

# THE ORACLE

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

JUNE 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 JUNE

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## ROBIN'S BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

REV. ROBIN LANDERMAN ZUCKER,

INTERIM MINISTER

This summer I expect to spend a good deal of time kayaking on quiet lakes and non-whitewater rivers. So, I've been pondering rivers (and checking that my life preserver is leak-free and there are no cracks in my paddle, too!)

In his reflection, entitled, "Run River Run," Wendell Berry writes: "There is a river that runs through us. It is Mystery. It is Life, It descends through my granite soul with the force of gravity and love, plunges through empty canyons, chisels out corridors with its wet hands and slowly, ever so, widens the cracks of crevices of my failures into pools where grace collects. The injury of the river is also its gift. Where I have been cut deeply, so there Life most deeply, most surely, flows. If we would receive the sacred, we must receive the river's flow, even as it injures, even as it takes away."

He continues: "That, to me, is thanksgiving. It's not about being glad for the good things that have happened to us- they are simply moments in the sun. Thanksgiving is standing still with an injured and open heart and letting the River run freely through us."

Berry captures the essence and truth about the river so well.

He alludes to the central truth about the river (and the metaphoric river that is a human life) – it only flows in one direction – *downstream*. And nothing we truly want is or can ever be *upstream*. Yes, we can walk upstream along the river bank to explore where we have been and why we made the choices we did. We can ache, yearn and regret, but we cannot make the river flow upstream.

Even those things we wish we could do over *upstream* can only be revisited in any useful way *downstream* – a fresh chance to forgive or be forgiven, to renew or repair a relationship, to change course professionally, to heal what is broken. None of this is upstream. Ever. So let it go, let it flow downstream to meet you where you are. A river runs through it and as you step into the river, remember that you never step into the same river twice.

Spirit of Life, let the river run, and may the banks of our injured and open hearts be wide open with thanks.

In faith,

Rev. Robin

**JUNE 3, 2018**

“Dreaming God or God Dreaming”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister

In our society, and especially in the political sphere, we hear subtle and not so subtle claims to being “Godly.” In this morning’s service, will explore a provocative theological question posed by a 14-year-old UU some years ago in his Coming of Age Credo statement: “Are we dreaming God during our waking hours or is God dreaming us while He/She is asleep, or neither?”



**JUNE 10, 2018**

“Learning from the Lambs” Josh Searle-White

I was walking the other day and had a chance to talk with some lambs. They didn’t say much, but while I was waiting for them to answer I got to thinking about what we can learn from their purity, innocence, and skittishness.

**JUNE 17, 2018**

“Unsung Hero of An Uncommon Denomination: Abner Kneeland, Heretic”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister  
Some know him as “The Last Man Jailed for

Blasphemy.” Abner Kneeland was a Universalist minister and social reformer who spoke out against strident religion, and who advocated equal rights for women and blacks, supported interracial marriage and birth control – in the 1820s, mind you! No wonder he was said to be

100 years ahead of his time! Given the rise in fundamentalist religion (Christian, Islamic and otherwise), and with it, rigid labeling of believers and heathens, and renewed calls for banning blasphemous books, artwork and ideology, what might we modern-day UUs learn as a cautionary tale from Kneeland’s crusade and its price?



**JUNE 24, 2018**

“The Shared World, UU General Assembly 2017”

We will watch the video of the 2017 GA opening worship ceremony followed by group discussion moderated by Susan Hegel. This powerful, communal worship experience will be led by Rev. Mara Dowdall. She is Senior Minister of the First UU Society of Burlington, Vermont. Previously, she served congregations in Montpelier, Vermont and the Boston area, and spent a year as the UUA’s Interim Youth Ministry Director. A Philadelphia native, life-long Unitarian Universalist, and graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Mara worked in national politics before her call to ministry. 10:30-12:00 PM.

**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 June:**

- June 3rd: Jill Hyatt
- June 10th: Kathy and Stu Rothman
- June 17th: Rachel Meerson and Amelia Carr
- June 24th: Fran and Bill Smith

**COFFEE HOUR HOST SIGN UP**

A new coffee hour sign-up sheet is now at the Parish House desk for dates beginning in July and ending in December, 2018. As summer comes on and vacations approach we want to be sure that coffee hour hosting does not interfere with your plans. Please sign up for the date most convenient for you in the next 6 months. We will be meeting in early June to fill in the dates not spoken for, so please make your selection as soon as possible. Thanks for your help with the ongoing tradition.

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

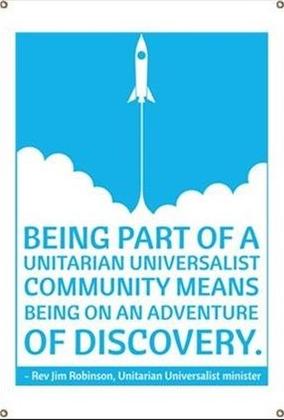
We are thrilled that the Horton Hears A UU: Life Lessons from Dr. Suess" RE program was such a success! Thanks to everyone who helped out. We're working on a great, new creative curriculum for the fall for our children. Stay tuned for details!



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!

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

## 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 [rzflowing-force@gmail.com](mailto:rzflowing-force@gmail.com)

### WORD FOR WORD: WRITING FOR SELF-DISCOVERY AND SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WITH REV. ROBIN

Monday 5:30-7:00 p.m., June 18

**THIS PROGRAM IS FULL**

### SPIRIT OF THE SUN SOLSTICE CIRCLE

Thursday, June 21, 12:30 p.m.

Family friendly, 20-30 minutes

Led by Rev. Robin and friends

Join us in the church's back garden for an earth-based Solstice Circle to celebrate the longest day. Bring a drum or noisemaker if you have one. Be part of the festivities of "Making Music Day" on the diamond and stroll over during the lunch hour. We may also have a craft activity inside during the day (stay tuned for details).



## **GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER**

June 15th & 16th 9:00-5:00

Mike and Michele Baker's garage- 16231 Conneaut Lake Road



Needed: Set-up on June 12th, 13th & 14th any time after 9:00 am- 8:00 pm

Clerks on June 15th & 16th

Packing and clean-up at 5:00 pm June 16th or on June 17th after church

Call Mike or Michele at 333-8518 to arrange time for dropping off items to sell and to volunteer. Mark your calendar and clean the attic, but please, no books or old TV's. This is our major fundraiser & our goal is \$4,000. Furniture & big-ticket items are needed to achieve our two day goal.

Call Peggy Bell 333-1378 if you have questions or to arrange pick-up.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM**

### **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](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 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.

## FLOWERS, FLOWERS EVERYWHERE!

Last week's Flower Sunday brought beautiful blooms to the church. As we moved to the planting areas, were greeted by the many weeds that had established themselves over the flowerless season. Flowers were put aside as the task of uprooting those stubborn greens began. As we trimmed and pulled, we realized that flower planting would have to wait until preparation of the beds were completed. Something else, we needed more people! We also realized that **EVERYONE IS BUSY!** We came up with the **10 MINUTE RULE**. If every member gave 10 minutes a few times during the seasons, we would greatly increase the viability of maintaining our landscape. Garden tools and bags will be available in a tote placed in the back yard. So grab a trowel, pull a few weeds, plant a flower be a part of making our little spot in the world a visual pleasure. It can be as little as **10 MINUTES** to accomplish.



## **FAITH IN ACTION**

### **SOUP KITCHEN- JUNE 8TH 10:00 AM**

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: JUNE'S SHARE-THE-PLATE**

### **RECIPIENT: SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE**

Showing Up for Racial Justice Crawford County is a chapter of SURJ in Northwestern PA. SURJ is an inclusive group working for a racially just Crawford County. We believe that racism hurts everybody and that none of us can really be free until we end white supremacy. Through education and community organizing, SURJ moves our community towards justice for all. We are part of a multi-racial, multi-class movement, which is intentionally accountable to communities of color.

Thank you for all who donated in May. The recipient was CHAPS.

## **JUNE SAVE THE DATE**

### **BOARD MEETING**

Sunday 3rd, 12:00 pm

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 5th, 12:30– 2:00 pm

### **SOUP KITCHEN**

Friday 8th, 10:00 am

### **GARAGE SALE**

Friday 15th & Saturday 16th  
9:00-5:00 pm

### **WORD FOR WORD**

Monday 18th, 5:30-7:00 pm

### **CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+**

Tuesday 19th, 7:00– 8:30 pm

### **ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE**

Monday 25th by 9:00 am

### **OFFICE CLOSED**

Friday 8th - Monday 11th  
Friday 15th  
Thursday 21-Monday 25th

## 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*

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([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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