June 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

June Services

June 3

Ramadan

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll explore this important observance, central to the Islam faith.

June 10

Flower Communion

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll celebrate our annual flower communion in preparation for our Annual Congregational Meeting after the service. Please bring a flower to share.

June 17

luneteenth

Rev. Don Garrett

Unlike the media of today, the news of the Emancipation Proclamation spread much more slowly. We'll look at a part of this history.

June 24

Soapbox Sunday

Marie Tweed

In a revival of a dormant UUCLV tradition, several members of our congregation will share their thoughts, soapbox style, on topics that ignite their spirit.

DonSense - by Rev. Don Garrett

June: What Does It Mean to Be a People of Blessing?

A friend once shared, "I guess after plan A fails, I need to remember there's still a whole alphabet out there."

It's not just our friend who needs help remembering that there's a whole alphabet out there; it's all of us. We all get stuck in wanting things a certain way. We all, at times, focus so intently on the few things going wrong that we completely miss the dozens of things going right. Tunnel vision too often takes over our days.

For Unitarian Universalists, this is the central tragedy of the human condition. Which is also why blessings are so central to our faith. They are, for us, a way of widening our view.

First of all, blessings are not necessarily something we give to each other as much as they involve us helping each other notice all that's *already been given* to us. And it's not just about widening our view to see the gifts themselves; it's about widening our understanding of life. Pointing to blessings repairs our relationship with life, allowing us to see it as generous – not threatening – full of grace-filled surprises not dominated by a cold indifference.

And there's a lot at stake when it comes to this wider view. When the world seems stingy to us, we are stingy to others. Those who feel blessed have little trouble passing blessings on. Our tradition takes this calculus seriously. As UU minister, Rev. Don Wheat, puts it "The religious person is a grateful person, and the grateful person is the generous person." In short, by noticing our blessings, we become a blessing.

So this month the question in front of all of us is not simply "Do you notice the blessings surrounding you?" It's also, "How are the blessings in your life leading you to bless others?" Blessings don't just fill us up; they cause us to overflow. In other words, blessings don't just enrich us; they connect us. And that may be the greatest blessing of all.

See you in church.

- Don

FROM THE PRESIDENT



OUR 2017-18 YEAR

It's been an interesting year for our congregation. Some major activities have been started and some completed.

The one which will have the most impact on us is the Transformational Planning initiative towards our becoming

a Welcoming Organization headed by Janice Lovegrove. This involved working with the Board to make it more cohesive and trusting and then expanding to involve the congregation in developing our mission/direction and elements that will make us more welcoming, both between members and with new people. It has involved training the Board, selection and training of a ten member Action Planning Team (APT) and holding a congregational retreat to solicit ideas for future growth to be incorporated in plans for the future. This initiative has had invaluable support from Cecilia Eberhard.

In conjunction with this, a congregational survey was developed and taken to gather data about our congregation for general use and for the APT. This was coordinated by the Church Planning Committee of Janice, Ann Sheridan, Tom Zimmerman and yours truly.

The next big event that should be completed this month is our new elevator. This will be a great help to our handicapped. This is the culmination of a lot of work by Bernie Bujnowski and his team, Pat Herring and Michael Benning.

A lot of people contributed to parts of our new web -site headed by Eric Lee, the technical guru and Tom Zimmerman, our web master. We are hopeful that this new site will be a much better representation of the true meaning of our faith and will entice the outside world to come visit us.

The Property Committee, with Dora Davenport's lead, has overseen the several activities that involve our building, including wall repairs; window repairs and changes; kitchen floor replacement and new projects such as making the Wall Street door easier to open, new handicap parking in the back of the church and sidewalk repairs.

A new Pastoral Care program has been initiated and is working well with Rev. Robin Capoor and Rev. Don at the helm.

Other activities included updating the office computer program and revising the Personnel Manual,

thanks to Ellen Bell.

The Board and I want to thank everyone for their contribution to our successful year. Our thanks to all the committee members, committee chairs, our staff and the many volunteers for their contribution of time and energy.

Thanks to each of you.

Cease

ACTION PLANNING TEAM CONTINUES WORK ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Following up on the very successful and well-attended Congregational Retreat on April 22nd, your Action Planning Team reviewed the ideas generated during that event at our meeting on June 12th. We did a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) as we continued our work toward the development and implementation of a Strategic Plan. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress and will look to you for feedback as we move forward. Our goal is to complete our work by the fall and submit the plan to you, the congregation, for approval at a special congregational meeting in the fall. In the meanwhile, please feel free to contact any member of the Action Planning Team if you have questions or comments. We are: Sarah Carlson, Barbara Diamant, Seth Finkle, Diana Lormand, Amy Nyberg, David Shields, Beth Taylor, Chuck West, Salli Wood, Tom Zimmerman, and Rev. Don.

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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ANNUAL MEETING: JUNE 10

The Annual Meeting of our congregation will be held at 12:00 noon on June 10, 2018. Two amendments to the By-Laws will be presented:

Section 9.15 – The name will be changed from Nominating Committee to Leadership Development Committee to reflect the added mission of this committee.

Section 9.18 – The number of members will be changed from 5 to 2 members from the congregation plus one Trustee appointed for one year as a voting member. Please attend the meeting to vote on the coming year's budget, Leadership Development Committee's recommendations, the changes to the By-Laws, plans for our 70th Anniversary celebration, etc. - **Cease**

NOTICE OF BY-LAWS CHANGE

The following change to the by-laws will be presented at our Annual Meeting for congregational approval.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS June 2018

The following amendment to the by-laws will restructure the Personnel Committee by reducing the number of members and including a board member as a voting member. This will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the committee and align its work more closely with the governance responsibilities of the board

Current by-laws:

9.18 The Personnel Committee shall provide equitable policy recommendations to the Board in matters of employee relations and perform such personnel functions as requested by the Board. It shall consist of five Church members appointed by the Board for staggered terms of three years. Additionally, one Trustee shall be appointed for a one year term as a nonvoting member. It shall choose its own Chair.

Proposed by-laws change: brackets indicated additions or changes, strike out indicates deletion.

9.18 The Personnel Committee shall provide equitable policy recommendations to the Board in matters of employee relations and perform such personnel functions as requested by the Board. It shall consist of [2] Church members appointed by the Board for staggered terms of three years. Additionally, one Trustee shall be appointed for a one year term as a non-voting member. It shall choose its own Chair.

JUNE BREAKFAST FORUM

June 3

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

Rev. Don Garrett, Presenter

Join us for a small group themed discussion on what it means to be a people of blessing.

June 10

The Future: Colonizing the Galaxy, Human-level Intelligence, Immortality—and a Good Pickle

Frank Stone, Presenter

Where did the pickle come from? When George on the Jerry Seinfeld show went on and on about all the things he never experienced, Jerry replied that he never had a really good pickle. For the fun of it, let's delve into the minds of the futurists to discover what experiences they believe may await humanity. Spoiler alert: a good pickle isn't among them.

June 17

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Rising

Oliver Hartman, Presenter

HRC Rising is a national campaign focusing on six key states: Ohio, Nevada, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona and Pennsylvania. Right here in Pennsylvania, we are focusing on key regions that will turn the tide for 2018 and beyond, and building Regional Equality Action Councils made up of ordinary people looking to do extraordinary things. Together, we are going to get out the vote and unify the state in a historic movement that will strengthen community bonds, offer unique opportunities for leadership development and training, and save lives.

June 24

Judaism & Race: The Complex and Confusing Ways Jewsih People Fit in America's Racial landscape

Dan Poresky, Presenter

We will listen to a provocative 30 minute NPR program (augmented with slides) that explores questions such as: Is Judaism primarily a religion? Are Jews a race, an ethnicity, a culture? Are Jews white people? If Jews can be any, all, or none of those things, what makes a Jew Jewish and why are they collectively hated by white supremacists as demonstrated last August at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia? It should make for lively discussion.



It's hard to believe another year of RE has concluded. Thank you to all the members and friends that volunteered to teach, assist, advise or otherwise help to make the program a success. A few long-time members who haven't been involved in RE for a while joined the team as classroom assistants. Their work, although it may have felt minimal, was crucial in allowing our teachers to have a few more Sundays away from the classroom. When you receive an invitation to join the team for 2018-19, I hope you will consider saying yes.

Each year provides new challenges in terms of class size and staffing. Next year is no exception. The Our Whole Lives class will have 10 or 12 students. For us, that is huge. Some of the OWL teachers won't be available because they have a child in the program. We are fortunate we have plenty of trained teachers, so that shouldn't be a problem.

Our 5th and 6th grade class has the opposite problem – only 3 or 4 students in that age group. The primary and elementary grades (K-4th) will be combined into one Spirit Play class. Spirit Play provides a structure that allows for that wide a range in ages. The children will gather for the chalice lighting and story and then we can utilize two classrooms for art and craft activities for different learning styles and ages.

The RE committee will be exploring ways to do community outreach (marketing) to get the word out about our affirming, values based religious education program. I am confident that if more parents in the Lehigh Valley discover what we have to offer, they would jump at the chance to give their children this experience. Our task as a RE committee and as a congregation is to provide high quality programs and a welcoming environment so that visitors feel at home the moment they explore our web site and enter our building.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

SUMMER CURRICULUM: *Let the Force be With You* a Jedi curriculum. This 10-session summer program is designed to bring spiritual/ethical lessons from Star Wars into a cohesive program for children. The program will start on June 17th and run until the end of August.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

(*Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:15pm, the Community Room*) With the help of conscious breathing, we are able to touch and to be nourished by the peace and joy 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.

RE CALENDAR - MAY / JUNE:

Sunday, June 3: Teacher Appreciation Breakfast; End of Year party

Sunday, June 10: Multigenerational Flower Communion Service

Sunday, June 17: Summer RE for K-6th grade begins

Sunday, June 24: Summer RE for K-6th continues

Sunday, July 1: Summer RE for K-6th continues

Sunday, July 8: Summer RE for K-6th continues

Sunday, July 15: Summer RE for K-6th continues

Sunday, July 22: Summer RE for K-6th continues

Sunday. July 29: Summer RE for K-6th continues

GET YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY!

The current church directory of UUCLV members and friends is available for members at the Welcome Table during Coffee Hour after the church service. If there are any corrections for future printings, please contact Cari Poole, Membership Chair **and** Kate Scuffle, the Church Administrator, at uuclv@uuclvpa.org.

SOAPBOX SUNDAY

On June 24, we will be reviving a dormant UUCLV tradition, Soapbox Sunday. As Unitarian Universalist we take pride in our "open mindedness" and our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Soapbox Sunday offers an opportunity for speakers to sound off on nearly any issue.

Do you have a hero? This could be a time to share a short speech or important quotes that have been meaningful to you and you believe would be important to others. Speakers will spend four minutes max (yes, there will be hook) expounding on a matter of heartfelt importance to them (no personal attacks or political endorsements.) If you are interested in participating, please send an email with your topic to Marie Tweed at <a href="mailto:m

THREE SERVICE AUCTION RELATED EVENTS: JUNE/JULY

Sunday, June 10, 2018, following the Annual Meeting (around 2 to 8 p.m. or until food is gone). ArtsQuest Food Truck Border Brawl from 1 until 8 p.m. (prepaid tickets given out at the end of the Annual Meeting):

\$10 per person paid to church: from 1 until 8 p.m. One ticket gives you entry and exit privileges all day. There will be 8 Food Trucks from Pennsylvania and 8 from New Jersey. You'll be free to sample all of them for that one entry fee. Drinks are extra. Beer will be on tap, and other libations. Join us to eat, discuss and enjoy the company of fellow UUs following our all important Annual Meeting at church.

Here are some of the food trucks whose samples you can sample: Baby Blues BBQ, The Cow and the Curd, Creme Brolee Food Truck, Fud Truck, Phyllodelphia, Sherri's Crab Cakes, The Clubhouse Grille, Uncle Paul's Stuffed Pretzels (all from Pennsylvania), and, (from New Jersey), Chick Wings and Things, Empanada Guy, Jersey Johnny's, Kono Pizza, Polka Dot Cake Shop, Pompier Catering and Cuisine, Surf and Turf Truck, and The Little Sicilian. Check each website for info on food. Use their spellings (above)

Saturday, June 16, 2018: Murder Mystery Dinner: How to Host a Murder: Last Train to Paris starting at 2 p.m. at Margo Dixon's Home, 3916 Oakland Road, Bethlehem 18020 (Across from the Northampton Community College): \$35 per person; 4 already signed up.

Of the eight (8) participants, four (4) will identify for this event as male and four (4) as female characters: Which of these "speak" to you? We'll share a four course meal as the murder unfolds.

- **Khover T. Ageante**, travels with regularity between Berlin and Paris, distinguished, well traveled, worldly, distinguished, impeccably dressed
- Malcolm R. Conntint, soldier of fortune, restless, cynical, secretive, ex patriot from the United States whose worldly toughness stands out against the backdrop of leisured affluence in Paris of 1940.
- RAF Group Captain Weyland W. Awfcorce, or "Wey," is a pilot of renown. This son of English nobility, educated at Oxford, epitomizes the strength, endurance and noble character of that island race.
- **Duke Schwazhe B. U. Klare**, one of the most eligible bachelors in Europe, is of noble bearing, schooled extensively in military matters, and is a swordsman of considerable talent.
- Princess Idelle Chattre, a royal refugee driven to Paris by the advancing German troops (as was Duke Klare), she is beautiful, strong willed, quick to anger, and possessed of considerable family wealth safely invested overseas.
- Mary K. Trairie, journalist for a great newspaper, who has lingered in Paris to send home to her readers the true story of the War in Europe. She was born Mary Kohn, daughter of Augustus Kohn, journalist, publisher, newshound.
- **Barbra Z. Enhussie** is the rich, spoiled and beautiful daughter of the late French perfume king, Louis Z. Enhussie. Chateau Enhussie and her spacious Paris apartment are centers of lavish social activity.
- **Belinda Screete** is described as a "couturier extraordinaire" by her wealthy clients. She says she is but a "simple dressmaker" though others know better. The clever, vivacious and charming American thrust her way into Paris society.



WATCH THIS SPACE

"Watch This Space" is presented by UUCLV's Property Committee for the 2018-2019 year. Starting off, we want you to know that two of the staircases and one landing entering into

our church building from the Wall Street door to the sanctuary will be transformed, refinished and repainted to create an aesthetically pleasing area.

We have an estimate from a painter who has done other projects within our church walls. We hope to get this project started and completed during the



summer while there is less foot traffic in the area.

Throughout this church year, there will be other



"Watch This Space" articles and pictures of the improvements to our church facility. Keep your eyes open; our church is being transformed.



JOIN US FOR A LINK PIZZA PARTY!

Consider yourself invited to join us for the monthly UU-Link Pizza & Mailing Party! Every month, UUCLV volunteers meet in the FM kitchen at 12 noon on the 2nd Wednesday after the 3rd Sunday of the month for Linkfolding, labeling, socializing and fresh, delicious pizza from Bethlehem's own Lehigh Pizza. The next UU Link mailing party is on **Wednesday**, **June 27**, **2018**. If you'd like to join in the fun, **please RSVP** to the office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org so that we order enough pizza.

THINGS TO DO WITH UU'S IN JUNE AND JULY

There are a few fun and get-together events that still have slots open for you to join in during June and July 2018. If you are interested in joining-in please contact Dora Davenport per email at doradavenport@msn.com, or call cell: 201-247-2427, or tell her at church..

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER PARTY – June 16th – 2:00 pm - \$35/pp - Home of Margo Dixon – 5 available

Join others at Margo's home for a 3 course meal and to solve "who done it" (a murder mystery game) – The Last Train from Paris – you've received an invitation for ride to escape soon-to-be occupied Paris on the last train to leave the city in June 1940. You'll assume the role of one of 8 worldly characters from 1940's Europe on a train ride that will leave one passenger dead before arrival. This is going to be a fun time, it's almost criminal!

BICYCLE RIDE & ICE CREAM TREAT – July 14th – 2:00 pm - \$5/pp – with Cecilia Collura-Eberhard - bike from Hellertown to Coopersburg – 2 available

A nice easy scenic bike ride along the Saucon Rail Trail from Hellertown to Coopersburg (6 miles) to Inside Scoop. Stop for ice cream treat of your choice, then return ride to Hellertown. This is a family friendly outing and for all ages.

IF I HAD 5 WISHES - July 18th - 2:00 pm - \$18/pp - Home of Robin Capoor & Dora Davenport - 6 available

An opportunity to write a unique reflection of your life. Robin will guide you through the process of creating your obituary. It will give you time to focus on what still needs to be added to your bucket list. High tea will be served after the workshop. Home is fully air conditioned.

POOL PARTY – July 28th – 1:00 pm - \$40/pp – Home of Frank & Judy Claps – 12 available (rain date August 11th)

Enjoy an afternoon of great pool water, fantastic food and drink. Fun for all! Stay as long as you like throughout the afternoon.

UUCLV OFFICE NOTES

THE UU-LINK: The submission deadline for the **July issue** of The UU-Link is the 3rd Sunday of the month: **June 17.** Please submit all photos, articles and text info (as Word files) to **thelink@uuclvpa.org**. Submissions may be edited for length, format, content, etc.

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

LEPOCO PEACE CAMP

The **Young People Making Peace Day Camp** is an opportunity for youth to participate in songs, crafts, non-competitive games and learning activities that emphasize peaceful solutions. It runs mornings from July 23 -27, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. Children ages 5 to 14 are welcome. There is a sliding –scale fee and scholarships for those in need.

The camp is sponsored by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern and staffed by volunteers who are dedicated to empowering children with peace-making skills. If you have questions or seek a registration form, see Elizabeth Griner.

UUCLV MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the UUCLV Men's Group is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 4 in the FM kitchen.

Our discussion topic will be: Considering this is the end of the school year, think back upon a teacher who greatly influenced your life. What did this person do? How did he or she impact you?

For those who can't think of a worthy teacher, think about another adult who had the same impact.

The UUCLV Men's Group is open to all affiliated with the UUCLV high school age or older and their friends regardless of gender. Please bring food and or beverage to be shared. For more information, contact men@uuclvpa.org or Frank Claps at 610-346-7629.

UPCOMING AT THE FOURTH FRIDAY FILMS SERIES

June 22 - "How the Women's March Movement is Advocating for Women's Rights" with Shawna Knipper, Executive Director of Women's March PA.

July 27 - "**The Big Money Agenda**" is a documentary about money in politics by local film makers Vince Mondillo and Richard Master.

August 24 - "It Happens Right Here: Human Trafficking in the Lehigh Valley". We'll shine a light on this problem with a documentary and discussion

September 28 - "The Empire's War on the Border" looks at the immigration issue and what we can do about it.

APRIL SHOWERS CONTINUE INTO MAY & JUNE

Due to the positive response of offering hot showers to our homeless neighbors, the UUCLV will continue this valuable service at least for the next two months on Wednesday evenings from 6 -9 PM.

Your continued support and generosity will be most appreciated. We would like to offer protein rich snacks while they wait. A bin will be in the Community Room on Sundays to collect individual sized snacks. Some suggestions include: granola bars, packages of nuts and trail mix, PB crackers, cheese and crackers, juice boxes, small bottles of water and other individual nonperishable snacks.

THE JUNE SHARED PLATE:

This month the shared plate offering will be for VAST, a non-profit organization, that stands for Lehigh Valley Against Sex Trafficking. They work to empower survivors and encourage our community to take action in the anti-trafficking movement through collaboration, education and advocacy.

UUCLV The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley 424 Center Street Bethlehem, PA 18018

Address Service Requested

