

# THE ORACLE

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

MAY 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.

The month of  
*May*

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## ROBIN'S BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

REV. ROBIN LANDERMAN ZUCKER,

INTERIM MINISTER

Last time we met, the Word for Word writing group chose fortune cookies from a bag and wrote about how they related to the message. It was fun and thought provoking.

Have you noticed how the fortune cookies in Chinese restaurants nowadays provide a bite-sized Berlitz course? On the flip side of the “fortune” part of the cookie, one can usually find a vocabulary word written out in Chinese characters, in transliteration, and in English. During their formative years, my kids and I enjoyed taking a crack at pronouncing the word in Chinese (using the transliteration) and then we’d all try to guess the definition. (Yes, we sounded ridiculous, but it became a family ritual).

After one memorable dinner at Chang An, our local eatery in Concord, MA, my then-12 year-old son, Sam, cracked open his cookie, flipped his fortune, and proclaimed, “You-You,” trying to sound as Chinese as possible. “UU?” I asked. “Well, that’s easy – it means a religious liberal who promotes freedom, reason and tolerance.” Everyone but Sam chuckled. “No,” he responded, “*youuuu-youuuu*.” “UU?” I inquired again, even more mischievously, “as in, a person who searches for spiritual truth and meaning in a framework with flexible boundaries?”

At this point, Sam is experiencing the annoying downside of being a PK (preacher’s kid) coupled with the incessant adolescent humiliation of having parents. “No, Mom,” he replied, exasperated. “YOU-YOU! It means *squid* in Chinese. *Squid*, Mom!” (envision eye rolling here). Because we couldn’t help ourselves, members of our family spent the next several weeks referring to Unitarian Universalism as the *squid religion* with all the requisite lame puns about how some folks don’t grasp the *tentacles* of our free faith.

All joking aside, it can truly be difficult to know how to respond when we experience unfair attacks, and encounter inaccurate stereotypes and misconceptions about our progressive religion. Many of us know all too well the queasy feeling that arises when we hear the snide question, “oh, aren’t you those people who don’t believe in anything?” They might as well say, “Aren’t you the folks who worship squid?”

There are various ways to articulate our faith calmly, but assertively, that not only inform others, but which also gives each of us a chance to strengthen our own self-definitions as UUs. Give it a try on your own...imagining yourself ascending 20 floors with someone who wants to know about our uncommon denomination. Discover what you can come up with using 50 words, or 100 words. I’d love to see your results!!

Some great resource materials can be found in the brochures available on the racks in the Parish House, on our church website, and on the UUA website. (a brochure called *Elevator Speeches* is also tacked to the bulletin board) In the fall, I’ll offer a program on articulating our faith and we can practice together.

For now, though, I’m out of space and need to run. There’s take-out waiting for me at my local Chinese place. I ordered what the Zuckers came to call “*UU youuuu-youuuuu*” – many-flavored calamari.

In faith,

Rev. Robin

## WORSHIP MATTERS – MAY 2018

**MAY 6, 2018**

“Patching Chindis: On Brokenness”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister

Among the multitude of Hindu deities, there is a goddess named “Akhilandesvari” - the “Never Not Broken Goddess.” She is anything but frail, though – she carries a trident and rides in on a crocodile! As humans, we are also “never-not-broken,” yet how do you relate to our



brokenness? Do we despise it? Embrace it? Feel empathy for it? Want to soothe it? Experience its intense pathos and pain and seek to transform it? We’ll ride along with Akhilandesvari, as we explore these questions through an Eastern spiritual lens. In this participatory service, we’ll also be lead in Kirtan chanting (a beautiful devotional singing practice originating in India) by Jennifer Hellwarth, hear a story from Josh Searle-White, and engage with Rev. Robin in a ritual of healing.

**MAY 13, 2018**

“Who Did You Listen to Today?” Corinne Chafey  
Too many of us define “listening” as the period during which we work out what we’re going to say next. If, like me, you’re someone who needs a small reminder that listening both attracts and heals, this sermon should speak to you.

**MAY 20, 2018**

Flower Communion Sunday – bring a flower for our sharing ceremony

“The Gardener, the Garden, and Creation”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister  
With poetic interludes offered by P. Todd Fox.

In her famed collection, “The Wild Iris,” former US poet laureate Louise Glück casts her poems about flowers as representations of the human lifespan from several narrative viewpoints: a Godlike creator speaking to his creation of the natural world and humans, the people who are tending the garden, and the flowers that grow there.

Interspersed with poems from this collection, Rev. Robin’s sermon will unearth the joy, sorrow, despair, and hope found in our garden of human experience from Spring to Winter to Spring.

**PICNIC AND PLANTING PARTY** - How does your garden grow? Ours grows with your help. Come and get your hands dirty afterward the service at our annual planting party and picnic.



**MAY 27, 2018**

“It’s Not You, It’s Me” Jodi Sipos

Join us as we discuss ethnocentrism in the modern world and reflect on what we can do to remain open and accepting. Enjoy the talent of special musical guest Jordan Sipos.

## 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 May:**

May 6th: Christine Cooper and Joe McHugh

May 13th: Leigh Lynes and Peggy Bell

May 20th: Picnic Lunch for Garden Workers

May 27th: P. Todd Fox and Shayna Morrison

# 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](http://www.uumeadville.org)



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

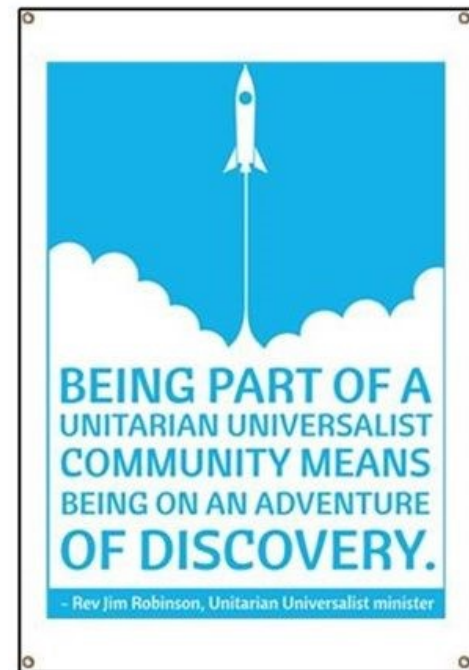
Join in at any time, we welcome you.

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 [rzflowingforce@gmail.com](mailto:rzflowingforce@gmail.com)



### 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, 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

Monday 5:30-7:00 p.m., May 7, May 21 and June 4

**THIS PROGRAM IS FULL**



### **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 May 4th. 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](mailto:deliraddish@gmail.com).

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM**

### **FOURTH FRIDAY CARDS, PUZZLES, AND GAMES NIGHT**

May 25th, 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](mailto: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 LGBT+ MEET AND GREET MAY 17TH**

Thursday May 17, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. UU church Parish House

An open invitation to meet members of local LGBT+ group. We'll share information about the group and its mission in the community. Light refreshments served.

If you have any questions please contact Deb Lehman, [deblehman51@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:shaynajmorrison@gmail.com)) or Anne Jones ([anne.goodwyn.jones@gmail.com](mailto:anne.goodwyn.jones@gmail.com)).

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

## TRAUMA INFORMED TRAINING

Aesthetic Experience Programs is a three part program offered to provide educators and community members the opportunity to discover who experiences trauma and why. Participants will become aware of how traumatic childhood experiences influence behavior and how an organization can develop a trauma informed response. These classes are free and earn Act #48 credits

**Program I** Developing Trauma Informed Awareness May 8 or 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Arthur Room of the Parish House      2 Act #48 credits

Instructors: Audrey Smith and Harry Nelson

**Program II** Creating Trauma Informed Learning Centers    May 14, 17 & 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Arthur Room of the Parish House      6 Act #48 credits

Instructors: Audrey Smith & Harry Nelson

**Program III** Realizing Arts-Infused and Trauma Informed Learning & Teaching

July 1, 2, 4,5,12 14    Montgomery Gym Allegheny College

Facilitated by Jan Hyatt

Brochures with more details about the program and registration forms are available on the office counter in the Parish House. Members of the UU Church community are invited to attend.



## **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](mailto: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: MAY'S SHARE-THE-PLATE**

### **RECIPIENT: CHAPS**

Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program (CHAPS) is a non-profit, consumer-driven organization that was founded in 1988. From day one, CHAPS has been committed to the mission of supporting consumers of mental health services, advocating for the improvement of local mental health services, and encouraging and enhancing the formation of a consumer self-help network in Crawford County. It is also committed to engaging in activities that better the lives of persons with mental illness. CHAPS has a unique blend of mental health consumers and professionals working together for the betterment of those they serve. Furthermore, CHAPS is dedicated to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service's (OMHSAS) vision that every person with serious mental illness and/or addictive disease will have the opportunity for growth, recovery, and inclusion in their community, have access to services and supports of their choice, and enjoy a quality of life that includes family and friends.

Thank you for all who donated in April. The recipient was Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center.

## **MAY SAVE THE DATE**

### **UU CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Sundays at 9:00 am

### **FIRST FRIDAY DANCE**

Friday 4th, 7:00-9:00 pm

### **BOARD MEETING**

Sunday 6th, 12:00 pm

### **A GRIEF AND LOSS SHARING AND SUPPORT GROUP**

Monday 7th, 12:00- 1:00 pm

### **WORD FOR WORD**

Monday 7th & 21st, 5:30-7:00 pm

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 8th, 12:30– 2:00 pm

### **TRAUMA TRAINING**

Tuesday 8th or Wednesday 10th

Monday 14th

Thursday 17th and 31st

6:00-8:00 pm

### **SOUP KITCHEN**

Friday 11th, 10:00 am

### **MEADVILLE TIME TRADE**

Thursday 15th, 6:00 pm

### **CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+**

Tuesday 17th, 7:00– 8:30 pm

### **FLOWER COMMUNION & PLANTING**

Sunday 20th, 10:30 am

### **ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE**

Monday 28th 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](http://www.uumeadville.org)

Oracle: [www.uumeadville.org/Oracles](http://www.uumeadville.org/Oracles)

UUA: [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

UU Service Committee: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

*Ohio-Meadville District:*  
[www.ohiomeadville.org](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1322866) and Amazon donates.



### 2018 Church Officers

**President:** Dave Anderson  
([david\\_mark\\_a@hotmail.com](mailto:david_mark_a@hotmail.com))

**Vice-President:** Bob Ackerman  
([bobackerman106@gmail.com](mailto:bobackerman106@gmail.com))

**Stewardship:** Peggy Bell  
([Peggytbell@gmail.com](mailto:Peggytbell@gmail.com))

**Clerk:** Marty Thaeler  
([mthaeler@zoominternet.net](mailto:mthaeler@zoominternet.net))

**Treasurer:** John Stewart  
([johnuucm@zoominternet.net](mailto:johnuucm@zoominternet.net))

**Coordinator of Mission Teams:**  
Dan Hunter  
([deliraddish@gmail.com](mailto:deliraddish@gmail.com))

**Coordinator of Out Reach Teams:**  
Carlin Almes  
([carlin-almes@comcast.com](mailto:carlin-almes@comcast.com))

### Church Staff

#### Interim Minister:

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker  
[rzflowingforce@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kbrink1618@hotmail.com)  
or (724) 977-2945  
*By appointment only*

**Music Director:** Aimee Reash  
([areash@allegheny.edu](mailto:areash@allegheny.edu))

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

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