



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

# NEWSLETTER

December 2017

Year 52, Issue 12

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Blacksburg, VA 24060  
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## Message from Our Minister Rev. Pam Philips

### Hope and Holidays

As we look ahead to December, I am full of **hope**—this month's theme—for many wonderful opportunities to celebrate our UUC community.

Holidays bring on feelings of nostalgia, remembering traditional foods and festivities. As a child, I loved opening the little doors on our cardboard advent calendar to see the little picture surprises that culminated on Christmas morning. I loved making sugar cookies—cut out in holiday shapes and decorated with colored frosting and sprinkles—with my siblings. I loved helping my mother knead and roll out the dough for the tea rings she baked every year, and then tying holly on the silver, foil-wrapped packages to deliver to family and friends. I loved watching my favorite holiday shows, singing along with Rudolph, Clarisse, the snowman, the Whos of Whoville (not yet a reference to Charlottesville). I loved decorating the tree with colorful balls and the ornaments my grandmother had made. Everything was magic. What are your childhood memories?



As I got older, though, while some traditions remained, others changed. The holiday cartoons gave way to new favorites like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *A Christmas Story*. The holidays also became more hectic—rushing to finish all the shopping, attending different holiday gatherings, writing and sending cards, and packing and traveling long distances to be with far-away family. By the end of the month, I was exhausted. Somehow as a child, it seemed that all those holiday traditions just happened, but as an adult, they became more of a responsibility. And yet, when I saw the sparkle in a child's eye as they marveled at beautiful decorations or felt the warm embrace of greeting after a long day's travel, it was all worth it.

As we approach this month of holidays and holy days, I hope that we can find the right mix of the old and the new—savoring well-loved traditions and embracing new ways of celebrating. For the relative newcomers to this community, everything will seem new. And yet I hope we all find both the comfort of the familiar and excitement of novelty in this month's events—the holiday concert, the no-rehearsal pageant, our solstice celebration, and Christmas Eve service and potluck. I also hope that we can find the right balance of activity and rest, so that we enjoy whatever this month brings without feeling overwhelmed.



And as the days grow shorter and the air grows colder, let us be intentional in sowing and tending seeds of hope—in our own lives and in the larger community.

In faith,  
Rev. Pam

## Contact Information

**Minister:**

Rev. Pam Philips  
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**President:**

Tim Pickering  
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**Director of Lifespan Faith Development:**

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**UUC Office Phone:**  
540-552-9716

**Minister Emerita:**

Rev. Christine Brownlie

**Staff Office Hours:****Minister:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
& Thursdays, 9-1  
Contact for appointment  
or us this [link](#) to set one  
up online.

**Administrator:**

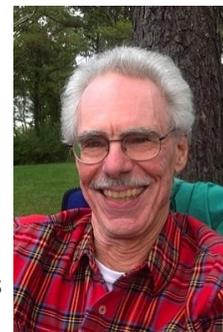
Mondays 9-12,  
Fridays 1-4

**DLFD:**

Contact for appointment.

## Message from Our President

Tim Pickering



It's a widely held view that the social climate in our country is not where we would like it to be. It makes us uneasy. It makes us worry about the future. We wonder what is wrong with "them", those who have different views about what is important than we do. One way I try to deal with such feelings is through meditation. A key goal of meditation is to recognize the thoughts that arise during meditation from the perspective of an observer rather than a participant. It's important not to judge the thoughts, just to notice them and let them "pass by". Did you know one can take the same approach with opinions? Here are some wise words on the subject from Pema Chodren in her book, *When Things Fall Apart*.

"One of the best practices for everyday living when we don't have much time for meditation is to notice our opinions... just as we notice that we're thinking when meditating. This is an extremely helpful practice because we have a lot of opinions, and we tend to take them as truth. But actually they aren't the truth. They are just our opinions... Just by this simple exercise we are introduced to the notion of egolessness. All ego really is, is our opinions, which we take to be solid, real, and the absolute truth about how things are. We can begin to recognize how easy it is to get into a war in which we want our opinions to win and someone else's to lose. It is especially tempting to do this when we're engaged in social action. This often results in aggressive feelings toward the "opponents"... When we hold on to our opinions with aggression, no matter how valid our cause, we are simply adding more aggression to the planet, and violence and pain increase. The way to stop the war is to stop hating the enemy. It seems to me a lot of the ill feeling in our country today arises from our negative opinions of "the other side". It makes us upset, but with no outlet for our feelings. Learning how to speak and act without aggression is an enormous challenge. The way to start is to begin to notice our opinions... If you find yourself becoming aggressive about your opinions, notice that. If you find yourself being nonaggressive, notice that. Cultivating a mind that does not grasp at right and wrong, you will find a fresh state of being. The ultimate cessation of suffering comes from that.

"As the Buddha taught, it's important to see suffering as suffering. We are not talking about ignoring or keeping quiet... If we don't get swept away by our outrage, then we will see the cause of suffering more clearly. That is how the cessation of suffering evolves."

I plan to give this approach a try and see if it will reduce my feelings of anxiety about our country's plight.

A few words about November's theme of *abundance*. Abundance can come in many flavors. We can have an abundance of woe as well as an abundance of joy. For example, our congregation has an abundance of mortgage debt. But we also have congregants who have an abundance of concern for our financial health. We have recently received two designated gifts, one of \$5,000 and one of \$2,000, to help pay down our mortgage debt. These gifts are greatly appreciated.

Joyous wishes to all for the holidays.

**UUC offices will be closed  
December 24 through January 1.**

# Upcoming Events

## Benefit Holiday Concert

All are welcome on Saturday, **December 9** at 7 PM in our sanctuary for a special concert of classical, jazz and holiday selections. The many talented musicians include Robert Trent, guitar; Radford University Guitar Ensemble; Betsy Crone, flute; VT Flute Ensemble; Paul Deck, violin; Clangin' Around Hand Chime Choir; Elizabeth & Kevin Mattheson, violins; Aaron Shelor, cello; **Luke Holland, piano; Jared Gibbs, piano;** Patrick Turner, bass; Brian Peters, percussion; and **Jim Flowers, emcee and vocals.**

Light refreshments served following the concert.

All proceeds will be donated to the [Blacksburg Refugee Partnership](#).

## Christmas Eve Service



Everyone is invited to join with Rev. Pam for our annual Christmas Eve service on Sunday, **December 24** at 5:30 PM. There will be stories, music, candle-lighting, and more.

There will be a special collection during the service for our **Community Assistance Fund**. This fund is used by our minister throughout the year to help those in our congregation and the local community in need of assistance with food, rent, utilities, transportation, etc. Make your check out to UUC with "CAF" on the memo line. Recipients of these funds are kept confidential.

The service will be followed by a potluck for all who would like to stay and share a celebratory Christmas Eve meal together. Bring a large dish to share.

## Solstice Celebration

All ages are invited to a multi-generational Solstice Celebration Gathering sponsored by EarthSpirit Sisters on Saturday, **December 16** from 5-8 PM. It will include a shadow puppet play entitled *The Longest Night*, an evergreen spiral walk in the Sanctuary, crafts and refreshments in Elarth Hall, and a fire with s'more-making in the outdoor picnic area. Those without children and families are encouraged to join in celebrating together on this night. Please bring any greenery trimmings you have at home to donate for the spiral and leave against the wall near our handicap-accessible entrance. Anyone willing to help with set-up, clean-up, crafts or refreshments should contact [Asha Mills](#).



## Dance in the New Year with Dances of Universal Peace

All are invited to join in the dancing on Sunday, **December 31** in Elarth Hall. This is a beautiful way to welcome back the light and set a peaceful intention for the coming year. Bring your friends and loved ones! No previous experience needed - dances are taught as you go along. Dancing begins at 9:00 PM, potluck feast at 11:00. Bring a sweet or savory snack to share - beverages will be provided. For more information, contact [Paula Markham](#).

## Let's Have a Chili Cook-off

After a hiatus of a few years, we are again hoping to hold a delicious and fun Chili Cook-off for the whole family on a Saturday evening in the spring. But to do so, we need volunteers to step up and get involved with the organization, implementation AND operation of the Chili Cook-off. To offer your services, contact [Franklyn Moreno](#). Let's make this happen!



## Women's Lunch Bunch

All women are invited to gather on Friday, **December 1** at *Avellino's* in the First & Main Shopping Center, Blacksburg. On **December 15** we'll gather at the festive venue of *Preston's*, located in the Inn at Virginia Tech. *Preston's* serves a very nice buffet. Contact [Marilyn DuPont](#) if you plan to attend this special holiday lunch as a reservation for our group is required. We gather at noon and warmly welcome newcomers as well as regulars.

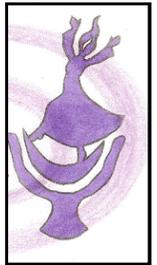
## Two Mental Health Support Groups at UUC

On Monday, **December 18** at 6 PM, our two community mental health support groups will meet at UUC. One group is designed for those with a mental health illness themselves, and the other group is for family and friends of those with a mental illness. Both are facilitated by professionals from Community Services. All are welcome. Contact [Margo Walter](#) for more info.

## EarthSpirit Sisters

All women are invited to join in the monthly celebration of the full moon at Diane Jackson's home in Floyd on Sunday, **December 5**. Social time is at 6:30 PM, ritual at 7:00. Contact [Diane](#) for directions.

ESS is open to all who seek sisterhood and desire a deeper understanding and spiritual awareness of ancient Earth-centered traditions.



## Newcomers' Orientation



Interested in learning more about UUism and our congregation? On Saturday, **January 13** from 9 AM – noon, join Rev. Pam, other newcomers, congregants, and Connections Committee members to listen, share, and discuss topics which will answer your questions. The orientation is open to newcomers and to those who have been attending UUC for awhile. The session will begin with a light breakfast. Childcare provided upon request. If you plan to attend, or would like more information, contact [Pauletta Copenheaver](#).

## Singles' Over 50 Group

Join the Singles' Over 50 Group for a potluck dinner and Murder Mystery game (a "who dunnit" where we are all suspects) at UUC on Saturday, **January 6** from 6-9 PM. Bring your sense of fun and a New Orleans-themed dish (or any food offering to share if that doesn't work for you). RSVP to [Annie](#) so we know how many people to expect.

## Adopt-A-Highway Litter Pickup



Volunteers are needed to help pick up trash on our assigned road on Saturday, **December 9** at 9 AM. Meet in the Lowes parking lot, enjoy some energy food, and help make our sections of the road look marvelous. Contact [Bob Stimson](#) to help or for more info.

## Second-Sunday Potluck

Everyone is invited to enjoy lunch together following the service on **December 10**. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet new people while sharing a delicious meal. This month, if your last name begins with **Bal-Bur**, bring a beverage; **Lan-Z** bring a main dish; **A-Bak and Bus-Lam** bring a side dish or dessert. Don't forget your list of the ingredients in your dish to assist those with food allergies. Please be sure to bring a **LARGE DISH** as there are many mouths to feed and to be considerate of those at the end of the line that are also hungry.



As always, bring your non-perishable food donations (canned meats, fruits, vegetables, macaroni and cheese, rice, beans, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, coffee, sugar, etc.) for the [Interfaith Food Pantry](#). The donation basket is in the lobby just outside the Sanctuary.

# Lifespan Faith Development

December 2017

## Holiday Multi-Gen

**Sunday, December 10**

Don't miss our annual holiday multi-generational service, featuring our famous No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant. This year's production: Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Kids of all ages will love this fun, and slightly chaotic, service! Act in our play or just enjoy the performance of others. This service is guaranteed to grow the heart of the grinchiest Grinch up to three sizes bigger!

This is also the Sunday that our Buddies will meet in person! Those in the Buddy Project should check their email for an e-vite and RSVP. You'll be seated with your Buddy and enjoy our Grinchy show together.



## YRUU Holiday Cookie Sale



*Sunday, December 10*

*Pick a dozen cookies for a donation to the YRUU Trip Fund.*

### MSYG

**Friday, December 15, 6:30-8:30 PM**

Middle School Youth Group meets this month at UUC to make gifts for our friends at Warm Hearth. Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to come join the fun. Parents, watch your email for more information.

MSYG meets the 3rd Friday of the month, with meetings at UUC and offsite locations. Contact [msyg\\_advisor@uucnr.org](mailto:msyg_advisor@uucnr.org) to learn more. [Register online.](#)

### YRUU

**Sundays, 6-8 PM**

Our high school youth group, YRUU, meets on Sunday evenings, with some meetings held offsite. Teens participate in fundraisers, fun activities, social action, and conferences, while forming bonds with other teens.

YRUU is open to youth in grades 9-12. Friends are welcome at meetings. Contact [yruu\\_advisor@uucnr.org](mailto:yruu_advisor@uucnr.org) to learn more.

[Register online.](#)

# Adult Faith Development



## The Story of God, with Morgan Freeman

*Who is God?*

*Where did we come from?*

*Why does evil happen?*

*What happens when we die?*

Every human being on earth has asked themselves these questions at some point, and most likely each person has found a different answer.

National Geographic's series, *The Story of God with Morgan Freeman*, takes viewers on a trip around the world, speaking with people of faith, exploring theological questions, and discovering what unites the world's religions.

Classes will be held on the second Monday of the month October through March. Each class will focus on a single topic and include the viewing of a 40-minute episode, followed by discussion. Come learn how different religions view the answers to life's big questions.

**No particular ideology is advanced in this series.**

This month—Monday, **December 11**, 7-8:30 PM—*Who is God?* Explore how different religions view the idea of God.

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### Other opportunities to learn more about the religions of the world:

- Join our middle school class as they visit other faith communities. We'll visit the Islamic Society of the NRV on **January 21**, as we learn more about Islam. Watch the LFD weekly email newsletter for visit details.
- Join our moderated Facebook Discussion Group on world religion topics at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1178336732181957/>.
- Visit our online Adult Faith Development class at [http://www.uucnr.org/members\\_area/BB-adult-online-class.html](http://www.uucnr.org/members_area/BB-adult-online-class.html).



## OWL 8-9 Parent Info Meeting

**Sunday, December 3 after the service; or Wednesday, December 6, 7-8 PM**

Parents of youth in grades 8 and 9 (or 10th graders who have not previously been registered in OWL 8-9) are invited to attend an informational meeting with our trained OWL teachers. Come learn more about the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program, the acclaimed sexuality education program, jointly developed by the UUA and the United Church of Christ. OWL goes beyond what is taught in school and helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior.

OWL 8-9 will be offered January-April 2018. Don't miss the opportunity to include your youth!



# On-Going Adult RE Programs

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## Sunday Circle

*Meets the first and third Sundays 8:30-9:30 AM*

**December 3:** Karen Hager and Liz Craine will discuss *Identity Theft*. Karen will discuss her experience as a victim of identity theft and steps taken for future protection. Liz will discuss online security and help answer technical questions from the group.

**December 17:** Anita Puckett will lead a discussion on *Hillbilly Elegy*.

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## White Allies / White Privilege Discussion Group

*Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays, 1:15-2:15 PM, and Sundays 8:30-9:30 AM*

All are welcome to join our ongoing discussion group on white privilege and racism. Topics are announced via email. [Email Karen Hager](#) to join the listserv to receive links to the discussion articles.

*Please note that both groups now meet in our Library.*

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## Meditation Group

*Meets Tuesdays 7-8 PM*

Our meditation group meets weekly for those interested in starting or deepening their meditation practice. Our format is drop-in, so you need not attend all sessions. Open with centering words and basic instruction, followed by sitting practice. Meditators from all traditions and all levels of experience are welcome.



## Conversations on Our Faith

*Meets Wednesdays 12-1 PM*

Bring a brown bag lunch and join our conversation as we read our current book, *Einstein's God*, by Krista Tippet. All are welcome, even if you have not read the chapters of the book under discussion. Group members share their insights and personal experiences, and all thoughts and opinions are welcome. To learn more, contact [Tim Pickering](#).

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UUC is joining other UU congregations in taking the *Pledge to End Racism*. Some of those in our *White Allies / White Privilege* Discussion Groups will be participating in an upcoming workshop to Train the Trainers on Friday, **December 8** (5:30-8:30 PM) and Saturday, **December 9** (9 AM - 4 PM). This workshop is open to all who are interested in helping to lead or facilitate subsequent anti-racism workshops. You do not need to be part of either discussion group to participate. If interested and available to participate in the workshop, contact [Barbara Taylor](#). Learn more about Living the Pledge at <https://richmondpledge.org/livingthepledgeworkshop/resources/>.

**LIVING** the **PLEDGE**   
to end racism

# UUC Community News

## News from the Green Team

### Social Justice Team for Climate Change and the Environment

**Our Mission:** *UUC will be dedicated to preserving and protecting the earth. In our work, we will combine service, advocacy for structural change, and a focus on environmental justice; we will promote environmental justice for the peoples of the earth.*

The scope of the team's current work includes:

- ◆ Information gathering and planning for Green Sanctuary recertification
- ◆ Revitalizing the *Green Team* to support ongoing and new environmental programs
- ◆ Developing information resources for environmental awareness and collaboration
- ◆ Searching for new ways to integrate environmental justice and spiritual care for the earth into our congregational and individual lives
- ◆ Collaborating with LFD on a monthly environmental film series beginning **January 12** with *An Inconvenient Sequel* hosted by YRUU



## Service and Event Cancellation

In the event of snow or ice resulting in our canceling a Sunday service, a message will be sent to all those on our announcement listserv by 8:30 AM. You can also check for a message on our [website](#), on our [Facebook page](#), or go to [wsls.com](#) and look under the list of church closings. This should also run across the top of your TV screen on WSLs Channel 10.

The same procedure would be used to cancel an event other than a service.

## November Board Meeting Update

- ◆ The Board accepted a gift of \$5000 to pay down the mortgage.
- ◆ Bryan Ward was approved to serve on the Personnel Committee.
- ◆ A date for Rev. Pam's installation will be set shortly.
- ◆ Estimates are being reviewed for resurfacing and repair of our parking lot.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, **December 14** at 7 PM. The [minutes and reports](#) of meetings for the past two calendar years are available. Contact [administrator](#) for login info.

**Questions, Ideas, Complaints for the Board:** Simply send an email to [adresstheBoard@uucnr.org](mailto:adresstheBoard@uucnr.org).

## Update on 1/2-Plate Donations

Thanks to your generosity, UUC continued its practice of helping others in both our community and beyond. The November recipients and amounts donated were:

November 5: Plenty!, \$235

November 12: Montgomery County Christmas Store, \$353

November 19: Lifestraw Safe Water Fund, \$155

November 26: Bobcat's Backpack Program, \$158

Watch the weekly announcements and website for the coming weeks' 1/2-plate recipients. Have a suggestion—fill out the form in Elarth Hall and place in the lantern or email [Lisa](#).



## Meet Our Newest Members



**Melanie Bussard** has been a UU for many years in Charlotte. A retired social worker, she moved to Warm Hearth this spring. A lifetime member of the NAACP, she is interested in social justice and environmental issues.

Joyce Graham lives in Elliston on a farm that has been in her family for years. Taught in public schools and at Radford University in English Department until her career change in land development and managing the family farm. She and her partner, Linda Wilson, attended years ago and we are happy to have Joyce back with us.



**Jamie McRenolds** is an ordained UU minister and the partner of our own Pam Philips. Jamie moved here from Charlottesville in the summer and became active immediately. He joined the choir and is a member of *Conversations on our Faith* and the

*White Privilege/White Allies* group. He is also active in community social justice organizations and volunteers for RAFT and Good Samaritan Hospice.

## Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics

A new support group for Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) is holding its first meeting on Thursday, **December 7** at 7 PM and will meet weekly. This group is open to all in our local community so tell your friends who may benefit from participating.

ACA is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition program for adults who grew up in alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional homes. The ACA program was founded on the belief that family dysfunction is a disease that infected us as children and affects us as adults. Our membership also includes adults from homes where alcohol or drugs were not present; however, abuse, neglect or unhealthy behavior was. We meet to share our experience and recovery in an atmosphere of mutual respect. We discover how alcoholism and other family dysfunction affected us in the past and how it influences us in the present. We begin to see the unhealthy elements of our childhood. This is a drop-in group for anyone who thinks they might benefit from attending.

Questions? Contact [Jamie McReynolds](#), [Cynthia Luke](#) or [Art Buikema](#).

## Tax Deductible Donations to UUC

Anyone who donated to UUC during 2017 will receive an email with an attachment listing all your tax-deductible donations by the end of January. It will include both pledge and non-pledge donations. Thanks to all for your very generous support of UUC which enables us to continue our good work both in our congregation and in the wider community.

## From UUC's Treasurer, Bill Baker

### Do You Make Amazon.com Purchases?



As you may be aware, when you shop on Amazon, UUC can receive income at no additional cost to you. Simply go to our website's [fundraising page](#) where you will see information on ordering from Amazon.

Simply click on the [Amazon link](#). (You can also right click on this and select *save target as* to save it to your desktop or you can bookmark the site to a favorites toolbar. This saves you the hassle of going to UUC's website each time you shop.) Then just shop as always.

### Did you know that...

- ◆ Our mortgage principal balance is \$819,148 with an interest rate of 4.35%. Interest paid to date in calendar year 2017 is \$33,415. On January 1, 2010, the principal balance was \$980,000. We currently pay \$98/day in interest.
- ◆ We have \$48,000 in member loans with interest varying from 2.3% to 3.0%. Total interest on these loans for 2017 will be \$1,324.
- ◆ We just received two gifts totaling \$7,000 to pay down our mortgage principal. Special thanks to the generous donors!

## Service Auction Recap

This year's service auction, *Frontier Days*, was a lot of fun and raised over **\$20,000** towards our operating budget! Many thanks to the **68 donors of over 271 goods and services** and the **87 buyers** who contributed to this success. In addition, \$120 was contributed from the 50/50 raffle to help our *Climate Change and Environmental Justice Team*. The children's *Frontier Days* party was popular with the children, while the adults were encouraged to bid early and often by auctioneers Molly Lazar, Jim Kern, and Steve Keighton. Special thanks go to the more than 50 volunteers who helped put on the event through a variety of jobs from set-up through clean-up and to everyone who brought food on auction night.

Don't forget you can find what you bought and sold by checking the **Member Statement** tab on the [auction website](#). Questions? Contact [Linda Powers](#).

**Auction Committee:** Chris Clark, Rachel Craine, Lisa Evanylo, Monte Hager, Carol Kern, Gretchen Luke, Beth McClellan, Molly McClintock, Ann Norris, Irene Peterson, Joe Powers, Linda Powers, Helen Renqvist, Polly Stimson, and Pat Traynor.



## Holiday Volunteer Opportunities

UUC's Community Service Team invites you to participate in two holiday volunteer activities which benefit our NRV neighbors.

The Montgomery County Christmas Store is seeking volunteers to assist shoppers when the store is open on **December 5-9**. Volunteers may sign up online via this [link](#). Simply select preferred day, time and position.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> volunteer opportunity benefits the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP). The program, *Wrapping for a Reason*, is seeking volunteers to help wrap gifts at a wrapping station at the NRV Mall. Donations from shoppers provide assistance to local community members. Volunteers may sign up online via this [link](#) to select preferred day and time.

For additional information contact [Alison Armstrong](#) or [Pauletta Copenheaver](#).

## Pictures from the Auction



Our check-in helpers



Live auction items



Awesome donation made by kids at their fun party



Enjoying food & drink



The live auction



## Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sunday Services December 2017

Services at 10:00 AM in the Meeting Hall  
Religious Education Classes and Nursery Care  
All are invited to share coffee & conversation following the service.

### Theme for December: *Hope*

**December 3:** Rev. Pam Philips, *Sowing Hope*. One of the entreaties in the Prayer of St. Francis asks where there is despair, let me sow hope. How might we sow hope in the world, for others and ourselves? UUC's Choir will sing at the service.

**December 10:** Karen Hager, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, and Rev. Pam Philips, *Multi-Generational No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant*. Join in the fun for our annual holiday service - this year based on the Dr. Seuss classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Buddies will meet and sit together during the service.

All are invited to our monthly potluck following the service.

**December 17:** Rev. Pam Philips, *Faith and Hope*. As religious liberals, we sometimes have difficulties articulating our beliefs, our theology. What is the basis of our faith, in what do we have hope, and how does it inform how we might act in the world? UUC's Choir will sing at the service.

**December 24:** Rev. Pam Philips, *Birth of Hope*. On this day before Christmas, we'll explore how hope may be born in the darkest and coldest time of the year. No RE or nursery care today.

**December 31:** Rev. Pam Philips, *Hopes for the New Year*. On the eve of the new year, we have an opportunity to set aside what no longer serves us and look toward the future with a sense of hope and renewal. No RE or nursery care today.

### Our Mission

***Inspire. Create. Transform.***

**Inspire** spiritual and ethical growth. **Create** compassionate community.  
**Transform** our community and the world through courageous love.

### Our Vision

UUC will be a beacon of liberal religion in the New River Valley.  
We will join with other organizations and faiths to work for just causes.  
We will practice generosity and radical hospitality.  
We will be known as a place of beauty, welcome, joy, and celebration.



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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# CALENDAR: December 2017

## Staff Office Hours:

**Minister:** 9-1 Tu - Th; Contact for appointment  
**Administrator:** Mon. 9-12; Fri. 1- 4  
**DLFD:** Contact for appointment

All times are PM unless noted otherwise

⌘ indicates that there is a write-up in the newsletter

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>(All Sundays)</b> 10:00 AM Worship Service & Children's RE. <b>(No RE on December 10, 24, and 31)</b> 6:00 YRUU <b>(except on December 24 and 31)</b>	<b>(All Mondays)</b> 7:00 AM Women's & Men's Breakfast at <i>Panera Bread</i> (Bburg)	<b>(All Tuesdays)</b> ⌘ 7:00 Meditation	<b>(All Wednesdays)</b> ⌘ Noon Conversations on Our Faith Choir rehearsals: 6:00 Children 7:00 Adult <b>(No choir rehearsals on December 27)</b>	<b>(All Thursdays)</b> 5:00 Social-Justice Team <b>(except Dec. 28)</b> ⌘ 7:00 Adult Children of Alcoholics Support Group	<b>1</b> ⌘ Noon Women's Lunch Bunch: <i>Avellino's</i> (Bburg)	<b>2</b> 2:00 Memorial Service for John Cairns
<b>3</b> ⌘ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle ⌘ 11:30 OWL 8-9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Info meeting 11:30 Auction Wrap-up 11:30 Men's Group ⌘ 6:30 ESS Full-Moon Ritual (offsite)	<b>4</b> 5:00 Council Meeting	<b>5</b> 2:00 Sages 4:30 Mental-Health Justice Ministry	<b>6</b> 6:00 Connection Committee ⌘ 7:00 OWL 8-9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Info meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> ⌘ 5:30 Train the Trainers <i>Living the Pledge</i> Anti-Racism Workshop	<b>9</b> ⌘ 8:30 AM Anti-Racism Workshop continues ⌘ 9:00 <i>Adopt a Highway</i> Clean Up 5:00 Parents' Covenant Group ⌘ 7:00 Holiday Benefit Concert
<b>10</b> Buddy Project ends ⌘ 8:30 AM <i>White Allies / White Privilege</i> discussion group ⌘ 10:00 Holiday Multigenerational Service ⌘ 11:15 2 <sup>nd</sup> -Sunday Potluck	<b>11</b> ⌘ 7:00 <i>Story of God</i> (Adult RE)	<b>12</b> 4:30 Committee on Ministries	<b>13</b> ⌘ 1:15 AM <i>White Allies / White Privilege</i> discussion group 5:45 Finance Committee 7:30 Worship Team	<b>14</b> 7:00 Board Meeting	<b>15</b> ⌘ Noon Women's Lunch Bunch: <i>Prestons</i> (The Inn at VT) ⌘ 6:30 Middle-School Youth Group	<b>16</b> ⌘ 5:00 ESS Solstice Celebration Gathering
<b>17</b> ⌘ 8:30 AM Sunday Circle 11:20 Get-to-know UUC 11:30 Men's Group 11:30 Stewardship Committee 5:00 Youth-Adult Committee	<b>18</b> ⌘ 6:00 Mental Health Supprt Groups	<b>19</b> 2:00 Sages 4:30 <i>National Alliance on Mental Illness</i> meeting 7:00 Lay-Pastoral-Care Ministries	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> ⌘ 5:30 Christmas Eve Service and Potluck	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 January Newsletter Deadline	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> ⌘ 9:00 <i>Dances of Universal Peace</i>	<b>UUC offices closed December 24 through January 1</b>					