

UU Church of Stillwater

Unitarian Universalist Church of Stillwater

October 2014

Covenant Groups

Looking for a group of like-minded folks to share a spiritual practice, a game, a movie or a book?

Pages 2 and 4

Minister's Message

From Reverend Deb Meinke, our pastoral care minister

Page 3

UU 's in the News

Page 4

Sermon Schedules

Upcoming ministers and topics Page 5

Board Minutes

Page 6

President's Message

There is an old Lutheran hymn which is called "Soldiers of the Cross" in which one is encouraged to engage in battle for Christianity to spread the word and to actively convert non-believers. We see today how very dangerous and even counter-productive that can be in the world where radical Islam has taken such words literally for their cause.

On the other hand I see the function of your religion and mine is to help each of us as individuals to cope with our condition and position in the culture and the universe. The function of this church, then, is to accept you and me each with our own religious view and to educate us, to stimulate us, and to nurture us in spiritual understanding, not to regiment us into an "army" to conquer religious territory and promote a particular religious agenda.

This is a pacifist view as far as church social action is concerned. The church may endorse, support, and advocate, but in the end it is each individual member who must decide to join or not in that action as it affects his or her religious belief. This is not to say we individuals or the church should be neutral. Far from it! But where the action agenda of two or more persons conflict the church must not be in the position of saying that one or the other is wrong. A tricky job at best!



Emmett Pybus,
President 2013-2014

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Emmett Pybus, president

Look what's coming up in our church....

Coffeehouse!

Come listen to some talented performers this Thursday, October 2nd at 7 pm at the Church. Led by Steve Long and Ruth Walker, they'll be playing acoustic guitar and will end the evening with a sing-along. Coffee and dessert will be served. Donations accepted.

Crafts Workshop!

Saturday Oct 11 at 4 p.m. led by Patricia Duarte and Judy Klein to work on crafts for the bazaar. Potluck will follow at 6 p.m.

Halloween Party!

Ghosts, goblins, all are welcome. We'll celebrate on October 26th from 5 to 7:30pm. We'll have plenty of fun, food and games. Hot dogs will be provided. Sign up with Lorna Stein or in the social room to bring a dish.

Covenant Group Meetings

Covenant Groups are small groups that agree to meet regularly for a common purpose or to share a common interest. You are welcome to come to any of them, but please let the facilitator know you are coming, as cancellations and changes sometimes occur at the last minute since the groups are small.

The **Meaningful Movies Covenant Group** meets on the third Thursday (October 16) at 6 p.m. at the church. October's movie will be *WarGames* (1983), a Sci-Fi/Thriller movie. It stars Matthew Broderick, Ally Sheedy, John Wood, and Dabney Coleman. It's rated PG for mild profanity and suspense. It's a bit long, and runs about 114 minutes.

This is our Halloween/suspenseful offering for October.

According to the IMDB...

"A young computer whiz kid accidentally connects into a top secret super-computer which has complete control over the U.S. nuclear arsenal. It challenges him to a game between America and Russia, and he innocently starts the countdown to World War 3. Can he convince the computer he wanted to play a game and not the real thing?"

We're meeting at the church as usual. Start time is 6:00 with a short check-in session so that we can watch the movie and still have time to discuss it afterwards. Bring your dinner and/or snacks. We've got popcorn to pop. See ya there!

Contact Joe Melnick at 742-6901 or joemel@gmx.com for further info.

The **Book Discussion Covenant Group** meets on the fourth Friday (October 24) at 7:15 to discuss a book chosen by the whole group. Our book for October is *The God we Never Knew* by Marcus Borg. Please contact Susan Bullard at 742-6529 or susanpollyb@gmail.com for more information.

The **Games Covenant Group** meets at the church from 6:30 to 9:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month. (This time it's October 9.) You are welcome to join us for fun and games (and snacks). We choose a board or card-guided game each time from among the games the participants (normally 6 - 8 people) bring. We'd love to have you join us this month. If you usually come and can't, please notify Joe. Last month, our schedules all conflicted and no one came but Joe. He said that sitting there by himself was all right, very peaceful. But I don't think it's so all right that we should let it happen again. *Mea culpa* as well. As stated above, we'd love to have you join us this month. If you're new to this, please contact Doug Sander or Joe Melnick for more information.

Please contact Doug Sander or Joe Melnick for more information. doug.sander@okstate.edu or joemel@gmx.com.

The **Course in Miracles Covenant Group** meets every Sunday evening to study "A Course in Miracles," a complete spiritual thought system, which focuses on love and peace. For more information, contact Maryellen Epplin at ACIMStillwaterOK@hotmail.com or Susan Bullard at 742-6529.

The **Crafty UU's Covenant Group** meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays (October 4 and 18) at 2 p.m. at the church to work on individual craft projects while enjoying one another's company. Contact Joe Melnick at 742-6901 or joemel@gmx.com, or Marcia Baumel, mrsbowwow@earthlink.net, for more info.

Message from the Minister

My favorite season is autumn with its cooler nights, but still warm days. Each Saturday I wake excited to see the offerings at our Farmer's Market. Yes, the sweet corn and tomatoes are dwindling, but autumn makes way for heartier squash and nutritious root veggies. Harvest time in Oklahoma brings to my mind the celebration of World Food Day on October 16th, a day of action against hunger, when we are encouraged to join the global movement to end hunger. World Food Day is sponsored by the United Nations, and the catchphrase is "Because when it comes to hunger, the only acceptable number is zero." A compelling call to action for us!

The 2014 theme is: Family Farming: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth. 99% of the US population does not work on farms, so it is hard for many Americans to feel connected to the land that sustains us. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN reports that *"Family farmers have an intimate knowledge of their land: its history, needs and productive capacity. They are the custodians of a finely adapted understanding of local ecologies and land capabilities. As a result, they sustain remarkably high levels of productivity despite having less access to agricultural inputs and support. They are safe-guarding the world's agro-biodiversity through the sustainable use of natural resources."*

Our son and daughter-in-law have joined many who enjoy the amazing variety of local foods, who work to save almost forgotten varieties of food plants, and who promote fresh healthy food. As their venture *Heirloom Bakery and Hearth* nears its opening date, we can't wait to watch their livelihood grow in Kansas City, MO - and wish there was a Stillwater location, too!

Maybe the UU potluck on Sunday, October 19th could become a World Food Day dinner, featuring tasty local favorites as well as nutritious newcomers to expand our food palates and to show solidarity with a world of family farmers.

Deliciously yours,

Deb Meinke, Pastoral Care Minister



Reverend Deb Meinke serves our church as the pastoral care minister, visiting the sick, coordinating the Pastoral Care Committee, serving as an advisor to the Church Board, and providing support to all our members. Please contact her at debmeinke@gmail.com or 405-747-4903 (cell) if you would like to schedule a time to talk to her.

So long as we are self-satisfied, there can be no progress.

--- James Freeman Clarke, Unitarian minister, 1810-1888

More about Church Groups

The **Meditation Group** meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m. to meditate for an hour together. Contact Joe Melnick at 742-6901 or joemel@gmx.com for further info.

The recently inactive **Storytellers' Group** will meet after potluck on Sunday, October 19 to discuss reorganizing. If you are interested, please join us. Contact Susan Bullard at susanpollyb@gmail.com or 405-742-6529 for more info.

The **Women's Luncheon Group** meets at the church at noon on the second Wednesday (October 8) to share conversation and brown bag lunch. Come and join us!

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UU's in the News

UU's participate in Climate March

At least 1500 Unitarian Universalists came from across the U.S. to the People's Climate March in New York City.

Reeb Project to Fight Voter Suppression.

About 40 Unitarian Universalists from All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, D.C., headed to North Carolina September 26-28 to work on voter registration in Charlotte with two UU congregations in that city, the UU Church of Charlotte and the Piedmont UU Church. The Reeb project was named for James Reeb, a UU minister killed in Alabama marching for voters' rights in 1965.

Never is it so hard to follow and trust a higher inspiration, as amid the crowd of customary things.

-- James Martineau, Unitarian minister, 1805-1900

UU Minister joins Arizona Lawsuit

In a place many consider ground zero in the fight for immigrant justice, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, lead minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, has joined a federal class action lawsuit to stop Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio from raiding businesses in order to charge undocumented workers with felony identity theft.

The lawsuit, filed June 18 in federal court in Phoenix, seeks to stop enforcement of two Arizona laws, passed in 2007 and 2008, that created new categories of identity theft in order to punish undocumented workers. The suit argues that the laws are unconstitutional because immigration enforcement is exclusively a federal function, and because they violate equal protection rights by focusing on undocumented workers. It claims that officials, including county prosecutor Bill Montgomery and Arpaio—who has gained national attention through aggressive arrests of immigrants—target workers but ignore prosecution of employers who break the law by hiring them.

"I joined this case because these Arizona laws are another tool used to tear apart families, to separate children from their parents and grandparents," says Frederick-Gray, head of the Arizona Immigration Ministry. To change U.S. immigration policy, she adds, "we need to advocate on a national level for an end to the deportations, and we must also work locally to stop the laws that unfairly criminalize undocumented people."

For the full stories on any of these, go to uua.org.



Sunday Services

Sunday Church Services start at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. The children go downstairs for Sunday School during the service after the children's story near the beginning of the service.

Our sermons are presented by our pastoral care minister, Rev. Deb Meinke, by three other ministers who serve us on a rotating regular basis, by other ministers in the area, and by laypersons in the congregation or community.

At 9:00 a.m. each Sunday the Forum group meets in the forum room to discuss a topic announced beforehand.

Oct 5 I S I S Genocide
Led by Harold Sare

Oct 12 Fracking Concerns
Led by Angela Spotts

Oct 19 Art and Physics
video/ discussion of a culture
Led by Lorna Stein

Oct 26 Diwali, Hindu
Festival of Lights
Led by International
Student Scholars at OSU

Sunday, October 5, 2014

Maryo Strong, "Friends and Family in Recovery"

We celebrate September as National Recovery Month each year with a sermon to raise awareness of recovery and its issues. This year, a few days into October, the focus will be on friends and family members of addicted people, as they also get sick right along with the addicted person. They need their own place to find recovery. Maryo Strong has been kind enough to join us with her message about friends and families in recovery. She will be speaking about how the disease of addiction has personally affected her as well as her own recovery efforts.

Maryo Strong's grandparents originally owned the Fairview Mansion in Cushing, where Valley Hope is currently located. She admitted the first patient to Valley Hope, 40 years ago, as she is a nurse. She has been helping addicted people and their families, for those many years. She is still currently employed at Valley Hope. She is now nearing her 80th year of life. Mary has helped sometimes run the family program.

Sunday, October 12, 2014

Reverend Catherine Shearer, "TBA"

Reverend Shearer is an ordained Disciples of Christ minister and a psychotherapist in Oklahoma City. She comes to us on the second Sunday of each month.

Sunday, October 19, 2014

Reverend Deb Meinke, "Food, Glorious Food"

An appreciation of those who grow and prepare the foods we love and a call to support family farms.

Rev. Meinke is our pastoral care minister and speaks in our pulpit on the third Sunday. She was a vertebrate paleontologist/evolutionary biologist and teacher before being ordained in the Presbyterian church.

Sunday, October 26, 2014

Rev. Carol Fincher, "P.T. Barnum Universalist Prince of Humbug"

P.T. Barnum knew that people had a fascination for people who were different from us but then very much like us too. He introduced the age of show business to NYC in August of 1835. Calvinism was the major religion at that time and in the middle of the 19th century laws were blue and lives were gray. Barnum decided to change that. Which he did by introducing Jocie Heath, a 161 year old black woman who claimed to be George Washington's nanny! This was the beginning of his career as a showman! Barnum wasn't all hoax and huckster. Six years later he opened the American Museum in NYC. He supported the Universalist Church in his hometown of Bridgeport, CT. And the first female to be ordained who served that church!

Rev. Carol Fincher Carol was the first full time minister to serve our church. She came here after serving two years at the UU Fellowship in Amarillo, TX. She served this church for six years and then went to Hokession, Delaware as Interim Minister for one year followed by a year in Syracuse, N.Y. She decided to return to Oklahoma after 141 inches of snow that winter. She served a congregation in Tulsa for two years after which she served the UU Church in Norman for two years. She then returned to this congregation as the Pastoral Care minister and retired in the summer of 2013. The congregation voted her as Minister Emerita in December 2013.

Summary of Board Minutes – September 2, 2014

- Attendees: Emmett Pybus, Lorna Stein, Kirsten Fullerton, Mia Owens, Marcia Baumel, Lynn Malley, Maya Chase; Rev. Deb Meinke & Building & Grounds Co-Chair Sean Chase.
- Pastoral Care Report: Rev. Meinke reviewed her many activities following her return from vacation, including calls to Terry Chaffin whose mother recently passed away & John Homer regarding a death in Deana's family. Deb is continuing to explore possibilities for pastoral care during her absence next spring.
- President's Report - Emmett has contacted Lambert Construction for estimates on soffit repair & had the locks changed on the church due to their being no current list of who was in possession of keys. 10 new keys have been made & there is now a list of who is in possession of a church key. Emmett is also seeking an estimate for conserving the wall hangings in the Forum room.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Kirsten - she plans to meet with the Endowment Committee soon.
- Free Plate Offerings: August - \$301.69 was raised for Church Soffit Repair so far which does not reflect contributions from Sunday, August 31st. September's FPO will continue to be used for the soffit repair.
- It was brought to the Board's attention that the Stillwater School District has begun removing playground equipment from church property previously used by Highland Elementary. Emmett met with Mr. John Anders, District Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, regarding his concern over the need to restore the property to its original grade following the equipment removal which he documented in a letter to School Superintendent, Ann Caine. There was lively discussion from the Board over the ramifications of the school's actions.
- Emmett also reported on meeting a new UU minister who has recently moved to the Oklahoma City area - Rev. Paul Douglas. Rev. Douglas has additional training in Pastoral Care. The Board expressed a desire to meet Rev. Douglas & to invite him to speak one Sunday at our church.
- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. by President Pybus.

- **Respectfully submitted:** *Mia Owens, UU Board Clerk*

Unitarian Universalist Church of Stillwater, Oklahoma

UU Church of Stillwater

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