



THE UU-LINK

January 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

January Services

January 7

Happy New Year

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll celebrate the season of with reflection, release and renewal.

January 14

White Supremacy Teach-In #2

Rev. Don Garrett

Everybody needs to start somewhere. Let's start here.

January 21

What's Your Intention?

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll explore this month's worship theme, "Intention".

January 28

Making Amends

Tara Stephenson

Can we learn something from the story of Oedipus, the mythological Greek king? He paid a very high price for mistakes he made-too high? Let's take a closer look at "paying for your crimes".

DonSense – by Rev. Don Garrett

December: What Does It Mean to Be a People of Intention?

So here we are again, in the month of January with its talk of daring resolutions and its demanding call to "become better." It's hard not to buy into it. After all, it seems so well-intended. I mean, who could argue with the goal of self-improvement? And so most of us gladly go along and declare "This is the year I'm going to finally be a better me!"

But are we sure this is what we really want? Do you find yourself still excited about the New Year's work of striving to become a brand-new self? Or do you suddenly notice an internal whisper that says "I long to be pulled in more deeply to the self I already am"? In other words, maybe our real New Year's work is not about leaping into self-improvement, but about pausing, stepping back and asking "What hunger really has my heart?"

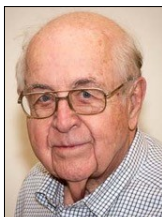
There is, after all, a big difference between becoming better and becoming ourselves. Self-improvement is not the same as self-alignment. Wanting to get from point A to point B is something quite different from longing to find your inner anchor. Goals and intentions may indeed be more distinct than we have thought.

So this month, maybe our most important work is to make room. All around us, there's going to be plenty of busy talk about being "a people of goals and resolutions." We are going to get more than enough advice about how to stay focused on a new future for ourselves. But in the midst of it all, may we, as a people of intention, also carve out a quieter place that keeps our attention closer to the present and who we *already are at our center*. May we make space for listening before we leap into the striving. And as we do that, maybe we will discover that this isn't the year of "finally becoming a better me." Maybe we'll decide it's enough to simply "finally be me."

See you in church.

– Don

FROM THE PRESIDENT



THE COMING YEAR

I asked Cecilia Eberhard, Vice President Board of Trustees, to report on the activities planned for the coming year. Here is her report:

2018 is a big year for UUCLV. We will be celebrating our 70th anniversary and doing the exciting substantive work of our Transformational Planning initiative. This will be a year for looking back from where we have come and looking forward to a future where we want to be.

You will read elsewhere in the Link about some of the preliminary work that has already been done. We think you will be very satisfied with our new Pastoral Care Plan, the creation of which is an example of the strategic planning process we will go through as we identify other programs and activities we want to develop.

The new congregational survey to be conducted early this year will give each of you the opportunity to let us know your thoughts on how we are doing and what we need to do.

In preparation for this year’s planning process, the Church Planning Committee has piloted small group discussions on chapters from The Growing Church, to encourage deep reflection on the attributes of a transforming congregation,

Currently the Board is putting together an Action Planning Team whose members will guide us in our transformational journey looking toward our next 70 years.

Thank you to all who have helped with these preliminary efforts, and we hope you will participate fully in the profound work of this year.

Have a great holiday and don’t forget to join a committee and have fun.

- Cecilia Eberhard & Cease Blocker



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU, ONE AND ALL!

OPINIONS: We all have them and want to express them. Sometimes we feel we aren’t heard. The UUCLV wants to know what your opinions are about all aspects of our church. And at a perfect time: We begin a new year together AND celebrate the 70th anniversary of our congregation!

For that purpose, a team led by the Church Planning Committee has been designing a questionnaire that will hopefully invite you to share most everything on your mind — from what’s most important to you in our worship service to how you might imagine UUCLV being all that we can be in the next five years. Whether you are a member or a friend, we hope you will look forward to filling out this survey sometime this February. We are counting on this survey to provide guidance for long-range – transformational – planning. Let your voice be heard!

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any member of the Design Team: Janice Lovegrove, Tom Zimmerman, Sharon Beckhard, Cease Blocker, or me, Barbara Diamant.

HYMNAL UPDATE:

Thanks to your generosity, we have exceeded our goal and will be ordering the additional hymnals in early January. We will let you know when they have been placed in the sanctuary.

-- **Marie Tweed & Sue Weber** for *Worship Committee*

THE UU-LINK

The UU-Link is published and mailed monthly, and is also available on our website.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley

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We’re on the web at www.uuclvpa.org

PASTORAL CARE UPDATE

"Reverend Don was just here," Chuck texted me from the hospital, "and we had a good talk about my situation. Good to see him."

Like this visit, one of the many faces of pastoral care is happening as you read this, and you'll be pleased to know that our 'new' program has been functioning very well since October. It looks a bit different from pastoral care of the past because, in addition to Don, Robin Capoor is the team member who carries and answers our special phone (484-408-4099) and she answers the emails sent to caring@UUCLVpa.com. We have multiple service providers, not just one service provider.

The Pastoral Care team is also dedicated to evaluating and continually improving the way it serves the congregation. To that end, the team records in a confidential, protected database key information that can be used to assess how well the program is working – for example, how fast incoming needs are addressed. Beth Taylor, the third member of the Pastoral Care team, helps to track and make sense of the data.

Additionally, the Church Family and Hospitality Committees coordinate supplemental services needed by a person or family, like transportation help or special meals delivered in times of need.

If things get rough for you, don't forget to dial up (484-408-4099) or email (caring@UUCLVpa.com) our new pastoral care team; it's easy and help is on the way.

SHARED PLATE: BETHLEHEM EMERGENCY SHELTERING

Our volunteers join other local faith-based volunteers to provide care, food, hospitality and showers for homeless men and women overnight from December thru March.

SHARED PLATE FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

The offering at service will be designated with the usual $\frac{1}{4}$ going to the charity of the month and the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ is now to be sent to the UUA Emergency Relief Fund for use in helping disaster areas for the next 3 months. It is so important that we do everything we can to help these people. So please be generous during service to support this effort. This is your chance to really help.

JANUARY BREAKFAST FORUM

January 7

Intention - What Does it Mean to be a People of Intention

Rev. Don Garrett, Presenter

Please join us for a small group themed discussion on what does it mean to be a people of intention

January 14

How Heresy Shaped our Unitarian Universalist Faith

Joanna Herren, Presenter

We will explore the events of the death of Jesus, the Council of Nicaea, and later the Protestant Reformation which caused Joseph Priestley to flee to the United States to escape religious persecution in 1794.

January 21

The Story of God with Morgan Freeman

Cease Blocker, Presenter

"Who is God" - Morgan Freeman explores the various concepts of god from sun worshipping at Stonehenge to modern concepts of one god, god within, no god, i.e. Nirvana, paganism, etc. They include our current beliefs such as various forms of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Native American cultures, Buddhism and Shintoism. It's a smorgasbord of ideas to choose from.

January 28

Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow

Frank Stone, Presenter

Some books provide much food for thought, particularly the one named above by historian Yuval Noah Harari. It is rich with insights, some of which may appear strange, some of which may even be disturbing, but all of which are worth considering. Pt 3 of 3.



FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Our 7th-8th grade Coming of Age class consists of a small but dedicated group of youth. They are on a year-long exploration of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, what their own beliefs are, and what it takes to belong to a church. They are looking at ways to express their religious beliefs. This will culminate in a service on April 29th that will be designed and led by them. They will share their statements of belief and lead the service.

In May, they will take a heritage trip to the Boston area, the birthplace of Unitarianism in the United States. In years past, the youth have visited the headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association, taken a Freedom Trail walking tour of Boston historic district, visited Salem, Concord and Walden Pond. All of these sites are important to Unitarian, Universalist and UU history. They stayed at the Youth Hosteling International, which was surprisingly comfortable.

The cost per youth to go to Boston is three to four hundred dollars. In the next couple of months there are some fund raisers to help defray the Boston trip costs. These fund raisers are a great way to help make the trip affordable and the events are worth the price of admission!

On Saturday, January 20th from 4:30 to 6:30 is the third annual Chili Cook-off followed by a family games night. Contact Brian Hartlaub to sign up to bring a chili. On Saturday February 17 is the Barn Dance. If you haven't been to a barn dance, it is a great family event. Our caller, John Krumm, is expert at teaching folk dancing to beginners and he makes it all very fun. We will be treated to live music by the Firefly Gals and Friends. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend these events.

In faith, **Jansen Wendell**,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
lec@uuclvpa.org



Coming of Age students celebrate the creation and lighting of our holiday luminaria.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

UU HISTORY CLASS COMING THIS WINTER

Joanna Herren is starting an adult RE class covering 500 years of Unitarian, Universalist and UU history, from the heretics of the reformation to the Council of Nicea to the Transcendentalism to the 21st century. The class will be able to take a broader view than the Long Strange Trip film series and go more into depth about the religious underpinnings of the various movements. The plan is to create a timeline that will be displayed on one of the hallways. The first three classes are scheduled for Sundays at noon on January 7, 21 and 28. Contact Joanna to express your interest at Herren2@aol.com.

INSPIRING OUR ETHICAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE: AN EXAMINATION OF WORLD RELIGIONS

During our 2017-2018 year, we will examine the religions of the world that give us inspiration to build our ethical and spiritual lives. This class will explore the traditions of Egypt, Iran, India, China, Israel, Arabia and European Christianity. Loosely based on Neighboring Faiths, a UUA curriculum for 5th & 6th graders, Rev. Robin Capoor will present new material from all of these areas. There will be speakers from many faith traditions and field trips to their worship services within the Lehigh Valley. The class begins **Sunday Sept 17th** at 9am, in the RE Library. Tell Jansen Wendell (lec@uuclvpa.org) or Rev. Robin Capoor (robincapoor@msn.com) if you're interested.

MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

(Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:15pm, the Community Room)

With the help of conscious breathing, we are able to touch and be nourished by the peace and joy that are available within and around us, in the here and now. With continued practice, we shall touch and understand the roots of the pain that lie deep within us, such as fear, anger, despair, thus making transformation and healing possible. For more information, contact Rev. Don Garret at minister@uuclvpa.org or Janice Lovegrove at lvjspirit@aol.com.

RE CALENDAR: DECEMBER / JANUARY

Sunday, Jan 7: story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

Sunday, Jan 14: story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

Saturday, Jan 20 at 4:30 pm in the gym: Chili Cook-off and Games Night

Sunday, Jan 21: story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

Sunday, Jan 28: story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

Sunday, Feb 4: story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

Sunday, Feb 11: Children's worship service for preK-6, regular class for 7-8 and 9-12

Saturday, Feb 17 at 6:00 pm in the gym: Barn Dance and pot luck

Sunday Feb 18: story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

Sunday, Feb 25: Multi-generational Youth-led service

NEW PASTORAL CARE HOTLINE & EMAIL!

In order to better serve our members and friends, the Rev. Robin Capoor has volunteered to serve as a clearinghouse for pastoral care concerns. She will work with Rev. Garrett and others to ensure that every need is cared for. Just give her a call at 973-632-3211 or email her at robincaoor@msn.com.

3RD ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF & FAMILY GAMES NIGHT

On Saturday, January 20th from 4:30 to 6:30 is the third annual Chili Cook-off in the gym followed by a family games night from 6:30 to 8:30. Juried prizes will be awarded for the best chili entries. Contact Brian Hartlaub at brianhartlaub76@gmail.com to sign up to bring your chili. This event is a fundraiser to benefit the 7-8th grade Coming of Age heritage trip to Boston, so please come out the enjoy a night of excellent food and games while supporting our youth.

UUCLV OFFICE NOTES

The submission deadline for the **February issue** of The UU-Link is the 3rd Sunday of the month: **January 21**. Please submit all articles and text info as Word files to thelink@uuclvpa.org. Submissions may be edited for length, format, content, etc.

Please share your **changes in address/contact info** with Membership at membership@uuclvpa.org, and copy the church office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org. This insures that our Church Windows database is up to date.

GETTING THE WORD OUT!

Sharing information is very important to our church family. That's why it is so important to know where to send your announcements. Please follow these guidelines when submitting your information.
Information sent to the wrong place won't be re-routed.

THE LINK

Send all material to thelink@uuclvpa.org

Deadline is the 3rd Sunday of the prior month.

THE ENEWS

Send articles to uuclvnews@uuclvpa.org only.

The eNews is published once a week on Wednesday or Thursday, with an occasional weekend reminder.

ORDER OF SERVICE & SUNDAY BULLETIN

Send all announcements and info to sunday@uuclvpa.org.

Deadline is Thursday at noon.



The Second Sunday Concert series kicks off 2018 with a performance by perennial favorite, SATORI on Sunday, February 11 – that's the weekend before Valentine's Day, hint, hint! Treat your special someone(s) to an afternoon of wonderful music by Nora Suggs (flute), Cheryl Bishkoff (oboe) and Martha Schrempel (piano). Works by Telemann, Poulenc, Tann, William Grant Still, and more, are on the program.

As usual, you will have an opportunity to meet the artist at our wonderful post-concert reception.

Tickets are \$17 general admission; **students are free**. Again: Sunday, February 11, 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Tickets available at the door, or may be purchased on-line at www.concertseries.uuclvpa.org. They will also be available after the UUCLV service on Sundays February 4 and 11. We are pleased to partner with WDIY88.1FM community radio for the 2017-18 concert series.

JOIN US FOR A LINK PIZZA PARTY!

Consider yourself invited to join us for the monthly UU-Link Pizza & Mailing Party on Wednesday, January 31! Every month, UUCLV volunteers meet in the FM kitchen at 12 noon on the 2nd Wednesday after the 3rd Sunday of the month for Link-folding, labeling, socializing and fresh, delicious pizza from Bethlehem's own Lehigh Pizza. The next mailing party is **Wednesday, January 31**. If you'd like to join in the fun and help out, just RSVP to the church office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We are reading **The Faraway Brothers** by Lauren Markham for our January book discussion. A family's struggle to survive in El Salvadore by sending, illegally, some of it's members to the U.S is the focus of Markham's narrative. She relies on her roles as a journalist and a worker in refugee resettlement to write her narrative about experiences that play out every day in the United States. The discussion group will meet on January 14th in the RE Library at 12:00 noon after the service. For information contact bookdiscussion@uuclvpa.org.

FOURTH FRIDAY FILM SERIES MOVES TO THIRD FRIDAY - JANUARY ONLY!

Our Fourth Friday Films Series Program in January is on the third Friday January 19th, 2018. We will host the '2018 Daring Democracy Book Tour' with co-author Adam Eichen. The book, *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want*, is listed as a 2017-2018 UUA Common Read. Michael Pollack of March on Harrisburg will also join us. He is organizing the '2018 Daring Democracy Book Tour' which is stopping at over 15 locations across Pennsylvania.

The program will begin at 6:15 PM with local groups tabling before the program at 7 PM. Join us for an evening of ideas for staying informed, getting involved and ways to take action. You might want to read the book before the event in January. *Daring Democracy* is available for a reduced rate of \$12 before the event from Tom Ulrich. Please call [610-882-1136](tel:610-882-1136) or email him at tomulrich41@gmail.com to arrange to get the book before the event in January.

THINGS TO DO IN JANUARY WITH FELLOW UU'S

There are a few opportunities to join in on some left-overs events, outings & dinners from the service auction for the month of January.

1)Gentle Yoga - January 6th 10:00-11:00 am at UUCLV room #312 with Claudia Simpson. Cost only \$10/person - 7 spots available.

2)Mangled Myths -Book & Puppet Co at 466 Northampton Street, Easton - Wednesday, January 10th 7:00 pm - Cost only \$10/person - 10 spots - Refreshments will be available too.

3)Strudel Making Party/Dinner - January 14th 4:00 pm - at Ilse & Allen Zinnes - cost \$30/person - 4 spaces available.

If you would like to join in on any of these events, please let me know. Happy Holidays!

-- **Dora Davenport**



Third Annual UUCLV Chili Cook-Off

To Benefit
The Coming of Age Class
Trip to Boston



To sign up to make a chili, please contact Brian Hartlaub at brianhartlaub76@gmail.com.

We want all types of chilis from all bean, vegetarian, turkey, gluten free, spicy, sausage, and many more.

Suggested donation is \$10 per adult and \$6 per child or \$30 per family.

This includes chili, salad, bread, beverage, dessert, followed by games and merriment.



When: Saturday,
January 20, 2018

Where: UUCLV Gym

Time: 4:30-6:30pm

All Ages Game Night to follow from 6:30-9pm



UUCLV

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley

424 Center Street

Bethlehem, PA 18018

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TODAY < > January 2018

Month - [Settings] [Grid] [Refresh]

Sun 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Adult RE: RE Library 9am Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30am Sunday Service 12pm Hospitality: Brides Room 	Mon Jan 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am New Years Day / Holiday 9am Yoga: 310 10:30am Construction Mtg: FM 6pm Yoga: 310 	Tue 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Yoga: 310 	Wed 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Pastoral Care: RE Lib 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm HAVEN: CR, Rm 100 7:15pm Finance: RE Lib 	Thu 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Yoga: 310 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Board Mtg: CR 	Fri 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Class: 304 TBD 	Sat 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Class: 304 TBD 9:30am Yoga: 310 10am Simpson Yoga: 312 11:15am Yoga: 310 4pm LV Pagans: 312
7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30am Sunday Service 12pm UU Hist Class: RE Lib 2:30pm Blackthorn: 308 3:30pm Yoga: 310 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga: 310 10:30am Construction Mtg: FM 6pm Yoga: 310 7:15pm Social Action: FM 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Property: RE Lib 7pm Mindfulness Practice: CR 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm HAVEN: CR, Rm 100 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Yoga: 310 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm ACLU: CR 7pm Worship: RE Lib 	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Yoga: 310 11:15am Yoga: 310 3pm Contra Dance: Gym
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30am Sunday Service 12pm Book Discussion: RE Lib 3:30pm Yoga: 310 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga: 310 10:30am Construction Mtg: FM 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Program Council: CR 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Mindfulness Practice: CR 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm BUC Mtg: RE Lib 3pm Pastoral Care: RE Lib 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Fair Districts: CR 7pm HAVEN: CR, Rm 100 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Yoga: 310 6pm Yoga: 310 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm 4th Friday Films: CR 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Yoga: 310 11am Tao Study Group: RE Lib 11:15am Yoga: 310 4pm LV Pagans: 312 4pm Chili Cook-Off & Games
21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30am New Member book signing an 10:30am Sunday Service 12pm UU Hist Class: RE Lib 2 more 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga: 310 10:30am Construction Mtg: FM 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Church Planning: 304 7pm Comm on Ministry: RE Lib 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Mindfulness Practice: CR 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Link Mailing Party-CR 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm HAVEN: CR, Rm 100 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Yoga: 310 6pm Yoga: 310 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Social Action: Sanctuary TBD 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Yoga: 310 11:15am Yoga: 310 3pm Contra Dancing-Gym
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am Town Hall-CR 12pm Hospitality: Brides Room 3:30pm Yoga: 310 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga: 310 10:30am Construction Mtg: FM 12pm UU Hist Class: RE Lib 6pm Yoga: 310 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Mindfulness Practice: CR 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Pastoral Care: RE Lib 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm HAVEN: CR, Rm 100 	Feb 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Yoga: 310 6pm Yoga: 310 7pm Board Mtg: CR 	2	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Yoga: 310 11:15am Yoga: 310 4pm LV Pagans: 312