

CONNECTIONS

Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware | A Welcoming Congregation | Chartered 2009

Save These Dates

Wed **3/1**, 7pm: Mindfulness Meditation at CBS

Sat **3/4**, 6pm: March Madness Fundraiser

Mon **3/6**: DIMH dinner

Sat **3/11**, 9-noon: Adopt-A-Highway (contact Jayce Lesniewski)

Sun **3/12**, 11.30: Social Justice Committee meeting

Tues **3/14**, 6.30: Diner's Club at Piazza Mia

Wed **3/15**, 7.30pm: Board Meeting at CBS

Fri **3/17**, 5-8: Moms Night Out (contact Laura Parks)

Sat **3/18**, 5.30pm: Potluck at the Hesseltine Farm

Sun **3/19**, 11.30: Congregation Study Action/Issue at CBS

Look Ahead

Sun **6/4**: Congregational meeting

Wed-Sun **6/21-25**: General Assembly in New Orleans (and streaming live!)

Sunday Services

March 5: "A Critique of Dominion from a UU Perspective"

Michael Balliro will bring song and a power point presentation to critique the biblical notion of "dominion" and contrast this with our 7th principle.

Children's Religious Education: Worshipping Together

March 12: "Living with Fear" Rev Greg Chute

Rolling Stone magazine recently published an article entitled: "The Age of Fear." Is fear something new? Or different? Or evolving? What do you fear? How do you deal with it? Perhaps together we can find some solutions to those things we fear.

Social Justice Sunday: offertory to Delaware Citizens Opposed to the Death Penalty

March 19: "A Theology of Money" Rev Greg Chute

I don't mean we should worship money, but rather that we need to properly understand its use and importance. What does money mean to me? How does it impact my life? What does my spending of money say about who I am? This will be our Stewardship Kick-off Sunday.

Children's Religious Education: Stewardship in a Sign

March 26: "Government Agencies and the Law"

David Ormond, esq.

Public policy is largely implemented through the actions of government agencies. Agencies exercise all three governmental powers: executive, legislative, and judicial. To fully understand and influence public policy, it's helpful for us to understand administrative law.



Meet A Board Member

He's an attorney, a father, and a man about town. Get to know Jayce Lesniewski, your secretary.



- What is your favorite part of UUCD service? **I like the offering because someone always messes it up and snack time.** (Last week it was Leigh Hesseltime who messed it up. He told me that he's just lost without Cindy.)
- What books are you reading these days? **A People's History of the United States, H is for Hawk, and A Dance with Dragons.**
- What is your favorite kind of pizza? **New Haven style white clam.**

Is there something you'd like to know about a board member but were afraid to ask? Let me ask for you. Email suggestions to laura.e.parks@gmail.com.

UUCD Stewardship

Dear Members & Friends,

Well here it is: that time of year again. It's time to renew our financial commitment to UUCD.

I know I don't need to go into all the details, the long list of expenses, the long list of benefits. We all have our favorite reasons for belonging to this religious community; and we all have our favorite reasons for supporting it. So I'd like to take this opportunity to ask you to begin to consider your pledge for the next fiscal year, July 2017 – June 2018.

Next week you will be receiving an update on your current pledge for this fiscal year, July 2016 – June 2017. **March 18 we have a kick-off potluck at the Hesseltime Farm (877 Fast Landing Rd).** There will be a sign-up at church for dishes, help, and attendance, or contact Cindy at 302-242-4452. March 19th we will kick off the canvass season. Our annual meeting is June 4th, and the Board of Trustees will have to have a recommended budget for next year to present at that meeting. In order to make the best possible plan for next year, we need your pledge. Without your commitment, it is difficult to plan ahead and to provide all the programs you value. So please consider your pledge carefully. A member of the Stewardship Committee will be in touch to help you with more information, to answer your questions, and to accept your pledge. Thank you for your support.

With your help we can continue to provide a diverse and inclusive spiritual home for all of us to share and enjoy.

Peace, Greg

Stewardship Committee: Sandra Nelson, Esther Curtis, Mark Jarrell, Greg Chute



www.welcomeyourneighbors.org/download-pdf

Several UU congregations on the peninsula are ordering this sign for members and friends. They cost \$10 each. Please let me know if you are interested. - Greg

Meditate

The Mindfulness practice group (**first Wednesdays, 7-8.30pm**) is led by Abby Miller, who has practiced mindfulness in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh for many years. Guided Meditation, Walking Meditation and Silent Meditation are included. If you could benefit from some tools to reduce stress, join us as we follow our breath to focus on the present moment.

Dine

The UUCD Diners Club had another delightful evening out at Brick Works in Smyrna in February. Fourteen people showed up and enjoyed good food and great conversation. Several new-comers attended which was great for getting acquainted.



We will meet again on **Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 at Piazza Mia**: 492 S Red Haven Ln, Dover, DE 19901 (Rt 13, right in front of the Kent County Library). Let me know if you plan to attend so I can call in reservations. It is hard on a restaurant if so many of us just show up with no warning. - Greg

A Note From Our President

We could nickname March "money month" because much of our energy will go toward shoring up our current budget with our big fun and fund raiser, March Madness. I hope you have donated an item, made arrangements to come, if possible, or to bid by proxy if you can't come, invited friends, if you are coming, and will have a great time. This event is vital to our continued existence with a worship space (rent) and professional religious leadership (Rev. Greg). Please participate in any way that you can.

You may already be engaging in summer vacation planning, so I'd like to put in a plug for considering spending time this summer in a UU kind of way. There are a number of UU camps to consider. Being a part of a UU community can be transformative for you and your family. Here are some options to consider:

- UU Mid Atlantic Community, July 9-15, held at De Sales University in Center Valley, PA. The theme this year is "Across Generations, Across Time". I have been to UUMAC several times, and this event is very family friendly as well as single or couple friendly.
- Some UU summer activities are available throughout the summer, e.g., Star Island in NH, Ferry Beach in Maine, Rowe in Mass. I have the catalog for Star Island and can tell you about it and Ferry Beach from personal experience.

We are still in the process of planning our summer services. Rev. Greg takes the whole month of July off (as is traditional for UU churches) which leaves us planning our own. Services in the summer are traditionally a little more informal. If you have thoughts for a service or an activity, now would be a good time to let Laura Parks know.

I just looked out in my backyard and there are enough daffodils blooming to make a bouquet. I wouldn't have expected this in February!! I have no idea what March will bring—in terms of weather of the daily political events. You can see, it's truly time for MARCH MADNESS!

March 4th at 6:00. Be there or be square.

Sheryl

Elaphebolion Offertory

Member Alex Conall has planned an event for the group Delmarva Nikephoros Proto-Demos of Hellenion.

Join them in making offerings to Hephaistos, asking His blessings on all artisans and craftworkers, and a potluck. Silver Lake Park, **March 11th at 1pm**

Contact Alex (alexconall@gmail.com) for more details.

Women's UU Retreat

UUWomenspirit is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has hosted all-women retreats since 1987. Their next retreat will be held on **May 17-21** at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC. The theme is *Ancient Whispers: A Pilgrimage to Women's Mysteries*. www.uuwomenspirit.org

Denominational News

The Joseph Priestly District is being consolidated into the Central East Region (CER) which includes the former Metropolitan New York District, the Ohio Meadville District, and the St. Lawrence District. Our primary contact will still be Rev David Pyle, and our primary contact with other congregations will be through the Delmarva Cluster which includes the eight UU congregations on the peninsula. Included in the reorganization is a reassessment of how the UUA wants to recommend congregations pay their Fair Share (Annual Program Fund) to the denomination and the district. They are considering a percentage of the operating budget sent to the UUA rather than the current recommended cost per member. This is a lot to process. Let me know if you have any questions of concerns.

Below is part of a recent email from Rev David Pyle regarding the monthly internet conferences for congregational presidents and leaders. Anyone can attend. These meetings can be very informative. Enjoy - Greg

Next month's meeting (**March 22nd at 7:30pm**) will be focused on congregational finances and upcoming changes to the UUA Annual Program Fund, and will include the UUA's Congregational Giving Manager, Norrie Gall, as the Spotlight Staff Member. There will be plenty of time for question and answer, and our focused discussion time at the end will be about congregational financial management.

I look forward to being with you all each month.

<https://zoom.us/my/revdavidpyle> See you there!

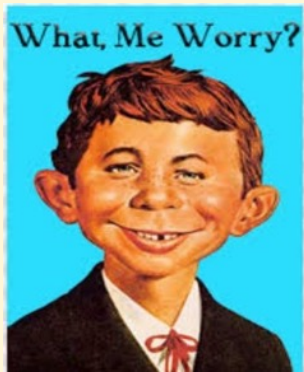
Be well and Blessed,

Rev. David Pyle

Cell (847) 917-0072 | dpyle@uua.org | Skype: celestiallylands



Riley Hamilton (2), Kerry McElwee (5), Debbie Hamilton (10), Emily Lettieri (11), Molly Keogh (12), Jack Pickett (13), Alta Porterfield (16), Tom Gower & Jackie Mahee (18), Erv Schliefer (21), Zoe Miller (24), Cindy Hesseltine (27), Julie Price (30)



Food for Thought

People say, what is the sense of our small effort. They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do. – Dorothy Day

I always loved Alfred E. Neuman and MAD magazine. Many of you are too young to remember the iconoclastic periodical founded in 1952. As a teenager in the sixties it truly spoke to me. Nothing was sacred. The writers and editors poked fun at and splashed absurdity on everything from politics, to religion, to philosophy, to social norms, to human presumption, to the military-industrial complex. My parents hated it. It was “disrespectful” they said. Try as I might I never could get them to explain to me why the “establishment” which was failing should tacitly deserve amnesty. I couldn’t help but imagine that perhaps there was an alternative?

At the time I thought there was. It didn’t really turn out that way. When my “generation” of leaders arrived, it wound up being primarily more of the same. Consciousness raising finally got us out of Vietnam (how ironic that they never were the menace they were painted to be); but we evidently had learned nothing when considering intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan (which has also gotten us nowhere). We can’t seem to be able to think or get outside the box. Of course, there are those occasional glimpses of light and insight; people who can raise our hopes, inspire our vision, and console our spirits. But more often than not the light dims and the vision disappears. The status quo is just too persistent.

That is not to say I have become apathetic. I do agree with Dorothy Day and Margaret Mead that there is too much to be done and that we can do it. But I have also come to more fully realize the meaning of *moksha*. In the Hindu (and Buddhist) traditions, *moksha* is usually described (not defined) as “non-attachment.” It is not detachment; not separation or alienation. Rather, it is letting go of desire and craving. We may still have goals and objectives, but we can let go of the emotionality which so often fills us with distress and disaffection; even anger and disrespect. The Mahatma described the journey as *satyagraha*: committed non-violent action towards peace and justice.

Satyagraha in its dynamic condition does not mean meek submission to the will of the evildoer, but it means the pitting of one's whole soul against the will of the tyrant. Working under this law of our being, it is possible for a single individual to defy the whole might of an unjust empire to save his (sic) honor, his religion, his soul and lay the foundation for that empire's fall or its regeneration.

- Mohandas Gandhi

Worship with us!



Bad Idea



Visit us! Contact us!

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And he did bring down an empire. So I am inclined to persevere. I think we have fallen under the spell of a tyrant; peace and justice are under attack; the empire does need to be taken down or regenerated. There is way too much at stake for the future of the earth and the global human family.

But, and it's a huge but, I am also influenced by that great mystic who grinned and asked: What, me worry? In many ways he projects his own version of *satyagraha*. I need to let go of the emotionality, the attachment, the pain which comes from worrying about the future of the world. I need to practice *moksha*, the spiritual letting go which actually not only liberates but empowers. In not hanging on to my dissatisfactions and disappointments, I can focus much more of my time, energy and effort on a productive response.

March 1st marks the beginning of Lent. Why not decide to give up worry and take up action for at least forty days (and nights)? Why not resolve to think outside the box? Why not become that iconoclast which questions everything? Why not become the change we want to see in the world? What, me worry? Indeed! There is too much to be done. Remember, as Alfred once asked:

How come we choose from just two people for President, and fifty for Miss America?

Enjoy,
Greg

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has. – Margaret Mead

Have feedback about the newsletter? Compliments? Praise? Admiration? Commendation? ...complaints? Is there something you want to see in the next newsletter? Contact Laura Parks (anytime before the last minute) laura.e.parks@gmail.com