



THE UU-LINK

May 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

May Services

May 1

Coming of Age

Jansen Wendell

Our middle school youth have been working hard all year and will share their "credo statements" with the congregation.

May 8

The Great Mother

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll honor Mothers' Day by honoring the mother of us all: Earth.

May 15

Creating a Beloved Community

We'll take a look at what it is that makes a church a success.

May 22

Bridging

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll honor and support our high school senior as they embark on a new phase of life.

May 29

Thank You for Your Service

Rev. Robin Capoor

Be a part of our grateful recognition of the men and women who have served protecting and defending our nation this Memorial Day Sunday.

DonSense – by Rev. Don Garrett

Compassion is our theme for this month, but I want to use my space this month to lift up the fine work our staff has been doing for us. There have been a lot of questions as to what they do – not surprising, since much of what they do is behind the scenes. So here's a peek behind the curtain.

Kate Scuffle, Church Administrator. Kate is our "everything" person. She maintains our database, coordinates publication of the UU-Link newsletter, our order of service and weekly bulletin, as well as special publications as they arise, including our Annual Report & Users Guide. One of her big responsibilities is to facilitate communication, answering phone calls & emails from the general public, church members and friends, as well as church leadership, forwarding information and messages to the appropriate group, person, or staff member. She maintains files of church records. She orders office supplies and oversees the maintenance of all our office equipment. She also monitors and maintains our church calendar including room reservations and scheduling.

But over and above all this, Kate is our primary contact for all of our renters, both short and long-term. This entails a great deal of contact and even negotiation with the public. She advertises and represents our space as well. She works with Jansen to make sure they have everything they need.

Jansen Wendell, Director of Lifespan Religious Education & Sexton. Jansen's primary responsibility is to supervise our children's Religious Education program. He makes sure that children are properly registered, collects and compiles attendance data. He is our first contact for parents and is always ready to hear their feedback. Jansen works with the RE Committee to select and prepare our various curricula as well as evaluation of the programs. He maintains RE records, recruits, trains & supervises all the volunteers for our program. And he is also responsible for running background checks on all volunteers working with children in our church – a new state mandate that is time-consuming and extensive.

And Jansen also has the new role of performing our Church Sexton duties as well, a list of responsibilities so long that it boggles the mind.

And this is just a brief overview. Both of them actually do far more than this. I'd like to share my deep gratitude and appreciation for all that Kate & Jansen do for our church. They work hard and their dedication shows. We couldn't do it all without them.

See you in church.

– Don

FROM THE PRESIDENT



For the past six years, our congregation has been led by Rev. Don. I had joined UUCLV about three years earlier, just as the tenure of the prior minister was ending and we entered a two-year period of interim ministry.

From the time he arrived, I have felt fortunate to have a spiritual leader who is not only a source of excellent Sunday sermons, but who goes beyond that effort to participate in many other ways in our spiritual life as a congregation and in our congregation's presence in the larger UU community and the Lehigh Valley community as a whole. So what, besides sermonizing, does the minister do? Here are some examples.

On the "office" side, Rev. Don is the staff supervisor, and meets weekly with staff. Other meetings he regularly attend include Board of Trustees, Program Council, Worship, and Committee on Ministry. (If you don't like attending meetings, avoid seminary) He sings regularly with our choir and performs on several instruments. He has written op-ed pieces for the local paper, and participated in community justice events. Each month, he prepares a theme for discussion prior to meetings, an exercise in listening and sharing. He is active in Religious Education, co-leading Mindfulness Practice and implementing the Lay Listener group.

He has helped many congregations in our district in their search for a new minister by serving as the UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative. He participates in the Emergency Shelter during winters and is an active participant in Lehigh Valley Resettlement effort.

Of course, there are the many needs of our members to address. From rituals of passage like marriage and memorials to hospital and home visits, Don is available for counsel and advice.

But all details aside, I feel that Rev. Don calls us to be our better selves, to see beyond our self-interest and practice compassion towards the world. That's the leader I was looking for. Thanks, Don

Cheers -- **Ellen Bell**, Board President

THINGS TO DO WITH UU'S

The following opportunities were offered at our November service auction. These events offer food, fun and fellowship, and still have openings. Look at your calendar and consider these options. You can email Dora Davenport at doradavenport@msn.com or speak to her at church for additional information. Please let her know which you would like to attend. Thank you!

Friday, May 6: Seafood Dinner

Seafood Dinner serving the freshest seafood available and featuring Ellen's "Nana's Crab Cakes" along with variety of side dishes. If anyone has any fish related allergies, please let Ellen know in advance. Ellen Bell & Phil Reiss dinner will be at their new home location in Moravian Village - Bethlehem. - 6:00 pm May 6, 2016 - ROOM FOR ONLY 1 MORE - \$25 per person.

Saturday, May 7: Kentucky Derby Dinner

Drink Mint Juleps and eat Derby Pie and Kentucky fare including Burgoo - the same dish served at the track at Churchill Downs. Also offer a vegan version & gluten free cornbread. Bring your Derby hat and \$2 to bet. This is the first leg of the Triple Crown - Maybe you will pick the next American Pharoah! At the home of Robin Brumfield - 5:00 pm, May 7, 2016 - STILL ROOM FOR MORE - \$35 per person.

Saturday, May 21: An Italian Classic Dinner

Three types of pasta, seafood, vegetable and meat. Antipasto and vino, a totally Italian classic dinner. Dessert and espresso - relax at the home of Bobbe & Alex Baggio with an enjoyable meal and great company with friends. 6:00 pm May 21, 2016 - STILL ROOM FOR MORE - \$25 per person.

THE UU-LINK

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

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley

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

THE CENTER & WALL STREET JOURNAL

April 2016

We've completed the three-quarters of our church fiscal year. A summary of our income and expenses through March 2016 is as follows:

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Mar. Actual
Total income	\$ 237.8K	\$ 263.3K	\$ 16.0K
Total pledge payments	\$ 158.9K	\$ 178.5K	\$ 7.1K
Total expenses	\$ 237.8K	\$ 241.2K	\$ 28.3K
Total Facilities Expense	\$ 83.6K	\$ 82.4K	\$ 10.K

Year-to-date pledge income, including payments on prior year pledges, continues to be ahead of budget. However, pledge payments have slowed considerably in the last few months. Since pledges make up the lion's share of our income it's important that we all try to stay current with our pledge payments so cash flow allows me to pay our bills and payroll, currently almost \$7,000 every two weeks, in a timely fashion. Also, we want to finish our fiscal year at the end of June in the black.

Total expenses are running a bit above budget. The facilities expense, one of the largest components of our church expenses, is the amount it costs to run our building and office, including the salaries and benefits of the Administrator and Sexton. Total facilities expense is close to the budgeted amount. Due to the relatively mild winter, through April heating the building has cost about \$ 8,400, while snow removal cost is \$1,900, both considerably lower than last year. Offsetting this, we have used an outside service to clean the building at a cost projected to be about \$14K for the whole year. This is considerably more than we planned for, but the cleaning results have been positive.

The Capital Campaign ends at the end of April. As of Mar. 31 over \$466K in capital pledge payments had been received, 93.2% out of a total of \$500K pledged. Planning continues for improving church access, which will be the most expensive project we'll do. Please continue to pay your capital pledge commitments, even after the formal campaign end, so that we can complete this most important capital improvement tasks.

Finally, we invite anyone to join our Finance Committee. Please contact Cease Blocker or any member of the Finance Committee if you'd like to participate in the financial life of our church.

Allen Zinnes, *UUCLV Treasurer*

MAY BREAKFAST FORUM

May 1

May Worship Theme: Compassion

Rev. Don Garrett, Facilitator

There will be a brief presentation, followed by a small-group discussion format and a reuniting later to share what we've learned on the topic of "Compassion." Join in this adventure in speaking, listening, thinking, reflecting and sharing together in a new way; another way to live our values of compassion, nurture, and justice in our beloved community.

May 8

Crossroads Anti-Racism

Kara Bender, Presenter

Kara is a National Organizer/Trainer for Crossroads Anti-Racism, whose mission is to dismantle systemic racism and build antiracist multicultural diversity within institutions and communities. Kara will introduce us to the organization and provide details on an upcoming 1-day June workshop in Allentown.

May 15

Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point

Tom Ulrich, Presenter

"Fix It" is a locally made documentary which provides an in-depth look into how our dysfunctional healthcare system is damaging our economy, suffocating our businesses, discouraging physicians, negatively impacting the nation's health, while remaining unaffordable for a 1/3 of our citizens. The director joins us for a discussion after a showing of excerpts of the film.

May 22

HAVEN (Hope, Acceptance, Validation, Equality, Nurturing)

Pete Pellegrino, Presenter

HAVEN is a social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and non-gender conforming teens. It provides a place to relax, be themselves, and enjoy the support of peers and sympathetic adults. Pete, co-chair emeritus of HAVEN, will speak about the issues these teenagers face and how HAVEN helps them navigate the often tough road to adulthood.

May 29

Fracking & the Climate Crisis: the Moral Implications

Mark Lichty, Presenter

Mark is a UU and Executive Producer of "Groundswell Rising," an inspirational film about the anti-fracking movement. Film excerpts will be followed by discussion about ethical implications of fracking and reasons for supporting the proposed PA MORALtorium on fracking.



FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

On May 15th, the RE Committee will host a table in the community room after church. We will be there to sign up volunteers for the 2016-17 RE and the summer RE programs. There are five teams of teachers or advisors that serve about seventy children and youth in their spiritual growth and learning: PreK-1st, 2nd-4th, 5th-6th, 7th-8th and 9th-12th. Ideally, each team consists of two or three lead teacher plus three to five assistants. They work together to develop a schedule and lesson plan so they can take turns preparing the lesson and being in the classroom. Our program needs about twenty five to thirty adults to staff the classrooms. Not all teachers have children in the program, and we couldn't fulfill our mission if we only asked parents to volunteer. Some parents prefer to work in a different classroom from their child while others enjoy working with their own child. When the volunteer staff is complete, each person works about two Sundays a month. On the non-RE Sundays, they can attend services and attend to their own spiritual growth. When the teams are understaffed, they are overworked and are virtually invisible to the congregation. Please visit us on May 15th to find out what role might fit you best and how often you are available. If you can only assist once a month, we can still use you. Working with children and youth is a fun and rewarding experience. Lifelong friendships develop across generation from these experiences. I hope you will consider taking on a role in this important ministry.



Neighboring Faiths students visit a Hindu temple

In faith,

Jansen Wendell, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
(lec@uuclvpa.org)

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION :

MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

led by Reverend Don Garrett and Janice Lovegrove
(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. We meet most weeks to learn, practice, and enjoy the benefits of mindfulness in our lives, our relationships, and in the larger communities of which we are a part. Contact Rev. Garrett at minister@uuclvpa.org for info.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL VIDEO SERIES – THE POWER OF MYTHS

(2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month Room 304)

In lively, expansive dialogues, inspirational scholar Joseph Campbell discusses how myths hold the key to understanding human experience. They may vary superficially from culture to culture, but at their deepest level they all reveal the path to self-fulfillment, social integration, and ultimately, transcendence. Discussion will follow. 16 sessions, lasting about 1 1/2 hour. Contact Cease Blocker at 610-866-3714 or blocker@rcn.com.

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

This set of 6 DVDs, available for loan, trace the history and evolution of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the merger of the two into today's Unitarian Universalism. If you want to find out about how our "Uncommon Denomination" came to be what it is today, from its 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:

Sun, May 1: Multi-generational Coming of Age recognition service

Sun May 8: Multi-generational service

Sun, May 15: Story for all ages, followed by regular RE classes

Sun, May 22: Youth bridging ceremony, followed by regular RE classes (last class of the year)

Sun, May 29: (Memorial Day) RE festival

Sun, June 5: RE volunteer recognition breakfast and end-of-year RE party

Sun, June 12: Multi-generational Flower Communion

Sun, June 19: First day of summer RE classes, grades preK – 6th. Children go directly to room 208.

Our curriculum is Dr. Seuss and the UU's.

June 26 – August 28: Summer RE, grades preK – 6th

HAVEN FUNDRAISER

On a warm summer night, what could be better than some ICED COFFEE? Join us at the UUCLV on Saturday, May 28th, for an evening of jazz performed by the group Iced Coffee — featuring Ron DeGrandis on bass, John Gackenbach on drums, Tom Mondschein on guitar, Nancy Shumaker on keyboard, Ernie Stadler on reeds, and George VanDoren on trumpet and flugelhorn. Doors open at 7:30 P.M., and admission is \$10. All proceeds go to the HAVEN youth group.

HAVEN PROM

HAVEN, the Lehigh Valley's only youth group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and allied youth, is hosting its 13th annual Prizm Prom, cosponsored by Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, from 7 to 11 PM on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at the Banana Factory, 25 West Third Street, Bethlehem. Tickets are \$15 per person at the door.

All gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and allied youth and their friends, ages 14-20, are welcome at this gala affair. DJ Ali will provide music and Simply Smooth will cater the event. Adults from the community and from Pride, along with HAVEN Facilitators, will chaperone the evening's festivities.

For more information about HAVEN: uuclvpa.org/haven.php, havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or on Facebook at Prizm Prom by Haven. To volunteer contact HAVEN at 610-868-2153.

JOIN THE LINK PIZZA PARTY!

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

-- Denominational News --



Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect

Featuring Ware Lecture by
Krista Tippett
Host of Public Radio's
"On Being"

June 22-26, 2016
Information and registration
at uua.org.

2016 FOURTH FRIDAY FILM SERIES

The 2016 Fourth Friday Film (FFF) Series is presented by the UUCLV Social Action Committee at 7:15 PM in our community room!

The series has a strong emphasis on promoting the common good as it relates to saving our environment, reversing economic inequality, and repairing our democracy so it works for everyone. The Website for the film series is www.FFFInfo.blogspot.com.

We invite groups/organizations to join us in this important endeavor by co-sponsoring one or more of the presentations (publicize event, add expertise to the discussion). We also hope that local college and university professors and their students will connect with FFF programs that align with their curricula and/or interest. Please contact **Tom Ulrich** at 610-882-1136 or tomulrich41@gmail.com for more information.

May 27

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: THE CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION IS NOW

Is fracking the answer?

June 24

BILL NYE'S GLOBAL MELTDOWN

National Geographic presents the facts, and we look for answers on global warming

July 22

THE BRAINWASHING OF MY DAY

The film looks at whether the media is fair, balanced, accurate, and accountable to the truth.

August 26

GERRYMANDERING

The movie discusses the problems with how voting districts are drawn.

September 23

GREEN FIRE: ALDO LEOPOLD AND A LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME

Follows Aldo Leopold's journey as he explores our relationship with the land and the environment.

October 28

To Be Announced



2016-17 SECOND SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES PREVIEW

The Second Sunday Concert committee is delighted to share the line-up for the upcoming concert season with you. Save the dates so you won't miss any of these wonderful performances.

October 9: Inna Eyezerovich, violin and Holly Roadfeldt, piano. Both have performed as part of the series in the past, but not on the same billing.

November 13: The Aletheia Trio (Francesca DiPasquale, Juliette Herlin, Fei-Fei Dong) We are so very pleased to have the Aletheia Trio back again. They "brought the house down" the last time they performed with us.

February 12: Clipper Erickson - this is a return engagement celebrating the release of his new CD.

March 12: Neil Wetzel (jazz saxophone) and friends. This will be the first time in our 7 seasons that the saxophone has been featured.

April 9: Ronée Boyce - she is an exciting young Afro-Canadian concert pianist

NATIVE PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

Please reserve the weekends of April 30/May 1 and May 7/8 for the native plant sale. Perhaps you wish to help? The sale is 9-3pm on Saturday and Sunday both weekends. Email me if you want to help or have questions. -- **Ilse Stoll**, Zinnes@verizon.net

MAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Our next book discussion will be on Sunday, May 8th, at 12:00 noon in the RE Library. The book we are reading is [The New Confessions of an Economic Hit Man](#) by John Perkins. The book covers the issues of economic inequality and some of the ways it happened. The author writes about events across the planet. This is the second book on the subject by this author. For further information e-mail us at bookdiscussion@uuclvpa.org.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MID-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY (UUMAC) BECKONS!

Are you looking for a summer vacation option that will be fun, rejuvenating, multi-generational, and affordable? The Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community (UUMAC) '16 will be held July 10-16 near Allentown, PA.

UUMAC is many things—a spiritual retreat, a family summer camp, an institute for learning and exploration, a weeklong party and reunion of kindred souls. We play games and instruments, sing, listen, discuss, learn, worship, visit, laugh, work, eat, (and sometimes sleep), dance and nosh at Night Owls, and paint faces and toenails at the carnival.

UUMAC is intentionally a multi-generational community, and programming is a balance of activity according to age grouping and across age barriers. Children, teens and adults each have

programming geared to their interests! Also, ages mingle for off-campus trips, and evening activities. This year's UUMAC will focus on Radical Hospitality and Radical Justice. Rev. Libby Smith, an adjunct staffer at the Joseph Priestly District, and Rev. Dr. Tracy Sprowls of our Plainfield UU church will be our Minister of the Week and Theme speaker.

"My older son remarked, when he started college," says Tara Stephenson, "that his new college was like 'UUMAC with homework', meaning that the diverse, stimulating, accepting, free-thinking communities resembled each other!"

For more information, please go to uumac.org, or contact UUCLVer Tara Stephenson at (484) 896-8027 or tarauu@hotmail.com, or Pam Mann, UUMAC Board President at themannclan@verizon.net.

Welcome Our New Members



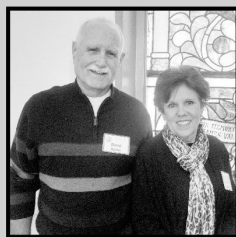
Adam and Kim Wilson



Ben Marston



Karen and Chuck West



Dave and Lib Kiefer



Diane Limoge



Mary Rush

UUCLV

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley

424 Center Street

Bethlehem, PA 18018

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Today	<	>	May 2016	Day	Week	Month	4 Days	Agenda	More	Settings	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					
May 1 9 Native Plant Sale: Yard 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 4p Yoga: 312 6p LV Folk Dance	2 9 Capital Projects - FM 10 Yoga: 312 6p Yoga: 312	3 4p Mue Do Kan-Gym 5:45p Yoga: 312 7p Mindfulness Practice: C	4 7p HAVEN: 100/CR 7:15p Finance - RE Lib 7:15p Choir: Sanctuary 7:30p J. Campbell Video S	5 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 6p Yoga:312 7p Board Meeting-CR/FM	6	7 9 Native Plant Sale: Yard 10 Yoga: 312 11:45 Yoga: 312 3:30p Martinez Shower: CF 5:30p LV Pagans: 310					
8 9 Native Plant Sale: Yard 9 RE Comm-Rm 212 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12p Book Discussion - RE 4p Yoga: 312 6p LV Folk Dance	9 9 Capital Projects - FM 10 Yoga: 312 6p Yoga: 312 7:15p Social Action - FM K	10 4p Mue Do Kan-Gym 5:45p Yoga: 312 7p Mindfulness Practice: C	11 7p HAVEN: 100/CR 7:15p Choir: Sanctuary	12 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 5p Veterans for Peace: FM 6p Yoga:312 7p Worship Comm: Re Lib	13	14 10 Yoga: 312 11:45 Yoga: 312 3:30p Contra - Gym 4p Duran Party: CR					
15 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 New Member books 10:30 Sunday Service 12p Personnel: 308 12p Property-RE Lib 4p Yoga: 312 5p The UU-Link deadline 6p LV Folk Dance	16 9 Capital Projects - FM 10 Yoga: 312 6p Yoga: 312 7p Program Council-CR/F	17 4p Mue Do Kan-Gym 5:45p Yoga: 312 7p Mindfulness Practice: C	18 7p HAVEN: 100/CR 7:15p Choir: Sanctuary 7:30p J. Campbell Video S	19 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 4p Brooks Wedding Reh-S 6p Yoga:312	20 3p Brooks Wedding-Sanct	21 10 Yoga: 312 11 Tao Study - RE Lib 11:45 Yoga: 312 4p Rodriguez Wedding Re					
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29 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12:10p Sunday Hospitality 4p Rodriguez Shower: CR 4p Yoga: 312 6p LV Folk Dance	30 9 Capital Projects - FM 10 Yoga: 312 6p Yoga: 312	31 4p Mue Do Kan-Gym 5:45p Yoga: 312 7p Mindfulness Practice: C	Jun 1 7p HAVEN: 100/CR 7:15p Finance - RE Lib 7:15p Choir: Sanctuary 7:30p J. Campbell Video S	2 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 6p Yoga:312 7p Board Meeting-CR/FM	3	4 10 Yoga: 312 11:45 Yoga: 312 4p Mulero Reception:CR					