

Community Church News - Mar 2015

Published by The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalists



Sunday Services – 9:00am & 10:45am

Mar 1 "Stronger Together" Rev. Thom Belote

An alternative title for this service might be, "You should really come to church this Sunday." Join us this Sunday as we celebrate our church and the difference it makes in our lives and in the larger world. Truly we are stronger together.

Mar 8 "G-d, Goddess, Spirit, Mystery" Multigenerational Service led by Rev. Thom Belote

We will gather a multigenerational worshipping community to explore different images of the divine and different ways of imagining God.

Mar 15 "The Transient and Permanent (2015 Remix)" Rev. Thom Belote

In the spring of 1841, Theodore Parker gave one of the most famous and controversial sermons in Unitarian history. The sermon was two hours long. It had no stories or jokes. This morning, Thom will take the liberty of remixing Parker's address with contemporary language for a contemporary audience.

Mar 22 "Why Do We Sing" Rev. Thom Belote

Fifteen years ago, sociologist Robert Putnam published "Bowling Alone," a study of the decline of civic participation in American society. Putnam's research showed lower levels of civic participation across a wide range of groups, from political parties to bowling leagues. This morning, Thom will look at one type of group activity – singing together – and talk about why this is important for us as individuals and community.

Mar 29 "Let My People Go" Rev. Thom Belote

Our worship service this morning will be inspired by the Biblical story of the Exodus and Jewish festival of Passover marking the liberation of the Hebrews from bondage in Egypt. Together we'll explore ways that liberation continues to be a compelling vision and needed reality in our world today.



On My Mind & In My Heart...

I've often thought that going to church and participating in religious community are counter-cultural acts. This is true even in liberal and progressive religious communities, like ours. Here is a list of some of the ways I think we are counter-cultural.

Our dominant culture segregates people by age. Children go to school with other children. Young adults live amidst other young adults their same age. Elders live with other elders in retirement communities. Church culture gathers a multigenerational community together for worship, fellowship, and service.

Our dominant culture believes in being constantly distracted and stimulated. We are constantly in front of screens and our earphones are constantly going. Church culture takes time out. Whether it is observing a Sabbath or sitting for 60 seconds of silent meditation, we know the importance of stepping back from the noise of the world.

Our dominant culture teaches us that our worth is equal to what we can earn and what we can buy. There is a chasing after status that tells us that consuming is what makes us worthy. Church culture declares our worth is not dependent on how much money we have or what we purchase. Church culture tells us that we have inherent worth and dignity.

to be continued...

Our dominant culture believes in grades and rankings. Church culture says that it isn't possible to fail a religious education class. There is no such thing as honors Sunday School.

Do you agree with me that religious community is counter-cultural? What are some examples you can think of?

See you in church!
Rev. Thom

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

ALL CHURCH COMMUNITY DINNER MARCH 6

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our monthly Community Dinner on March 6th 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! RSVP at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NlabzvgsY2dyfMsWy7jslWAZJ6d2Jug9dQUvcANSuU/viewform?usp=send_for_m



MUSICAL NOTES by Glenn

COMMUNITY CHURCH MUSIC GALA 2015

RUUUU 2 ?

Playing and Singing the Principles

Please join us for this year's Community Church Music Gala on Saturday night, April 11, at 7pm. We'll be holding up a musical lens to the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, with music crossing many decades and genres. If you would like to join the fun as a performer, or have a suggestion for a song or piece of music, please contact music director Glenn Mehrbach at music@c3huu.org for more information.

Donations will go to create a Music Leader position for Children's Religious Education, and for sanctuary sound and lighting improvements.

WELCOMING MINISTRIES

A big thank you goes out to those of you who are standing up to make our congregation more welcoming to visitors. Your participation as a Welcoming Associate makes it possible for those coming through our doors to be greeted with Southern hospitality and gain a glimpse at the wonderful people who are members of Community Church. As Jane and Scott Provan write, *We have so enjoyed "manning" the Welcome Table where we have met some terrific new folks and loved sharing our knowledge of the church, introducing them to other members with shared interests, and guiding them to various tables where they can explore ways to get*

involved. It feels really GOOD to help make folks, who may be hesitant about being in a new church, shy, or curious, feel truly WELCOME! If you would like to be a Welcoming Associate please contact Paige Hall Smith, Membership Team Chair, (paigesmith50@gmail.com).



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)

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATIONS (SEA)

SEA ushers in spring with more spiritually fulfilling Thursday evening destinations! We launch with Tai Chi on March 12 led by Ivy Brezina. This six-session course will be based on the first third of the gentle, flowing Yangstyle short form and is a moving meditation.

Rev. Thom will offer a Preaching Practicum (Mar. 19, 26, Apr. 2 and 9, plus one Saturday retreat) for those who want to learn how to write and deliver a sermon to be presented during the summer. This intensive writing course is limited to 4 - 6 participants and has an application; please contact Marion Hirsch for more details.

The annual church-wide spiritual retreat will be held Saturday Mar. 28 from 9am until 3pm at a church member's lovely wooded property near Saxapahaw. This day will include meditation instruction, walks in the woods, journaling, silent reflection, and group discussion. Please bring a bag lunch and a love offering, more details will be provided at the SEA table.

Looking ahead in the spring, SEA will offer a Dreams Workshop led by Jean McKinney, the Spirit in Practice course to allow you to develop a regular discipline of the spirit, and a book discussion on Reza Aslan's "Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth." As always, stop by our table following service to register for our courses or if you have any questions.

STEWARDSHIP

STRONGER TOGETHER IN STEWARDSHIP - PLEDGE DRIVE BEGINS MARCH 1.

Our goal for this year's campaign is to strengthen our church by increasing the number of Sustainer pledges to at least 50%. A Sustainer pledge is a monthly pledge by automatic bank deposit, credit card or check.

To honor our commitment to the environment our entire pledge packet will be on line. Paper packets will be sent to those who don't have computer access and will be provided to anyone who requests one. You can review all of the pledge material and pledge from the convenience of your home by going to this link <http://www.c3huu.org/>.

To make pledging easier than ever, stewards will be available after each service through March 28 with their laptops, so you can pledge online.

March 29 will be the celebration between services. We need volunteers to help. Contact Liz Bryan at honorcabin13@gmail.com.

We will have much to celebrate, as we become even "Stronger Together".

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER - MINISTRY & SERVICES FAIR:

During four Sundays during March, ministries and services will show how we are "Stronger Together". Come be amazed at everything we are doing in our own community and the world and learn how you can join the fun. Below are the groups and dates.

- **March 1: Stronger Together – to Serve the Community and the World:** Community Services Ministry; Share the Plate; ECO; Peace and Justice; Justice United; Forward Together; Faith in Action; Standing on the Side of Love/HKonJ
- **March 8: Stronger Together Spiritually:** Worship; Arts; Music; SEA; Children and Youth; Youth Ministry; Covenant Groups; Meditation
- **March 15: Stronger Together in Fun:** Fellowship; 20's and 30's; Flaming Chalices; Outdoor Connections; qUilters; UUkes; Women's Circle
- **March 22: Stronger Together for our Community:** Communications; Caring; Endowment; Membership; Board; Finance; Strategic Management; Buildings & Grounds

If you have any questions, contact Andrew Hennessy-Strahs at 610-999-1576.



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 – MAR 8: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:



20 Habitat homes in 20 years! Help reach our 20:20 Vision with your donation in the March 8 Share the Plate. Many of our cost-burdened neighbors live in substandard and overcrowded housing. Our church has a strong

history of partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County and other churches to provide homes for our community family. Church partners pay half the construction costs; Habitat the other half. Families repay the Habitat share in mortgage payments. Church members help the family with construction.

We're now completing our 19th Habitat home, thanks to your generosity. Your donation in the March 8 Share the Plate will fund our 20th Habitat house, which we can begin in September. (Not here March 8? Please send your contribution to the church office. Make checks payable to The Community Church of Chapel Hill UU. Put "Habitat for Humanity" in the memo line.) Thank you.

STP – FEB 15: CHARLES HOUSE:

Charles House has been providing personalized daycare for older people in our area for almost 25 years. They now also have two very small homes for round the clock care with the same individualized philosophy. Families with a person needing assistance during the day can go to work or have a brief respite, knowing that their loved one will get good food, medicines on time, and varied opportunities for group activities as they desire. The staff-to-participant ratio is high, and each person's interests and abilities are considered in the daily program. Volunteers are needed on a one-time basis or recurring as often as the volunteer is available. Our STP funds will go toward daycare scholarships to allow a wider sector of our community to use this valuable service. The daycare location has been in Carrboro, but will move to Sunrise Rd. in Chapel Hill this summer.

STP – FEB 29: OKAY

(Opportunities for Kids and Youth) – members from various churches - in partnership with IFC - *Caring about healthy development of our community children*, especially low-resource families, when they aren't at school or with family (inactivity during summer exacerbates the achievement gap.)

OKAY:

1) **Advocates** – for affordable programs in the community

2) **Provides** – information, resources, expertise, ideas, space, volunteers, love

3) **Facilitates** – *Identify, supplement, collaborate, network* with programs and resources in churches and community – Vacation Bible Schools, Parks & Rec. (not enough places) - *more serious this summer* - closed or very limited e.g. Human Rights Center, El Centro, Rogers Rd. (new building). *Connect families-programs* (develop list; share with schools, IFC, El Centro, Human Rights Center, churches, NAACP, etc.)

4) **Conducts** programs (occasionally) – e.g. last week summer vacation, spring break

Church members have participated and continue important leadership in this community endeavor.

Contact conniegates@juno.com - to volunteer; share ideas; donate expertise, supplies, money, etc.

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:

Americana powerhouse vocal trio RED MOLLY, will perform Friday, March 20, 8 p.m. in the sanctuary as part of the Community Church Concert Series! Tickets online: www.communitychurchconcerts.org \$20 in advance (plus \$2 service charge) ; \$25 at the door. Also advance purchase following both services in Jones Building. Proceeds benefit C3HUU. Red Molly is known for their gorgeous harmonies, crisp musicianship, infectious songwriting, and warm, engaging stage presence.

Four-time featured artists at MerleFest, breakout stars at RockyGrass, and the darlings of the Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion, the "Mollies" bring audiences to their feet, whether it's on a grand festival stage or in an intimate concert hall. Their latest CD, "The Red Album", debuted at #1 on the Folk DJ radio chart and is currently at #10 on the Americana Radio chart, and climbing.

Looking ahead!!! May 1: THE DUHKS!

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!

March 6th

April 3rd

May 1st

CROP WALK 2015:

SAVE THE DATE!!! CROP HUNGER WALK: Sunday, April 19 at the Carrboro Town Commons; Registration: 1:30 p.m. Walk: 2:30 p.m. Four-mile walk thru downtown Chapel Hill/Carrboro. Shorter options available. Tabling/sign-up begin April 5!! Online registration is easiest:

<http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/ccchuu>

THE NEED IS GREAT right here in Chapel Hill/Carrboro. Join up with friends/family, gather pledges, and **WALK** to support the IFC and Church World Service hunger and sustainability programs. Questions? janerivaprovan@gmail.com; tifani.hencke@gmail.com

SPACE NEEDS TO BLOSSOM INTO SOLUTIONS:!

"Spring is the time of plans and projects" (Tolstoy). This spring, plans for addressing our overcrowded church spaces will blossom into possible solutions, so our mission and vision can bloom more vigorously. With thanks to church members who provided more input recently during two weeks of tabling, the Space Exploration Team (SET) feels overwhelming support for improved space and is energized to look for solutions.

Next steps include developing a concept for how to meet our space needs. To guide these efforts, SET is

working with an architect to develop proposals. SET looks forward to sharing these and gathering your input as we work together to develop a clear vision and build consensus for moving forward.

Earlier steps included an analysis of existing and possible new spaces to better meet the needs of key church functions. It and more information are available at <http://www.c3huu.org/space-exploration.html>

UU NON-FICTION READERS:

UU Non-Fiction Readers meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10:30 in the Kirby Room. On March 21, we will be discussing A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain, by Tamler Sommers, 2009, paper. This book—a favorite at Rev Thom’s last church—probes the origins of our sense of morality through nine interviews with researchers in the field of moral psychology. Our April 18 read is Conundrum, by Jan Morris—perhaps the best memoir about a transexual journey. In our April meeting we will also vote on readings for the rest of the year: send your nominations to carolynholt@mac.com. And join us whenever you can for a fun and stimulating discussion. We read quality non-fiction and choose books, which lead to a deeper understanding of our seven principles.

MOVIE NIGHT AT COMMUNITY CHURCH, MARCH 13TH AT 7:30 PM:

Following the enthusiastic turnout of church members to see the film *Selma* together on Friday, January 16, and Black History Month, everyone is invited to see a documentary about a black gospel group from the US visiting the West Bank. The Peace and Justice Committee and Balance and Accuracy in Journalism (BAJ) invite the congregation to see *Al Helm: Martin Luther King in Palestine* by award-winning producer Connie Fields. In March 2011, Clayborne Carson, director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute, traveled to film his play about King as it is performed by the Palestinian National Theatre and an African-American gospel choir and presented to audiences all over the West Bank. Al Helm illustrates the transformative power of art and how it can move us toward understanding. You can watch the trailer (Vimeo) at www.clarityfilms.org/mlk/. For more information call [919-942-2535](tel:919-942-2535) or [919-542-2139](tel:919-542-2139).



ECO’s Environmental CORner:

First Sunday Recyclables

March 1: Children’s books and greeting cards. As every month, ECO is also collecting **batteries** (AAA - D, button, rechargeable), **corks** (natural and synthetic), **plastic pencils, pens, and markers.**

World Water Day. Since 1993, the U.N. has marked March 22 as a day to celebrate water and to prepare for how we manage water in the future. This is an increasingly important issue in light of droughts in

California, Brazil and other places. For more information, visit <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/home/en/>. ECO has some tips for reducing water usage at www.c3huu.org/eco (near the top under “Water and Food”).

Rewards for Growing Greener. Do you have some actions you’re planning to take to be more sustainable? Wouldn’t it be fun to get rewarded while helping our planet at the same time? Watch for the April newsletter where ECO will be making an exciting announcement in celebration of Earth Day.

UU CONNECTIONS

ANNUAL OPENING WORK/PLAY WEEKEND AT SHELTER NECK UU CAMP, March 28 and 29 leave after breakfast Sunday, Free with advance registration by March 24, Jobs for all ages! Games- indoor and out, Saturday lunch of soup and sandwiches, Saturday night bonfire with music, storytelling and hotdog supper (veggie, meat, Gluten Free options) Join Us And Build Wonderful Friendships! Limit: 55 -register early please! swasilewski1@me.com

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 13th- 15th, 2015, Elementary (3rd – 5th graders)

March 20th- 22nd, 2015, Intermediate (6th – 8th graders)

April 10th- 12, 2015, Sr. High (9th – 12th graders)

For more information and online registration visit www.mountaincenters.org/pages/youth.php

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April Newsletter Submissions need to be in by Mar 15th!!!

*** 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.



The Community Church of Chapel Hill
Unitarian Universalist

106 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514