



Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

Religious Freedom • Diverse Perspectives

500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

*For more information about our
congregation, call*

(828) 669-8050 • uucsv.org

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 19 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowalski
normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008 at 10 a.m.
Covering March 2008

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Search Committee Report

The Search Committee cannot relay any specific information at this time.

However, a reminder that in the meeting of May 2007, led by Jim Carillon, the congregation decided that the leadership qualities of a candidate include “be versed in the UU principles/religion-UU training”. The job description for our candidate states “The ministerial candidate is an ordained minister or in the process of becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister”. Also, in order for us to receive assistance in our search from the UUA and Thomas Jefferson District, the candidate must be a UU minister.

It is important for the congregation to understand a critical rule of the process. A UU minister who wishes to be considered for our half-time position cannot preach from our pulpit in the current church year, that is July 2007 through June 2008. That means that Rev. Sarah York, Rev. Melissa Mummert, rev. charlie kast, Rev. Amy Brooks, and Rev. Bob MacDicken are not eligible for our current search for a half-time minister. We understand that the main reason for this rule is to avoid members of the congregation either promoting or resisting a particular candidate, in other words, to avoid conflict in the congregation. The only exception to this rule is the candidate the Search Committee chooses to bring to the congregation. At that time we will hear the candidate speak from the pulpit and vote “yes” or “no” in a congregational meeting after the service. All ministers want the vote to be 90%, and most often higher. Our candidate will be announced with great fanfare when a decision has been made by the Search Committee.

↪ Evelyn Carter, *Chair*

What UUCSV Membership Means to Me— Individual Stories

In a nutshell, being a member of UUCSV gives my life meaning. When I originally joined, I had no idea that it would become so important to me.

I felt drawn to this congregation because it was small enough to get to know people. I sense I belong here spiritually and socially, which wasn't the case at the large UU church I attended in upstate New York.

I take pride in the fact that love, caring, and acceptance in this community are more than just catchy words. If I'm absent on a Sunday, others notice and ask about me.

Here I'm free to pursue social action and environmental causes. The resulting synergy seems to sweep us along, allowing us to accomplish much more as a group than we ever could as individuals.

In this community, the more I participate and contribute, the richer my life becomes. My spiritual beliefs continue to evolve as a result of the dynamic Sunday programs. Even when I think a topic isn't of interest to me, the speaker's message has proven otherwise time after time.

↪ Connie Krochmal

Stewardship Team Training

Everyone who has agreed to join one of our seven canvassing teams and their captains (about 35 people total) will choose one of two identical sessions for stewardship training: Tuesday, February 12th, 6-8:00 p.m. and the following Sunday, February 17th, 1-3:00 p.m. Be sure to sign up.

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, February 3, 2008 11 a.m.
**"A Legacy of Non-Violence:
Gandhi, King, Mandela"**
Delano E. Lewis

Del Lewis served as Ambassador to South Africa under President Clinton, and was the CEO of National Public Radio from 1994 to 1998. He is currently a Senior Fellow at New Mexico State University, and serves on the Board of Trustees of Colgate-Palmolive Company, Eastman Kodak Company, and Chalk, Inc. He and his wife Gayle come to us by virtue of his engagement as the keynote speaker at this year's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast, which is being held on Saturday, February 2.

Sunday, February 10, 2008 11 a.m.
"The Enneagram as Spiritual Path"
Jeanine Siler Jones

The Enneagram is an ancient system that can provide a spiritual and psychological map that helps us discern the filters we automatically use with the world. By becoming more aware, or "waking up" as the mystics call it, we find choices in the midst of our reactivity which shifts our attention, allowing new paths to emerge. Jeanine will briefly introduce the system and talk about various levels of engagement with it that can bring desired healing and change.

Jeanine Siler Jones is a therapist and certified Enneagram teacher in the Narrative Tradition. She uses the Enneagram in therapy, leads small groups, and offers larger retreats periodically. By deeply engaging this map, she has found tools to interact compassionately with herself and others. Her children say she talks about the Enneagram "all the time". She would say it really excites her and it is hard to stay quiet about it!

Sunday, February 17, 2008 11 a.m.
**"Alchemy and Mysticism:
Journey on a Labyrinth"**
Rev. Dr. Calen Rayne

UUCSV now has a labyrinth on the property, and we will explore the alchemical nature of labyrinths... their ability to bring about an inner transformation of the human psyche.

Calen has a MFA from Naropa, a DMin from Wisdom University, and is minister of the Wisdom Tabernacle. Calen is a Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator and a member of the UU Society for Community Ministries. Calen designs and consults on labyrinths and sacred landscapes.



Sunday, February 24, 2008 11 a.m.
"The Economy of the Spirit"
Rev. Sarah York

As a congregation, we have lifted off together like geese getting into formation. We know where we want to go, and now we will pledge the support for getting there. Sarah York, our Ministerial Consultant, will talk about the spiritual aspects of giving, including the benefits of being part of a community on the move.

Sarah York (formerly Sara Moores Campbell) is a Unitarian Universalist minister and author of four books, including "Remembering Well: Rituals for Celebrating Life and Mourning Death" and "Pilgrim Heart: The Inner Journey Home." She also authored three reading selections in the UU hymnal. She has a Bachelor's degree from Wake Forest, a Masters from Duke, a Masters of Divinity from Harvard, and an Honorary Doctorate from Meadville-Lombard Theological School. After serving in settled ministry most of her career, she became an accredited interim minister. Sarah is semi-retired to her farm near Asheville, NC with her husband Chuck Campbell. She serves the Asheville church part-time as Assistant Minister for Pastoral Care, preaches once a month at UUCSV, and consults as needed with congregational leaders.

Following the service, there we be an all-congregation, full potluck party at the church to help us kick off this year's Annual Budget Drive. Food, music, and other fun will be had by all. If you have a special dish to share in this potluck, contact Karen McClelland (606-8514). Also talk with Karen if you'd like to help with the party music or fun events.

Sunday, March 2, 2008 11 a.m.
**"Letting Go or Giving Up:
Is there a Difference?"**
Rev. Bob MacDicken

Buddhism teaches us that the way to overcome the suffering that we feel in our lives is by letting go of desire. Is "letting go" just a synonym for being a quitter?

Bob has just completed his sixth year as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Catawba Valley in Hickory, NC. He and his wife, artist Eileen Ross, are friends of UUCSV and live in Black Mountain.



Religious Education Corner

We had an easy transition into our spring semester classes, with about seventeen young people in attendance. We shared a story with the elementary age kids at Sarah York's service on January 13, "Three Blind Men and the Elephant". This was a wonderful story about God and not arguing about what we cannot see or know for sure. Oh, if only our world leaders could heed these same thoughts of the wise Buddha in the story, there would be so many fewer wars.....

The elementary school class, in their "Experiences With the Web of Life" curriculum, began reading excerpts from Charlotte's Web. What better book than this to bring everything together? Last Sunday the children brought in photos of their pets and talked about their care. Additional topics through February include rain and the web of life, spiders, things that are from eggs, and uniqueness.

The middle school class gathered on Sunday, January 13, with all four OWL (Our Whole Lives) teachers (Phil, Milt, Heidi, and Sybil) to begin their journey within this wonderful curriculum. This is such a great group of kids and they will learn and grow so much from their experiences in this class. Nervousness of the youth (and the teachers!) is eased by the thought that went into preparing this curriculum, with many fun games and lively discussions along the way. Children are encouraged to talk to their parents each week to further answer questions that may come up. It is a jam-packed curriculum, however, and we will take one Sunday each month for either a social time or a service project, to give the youth some down time just to enjoy being together. On Sunday January 6 the youth gathered together at Denny's in Black Mountain for breakfast. As our first service project, on February 10, weather permitting, we hope to assist Calen and Jini Rayne in the completion of the labyrinth.

We are still in the planning stages for our high school youth OWL program, but tentatively we will offer these classes in March and April. Meanwhile, youth are welcome to attend services on Sundays. We also welcome them to join the middle school youth on Sunday, February 3 for a panel discussion on sexual orientation and gender identity with guest speakers from the gay, lesbian, and transgender community.

As always, feel free to see me on Sundays or give me a call if you have any questions or concerns about your children (230-3773).
~ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

February Volunteer Greeters

Feb. 3: Pat Middleton, Connie Krochmal, and Tim Perry
Feb. 10: Norm Kowalski, Jane Carroll, and Phil Fryberger
Feb. 17: Dawn Wilson, Milt Warden, and Carolyn Shorkey
Feb. 24: David Brown, Geoff Stone, and Jay Ellis

We look forward to seeing our Greeters on Sunday mornings. Their smiling faces are a welcome sight. Thank you, Greeters!!!

Volunteers: call Angie Underwood at 669-0869 if something comes up and your date doesn't work out.

Note: Greeters are asked to set up folding chairs if they aren't already in place.

Welcoming Congregation Celebration—Feb 9th

After our year of monthly Welcoming Congregation workshops and an affirmative 57-0 Congregational vote, we need to celebrate! We hope you'll join us for a WC Valentine Potluck & Party at the church 6:30 PM on Saturday, February 9.

It's going to be total fun with activities and games...and no doubt some dancing! We'll also be unveiling the Welcoming Congregation "frameable" BIG PURPLE Certificate which will hang in the foyer and truly be a welcoming beacon to BGLT folks and Allies wanting to be part of an affirming, welcoming UUCSV.

Check the church web site for more information:
www.uusv.org.

Congregational Care Committee

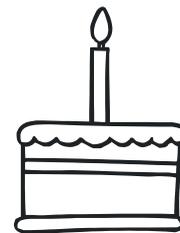
The Chair of our Congregational Care Committee is Angie Underwood (669-0869, underwooda@charter.net). The Monthly Care Coordinator for January is Tim Perry (712-0984, timperry@charter.net). If you or someone you know in our congregation has a special need or is experiencing a crisis, please contact the Committee Chair or the Monthly Care Coordinator. Our Committee welcomes new members at any time. Thank you.

A Note of Appreciation ~ ~ ~ Once again, our congregation steps forward and volunteers!! Our Congregational Care Committee extends our deepest appreciation to the members of our congregation who offered to provide food and/or transportation to those families and individuals in need. Your response to our Committee's request for assistance was amazing!!! Thank you !!!

~ Angie Underwood, Chair

Birthdays in February

February 7th Sherrie Traub
February 7th Sue Miller
February 15th Phyllis Robertson
February 19th Annelies Fryberger
February 19th Dawn Precour
February 22nd Jerry Pope
February 23rd Will Byers
February 24th Evelyn Carter
February 24th Jeffrey Reckinger
February 25th Frohm Lutvack
February 27th Marjorie Alexander
February 29th Tom O'Connell



If you want your birthday recognized in the newsletter, there is a sign up sheet in the foyer.

Warbling Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals for February will be on the 17th after the service and on the 24th, at 10:00 before church. We've got a good group now and we're open to new members ANYTIME!

Come sing!

Green Sanctuary

The rain in recent weeks prompted North Carolina officials to lift the statewide burning ban. As a result, billowing plumes of smoke could be seen in some areas of the Swannanoa Valley. Burning may be the traditional way to get rid of leaves and unwanted brush. However, it is undesirable for various reasons. It adds to greenhouse gases and pollution, and creates health problems for those with respiratory illnesses.

There are greener alternatives to burning. Leaves can be composted, or used as mulch, while limbs and brush can be put through a chipper for use as wood chips. This doesn't mean each of us has to go out and buy our own chipper. Those who already have one could offer to lend theirs to others in need.

We should also encourage our elected officials to promote green alternatives as public policy.

Now let's look at the energy audit. The insulation above the ceiling is 10 to 12 inches thick. Double pane windows were installed in the RE rooms and the sanctuary. Incandescent light bulbs have been replaced with fluorescent bulbs where possible. Deciduous trees and a front portico shade three sides of the building. The south side has no protection from summer sun, but receives sunlight in the winter. Window blinds were installed in this room to conserve energy. The sliding door in the office/nursery is single pane. Windows on both sides of the entrance door are single pane. The windows in the small bathroom and closet at the front of the building behind the sanctuary are single pane. The thermostats that control heating and cooling are not programmable. The heating and cooling systems are all electric, old, and not energy efficient. The toilets use more water than newer and more efficient models.

Labyrinth Installation

The labyrinth is a work in progress. Now that we have a good supply of stone everyone is urged to take part by choosing stones from our pile and putting them in place to mark the labyrinth paths. Just follow the ones that are already in place as your guide. Calen has left his shovel beside the labyrinth for us to use.

When all the paths are marked, we will fill in the space between the stones with wood chips. Then, Calen will do a dedication.

↪ *Connie Krochmal, co-chair, Grounds*

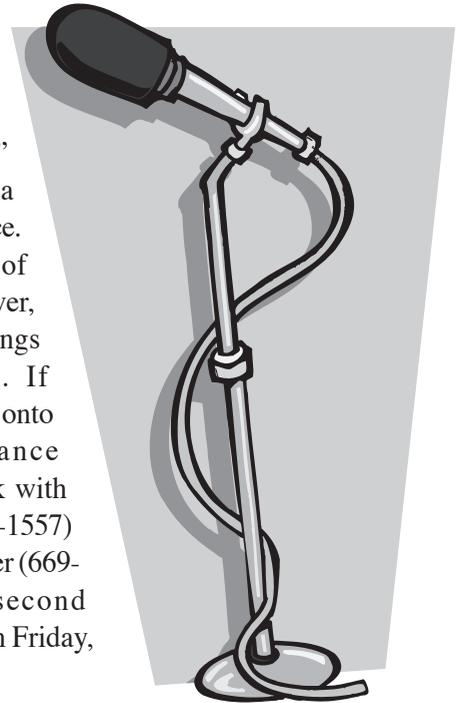


Artwork by Evelyn Carter

First Friday Open Mike Nights to Start February 1!

Looking for an outlet for your hidden talents? Can't stand the long wait between Friday Fling movies? Want to play games, meet people and hear live music? Then you should make plans to spend the first Friday night of each month at UUCSV! Some of our members (who shall remain unnamed until the end of this paragraph) are just itching to get

out the guitars, keyboards, poetry, comedy, and "what not" to try out on a friendly audience. So, be a part of the fun -- no cover, but love offerings are welcome. If you want to get onto the performance calendar, check with Jo Motzko (664-1557) or Phil Fryberger (669-0214). The second event will be on Friday, March 7th.



Friday Fling

February's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on February 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Refreshments (red and white) will be provided. Bring finger food, so that we can make a potluck supper out of it. The movie "Scoop" (2006; Woody Allen, Scarlett Johansson) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).



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Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
FIRST	9:45 RE Committee 12:30 Congregational Care Committee				
SECOND	9:30 Adult Forum 12:30 Membership Committee			The Creative Life CG 1:00-3:00 Social Action Committee 5:30	Program Committee 12:00 p.m.
THIRD	9:30 Green Sanctuary Committee 12:30 Warblers		Board of Trustees 6:00		
FOURTH	9:30 Adult Forum 10:00 Warblers 1:00 SOLS			The Creative Life CG 1:00-3:00	

For the dates, times, and locations of specific events during the current month, go to the UUCSV website (www.uusv.org), and click on the UUCSV Calendar.