



Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Religious Freedom • Diverse Perspectives

**500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711**

*For more information about our
congregation, call*

(828) 669-8050 • uusv.org

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 21 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to

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From the Minister

There is a wonderful new sign in front of UUCSV-- "We are A Welcoming Congregation!"

I know you are very proud of the work that made this sign possible, and you should be! It evokes memories of the long hours so many of the members of UUCSV put in last year to raise awareness of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender issues and needs within our church and the wider community. It serves as a beacon and says that this institution stands up for the humanity of GLBT persons.

The word "welcoming" could also remind us of our commitment to welcome the stranger. Springtime is the time of renewal, so take some time to renew your view of this Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley. Start by imagining you are new to our community. If you were a stranger entering our doors for morning worship, a class, or a special event, what would you see? How would you be greeted? If you were a parent bringing a child for religious education classes, what would the organization of the space tell you about who we are and our commitments in the world? What would the foyer, the announcements, and the organization of our program itself, say to you about us? If you wanted more information, or wanted to become more "plugged-in" to the life of this church, how would that happen? As a truly welcoming congregation, what is your newcomer's experience?

How these questions get answered is the concern of the UUCSV Membership Committee. Are you someone who would like to help implement a vision of radical hospitality? If so, I hope you consider joining this important committee, or at least sharing your ideas. To do so, please speak with Barbara Rogers, the outgoing Membership Committee chair, or me.

I want to share my heartfelt acknowledgment of Karen McClelland, her captains, and all of the visiting stewards who took time out of their schedules to be a part of this year's canvass. Your work to collect everyone's pledges enables the ministries of this church to continue. Thank you!

Sincerely,

→ Sally Beth

Board Notes...

In our Board meeting this month, Carolyn Shorkey and Les Johnson described the new Buddhist Group that is meeting on Thursday afternoons. I encourage you to consider joining this meditative journey with them soon -- see their article later in this newsletter.

Our Treasurer, Lee Reading, reported that while our received income year to date for this fiscal year ending June 30th is still a somewhat behind what was pledged, we on the board have also been spending less this year too. We are looking forward soon to the results of this month's budget drive so we can plan our budget and hopes for next fiscal year. To that end, we are also beginning to plan our annual Congregation Meeting for May. Stay tuned once we confirm a date and make sure you come so that you can help us determine our plans for next year.

The Ministerial Search Committee reported that one committee person had to resign recently. So they are looking for just "a few good men or women" to help fill out that committee. If you are interested, contact Susan Culler. While we are talking about membership additions, our own board nominating committee is also looking for some folks to join the board starting with our new fiscal year on July 1, serving for two or three years. If you are interested in lending UUCSV your leadership talents, let Dawn Wilson, Angie Underwood or Barbara Rogers know soon. And we are looking for someone to take the point as liaison with our broader UUA communities. If that interesting opportunity excites you, please contact Heidi Blozan.

Finally our board considered two important strategic issues -- updating our Congregational Bylaws and improving our Safety Issues on many fronts. Some very fine subcommittee work on these issues was discussed at length at our board meeting and I want to thank Heidi Blozan and Dawn Wilson for leading these two sub groups. Once again, stay tuned for details as final recommendations on these are approved by the board soon.

Finally, the board would like to thank all of you contributors, and especially all you canvassers, for your help with the annual budget drive in March. We can hardly wait to hear the good news of our budget drive results and begin planning the impact of our collective pledges for moving forward next year and beyond. Thank you one and all.

→ Jim Carillon, Board President

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, April 5, 2009 11 a.m.
"Murphy's Laws and Spiritual Growth"

Sally Beth Shore

Murphy's famous axiom seems somehow related to April Fool's pranks... so let's examine the evidence for the faith statement, "whatever can go wrong will go wrong" as well as some of Murphy's corollaries that we know. Do such "laws" as Murphy's and other seemingly innocuous aphorisms affect how we live and create the world? Today we will seek to become more conscious consumers of such conventional wisdom, and perhaps develop some new wisdom laws of our own, or at least some funny sayings.

Sunday, April 12, 2009 11 a.m.
"Easter: Stories of Resurrection and Rebirth"

Sally Beth Shore

This intergenerational worship service will be a special service with the telling of stories of rebirth from different cultures. Our favorite thespian couple, Rebecca Williams and Jerry Pope will be featured, and music will be provided by our Warblers and our RE children. If you have blossoms or other signs of spring in your yard, please bring some to help decorate the sanctuary.



Sunday, April 19, 2009, 11 a.m.
"From Black Panther to Green Thumb: Growing Our Own Destiny"

Bob White

Bob White has been the organizer and energizer behind the amazingly productive Pisgah View Community Peace Garden since it was started two years ago. He says he just "stumbled" on the idea. He also says the other ideas for expansion of the garden, the Healthy Gardening classes, the Food Preservation Courses, the mentoring program, and much more "just came along." It's a story that is far more profound than Bob lets on. He will share that story with us, of how the baseball field at the Pisgah View Housing Project got plowed up to become, for so many people, far more than a place to grow vegetables.

Bob White says he's gone "from being a Black Panther to being a Green Thumb." Growing up in Asbury Park, NJ, Bob was drawn to Asheville because his Mother was from here. He lived here a few years in the late 1970s and came back for good in 1998. He's a natural community organizer who knows how to get folks involved, and he knows how to keep control of the Garden in Pisgah View. Supporting the Community Garden is one of our Congregation's two Environmental Justice Projects as part of the Green Sanctuary process. Featured in WNC Magazine in September 2008, the Garden's web site is at www.pvapeacegarden.org. You can also see photos of our Social Action Committee's visit at www.uusv.org.



Sunday, April 26, 2009 11 a.m.
"Bringing the Hobby-Horse -- A Beltane Reflection on Sacred Fun"

Byron Ballard

Are these the best of times or the worst? As we consider ways to be the joy we want in the world, join Byron Ballard to explore the many ways that laughter, glee and ecstasy are sacred, in both ancient and modern cultures. We'll end by singing the Maypole into the greenwood and dancing in the Celtic summer. Calling all drummers -- if you got 'em, bring 'em!

Sunday, May 3, 2009 11 a.m.
"Ralph Waldo Emerson: God, Self, and Revelation"

Sally Beth Shore

The Unitarian Minister Ralph Waldo Emerson, is perhaps the best known purveyor of what came to be known as American Transcendentalism. How do we understand his writings today, and what was his influence in his era of the 19th century? Together with a discussion session after the service, this will be the 1st in the 4 -part Adult RE class called, "The God Within: American Transcendentalism." (see separate article page for details)

This is also new member Sunday, when we will welcome our new members into this congregation.

Whistle Stop Meditation

You are invited to join the newly formed Buddhist Study Group at UUCSV.

The purpose of the group is to explore the heart of Buddhist teaching and practice, while embracing the process of discovering ways to adapt the tradition to our culture and times. Each hour long session will start with a reading followed by a 20 minute meditation followed by a discussion. We are peer led. Participants volunteer to plan and lead sessions on behalf of the group. None of us are Buddhist scholars. There is no cost to the participants to attend the study group.

During the month of April the group will meet every Thursday afternoon from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Let us know if you are interested in attending this group but are unable to meet during this time slot. We urge participants to arrive on time so as not to disturb the meditation practice.

Newcomers are always welcome. FMI call Carolyn Shorkey 299-9456 or Les Johnson 669-8080.

Annual Budget Campaign Draws to a Close

March 20th marked the official end of the 2009-2010 Annual Budget Campaign, and Visiting Stewards and Team Captains met for a lively wrap-up party. On Sunday, March 22, commitment cards had been submitted for just over 2/3 of the congregation, totaling \$48,090 toward the goal of \$78,000.

Many thanks to the more-than-50 people who have participated in the many activities that have made up this annual effort to bring our congregation together, as we commit ourselves and our gifts to the church community that we value so highly.

The Budget Campaign Committee includes Karen McClelland, Chair; members Kay-Sea Conklin, Ursula Goebels-Ellis, Jay Ellis, Jane J. Carroll; and Connie Krochmal, consultant. Team Captains include Lee Reading, David Reid, Ursula Goebels-Ellis, Jay Ellis, Jane J. Carroll, Pat Middleton, and Peter Boggs. Twenty-two Visiting Stewards have been busily making visits to friends and members of the congregation.

The total financial commitments for the campaign will be available for publication in the May newsletter. Watch for announcements on Sunday Mornings in March and early April.

~ Karen McClelland, Budget Campaign Chair

What's Happening with the Search Committee?

In February we reported that we had begun the search for our new minister. We have, during the past two months, continued to organize, develop our search strategy, and determine specific tasks for committee members.

Unfortunately, one of our members resigned in March, leaving us with only four: Jane Carroll, Susan Culler, Walter Hoffman and Pat Middleton. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Susan Culler, chair, at 779-2120 or at skc1@charter.net. A parent of high school age or younger children on the committee would be very valuable. Presently we lack the insight and perspective such a parent could offer.

We will provide a list of nominees to the congregation before the annual congregational meeting in May, at which time the congregation must vote on the new member.

We also continue to plan for a thorough assessment, later in the spring, of the congregation's current needs regarding the new minister. You may recall the last survey of the congregation's needs was completed three years ago.

At the writing of this article, we continue to wait for the outcome of the 2009-2010 budget campaign, and by the end of April we will have a clearer view of the UUCSV financial picture. Having that financial "snapshot" is necessary as we talk with prospective candidates.

Please Note: We, the Search Committee, stress our requirement of confidentiality, which determines how and when we share details of our activities. While our intention is to keep you, the congregation, informed at all times, we must reserve the right to disclose only our general progress. If you have specific questions or concerns, please call Susan Culler, chair, at 779-2120.



Sue Miller shares how good it is to be part of the UUCSV by contributing to all the great activities. Jim Carillon holds the Tree of Life! Financial Life!

Want to Know More about UU? Now, You Can

Two separate classes developed to help you learn more about Unitarian Universalism will be held on Mondays, April 20 and 27, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the church building. Anyone who wants to know more about our congregation, becoming a member, or about background and philosophy of Unitarian Universalism is welcome. Plan to attend both classes, which include different topics, to get the full benefit. No reservations are required.

New Member Recognition and Rededication to UUCSV

Sunday, May 3 will be a time to recognize our New Members and for us to rededicate ourselves to UUCSV – if you choose to do it. Perhaps you want to share with others why you chose to join UUCSV or why you choose to stay. If you are so inclined to rededicate yourself as member, mark the first Sunday in May to do it. And please join in welcoming our newest members to UUCSV.

Potluck Finger Food Service Returns

Many of you have requested that we have food available during our coffee hour after the Sunday service. Our coffee hour host will resume setting up the table in the portico for the finger food service beginning in April. The food will be provided by you through your generous contributions. We request that you bring nutritious food which can be eaten with your fingers, to share with others. Good protein sources include, deviled eggs, bean dip, nuts, and sandwiches cut into 4ths. We welcome vegetables and fruits cut into bite size pieces as well as multigrain crackers and cookies.

We only have only a few volunteer coffee hour hosts and the food service adds additional work to their Sunday commitment. Please consider stepping forward and offering to help by taking an occasional volunteer slot on Sunday. Even if you are only available to set up OR clean up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Talk to your friendly host on Sunday and we'll be happy to train you.

~ Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden
co-chairs Hospitality Committee

Congregational Care Committee

The Congregational Care Committee is ready to assist our congregation in time of need by providing transportation and meals for those who are facing difficult circumstances. The Monthly Coordinator is Karen McClelland (606-8514). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Monthly Coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help.



Building and Grounds Work Party on April 25

There are signs of spring. So this is the perfect time for spring cleaning. Join our Building/Grounds work party on Saturday morning, April 25 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. This group activity will help us build community as we accomplish our spring clean-up. Whatever your skill set or interest, we can use your help.

We ask that you bring your own gardening tools (pruners, rakes, hoes) since we don't have enough in the shed. We can also use a garden cart/wheelbarrow when spreading the mulch.

Refreshments (pizza, anyone?) will be provided. If you have questions or wish to volunteer for a specific task, contact David Brown, Building/Grounds chair (242-4544, dsbrown2@charter.net).

Room in the Inn

A little bit of kindness goes a long way. Homeless women in our community can use a helping hand. Volunteer for Room in the Inn this spring. This will take place on Friday, May 29, at the Black Mountain Methodist church annex. If you can volunteer to drive the church van (morning or evening), or be an overnight volunteer, please add your name to the sign-sheet in the foyer. We'll also need backups for all positions as well as volunteers who are willing to provide food for breakfast and dinner. For the evening meal, you can choose from various kinds of dishes (entree or meat, etc.).

For more info, contact me at 686 3112, cbk119@hotmail.com. Thanks in advance for all your help.

→ *Connie Krochmal, Room in the Inn coordinator, Social Action Committee*

Learn A Little UU History! The God Within: Unitarian Transcendentalism

The ideas of the Transcendentalists shaped 19th century Unitarian and American culture dramatically, and in many ways still do. "The God Within," a 4-session class for adults in May, will explore this exciting part of our Unitarian Universalist heritage, which flourished in the Boston area in the 1830s and 40s. Ralph Waldo Emerson is the best known of the Unitarian Transcendentalists, but there were many others. For example:

Elisabeth Peabody, who founded the Kindergarten movement in America, also based on Transcendentalist faith in the children's minds.

George Ripley, who founded Brook Farm as an experiment in communitarian living.

Margaret Fuller, author of "Woman in the Nineteenth Century," and founder of the Conversation, where women who were not allowed to attend Harvard taught each other.

Henry David Thoreau, whose book Walden advocated self-reliance, solitude, contemplation, and closeness to nature in transcending the "desperate" existence that he thought was the lot of most of humans.

The class will meet after the service on May 3rd (when the service is about Emerson) and then meets the next 3 Wednesday evenings in May. For more information or to sign up, please contact Sally Beth Shore, minister@uusv.org,

Green Sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary is making great progress, and has finished most of the 12 projects that we need to complete for the program. We hope to finish the process during 2009. Do check the Green Sanctuary bulletin board for reports on the completed projects. Others will be posted as they're finished.

Meanwhile, join like-minded individuals at Project Budburst (www.budburst.org). This program allows citizens to contribute to scientific knowledge and track global climate change in their own back yard. This umbrella organization is sponsored by several groups. These include the Chicago Botanic Garden, the National Phenology Network, and the U.S. Forest Service. During the project, citizen scientists observe and report on the date of flowering and leafing of plants in their areas. During 2008, nearly 4000 citizen scientists participated in this research program.

On the subject of global warming, organic gardening is one sure fire way to reduce carbon emissions. If all of the 434 million acres of conventionally farmed American cropland were farmed organically, this would be equivalent to removing emissions from 217 million vehicles.

It is more important than ever to curb carbon emissions. A recent study by an international team of scientists was released in February. This reported that some climate change is already irreversible.

Even if you can't grow all of your food organically, you can still support organic farms in the area. Local tail-gate markets are gearing up for a new season. Watch for the opening dates in local newspapers. Another option is to join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) subscription plan. We have several CSA farmers in our congregation. Supporting local farms will also help to preserve farms in the area. In the last five years the state has lost over 600,000 acres of farmland.

→ *Connie Krochmal*

Upcoming Trillium Festival Better than Ever

Few things improve with age. Yet the "Trillium-a Festival of Follies and Flings" is one of the exceptions. Better than ever, this annual spring fling will take place on Saturday April 18, 2009 from 8:30 am to 3 pm rain or shine here on the church grounds. 2009 marks the fifth annual Trillium. Whatever the weather may bring, SOLS is ready this year with large tents.

Information about the Trillium rummage sale is covered in a separate newsletter item by Dr. Jane Carroll. Shoppers can expect to find good quality merchandise at bargain prices.

Trillium is a place where families on a budget can have wholesome fun. This event has contests and games for folks of all ages. For 2009, Evelyn Carter is adding new children's games. As always, those attending can enjoy live music and door prizes. We will be selling sandwiches and drinks. From all of our wonderful bakers we're requesting donations of baked goods for our bake sale and cake walks. Eager gardeners will love the Trillium plant sale. Unlike some plants that are dug from the wild, our trillium plants have been sustainably grown from seed by a local nurseryman. Many other perennials and woody plants will also be available at prices that are below retail. Gardeners should arrive early. Free garden seeds will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Bake sale and Cake Walk

Trillium is calling for delicious baked goods. We will enjoy a delicious Cake Walk, so will need some great cakes or pies for that activity! I've heard that banana bread is devoured with appreciation in Black Mountain, and home baked goods of all sorts. Donations can be brought starting Thursday, April 16. (Just remember they can't be refrigerated!) Have your name on anything you need returned to you, or we might sell it! Barbara Rogers and Robyn Schuster are the co-coordinators this year.

April 19th Movie

The movie, "Goddess Remembered" will be shown on Sunday April 19 at 1:00. The Cakes for the Queen of Heaven class is sponsoring this showing and discussion, and all are welcome to this free event. This is part 1 of a Trilogy of films made by Starhawk and Donna Reed. The others will be shown on Third Sundays of the next 2 months.

Warblers

For April, the choir will meet on Sunday the 5th at 12:30, then the following Thursday the 9th at 7 PM, and then on the 12th (Easter) at 10:15. We are planning to sing a song that will include the children of the RE program.

Friday Fling

April's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on April 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Refreshments (red and white) will be provided. Bring some simple food, so that we can make a potluck supper out of it. The movie "Whale Rider" (2003, a girl surmounts Maori tradition in New Zealand) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

Black Mountain's Best Rummage Sale

The Sisters of Lucy Stone (SOLS) need donations for the UUCSV rummage sale to be held at our annual event "Trillium: A Festival of Follies and Flings" on April 18th 8:00 – 3:00. We are particularly interested in outdoor living items. Clothes not so much. Please bring any and all "Good Stuff" to the RE rooms to the left of the church foyer starting the afternoon of Sunday, April 12th until Thursday, April 16th.

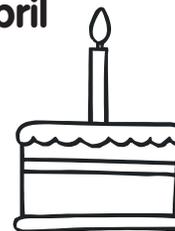
"Good Stuff" is:

- Clean
- Mildew and mold-free
- Free of pet hair and smell
- Unbroken
- In working order
- All parts and pieces present
- Antiques in just about any condition
- Non-toxic
- Passes the "It's not junk" test

We will pick up Good Stuff during the week prior to Trillium if need be. Questions? Contact Jane Carroll at 664-1695 or dr_jcarr@msn.com. Proceeds go to our partner church in Romania and for special projects at UUCSV.

Birthdays in April

April 7th Fern Martin
April 10th Pat Middleton
April 16th Bobby Decker
April 17th Jim Clayton
April 18th Monroe Gilmour
April 28th George Leroy



If you would like your birthday posted in the church bulletin, please fill out the form located on the table in the foyer.

"Who Ya Gonna Call?"—the UUCSV Stimulus Package

Give your "Bizness" to a friend through this project of the "Open Topic Covenant Group" to help UU members and Friends support each other's businesses.

This booklet will be published from copies of business cards. If a member or friend does not have a card to copy, they can have up to 5 lines of information printed about their business. The cost of the printing will be defrayed by a suggested donation from each participant of \$20. Any Member or Friend of UUCSV is eligible to be included in the booklet. This means someone who wants to baby-sit can have a listing, as well as an attorney or a person who can knit something....or an artist who can provide various beautiful objects. The booklets will be given out free at UUCSV to those who are interested in using this reference book.

Time Frame: Submit cards/service listing and donations to Teresa Ballinger, or Barbara Rogers at the church office or in person. Other Covenant members helping produce this community project are: Dawn Wilson, Mamie Hilliard, Tim Perry, Linda Metzner, Scott Conklin and Tom Rodham.

Deadline is April 15. The brochure will be printed and distributed by June.

There will be a disclaimer that UUCSV does not in any way recommend these businesses, but is simply providing a listing of what is available based on the talents of our members and friends.

Religious Education Corner

RE Vision Statement

As promised, here is the RE Vision Statement that we have refined and presented to the Board. We hope this will guide us all in the years ahead as we continue to work with our children and youth:

Lifespan faith development is the foundation of our religious community. To that end, religious education for the children will develop an in-depth understanding of Unitarian Universalist identity, values, and history along with knowledge and a sense of belonging related to each other, the congregation, and the wider community. The religious education program provides a welcoming place where children can build a strong sense of self, equipped with the spiritual and social tools needed to carry them forward into the world.

RE Class Activities

Attendance over the past month has started to pick up again, with an average of two to three preschoolers, eight elementary children, and six to seven middle and high school youth. The preschool Chalice Children class in the next month will spend time playing together, enjoying spring and planting bulbs, and learning about the holidays of Passover and Easter. The Timeless Themes class has just completed several weeks of study about the stories of Jesus, and has started a garden on the east side of the building near the parking lot. During April they will take part in the Easter service on Sunday April 12th, with a song. The Neighboring Faiths class concluded their studies of the Bahai, Quaker, and Islamic faiths, and are now learning about Buddhism. They will wrap up the month with learning about the Baptist faith, including a visit to an African American church.

Clarification

Just to clear up any confusion, the Coming of Age curriculum will be taught next school year, with the youth going to Boston in June 2010. This will include all of our rising 8th to 11th grade youth. We are fundraising now, to spread it out over a longer period of time.

Worship for All Ages Renaissance Module

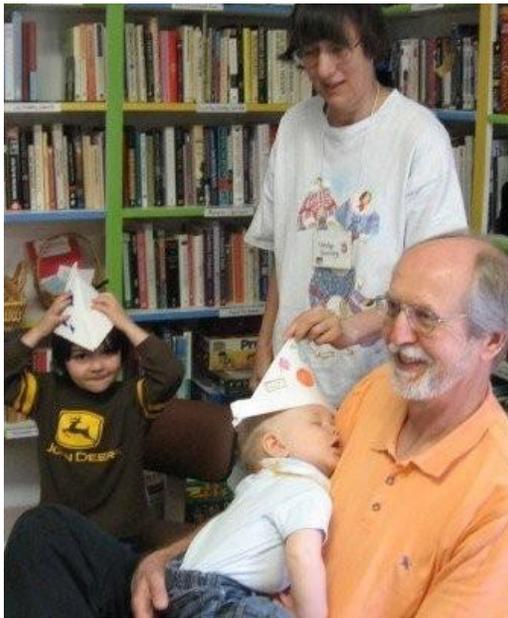
I attended, along with Sally Beth and Heidi Blozan, a wonderful weekend at Haw River State Park, March 6 – 8. The workshop I attended was “Worship for All Ages”, and Sally Beth and Heidi participated in Contemplative Youth Ministry. We all came away with some great ideas, some of which I’ve already started to implement. These include additional worship times for our preschool and elementary children, and a better focus on planning intergenerational worship that will be meaningful to all participants. My particular focus group at the workshop was on youth-led worship which will be very helpful in the Coming of Age program. Part of that program includes an opportunity for youth to plan and lead a service, with a theme of their choosing.

A Big Thank-You!

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped get our main RE space in top shape for Fellowship Sunday. It worked great for that event, and we have a better organized, more workable space. Kudos to Monroe Gilmour, Carolyn Shorkey, Milt Warden, the Shaw family, Heidi and Cora Blozan, and Sally Beth.



Middle & High Schoolers visit Asheville's only Mosque as part of their Neighboring Faiths curriculum



Always lots of TLC in the preschool class during our Sunday services, with Carolyn Shorkey & Milt Warden dispensing!



Elementary School class starts the first UUCSV garden with Evelyn Carter and Dawn Wilson giving shovel-ready instructions.

Important Dates to Remember

April 4—Saturday, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Soup/chili dinner and movie night fundraiser for Coming of Age

Cost is \$4/person with a maximum of \$15/family of four or more

Movie will be “Bend It Like Beckham” (PG-13 rating)

April 18—Trillium. Our Coming of Age class will help with this event

May 2—Saturday, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Another yummy dinner and movie night for Coming of Age!

Go now in peace,

↪ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator



Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FIRST	9:45 RE Committee 12:30 Congregational Care Committee 12:00 Program Committee			1:00 Written Word CG	4:00 Buddhist Study Group	
SECOND	9:30 Adult Forum 10:00 Membership Committee		7:00 Open Topic CG	5:30 Social Action Committee	4:00 Buddhist Study Group	
THIRD	9:30 Green Sanctuary Committee		6:00 Board of Trustees	1:00 Written Word CG	4:00 Buddhist Study Group	6:30 Friday Fling
FOURTH	9:30 Adult Forum 12:30 SOLS		7:00 Open Topic CG		4:00 Buddhist Study Group	

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.
