



UUCRV NEWS

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December 2018

Monthly Schedule

2 – Professor Tom Warren. The Message will come from his recently released book called “The Learner: Confronting God, Golf, and Beyond”

“...The ministry is difficult. So much is asked of you, and expectations are high. It’s hard to please everyone, and hurt can fester and grow, especially when matters stay unresolved. In *The Learner*, young pastor Christopher Ek confronts the challenges of leading his church, while trying to become a better golfer.

[While] grappling with these matters, Pastor Ek confronts the forcefulness of the youth of his church, who are learning about homelessness in their midst. Before long, they develop big ideas and seem to be taking over the congregation. Out in the pews members are asking: “What are our children up to? Are we a place of G-o-d or g-o-l-f? and “who is this foxy new liturgist?...”

9 – Allen Harden *Finding Hope, Holding Hope, Sharing Hope*

16 – Allen Harden Solstice, Christmas, and Winter Festivals

23 - *Holiday Service* with Lynda Johnson. “Join us for a wonderful celebration of the holiday season. The choir has been practicing some awesome music for us all to enjoy. Thanks to them for their generous time and efforts!

ALSO: Please bring a favorite toy or photo of toy or maybe you with the toy.

We will take a walk "Down Memory Lane", as we remember memories of Christmas's Past.

Knowing how some of you can't even bear the thought of standing in front of the congregation - don't worry! We'll be sitting in a large circle, and then break into smaller groups, where everyone can share his or her toy memory. Then your group can choose one person to tell the whole congregation what was shared. It will be fun - come even if you don't have an old toy to share.”

30 – Lynda Johnson will lead the service.



Merry Christmas!

Minister's Musings

While in Seminary, I was bombarded with wise messages as persons with experience tried to unveil the things we needed to learn in order to become successful in Ministry. I eventually figured out that wisdom was a matter of discernment and involved choosing which of these well-intended morsels might possibly help me in *my* work in Ministry. One recurring teaching was the idea that we should always end sermons and services on a positive note, to “always leave them with hope”. This is an old formula that draws deeply on our Christian background, and that continues to pull bodies into megachurches and the like. Well – that is not really me. I don’t think I drive you to despair each week, but I can’t say that I routinely dangle a promising future out there, like a carrot, to send you home feeling optimistic about the world and better about yourself.



So, I reject “hope” as a knee-jerk kind of thing, and instead I ask each of us to face the confusing and often harsh realities of our lives – to face them directly and honestly, if we can. But, I fully embrace the fundamental importance and need for hope in all of our lives, and I believe that we all negotiate the world more gracefully when we do find sources of hope within ourselves and around us. Hope, love, and caring are the stuff that fill the reservoirs that sustain us, especially in times of difficulty. I think what gives us hope is a very personal matter, but that we can also learn and be stimulated by the experiences of others. Hope can be nurtured and grow.

What gives you hope? What would you think of as sources of hope in your personal worldview and in your life? There is much to cause dismay around us, so what keeps you ticking? I have many vague and intuitive notions about my sources of hope, but it is not something I understand well. So, I guess I have to preach on the topic. On December 9, I will tell you where my thinking is taking me as I try to find a balance in the tension between hope and hopelessness, and reasons to justify the optimism I hold for humanity (even if they aren’t really rational).

So, because I don’t end each service on an upbeat and hopeful note, I will try to make it up to you by bringing a service on hope near the end of our year (12/9). This December marks one year that I have been with you, and the end of calendar 2018. Many people hold that the true message and meaning of Christmas is one of hope. Many of us also think the Unitarian Universalism embodies a spirit of hope.

I would appreciate if some of you bring your own thoughts about sources of hope. I would like to collect several of your ideas and include them in the service. Any form will work – you can tell me or email me before 12/9, you can bring them on paper that morning, or you can (briefly) attest to them during the service. But our sources of hope are important to share.

On another note, I am learning that Christmas is not a time of deep tradition and celebration at UUCRV, at least in the way it can be in some other churches. We will hold a service the Sunday before Christmas that includes special music and pays attention to the spirit of the holiday, but we are not now planning a service on Christmas Eve or events for Christmas Day. For many of us, this may be how we want things – especially if we have plans and traditions to celebrate with family, friends, and groups other than our congregation. But for some of us, the holidays can be a difficult and possibly lonely time. If you expect to be alone during this festive time, and would prefer to engage with others from our church family, please reach out to me and let me know that this is your situation. I am not sure what we will do, but I assure you that we can do something to help and hold you. After all, that is what we do for one another. You can always call me at 773-288-2394, email to uucrvminister@gmail.com, or grab me at church.

Committee Information

WORSHIP: We are putting January services put together. *Perhaps you would like to give the message for a Sunday that our Minister is not speaking?* If so, please contact a worship committee member or Allen.

We are also asking for members to be Worship Leaders – it's not a big deal! Let me, Wendy, know if you would like to volunteer or would like more particulars

The 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism

The Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) Organizing Collective encourages all Unitarian Universalists to advocate for the formal adoption of an 8th principle, articulating a commitment for the dismantling of white supremacy, within the stated principles of our faith:

“We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Allen Harden and Christopher Sims introduced the 8th Principle at our November 4th service, describing the history and motivation behind its proposal, and started a discussion about how they see it fitting in with our theology, mission, and work as allies in anti-racism and anti-oppression causes.

We want to continue to learn more about this Principle in order to continue the discussion. Additional information can be found at www.8thprinciple.org. Each month we will share a little more information so that we can all better understand this proposed change:

What is Beloved Community?

Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, sexual orientation backgrounds/identities come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world.

Why Single Out Racism?

- At a global level, this would not necessarily make sense (for instance, the oppression of women is fundamental to poverty and lack of development in many areas), but in the USA, racism stands out. The two worst crisis of the UUA (late 1960's and now) were both related to race. Racism in the US stems from chattel slavery, where people were uniquely legally treated as property that could be inherited, for something (skin color) they had no control over.
- The UUA has done well with women becoming ministers and leaders (the 7 Principles themselves came out of the Women's Movement within UUism).
- The LGBTQIA+ community is well represented as members, ministers, RE staff, and other leadership in individual congregations and the UUA, and the Welcoming Congregation program has been very effective (we could use something similar for racism); we have also made good progress with people who are differently abled.
- The UUA, the US, and the world also have a lot of problems deeply based in economic class oppression (as MLK realized, in addition to militarism and materialism); this Principle includes that, but is not highlighting it.

- Susan Busker

KWANZAA

While researching this African-American Celebration, I realized that Kwanzaa was not created to take the place of traditional Christmas. Following is just a little of what I learned. I hope you, too, will find it interesting.

“Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday that celebrates African heritage and identity. The name comes from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which translates to "first fruits," and the holiday is based on traditional African harvest festivals. Kwanzaa is a relatively new holiday, created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a professor and department chair at California State University, Long Beach. It is a cultural holiday, not a religious one, according to OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org, "thus available to and practiced by Africans of all religious faiths who come together based on the rich, ancient and varied common ground of their Africanness."

Kwanzaa is observed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. The seven days correspond to the Seven Principles, or Nguzo Saba. Seven candles are lighted during Kwanzaa, and seven symbols are placed around the home.” <https://www.livescience.com/61261-what-is-kwanzaa.html> submitted by Wendy E.

Birthdays

5 – Kathy Dierstein

14 – Dave Shair

18 – Lee Johnson

Our Easiest Fundraiser: Schnucks eScrip Card

By designating UUCRV as your nonprofit of choice,

1- 3% of your purchases at Schnucks will be given back to UUCRV.

How much? 1% on monthly purchases up to \$300
2% on monthly purchases up to \$600
3% on monthly purchases up to \$999



Where? All Schnucks locations

When? All year

How?

- ① Ask for a My Schnucks Card in the store
- ② Register your card online at www.escrip.com/schn 931-6258
Choose Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- ③ Present your registered My Schnucks Card when making a purchase using the payment method of your choice

If you already have a Schnucks eScrip Customer Card, it can be used to generate both Schnucks eScrip contributions and Schnucks Fuel Rewards. You can register that card to earn Schnucks eScrip contributions by calling 1-800-931-6258.

Exclusions: lottery tickets, gift cards, taxes

Last year UUCRV earned \$163 from this program thanks to members and friends who used their eScrip Card while shopping at Schnucks!

Do you shop online?  Your purchases could benefit UUCRV!

Check to see if your favorite retailers are involved and help our fundraising efforts.

eScrip Online Mall <https://shopping.escrip.com>

How it Works:

- ① Sign up and sign in to find your favorite online shops and coupons

② Shop with money-saving offers from retailers that give back

③ You'll earn automatically for the nonprofit you designate

Below is just a sampling of the online retailers participating and how much they give back!

1-800-flowers	12%	hp	3%	Office Depot	0.3%
ACE	3%	Gander Mountain	3%	Old Navy	2.4%
Apple	1.2%	GAP	2.4%	Omaha Steaks	4.2%
AutoZone	4.8%	Groupon	1.2%	Payless	3%
Barnes & Noble	1.2%	H&R Block	10.8%	PetSmart	3%
Bass Pro Shop	3%	Harry&David	3%	Plow&Hearth	4.8%
Bed, Bath & Beyond	2.4%	HearthSong	1.2%	Popcorn Factory	3.6%
Bergner's	1.2%	Hertz	3%	Pottery Barn	1.8%
Best Buy	1.2%	Holiday Inn	1.8%	Radisson	3%
Best Western	3%	iTunes	4.2%	Restaurant.com	1.8%
Boston Store	1.8%	JCPenney	1.8%	Rosetta Stone	9%
Budget	2.4%	Keurig	0.6%	Sam's	1.8%
Burpee	6%	Kmart	1.2%	Samsung	1.2%
Carter's	1.8%	KOHL'S	1.8%	Scholastic	3.6%
Coldwater Creek	3%	L.L. Bean	2.4%	Sears	2.4%
The Container Store	1.2%	Lands' End	2.4%	Shop PBS	3.6%
Crate & Barrel	2.4%	LEGO	1.8%	Staples	1.5%
Crayola	6%	Lenovo	2.4%	Talbots	2.4%
Current	3.6%	Lillian Vernon	3.6%	Target	0.6%
Dell	3.6%	Linens-n-Things	2.4%	Toys-R-Us	0.6%
Disney Store	1.8%	Logitech	2.4%	uncommon goods	6%
eBay	0.6%	Lowe's	1.8%	Verizon	9%
Eddie Bauer	3%	Macy's	4.8%	Vitamin Shoppe	3.6%
Famous Footwear	3.6%	Michael's	1.8%	Walgreens	2.4%
Fannie May	3.6%	Microsoft Store	6%	Walmart	0.6%
FedEx Office	6%	National Car Rental	1.8%	Weightwatchers	\$6.00
FTD	12%	National Geographic	4.8%	Williams Sonoma	1.8%
Gaiam	4.8%	Nike	3.6%		
Home Depot	1.8%				

“CELEBRATING CHALICA

Chalica is a week-long celebration of our [Unitarian Universalist Principles](#). The holiday [first emerged in 2005](#) out of a wish to have a holiday organized around Unitarian Universalist values.

Chalica begins on the first Monday in December and lasts seven days. Each day, [a chalice](#) is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle. Not all Unitarian Universalists celebrate Chalica, but it has a growing following. There is a Chalica [Facebook page](#), [blog](#), and many Chalica-themed [videos on YouTube](#).” From UUA.org

Happy Holidays to All!



Happy Chanukah



Joyous Solstice



Merry Christmas



Happy Kwanzaa

May your holidays be filled with light and love! - Susan Busker, President



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