

THE ORACLE

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

JANUARY 2019

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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ROBIN'S BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

REV. ROBIN LANDERMAN ZUCKER,

INTERIM MINISTER

OK. I'll admit it. I owe Barry Manilow a big apology. I hear his name; I think, "hack." Someone says "*Mandy*" and I smirk. He sings well, but he's such an easy target – nearly a pop-culture punching bag. Then, last week I had my comeuppance. First, I heard on the radio that his concert tickets would certainly sell out in a matter of minutes. *No kidding*, I think. Then, I happened to catch his "Concert on the Plaza" during the *Today Show*.

Out stepped Barry, lanky and boyish, a tousled mop of subtly - frosted hair, tan cashmere coat, and the biggest, crinkliest, endearing smile this side of the *Mona Lisa*. The band struck up the intro to "*Copacabana*" and the crowd began to sway. Barry sang and smiled and sang and smiled... and smiled and smiled and smiled...the most contagious, joyful, adorable, and authentic grin I've witnessed in a long time. I couldn't stop smiling myself!

My grin just got bigger and my heart felt lighter as I watched Barry and the crowd singing about Lola and Rico at the Copa. They panned the camera over to Savannah Guthrie. She was grinning like a big kid. Hoda Kotb? Pearly-whites from ear to ear. Al Roker glowed like a happy Buddha.

What can I tell you? Barry is a joy-monger. His own joy in being himself, in singing his songs, and in connecting with the NYC crowd generated a simple happiness so potent it transcended the fourth wall of the TV screen and landed right at my slippered feet in Pennsylvania. I thought to myself, "What a gift he possesses. And not just as singer/songwriter, but as a human being." I found myself wishing I had vied for one of those coveted concert tickets.

Sometimes it's hard to remember what lasting simple gifts exist in this world, especially amidst the holiday onslaught of discount coupons, early-bird sales, and crowded Big Box stores. Yet, in the sobering aftermath of many tragedies (natural and man-made), we may be less likely to overlook simple joy when we compose our gift lists (and our "resolutions" for 2019) ...the joy that's wrapped in singing and swaying to a corny song, in the curves and crevasses of a crinkly smile, and in the delight we might experience in being more fully ourselves and sharing that authenticity with other people.

So, I'm determined to do what I can to spread around (and be open to receiving) the gift of simple, inexpensive joy in the coming year. And I encourage you to do the same. For now, I'm logging onto Itunes to choose some suitable mood music. I'm betting that Barry Manilow has a holiday album, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if it's called, "*Joy to the World*."

Let's all return in joy to UUCM in 2019. In faith, Rev. Robin



JANUARY 6, 2019

“Spirit of Life, Come Unto Us”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister

It is safe to say that Hymn #123, Spirit of Life, is as close to a UU theme song as we have in our tradition. The hymn resonates. UUs seem to “get” this song and the “inner conversation” it invites with whatever we identify as the Spirit that moves us, sings within us, roots us, sets us free. This morning, we’ll discover the inspiration behind Carolyn McDade’s “simple prayer of a hymn,” and how this broader knowledge infuses Spirit of Life with even greater power and depth.

JANUARY 13, 2019

Ishita Sinha Roy

Please See The B&B For More Information

JANUARY 20, 2019

“Come Blow Your Horn”

Rev. Robin Landerman Zucker, Interim Minister

Have you ever noticed that “justice” is the only word prominently featured twice in our seven UU principles? “Peace, liberty, and justice for all” in the 6th, and “Justice, equity and compassion in human relations” in the 2nd. Together, they offer guideposts to justice making and community building through compassion. What does it mean to live a “compassionate” life? Two years since the Inauguration of our current President, how can we unite to elect compassionate leaders? The archangel Gabriel and his horn will be our inspiration as he represents mercy, forgiveness, and transformation, and encourages unity and oneness. This morning, we’ll hear his clarion call.



JANUARY 27, 2019

“Jettison the Old, Believe in the New: Fire Communion” Caron Carnahan, LCM

Join us for a traditional UU Fire Communion service. We’ll welcome the New Year by building a symbolic fire, to which we will commit our cares and worries on small pieces of paper. As they burn, our concerns are released, while our hopes rise like phoenixes from the ashes. We’ll finish with a period of chanting the Hindu mantra which empowers us to let go and go with the flow.



THE SHARED MINISTRY OF COFFEE HOUR HOSTING

Schedule for coffee hour for January

January 6th: Michele and Bob Ackerman

January 13th: Shayna Morrison and Alan Dobos

January 20th: Peggy Bell and Barb Newcamp

January 27th: Jane and Dave Anderson

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 9, 2018

The annual meeting opened with a responsive reading led by Rev. Robin. President Dave Anderson then called the meeting to order. It was determined that a quorum was present (37 signatures; quorum is 23). During the review of last year's minutes, Peggy Bell noted that although we had a quorum, the count was missing. Amelia Carr moved we add the attendance number to the minutes, and approve 2017 minutes as amended; Jane Anderson seconded; motion passed.

Committee reports

Shayna Morrison noted the absence of a Mission report. Dave Anderson responded that we do not have a current chair of same, but it will be filled for 2019.

Election of officers

We elect officers for staggered 2-year terms, ½ the slate each year. We have five trustees who serve staggered 5-year terms, a new one being elected each year. The slate was presented to the congregation; Corinne Chafey moved we accept the slate; Rich Chafey seconded; motion passed.

The 2019 officers are:

- President: Dave Anderson (2nd year of 2-year term)
- Vice-President: Bob Ackerman (2nd year of 2-year term)
- Treasurer: John Stewart (2nd year of 2-year term)
- Mission: Laurie Parendes (replacing Dan Hunter, term ends 12/31/19)
- Outreach: Peggy Mogush (1st year of 2-year term)
- Stewardship: Amelia Carr (1st year of 2-year term)
- Clerk: Marty Thaeler (2nd year of 2-year term)

The trustees are:

- Tom Richey (replacing Cynthia Burton): term ending 12/31/23
- Sue Mallick: term ending 12/31/22
- Josh Searle-White: term ending 12/31/21
- Gladys Corpuz: term ending 12/31/20
- Jane Anderson: term ending 12/31/19

Budget

Treasurer John Stewart presented the proposed budget, noting as of today it is short by \$889. Peggy Bell thanked the many folks who stepped up to pledge an extra \$150, which helped get us to this point. John and Peggy noted that historically, members who are behind on their pledge make good on it during the last couple weeks of the year. Mike Thomson asked about the difference between 2018 pledges and actual receipts. John stated that as of last month we collected \$65,100 of the \$77,632 that was pledged. Otherwise there were no questions or discussion about the proposed budget.

Rev. Robin and the congregation expressed appreciation for the hard work of John Stewart and Peggy Bell. Robin also mentioned that as we are now in a search for a new minister, it is important that we show we are able to function efficiently and effectively, and have the funds to do so. John Stewart spoke about 'electronic giving' and VANCO.

Todd Fox moved that we accept this budget with the understanding that if there is a shortfall, on January 20, 2019 we will have a special congregation meeting to amend the budget. Peggy Mogush seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Shayna Morrison moved the meeting be adjourned, Melissa Mansfield seconded. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned, after which Rev. Robin offered the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Thaeler, Clerk



ALL THAT'S MISSING IS U!

Some program areas in our church operating budget have money allocated that is not being fully utilized. Your bright ideas for using these funds to enrich and vitalize our church community are welcome. These program areas include: Fellowship, Membership, Social Justice, Fundraising, Community Connections. **Send your ideas or even better, join a team to make them happen!** Email Rev. Robin at rzflowingforce@gmail.com or Peggy Bell (our incoming Membership Team leader) peggytbell@gmail.com with your ideas and we'll stir them into the mix.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN

Nursery care is always available for our youngest.

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.

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.

Spirited Conversations with Rev. Robin

Each month, we will meet on a Sunday from 12-1:15 in Living Room to explore a spiritual theme. A discussion guide for each meeting will be available on the church website under the Adult Learning Link to download and print in advance. Each discussion guide includes several ways to approach the theme. You are welcome to attend individual sessions or all, as desired. **Next Meeting: January 20th - Theme- Possibility**

Book Study

“A House for Hope: the Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century”
by John A. Buehrens & Rebecca Ann Parker. Led by Caron Carnahan, CLM

Last year, we gained awareness of the history of our liberal faith tradition through the “Long Strange Trip” DVD series. This fall, let’s look deeper into the theological foundations of Unitarian Universalism. “A House for Hope: the Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century”, beautifully written by highly-respected UU ministers John A. Buehrens & Rebecca Ann Parker, explores the theological nature of our religion – what gives us roots, wings, sanctuary and hope.

2019 meetings: Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 31 and April 28. Meeting time: 12:00-1:00 pm.

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

Open to new and continuing participants.

Mondays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. - January 7, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 6, June 3

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FIRST FRIDAY DANCE PARTY

JANUARY 4TH

Through May from 7 to 9 p.m. every first Friday of the month at Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, 346 Chestnut St. 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.



MINISTERIAL SEARCH UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Have you heard? Our church is embarking on a search for a permanent part-time minister!

Rev. Robin, our interim minister, has graciously extended an initial two-year commitment to three years to help us prepare for our search and transition to our new minister next fall.

The board has appointed a Search Committee to conduct the ministerial search on behalf of our church. The Search Committee members are Deb Lehman (Chair), Corinne Chafey, Joe McHugh, Mark Wickenheiser, and Leigh Lynes.

How was the Search Committee chosen? Two members of the Search Committee were nominated by the board. The other three were chosen by the congregation. This summer, church members and friends had the opportunity to participate in a survey administered by our Transition Team. At the end of that survey, respondents were asked to share the names of two people they would like to see involved in the ministerial search. Your nominations helped shape the makeup of this committee.

What has the Search Committee done so far? The Unitarian Universalist Association is giving us great support in our search. They have an entire system set up for churches and ministers to find each other. Most of the committee's work so far has revolved around building our Ministerial Search profile on the UUA website. This was an extensive process that included a lot of writing and compiling information that the congregation shared in the survey. The Search Committee answered questions about our church's history, how we live our values, our church's culture and strengths, what we are looking for in a permanent minister, and the history and culture of the Meadville community.

We reached a big milestone when our ministerial opportunity was posted to the UUA jobs board on December 18.

What's next? There are many steps between now and installing a settled minister in fall 2019. Most immediately, the Search Committee will review the materials of ministerial candidates who express an interest in coming to our church. Those who seem to be a good fit for us will enter into the interview process with the Search Committee.

The members of the Search Committee are committed to working hard on behalf of our congregation to find our church's next minister. They commit to keep you informed by giving search updates in at least one Sunday morning service per month and through written updates in the Oracle. The committee also commits to carry out this search in truth and hope. Our congregation has a lot to be proud of and the right minister will be drawn to the unique spirit, community, and opportunity that our church has to offer.

How can you help? The committee is designing a page for our website for interested ministers who are checking us out online. It will have a short welcome message from the Search Committee as well as some visual elements to really showcase the life of our church. If you have photos or videos of our church, our congregation, or our community, please send them to Deb Lehman (deblehman51@gmail.com) for consideration as the page is designed. Specifically, the committee would like photos from this year's Christmas Eve service and reception.

We have much to anticipate and be hopeful about this coming year! The Search Committee is proud to serve our congregation in our ministerial search.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+ JANUARY 18 TH

A support group for LGBTQ citizens, their parents and allies was formed three years ago in Meadville. Meetings are 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 <http://www.facebook.com/crawfordarealgbt/>.

SURJ: SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE MARCH 11TH

All are welcome to SURJ: Showing Up for Racial Justice in Crawford County We meet every once a quarter at 6:00 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



SOUP KITCHEN- JANUARY 11TH 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: JANUARY'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 November. The recipient was Center for Family Services.



CHOIR PRACTICE

Sundays, 9:00 am

FIRST FRIDAY DANCE PARTY

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

BOARD MEETING

Sunday 6th, 12:00 PM

WORD FOR WORD

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

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Tuesday 8th, 1:00 pm

SOUP KITCHEN

Friday 11th, 10:00 am

CRAWFORD AREA LGBTQ+

Tuesday 15th, 7:00- 8:30 pm

SPIRITED CONVERSATIONS

Sunday 20th, 12:00-1:15 pm

ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

Monday 28th 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? To reach Rev. Robin (especially in the case of a pastoral issue or event) please call 412-727-6870 or by email at rzflowingforce@gmail.com

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: Amelia Carr
(acarr@zoominternet.net)

Clerk: Marty Thaeler
(mthaeler@zoominternet.net)

Treasurer: John Stewart
(johnuucm@zoominternet.net)

Coordinator of Out Reach Teams:
Peggy Mogush (pmogush@gmail.com)

Coordinator of Mission Teams:
Laurie Parendes
(lparendes@gmail.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