

THE ORACLE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF MEADVILLE
346 Chestnut Street Meadville, PA 16335
(814)-724-4023
WWW.uumeadville.org

FEBRUARY 2018

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Join us for our weekly worship service, religious education and social hour Sundays at 10:30 am.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our **COVENANT** is to be a loving, joyful community that nurtures spiritual growth, promotes compassion, social responsibility, and service in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Our **MISSION** is to be a faith community devoted to love and respect, reason and justice.



Hello, February

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ROBIN'S BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

REV. ROBIN LANDERMAN ZUCKER,

INTERIM MINISTER

This past week, I went to see the film “The Shape of Water,” a moving and unorthodox “love story.” Upon returning home, while pondering this powerful tale, I was reminded of this poem that asks us if we are willing/capable of loving others and ourselves in the many shapes, shadings, and layers of being a person. With February once again shoving heart-shaped, conventional concepts of love in our faces, I offer this provocative poem instead. Ask yourself...”can you love the one who....?”

In faith and affection,

Rev. Robin

Can You Love The One Who... Leah Pearlman

There's one in you who's sweet.
There's one in you who's mean.
Can you love them both?
Can you let them both be seen?

Can you love the one who tries?
And love her when she fails?
Can you love the one who lies?
And love the one who wails?

Can you love your tears?
Can you love your worry?
Can you love your darkest fears?
Can you love your fury?

Can you love indifference?
Love the one who clings?
Can you love the vibrant one?
Love the one who sings?

Can you love your addict?
Can you love your thief?
Can you love your vanity?
Can you love your grief?

Can you love your inner child?
And your body as you age?
Can you love your wild side?
Release her from her cage?

Can you love the one fulfilled?
And the one who's not?
Can you love the one who's chilled?
And whose temper's hot?

Can you love the weakling?
The one who's sometimes sick?
Can you love the warrior?
Who fights through thin and thick?

Can you love your crazy?
Can you love your sane?
Can you love your foolish heart?
Love your scattered brain?

There's one in you who's bored.
And one who's often stressed
Can you love them both at once?
And she who tries her best?

If the answer's “no.”
To some of the above
Then, can you love the one in you
Who's *learning* how to love?

WORSHIP MATTERS – FEBRUARY 2017

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

“Onward, Forward, Singing Hymns”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister
Unitarians began including hymns regularly in worship around the time The UU Church of Meadville was founded (mostly psalms set to music back then). In the nearly 200 years that have followed, our hymnody has reflected an evolving and broadening theology, our merger with the Universalists, a deeper dive into social justice, and a wide variety of musical styles and themes. This morning, we'll explore why and what we sing! How can you keep from singing? (and by the way, we'll be singing more hymns than usual...and the choir will sing, too).

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

“Side With Love” Social Justice Action Team
Personal reflections on the 'Side with Love' movement .



FEBRUARY 18, 2018

“The ½ That Makes Us Whole”

A Sermon for the Start of Lent

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister
How are we made whole? The “1/2” in this sermon stands as a symbol of our incomplete natures, and the need for our human bodies to be made whole in relation to something beyond the physical. This may be something deep and meaningful, or something rational or something mystical involving a ritual or practice. This morning, just beyond the start of the contemplative period of Lent, we'll explore and take inspiration from the five objects (stones, incense, drums, religious symbols, and bread) that have helped pilgrims and seekers find their “other ½” for millennia.

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

"What's Next?" Dr. Josh Searle-White

A service on the wisdom of not making decisions.



THE SHARED MINISTRY OF COFFEE HOUR HOSTING

The coffee hour/ community table schedule has been published and emailed to the participants. There is a copy on the front counter of the Parish House and one on the refrigerator.

Schedule for coffee hour for February:

- February 4th: Laurie Parendes and
Yvonne Kightlinger
February 11th: Joyce and Rob Brugnoli
February 18th: Josh Searle-White and
Leigh Lynes
February 25th: Carol and Rick Holmgren



Horton Hears a UU!

Join us as our Children's Sunday School Program explores life lessons through Dr. Seuss' rhymes at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville!

When?

Starting Sunday January 14th, 2018
Worship and Sunday School
10:30am-11:30am

Where?

At the Unitarian Universalist Church on the Diamond

Why?

Because we are a community that is spiritually open and radically inclusive.

Questions?

Contact Kristina Brink, CRE
at 724-977-2945 or
kbrinkl618@hotmail.com
Or
go to www.uumeadville.org



Please register each child using this [downloadable registration form](#).

If you would like to get involved as an adult helper for the RE Classes or family-friendly activities and events, please check the boxes on the RE registration form or contact either myself or RE Chair, Jane Anderson. Check back in every month to hear about the wonders of RE!

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to Adult Faith Development at UUCM. Our offerings are open to all members and friends, new and longstanding. We invite and encourage you to explore a variety of courses, presentations, and events to help you be inspired, connect, and live your values. Our goal is to provide a framework for you to grow (personally, intellectually, spiritually, and ethically) as an individual, as a member of the community, and also as a Unitarian Universalist.

Ideas? Do you have an idea for a program that you would like us to offer, or one that you would like to offer yourself? If so, please contact Rev. Robin rzflowngforce@gmail.com

A LONG STRANGE TRIP: OUR UU HISTORY (in 6 compelling DVDs!)

On three Sundays this winter, we'll watch a one hour DVD documentary about our fascinating history and then discuss what we've learned and how it informs who we are today as UUs.

The program will take place in the Arthur Room. Please feel free to bring a brown-bag lunch. Attend one, or all! The program will be led by Caron Carnahan, candidate for UU commissioned lay ministry and seasoned leader at the Ginger Hill UU congregation in Slippery Rock.

Sunday February 11, 12:00-2:00 pm "Evolution"

Sunday March 11, 12:00-2:00 pm "Unitarian Universalism"



A GRIEF AND LOSS SHARING AND SUPPORT GROUP WITH REV. ROBIN

In the Parish House Arthur Room – 12:00-1:00 p.m. (bring a lunch, as desired)
Dates: Mondays, Feb 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4

This group welcomes anyone who has experienced loss, grief or a difficult transition and is seeking a place to share and support others. Open to members of the wider community outside of UUCM. Please spread the word.

Word for Word: Writing for Self-Discovery and Spiritual Renewal with Rev. Robin

6 Mondays, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Feb 19, March 5, March 19, April 2, April 16, and May 7

Limited to 8 participants. Commitment to the entire series is expected. Register by emailing Rev. Robin at rzflowingforce@gmail.com

"Don't be satisfied with stories, how things have gone with others. Unfold your own myth." ~ Rumi

The act of writing is a powerful tool for self-discovery, healing, and renewal. Writing can be a creative as well as a therapeutic journey; a method of marking our experiences in time, space, heart, soul, and mind.

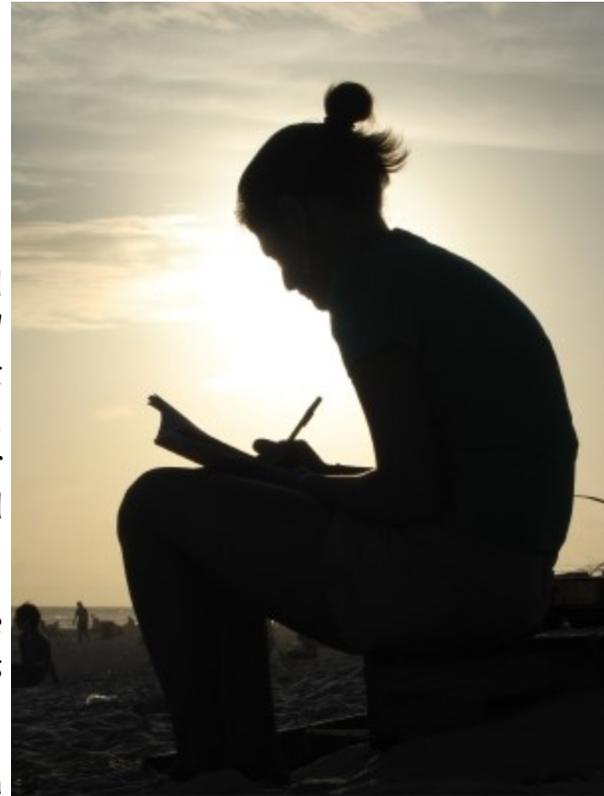
In this six-week program, we will explore our personal and spiritual odysseys with a series of short "free-write" exercises as well as longer assignments. We will prompt early memories; revisit joyful and sorrowful moments; rewrite endings, beginnings, and middles as a tool for healing; pen letters we meant to write but didn't; and observe the everyday sacred in our lives.

All of the writing in the first four meetings will be done during class time. In the last two sessions, participants will share a longer, assigned spiritual autobiography.

No previous writing experience is required or even expected. This class is NOT about being a "good" writer or about "how" to write. Nor is the program intended as group "therapy." Rather, it is designed as a communal vehicle for personal exploration and growth. All participants will be encouraged to "write for themselves" not for an audience; sharing will be optional and welcome.

*There are still two spots available for this writing group.

Planning far ahead? Pencil in a full day mindfulness and spiritual growth retreat with Rev. Robin and other facilitators on Saturday, June 2nd. Details to follow.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FIRST FRIDAY DANCE PARTY

Through May from 7 to 9 p.m. every first Friday of the month at Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, 346 Chestnut St. The next event is Feb. 2. Those who want to show off the skills they learned from a dancing class should be excited for this month's theme, which centers around ballroom dancing, such as the waltz, foxtrot, cha cha and more. Light concessions included. Children younger than 18 are welcome to attend with their parents. Donations of any kind are welcomed and benefit the church, which will use those funds for outreach purposes. Information: Email Dan Hunter at deliraddish@gmail.com.



SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM

FOURTH FRIDAY CARDS, PUZZLES, AND GAMES NIGHT

February 23rd, from 8 pm to 11 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville Parish House, Presented by the UUCM Social Justice Action Team. Take your favorite game and a friend. This will take place each fourth Friday night. Family friendly. Coffee, cocoa, tea, chocolates, and popcorn included, and if you don't have your favorite to bring, games, puzzles, and card decks will be available for anyone to use.. Information: Email Anne Jones at anne.goodwyn.jones@gmail.com.

OPEN MEDITATION

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.: Open meditation. Everyone is invited to join Harmony in the Parish House in this quiet inward-focused meditative time led by our longtime yogi. It's been meeting outside during the summer, but now is shifting to the Parish House, which should be open when the choir arrives to practice.

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+

A support group for LGBTQ citizens, their parents and allies was formed three years ago in Meadville and has been meeting at Stone Methodist Church. The group recently moved to the UU church, meeting on the third Tuesday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. All persons interested in supporting the LGBTQ community are welcome to attend for discussion, snacks and fun. We are hoping to walk in the Halloween Parade this year, support for this endeavor is welcome. If you have any questions please contact Deb Lehman, deblehman51@gmail.com. For more information please visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGMeadville/>.

SURJ: SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

All are welcome to SURJ: Showing Up for Racial Justice in Crawford County We meet Mondays at 7:00 pm at Pizza Villa, and also for social action witness on the south end of the in the Diamond on Fridays, 12:00-1:00 pm. Find us on Facebook at SURJCrawfordCounty (<https://www.facebook.com/SURJCrawfordCounty/>). Learn more from Shayna Morrison (shaynajmorrison@gmail.com) or Anne Jones (anne.goodwyn.jones@gmail.com).

Please see the B&B for other Social Justice opportunities.

CREATING LANDSCAPES FOR FAMILIES

Proud to Present Our 8th Annual Candlelight Spaghetti Dinner

Music by JOHN HYATT & the BOYS♪

Dinner Includes Spaghetti, Homemade Meatballs, Salad, & Dessert Prepared By

Creating Landscapes for Families

Friday, February 9, 2017

Dinner will be served anytime between 5:00 and 7:00pm.

Unitarian Universalist Church Social Hall

346 Chestnut Street, Meadville



We are so grateful for each and every person who attends. Based on last year's numbers, we want to ensure that we have plenty of room for everyone! We are kindly requesting advance reservations, but will gladly make room for all who come. Takeout requests will be lovingly packed to go! For reservations or takeout, contact Rosemary Richardson at rosemary@creatinglandscapes.org OR (814) 333-9228. Back by popular demand, we will be taking orders for hot lunches to be prepared February 9! Hot lunches can be picked up at the UU Church between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm or delivered locally by us. Please place lunch orders with Chris or Tammy Collins at (814) 336-6223 by Monday February 5. Thank you!

Anyone interested in donating to the dinner prep can drop off spaghetti (white or wheat) and/or Parmesan cheese to the church kitchen. We go through LOTS of both of those - so donations would help our "bottom line" profit which Families will be sharing evenly with the church. Free-will donations toward dinner will be accepted at the door, and all funds raised will be used to help sustain our Creating Landscapes for Families after-school, dinner, and evening program which serves 60 -70 local people.

WINTERFEST 2018 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

UUCM will once again open its doors to the community by participating in the 2nd annual Winterfest February 17 from noon to 4 pm. The church will sponsor a craft for kids based on the 7 principles, please contact Michele Baker if you can help with this activity.



We will host several community organizations including My Meadville, French Creek Connections and Going Places among others.

UUCM will offer cookies and hot chocolate. Donations welcome! Contact Deb Lehman, deblehman51@gmail.com.

Bring the family, shake off the winter doldrums and support our beloved community.

FAITH IN ACTION

SOUP KITCHEN

Every second Friday each month a group of UU volunteers serve meals at the Meadville Area Soup kitchen as a way to help alleviate some of the symptoms of poverty in our region. You are welcome to volunteer. Our congregation's contact is Marty Thaeler, mthaeler@zoominternet.net 814-807-1480

BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS (affiliated with Family Services of NW PA)

Is looking for mentors to help with their program. For more information, contact the office or check out the poster in the Parish House. For more information visit <http://www.fsnwpa.org/our-services/parent-education/big-brothers-big-sisters-program/>

WHY WE SHARE: FEBRUARY'S SHARE-THE-PLATE RECIPIENT: MEADVILLE SOUP KITCHEN



The soup kitchen was founded in 1982 when the former Avtex and Talon industrial plants began shutting down operations. As jobs disappeared, the United Way of Western Crawford County and the Meadville Ministerium decided the soup kitchen was needed.

Thank you for all who donated in January. The recipient was the Early Learning Center.

JANUARY SAVE THE DATE

UU CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sundays at 9:00 am

FIRST FRIDAY DANCE

Friday 2nd, 7:00-9:00 pm

BOARD MEETING

Sunday 7th, 12:00 pm

A GRIEF AND LOSS SHARING AND SUPPORT GROUP

Monday 5th, 12:00- 1:00 pm

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Tuesday 6th, 12:30– 2:00 pm

SOUP KITCHEN

Friday 9th, 10:00 am

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday 9th, 5:00-7:00 pm

LONG STRANGE TRIP

Sunday 11th, 12:00-2:00 pm

MEADVILLE TIME TRADE

Thursday 15th, 6:00 pm

WINTERFEST

Saturday 17th, 12:00-4:00 pm

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+

Tuesday 20th, 7:30– 8:30 pm

ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

Monday 26th by 9:00 am

RESOURCES

OUR CARING CONNECTIONS

Pastoral care is available to all members and friends, new and longstanding. Our lay pastoral team works with our minister to offer support, practical assistance, and companionship. Please let us know (through our team, staff, musical or affinity groups) of needs for our caring connections. Please contact Rev. Robin.

UU-seful Web Links

UU Church of Meadville:
www.uumeadville.org

Oracle: www.uumeadville.org/Oracles

UUA: www.uua.org

UU Service Committee: www.uusc.org

Ohio-Meadville District:
www.ohiomeadville.org

Amazon Associates Shop

Remember that our church is a member of the Support us when you shop at amazon. smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1322866 and Amazon donates.



2017 Church Officers

President: Dave Anderson
(david_mark_a@hotmail.com)

Vice-President: Bob Ackerman
(bobackerman106@gmail.com)

Stewardship: Peggy Bell
(Peggytbell@gmail.com)

Clerk: Marty Thaeler
(mthaeler@zoominternet.net)

Treasurer: John Stewart
(johnuucm@zoominternet.net)

Coordinator of Mission Teams:
Dan Hunter
(deliraddish@gmail.com)

Coordinator of Out Reach Team:
Carlin Almes
(carlin-almes@comcast.com)

Church Staff

Interim Minister:
Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker
rzflowingforce@gmail.com or
(814)- 724-4023 Ext. 302
Minister's Home Study– 412-727-6870
(Talk or Text)
Please see calendar for schedule , or by appointment

Coordinator Of Religious Education:
Kristina Brink
(kbrink1618@hotmail.com
or (724) 977-2945
By appointment only

Music Director: Aimee Reash
(areash@allegheny.edu)

Office Administrator: Jodi Sipos
(church@uumeadville.org or
(814)724-4023)
Mon-Tues-Wed-: 8 AM – 2PM
Fri: By Appointment

Oracle Editor: Jodi Sipos
church@uumeadville.org or