



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 7

JULY - AUGUST 2017



Summer Services



Sunday Morning Services are at 10:00 a.m.

July 16

Wisdom and Prophetic Inspiration from a Medieval Mystic – *Christine Phoenix Green*

The 12th century Benedictine abbess Hildegarde of Bingen was a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, and polymath. Her holistic and natural view of healing and her exploration of the relationship between the human microcosm and the macrocosm of the universe can help us address contemporary challenges to our planet and to all living beings with whom we share life.

July 23

Buddhism and Unitarian Universalism – *Clare Sartori*

Clare will explore how Buddhist practice supports the Seven Principles of our Unitarian Universalist faith, and offer practices from the Tiep Hien tradition of Buddhism, founded by Thich Nhat Hanh. *UUCSC member Clare Sartori's Buddhist name is Chan Son An, which means True Mountain of Peace.*

July 30

Why I Read the Bible – *Harry Buffum*

Harry sometimes feels compelled to tell friends and family that his interest in the Bible has nothing to do with religion. He reads the Bible because he's fascinated by the poetic language, the wild imagery, and the complicated history behind the stories. His literary interest in the Bible may reflect his UU approach to spirituality, based as it is on skepticism, curiosity, and respect.

August 6

The Sacred Teachings of State Pier No. 5 – *Mary Lynne Rainey*

State Pier No. 5 is a manmade linear structure composed of rock, cement, and tar that juts out into the ocean behind Monahan's Clam Shack at Narragansett Pier. Ms. Rainey will review aspects of the pier's historic and environmental context, and the spiritual elements of the sky, wind, and sea that together form an inspirational sacred space.

Summer services continue on the back cover.

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Karen R. Ellsworth, Editor

Deadline: The 20th day of each month

Material should be submitted by e-mail to kellsworth6@verizon.net

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

www.uusouthcountyri.org

OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER

27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R. I. 02879

(401) 783-4170 • uucscri@yahoo.com

Services and Children's Religious Education on Sundays at 10 a.m.
*We welcome all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge,
sexual orientation, age, or national origin.*

Staff

REV. DAVID L. HELFER, MINISTER

Office telephone: (401) 284-3321 • e-mail: uucscminister@gmail.com

(vacant), Religious Education Director ■ **Michael Galib**, Music Director

Karen St. Peter, Office Administrator

Summer Office Hours: Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

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At the Water's Edge

Rev. David L. Helfer



Dear UUCSC Members and Friends,

We have to change. A lot.

Such was the message of this year's General Assembly. Said in ways large and small, direct and subtle, loving and intense.

This was not an admonition, but instead a statement of need.

If we humans wish to survive on this earth, if we wish to create faith institutions within which and from which to contribute to the world, and if we wish to become more fully ourselves, a different approach is required.

This is what I heard: It is time to stop being polite and start being real.

This isn't asking for us to be confrontational. Quite the contrary, the invitation instead is to learn to live less from a place of our own opinions, wants, and needs, and shift to discerning how we best serve the larger movement.

During one of the many wonderful GA worships, Reverend Elizabeth Nguyen reminded us that resistance, this movement, is far from new. For immigrants, for African Americans, for women, for trans people— to name but a few— this post-election stage is simply the moment when white America wakes up to the problems voiced, addressed, and endured for years. The resistance is wonderful, but it neither begins nor ends with white-complexioned individuals.

Rarely, if ever, has an intersectional alliance been more needed. This means those issues to which we commit ourselves must be shared, leadership must reflect the racial, gender, and other identities that are most marginalized, and we must be in it together. Closely together.

Bryan Stevenson spoke as the Ware Lecturer, the capstone invitational role, at this year's General Assembly. He exhorted us to get proximate to those most impacted. That requires working through our own discomfort— letting go of white privilege and power, of decentering our own needs and wants, and to becoming, in the words of now twice-past UUA President Bill Sinkford, truly radically inclusive.

We'll be thinking about this together beginning this fall. Every one of us is needed as we work toward the future of our faith, our country, and our world.

With the election of the Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray as the UUA's ninth president, many of you heard me express my glee. I have full faith and trust in Susan's character, abilities, and passion for leadership. But we must do our part, and follow her prophetic and openhearted way of living into her faith every more humbly.

With faith, joy, and love,

Rev. David

A Note from the President

Summer is here. Time for outdoor work and play. Gardening, swimming, repairing, sittin' 'n' readin.' Whatever we do this summer, let us also open our minds and hearts to ways we can refresh and renew our life at UUCSC.



Whether we are ol' school UUs who take the summer off from attending church, or are folks who attend the enriching lay-led summer services at UUCSC, or are the explorers who attend UU churches wherever we may roam— let us all keep at the back of our minds ideas for ways in which we can further improve UUCSC come September. Borrow ideas from other churches. Share your own thoughts and ideas. Commit to speaking with two unknown-to-you people each Sunday. There are so many ways we can improve our already pretty wonderful congregation.

Enjoy the summer, however you may. We begin to share how we “spent our summer” at our Water Communion. And then, let's share ideas, big and small, for our new year. I want to hear everything from you.

Peace 'n' Luv to you and the world.

– Linda Whyte Burrell

Thundermist Health Center's Trans Health Access Team is our Share the Plate recipient for July and August

Thundermist Health Center's Trans Health Access Team, a group of medical, behavioral health, and allied service professionals working to improve access to culturally and clinically competent healthcare for the trans community, is our Share the Plate recipient for July and August.

The program was created in response to an increase in requests from providers, staff, patients, and community partners to improve access to primary care for transgender, transsexual, gender non-conforming/variant/creative, non-binary, intersex, and agender individuals in Rhode Island.

Thundermist, a nonprofit, has facilities in Wakefield, West Warwick, and Woonsocket. Half of the collection at our services on July 2 and

August 6 will go to the Trans Health Access Team.

Jayeson Watts, the program's director, will attend our service on August 6 to tell us about the Thundermist Trans Health Access Team.

This year, each Share the Plate recipient receives half of the collection plate for two consecutive months. Our Share the Plate recipient for March and April, Tomaquag Museum's Indigenous Empowerment Network, received \$487.50, and our Share the Plate recipient for May and June, the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County, received \$536.50.

We're honored

UUCSC is one of the three Honor Congregations in Rhode Island who contributed the full requested amount to the UUA for the 2016 fiscal year (Bell Street Chapel in Providence and First Universalist Church of Burrillville are the others), and the only one in Rhode Island to increase its UUA contribution by at least 20% over the previous fiscal year.

Atwood-Donnelly to perform July 29 at Westminster Unitarian Church

The popular and award-winning duo Atwater-Donnelly will perform at Westminster Unitarian Church, 119 Kenyon Avenue in East Greenwich, on Saturday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly will perform traditional American and Celtic favorites, along with their own original songs and poetry. With their relaxed stage presence and performances filled with humor, Aubrey and Elwood appeal to all age groups. They never quite



know what numbers they will perform until they appear on stage. Aubrey says, “One of my favorite parts of our creative life is crafting shows right before the watchful eyes and ears of our audiences. As we survey the crowd, talk to people, and get a feel for our surroundings, we make snap decisions, selecting what song, dance, or instrument feels just right at that moment. We hope you enjoy this exciting foray into the oral traditions of American heritage music and dance!”

You can order tickets on the Westminster Church website (<http://www.westminsteruu.org/>).

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 to 18. Admission is free for kids 11 and younger. For more information, call the church office at 401-884-5933.

Summertime Pastoral Care

From now until the end of August, worship services will be lay-led. Rev. David will return to the pulpit for our Ingathering and Water Communion Service on Sunday, September 10.

Karen St. Peter, our office administrator, will be in the office each Thursday during the summer from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to check mail, answer the phones, finalize and print the Order of Service, and respond to rental requests and urgent inquiries.

Rev. David will be on study leave during July, but he will be available for pastoral emergencies. In August, Rev. David will be on vacation. Rev. Betty Kornitzer will be on call to handle pastoral emergencies for most of August. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Cindy Cole Berry, chair of the Pastoral Care Committee, at 783-8278, or Judi Marcy, chair of the Caring Connection, at 792-1338.

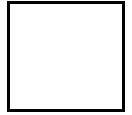
No Cause for Concern

On one recent Sunday, a youth joked with me about my trembling hands. I realized that he had voiced what many of you might not— that this is a concern to you. So allow me to reaffirm my health. I have what's known as non-essential tremors, meaning there's no medical cause and no reason for concern.

It's not caused by nerves or anxiety or a neurological disorder. This is simply one way in which we are each differently abled. And feel free to share this with your children, as I have noticed I'm not the only one with this physical difference, and it might help others to know that it is okay to show up exactly as we are.

— Rev. David

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27 NORTH ROAD
PEACE DALE, RI 02879



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer Services

Sunday Morning Services are at 10:00 a.m.

August 13

Honoring a Tradition: A Griot Tells His Story – *Russell Stokes*

Storytelling and listening has a powerful impact on our daily lives. Everything we are and do tells a story and influences others. We shall explore the experience from Russell's unique perspective.

August 20

May I Always Be the Kind of Person My Dog Thinks I Am – *Mary and David Fulton*

Mary and David's dog always seems so happy to be with them. If their dog finds them so lovable, what kind of people should they be?

August 27

Mushroom Meditations – *Emily Schmidt and Ryan Bouchard*

Join Emily and Ryan for a slide-show look into the forest to reflect on the wonders of nature. Even the smallest things have something to tell us.

September 3

Labor Day weekend – No service.