

The Community Spirit

Newsletter of the Northwest Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

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Services are held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
at 5920 Highway 6 North
just south of West Little York, behind the Casa Ole
in Houston, Texas.
For further information call 281-550-8884
or check our web site at
www.nwcuuc.org



Upcoming Services

August 3

"Signs of Compassionate Community"

by Dr. Mike Luedde

Using words from Carl Jung, Jesus, Jim Marion, Bob Marley and a few of his own, Dr. Luedde will describe the pathway to a compassionate community of transformed persons. This sermon is part of his continuing project of rescuing Jesus from Christianity.

August 10

"Let Your Life Speak"

by Dr. Barbara Coeyman

Are we living authentic lives? Do we listen to our true callings in life, especially in choosing our vocations? We can find guidance for vocation from Parker Palmer, a Quaker writer, teacher, and workshop leader. Parker calls us to listen for what your life intends to do with you. In addition to vocation, Parker also writes and lectures on the topic of reform in education.

August 17

"A Language of Reverence: What's All the Fuss About?"

by Dr. Barbara Coeyman

The President of the Unitarian Universalist Association recently called for this liberal religious movement to explore vocabulary for a new language of reverence, that is, a common vocabulary for speaking about the holy. Some UUs are edgy about this issue, while others welcome its potential for addressing the current spiritual quests of many members. Come figure out where you stand in the discussion.

August 24

"Water Ceremony"

Come reconnect with your friends as we mark the end of summer vacations and the beginning of the fall RE calendar. Please bring a sample of water from your summer travels. The waters of all our travels will be mingled with those of previous years to mark our connections with each other and with our earth home.

August 31

To Be Announced



President's Letter



I've been thinking a lot about "community" lately.

We discussed that theme last Sunday at Spiritual Parenting, and with my recent surprise appendectomy, I got to be the recipient of the love that Community offers – roses from Kay, Shrimp Creole from Pam, babysitting from Katy, well-wishes and offers for help from everyone. Oh yes, and a scolding from Era for not calling her at 4 am!

Next week, I get to be in the middle of Community in a larger sense – SWUUSI, where hundreds of UU's get together.

The Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute is a truly unique and wonderful experience. Many folks, myself included, feel very liberated to be surrounded by others whom you know share your own religious reference point when it comes to tolerance, freedom of belief, and finding value in many different theologies.

It's this same feeling that I hope guests to our church feel – the same thing I hope we all feel – that when you walk into Northwest Community UU Church, you are in place where your beliefs will not only be tolerated, they will be honored. Each new viewpoint, each new philosophy that enters our community enriches us all.

That's why the word "community" is such an important part of our name. It's not about serving the Northwest community of Houston, though we do. More importantly, it explains that our church is centered around being a Community. In the words of our new member installation ritual, "This church is a cradle for our dreams and a workshop for our common endeavors."

I am glad I am a part of this Community.

Joanna Crawford

p.s. Assuming that we can find a place to plug in a computer, I'll be keeping a blog of the SWUUSI experience. If you're interested, you can read it at <http://nwcuuc.org/swuusiblog/blogger.html>

Ministerial Musings



So the question about liberal religion that I am hearing often lately is "Where is the unity in our diversity?" That is, what do Unitarian Universalists have in common? What keeps us together? I heard this question frequently during our recent General Assembly in Boston, and I hear it asked by members and guests of this congregation. One of the attractions of liberal religion is the freedom of individual choice in the direction of our path each of us follows. Here in this freedom, however, lies the rub, because freedom of choice means diversity of belief and viewpoint. How do we unite that diversity?

I think there are several responses to the question of what keeps us together. One lies in the common values expressed in our seven principles. These principles were adopted in the mid-1980s exactly because of a recognized need for more unity in this association of religious liberals. The principles outline the values that each UU congregation has agreed to live by. The principles are generally stated. That generalness, however, also allows them to be applicable to the diverse beliefs and ways of understanding life's profound questions that we represent when we come together in work and in worship.

We hear summaries of the principles nearly every Sunday at the opening of worship, stated as "What We Believe." Let us be reminded here of the complete text.

WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

I hope to address at least some of our principles in more detail in future sermons.

See you in church!

Blessings,

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