

Community Church News ~ Apr 2015

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Sunday Services – 9:00am & 10:45am

Apr 5 “Life Again” Rev. Thom Belote

The 9:00 service on Easter Sunday will be held outside at the Memorial Rock amphitheater and will feature music by Danny Gotham. The 10:45 service will be held in the sanctuary and will feature our choir. Both services will include an Easter themed message from Rev. Thom about the impulse towards life, even in the face of disappointment and loss.

Apr 12 Campus Ministry Sunday

Our services this Sunday will be led by the members of the UU Campus Ministry.

Apr 19 “The Stigma of Mental Illness” Rev. Thom Belote

Mental illness is at once extremely common, deeply misunderstood, and too often ignored. How can we as a congregation and society grow in our compassion and acceptance for those who struggle with mental illness? What would it look like to de-stigmatize mental illness?

Apr 26 “Creation Unfolding; Evolution Occurring; God Becoming: The Emerging Consciousness in the Meeting of Science in Religion” Guest Preacher Susannah Tuttle

Our guest in the pulpit this Sunday will be Susannah Tuttle, Executive Director of North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit organization providing a faith response to climate change and environmental issues. Our speaker is a life-long UU and a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry. Her message will bring a faith perspective to environmental issues.



On My Mind & In My Heart...

On a Sunday evening in March, Marion Hirsch invited me to come lead a session with the 10 ninth-graders in this year's Coming of Age program and their adult mentors. The topic selected for the evening was the nature of God.

One of the activities I had them do was to break up into groups according to their theological identities. The theists went to one corner of the room. The atheists went to another corner. A third corner contained those who had not made up their minds. In true Unitarian Universalist style, the fourth corner of the room was for people who rejected the choices I had offered and held an identity that did not fit neatly into any of those three categories.

Each group was given a few minutes to caucus together. The assignment was to come back to the large group with an answer to two questions: What do you want the other groups to understand about you? What question do you have for those in other groups?

In the room I noticed a reluctance to split up and divide. Could we trust that we could return to a place of togetherness? Would we all be able to come back into the group?

When the four groups came back to the center of the room something amazing happened. When each group spoke, the other groups listened respectfully and attentively. The questions came from a place of healthy curiosity.

This was a great moment: our youth – high school freshmen – were modeling safe dialogue, deep listening, seeking understanding, and respectful engagement. What a testament to our mentors and our youth program! What a testament to our church!

See you in church!

Rev. Thom

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

ALL CHURCH COMMUNITY DINNER FRI., APR 10th

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our monthly Community Dinner on April 10 for fun and fellowship. Note April's dinner is on the 2nd Friday, instead of the 1st Friday. We meet in the Jones Building at 6:00 to share a meal. \$2/person covers the main dish and dessert. Please also bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, bread, fruit, etc.). All are welcome! RSVP at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NlabzvgsY2dyfMsWy7jslWAZJ6d2Jug9dQUvcANsuU/viewform?usp=send_form

NEWCOMER 3 WEEK COVENANT GROUP IN APRIL.

If you are new or feeling new, Covenant Groups can be a great way to connect with the church in a meaningful way. There will be a 3 week Newcomer Covenant Group Thursdays 7-9PM April 16, 23, 30 in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available upon request. 10 participants maximum. To sign up contact Marion Hirsch at hirsch.marion@gmail.com. For more information about Covenant Groups, please see the church website: <http://www.c3huu.org/covenant-groups.html>



MUSICAL NOTES by Glenn

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS:

This is an exciting spring for the Music Program. On April 11 at 7pm in the sanctuary we are holding our annual Music Gala. This year's title is "R U A U U 2 ? : Playing and Singing the Principles." Congregation members and friends will be exploring the musical meaning of the 7 Principles in many varied ways. Composers represented at this point range from Amy Beach to Tom Lehrer, Holly Near to Ray Davies (of the "Kinks"), Cyndy Lauper to Randy Newman, and our very own Richard Edwards. Your contributions will help support a music leader for the religious education program and the general music fund.

Less than a month later, during both services on May 3, the Community Church Choir, along with contributions from the other choirs of the church, will be performing "Hymnody of Earth," a song cycle based on the poetry of Wendell Berry. For the occasion will be flying in the composer of the piece, Malcolm Dalglish, to play hammer dulcimer and collaborate with the choir on this amazing music. Malcolm will also be performing a solo family concert that afternoon in the sanctuary at 2pm. All the choirs are very excited about this opportunity to meet and work with this fantastic composer, joining us from Bloomington, Indiana.



CARING MINISTRY

Our ministry provides visits and emotional support to members who are hospitalized or homebound, lends out Caring Quilts to members to provide comfort and symbolize the support of our community, and assists members in finding resources and support services in times of critical need. If you have any caring needs you can reach the Caring Ministry Coordinator, Ivy Brezina, at caring@c3huu.org, (415)663-8703 or by filling out a Joys and Sorrows card in the Commons. Cards are on a table on the right side as you enter the sanctuary.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

ANNUAL VISION OF MINISTRY:

The board of trustees has approved the Annual Vision of Ministry for 2015-16. We have some exciting work ahead of us! The AVM is posted on the church website under Our Strategic Plan, <http://www.c3huu.org/our-strategic-plan.html>. I hope you all will take the time to read it. (- Cathy Cole, President)

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

As of March 12, you have pledged \$260,964 to the Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist! That is about \$56,000 above last year's pledges after two weeks. This will allow us to go a long way towards achieving our Vision of Ministry Goals. 102 of the 124 pledges are sustainers. **THANK YOU** to everyone who pledged!



SHARE THE PLATE

SHARE THE PLATE DEADLINE SUNDAY, MAY 3rd FOR REQUESTS JULY-DEC, 2015.

The Share the Plate Steering Committee accepts nominations for non-profit causes that are consistent with the mission of The Community Church twice a year. The deadline for the next submission is May 3rd. E-mail applications to either Barb Chapman at barbchapman@bellsouth.net or stp@c3huu.org. Current nomination forms can be found on the church website at <http://www.c3huu.org/share-the-plate.html>. Committee members are Jill Baker, Barb Chapman, Jena Kaizen, John Leopold, Jane Provan, Bill Rote, and Susan Spalt.

STP – APR 12: CHURCH WORLD SERVICE/CROP WALK (CWS/CROP):

CWS works to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world with sustainability and self-sufficiency as priorities. CWS

seeks out local agencies that share a vision of empowering self-help. Long-standing partnerships have been forged and they are now active in more than 30 countries globally, helping farmers improve food production, building reservoirs, digging wells, laying irrigation systems, providing refugee support and internal emergency response, and much more. Some 1,500 communities sponsor annual CROP WALKS to support their efforts and to combat hunger and poverty locally. Our walk in Chapel Hill/Carrboro is a pacesetter across the nation! With over 22% of local residents living in poverty, the need is great! Please give generously to support the CWS/CROP! 75% of contributions, CWS; 25%, IFC. Walk with us on April 19!

STP – APR 19: TREES, WATER & PEOPLE (TWP)

Energy poverty is defined as the *lack of adequate modern energy for the basic needs of cooking, warmth, and lighting*. If you had a power outage during the February snows, you experienced a glimpse of energy poverty. Currently, nearly half the world's population lacks access to electricity. The mission of TWP is to improve people's lives by helping communities to protect, conserve and manage the natural resources upon which their long-term wellbeing depends. TWP works with communities in Central America, Haiti, and Tribal Lands in the U.S., using a community-based model built on the philosophy that the best way to help communities is to involve them directly in the design and implementation of development projects. Examples include clean cook stoves, solar energy, and reforestation. TWP's work not only benefits local communities, it also helps the planet through its commitment to sustainability.

WITHIN THESE WALLS



ART IN THE SANCTUARY:

Artist Judy Bauman will exhibit her paintings in the sanctuary, March 8 - April 26, 2015. The title of her show is "To Brighten Your Day."

Judy Bauman is a Chapel Hill artist. She was born and raised in Wilber, Nebraska and studied art at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Ball State University. Judy has studied with Chapel Hill artist Jane Filer and is currently studying with Chad Hughes.

Judy Bauman paints impressionistically with thick paint, bold colors, and interesting subject matter. She applies her paint with assorted palette knives, using a brush sparingly. Imagination is the source of ideas for her work. She begins each painting with a loose charcoal sketch on canvas. Judy uses acrylic, oil, and burlap. Her greatest pleasures are "to experience an evolution of creativity for others to enjoy and to begin the next piece."

COMMUNITY CHURCH CONCERT SERIES:

THE DUHKS: FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015, 8pm. "No band epitomizes the polyethnic strands of modern folk music better than The Duhks. Since forming in Winnipeg in 2001, The Duhks have created a dynamic blend of old-timey, French Canadian and Celtic music punched up with shades of blues, soul and driving Afro Cuban Rhythms that leaves festival crowds on their feet. Over the course of 4 critically-acclaimed albums the band has earned Juno and Grammy awards and nominations and have played a significant role in the neo-folk revival." GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!! www.communitychurchconcerts.org. \$20 (\$2 service charge) Advance; \$20 at table in Jones Bldg.; \$25 at door.

ALL CHURCH "SPRING CLEANING" DAY SATURDAY 4/11

Buildings & Grounds is having our Annual Spring Cleaning to clean up the Church buildings and grounds. We will have buckets, rags and Magic Erasers for dirty, scuffed walls and rakes and shovels, etc. to (temporarily) tame Mother Nature in the more civilized of our natural spaces. Bring any favorite cleanup or yard tools. If rainy, we will focus inside mostly, if sunny, we will do it all! Those adventurous spirits among us may even tackle the algae high up on the exterior walls. So come one, come all from 9-Noon, rain or shine! Kids welcome. We will even have a few special treats for hungry workers! Questions? See Brad Kosiba maintenance@c3huv.org or call 610-755-1659

SPACE EXPLORATION CONTINUES

Spring is the time of plans and projects, per Tolstoy. That's certainly true for the Space Exploration Team, which continues its work. The effort started with the year-long analysis identifying the needs based on all the functions this church serves, including worship, fellowship, spiritual exploration, weddings, memorials and outreach. The team is working with an architect to explore possible solutions that best utilize current facilities, our grounds and serve multiple purposes to the greatest extent possible. Areas of focus include a larger group meeting space (classroom, children's Sunday

worship space, smaller weddings and memorials, meditation), more classroom space (children, youth, adults), green/cry room (weddings, memorials, babies) and preschool spaces which meet its certification needs while maximizing church use of them. More information is available on the Space Exploration Team website: <http://www.c3huu.org/space-exploration.html>.

CROP HUNGER WALK:

JOIN US APRIL 19, 2015!! Drop by the CROP table in the Jones Building to learn more about Church World Service and our local IFC efforts to combat hunger and poverty here and abroad. Sign up at the table to walk with us in the 2015 Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk on April 19 and purchase the 2015 CROP t-shirt!! You can also sign up to walk/solicit donations/support our walkers online here:

<http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/ccchuu>. Start recruiting donors and help us make this year's C3HUU contribution to the walk the best EVER! Questions?? Contact Jane Provan (janerivaprovan@gmail.com; (919)-967-4056); Tifani Hencke (tifani.hencke@gmail.com; (919) 942-7436)

FAITH CONNECTIONS:

On Friday, April 10, 2015, Faith Connections on Mental Illness Conference is holding its 5th annual conference to help faith communities engage, encourage, and serve persons who suffer from mental illness and those who care for them. The daylong event is open to Clergy, lay leaders, individuals, and professionals. Wake AHEC is offering optional CEUs. For details, costs, and registration, contact <http://www.wakeahec.org/> or 919-967-5403.

UU NON-FICTION READERS:

UU Non-Fiction Readers meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10:30 in the Kirby Room. On April 18, we will be discussing Conundrum, by Jan Morris (174 pages). This short, beautiful memoir pulls the reader in with its first sentence: "I was three or perhaps four years old when I realized that I had been born into the wrong body, and should really be a girl. I remember the moment well, and it is the earliest memory of my life." At our April meeting we will also select books for June-December. If you'd like to join us, just read Conundrum and show up for a stimulating discussion.

Our May 16 read is The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, by Elizabeth Kolbert (272 pages). The book is frequently compared to Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. Kolbert's environmental writing is as rigorous as it is riveting. If you are worried about climate change, don't miss this book.

Contact Carolyn Holt with any questions: carolynholt@mac.com

OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS:

Azaleas and Irises, Waterthrushes and Warblers. Spring outing along New Hope Creek followed by lunch at

Venables. Meet up Sat., April 11, 10:00 at the church. RSVP: chandler-dorfman@mindspring.com

OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS:

May 1-3, Peaks of Otter Lodge, peak of Spring Warbler Migration, Trillium and Lady Slipper Bloom. Waterfalls, Sharp Top Mountain, Warbler Road. Oh My! RSVP chandler-dorfman@mindspring.com

OUR DREAM CIRCLE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS:

Ivy Brezina and Jean McKinney belong to a small, intimate "dream circle," where we explore our nighttime dreams together. The rewards of dreamwork in a nurturing group are many, among them guidance, insight, healing. We follow the principles taught by the UU minister Jeremy Taylor.

We are currently open to new members. We meet on Tuesday afternoons, 1:00-3:30. Jean and/or Ivy will be happy to answer questions you might have about the group.

(Jean, 919-968-0821 or yogamckinney@gmail.com Ivy, 415-663-8703 or ivy.brezina@yahoo.com)

STP RESULTS:

The CSM would like to thank the congregation for its very generous donation of \$1472 to TABLE. TABLE is the only area non-profit to focus exclusively on childhood hunger by providing healthy, emergency food aid to **over 400** Chapel Hill/Carrboro children every week. In addition to the **Weekend Backpack Program** TABLE also supports **Snack Chef**, which sends volunteers to local after school programs to teach children how to make healthy snacks to share with their families. **Summer TABLE**, an extension of the Weekend Backpack Program, delivers weekly nutritious food, including fresh produce from local farms, to kids for 6-8 weeks during the summer months. Our STP collection will be used to support these efforts. Go to tablenc.org for more information and to learn about volunteer opportunities.

SANCTUARY FOR DIALOGUE (SfD) NOW A MINISTRY:

A dozen or so church members have met for a year as an open, working group to talk about this initiative, Sanctuary for Dialogue, in the church's 2020 Vision and in the Strategic Plan supporting that Vision. About twenty of you have shared thoughts about this concept during the SEA course, The Rational vs. the Righteous Mind.

In early March, Rev. Thom Belote declared Sanctuary for Dialogue a ministry and the working group accepted that responsibility. This effort will start within the church so we can all learn and practice among friends. SfD is working to host some facilitated events next year and to secure training for selected church members in order to expand and sustain this effort in the future.

For more information, contact Steve Warshaw, warshaws@msn.com.

IFC (INTER-FAITH COUNCIL):



The Inter-Faith Council provides many services to those in need. Did you know? Since N. Carolina did not accept the expanded Medicaid those who

are unemployed are not eligible for Obama Care and remain uninsured. Did you know? IFC works with the homeless in providing the necessary reports for those qualified, so they can receive Social Security Disability. Did you know? If you had a felony charge that you are not eligible for food stamps based on your record. One more: Did you know? There are many more homeless women who are not identified due to living with friends and relatives. Our Church can be proud to be one of the founding members of IFC.

TRY IT. YOU MIGHT LIKE IT!

While the Space Exploration Team works on exploring solutions to our space needs, all of us can explore ways to make limited parking work even when we expand our useable space in the future. It's a great way to honor Earth Day/Month, as well!

Won't you try, at least once in April, coming to church - to covenant group, choir, youth group, SEA class, committee/ministry meeting and especially Sundays - in a more sustainable way than usual? If you live nearby, make a date to walk together with others near you some pleasant Sunday morning. *Have a trike, bike or ELF?* Try pedaling your way to church. *Usually come in a vehicle that's less than full?* Invite someone to come with you. And thank-you to all who already come in a sustainable fashion! *(Friendly and earth-friendly request from Space Exploration Team and ECO)*



ECO's Environmental CORner:

First Sunday Recyclables-April 5: Eyeglasses (any kind), **batteries, plastic pens, and corks.**

Celebrate Earth Month with Growing Greener Raffle! Earn a raffle ticket for each new action your family takes for the planet in April, including items below. Prize: solar/hand crank radio/flashlight/charger. Drawing (presence not required): May 3, 10:30. See www.c3hu.org/eco for more details on items below.

- **April-Travel to church once in more sustainable way than usual** (bike, carpool, walk).
- **April 11-Attend Spring Workday**, anytime from 8:30 – 1:00. Help clean up the church grounds, remove invasive species, etc.
- **April 12 and 19-Tire pressure event, church parking lot after services:** Improve your gas

mileage and reduce your carbon footprint! Get your tire pressures checked, and tires inflated if needed.

- **April 19-Bring spring-cleaning throwaways to church:** **metal** lawn chairs, fencing, tools; electronics (computers, keyboards); small appliances (anything with a plug **except:** no console or rear-projection TVs). Collection will be recycled.

UU CONNECTIONS

OUTDOOR GROUP LAUNCHED!

UUFR just launched a multi UU fellowship outdoor group on Meetup.com. The Unitarian Universalist Central NC Cluster Outdoor Group (UUCOG) is using Meetup.com as the software platform as it best suits the functionality of such a group. It will let individual members schedule events, allows RSVPs and lets everyone see who is coming. You do need to become a member of Meetup to join the group, but it is very simple and free. Take a peek at the site if you're interested in outdoors activities and join if you like. A link to the site is below.

<http://www.meetup.com/UUCOGNC/>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May Newsletter Submissions need to be in by Apr 19th!!!

*** Submit articles to c3hoffice@gmail.com. Please remember the new 150-word limit for submissions.

*** If you would like to learn more about joining the Community Church of Chapel Hill, please contact our Director of Welcoming Ministries, Jacqueline Brett by calling the office (919) 942-2050, emailing [c3hmembership @ gmail.com](mailto:c3hmembership@gmail.com), or find her at one of our Sunday services. Whether you are brand new or a long time attendee, and whatever your beliefs or background, we welcome you to our community of friendship and ideals.



The Community Church of Chapel Hill
Unitarian Universalist

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