



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southern Maryland

Open Minds, Loving Hearts, Helping Hands

February 2012

Sunday Services

Meeting Location

Chesapeake Charter Sch.
20945 Great Mills Road
Lexington Park MD 20653

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Phone: 240-256-5530

Online

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James Walker

Sunday Mornings

Joyce Judd

Fellowship Builders

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Communications

Gratitude and Love

5 Feb / Judy Osborn

Gratitude and Love go together like Valentine's Day and chocolate. How can you practice gratitude and feel more love for others, for life, for yourself? How do we become aware of all the good things in our lives and celebrate?

History: An Act of Love

12 Feb / Guest Speaker: Lex Cade-White

Often we view love as between two people this time of year. What if we reconsider this and see love as the act of sharing, enriching, and empowering through knowledge. This would make things such as History more than just the past but rather an act of love. Let us consider some moments in history as moments of love in time.

UU Heroes and Sheroes

19 Feb / James Gibbons Walker

What qualities make "Exemplars and Pioneers"? Hear stories of persons who have lived out the virtues of courage, prudence, justice and temperance. *We formally welcome New Members during this service.*

Forgiveness Sunday

26 Feb / Barbara Clark

Today is the Eastern Orthodox Forgiveness Sunday. We examine the practices of this faith and launch our own consideration of the importance and role of Forgiveness in our lives and community.

Special Events

Fellowship Annual Dinner 2012

Saturday, 25 February 2012 - 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Date Change!

Our annual Anniversary Celebration and Canvass Kickoff! The potluck dinner will be held at the Wildewood Lodge again this year. Children are welcome and childcare will be provided.

We are planning a talent show and invite any performers who can sing, tell jokes, do a dramatic reading, recite poetry, juggle, or play an instrument to see Debs.

If you would like to help work with the planning see Joyce.

Guest Speaker at UUFMSM on February 12

The Worship Committee is delighted to announce that Lex Cade-White, Intern Minister at All Souls, will be our speaker on February 12. She is currently in her last year at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. Her studies include a special focus on race relations, urban ministry and Unitarian Universalism. Her undergraduate work was at Mt. Holyoke where she majored in both psychology and religion. Come hear her speak on the meaning of love! And bring a friend!

Joseph Priestley District Assembly

Friday, 13 April 2012 - 9:00pm - Sunday, 15 April 2012 - 4:00pm

Location: Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209

Details at <http://www.jpduua.org/pages/jpd-assembly.php>

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA

Plan now to attend. Space will be limited and we expect a full house.

Evolution Weekend – February 10-12

This year marks the seventh annual Evolution Weekend. This year's theme is an interfaith discussion of religion and science. Evolution Weekend is an opportunity for serious discussion and reflection on the relationship between religion and science. An ongoing goal has been to elevate the quality of the discussion on this critical topic, and to show that religion and science are not adversaries. Rather, they look at the natural world from quite different perspectives and ask, and answer, different questions.

Read <http://www.theclergyletterproject.org>

Excerpts from a Letter from the President

Unitarian Universalism as a religious movement

From Peter Morales - President of the UUA

We have long defined ourselves as an association of congregations. *We need to think of ourselves as a religious movement....*

We focus more on connection and less on “membership.” Paying attention to who our ministry serves, how many lives we change and the difference we are making in the world can help us redirect our efforts outward.

We invite people to connect to our UU movement *whether or not they choose to join a congregation*. We can reach out to young adults, students, snow birds, people living in foreign countries, linguistic and ethnic minorities, etc. They can all be part of the UU movement.

We find ways to invite the 500,000 or so people who say they are UUs but are not members of a congregation into our movement.

We have a way of inspiring people who share our values, want to be part of our movement, but are not ready to join a congregation.

We have a natural way to engage with groups that were once affiliates—groups like UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), Latino(a) UU Networking Association (LUUNA), Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), seminarians, etc.

We continue our efforts to connect with UU college students. We would make clear that they are still a part of our movement.

We have a good way of taking in people through such portals as Standing on the Side of Love...

I envision a UU movement that is composed of a mix of congregations and a variety of other structures. People should be able to connect to our religious movement in a variety of ways and at different levels of commitment.... The UUA’s role would be to provide the container, the technological foundation, leadership and coordination. We become a resource, a platform and a hub. This is not just about developing a set of programs, but finding a way for us to learn a new way as an institution....

Our core values appeal to far more people than are attracted to (or likely to be attracted to) our congregations.... The fact that so many share our values is an enormous opportunity, not a problem. The future relevance of our faith may well depend on whether we can create a religious movement beyond, as well as within, the parish. I am confident that together we can seize this historic opportunity for our faith.

The complete letter is available on the Information Table and the website.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship Committee Meeting: Winter 2012

Sunday, 12 February 2012 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm

The Worship Committee will be meeting to review the upcoming quarter and to plan Worship services. Everyone is welcome! if you have an idea for worship, please let James know!

2012 JPD Worship Arts Festival

Friday, 24 February 2012 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm, Saturday 8:00-4 p.m.

WHERE UU Church of Rockville, MD ~ 100 Welsh Park Drive

WHO: Designed for ALL Worship Participants (lay and professional)

SCHEDULE

-Friday Evening Training for Worship Presenters

-Saturday Plenary and Workshops (Multigenerational Worship, Thematic Worship)

-Choral Repertoire, as well as Membership and Communication Support)

Registration fees (*After Jan 15: a \$10 late fee for all registrations.*)

Friday only: \$25 fee includes refreshments and resource materials.

Saturday only: \$40 fee includes lunch and resource materials.

Friday & Saturday: \$60 includes food (as above) and resource materials

For more information, or to discuss discount for youth registration, please contact Melodie Feather by e-mail at: mkfeather@iglide.net.

Keeping little hands busy

If you arrive early with your children on a Sunday, please feel free to sit at one of the lunch tables and use the crayons and paper there. (If the paper and crayons aren't out yet, please look in the long rectangular box with the blue lid).

We welcome help in setting up and cleaning up, too, and it's never too early to start. Children can carry hymnals to and from the cabinet, help roll up the banners and curtains, and carry the poles. Bigger children can move the chairs and the tables. As our song says: "We all lend helping hands!"

Naturally Died Eggs

For Easter / Pascha / Spring Equinox

To have enough skins for earthen red eggs for the spring holidays, start saving onion skins now! Toss them into a bag in the freezer to collect enough.

FELLOWSHIP BUILDERS

Asian Potluck: February 2012

Sunday, 5 February 2012 - 11:30am - 12:00pm

Please bring food to share for our monthly potluck! As we celebrate the Lunar new year, our food theme this month is Asian food. As always, food of all kinds is welcome!

To reduce our use of plastics and our impact on the environment, please consider bringing your own cups, silverware, and dishes, rinsing them off after you're done eating, and then taking them home.

Welcome Ceremony for New Members - Winter 2012

Sunday, 19 February 2012 - 11:15am - 11:30am

The Fellowship will welcome new members in a special ceremony during the worship service. New Members will sign their names in the membership book and receive gifts, and then we will all celebrate during the refreshment hour.

If you're interested in becoming a member of UUFSM, please speak with Joyce Judd.

Travelers Sharing Circle

The Travelers, a Sharing Circle focused on spiritual discussion and building deeper connections with each other, meets twice a month on Friday evenings at members' homes. In 2011-2012, they are using "Heart to Heart" as a discussion guide. The book provides resources for fourteen gatherings with readings, journaling suggestions, and thought-provoking exercises as participants share in a community.

Topic	Location	Date	Time
Grief and Loss	Judy's house	Fri 3 Feb	7:30-9:30
Money	Liz's house	Fri 24 Feb	7:30-9:30
Nature	Lee's house	Fri 2 Mar	7:30-9:30

Due to space limitations of people's living rooms and the covenantal nature of Sharing Circles, this group is currently full. It will reopen in May 2012. If you would like to be in a Sharing Circle, contact Joyce Judd. When we get enough people, we'll start a new one!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

February's Charitable Giving - Hospice of St. Mary's

Hospice of St. Mary's provides help and support to those people living with an advanced illness. Founded in 1981, Hospice of St. Mary's was started by a group of community volunteers under the direction of Dr. Patrick Jarboe. After several decades, they continue to provide high quality and compassionate end-of-life care for their patients and their families.

The Fellowship donates cash contributions collected during the Sunday offerings to charity, with a different focus each month. We also often have special collections of gifts and food. If you have a suggestion for a charity, please contact the Social Justice Liaison.

Starting a PFLAG chapter

If you are interested in helping to start a chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), please plan to come to the "get organized meeting". Date TBA, probably in February. We're looking for organizers right now, so please talk to people in the community you think would be interested in making this happen, and then give names and contact information to Katy Boyd at board2@uufsm.org.

Learn more about PFLAG at community.pflag.org.

Forum on "Growing Inequality in Wealth"

Saturday, 4 February 2012 - 8:30am - 12:30pm

The Corruption of the Democratic Process and Resulting Social Injustice
Mt Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Ln, Alexandria, VA 22307

The Occupy Movement has given a fresh voice to these long-standing and worsening problems and calls UUs to respond. Join fellow UUs and interested individuals at this presentation.

Register at www.uusj.org or 301-588-1951. **Please RSVP by Monday, January 30.** This program is sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. There is no registration fee, but a freewill offering for UUSJ will be taken.

Science Fair: UUFSM presents Joseph Priestley Awards

Saturday, 4 February 2012 - 1:00pm - 5:30pm

UUFSM is a religion of both reverence and reason. In support of that, we award the Joseph Priestley Cash Award (Junior and Senior categories) to the students whose science fair project in chemistry has the best potential to improve quality of life or shows great promise.

This year's Science Fair will be held **Saturday, February 4, 2012** at Great Mills High School. Judging takes place from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The public is invited to view the projects from 1:00 to 3:30 in the afternoon. The awards ceremony begins at 3:30.

...the use of the democratic process...

Election Calendar

Tue	13 Mar	Last day to register to vote or change party affiliation
Sat	24 Mar	Early Voting begins <i>10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (except Sunday, which is noon to 6)</i> . Call Bd of Elections for location
Thur	29 Mar	Candidate Forum for St. Mary's Circuit Court Judge and School Board, sponsored by the League of Women Voters <i>7:00 - 9:00 - Lex. Park Library</i>
Thur	29 Mar	Early Voting Ends
Tue	3 Apr	Primary Election Day <i>7 a.m. to 8 p.m.</i>

<p>Offices on the Primary Ballot</p> <p>US President US Senator US Representative Circuit Court Judge Convention Delegates Board of Education *</p>	<p><i>*All registered voters can vote for School Board.</i></p> <p><i>Only voters registered as Democrats or Republicans can vote for all offices listed.</i></p>
<p>Calvert Bd of Elections</p> <p>Duke Street - Lower Level P. O. Box 798 Prince Frederick, MD 20678 410-535-2214 or 301-855-1376</p>	<p>St. Mary's Bd of Elections</p> <p>P.O. Box 197 41650 Tudor Hall Road Leonardtown, MD 20650 301-475-7844 ext 1100</p>

UU MATTERS

Nominating Committee Meeting: February 2012

Sunday, 26 February 2012 - 12:00pm - 12:30pm

The Nominating Committee will meet to go over the membership list and start the candidate search for the positions of Board Secretary, three Board members-at-large, and two members of the Nominating Committee.

Board Highlights - January 2012

The board met on 11 January. Here are the highlights:

- Budget requests are due. Fellowship Builders handed in theirs (Yeah Joyce!)
- Carl has graciously agreed to maintain the necessary treasurer duties while Debs is away.
- Janeen and Bill will be judging the science fair and handing out the awards on 4 Feb.
- The membership list was reviewed, along with other information, in support of filing our congregational information to the UUA by the end of January. New this year: They are trying to track how many people we "touch" in addition to our membership. See the Morales article on our website. Board agreed to abstain from all congregational study/action issues in the poll.
- Agreed to keep the tracking of visitors to UUFSM as simple as possible. It is sufficient to track adults and children and no need to separate into members, friend, and visitors or guests.
- Action was given to look at the Bylaws and see how the fiduciary oversight of the board can be increased. This primarily is to address the approval of the yearly operating budget.
- Action was given to create a "swearing in" ceremony for new boards.
- We are looking for a new Religious Education interest area lead. Please consider this important role!
- Possible relocation to the Hollywood Recreation Center was discussed. Please talk to any board member if you have input on next year's meeting location.
- The board also discussed final plans for the Winter Retreat which took place on Jan. 21 and by all accounts received was a success.

Board Meeting: Feb 2012

Thursday, 9 February 2012 - 7:30pm - 9:30pm

The Board usually meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. However, in February we will meet on a Thursday. Joyce's house. All members are welcome to attend and to submit agenda items.

Proposed Agenda (* *every month*)

- *Approval of last month's minutes, Reports from Board Chair and Treasurer
- Finance: review budget requests
- Canvass: review plans
- Review of proposed addition to Bylaws about Budget Review
- ?
- *Interest Area Reports (send to board@uufsm.org before the meeting)

FINANCE & PLANNING

Want Money? Budget Requests are due February 1

Budget Requests are due to the Treasurer by 1 February 2012. Please start thinking **now** about what your groups, teams and committees would like to be doing in the next fiscal year and prepare your budget requests. Board Liaisons should coordinate all groups and activities in their interest area.

Canvass Team Meeting 2012

Time TBA: Contact treasurer@uufsm.org

Everyone interested in this year's Canvass should attend this meeting. We'll be discussing the annual dinner (February 25), the canvass drive, the Endowment Fund, the Land and Building Fund, and budget items.

Communications

Newsletter Deadline

Please have all information for the March Newsletter (worship service descriptions, schedules, meetings, RE Class descriptions, committee updates, board highlights, events) uploaded to the website or sent to bulletin@uufsm.org by 10 p.m. on Wednesday, 29 February 2012.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

New RE Leader needed

After years of dedication and hard work, Corinne will soon be stepping down as RE Leader to spend more time with her growing family. Religious Education is vital for the continued vitality and growth of our Fellowship. If you can serve on the committee or be the Leader of this area, please contact Corinne or Jim Stubbs.

UU World, UU Life - Discussion Circle

Sunday, 19 February 2012 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Stay after the service for the "UU World, UU Life" Discussion Group. We usually use the articles in *UU World* as a starting point, and then the conversation takes off in many directions. Please bring your most recent copy of *UU World* and (if you get hungry and the snacks aren't quite enough) something to eat.

Discussions are from noon to 1 p.m. on the third Sundays. Everyone welcome!

Religious Education Meeting: Winter 2012

Sunday, 11 March 2012 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm

The Religious Education Committee will be meeting to review the quarter and to plan for next year, when the pillar will be "Becoming and Being a Unitarian Universalist". Everyone is welcome! if you have an idea for RE (children or adults), please let Corinne know!

Classes for Religious Education and Exploration

Rise Up - Learning Circle

The curriculum *Rise Up and Call Her Name* presents a textured spiritual inquiry missing from exclusively male imaged, monotheistic belief systems.

Mon 6 Feb	7:15pm - 9:15pm	Margo's house
Mon 20 Feb	7:15pm - 9:15pm	Triplett's house

Due to space limitations of people's living rooms and the cumulative nature of Learning Circles, this group is currently full. If you would like to be in a Learning Circle, contact Jim Stubbs. When we get enough people, we'll start a new one!

Sunday School

Nursery: every Sunday from 10:20 to 11:40 for children 4 years and under.

Sessions for RE Class: Chalice Children (Ages 0-5)

I Can Pretend (Lesson 22)

Sun 5 Feb 10:45 - 11:30 - Barbara Clark , Rolina Anderson

Creating a supportive atmosphere in which children can pretend will help them feel that they are creative, imaginative, and fun to be with.

Making Valentines for Friends and Family

Sun 12 Feb 10:45 - 11:30 - Corinne Stubbs , Rolina Anderson

Creating Flowers, Cards and Coupons for Friends and Family.

My World Has Animals (Lesson 23)

Sun 19 Feb 10:45 - 11:30 - Janeen Grohsmeyer , Rolina Anderson

This session focuses on differences between the animals we care for as pets and the wild animals we care for by taking care of the earth.

My World Has Fish (Lesson 24)

Sun 26 Feb 10:45 - 11:30 - Corinne Stubbs , Rolina Anderson

We share our world with fish, but they live in a different part of the world. We can help fish by taking care of the part of the world that we share.

Sessions for RE Class: Story Tellers (Grades K-6)

16- In our Hands: From Wishing to Doing

Sun 5 Feb 10:45 - 11:30 - Jackie Triplett , Evilla Dennis

A festive occasion, with decorations, songs, and refreshments. Children have an opportunity to identify their wishes for peace and fairness.

1- Rainbow Children: The Rights of Every Child

Sun 12 Feb 10:45 - 11:30 - Chris Schmitthener , Evilla Dennis

This sessions lays a foundation of respect for others using activities that enhance respect for self. It introduces the concept that all children have the same rights and needs, the concept of racial justice, and the idea that the US and Canada are countries made up of immigrants from all over the world.

2- Rainbow Children: what Do You See?

Sun 19 Feb 10:45 - 11:30 - Bill Triplett , Evilla Dennis

This session reinforces a positive attitude toward differences, including differences in abilities and in our perceptions.

3- Rainbow Children: We are All Alike

Sun 26 Feb 10:45 - 11:30 - Elle Welsh , Evilla Dennis

In this session, participants learn more about partners who share common physical characteristics, and also see pictures of many races and ethnic groups in order to reinforce the concept of similarities.

UUFMSM Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
1 Feb	(All day)	Deadline for 2012-2013 Budget Requests
3 Feb	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Travelers Sharing Circle -Grief and Loss
4 Feb	8:30am - 12:30pm	Forum: "Growing Inequality in Wealth"
4 Feb	1:00pm - 5:30pm	Science Fair: UUFMSM presents Joseph Priestley Awards
5 Feb	11:30am - 12:00pm	Asian Potluck: February
6 Feb	7:15pm - 9:15pm	Rise Up - Learning Circle (Meeting 2)
8 Feb	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Board Meeting: Feb 2012
10 Feb	(All day)	Evolution Weekend 2012
12 Feb	12:00pm - 1:00pm	Worship Committee Meeting
19 Feb	11:15am - 11:30am	Welcome Ceremony for New Members
19 Feb	12:00pm - 1:00pm	UU World, UU Life - Discussion Circle
20 Feb	7:15pm - 9:15pm	Rise Up - Learning Circle (Meeting 3)
24 Feb	6:00pm - 9:00pm	2012 JPD Worship Arts Festival
24 Feb	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Travelers Sharing Circle - Money
25 Feb	8:00am - 4:30pm	JPD Worship Arts Festival/Workshops
25 Feb	5:30pm - 9:00pm	Fellowship Anniversary Dinner 2012
26 Feb	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Nominating Committee Meeting
29 Feb	10:00pm	Deadline for March 2012 Newsletter
4 Mar	11:30am - 12:00pm	Freedom of Choice Potluck
11 Mar	12:00pm - 1:00pm	Religious Education Meeting
15 Mar	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Board Meeting: Mar 2012
18 Mar	12:00pm - 1:00pm	UU World, UU Life - Discussion Circle
25 Mar	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Nominating Committee Meeting

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