THE UU-LINK October 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Octob<u>er Services</u>

October 1

Days of Awe

Rev. Don Garrett & Worship Associates

We'll share in honoring the Jewish tradition of Yom Kippur with a liturgical service of forgiveness and new beginnings.

October 8 Blessing of the

Animals

Rev. Don Garrett

This intergenerational service will feature music, stories, and everyone's favorite animal friends. Well -behaved pets are welcome.

October 15 Courage

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll explore some of the many forms that courage can take.

October 22 NO CHURCH

Rev. Don Garrett

The Runner's World Half Marathon will again close the streets of Bethlehem on Sunday morning.

October 29 Samhain Sue Weber



October: What Does It Mean to Be a People of Courage?

Courageous people change the world. There are so many examples of that this month. October is LGBTQ history month and reminds us of the many who bravely moved (and continue to move) our world toward greater acceptance and affirmation. The revolutionary prophet of peace, Mohandas Gandhi, was born on October 2. Our Christian friends celebrate Reformation Day and Martin Luther's courage that changed how we all think about religious authority. We rightly honor such giants. The problem is most of us aren't that tall.

Or are we? Here's what we have to help each other remember: In addition to the heroic acts that alter history, there are also the daily choices that prevent history from altering us. Battling evil and bending the arc of the universe toward justice deserves praise, but there's also the ordinary work of integrity and not allowing yourself to be bent. This needs to be noticed as well. There's the bravery of embracing your beauty even when it doesn't fit the air-brushed images surrounding you. There's the courage of calling out the micro-aggressions that happen almost every day at work. And what about resisting the persistent seduction of status and stuff? The list is long: Turning down that drink one day at a time. Making yourself get out of bed when the depression tells you to stay there. Holding your partner's hand in public. Make no mistake, there are dozens of ordinary acts of bravery we rise up to everyday!

Or maybe we should say there are dozens of ordinary acts of bravery we help each other rise up to every day. Courage is not only noble; it's contagious. The bravery that makes it into the history books may save the world, but our ordinary courage keeps each other going. Watching someone else make it through another day helps us endure. Witnessing someone else confront bigotry allows us to bravely be more open about who we are. They say that courage is found by digging deep, but most often it is passed on.

So don't worry so much if you haven't changed the world yet. And certainly let's stop comparing ourselves with those giants. Our work rests less in looking up to them and more in looking over at and gaining strength from each other. And remembering that others are looking over at and needing strength from us.

See you in church.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

OUR CHALLENGE



I'm reading a UU book titled "The Growing Church". It emphasizes our challenge to grow our religious values and attract members who believe in those values.

Americans are far more lonely now than in the past. Data shows that more than half have no one to talk to. Data indicates that in a single generation the percentage of people with inadequate social support has gone from a quarter of the population to almost half and the biggest decline has been in the relationships that link us to our neighbors and our community. Loneliness is among us like an invisible epidemic.

We have unwittingly created a culture that has eliminated ties outside the household - television, internet, single parent families, and on and on. That makes for very lonely people.

These statistics represent spiritual and emotional longings that we can help provide. Many of these people seek relationships of depth, meaning and purpose. Our church can provide these relationships.

But can we provide them? Our history is that we have remained about the same size. That means that for every new member, we lose an old member. Someone leaves. Our data is variable but the main reason they leave is that we're not a very friendly church. We're not welcoming.

This is our challenge. How do we become more welcoming?

Our board, minister, Committee on Ministry and Church Planning will be addressing these issues. We will be determining what successful churches have done, what our weaknesses and strengths are and hopefully developing and implementing plans to lead us into the future, to make us a growing church, growing in spirituality, becoming a welcoming church and ultimately growing our membership. We have a lot to offer our community. We just have to figure out what needs to be done.

There's exciting times ahead. Join a committee and have some fun.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS ELEVATOR PROJECT TO BEGIN

The last major project on the UUCLV's capital improvement plan, the construction of a handicapped elevator, is scheduled to start the first week of October. The project involves constructing a concrete block shaft from the basement to the Sanctuary. Once the shaft is completed, the elevator will be installed in the shaft and will provide access to the Community Room, the RE/ Administration floor, and the Sanctuary.

During periods of the project construction, there will be a lot of noise and dust generated. This is most likely to occur during construction of the elevator shaft. The Capital Projects Committee is working with our contractors and church staff to mitigate noise and dust conditions and to minimize disruptions to church operations, including rentals. Project activities will have minimal disruption on actual church services. The construction and installation of the elevator is expected to last at least four months.

COMMITTEE FAIR: OCTOBER 1

Committee Fair, Sunday, October 1 in the community room at 10:30 after service, come one, come all! Each committee has been invited to staff a table showcasing the work it does and inviting your participation if you have interest. We encourage you to come enjoy the displays and vote for "Best Table Display."

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 424 Center Street, Bethlehem PA 18018 Office Phone: 610-866-7652

The Minister:minister@uuclvpa.orgOffice Email:uuclv@uuclvpa.orgThe Sexton:sexton@uuclvpa.orgCleaning:sparkle@uuclvpa.orgReligious Educ:lec@uuclvpa.orgThe Link email:thelink@uuclvpa.orgThe eNews:uuclvnews@uuclvpa.orgSunday Bulletin/OOS:sunday@uuclvpa.orgWe're on the web at www. uuclvpa.org

-- Cease

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THANKS TO UUCLV FOR THRIVE RETREAT EXPERIENCE

My name is Taneisha Lormand, and I am writing to thank you for sponsoring me in matching a UUA youth grant that enabled me to attend THRIVE. It is my understanding that when my family's request for sponsorship came to the Program Council in early 2017, individuals opened their wallets on the spot to sponsor me. Thank you!

THRIVE is a leadership retreat for UU youth of color that takes place over five days. The East Coast gathering was in Annapolis, MD at the end of July. I had an amazing time in fellowship with other UU youth of color, which included ten youth and three advisors. Each day was a new theme and there were thoughtful discussions around race, racism, gender identity, sexual orientation, classism, wealth, and privilege.

During the course of the retreat, we had many heartfelt discussions about our identities, family, ancestry, and other topics we felt needed to be talked about. I bonded with the other youth through fun activities such as movies, dance parties, karaoke, face masks, and even through worship. We were split into three groups, so they were our family within the THRIVE family, and planned meals, activities for the night, and worship which was held at 9pm every night. My group's worship focused on being connected to our ancestors through nature. My friend, who is Pagan, taught us how to yoik, which is a northern European shamanic style of singing that is meant to awaken a person or animal in a spiritual way. We learned a yoik to connect us to our ancestors and bring them into the room with us.

I learned a great deal from THRIVE, but the one thing I learned and will always cherish is who I am. I never thought about my identity much until then. I know that I am African American and that my ancestors originated from the west coast of Africa (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Senegal, Cameroon, and Congo). I feel more connected to my African roots and appreciate them more. I am proud to be an African American and feel that my ancestors are proud of my accomplishments.

Thank you for allowing me to experience this amazing program; I definitely have become a stronger person because of it.

Sincerely, Taneisha Lormand

OCTOBER BREAKFAST FORUM

October I

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

Rev. Don Garrett, Presenter

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

October 8

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 1 of 2.

October 15

"Where to Invade Next"

Cari Poole, Presenter

In this second of three film segments, we travel to Slovenia, Germany and Portugal to find answers to Michael Moore's question, what can America learn from these countries' heart-centered approach to justice, education and commitment to elevating the dignity of all human kind?

October 22

Poetry & Songs From the War to End All Wars

Todd Carpien, Presenter

Todd Carpien is a local actor who has performed in 50+ productions in the Lehigh Valley area. He has performed with Sing for America, Crowded Kitchen Players, Civic Theater of Allentown, Munopco and many others. He will perform a one -man show of moving poetry and songs written by men who fought and died in World War I.

October 29 Global Mamas (Women in Progress)

John & Fran Kennedy, Presenters Discussing the group's role in development and fair trade in Ghana. Clothing, kitchen items, ornaments, jewelry, accessories and shea butter products produced by members of Global Mamas group will be available for sale. We will share our plate with Global Mamas in November.

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FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

<u>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)</u> FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

As I write this article, I am preparing to go to my wife's sister's house for a Rosh Hashanah meal. The Jewish tradition is rich with spiritual practice, particularly when it comes to food. I have come to really appreciate that and I always look forward to these events. I am reminded of the times when my family would simply hold hands for a moment of silence before our meal, back when we ate our meals together. Now my daughter is going to college and working odd hours. We barely get to see her even though she lives with us. I get home late from my long commute. My wife sees clients late. My wife and I eat our meals upstairs. My mother, whom we live with, eats her meal seated in her comfy chair in front of the TV downstairs. It is increasingly rare that we all sit down together for a meal. I miss the spiritual practice of sitting in silence together, holding hands.

Does your family have a spiritual practice? Is there a ritual you do to connect your family with each other? I encourage you to do something like what we used to do or to find another one. It could be as simple as everyone doing the table setting and meal preparation together. It could be singing together or going for a walk together. Although it is somewhat clichéd, there is something profound and grounding in having a ritual that we as a family do together. Each of us may have our own spiritual practice, but having one for the family is different. It reminds us of our connection and the love we share. As I sit amongst my in-laws tonight, I will take care to notice the rituals and make sure I participate.

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

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

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

During our 2017-2018 year, our adult religious education class will examine the religions of the world that give us inspiration to build our ethical and spiritual lives. This class will examine the traditions of Egypt, Iran, India, China, Israel, Arabia and European Christianity. Loosely based on Neighboring Faiths, a UUA curriculum for 5th and 6th graders, Rev. Robin Capoor will present new material from all of these areas. There will be speakers from many of the faith traditions and field trips to their worship services within the Lehigh Valley. The class begins **Sunday**, **September 17th** at 9am, 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 .

LONG STRANGE TRIP:

2000 YEARS OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY

This set of 6 DVDs is available for loan (limit 2 discs at a time). It traces the history and evolution of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the merger of the two faiths into today's Unitarian Universalism. Find out about how our "Uncommon Denomination", from its roots in the Reformation to the American Revolution to the Civil War to the Transcendentalist Movement to the present. Contact Jansen Wendell to borrow one of them.

RE CALENDAR: OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

Sun, Oct 1: Story for all ages followed by RE classes **Sun, Oct 8**: Multi-generational worship service & blessing of the animals.

Sun, Oct 15: Story for all ages followed by RE classes **Sun, Oct 22**: No church or RE classes due to Bethlehem half-marathon

Sun, Oct 29: Story for all ages followed by RE classes Sun, Nov 5: Story for all ages followed by RE classes Sun, Nov 12: Story for all ages followed by RE classes Sun, Nov 19: Story for all ages followed by RE classes Sun, Nov 26: Multi-generational Thanksgiving Service – no RE classes

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 <u>robincapoor@msn.com</u>.

UUCLV SERVICE AUCTION: NOVEMBER 18, 2017

Please join us for our 2017 service auction. NO theme this year because we are keeping it simple. Our evening will start with a happy hour at 4:30pm featuring appetizers, beer, wine, and soft drinks. Then enjoy our pot-luck meal - salad, main dish, side dish, and well as a vast selection of desserts.

Pay attention to our newest category called "I Want



What I Want". This is a way for you to request a service that you want to be done at a flat rate that you will pay to the church. Then if someone agrees to perform the I Want What I Want service, the task is done for you and the church gets the funds. A win-win effort!

During the evening be prepared to have simple fun. Fun bidding on the many offers at the auctions as you enjoy a memorable evening. Be sure to experience it all -The Food, The Live Auction, The Silent Auction, The Signups, and I Want What I Want. Admission: \$10.00, or \$5.00 with a potluck dish for the meal. Children are free and childcare is available with activities for the kids.

What could YOU offer at the auction? If you are planning a specific event, please set a date so people can plan. If the event is for a specific number of people, please tell us. All kinds of offerings and goods are appreciated. If you want someone to pet sit, or drive you to the airport, or help with a house chore, submit your "I Want What I Want" service offer. Our auction page is coming soon to the church website; stand by for more details or contact Dora at auction@uuclvpa.org.

FOURTH FRIDAY FILM SERIES

Our UUCLV Fourth Friday Films program this month is on Friday, October 27th at 7:15 PM. The topic is 'How do we securing the vote and elections in an era of cvber attacks?'

We will be showing the documentary "I Voted?" which was produced by Katie Couric. Joining us for the discussion afterwards will be Dan Lopresti and Linda Harbrecht from Lehigh University. Both are knowledgeable on the issues related to electronic voting. Join us in our community room for a documentary and discussion on this timely topic.

I WANT WHAT I WANT!



As we prepare for our 2017 Service Auction, we are introducing a new category to the experience. "I Want What I Want" is a way to request a service to be performed at a flat rate you're willing to pay to the church.

For Example:

I, Dora Davenport, want someone to wash my vehicle (1 time only) and I will pay \$10.00 to the church. If you are willing to perform this service, then Dora will pay the church.

- I, Dora Davenport, want someone to help me paint my house shutters and I will pay \$50 to the church. Estimated 4 hours' work.
- I, Robin Capoor, want 2 helpers to work with me to clean and organize the church sanctuary closet in preparation for the elevator installation. I will pay \$60 to the church. Estimated 2 hours' per person for their work.

You can request as many as you like of the same "Want" item and/or submit other wants. But only one person can sign-up to do the task (unless specified otherwise). See how creative you can be in getting what you want! There will be a separate auction table where these "I Want What I Want" sign-up sheets will be arranged.

So, besides requesting an "I Want What I Want" item, please also consider fulfilling one of the requests which will raise our service auction totals.

Please understand that this is a new category. Thanks to Joanna Taczanowsky who suggested this idea. Any questions, please see Dora Davenport, or email her at doradavenport@msn.com or auction@uuclvpa.org.

CROP WALK FOR HUNGER

Join our UUCLV team of walkers at the CROP Walk for Hunger in Allentown, organized by the Lehigh Conference of Churches. See Shana Johannessen at the Social Action Table for your walker's fundraising packet. This is a family-friendly walk with both a 10K walk and a one-mile walk, commencing from St. Timothy's ELCA Church at Ott and Walnut Streets at 1:30 PM on October 8. If you cannot join us, support us by making your donation by going to www.crophungerwalk.org and donating to team "UUCLV Pennsylvania." Questions? Contact Shana at shanaleigh70@gmail.com or (484) 332-0254.



SECOND SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES

The **Second Sunday Concert Series** is excited to announce the return of the incredible Aletheia Trio, which wowed you all the past two seasons. This brilliant Juilliard-based trio -Francesca de Pasquale, violin, Juliette Herlin, cello, and Fei Fei Dong, piano - will perform trio masterpieces by Mozart, Schubert, Shostakovich and Brahms, a program sure to bring you to your feet at its conclusion.

Specific works for this performance are: Mozart's Trio in G major, K. 496; Schubert's Trio in E-flat major, D. 897 "Notturno"; Shostakovich's Trio in C minor, Op. 8 no. 1; and Brahms' Trio in B major, Op. 8 no. 1.

As usual, you will have an opportunity to meet the artists at our wonderful post-concert reception. Tickets are \$17 general admission; **students are free**. Sunday, October 8, 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Tickets will be available at the door, or may be purchased on-line at <u>www.concertseries.uuclvpa.org</u>. They will also be available to purchase after the Sunday service on October 1 and 8.

We are pleased to partner with WDIY 88.1FM NPR community radio for the 2017-18 concert series.

CONCERT SERIES RECEPTION

We are looking forward to our Second Sunday Concert series and receptions for 2017/2018. By popular demand we are continuing our much enjoyed receptions held in the Community Room right after the concert. We would love to have your contribution of a dessert or hors d'oeuvres for the reception on Sunday, October 8th. Cookies, cheese and crackers, hummus are suggestions. Let your imagination be your guide! Contact Pat at 610-965-6776 or <u>herringp@ptd.net</u> if you are able to contribute. Plan to bring your finger food on a ready to serve plate either the morning of the concert or right before the event; label it "concert", and place it on the table near the wall in the FM kitchen - not the long center table. Many thanks in advance for your generous help in making our concert series memorable!

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE: UUA/UUCLV T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

The Social Action Committee will be taking orders for STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE t-shirts. Sold by the UUA store, they are perfect for rallies, marches, vigils, and protests — or just wearing out and about! They're perfect for displaying our values at any public witness. By wearing a Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt, you help to spread the word about the good work of UUCLV and the UUA, and you might just find some kindred spirits. Help UUCLV to "let our light shine." Stop by the Social Action table on Sunday to order your shirt deadline for ordering is October 15! We'll take payment via cash or check when you order.

OCTOBER MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the UUCLV Men's Group is 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 2 in the FM kitchen. As our August meeting was cancelled, our topic remains What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist. Specifically:

1.) What do you say when someone asked what a UU iswhat are your/our beliefs?

2.) What assumptions do you make when meeting a new person who identifies as a UU? Why?

- 3.) What beliefs or practices unite all UUs?
- 4.) What drew you do this faith? What keeps you coming back?

5.) Which of the seven principles appeals to you most?

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

SHARED PLATE: HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY FUND

A portion of our shared plate donations will go to atrisk populations served by Unitarian Universalist Service Committee partners and the to support UU congregations and members of those congregations most affected by Hurricane Harvey.

TURNING POINT COLLECTION

Some of you who have been members of UUCLV for several years remember the September collections of school supplies for Turning Point. A few years ago (2015) this collection was stopped because it appeared that school supplies was not among the most needed items and they had a large supply. A portion of the plate collection for the month of August goes to Turning Point. We invited Turning Point to send us a speaker about Turning Point for one of our breakfast forums in the month of August. Miriam Rivera, Outreach Educator, gave us an excellent presentation about domestic violence and the services offered by Turning Point. We requested a list of their needs so that we could revive an annual collection. It was too late to do it for August, but we will do a drive in October.

The Sundays in October are October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.

Below are items needed that are most needed: (NOTE: All items should be <u>NEW</u>.)

- Regular size bars of soap and body wash
- Regular size shampoos & conditioners
- Gift Cards (Visa, MasterCard, Walmart, Target, CVS,
- Walgreens, Aharts, Wawa, Giant, Weis, Shoprite, Price Rite)
- LANTA Bus Passes & Gas Cards
- Clear storage bins with lids
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Boxes of Tissues
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent: High Efficiency
- Food Storage Containers
- Blankets & Twin Sheet Sets
- Towels
- Baby Blankets

Other items listed on Turning Point's website are:

- Sweatshirts, sweatpants for women, all sizes
- New Socks and Underwear for women, all sizes
- New Pajamas for women, all sizes
- New Pajamas for children, all sizes
- · Backpacks for both children and adults
- Sensory toys for children

There will be a collection box for items in the community room. It will be labeled. Please be generous. Victims of violence leave their homes with nothing but the clothes on their back.

LEGACY GIFT CHALLENGE

"Wake Now Our Vision" is a new project to increase legacy bequests. The Shelter Rock Congregation with match 10% of the first \$10,000 of each new legacy gift. This can be given to many UU organizations including individual churches and fellowships. The form is available at Wakenowourvision.org. For more information, contact Chris Davis or Cease Blocker.

OCTOBER BOOK DISCUSSION

Our UUCLV book discussion group will meet on Sunday, October 8th, after church, in the RE Library, at 12:00 Noon. We will discuss the book which we read for June which is <u>Sisters in Law</u> by Linda Hirschman. Our June meeting was cancelled due to the annual meeting. We are also discussing the book for this month, which is <u>Elizabeth Bishop</u> by Megan Marshall. This book is a biography of the poet Elizabeth Bishop. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at bookdiscussion@uuclvpa.org.



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 <u>thelink@uuclvpa.org</u> 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 <u>sunday@uuclvpa.org</u>. Deadline is Thursday at noon. UUCLV The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley 424 Center Street Bethlehem, PA 18018

Address Service Requested

Today < > October 2017						Day Week	Month	4 Days Agenda	Mor
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