

First Unitarian E-News – Worship and Events

Friday, October 30, 2009

Check out our website at www.firstuwm.org

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Sunday morning services begin at 10:30
Children's Religious Education starts at 10:45
Childcare is available in the Youth Center from 9:30 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. before the service
and 11:50 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. after the service.
Visiting families are welcome!

**This Sunday: come early (10:20) to join with the Chamber Choir
for our first Sunday of the month hymn-sing.**

1. SUNDAY: ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

November 1, join our Sunday morning lecture series Ethics and World Religions, 9:30 to 10:15 A.M. Sunday. (*This class is held on the first Sunday of each month. Mark your calendar. All are welcome.*) We'll discuss the Coen Brothers new film "A Serious Man." It's a variant on Job. Why do bad things happen to good people?

NEXT WEEK

Join our Sunday morning lecture series "Religions of the Axial Age; An Approach to the World's Religions." Our lecture series and discussion on the Axial Age (800-200 B.C.E.) and the faiths it spawned continues:

November 8: "East Asia Before the Axial Age"

Join us at 9:30a.m. in Brunner Chapel as we discuss this creative and influential era and how its developments continue to impact our spiritual lives.

2. THIS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 1: "DAY OF THE DEAD" — THE REV. DR. JOSHUA SNYDER

This Sunday we will be celebrating the “Day of the Dead,” a Latin American holiday that has begun to take root in many Unitarian Universalist congregations. We will be building an altar in the sanctuary to commemorate all of the people who have passed away in the last year. Please bring a token, picture, or even the name of a loved one who has died in the last year to share for our altar.

3. SUNDAY ~ CYRE

All ages are invited to begin in the sanctuary. After the Time for All Ages, the children will be sung out to their classes. Please pick up children in the Nursery through Fifth Grades by 11:50 a.m. at their classroom. All children in the classrooms at 11:50 a.m. will be escorted to the Youth Center for Childcare. Childcare ends at 12:30 p.m. All children must be picked up by 12:30 p.m.

4. COUNTERPOINT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

This is the third Sunday of the Counterpoint Membership Drive. Visit the Counterpoint table during coffee hour to learn more.

5. CARING AND SHARING

Please keep Bill Barry in your prayers as he is recovering at home from successful surgery this week. Cards welcome.

We offer condolences to Marina VanRenssen on the recent death of her mother after a short illness. Please keep Marina and her family in your prayers.

6. THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support of our special collection for **Association Sunday**. Envelopes are still available in the office for anyone who needs one.

7. MINDFULNESS MEDITATION CLASS

Taught by James Walsh Ph.D., this is a four-session class introducing meditation. Two classes remain and all are welcome to join in on Sundays, **November 1 and 8, at 9:00 a.m.** Jim is a Pastoral Counselor in private practice in Newark, DE and is an Assistant Professor at Wilmington University. He has had extensive training at the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Center for Mindfulness in Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, a method taught by Jon Kabat-Zinn. He guides an interfaith group in regular meditation practice in Wilmington. Sign up at the Adult Religious Education Table in the Parish Hall or the church office.

8. ALLIANCE NEWS

Members and friends of the Women's Alliance will meet on **Monday, November 2**, at noon in the Parish Hall for a bring-your-own lunch. Dessert and beverages will be served. It seems appropriate in this season to speak of gratitude, what we are grateful for, how we express it, and what we hope others will appreciate. Come and be part of this congenial group. Everyone is welcome!

9. AFTERNOON OFFICE CLOSURE

Reminder: The Church Office will be Closed, **November 3rd, noon to 4PM**

10. UU CHRISTIANS

Thursday, November 5, 7-8:30 p.m., Rev. Gadon will lead our monthly UU Christian group, sharing communion and studying the Christian scriptures from a liberal perspective. We will share communion, practice lectio divina (a form of meditation on scripture), and read UU minister Erik Walker Wikstrom's book, “Teacher, Guide, Companion: Rediscovering Jesus.” Led by Rev. Barbara Gadon.

11. FIRST FRIDAY AT FIRST U PRESENTS: THE OWLTALKER TRIO

Friday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Gadon will lead our next “alterna-service” in Brunner Chapel. We feature local artists and poets, exploring spiritual themes. This month, we will feature “Owltalker Trio”, with the amazing Scott Davidson (whom we heard in worship October 18) with more percussion and a Native American flutist. Rev. Gadon will preach on “Letting Go.”

12. WORKSHOP: “GROWING FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH ONE CONNECTION AT A TIME”

How do churches grow? What would it mean for First Unitarian Church to grow? These are important questions that members and leaders alike are asking themselves. In this morning workshop, Rev. Josh Snyder will explore what growth looks like and how to manage it. He will be drawing upon literature from the UUA and the Alban Institute, the church’s unique situation, and his own experience in leading growing congregations. This workshop is free to everybody. Come join us in the Parish Hall on **Saturday November 7**, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

13. MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE ANNUAL PHYLLIS WYNN MEMORIAL CONCERT

November 8, 7:30 p.m. we will again host The Annual Phyllis Wynn Memorial Concert featuring The Wister Quartet, this year with special guest Cellist Yumi Kendall. Music by Schubert and Bocceherini. Tickets available at the door, \$10

14. NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 8: “WHAT TO DO ABOUT LAZARUS”

The Rev. Barbara Gadon: The gospel story of Lazarus has great characters, an intriguing plot, and runs the gamut of emotion - hope, despair, sorrow, rage and wonder. It also has a powerful message about death and rebirth for Unitarian Universalists.

15. WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION WITH THE BOARD – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 6:30-8:30 P.M. IN PARISH HALL. Come join in the fun and bring the family. We'll play some games and share findings from the Long Range Planning Committee. More details to follow in the November Quest. If you need childcare, please RSVP to boardeventsrsvp@firstuuwilm.org or call the church office, 302-478-2384 to let us know how many children to expect.

16. NEWCOMER CLASSES

If you are a newcomer to our church, we welcome you and hope you will consider making this your church home. But before making that decision to join, we encourage you to attend a series of classes which will acquaint you with our faith, our traditions, and our expectations.

Our next Journey toward Membership class series will begin after the worship service on **Sunday morning, November 15th**, with a class entitled “Exactly Who Are We? The Concept of Free Religion and Personal Theology.” This class, facilitated by Membership Coordinator Susan Madison, is geared especially to newcomers and to those seeking to learn more about our free faith. Susan will specifically address the concepts of religious authority, institutional freedom, and covenantal living.

The remaining three class sessions will be combined and held on **Saturday, Nov 21st, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** At this workshop we will discuss with the ministers our history as a denomination, the concept of shared ministry, and the meaning of membership. In addition, Rev. Gadon will conduct a tour of the church highlighting some of its history. At the end of the morning, an opportunity will be provided for you to sign the Membership Book and officially join the church!

Registration for the series may be made at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings or by emailing Susan directly at susan@firstuuwilm.org. We hope you will join us to meet other newcomers and ask questions about our “uncommon denomination.”

17. SOCIAL DEVIANCE FILM SERIES

This month: “The Elephant Man.” **7:00 p.m. Saturday, November 14.** Join Rev. Barbara and Dr. Alan Horowitz, professor of sociology at University of Delaware, to watch this classic film and discuss its meaning in relationship to our Unitarian Universalist belief in tolerance. Donation \$5.

18. HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASIER WITH BOOSTER CARDS!

Did you know the church earns money on the booster cards we sell at coffee hour? You can use them to purchase gifts and groceries for the holidays and support the church at the same time! If you are considering shopping with booster cards this year, we carry a variety of stores in addition to grocery stores, including Starbucks, Williams Sonoma, CVS, Walgreens and others. We can also do special orders. Just fill out the special order form at coffee hour and include payment. The church office will process the order. Many different stores are available. **Get your special orders in by no later than November 17th, for pick up in December.**

19. A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT, NANCY PINSON:

My daily spiritual practice involves a nice long walk with time to contemplate. I hope you will take the time to read my new blog from time to time - I expect to update it about once a week, usually on Sundays. Here's the link: <http://walkingspiritualpractice.blogspot.com/>. In Faith, Nancy

20. THIS SUNDAY'S VOLUNTEERS:

OFFICE: Mary Jo Metz
GREETERS: Florence DeRosa, Bill Johnson, Robert Gadon
USHERS: Steve and Cindy Cohen, Robert Gadon, Lindsey Kling
WELCOME TABLE: Jan Blanchfield
BOOSTER CARDS: Suzanne Proud
BOOK CORNER: Debbe Krape
COFFEE HOUR: The Choir hosts coffee hour today.
FIRST U LIBRARY: Open Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the RE wing.

21. THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

“Religion is the human response to being alive and having to die.” – *F. Forrester Church*