



THE UU-LINK

June 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

June Services

June 5

Finding Prayer

Rev. Don Garrett

Unitarian Universalists rarely talk about prayer, but there are some surprising ways we can revitalize this ancient practice.

June 12

Flower Communion

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll remember the life & work of the Rev. Norbert Capek with flowers and song. Please bring a flower or three to share.

June 19

Who's Your Daddy?

Some reflections on fathers for Father's Day.

June 26

Climate Justice

Emma Finkle

Emma will take part in the UU Young Adults for Climate Change project of "100 Sermons to Grow the UU Climate Justice Movement."

DonSense – by Rev. Don Garrett

Our Theme for June: Delight

Be careful this month. One could easily see this as a way to end the year on a "light note." But there's deep work for us to do with this topic.

It may be hard to believe that our Unitarian Universalist ancestors had to fight for delight. Over the years there have been many religious systems that begin with the idea that this world is broken, a place of misery and pain, toil and struggle. Delight was reserved only for those who earned it.

We don't see it that way. The problem is not so much in the fallen world as in our blinded eyes. Heaven is right here on earth; our job is to see it and enjoy it. Delight has the power to transform us. Delight can't help but lead to gratitude. Gratitude can't help but lead to generosity. When you notice that you've been given great gifts, you want to share those gifts and make sure others enjoy them too. For UU's the tragedy of life is not that unworthiness has cut us off from delight and joy, but that we fail to take the time to reach out and enjoy what's right in front of us.

Thus the simple goal for this month: for every single one of us to stop, look around and declare, "Behold, it is very good!" And then having received the gift of delight ourselves, may we be re-engaged with the great work of figuring out our unique way of bringing delight to others!

Summer Sabbatical Plans & Welcome, Rev. Libby Smith!

This summer is going to be a little bit different. After six years of leading year-round church, I'm taking a little bit of sabbatical leave and will be away for the summer months of July and August, mostly climbing the Rocky Mountains out west.

But fear not! I've arranged for good coverage. The Rev. Libby Smith will be preaching every other week – five times over the summer – to maintain continuity of high quality worship leadership. A bit of background: The Rev. Libby Smith grew up in the UU congregation in York and received her M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School in 1992. She has served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Rockport, Mass, Warrington, PA and Langhorne, PA and was chaplain for five years at Unitarian Universalist House, a small nursing home in Philadelphia.

Please welcome her into our Beloved Community. It's going to be a great summer!

See you in church.

– Don

FROM THE PRESIDENT



As my term draws to a close, I would like to thank all of our members who work so hard to see that the UUCLV functions. We have had challenges in staffing, and membership has been gracious about filling in when necessary. Never having personally served on a Board of

Trustees, I was both amazed and delighted at how well a group of people can work together for the betterment of our community. The folks who care for the finances sharpen their pencils to better use our resources. All those who head up or serve on committees are my heroes, thank you all for your support and advice.

In the new year, I trust you will all be as supportive of Bob Kriebel, who will be president, as you have been with me.

And, on another note, if you have not availed yourself of the adult RE offerings, I urge you to look into them. Mindfulness practice on Tuesday evenings has been enlightening for me, and the group is growing. And/or you can watch and discuss Joseph Campbell on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. We are becoming far more than a Sunday morning worship service.

And, on yet another note, we are operating on a razor-thin margin. Some of our more generous donors have been unable to keep up their pledge levels. Please consider pledging, or raising your pledge, so that we all may continue our good works.

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley shall be held following the church service on Sunday, June 12. Its purpose shall be to elect Trustees and other church leaders, to discuss and adopt the budget, to receive reports of all committees and activities of the church, and to consider other business that may legally come before it. Please plan to attend this important annual event.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11 WORK PARTY

What are we looking forward to? A June work party. Our last work party was so much fun that we want to repeat our success. In April we cleaned the chairs used in the gym, removed the storm windows, and cleaned up the outside of the church. On the list this time are finishing the chairs, washing the Center Street and Wall Street doors, and working outside. More items will be added to the list as we get closer to the date of Saturday. June 11th starting at 9:00am and finishing at 12:00 noon. Please join us. For more information e-mail us at property@uuclvpa.org.

PLANT A ROW TO FEED LEHIGH VALLEY HUNGRY

Plant a Row Lehigh Valley asks gardeners to dedicate one row or bed in their vegetable garden for a harvested donation to the hungry. Locations to drop off produce will be determined as needed to be convenient for volunteers. The website is new and sparse right now. I would suggest growing foods that either keep fairly well, are expensive in the stores, or as nutritious as possible. Herbs are welcomed by the soup kitchens. Fruits are like gold for families. To participate in Plant a Row Lehigh Valley, please go to <http://plantarowlv.com> for program instructions and to register.

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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The eNews: uucvnews@uuclvpa.org

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

UUCLV NATIVE PLANT SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

The native plant sale was a very big success. We sold over 1300 plants into the community. Butterflies can't wait. This is fabulous. It was a joint effort. These people helped make it happen:

Allen Zinnes, Sharon Beckhard, Sheryl Anne Lombardi, Dora Davenport, Robin Capoor, Karen Hicks, Jane Cook, Ilse Stoll, Ellen Bell, Katrina Popovich, Sue Phillips, Marie Tweed, Sheila Gallagher, Linda Fredricks, Linda Brown, Peggy Hobbs, Lorraine Bujnowski, Tom Repasch, Roseanne Amano, Martha Christine, Jean Davis, Josie Miserendino, and Art and Marie Poutre.

If we omitted your name it was not intentional. This is the work of 24 people, not bad. Ilse potted 1300 plants. Labor of love. We gave away 74 native plants to the Saucon Creek meadow on Reading Drive in Saucon Valley to beat the deer and replace some of the beebalm, 6 native plants to the Charter School for the Arts, 50 native plants to the Bach Garden to revitalize the bank, 15 native plants to the Illicks Mill garden and 12 native plants for the Sculpture Garden near the Bethlehem Library.

The 200 leftovers were bought with a grant from Lehigh Gap Environmental Center and so was the talk/give away which resulted in \$805. We made \$6021 for the UUCLV. We already scheduled the sale for September for 9-17 and 9-18. One weekend only. Hope you can help. -- The Green Committee

SHARED PLATE FOR JUNE: LEPOCO

LEPOCO (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern) members share a vision that we can build a sane and more just world. Gathering strength from our diversity, they work together and as individuals for nonviolent change, starting in our own community.

Specifically this plate collection is for scholarships for the Peace Camp, a week long summer camp that teaches children about justice and peaceful living through stories, songs, games, crafts, and learning activities.

JUNE BREAKFAST FORUM

June 5

June Worship Theme: Delight

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 "Delight." 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.

June 12

Burning Bridges

Tom Repasch, Presenter

This program tells the story about a community's reaction to an act of arson committed by young adults. Using news footage, interviews and video, the program introduces the concept of restorative justice and shows how people and an entire community move through their grief and anger to healing. Presented by Tom on behalf of the International Institute of Restorative Practice.

June 19

What in the World Should We be Eating?

Anne Walker, Presenter

Happy Father's Day! We want to be healthy, but what should we eat? Why does the advice about a "healthy diet" keep changing? Is the same food good for everyone? Explore these questions in a fun workshop that will give you plenty to "chew on"! Anne Walker is a certified Health Coach and enthusiastic amateur vegetable gardener.

June 26

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Philip Parise, Presenter

During this discussion, we will highlight the Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley, a non-profit which is the local crime victim service and rape crisis center serving Lehigh and Northampton counties. We will highlight the services we provide and the role that we play in the local community. We will also have an opportunity to discuss victimization, especially as it relates to sexual violence.



FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Volunteering in the religious education program, part 2:

We had a nice start to our Religious Education volunteer recruitment drive last month. Four new members signed up to teach or assist. There are still many positions available for teachers, assistants, and chaperones for the fall and spring semesters, as well as the summer program (see below). There are five teams of teachers/advisors – one for each class that we offer.

Because the curriculum for the middle school class is the sexuality course *Our Whole Lives*, the teachers in that class must have specialized training. We are fortunate to have that team fully staffed. That leaves the primary grades class (preK-1st), the lower elementary class (2nd-4th grades), the upper elementary class (5th-6th grades), and senior high youth group (9th-12th) to staff.

Teachers must be familiar with the curriculum and have some skills in working with their age group. They work together to develop a staffing schedule and lesson plan so they can take turns preparing and leading the lesson and having Sundays to attend services. As a rule, assistants don't participate in lesson planning. They need to be there in time to help set up, get to know the children, and be familiar with the tasks. Senior high advisors don't do lesson planning but need some training in how to work with youth, how to support the youth leadership and a knowledge of the emotional needs and challenges of youth.

Working with children and youth is a fun and rewarding experience. Lifelong friendships develop across generations. I hope you will consider taking on a role in this important ministry. Please contact me at lec@uucvpa.org for more information or to volunteer.

Summer RE: The curriculum for our summer one-room class for prek-6th graders (June 19 – Aug 26) will be **Backyard to the Universe -Dr Seuss and the UU's** by



The Coming of Age class getting ready to leave for the Boston heritage trip.

Helen Zidowecki. Dr. Seuss's stories are a wonderful resource for teaching UU values. To quote Helen from the introduction to the curriculum: *These stories are fun and engaging. But even more important, they are based on life situations and experiences and give us a way to reflect, to talk about things that are part of our lives. We all sleep, we all get lost, we all are afraid sometimes, we all meet people who are on -- and sometimes in -- our way, we all like adventure in various ways, we all struggle with what is right and what is not.* The sessions are posted on her web site and can be accessed with this url: <http://www.hzmre.com/seuss/>, or by googling *Dr Seuss and the UUs* or Helen Zidowecki by name. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the landing outside the entrance to the 2nd floor classrooms. If you have a favorite Seuss story you want to share with the children, sign up soon before your story is taken!

In faith,
Jansen Wendell, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
(lec@uucvpa.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@uucvpa.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:

Sunday, June 5: RE volunteer recognition breakfast; rescheduled youth bridging ceremony and end-of-year RE party

Sunday, June 12: Multi-generational Flower Communion service

Sunday, 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

Saturday, August 27; 9:00am to 1:00pm: Teacher training and safe congregation training

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, labeling, socializing and fresh, delicious pizza from Lehigh Pizza.

If you'd like to join in the fun and help out, or check on the party date, just RSVP to the UUCLV office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org.

JUNE BOOK DISCUSSION

Our next book discussion will be on Sunday, June 12th after church at 12:00 noon in the RE Library. The book we are reading is *Miller's Valley*, published in April 2016, and authored by Anna Quindlan. It is a novel about a woman coming of age as she unearths secrets and truths about her family, her town, and herself. For further information, please e-mail us at bookdiscussion@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.

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

NEW CHALLENGES FOR OUR REFUGEES

Meeting the needs of our refugee family has just become much more difficult.

As of May 13, 2016, the employees of Lutheran Children and Family Services are unemployed. This is the organization that is providing the leadership, the social workers and some translators for all refugee families in the area.

It is our understanding that the social and support staff have all been hired by Bethany Ministries, which plans to take the place of LCFS. However government approval is needed for this to happen and approval is not expected until October at the earliest. This leaves all the employees who have worked with ours and other families until now without income for those months. This could greatly impact the any future success we might have with our family.

One thought was to inundate U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent with letters and emails requesting his assistance in resolving this issue sooner than October. So please either write or email Mr. Dent ASAP. His website has a direct email link. For snail mail, the two addresses are:

Representative Charles Dent
3900 Hamilton Blvd. Ste 207
Allentown, PA 18103

Or

2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

ALSO, there is a request for additional furniture for our family's apartment. If you have either of these or know of someone who does, please contact Frank Claps at benchpress2@verizon.net.

- a chest of drawers for the boy's room (can be up to 52" long and 50" high);
- a chest of drawers for the parent's bedroom (20" deep and up to 68" long, height does not matter).
- Any excess furniture you may have or be aware of for future refugee projects. Often, we don't get a lot of notice of arrival, so it would be nice to have a word-file "furniture bank" available. Send information about type, size, and your contact information to Frank Claps, benchpress2@verizon.net.

AND FINALLY:

Along with the above, the summer presents new challenges for our Syrian refugee family. The older two children should be enrolled in a special curriculum this summer. This can only be accomplished if they have people willing to drive and/or walk with them to and from school. The hours would be from 9 to 12 in July.

For August, the two older children are being enrolled in a summer camp at the Allentown YMCA. Here, again, help with transportation and/or walking is needed. These children do not yet comprehend the dangers of traffic, and would have to cross a dangerous Hamilton Boulevard twice daily. The camp's hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition, transportation help is needed for various medical and other appointments; and babysitting while parents are attending these sessions.

You've been great so far. But the summer presents unique challenges. If you can help with summer transportation (walking or driving) and/or babysitting, please contact Judy Claps at sejumatt1@verizon.net

UU 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.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley
424 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

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Today		<	>	June 2016		Day	Week	Month	4 Days	Agenda	More ▾	⚙
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