

THE ORACLE

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

AUGUST 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.

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AUGUST



ROBIN'S BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

REV. ROBIN LANDERMAN ZUCKER,

INTERIM MINISTER

It's not even August 1st and I'm all out of Teknu Spray, and here's why. Over the past two months, I've suffered through two maddening bouts of Poison Ivy (PI). The first covered my arms and torso in a blistering rash. The second had my eye puffed out so angrily it looked like I had gone three rounds with Billy the Basher.

Day and night, I practically bathed in Calamine and sprinted up to the pharmacy counter for my Steroid pack in a dogged (and somewhat despairing) pursuit to do anything *but* scratch the itch. It wasn't until my neighbor and local landscape guru Paul came by to help me trim back some overhanging branches that I realized that I had been pulling PI vines off of this odd monster tree in my yard.

"I'm not going near that tree," he declared, "it's covered with poison ivy. Sorry." "Where,?!" I inquired in a startled way. "Right there," he said, pointing to these humongous three-leafed clusters that did not look like classic PI to me. "See," he explained, "there's the red vein in the intersection. That's the give-away."

I gulped, looked at him sheepishly and admitted I had been "weeding" this vine. I joked about being a slow learner and we both laughed thinly at my misstep. "Well," I quipped, "sometimes it can take a while to recognize what's toxic in your world and leave it be." (deeper meaning noted!) I've erected a security fence around the tree so that my dog cannot brush up against the PI leaves and infect me. For now, it's under control, but at some point, I'll need to find a way to eradicate this infestation at the root. Wish me luck.

As I sit in my yard (a safe distance from the tree) and ponder this series of events, I'm reminded that noticing the "give-away" of toxic elements in our lives isn't always evident and sometimes it can take a few (or more) rounds of exposure to take the necessary steps to change our habits and actions "at the root." We can begin by reducing or even eliminating contact with the elements that are toxic to our well-being, whether they be addictive substances, anger issues, procrastination, counterproductive behaviors, unhealthy lifestyle habits, or draining relationships with toxic people. We often need to repeat this process enough times to make it stick...one colleague of mine calls this "failing forward," and I like that.

Within our religious communities, we offer many avenues to this form of personal and spiritual growth; we can attend adult faith development classes, participate in social justice work or worship, sing in the choir, teach our children in the Sunday School, and connect with ourselves and others through our caring community, social events, and affinity groups.

If you are inspired to scratch the itch of deepening along your own path, please take a close look at the September Oracle and upcoming B&BS to discover what UUCM will offer that might help you move towards your own healthy and balanced center.

Go into the woods (or your backyard) to live more deliberately, and while you're "failing forward," keep an eagle eye out for "leaves in three" (real and metaphorical) and "let it be!"

In Faith,
Rev. Robin

WORSHIP MATTERS – AUGUST 2018

The summer theme is Embodied Spirituality. With exception of the Church Picnic, services will be held in the Arthur Room of the Parish House.



AUGUST 5, 2018

“Mandala Coloring” - Leigh Lynes

AUGUST 12, 2018

Chair Yoga - James Reedy

Chair Yoga is a wonderful device designed to prepare for and cultivate meditation. Our time together will be spent exploring how we use chair yoga to release tension in the body/mind, enliven our directly felt experience and focus our attention.

AUGUST 19, 2018

Church Picnic at the Ackerman’s Farm

The UU Church picnic will be held at noon on Sunday, August 19, at the Bob Ackerman farm, 17883 Ackerman Drive, Meadville. Bob has lots of fun things planned for us, including a hay ride and visits with some of the farm animals. This year we plan to have hot dogs and burgers on the grill. Lemonade and iced tea will be furnished. Please bring any other beverage you would prefer. We are asking attendees to bring lawn chairs, if possible, and a dish to share for the meal. We will have a tent on site in the event of rain, or shelter from the sun. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to join our church community in this fun annual event. Music will be provided by Jordan Sipos. Please feel free to bring your instruments to jam. Don’t forget to sign up in the Parish House.



AUGUST 26, 2018

“Simply Pray”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker

In this service, we’ll explore a simple and unique modern spiritual practice with an inclusive understanding of the sacred and deep roots in all of the world religions. Using a small “mala” of prayer beads (which will be made by you) participants will follow a centering process to develop a contemplative language free of any specific religious expression that can be molded to the user's own spiritual imagery. Materials provided.



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 August:

August 5th: Joyce and Rob Brugnoli

August 12th: Leigh Lynes and Matt McElhinny

August 19th: Church Picnic

August 26th: Barb Newcamp and

George Stabile

USHER AND PULPIT ASSISTANT SIGN UP

We are currently looking for volunteers for pulpit assistants and ushers for September through December 2018. Please sign up to be pulpit assistant if you have filled this role regularly or have attended a training. Sign up for the date most convenient dates for you. All dates without volunteers will be assigned in July, so please make your selection as soon as possible. Thanks for your help with the ongoing tradition.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN

Nursery care is always available for our youngest.

Our Spring curriculum was a great success! Horton Hears A UU – Life Lessons from Dr Suess. Thank you for all that participated.



COMING FALL 2018 - "HOW WAS THE WORLD MADE?" CREATION STORIES AND MYTHS FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES

Join us for our judgement-free Sunday School Program where children can freely search for their own truth and meaning. This fall we will begin to explore Creation Myths and Stories from cultures celebrated all over the world. Beginning September 9th 10:30-11:30 am.

Join in at any time, we welcome you.

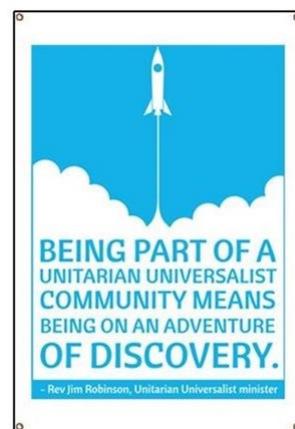
Questions? Contact Kristina Brink, CRE 724-977-2945 kbrink1618@hotmail.com.

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

VOLUNTEER FOR THE RE PROGRAM: If you would like to get involved as an adult helper for the RE Classes or family-friendly activities or events, please check the boxes on the RE registration or contact either CRE Kristina Brink (kbrink1618@hotmail.com) or RE Chair, Jane Anderson (jane.anderson811@gmail.com).

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.



Check back for a listing of our Fall 2018 programs.

Past programs have included:

- A Long Strange Trip – a 6 part DVD series about UU history
- Word for Word: Writing for Self-Discovery and Renewal
- 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life – book discussion with exercises
- UU 101 – Introduction to UUism and UU Church of Meadville
- Grief and Loss Sharing Group

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY JULY 1, 2018

Finance (John Stewart): Following congregational approval on June 17, \$7533.33 has been taken from the endowment to repair the parish house roof: one-third to be paid up front, one-third when the contractor begins, and one-third when the job is complete. John reported that pledge receipts are pretty much on track, though receipts generally fall in the summer. An undetected leak in the youth center toilet resulted in a \$333 water bill last month.

Mission (Dan Hunter): The board discussed the various ways to make our church more visible: Facebook, the recent solstice event, newspaper ads, banners, and signage. Perhaps we could arrange an event to dove-tail with Thunder in the City which will occur in August.

Properties (Bob Ackerman): There are various property items that need attention. It was moved, seconded and passed that we schedule a work day on July 15 after church. There will not be a picnic since there will still be a coffee hour. It was noted that the pre-school area upstairs gets extremely hot in the summer, and will probably remain hot when pre-school restarts in the fall. We need to look into some sort of air exchange/ventilation system, especially now that the windows are secured shut for safety reasons. Bob will get estimates about a solution. He has also offered to talk with a realtor about what would be a reasonable rent for the pre-school area, as that amount is to change in the fall.

Outreach (Carlin Almes): The picnic this summer on August 19 will be at the Ackerman farm. We will need to rent a tent in case of rain or hot sun; Bob will attend to that. We will grill hot dogs and hamburgers, and attendees are asked, as usual, to bring a side dish to share.

Stewardship (Peggy Bell): Peggy will be sending out pledge history emails in the near future. She noted that the church garage sale is still going on at the Baker's home.

Other Business:

- Rev Robin will travel to India this fall in a professional educational capacity.
- It was moved, seconded and passed that we review the minister's contract before hiring a new minister after Robin has left.
- We need to review and revise the church bylaws, rental policies, building use policies etc, since there seem to be inconsistencies and redundancies in places. The committee should consist of both board and non-board people and be no larger than 5-6 people.
- The board felt that the board clerk should provide Jodi a summary of each board meeting so she can include same in the *Oracle*.

The next board meeting will be Sunday August 5 at 12 noon.

Marty Thaeler, Clerk



NOTES FROM STEWARDSHIP

You should have received your 2nd quarter giving statement during the last week of July. Included is a request to all members who are less than regular with their giving to consider using VANCO. Vanco's secure payment system can be accessed through www.uumeadville.org. Click on "GIVE" and you will be directed to a page where you can create your account by typing an email address and a password. After that, you just need to determine the amount, frequency, method of payment and beginning and ending dates of giving. This takes about 5 minutes. Imagine the peace of mind in knowing that you no longer have to remember to bring cash or check to Sunday services. Methods of payment can be direct withdrawals from checking or savings or credit cards or pay pal. You have the ability to begin or stop these deductions from your account at any time or to change your giving amount. If more people will use the VANCO payment system we will have more regularity of deposits to the church account which in turn will improve budgeting and payment allocations. PLEASE make an effort to be regular in your pledge payments.

Thanks to all the scrappers among us! We've gained \$48 from scrapping metals at Lincoln Recycling.

We continue to have the ongoing fundraisers so if you've done any recent clearing or cleaning of your personal space and have saleable items that you no longer need, we will always accept them. Women's clothing can be taken to Ooh La La Boutique in the Downtown Mall Meadville. If you have furniture or other items please text a picture and description to me or Michele Baker; we will market the item online. Additionally, a second live garage sale is coming in August – date to be determined. Please call me if you have any items to donate. Fundraising in 2018 has earned us \$3,968.88 to date, let's keep it growing.

Peggy Bell , Stewardship Chair 2018

SURVEY SURVEY SURVEY

The Partnership Team has put together a Survey for the congregation, issued on August 1 to all members and friends via Survey Monkey. **PLEASE COMPLETE** the Survey by August 15!! This is your opportunity to let us know your values and beliefs and to develop a profile of the qualities you value in a minister. Please pay particular attention to the last question on the Survey.

The information will be invaluable to the Search Team that will be formed in early fall and charged with bringing forward to the congregation a candidate for part time minister at UUCM. If you have any questions please contact a member of the Partnership Team, Christine Cooper, Deb Lehman and Melissa Mansfield.

FRENCH CREEK CLEAN-UP 2018

Saturday, September 8th

The French Creek Valley Conservancy is a private 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining the exceptional habitat, biological recreational French Creek west Pennsylvania. protection, education and is supported by foundations and



and enhancing water quality, natural diversity and opportunities of the Watershed in North- Our work in land stewardship, community outreach our members, donors, partner organizations.

Our volunteer board of directors is focused on facilitating the citizens of the watershed to be the caretakers of the watershed.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville has been a proud sponsor of the French Creek Clean-up for the past three years. We will collect donations to reach our sponsorship goal of \$250 through out the summer. Checks can be made payable to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville with French Creek Clean-up in the memo. There will be a collection box in the Parish House. We will also organize another team for this year's clean-up. A sign up sheet is available in the Parish House. Please include your best contact number and t-shirt size. The drop off and after party will be held at Cochranon Fairgrounds from 12-4:30pm.



SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+ AUGUST 21ST

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).

NAACP

NAACP Unit 2271 meets monthly at United Faith Fellowship Church of God, 561 State St.

ACT

All Citizens Together (ACT) is a local group dedicated to progressive action in the area. It has recently produced health care signup support sessions and now is involved in a state-wide effort to reform gerrymandering, Fair Districts PA. Website: <https://www.fairdistrictspa/>. Stay tuned or check its Facebook page for the latest meeting.

Please see the B&B for other Social Justice opportunities

FLOWERS, FLOWERS EVERYWHERE!

Flower Sunday brought beautiful blooms to the church. As we moved to the planting areas, we 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- AUGUST 10TH 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 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: AUGUST'S SHARE-THE-PLATE

RECIPIENT: FRENCH CREEK VALLEY CONSERVANCY

The French Creek Valley Conservancy is a private 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the exceptional water quality, natural habitat, biological diversity and recreational opportunities of the French Creek Watershed in Northwest Pennsylvania. Our work in land protection, stewardship, education and community outreach is supported by our members, donors, foundations and partner organizations. Our volunteer board of directors is focused on facilitating the citizens of the watershed to be the caretakers of the watershed.

Thank you for all who donated in July. The recipient was the French Creek Valley Conservancy.

AUGUST SAVE THE DATE

BOARD MEETING

Sunday 5th, 12:00 pm

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Tuesday 7th, 12:30 pm

SOUP KITCHEN

Friday 10th, 10:00 am

PARTNERSHIP TEAM SURVEY DEADLINE

Wednesday 15th

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday 19th, 12:00 pm

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+

Tuesday 21st, 7:00– 8:30 pm

ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

Monday 27th by 9:00 am

RESOURCES

OUR CARING CONNECTIONS

Do you have a question about Unitarian Universalism, the life of this community, or your own spiritual journey? Are you struggling with life's challenges, seeking support or resources to help you create meaning of it all? Do you have ideas to help enrich congregational life? Rev. Robin will be on vacation and study leave in July and August. If you need to reach her (especially in the case of a pastoral issue or event) please call 412-727-6870 or by email at rzflowingforce@gmail.com Fran Smith is available in Meadville as the leader of our Pastoral Care team. You can contact her at 814-337-2822 or smith-fb65@zoominternet.net.

UU-eful 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.

2018 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:
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(deliraddish@gmail.com)

Coordinator of Out Reach Teams:
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(Talk or Text)
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