

# Community Church News ❖ Feb 2014

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## Sunday Services – 9:00am & 10:45am

### **Feb 1 "The Promise-making, Promise-breaking, Promise-renewing Animal" Rev. Thom Belote**

Jewish theologian Martin Buber once described humans as animals that make, break, and renew promises. The making of promises lies at the heart of our identity as a covenantal religious tradition. Join us this morning as we remind ourselves of our congregation's covenant and reconnect with the promises we have made in our lives.

### **Feb 8 "Love Makes a Family" Multigenerational Service**

February is Standing on the Side of Love month. Join us on February 8 as the multigenerational worshipping community gathers to honor the different shapes and sizes of families in our community and learn about how we might stand on the side of love for all families.

### **Feb 15 "Love the Hell Out of the World" Rev. Thom Belote**

It has been said that the mission of Universalism is to "love the hell out of the world." On the day after Valentine's Day (and the day after HKonJ) our worship service will consider love as the central motivating force capable of bringing change to our world.

### **Feb 22 Mystery Preacher**

This Sunday we will have a mystery guest preacher in the pulpit.



## On My Mind & In My Heart...

February is Black History Month. February is the month of HKonJ's Moral March. February is the month of Standing on the Side of Love's Thirty Days of Love. February is the month of Valentine's Day. February is love month.

Martin Luther King said that power without love is reckless and abusive and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Elie Wiesel said that the opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. Love can be seen as a powerful force moving our world in the direction of greater justice, freedom, and community.

As I write this newsletter column, I am reminded of love's victories in the past year. A decade ago there was only one state with marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples. Even a year ago, only 14 states had marriage equality. Today, 36 states have equal marriage with another 7 states hearing appeals of legal decisions to overturn bans on same-sex marriage. It may be only a matter of months before marriage equality is the law of the land in all fifty states. (Even Nate Silver, the prince of predictions, thought it would take a decade longer!)

In this coming month we will celebrate the power of love in our worship services. In our multigenerational service on February 8 we'll declare that "Love Makes a Family" as we celebrate the diversity of families in our congregation. The next Sunday we'll explore our Universalist heritage's grounding in radical love as we talk about "Loving the Hell Out of the World."

See you in church!

With Love,

*Rev. Thom*

# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

## ALL CHURCH COMMUNITY DINNER AND OPEN MIC NIGHT FRIDAY FEB 6

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our month Community Dinner on the February 6 for fun and fellowship. 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.). The dinner will be followed by our 1st Open Mic Night. All are welcome! RSVP at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NlabzvgsY2dyfMsWy7jsIWazJ6d2Jug9dQUvcANsuU/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NlabzvgsY2dyfMsWy7jsIWazJ6d2Jug9dQUvcANsuU/viewform?usp=send_form)

### MORE ABOUT OPEN MIC NIGHT

We are going to start something new on February 6 immediately following the All-Church Community Dinner. We will have an Open Mic Night, from 7-8PM. It promises to be a great deal of fun! And, sharpen up your talents, whether they be poetry, drama, music, magic, or dance. Everyone and everything (almost) is welcome! There will be a chance to sign up on line. Questions? Ask Linda Thompson or Ivy Brezina. Sign up on here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qmk6\\_7BpXaNu4UzjllBdirZm92g4Sn8CNnYKx8MfFE/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qmk6_7BpXaNu4UzjllBdirZm92g4Sn8CNnYKx8MfFE/viewform?usp=send_form)



## 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 at [caring@c3huh.org](mailto:caring@c3huh.org). Ivy Brezina can be reached at (415)663-8703. You can also let us know about a caring concern 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

## Spiritual Explorations (SEA)

Join us at SEA in the upcoming months for a continuation of spiritually nourishing Thursday evening courses! Rev. Thom will lead a spirituality book club discussing Forrest Church's "Love & Death" (Feb. 12, 19, 26, Mar. 5) which provides comfort and wisdom to those facing mortality. Ivy Brezina will lead Tai Chi (Mar. 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9, 16), a Chinese system of exercise and self-defense, the first third of the Yang style short form will be practiced.

If you ever wanted to deliver a sermon, Rev. Thom will also be leading a preaching practicum (Mar. 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9, plus a Saturday retreat whose date will be

determined) which will be an intensive sermon writing course that will allow participants a chance to deliver a Sunday sermon at church. This class is by application only and is limited to 4-6 participants. Please contact Marion Hirsch to apply.

Also, mark your calendars for Saturday March 28, when we will host our second church wide spiritual retreat! More details will be available in the March newsletter. As always, stop by our table following services to sign up for these courses.

## STEWARDSHIP

### OUR STRONGER TOGETHER PRIORITIES FOR 2015-16!

Our Board has adopted the following priorities for the next fiscal year:

#### Racial Justice and Equity:

Our church came into existence in response to racism in our community and our country. After the events of this past fall, the time is right for us to intentionally deepen this work again in order to serve both as leaders and as allies with all the others in our community working for racial justice and equity.

#### Leadership Development:

How do we attract and empower younger generations to step into leadership? How do we make room for new styles of leadership? It is time to act intentionally to insure that we have the leadership that we need to meet our ambitious goals.

#### Justice and Service:

Work to make our Justice and Service ministries an even more central part of our church life as called for by our Strategic Plan.

#### Growth and Stewardship:

In many cases our facility is literally bursting at the seams as it attempts to house our vital activities. We must continue to support the efforts exploring ways to house and support our congregation.

#### Financial Priorities:

1. Provide funds for consultants and training to help us achieve our visions.
2. Insure that our outstanding staff is compensated at the UUA Fair Compensation levels.
3. Contribute our full Fair Share to the UUA.
4. Continue our responsible stewardship of our facilities by increasing our maintenance reserves.

Together we can make this happen! We are stronger together!



## 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](mailto:barbchapman@bellsouth.net) or [stp@c3huu.org](mailto: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 – FEB 1: COMPASS CENTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES (Orange County) AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND RAPE CRISIS (Chatham County):**

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. On February 1, we will support two local nonprofit organizations that offer comprehensive services for teens and adults who are victims of interpersonal violence. Compass Center for Women and Families, in Chapel Hill, provides crisis services as well as prevention and education programs. Their services include a 24-hour hotline, court advocacy, Latina programs, career counseling, and financial education. Family Violence and Rape Crisis (FVRC), in Chatham County, offers crisis services, prevention programs, and long-term support services. Their programs include an emergency shelter, 24-hour helpline, court advocacy, batterer intervention, Gay-Straight alliances, and summer day camp. Both organizations serve as lifelines for vulnerable individuals in our communities and also work towards justice and safety for all. Compass Center can be reached at [919-968-4610](tel:919-968-4610) or [www.compassctr.org](http://www.compassctr.org), and FVRC can be reached at [919-545-0224](tel:919-545-0224) or [www.fvrc.org](http://www.fvrc.org).

**STP – FEB 8: TABLE:**

Did you know that approximately 30% of Chapel Hill-Carrboro elementary school children qualify for subsidized school meals? The same is true for 24% of middle schoolers and an average of 60% of preschoolers in the area. But what happens on weekends when schools are closed and they do not have access to their free meals? TABLE provides healthy, emergency food aid every week to these children through **The Weekend Meal Backpack Program**, and hopes to increase the number of kids served to 400 by this spring.

Other programs include **Snack Chef**, which sends volunteers to local after school programs to teach children how to make healthy snacks to share with their families, and **Summer Table**, which provides weekly food aid for 6-8 weeks during the summer months.

Go to [www.tablenc.org](http://www.tablenc.org) for more information and please give generously on Feb. 8!

## WITHIN THESE WALLS



**ART IN THE SANCTUARY:**

The art in the sanctuary running until March 1 is landscape photography by Dan Pence (Brian's father). The title of the show is "For the Beauty of the Earth". Dan says:

*"For the Beauty of the Earth* is one of the first hymns I learned in Sunday school as a child. The photos in this exhibit represent my efforts to record and share examples of natural beauty that stir my heart. It will be obvious to the viewer that what attracts my photographer's eye usually involves scenes of tranquility, peacefulness, still water, color and big sky. People are absent from these photos, providing an opportunity for the viewer to feel unburdened, "off the net," and open to communing with God, nature, beauty, and chance without the distractions of daily life. The vastness of these places fills me with feelings of possibility, wonder, and awe. I hope that you also experience the wonder and beauty of God's creation in this space."

**WHAT ACT COULD HELP YOU, THE CHURCH, AND THE ENVIRONMENT?**

You could start - *wait for it* - thinking about carpooling. (*Whew, some gasped.*) Yes, just thinking. Here are a few thoughts to prime that.

Recently SEA decided to facilitate participant carpooling during the first class of multi-session courses. A few choir members carpool to avoid each household driving two cars Sundays when choir practices early and sings both services. Some families carpool to bring youth to their evening meetings.

There's community in sharing a ride, the gift of freeing a parking space for another, saving \$s on fuel, reduced pollution from fossil fuels (electric cars, too!), and knowing that you're living your values a bit more. Just start thinking . . . looking for opportunities . . . *and expecting some amazing things to happen.*

Send stories of what you already do, think of, or perhaps try, to [ECO@c3huu.org](mailto:ECO@c3huu.org). (*from Space Exploration Team and ECO*)

## **NEW EMAIL TO REPORT (NON-EMERGENCY) CHURCH MAINTENANCE NEEDS:**

Ever see something while setting up or cleaning up around the Church, Manse or grounds that needs fixing? Now just email a description of the problem to: [maintenance@c3hhuu.org](mailto:maintenance@c3hhuu.org) PLEASE include your NAME and a PHONE number so we can follow up if we need more information.

## **COMMUNITY DINNERS:**

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on the first Fridays of the month for fun and fellowship. 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!

February 6th

March 6th

April 3rd

May 1<sup>st</sup>

## **IFC (INTER-FAITH COUNCIL):**

IFC is a non-profit organization and if it were not for the many volunteers it would not exist to help those in need. Here are some areas where volunteers are most needed. The Community House Kitchen needs a person to drive a van to pick up food at Trader Joe's on Tuesday at 9pm. A Spanish Client Interviewer is needed at Main St. on Mon. 1-4, Tues. 9-12, Wed. or Thurs. 1-4. The Food Pantry is in need of help with stacking shelves etc.; on Mon. 12-3, Tues., Thurs., and Fri. 9-12. The Community House needs Receptionists, Administrative volunteers and Social Workers. This is such a worthwhile agency that helps so many that if you choose to volunteer, your heart will be rewarded with compassion and gratitude.

## **PARKING SPACE IS ISSUE, TOOL!**

In January, the Space Exploration Team and ECO asked you to think, just think, about carpooling to church events. Some of you took action! Four participants, who rode alone to the first class of SEA's The Rational vs. the Righteous Mind, agreed to carpool with another person. Several ECO members carpooled to their Jan. meeting, which was off-site. An individual reached out to carpool from church to Jean Harned's memorial service. *Instead of asking someone to be your Valentine, maybe ask them about carpooling sometime?* Share your stories at [ECO@c3hhuu.org](mailto:ECO@c3hhuu.org).

## **OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS:**

**Up Close and Personal with Endangered, Protected Waterfowl** - Sat., Feb. 28, 10:00. When National Geographic wanted reference photos for their water birds of the world project, they came to the Waterfowl Park in Scotland Neck, NC. This is a site of international importance for its innovations in breeding endangered species. (Did you know flamingos are exhibitionists?) It

offers unparalleled opportunities for undisrupted views and photographs of waterfowl, now at the height of breeding plumage. We'll share a picnic at the Park and do an optional dinner in Tarboro at On the Square, which, in its years atop the World Trade Towers, was regularly reviewed as one of the great restaurants of the world. RSVP: [chandler-dorfman@mindspring.com](mailto:chandler-dorfman@mindspring.com)

## **UU NON-FICTION READERS:**

UU Non-Fiction Readers launched on January 17, holding a spirited discussion of Grave Matters. We learned how the modern funeral industry works, and discovered multiple alternative ways of saying goodbye to a loved one that are more congruent with UU values. Despite the book's serious subject, we found much to laugh about, and had a very good time.

On February 21 (10:30, Kirby Room), we will be discussing Twelve by Twelve: A One-Room Cabin Off the Grid & Beyond the American Dream, by William Powers. This amazing book—a 21st Century Walden—is set just down the road from us in Chatham County.

In March we will be reading a book on moral psychology, learning about the roots of our moral sense. Our April book is a superb memoir about a transexual's journey.

Learn more on the church's website: click on "Learning and Fellowship," and then on "UU Non-Fiction Readers,"

## **DO YOU LOVE FLOWERS?:**

The Flower Committee has different ways you can contribute flowers for Sunday services. We invite you to choose one Sunday this year to honor a loved one's birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other special remembrance with flowers. You can sign up in the Flower Notebook in the Commons, choosing either to bring your own arrangement or to reimburse the church and our Flower Committee will bring an arrangement for you. We also need 2 people to join the Flower Committee—one person to bring flowers regularly once a month and another to serve as a substitute a few times throughout the year. It's a great way to participate in the life of the church and share your floral creativity. If interested, please contact Sally Freeman ([sfandjj@gmail.com](mailto:sfandjj@gmail.com)) or Susie Hafer ([susan\\_hafer@yahoo.com](mailto:susan_hafer@yahoo.com)) or look for the Flower Committee at Sunday tabling.

## **SPACE NEEDS:**

RE classes in offices, preschool spaces and common areas; adult classes and meetings in hallways, lobbies and common areas; activities restricted. Why? Lack of space. Ten years ago: no adult Spiritual Exploration classes, no covenant groups, fewer community service/social justice and music groups.

Program growth and change are driving us to explore ways to meet our church's changing space needs. Last year, a Space Exploration Team conducted a year-long needs assessment to obtain congregational input. They concluded there are significant space needs that need



solutions. The Team's report is on its web page (<http://www.c3huu.org/space-exploration.html>).

The congregation will have many opportunities for input throughout the solution-seeking process. Next steps? A Space Exploration Team member will meet with Church Council representatives to share information. On February 1st and 8th, Space Exploration Team members will be tabling and seeking input in the Jones Building after each service. Watch for updates in the newsletter, announcements and website.



### ECO's Environmental CORner:

**First Sunday Recyclables Feb. 1: Cell phones, including chargers, greeting cards.** For cards, we can't take Hallmark, American Greeting, or Disney cards. No writing on inside front, no photo cards. Cards are sent to St. Jude's Ranch (NV), where children make them into new cards that are sold to support their services for abused, neglected, and homeless children. As every month, ECO is also collecting **batteries** (AAA - D, button, rechargeable), **corks** (natural and synthetic), **plastic pencils, pens, and markers.**

**Ideas for environmental actions to help your Growing Greener initiatives in the New Year.** It's still early in the new year with plenty of time to turn over a new (green) leaf! Check out the ECO website, [www.c3huu.org/eco](http://www.c3huu.org/eco), for both big and small actions in the areas of energy and transportation, food and water, waste, and grounds maintenance.

## UU CONNECTIONS

**Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to the Hill Towns of Italy, July 26 to August 4, 2015.**

Experience the enchanting hill towns of Tuscany and Umbria, view the awesome landscapes, admire the incredible art, taste the wine, enjoy fresh pasta, and all the delights this area of Italy offers us. Spend three nights in Florence, and three each in the hill towns of Siena and Assisi, staying in charming accommodation. We'll explore Cortona, made famous by the movie "Under the Tuscan Sun," see the Renaissance architecture designed by a humanist Pope in Pienza, meditate to Gregorian chanting at the 12th century Abby St. Antimo. The hill towns of San Gimignano, Montalcino, Montefalco, Bevagna, and Spoleto are also on our itinerary. We'll learn each town's stories from its art, food, and inhabitants. Because we are booking small monastery guest house accommodation, we need to make **deposits by February 1, 2015.** Please see the Itinerary and costs at <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/>

Or email [Beverlz@me.com](mailto:Beverlz@me.com) for more information.  
Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto

### 2015 SPRING CONs:

Join us at The Mountain for 2015 Spring Youth CONferences! This season's theme is "CONservation." Youth and advisors from congregations all over the southeast gather for a weekend program filled with workshops, activities, good food, a safe environment and warm, cozy cabins. Youth participate in activities, share with new friends in small get-to-know-you groups, and contribute to times of fun and reflection.

The dates of Spring CONs:

March 13<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders)

March 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, Intermediate (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

April 10<sup>th</sup>- 12, 2015, Sr. High (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders)

For more information and online registration visit [www.mountaincenters.org/pages/youth.php](http://www.mountaincenters.org/pages/youth.php)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### March Newsletter Submissions need to be in by Feb 15th!!!

\*\*\* Submit articles to [c3hoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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.



"Love is the opposite of fear and it lights the flames of a million hearts."

— Amy Leigh Mercree



The Community Church of Chapel Hill  
Unitarian Universalist

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