Irving Cotto, Superintendent, Northeast District, Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; Mike Drake, Pastor for Mission, First Presbyterian church PC (USA), Allentown; Rev. Samantha Drennan, Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Macungie; Rev. David Duquette, Pennside Presbyterian Church, Pennside; Rev. Stephen T. Emick, Pastor, Spiritual Formation and Discipleship, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Suleyman Eris, President, Respect Graduate School, Bethlehem; Rev. Dr. William Falla, Dept. of Philosophy/Religion, Moravian College; Ms. Karen Fitzpatrick, SGI Buddhist, Lehigh Valley; Bishop Juan A. Garcia, Administrative Bishop, Church of God, Northeast Region; **Rev. Don Garrett, Minister, The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley**, Bethlehem; The Rt. Rev. J. Christian Giesler, Pastor, Emmaus Moravian Church, Emmaus; Mark L. Goldstein, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley; Rev. Elizabeth Goudy, Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem; Mr. Orhan Guven, Director of Lehigh Dialogue Center, Bethlehem; Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Pastor of Pastoral Care, First Presbyterian Church (USA) Allentown; Dr. Brett Hendrickson, Ph.D., Assist. Prof., Religious Studies, Lafayette College, Easton; Mr. David W. Hohe, Ruling Elder/Clerk of Session, Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua; The Rev. Canon Laura Thomas Howell, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem; Rev. Anne G. Huey, Spiritual Services Manager, St. Luke's Hospice and Member of the Lehigh Presbytery, The Presbyterian Church (USA), Bethlehem; Ms. Laura A. Huffard,

Member, First Presbyterian Church Bethlehem, PC (USA); Rev. Michael Iski, Pastor, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Allentown; Minister Marian J. Johnson, Interfaith Minister, Blue Sky Ministries, Lehigh Valley; Rev. Dianne Kareha, Retired, Presbyterian church (USA), Allentown; Mohammed Khaku, Islamic Community Activist, Upper Macungie Township; Elder Paul A. Lucia, Facilitator, Upper Tier Congregations of Lehigh Presbytery; Rev. Joanne Marchetto, Pastor, The Barn, Allentown; Rev. Alan C. Miller, Conference Minister, Penn Northeast Conference, United Church of Christ, Allentown; Ed Miller, Board Member, the Lehigh Conference of Churches, Allentown; Rev. Karen Moeschberger, St. John United Church of Christ, Allentown; Rev. Jamie Moyer, Chaplain, Phoebe Richland-Phoebe Ministries, Richlandtown; Rev. Kari A. Olson, Pastor, Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church, Summit Hill; Rev. Judi Painter, Community Ministry, Allentown; Shree Patel, Youth Director, Shree Swaminarayan Spiritual & Cultural Center – Anoopam Mission, Coplay; Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Mayor, City of Allentown; Peter Petit, Director, the Institute for Jewish Christian Understanding, Muhlenberg College; Seth Phillips, Rabbi, Keneseth Israel, Allentown; Ms. Christy Potter-Kass, Student Pastor, Ordination Candidate, Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church, Brodheadsville; Mohammad Rajmohamed, Trustee, Al ahad Islamic center, South Whitehall Township; Rev. Janet Rice, Pastor, Calvary Moravian Church, Allentown; Don Robertson, First Presbyterian church Bethlehem, PC (USA), Steering Committee, Allentown; Linda C. Robertson, First Presbyterian Church Bethlehem, PC (USA), Steering Committee, Allentown; James K. Robinson, Retired Elder of Faith Presbyterian Church, Emmaus; Rev. Scott M. Sanders, Pastor, Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Alburtis; Rev. Lee Schleicher, Pastor, United Church of Christ, Allentown; Rev. Steve Shussett, Pastor, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown; Kamran Siddiqui, President, the Muslim Association of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown; Rev. Cynthia Leslie Simmons, Retired Pastor, Presbyterian Church (USA), Bethlehem; Rev. Dr. Stephen Simmons, Assistant Professor, Moravian Theological Seminary; Rev. R.C. Smith, Pastor, College Hill Presbyterian Church, Eason; The Rev. Twila Smith, Grace Episcopal Church, Episcopal Church of the Mediator and Refugee Community Center, Allentown; Ms. Gloria Snyder, Musician, First Presbyterian Church, Easton; Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuels, Pastor, Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, Rev. Sharon Holt Harfman, Church of the Manger, United Church of Christ, Bethlehem; Rev. dr. Lloyd Steffen, University Chaplain and Director, Dialogue Center, Lehigh University; Rev. John Steitz, Interfaith Coordinator, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Delaware Valley; Rabbi Danielle Stillman, Director of Jewish Student Life and Associate Chaplain, Lehigh University; Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Pastor, Salem UMC, Springtown; Cantor Ellen Sussman, Temple Shirat Shalom, Allentown; Aqeel Syed, Outreach Director, the Muslim Association of the Lehigh Valley; Richard R. Thompson and Ellen (Froy) H. Thompson, Resting Elders and Members of First Presbyterian Church PC (USA) Bethlehem; The Rev. Danon Maria W. E. Tjelveit, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, Allentown; canon for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Diocese of Bethlehem; Rev. Beth Utley, Pastor, first Presbyterian Church, Stroudsburg; Rev. Mardy von Harten, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Allentown; Robert Walden, Chairperson, Justice and Advocacy Committee, the Lehigh Conference of Churches; Mr. Jack Walker, First Presbyterian Church (USA), Bethlehem; Kevin Wartell, Cantor, Temple Beth-El, Allentown; Ms. Gail Watts, Member, First Presbyterian Church (USA), Bethlehem; Rev. Lisa H. Weida, Hospital Chaplain, Allentown; Linda Wisser, Director of Church Growth and Development, Emmaus Moravian Church, Emmaus; Rev. Dr. Susan Pizor Yoder, Pastor, The Barn Faith Community; Bishop Samuel Zeiser, Bishop, Northeast Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WE LIT UP THE NIGHT!

Dora Davenport, Robin Capoor and Margo Dixon bagged up 80 white paper bags, put 1 cup of sand and a votive candle in each, and our friend Ben, a resident of New Bethany Ministries, helped set them around the outside of our building on Saturday, December 10. At dusk, we came back and lit up the corner at Center and Wall. Next year, we need a new work force. Here is a history of the New Bethany Ministries fund raiser, which UUCLV has participated in for several years:

A Brief History of Bethlehem's Luminaria Night:

Luminaria Night started 19 years ago in the neighborhood west of Linden Street and north of Johnston Drive. Three neighbors wanted to recreate the tradition of connecting homes with the light of luminaria at the holidays. To determine an interest in participating, they sent a letter to about 60 homes, explaining the nature of the event and the cost of luminaria kits. Through the sale of kits, they raised \$300 that first year, all donated to a family in need. In the early years of the event, several charities benefited from Luminaria Night. Among them was New Bethany Ministries, which provides meals, financial services, and housing to poor, hungry, homeless and mentally ill individuals and families in the Valley. Because the founders of the event were so impressed with the outreach of New Bethany, they decided to affiliate themselves permanently in 2003. Since then, Luminaria Night has added new neighborhoods each year. In 2015, we lit up over 3,500 homes and businesses, raising over \$82,000 for New Bethany Ministries. From a desire to connect with neighbors and light up a small neighborhood at the holidays, Luminaria Night has grown to a valley-wide collaboration illuminating many neighborhoods in a beautiful evening of light and giving.

Next year the fund raising goal is \$90,000. We want to keep up our presence, in the Community. If you would like your family to be part of the UUCLV Luminaria Night team in 2017, contact Dora or Margo to volunteer for the future. We are more than ready to retire!

SAVE THE DATE!

February 12, 2017 is the date for the first Second Sunday concert of 2017. The artist is pianist Clipper Erickson presenting An All-American Celebration – works by well-known and not-so-well-known American composers. More details coming in the next UU-Link – watch for them!

