

The Flint Unitarian Universalist

vol. 32, No.2, February, 2012

"A Beacon of Love and Acceptance in Mid-Michigan"

Worship Service and Religious Education Classes
begin at 10:30 am on Sundays

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Ministers

Rev. Dr Claudene F. Oliva

The Congregation

Director of Lifespan Learning

Amy Peterson Derrick

Music Director

Pia Broden-Williams

Office Manager

Cheryl Craig

The Board

Bob Brown, Moderator

Ron Krueger, Secretary

Marion Van Winkle, Acting
Treasurer

David Frazee

Dr. Van Winkle

Sheila Smith

Christine Monk

Solomon Johnson

June Urdy

Minister Ex-Officio

Director of Life Span

Learning Ex-Officio



We are all pieces in the puzzle of our UU religious community. Although our pieces all have different shapes, sizes, colors and characteristics we all come together to make a perfect fit. This past year we added a very important piece with the addition of Reverend Oliva. Please come and fit in your puzzle piece at this years Canvas Campaign Brunch on February 26, 2012. Help our religious puzzle be Fit for the Future.

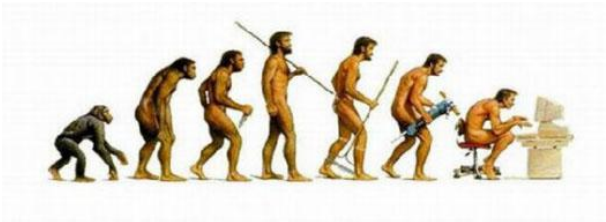
FEBRUARY SERVICES

FEBRUARY 5 – RACE RELATIONS IN FLINT: PART 1

– Join us as we anecdotally explore the complex nature of race relations in Flint during a not so long ago era. We will have a congregational response opportunity at 12:15. Rev Deane with Harold Ford, Worship Associate

FEBRUARY 12

– **EVOLUTION SUNDAY** – This important intergenerational celebration of evolution should appeal to us as we walk the timeline of the universe with an historical



and visual background. Children are encouraged to bring a variety of toy animals, both past and present to place on our timeline. Rev Deane with Aimee Loubert, Worship Associate

FEBRUARY 19

– FEBRUARY SKY" REVERENCE AND GLORY: THE SONGS OF

DAVE CARTER" – Dave Carter (1952-2002) was an American folk singer and songwriter who self-described his



style as "post-modern mythic American folk music." Many of his songs deal with spiritual issues and speak of things that UUs like to think and talk about. This service will consist of some of our favorite Dave Carter songs interspersed with reflections on why we like them. Sue Owen-Kinsey, Worship Associate



FEBRUARY 26

– **RACE RELATIONS IN FLINT: PART 2** – This service will continue our anecdotal study of race relations in Flint. This time we will explore our feelings and experiences in this current time frame. Once again we will have a congregational response opportunity at 12:15. Rev Deane with Ron Krueger, Worship Associate



MINISTER'S MUSINGS

We are so lucky! We live in a democracy, a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised either directly or through their elected officials. Our Unitarian Universalist Congregations have also organized as a democracy. Our fifth principle states that

We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Most of us clearly relate to this concept in our society at large, but how relevant is the term “democracy” in our home congregations?

The right answer, of course, is that it is fundamental to church life. At UUCF we are organized around the democratic process. We make major decisions at congregational meetings and through the work of our elected Board. Thank goodness not every decision needs a vote. We have an element of faith and trust in our leaders. Reciprocally, our leaders have faith that the congregation will inform them of the direction they wish to take, concerns, new ideas, difficulties, and joyous moments. We count on this cooperative alliance.

This year at UUCF has been dubbed the year of experimentation. Our organizational, administrative, and faith modules are trying out, monitoring, reviewing, revising, changing, dropping and adding new programs. Each time we are reaching out to the congregation, requesting their input, their review, their engagement. Your sentiments are SOOOO important. This is what makes a democratic environment.

Do you have an opinion about some of the changes? Please share it with us. We want to hear it. What we are doing is an experiment and is open to improvement, modification or elimination.



Sometimes in our life we feel helpless, like no one wants to or will hear us. Sometimes that feeling is a result of own demons. I don't know how it plays out in your life. But here at UUCF we want your input. Telling your leaders even something you think that they do not want to hear can make a difference in our congregational life. As we move through this year, please let your voice be heard.

In faith,
Rev Deane



From the Moderator, Bob Brown

INTEGRITY

Definition

- 1: firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values: INCORRUPTIBILITY
- 2: an unimpaired condition: SOUNDNESS
- 3: the quality or state of being complete or undivided: COMPLETENESS

Examples of INTEGRITY

1. He's a man of the highest integrity.
2. I admire her artistic integrity.
3. She had the integrity to refuse to compromise on matters of principle.
4. Without music, the film loses its integrity.
5. They are trying to preserve the cultural integrity of the community.
6. Jo and Bob paid their UU dues with integrity, on time and in full.

We are half way through our year. Fifty percent of our annual pledges should have been collected. We've only collected 38%. Where's our integrity?





NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY

This last month, our children and youth spent some time talking about community and what it means to be together. What does it mean to you to be a part of this Unitarian Universalist community?

I imagine that if I were to take an official poll asking adult members why they come to church, your answers might be very similar to that of our kids: my friends are here, to learn, to share, to share about God, to have fun, to meet new people, and possibly even because someone else made you come.

What is interesting about most of the answers shared by our children is that they understand that there is some give and take involved. They understand that to be a part of a community is, at its core, about “sharing.” This means that while we may expect to be filled in some way by coming to church, that we also understand that something is expected of us in return. This may mean that we bring our enthusiasm, a new idea, an ability to listen, or even that we walk through the doors with an open heart, ready to find wisdom in whatever the day holds for us. Our children also know that everyone, and I mean everyone, has something to share.

While this seems like a simple lesson, it is not always easy to remember. For many of us, by the time Sunday morning rolls around, we are exhausted. The week has been long and stressful, and perhaps we need a reason, any reason, to just stay home. So as we hit the snooze button for the fifth time, we ask ourselves, “why church?”

The answer is, in short, because you bring something. When your batteries are completely drained and you feel like you have nothing else to give, you bring something. When you have volunteered on 5 committees and helped organize what seems like a million events and you are pretty sure you are “churched” out; you bring something. When you are having a crisis of faith, you bring something. When your luck has been down and you are at a complete loss, you bring something.

It is so easy to forget that each and every one of us is valued, loved, and needed. This community is not the same without you.

Together In Faith,
Amy Peterson Derrick
Director of Lifespan Learning
apderrick@uufliint.org

LIFESPAN LEARNING WISH LIST

Our wish list is back! If you can supply any of the following items, please drop them off in the main office or the Religious Education office along with a note letting us know who it is from. Thanks!

- Kleenex
- Small cups
- Masking Tape
- Mounting tape
- Staplers
- Staples
- Goldfish Crackers
- Graham Crackers

UU@HOME

HOW DO YOU PRACTICE YOUR
UU PRINCIPLES AT HOME?
STAND ON THE SIDE OF LOVE!



With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, February may just be the perfect time to learn about the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign; "a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression."

I love this movement because, while it is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, it really speaks to people of all faiths who are dedicated to speaking up in love for those whose voices are often ignored. Focusing on issues such as immigration and LGBT equality, National Standing on the Side of Love month is a time for us to show some love!

- ☞ Print some SSL Valentines and send a few to your Representatives with a request that they take a stand for marriage equality and fight for immigrant rights!
- ☞ Take a look at the books in your family's library (or at your local library); do they represent ALL families?
- ☞ Make a commitment to learn about immigration as a moral issue.

How will you and your family Stand on the Side of Love?

For more ideas and to share your experiences, visit www.UUatHome.com



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Volunteering is a fun and easy way to deepen connections within our UU community; and getting involved is not just for adults!

Children and youth can learn more about our community, meet UUs of all ages, learn about our faith, and feel good about giving back to our community.

We are currently looking for children and youth who would like to usher during our worship services.

If your child or youth is interested, please sign up with Rev. Deane or Amy Peterson Derrick.

SAVE THE DATES!

DISTRICT EVENTS

March 2-4, 2012

Sr High Social Justice CON
Ann Arbor, MI

March 30-31

Heartland District Assembly
Lansing, MI

April 13-15, 2012

Jr High Election CON
Indianapolis, IN

May 2012
(dates TBA)

Sr High Bridging CON
Bloomfield Hills, MI



FEBRUARY AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday Morning Programs for Children and Youth

Unless otherwise noted, nursery care is available weekly beginning at 9:30am. Children and youth exit following our "moment for all ages" and classes conclude at 11:45am.

Sunday, February 5th, 2012: Chalice Circles classes for K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12.

Sunday, February 12th, 2012: Multigenerational Worship

Sunday, February 19th, 2012: Social Justice Workshop; All Ages

Sunday, February 26th, 2012: Chalice Circles; classes for K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12.

Followed by our canvass brunch and programs for children and youth.

Faith Development Programs for All Ages

Creating connections and building community across the lifespan.

Friday, February 3rd 2012: (6:00pm-8:00pm): "First Friday" multigenerational event. Tonight's topic: Immigration as a Moral Issue. Programs for all ages.

DON'T MISS FIRST FRIDAY FOR ALL AGES!

*A multigenerational gathering to share
in fun, food, and faith.*

**Immigration as a Moral Issue
Friday, February 3rd, 2012
6:00pm-8:00pm**

Join us for a pot luck dinner and
activities for all ages.

Please help us prepare:
RSVP by calling 232-4023,
by email ApDerrick@uuflint.org or
sign up in the social hall following Sunday
services.



ROOM NAMES

Here are the results from our vote to name our rooms. I counted 12 rooms in need of a name (4 classrooms upstairs, the Chapel, Archives, The Memorial Library, the Overflow room, and 4 classrooms downstairs) Our next steps will be to match each of our selected famous UUs with a room and recruit a few volunteers to write up a short paragraph to post in the rooms.

In the meantime, here are the top 12 and the three names for the staff offices:



Susan B. Anthony (36)**
Rev. Lewis McGee (31)
Clara Barton (30)
Auldin Nelson (28)**
Olympia Brown (26)
Ralph Waldo Emerson (26)**
Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp (24)
Henry David Thoreau (24)
Beatrix Potter (24)
Julia Ward Howe (23)
Abigail and John Adams (22)
Charles Dickens (21)

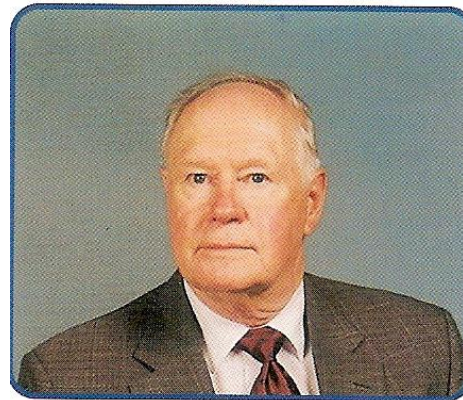
Staff Offices:

Religious Education Office: Sophia
Lyon Fahs
Music Office: Amy Beach
Minister's Office: Rev. David
Bumbaugh

Thank you all for your participation!

In Faith,
Amy

** Pictured. Guess who.



SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 15 - 21, 2012

Unitarian Universalist Association
of Congregations
MidWest Leadership School



Contact: Paul Goddard - Chair,
MWLS Faculty
(815) 965-3995 or
Goddard.paul1@gmail.com

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS), a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's nationwide network of leadership schools, will be held July 15 - 21, 2012 (Sunday thru Saturday), on the campus of Beloit College in southeastern Wisconsin. MidWest Leadership School is sponsored by the Central MidWest District, in collaboration with Heartland District and Prairie Star District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) develops lay leaders in the Unitarian Universalist (UU) community.

The week-long intense program includes leadership, group and system dynamics, UU history and theology, and elements of worship. The program is designed to provide insights, confidence, and enrichment for each participant's congregation, work, and personal life.

MidWest Leadership School (held concurrently with MidWest Youth Leadership School) - is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's nationwide network of leadership schools. Complementing other district offerings, this school offers a week-long intensive program in which leadership and group dynamics can be developed and reflected upon. Led by lay and ordained staff with a deep understanding of UU congregations, a combination of lectures and small group encounters heightens understanding and the ability to navigate group process. By immersing the student in a milieu both supportive and challenging, the MWLS experience provides leadership tools and skills, develops the student as a leader, and deepens the student's Unitarian Universalist identity and understanding, all designed to prepare students for leadership in UU congregations and beyond.

SECOND SUNDAY

On January 8, 2012, we collected monies to support our Leadership Scholarships. This will enable us to pay registrations for people who need financial support to go to Heartland's Annual Meeting, to General Assembly, and to Leadership School in Beloit, Wisconsin. We collected \$465.00. We have signed up our 8 people for the District Assembly in Lansing on March 30-31. We would be happy to sign up more.

Next month, we'll collect for Motherly Intercession, an agency that supports activities for children and youth who have a parent in prison.

Marion Van Winkle, Social Justice and Outreach

TESTIMONIALS NEEDED

In February UUCF will host a two part series on Race Relations in Flint. The first week will focus on Flint Then (approximately 1975 and before); the second week will focus on Flint today. We are looking for descriptive true stories from people that were in Flint at the time.

THEN:

What were race relations like in Flint for you and/or loved ones before 1975?

We are not particularly looking for horror stories; we do want to know about your experience, good, bad, etc.



Ideas to consider include health care, education, jobs, living conditions, relationships.

NOW: How are race relations now? What has improved? What more needs to be done?

Are we the most segregated town in the United States? Then, now?

Rev Deane would love to hear from you. Please call (270 779 9222), email (cogenisys@aol.com) or speak directly to her about participating in this program. The Worship team would appreciate it.



Very Special Event

February 11-Cocktails, Art & Talent Show. Beginning at 7 pm, art viewing and bidding. Talent show and open mike Gong Show starts at 8 pm. Come join in the fun!



LIBRARY CORNER PART 1 Have You Seen These Books?

These books have been in the UUCF library in the past few years. Some are checked out to current or former UUCF members, others are checked out to unknown persons. Please check your bookshelves to see if you might have our copy, or if you might own a copy you'd like to share with the rest of the congregation.

If you find some of you titles, please return them to the box in the library, no questions asked.

If you find a copy you'd like to donate, please notify me, Dorothy Gae Davis, 810-235-0114, dgdavis1776@att.net. We only need one copy of each title.

Best of Ralph Waldo Emerson, by Ralph Waldo Emerson. 814/Em

Black pioneers in a white denomination, by Mark D. Morrison-Reed. 289.1/Mo

Born again Unitarian Universalism, by F. Forrester Church. 298.1/Ch

Coming out: an act of love, by Rob Eichberg. 306.76/Ei

Emotions of blackness, by Eric Brantley. 305.81/Br

Epic of Unitarianism, by David B. Parke. 289.1/Pa

Faith for all seasons, by William R. Murry. 289.1/Mu

Grandmother of time, by Zsuzsanna E. 291.4/Bu

History of Unitarianism in Transylvania, England ... 289.1/Wi

Learning to be white, by Thandeka. 305.81/Th

Men of liberty, by Stephen Hole Fritchman. 289.1/Fr

Unitarians, by Kathleen Elgin. 289.1/El

When God was a woman, by Merlin Stone. 291.1/St

Books below have been missing longer. They have no Dewey class numbers

100 questions that non-members ask about Unitarian Universalism by John Sias.

All the parables of the Bible, by Herbert Lockyer.

Be an outrageous older woman, by Ruth Harriet Jacobs.

Brief illustrated guide to understanding Islam, by I.A. Ibrahim.

Casting the circle; a women's book of ritual, by Diane Stein.

Christianity and the making of the modern family, by Rosemary Radford Ruether.

Druids, by Peter Berresford Ellis.

Fire in the head; Shamanism and the Celtic spirit, by Tom Cowan

God and other liberals, by F. Forrester Church

Holy books of women's mysteries, by Zsuzsanna Budapest

Holy curiosity, by Bruce T. Marshall. copy 2

Introduction to Christian Apologetics.

Jefferson Bible, compiled by Thomas Jefferson. Edition unknown, there are several.

Our seven principles in story and verse,
by Kenneth W. Collier.

*Religious liberty and state
constitutions*, by Edd Doerr.

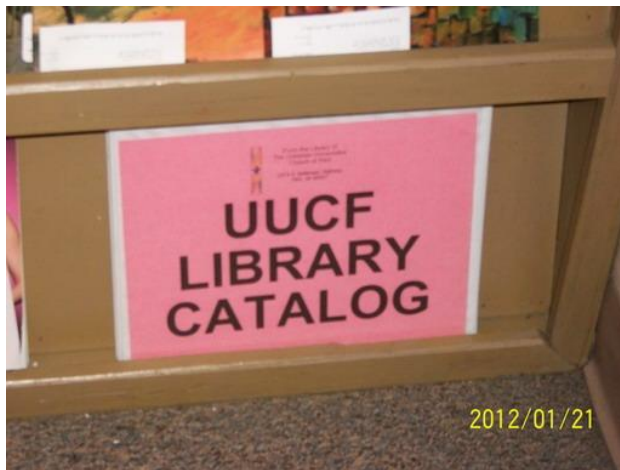
Spiral dance, by Starhawk. no

This very moment, by James Ishmael
Ford

Transformed by the light, by Melvin
Morse.

Unitarians and the Universalists, by
David Robinson

Women of the Celts, by Jean Markale.



LIBRARY CORNER PART 2

What Books Do We Have?

Now that you know what we **don't** have, check out the new list of what we **do** have.

We now have a printed catalog of our 300 plus books. The catalog is in a ring binder in the bottom section of the large bookcase. There are separate listings of books by subject heading, author, title, and Dewey Decimal class.

Check out a book by signing the check-out card in the back (legibly please). Add a phone number and date the card with the day's date. There is no specific date due, but please return the book when you have gotten what you wanted from it. Leave the card in the plastic box.

**By Dorothy Gae Davis,
UUCF Librarian**

"THE PERFECT STORM" FINANCIAL REPORT



Thank you, fellow congregants, for filling our umbrella when we asked you to. Between your contributions and bringing your pledges up-to-date and our insurance company; our financial report is that we are past our "Storm" financial crisis.

I also want to report that Cheryl Craig, our Office and Building Manager, was responsible for working with our insurance company. They came through with the full amounts we needed to carry on. Our new sign will be back up in front soon. So give a big thank you to Cheryl any time you talk with her.

Marion Van Winkle, Treasurer

Sunday Volunteers

February 2012

First Sunday

Greeters	Gloria Boddy, David Boddy and Charles Thomas
Ushers	Dave and Wyn Handwerker
Kitchen	Ann DeLana
Office	Margie Latter
Sound	Thorpe Saxton
PowerPoint	Sue Owen Kinsey
Security	Jennifer Howard
Community Keepers	Steve Urdy

Second Sunday

Greeters	Ron Krueger, Ann DeLana and Sol Johnson
Ushers	Bonnie Pobocik, John Straw
Kitchen	Rita Short
Office	Audrey Bassett
Sound	Dave Handwerker
PowerPoint	Bonnie Pobocik
Security	Keith Van Camp
Community Keepers	Chris Monk

Third Sunday

Greeters	Mary Wolski, Maria Ledbetter and Melissa Watkins
Ushers	Dave and Cathy Frazee
Kitchen	Diane Vack
Office	Gael Edmonds
Sound	Dave Hurt
PowerPoint	Sue Own Kinsey
Security	Aaron Pyciak
Community Keepers	Annie Anglim

Fourth Sunday

Greeters	Scott Stensaas, Thorpe Saxton, & Phyllis Stanbury
Ushers	Howard and Tammy Schultz
Kitchen	Diane Vack
Office	Dorothy Davis
Sound	Karen Olson
PowerPoint	Kristine Diaz
Security	John Helsom
Community Keepers	Karen and Jason Plummer

Second Sunday Collection-Motherly Intercession **February 2012**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Aerobics, FH, 5:30 Choir rehearsal, 6:30-7:45 Flute rehearsal, 8-8:30	2 Yoga-Cancelled Worship Committee mtg, 6:30	3 Meditation, Chapel, 2 pm First Friday Event, FH, 5:30-7:30	4 CROP-FH-9-9 (scrapbooking & crafting) \$10 fee
5 Worship, 10:30 am	6 Office Closed Yoga-Cancelled Aerobics, FH, 5:30	7 Yoga-Cancelled Finance Committee meeting, 2 pm Meditation, Chapel, 2 pm	8 Operation Committee, 4:30 Aerobics, FH, 5:30 Lifespan Learning mtg, 6:30 Choir rehearsal, 6:30-7:45 Flute rehearsal, 8-8:30	9 Yoga-Cancelled	10 Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am Meditation, Chapel, 2 pm	11 Cocktail Party and Art Sale
12 Worship, 10:30 am Second Sunday Collection Pot Luck PFLAG, FH, 2-4:30	13 Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am Aerobics, FH, 5:30	14 Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am Meditation, Chapel, 2 pm	15 Aerobics, FH, 5:30 Choir rehearsal, 6:30-7:45 Flute rehearsal, 8-8:30	16 Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am Wake Up Call films, Chapel, 7	17 Meditation, Chapel, 2 pm	18 Board -10 a.m. Committee Structure meeting, 12-1 pm
19 Worship, 10:30 am FACT, Blackinton, 12:30-2	20 Office Closed Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am Aerobics, FH, 5:30	21 Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am Meditation, Chapel, 2 pm Safe Congregation Task Force mtg, 6:30	22 Aerobics, FH, 5:30 Choir rehearsal, 6:30-7:45 Flute rehearsal, 8-8:30	23 Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am	24 Fourth Friday Forum, Chapel, Noon Meditation, Chapel, 2 pm	25
26 Red Carpet Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 am Canvas Brunch	27 Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am Aerobics, FH, 5:30	28 Yoga-FH-7:15-8:30 am Meditation, Chapel, 2 pm	29 Aerobics, FH, 5:30 Choir rehearsal, 6:30-7:45 Flute rehearsal, 8-8:30		Aerobics and Yoga each have a \$5 fee FH=Fellowship Hall mtg=meeting	Meeting are open to everyone and will take place in the conference room unless noted otherwise

FEBRUARY 2012

CONTACT US

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APDerrick@uflint.org

810.232.4023 (office)

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www.uucflifespan.blogspot.com

Bob Brown, Moderator

jabreb@comcast.net

Website

www.uflint.org

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Deadline: third Sunday of the month for publication in last week of the month

Submit articles, suggestions, compliments or complaints to newsletter@uflint.org or contact Dorothy Davis directly.

REPORTERS WANTED

If you attend a UUCF event, your account would be welcome, especially if you have pictures. Please limit text to one page of 14 point font.

Send email to newsletter@uflint.org.