

The Prologue

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Congregation founded 1949

LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation since 1995

Green Sanctuary since 2007



Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

6:15 p.m.

Intergenerational Autumn Equinox Service

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite,

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin,

Reverend Scott McNeill

All ages are invited to come celebrate this moment of balance in the life of our planet. We will share ritual, story, and reflection together. Our Children's Choir, directed by Jill Courtney, share a gift of music during the service.

Sunday, September 24, 2017

9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

"Forgiveness: Not Always Easy"

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

"Forgiveness is not always easy. At times, it feels more painful than the wound we suffered, to forgive the one that inflicted it. And yet, there is no peace without forgiveness." --Marianne Williamson

The Jewish High Holy Days will begin Wednesday evening September 20th with the New Year, Rosh Hashanah, and will conclude with the Day of Atonement, Yom

Kippur, which begin at sundown on September 29th. In the midst of these days, Reverend Macklin will offer her annual forgiveness sermon in honor of this sacred time in the Jewish calendar.

Sunday, October 1, 2017

9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

"Hike Your Own Hike:

Spiritual Reflections on Falls from Grace"

(previously titled "Clueless in Vermont")

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Author Kathleen Norris writes, "If grace is so wonderful, why do we have such difficulty recognizing and accepting it? Maybe it's because grace is not gentle or made-to-order. It often comes disguised as loss, or failure, or unwelcome change." Reverend Macklin will offer reflections on a recent "hike" in the Green Mountains of Vermont. She may use the word grace several times in several different contexts. Pianists Kim Carballo and Paul Borg will offer four-hand piano arrangements of pieces by Ludwig van Beethoven.



MAM's Musings

Connection is our theme for the month of September. On Sunday, September 17, Reverend McNeill and I both shared these words from Parker Palmer's *A Hidden Wholeness*.

The lost ones come from every walk of life: clergy and corporate executives, politicians and people on the street, celebrities and schoolchildren. Some of us fear that we, or those we love, will become lost in the storm. Some are lost at this moment and are trying to find the way home. Some are lost without knowing it. And some are using the blizzard as cover while cynically exploiting its chaos for private gain.

So it is easy to believe the poet's claim that "the blizzard of the world" has overturned "the order of the soul," easy to believe that the soul - that life-giving core of the human self, with its hunger for truth and justice, love and forgiveness - has lost all power to guide our lives.

But my own experience of the blizzard, which includes getting lost in it more often than I like to admit, tells me that it is not so. The soul's order can never be destroyed. It may be obscured by the whiteout. We may forget, or deny, that its guidance is close at hand. And yet we are all still in the soul's backyard, with chance after chance to regain our bearings. (1, pg 1-3) Parker Palmer, aka "Peter Parker Palmer"

One the many ways this congregation creates connections is through our Chalice Circle program. We've heard from some of you that you cannot join a Chalice Circle because you go south for the winter. With the help of Chalice Circle Co-Chair Anna Beauchamp, we've created a pilot project.

Pilot Project: Snowbird Special---Chalice Circle Abridged

You have asked and we have listened! Announcing pilot program "Snowbird Special -- Chalice Circle Abridged". If you want to connect to church members on a

deeper level and experience the joys of deep listening, but alas, you are away to warmer climates in January-April, sign up for the new chalice circle which will run on 1st/3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 pm at the UU church from October-December. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Commons for the next two weeks. If our circle receives a minimum of 7 required participants, it will start on October 3rd. Yay, snowbirds! --Anna Beauchamp

May connections continue,

MAM

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin



Seeking. Building. Changing.

Last year, shortly after the elections in November, many people wondered how they might engage with the world, making a difference in tangible ways. And so, we sought to communicate some of those possibilities to members and friends via a new email project, known as Seeking. Building. Changing.

Each week, we sent a very brief message (knowing that many of us are inundated with information already). Each missive contained three sections--one about Seeking the Spirit (a poem, video, or other meditation), one about Building Community (ways to meet and learn more about others in our congregation), and one about Changing the World (something specific that people could do to move our world towards justice).

After running that program for a few months (as well as a page on our website that listed community social justice activities that were upcoming), we took a step back to get feedback. Many of you liked the idea of an email--but in a time where inboxes fill quickly, it was hard to get to this in addition to the Friday Update (immediately upcoming events) and Prologue (general church info and events). Many of you liked having something to do, something concrete on which to focus your attention (and some people longed for more items than just one, or different ideas that would more effectively reach Members of Congress and other officials).

All in all, I think it was a great opportunity to share some ideas, especially for community justice events that were coming up quickly. The survey results we received were generally positive; but we have stopped running Seeking. Building. Changing. (at least for now), hoping to get even more people to read the Prologue and Friday Update.

In faith,

Rev. Scott

Reverend Scott McNeill, Associate Minister

Our Folks...

Our healing thoughts are with all those who are currently recovering from illness and surgeries.

Many blessings to Dylan and Erica Marks, who were married in Wausau, Wisconsin, on Saturday, September 9. Dylan grew up in our congregation and is a

former member; he is also the son of Carol Marks, our Church Administrator. The happy couple resides in Houston, Texas.

Congratulations to UU seniors Robbie Gonyea and Lucas Conaris for their three films selected for the All American High School film festival in New York City this October. Their films will play at an AMC Theater in Times Square with hundreds of other winning submissions.

Religious Education Happy September, RE Families!

There are many exciting things coming up this month in religious education and you will want to make sure to get them on your calendar. Classes start this Sunday. Also coming soon: Our Whole Lives Sexuality Curriculum (OWL) for 1st and 2nd graders, Autumn Equinox Service on September 20, and a workshop on Talking About Race and Racism with Kids in 1st-12th grade. [Find out more here](#)

Changing the World



Greening Our Grounds

At the December 2015 congregational meeting, the Green Sanctuary Task Force offered a vision of further lowering our carbon footprint by extending our work outside our building. We're now ready to begin deepening our approach to our church grounds. How might the outdoor spaces help us to Seek the Spirit, Build Community, and Change the World? How could our grounds become part of our ministry to ourselves

and others? How could they express and inspire who we are as the UU Church of Bloomington?

The Green Grounds Committee will be exploring these questions this fall and winter, forming a comprehensive long-term plan for transforming our grounds.

[Read more...](#)



Reproductive Justice Task Force Meets Sept 25

The Reproductive Justice Task Force will meet Monday, September 25th at 7:00 pm in Rm 208. Come join us! Ongoing projects include the Bloomington screening of *Jackson* on Nov 5th, a film about the last abortion clinic in Mississippi.



Light the Chalice
by Patricia
Coleman, 2005

Social Justice Funding Available Applications Due October 9

The Social Justice Funds Committee (SJFC) encourages all social justice task forces, organizers, workers, and leaders to apply for our church's Fall social justice grants. [Click here for application](#). Applications are due October 9 and are now available at the above webpage or from uucbsjfunds@uubloomington.org.



Green Sanctuary Task Force Spring Clothing Swap October 21

The Green Sanctuary Task Force encourages all of us to examine our habits of consumption. What do we buy? Where does it come from? What happens to it when we're finished with it?

Each spring and fall, we hold a Clothing Swap as an alternative to buying new clothes. This fall's Swap will be held on Saturday, October 21 from 9:30 am until noon in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars and start cleaning out your closets. If you need childcare to attend this event, please contact Stephanie Kimball (Kimball.stephanie@gmail.com) by October 7.



Homelessness Task Force Invites Donations for Rapid Re-housing Program

Shalom Community Center's "Rapid Re-housing Program" helps homeless individuals and families find permanent, affordable housing. Each individual or family is provided with a "Welcome Basket." The baskets contain: toilet paper, dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, shampoo/conditioner, hand soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, all purpose cleaner, kitchen trash bags, paper towels or cleaning cloths, brooms and dust pans. We are inviting donations for the Welcome Baskets. You may place your donations in the macaroni basket under the table in the Commons through November 5. Good used vacuum cleaners also needed.

--Alan Backler, abackler@aol.com

Community Connections Our Faith in Action in the Community

Singers Needed for Benefit Concert for Winter Shelter

On October 20th this year there will be a benefit concert for the Interfaith Emergency Winter Shelter. The performance will be held at St Thomas Lutheran Church, and a freewill offering will be received for the shelter at the performance. SATB singers who wish to volunteer to sing for this fun concert as a part of the choir should contact Sulaiman Zai, at szai@sbcglobal.net. or by telephone at 812 325 5657. Thank you for your help.

Supporting causes close to our hearts:

Down's Syndrome and Alzheimer's Disease Walks Sept 24

On September 24, join us in supporting two worthy causes. We will support the Down's Syndrome Family Connection through the Annual Buddy Walk, as well as Alzheimer's research and support through the Walk to End Alzheimer's, both on September 24. Click on the links to join or support [Molly Bunde's Buddy Walk team](#), or the [UU Walk to End Alzheimer's team](#). Info: Ann LeDuc, connect@uubloomington.org or (812)332-3695

Just Friday Adult Discussion Group at First United Church

Just Friday is a monthly adult discussion group at First United Church, currently focusing on issues of abundance and scarcity. All are welcome. There will be light refreshments, no childcare provided. Discussions will occur at First United Church in Roger Williams Hall from 7-9 p.m. on the following Friday evenings:

September 22-Space: we all take up space in the world. Spacious suburban homes,

tiny houses, urban apartment living, a doorway. How much space is enough?

October 27-Food: Americans lead the world in food waste, yet there are people starving. When faced with packed grocery shelves, it is all too easy to overbuy.

December 1-Giving & Materialism: Just in time for the holiday season we reflect on the value of giving toward the world instead of toward ourselves.

Seeking the Spirit



Adult Religious Education Classes Start September 21

We sent the list of class offerings in the Adult Religious Education Prospectus for Fall 2017 to everyone via email last week. Please register for classes by contacting office@uubloomington.org or 812-332-3695 ext. 204. [Click here](#) to read the class listings.



Chalice Circle for Snowbirds--Sign Up on Sunday

You have asked, and we have listened! Announcing pilot program "Snowbird Special -- Chalice Circle Abridged". If you want to connect to church members on a deeper level and experience the joys of deep listening, but alas, you are away to warmer climates in January-April, sign up for the new chalice circle which will run on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm at the UU church from October-December. Sign up sheets will be available in the Commons area for the next two weeks. If circle receives a minimum of 7 required participants, it will start on Tuesday, October 3rd in Room 112. Yay, snowbirds! -- Anna Beauchamp



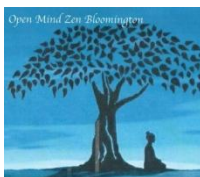
First Monday Poetry Sharing

Join us in this ongoing monthly group for poetry lovers! Bring a poem to share that you enjoy. Next meeting is Monday, October 2 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library at church. All are welcome. Contact Bob Taylor for info, bstaylor1@comcast.net.



Shambhala Meditation Every Monday at Noon

Join us at 12 noon every Monday in the Library for an hour of Shambhala Meditation, walking meditation, and Shamatha yoga with Sarah Flint. Beginners welcome in this 2500-year-old tradition. sflint.ktv@gmail.com



Open Mind Zen Bloomington Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Join Frank Seisho Diaz for meditation, talks, and discussions on Zen Buddhism, Mondays 7:00-8:30 p.m., in Room 110 here at the church. All are welcome. This is a part of our Adult Religious Education programming. More info: openmindzenbloomington@gmail.com



Traditional Taiji on Tuesdays and Saturdays

Brian Flaherty leads "Wu (Hao)" style Taiji in Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome, even those with no experience. Please wear loose-fitting clothing. creektivity@gmail.com



UU Humanist Forum Meets on Alternating Sundays

This group offers an opportunity for regular, open, wide-ranging discussions relating to ethics, human development, and the nature of the universe. The bi-weekly forum will meet next on Sunday, September 24 at 12:45 a.m. in Room 208. The topic this week is "Multi Trashing (in social media)" with Rich Janda leading the discussion. Info, contact Harold Ogren.

UU Freethinkers Group Enjoys Free Ranging Discussion

The purpose of the UU Freethinkers bi-weekly meeting is to create the opportunity for participants to raise questions and engage in open and non-structured discussion of issues of social concern, political concern, and theological/religious concern. UU Freethinkers meet on alternating Sundays after children's religious education classes end, in Room 208. UU Freethinkers meet next on Sunday, October 1, at 12:45 p.m.



Calling All Church Library Books

If you have any church library books checked out before mid-July, kindly return them. Thank you.



UU Book Discussion Sept 24

We will meet Sunday, September 24 at 3PM at Elof and Nedra Carlson's home. We will discuss fiction at this meeting using Khaled Hosseini's novel *AND THE MOUNTAIN ECHOED*. He is an Afghan who emigrated to the US and has a medical education. The novel involves nine interrelated narratives about the circumstances of the sale of a girl to prevent her from dying of malnutrition or war. It is about love and its consequences, and not about the Taliban. Looking ahead to October's book, we go to non-fiction and Mario Livio's book *WHY? WHAT MAKES US CURIOUS*. Probable date October 15 or 29th. --Elof Carlson



Earth Kin Book Club Discussion September 25

On Monday, September 25th, Earth Kin, our earth-centered spiritual traditions group, will hold the second of a series of Book Club Discussions on the topic of the elements--earth, air, fire, and water, at 7-8:30 pm in the Library, discussing "Chapter 2: Earth" and "Chapter 3: Air" of *Wisdom of the Elements: The Sacred Wheel of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water* by Margie McArthur.

The book can be purchased used on Amazon, or you can email Brooke Opel at bopel88@gmail.com for a PDF copy of the reading(s). We invite you to try some of the Earth and Air Practices included in the chapters prior to the discussion. All are welcome.



UU History for You Richard Henry Dana, Jr. Sailor, Lawyer, Author, Abolitionist

Richard Henry Dana Jr (1815-1882) was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts and died in Rome, Italy. He was raised in a Unitarian family that had been involved in the establishing of our nation.

In college, he contracted the measles, which weakened his vision. He enlisted in the maritime service, sailing with the SS. Pilgrim to California. The captain of the ship Pilgrim was a sadist who whipped his crew for the slightest infractions.

On returning to Boston, Dana established a practice in maritime law, representing seamen with grievances. He used the notes from his trip to write *Two Years before the Mast* (1841). An ardent abolitionist, he extended his practice to represent escaped slaves and freed blacks who suffered discrimination. During the Civil War, he represented the US government in its cases before the Supreme Court. He adored Lincoln but disliked Johnson who favored a second class status for freed slaves.

Dana wrote several books on his travels and was embarking on a world tour when he came down with the fever that killed him. I read *Two Years Before the Mast* when I was a teenager and much enjoyed it; I did not know then that he was a Unitarian and a prominent lawyer.

--Elof Carlson, designated historian

Building Community



Ready to become a member of UU Bloomington?

If this is your community, if you feel at home here, join us! The next opportunity to become a member of UU Bloomington is Sunday, September 24 at 10:30 am in Room 112. We ask for participation in our "Exploring Unitarian Universalism" class prior to signing the membership book. To make arrangements to become a member, or for questions, please contact Ann LeDuc, Connections Coordinator, at (812) 332-3695 or connect@uubloomington.org.



Women's Alliance Meets October 5

The program for the October 5th Women's Alliance meeting is "Being Mortal" with Dr. Rob Stone, MD. The hosts will be Linda Pickle and Carol Arnold.

The Women's Alliance meets the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The meeting begins with a brown bag lunch. Drinks and dessert are provided by the hosts of the month. The program begins at noon, followed by a business meeting. Please enter through the courtyard doors. We hope you will join us. Everyone is welcome.



UU Grief Support Group Starts November 4

November 4, November 11, December 2, and December 16
10-11:30 a.m., Library (Register by October 22)

Grief may be one of life's most challenging and difficult transitions. To help give support to this transition, our Caring Committee is offering a four-part series to explore the grief process. We will create a safe place to share our feelings about the death of a loved one, to process the grief experience, and to share coping

strategies. Four Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., November 4 and 11, and December 2 and 16. Participants must commit to attending all four sessions. This will be a shared group experience honoring members' privacy and confidentiality. Facilitators will be Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Sharon Yarber. If you have questions, please call Sharon Yarber, 812-336-4427. We ask that interested persons register by October 22 by calling Sharon Yarber at the phone number listed. Minimum 5, Maximum 10 participants.



Please Don't Park on the Grass-- Extra Parking Available

Please don't park in grassy areas on the church property or on the grass across Fee Lane by the ball diamonds. IU has also specifically requested us not to park in the grass on *their* property because of the damage it causes. Please note we are not allowed to park over there at all if there is a baseball game or softball game in progress. Extra parking is available at Marching 100 Hall north of the Bypass, and also on N. Jordan Avenue. Thanks, Carol Marks, Ch.Admin.

Current Membership: 516

Attendance

Sunday, September 10 9:15: 110 11:15: 183 TOTAL: 293

Sunday, September 17 9:15: 99 11:15: 179 TOTAL: 278

Non-Pledge Offering

September 10: \$603 September 17: \$541

Total to be donated (25%) to All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center \$286

Grocery Card Sales

(Bloomingfoods or Lucky's Market)

Sept 10: \$400, income to UUCB \$22.00 Sept 17: \$900, income to UUCB \$45.00

Contact a Minister



Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, our Senior Minister, can be reached at 812-332-3695, ext. 201 and is available by appointment on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. macklin@uubloomington.org



Reverend Scott McNeill, our Associate Minister, can be reached at 812-332-3695, ext. 209 and is available by appointment on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. mcneill@uubloomington.org. He can also be reached on his mobile phone, 703-577-0919 and for after-hours pastoral emergencies, please call him at 812-727-0919.



Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, our Minister of Religious Education, can be reached at 812-332-3695, ext. 207 on Weds and Fri mornings. mre@uubloomington.org



Our Covenant of Right Relations

In June 2017, our members affirmed a Covenant of Right Relations. [Click here to read it.](#)

Livestreaming Our Sunday Services

You can view the livestream of our Sunday services and view archived video from the last few months at this link: uubloomington.yourstreamlive.com

Please let us know if you have a problem with the livestream, by emailing Andy Beargie at media@uubloomington.org It is also helpful if you let Andy know which web browser you are using.



Beacon Young Adult/Campus Ministry

Orion Day, our Young Adult/Campus Ministry Coordinator, can be reached at beacon@uubloomington.org and keeps office hours at the Indiana Memorial Union Room 577. Stop by and say hello!

Church Calendar

A link to our church calendar can be found on [this page](#) of our website.

Facebook

Many church events also appear on our [Facebook page](#).

Prologue Publication Schedule

The Prologue is edited by Carol Marks, mostly. The deadline for articles is 10 a.m. on the date of publication.

Next few issues: The first and third Tuesdays of each month. Oct 3, Oct 17, Nov 7, Nov 21, etc.

Bulletin Board

SEEKING AT-HOME WORK. Quadriplegic seeking paid work to do at home. Phone work, proofreading, fine-tuning of grant proposals. Contact rebeccalemonpayne@gmail.com

Masthead photo by John Woodcock

Unitarian Universalist Church, 2120 North Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408

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