



The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2018

November Services

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

November 4

For Those We Carry and Those Not Yet Known – *Rev. DL Helfer*

Join us for an honoring of those who have gone before us, and those not yet conceived into being. In this way, we place ourselves in the arc of time, the great web of humanity, and the love that holds us all.

The annual practice fire drill will take place immediately after the service.

November 11

When Love is a Verb, Gratitude is Made Manifest – *Rev. DL Helfer*

At this time of year, we often express our gratitude for the abundance in our lives. But what would it look like to make that gratitude tangible? Join us as we explore an agape sort of love, based in action.

This is a multigenerational service. Nursery care will be available. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Johnnycake Center.

November 18

Finding Purpose in Play – *Taylor M. Polites*

By pursuing many different avenues for his creative and playful energy, Taylor Polites discovered purposeful work and fulfilling connections to his community. He will talk about the local history project he's doing in the West End of Providence.

Taylor M. Polites, a writer, educator, and researcher, received a Public Humanities Scholarship award this year from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities.

He teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design.

After the service, the Board of Directors will host a soup luncheon.

November 25

Going with the Grain: Bread Baking and its Many Life Lessons – *David Floyd*

Join David on a journey through the world of bread baking. He will talk about traditional sourdough, oven masonry, and the spiritual aspects of baking. Please plan to attend even if you're on a gluten-free diet. Samples may be available!



OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, 27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R. I.

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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. DL HELFER, MINISTER

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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday

Board of Directors

Linda Whyte Burrell, President (2017-2019) # Mary Fulton, Vice President (2018-2020)

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Elise Bender (2017-2019) # Kai Migliaccio (2018-2020)

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Johnnie Rodriguez, Coordinator, Music 'n' More at Lily Pads

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<https://www.facebook.com/UUCSC>

Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

At the Water's Edge

Rev. DL Helfer



Dear UUCSC Members and Friends,

A few weeks ago, I had some time with the Membership Committee. For those of you who have no idea what they do, they help identify new members, arrange for Path to Membership activities, and much, much more. Oh, and they usher or arrange for ushering each Sunday as well!

It was a particularly fruitful gathering. We recognized how helpful it is to simply sit and be with each other, to break bread together, and to have a relaxed conversation.

One of the many topics we covered was the question of what makes a welcoming congregation.

Is it being greeted warmly when one arrives? Is it someone sitting with you or finding you after service so you have a 'buddy' for coffee hour? Is it the established groups of friends looking out for visitors, and inviting them in?

I thought about this when I preached in late October, because a number of our “regulars” were away and many, many new faces were there. Most of the visitors were sitting alone, many in the back. When I searched for the visitors during coffee hour, many of them were still alone.

We're in the midst of huge change right now. The numbers of members is growing and each Sunday we have ample visitors, both in the Sanctuary and RE.

I invite us to consider together how to extend our welcome— to be intentional about our inclusion of the newest among us.

Those who visit here need your support and welcome. I still remember my first time in a Unitarian Universalist congregation. I think it took me six months to feel fully at home.

That's the goal, to welcome others as we too were welcomed. To include them (not just on committees!) in our gatherings, groups, and activities.

These beautiful people, young and old, differently abled, of various identities, joining us each Sunday— they need you to see them.

Would you be that person for them?

With gratitude and affection,

Rev. DL

A Note from the President

I sometimes hear folks comment on the changes that are happening at UUCSC. And I think: That's who we are as a group. Change, change, all of the time since our inception. Two- and three hundred-year-old churches say, "We always do . . .". We at UUCSC say, "We used to . . .".

We have met at seven o'clock in the evening, four o'clock in the afternoon and ten o'clock in the morning. We have met at Clark Library in Carolina, Langworthy Library in Hope Valley, Kingston Library, the Masonic Lodge in Kenyon, St. Augustine's Church in Kingston, the former Post 39 American Legion Hall in South Kingstown, and two Multicultural Centers at URI— all before buying our current home. We have been addressed by countless ministers— because for years,

we had a different guest minister for every service. Through the years there have been various arrangements of our Order of Service, with varying elements in the Service. Two constants are our Joys and Concerns, and our Closing Circle.



We've had some changes in how we do governance. Our first board of trustees was made up of the chairs of nine committees. The members of the current Board of Directors are liaisons to clusters of committees.

There are always changes of personnel on the committees.

New folks bring new ideas and new ways of doing things. We are restructuring how we do pastoral care at UUCSC, the better to use our energies and to connect members and friends to the best support available.

So, change. It's a constant in our congregational lives as in our personal lives.

I once got a cookie fortune that read, "There is in the worst of fortunes the best chance of a happy ending." I've kept that one.

While change can feel uncomfortable, and sadly, can sometimes be enacted in a way that feels bad to some of us; there still can be the best chance of a happy outcome. I don't say ending, because, of course, we are on a healthy course with no end in sight!

Peace'n'Luv,
Linda

Service trip to Puerto Rico cancelled

A letter from Rev. DL Helfer

Allow me to begin with gratitude for your excitement at the notion of our first-ever service trip to Puerto Rico, to your overwhelmingly positive response to so many of the ideas I and your staff pitch to you, and to your willingness and enthusiasm to dive in and try to accomplish this. You want to try new things, and that in itself is a gift.

So it is with a bit of a heavy heart that I report that we don't in fact have the numbers for a service trip this year.

After final tallies, there are two families committed to the original date, at the higher flight cost— six or seven individuals in total. And we have that same number committed for the next week with the lower flight cost. Both numbers are insufficient to be of use for a service trip— they had asked for a minimum of 15, with a desired group of closer to 20 or 30 individuals.

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Our annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair is on Saturday, December 1

The Annual UUCSC Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair takes place on Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This fundraising event is now in its third year.

Our Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair is a fabulous way to interface with the broader community. At last year's fair, the trolley brought in families who enjoyed hot soup, found unique gifts and joined in the camaraderie. Local artisans shared their wares, an intergenerational congeniality prevailed, and congregants shared a spirit of commitment and joy. Last year's fair raised more than \$3,750 for the congregation.

In addition to arts and crafts, we'll also have gently-used items donated by the congregation, including jewelry, for sale, as well as a white elephant table and baked goods. Our Holiday Café

will serve a delicious lunch.

A donation for our holiday re-gift table is a great way to support the congregation. Do you have an item you received as a gift that you've never used, or rarely



used? Please donate it to the re-gift table! Last year, the re-gift table offered candle sticks, cutting boards, stuffed animals, holiday tchotchkas, framed artwork, and crystal ware, and raised more

than \$400. Please bring your new or gently-used items to church on Sunday, November 25, or on Monday, November 26 through Friday, November 30 during the hours church is open, and leave them in the library.

A few table spots are still available for arts and crafts vendors. The fee for an adult table is \$40, and the fee for a youth table is \$20. For more information, or to reserve a table spot, please contact Betsy Dalton at elizabethmdalton@gmail.com

We need volunteers to help put prices on items and arrange tables and chairs on Friday, November 30. We also need volunteers to greet people as they enter the fair and direct people to parking and other locations. If you can volunteer, please contact Clare Sartori at clare2sartori@gmail.com

– Betsy Dalton

Service trip to Puerto Rico cancelled

Continued from page 4

Some of you have let me know you'll go on your own, that it is more about being there than it is about the service trip. Some of you are looking at trips in other countries, at lower costs. All that is good. I've also been working to see if there are other good options for the whole group, and I believe the answer is yes— but not this year.

In the meantime, we can learn from our efforts this year. For me, there are two clear lessons: One, a service trip must include shared planning and preparation, which is also what bonds and prepares the group for travel. Two, I'm of the opinion that we rely, as was my original idea, on a company that does all the administrative and planning work, and has the capacity to also get better ticket prices for us.

Let's keep talking (in person, preferably). I trust entirely that our next service trip effort can and will be successful. If you'd like your \$25 deposit back, let Karen St. Peter know. Otherwise, it will count toward scholarships for our next service trip.

In faith and hope, – Rev. DL

Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol** *a story told in narration and song*

presented by Updike's Rose

*adapted by
Anne Marshall
Betty Merner &
Amy Rippe*

*narrated by
Zachary Seawle*

*musical
arrangements
by
Bill Quimette*

**December 9th
3:00 pm**

**Lily Pads
27 North Road
Peacedale, RI**

**Sponsored by
the UUCSC
Music Committee**

**\$5.00 Suggested
Donation**





Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

Greetings, Families & Friends of RE!

The leaves are starting to bring more color into our lives, and I feel as if we are doing the same thing in RE! This year, the RE Committee and I have chosen to emphasize creative expression as a primary focus for our time together on Sundays. Our understanding of child development tells us how important it is for kids to exercise their creativity for full mental, emotional, social, and spiritual growth.

I also believe that getting in touch with our creativity— with as few parameters as possible— opens up a direct path to our inner guidance and wisdom. We all need more practice at being unrestrained, at allowing ourselves to be instead of do, and to follow the spark of imagination wherever it may lead . . .

To create an opportunity for this in RE, we've added a sculpture table and a weaving station so kids can create what they want, when they want to; they are welcome to use them anytime during the morning and can remain in the same room with the group. It's a great way to allow for different learning styles and attention levels; by allowing kids to choose the mode of engagement with the group, it shows that we are serious when we say all are welcome in RE!

We've also started doing "open art" sessions on the last Sunday of the month. Our volunteers provide a brief prompt around the monthly theme, and there is a host of art materials set out for all kinds of creations! We'll be displaying the work from each month, so come check out our RE space regularly.

Here are a few exciting things to keep in mind:

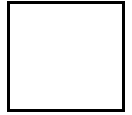
On Sunday, November 4, we're having an all-ages breakfast potluck before worship! Meet in the Community Room at 9:00 a.m. Bring an item to share if you can.

On Sunday, November 11, celebrate our multigenerational service by bringing a non-perishable food item to donate to the Johnnycake Center.

On Saturday, December 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., visit the RE craft booth and Children's Holiday Shop at the UUCSC Holiday Fair! We're accepting donations of gently used items to include in our "kids-only" shop and wrap pop-up booth.

Autumn Blessings,
Bethany

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY
27 NORTH ROAD
PEACE DALE, RI 02879



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“As children we were taught to memorize 1492 with pride and joy as the year people began living full and imaginative lives on the continent of North America. Actually, people had been living full and imaginative lives on the continent of North America for hundreds of years before that. 1492 was simply the year sea pirates began to rob, cheat, and kill them.”

– Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Kurt Vonnegut's novels blended satire, gallows humor and science fiction. An occasional Unitarian who described himself as a "Christian-worshipping agnostic," Vonnegut was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 11, 1922.