

Community Church News ❖ Jan 2015

Published by the Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalists



Sunday Services – 9:00am & 10:45am

Jan 4 “The Conviction of a UU” Rev. Thom Belote

If it became illegal to be a Unitarian Universalist, would there be enough evidence to convict you? This scary and dystopian question implies other questions: What does it actually mean to be a UU? What are the key elements of a UU identity? Join us as we explore some of the basics of Unitarian Universalism.

Jan 11 “How This Grace Thing Works” Rev. Thom Belote

This morning we’ll look into the theological idea of grace. What might grace mean for us as Unitarian Universalists?

Jan 18 “Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Multigenerational Service w/ Rev. Thom

Join us for a multigenerational worship experience celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King.

Jan 25 “Alike and Different” Rev. Thom Belote

Paul of Tarsus famously wrote, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female...” Such a statement may be comforting. Or, it may be problematic. Are we basically the same or fundamentally different? Are we one or many? These questions may be philosophical but they have profound importance in a community that holds diversity as an important value and goal.



On My Mind & In My Heart...

You are cordially invited – and encouraged! – to attend a special worship service on Saturday, January 17, at 3:00. At that time we’ll be holding a service installing me as your settled minister. Here is everything you could possibly want to know about installations.

What is an Installation?

There are two types of fancy services in the UU tradition. Ordinations and Installations. Ordinations celebrate a new minister. (A year ago we joined with the Eno River UU Fellowship to co-ordain Jim Magaw.) Installations celebrate a new ministry. They are a time for the church and minister to celebrate the match and to hear words of inspiration and counsel for the relationship that will continue to unfold.

What is an Installation like?

It is about as “high church” as UU services can be. Visiting ministers robe and process in. A visiting minister delivers a sermon written for the occasion and other ministers offer messages of advice to me and to the congregation. There is special music during the service. It is a time of joy, laughter, and celebration.

Who are the special guests?

My friend from divinity school, Rev. Jake Morrill, will be giving the sermon. Jake serves as the minister of the UU congregation in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Rev. Lisa Schwartz, minister at the UU Fellowship in Winston-Salem will deliver a charge to the congregation. My longtime friend Rev. Kenn Hurto, Executive Lead for the Southern Region of the UUA, will deliver a charge to me. And, there will be some surprise guests as well.

Will there be pie?

Yes, there will be pie! Lots of pie. The installation service will be followed by a pie reception. Members of the congregation are being asked to consider bringing a pie to share. There will be pie sign-up opportunities in early January. Bring your appetite.

... continued on next page

Who is helping make this Installation happen?
Both Lillie Bonzani of the Committee on Ministry and members of the Communications Committee are helping to make this event a joyful success. Let me know if you'd like to help with the installation.

See you in church and don't miss the installation service on Saturday, January 17!

- Rev. Thom

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

ALL CHURCH COMMUNITY DINNER AND OPEN MIC NIGHT FRIDAY, JANUARY 2:

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our monthly Community Dinner on January 2nd 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.). RSVP on-line [HERE](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NlabzvgsY2dyfMsWy7jslWAZJ6d2Jug9dQUvcA-NsuU/viewform?usp=send_form), https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NlabzvgsY2dyfMsWy7jslWAZJ6d2Jug9dQUvcA-NsuU/viewform?usp=send_form). The dinner will be followed by our 1st Open Mic Night. All are welcome!

MORE ABOUT OPEN MIC NIGHT:

We are going to start something new on January 2, immediately following the All-Church Community Dinner. We will have an Open Mic Night, from 7-8PM. Sign up to participate [HERE](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qmk6_7BpXaNU4UzjllBdirZm92-g4Sn8CNnYKx8MfFE/viewform?usp=send_form), https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qmk6_7BpXaNU4UzjllBdirZm92-g4Sn8CNnYKx8MfFE/viewform?usp=send_form

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.

SPECIAL bUUddy BREAKFAST:

Get to know a child in our church!

The annual Special bUUddy Breakfast is coming up! The Breakfast is a great way for adults in the church to get to know a child in the church and make a new friend. This is an inter-generational event for children (ages 5-11) and adults in the church. The Special bUUddy Breakfast is a Valentine tradition at the Community Church in which a child and an adult get to know each other. First, adults receive the name of a child in January. They contact the parents of the child first, and then they call and correspond with their new young friend for several weeks in a structured and easy way. Then they meet that child for a festive group breakfast at church for conversation and games. The Breakfast is Sunday, February 8th at 10:00am, between the services in the Community Building. If you would like to be an adult bUUddy or have questions about the program, contact Marion Hirsch at hirsch.marion@gmail.com. The deadline for adults to sign up for the Special bUUddy

Program is Sunday January 11, 2015. If you have a child aged 5-11 (K-5th grade) who would like to participate in the Breakfast, the deadline for children signing up is January 4, 2015. Parents can contact Marion Hirsch



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@c3hhu.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 January as we kick off the new year to exciting Thursday evening destinations! To start, we will offer the discussion course "The Rational vs. the Righteous Mind" (Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29) about how we make morally laden decisions. We will show two discussion movies: "The Story of Stuff" about the way we make, use, and throw away all the stuff in our lives (Jan. 15) and "TRANS" (Jan. 29), an "up-close and personal" view of the Transgender community. Rev. Thom and Gail McKinley will facilitate a one week Conversation About Mystical Experience on Jan. 22 while Karen Jessee will lead "Encountering Judeo-Christian Scripture in Daily Life over eight weeks beginning Jan. 29. These events will all be held at church from 7 until 9pm.

Also, SEA is looking for a flat screen television for events. If you have a working set that you would be willing to donate, that would be much appreciated!

If you have any questions or to register, please stop by the SEA table after services. We hope you'll join us at SEA!

STEWARDSHIP

This year's stewardship theme is "**stronger together.**" A lot of us might read that and gloss over what the words really mean. Let's take a moment to focus in on those words a little more critically. "Stronger together" means fostering the growth of a community by taking proactive measures to achieve those ambitions.

One of the most powerful ways we can foster this growth is by funding organizations that share our values. Once a month we "share the plate." We collect money to help organizations fill their funding gaps. For example, we have donated money to the **Interfaith Council**, which helps feed people who don't have

enough to eat. We have shared the plate with the **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill**, enabling people to receive support when they are facing debilitating and stigmatized medical conditions. Many of us support what the **Historic Thousands on Jones Street Organization (HKOnJ)** is doing. We are planning to share the plate with them in January in a gesture of solidarity for progressive political action. Without belaboring the point too much, "**stronger together**" is not just a slogan, it's a very real call to action, a call to be the change we wish to be.



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 – JAN 4: ORANGE COUNTY JUSTICE UNITED



We are proud to be a founding and sustaining member of Justice United, having completely met our pledge for 2014. Ongoing work, takes ongoing pledges. Give to our 2015 pledge.

Justice United begins the New Year working for just and fair living conditions in apartment complexes throughout Orange County. Check the news lately about Gateway Village in Hillsborough (<http://ocjusticeunited.org/gateway-residents-complain-of-violence-mold-sewage-in-showers/>) and The Landings at Winmore in Carrboro. (<http://ocjusticeunited.org/low-income-residents-identify-troubling-conditions-at-carrboro-housing-development/>)

We invite you also to join folks from many diverse congregations in our advocacy work, as did Rev Thom and eight others from the Community Church this past Fall. (<http://ocjusticeunited.org/justice-united-fall-action-update/>)

JU's Affordable Housing Team created the Tenant's Rights and Responsibilities. With your help, we will make it real in Orange County. Email c3h.justiceunited@bellsouth.net to get on our mailing list for up to date information.

STP – JAN 18: ROGER EUBANKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION & HUMAN RESOURCES CENTER:

On MLK Sunday, please support two local organizations that are helping the underserved in Orange County. The

Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA) and the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Human Rights Center (HRC) offer after-school tutoring, summer camps, computer classes, English language classes, gardening, food distribution, festivals, and many other programs for youth and adults. They promote the rights of all residents, regardless of circumstance. They primarily serve low-income residents from a wide variety of backgrounds, including African Americans, Latinos, Burmese, and Karen. RENA is now in the Rogers Road Community Center! Located in the middle of the historically African-American Rogers Road neighborhood and the Phoenix Place Habitat subdivision, the newly opened center is ideally placed for cross-cultural community building. Please contribute generously to help keep RENA's and HRC's many important programs running. Interested in knowing more? See www.rena-center.com/ and www.humanrightscities.org for information about how you can get involved.

WITHIN THESE WALLS



ART IN THE SANCTUARY :

The art in the sanctuary beginning on January 15 and 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. (*from Space Exploration Team and ECO*)

COME CELEBRATE THE INSTALLATION OF OUR MINISTER!

Rev. Thom Belote will be formally installed as minister of The Community Church of Chapel Hill UU on Saturday, **January 17 at 3:00pm** in the church sanctuary. The ceremony will include special music, speeches and presentations by church members and visiting UU ministers, including Rev. Jake Morrill of the Oak Ridge UU Congregation. A central part of the installation ceremony is the commitment that Rev. Thom and the congregation will make to each other, celebrating the choice that each has made. A festive reception will follow. Watch for more details in upcoming announcements.

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!

January 2nd
February 6th
March 6th
April 3rd
May 1st

NEW BOOK GROUP

Would you enjoy reading an interesting non-fiction book, and then gathering to discuss it with church friends? If so, buy a copy of Grave Matters: A Journey through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial, by Mark Harris. And come to the first meeting of the church's new Non-Fiction Book Group at 10:30 AM on Saturday, January 17, in the Kirby Room.

This new "affinity group"—Rev. Thom's name for a committee-free group linked by a common interest—will meet year round on the third Saturday morning of each month at 10:30. Our February read is set in Chatham County: Twelve by Twelve: A One-Room Cabin Off the Grid & Beyond the American Dream, by William Powers.

The group will select non-fiction books for discussion from the Humanities: for example, Memoir, Biography, Autobiography, History, and Religion. And from the Social Sciences: for example, Anthropology, Geography, Psychology, and Sociology.

If you have questions or ideas for future reads, please send them to the group's convener, Carolyn Holt: carolynholt@mac.com

OPEN MIC NIGHT IS COMING!

We are going to start something new on **January 2**, immediately following the All-Church Community Supper. We will have an Open Mic Night, from 7-8 PM. 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, Ivy Brezina or Marion Hirsch.

OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS:

New Years in Nag's Head, Jan. 9-11. Our most popular trip. Miles of open beaches, cypress swamps (Charles Kuralt Trail and eagle observatory at Mattamuskeet) and Red Wolf refuge. Hundreds of thousands of swans, snow geese, ducks, shorebirds and pelagics. Reasonable prospects for bears and peregrines. Expert guides and loaner optics. Good food, great company and cheap ocean front rooms at the Surfside Hotel (#1 in Nag's Head). RSVP: chandler-dorfman@mindspring.com

LEARN TO LOVE MEDITATION FROM FRIENDS WHO DO.

We meditate because it help us feel happier, more relaxed, more connected. No mysteries here, just learnable skills, regular practice, and tangible benefits. The meditation group would be happy to help you get started or get past some miss-starts. Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7:00-7:15 followed, promptly, by the 25 minute silent meditation that is our regular Tuesday night practice.

WOMENCIRCLE PLANNING FOR 2015:

Help plan the rest of the WomenCircle activities for 2015! Join us for a potluck dinner in the Community Room on **January 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** And its a potluck with a twist! Bring your favorite winter food and beverage AND your own plate, silverware and napkin. RSVP to Joann Haggerty at [919-929-5573](tel:919-929-5573) or joannhhaggerty@gmail.com and Sindy Barker at [919-969-4529](tel:919-969-4529) or sindybarker@aol.com

To date the following activities and months have been planned:

February: Prompt writing
March: TBA
April: Gail McKinley's garden followed by dinner at Vimila's Curry Blossom Café.
May: Dances of Universal Peace
June: TBA
July 12 or 19: Tubing on the Dan River
August: Sharing the books we love
September 19-21: Beach Weekend
November: Ackland Art Museum Tour
December 4: Planning meeting for 2016

email Beverlz@me.com for more information.
Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! February Newsletter Submissions need to be in by Jan 18th!!!

*** 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, 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.



ECO's Environmental CORner:

First Sunday Recyclables - Jan. 4: Holiday lights, greeting cards, children's books. For cards, we can't take Hallmark, American Greeting, or Disney cards. No writing on inside front, no photo cards. 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. Check out the ECO website, www.c3hUU.org/eco, for both big and small actions in the areas of energy and transportation, food and water, waste, and grounds maintenance.

ECO is co-sponsoring a movie and discussion with SEA at 7:00 on Thursday, Jan. 15. Come watch The Story of Stuff, a short film about the way we make, use, and throw away all the stuff in our lives. Then participate in a discussion about how we might consume and throw away less stuff in 2015!

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





The Community Church of Chapel Hill
Unitarian Universalist

106 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514