

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

~ Creation ~

Our theme for January is "Creation." We'll be looking at the spiritual basis for environmental care and activism. The spiritual basis of anything begins with gratitude, the most fundamental of all spiritual virtues and the ground from which all the others grow. So let me say:

Thank you, Earth. Thank you for air. The sunshine: morning rising beauty of hope; evening setting grace of gratitude. My brain processes the light that comes from the sky as blue – I'm not clear on why or how a bunch of neurons does that. I have a slightly better grasp on why snow is white, and no clue at all why chlorophyll is green. I just know the blue sky, winter's white snow, and spring and summer's green grass and trees are home.

I don't know why blood is red, either -- that vivid aliveness motion inside me, and us -- nor why flower blossoms are so variously, brightly colored.

Thank you, Earth, for ants, worms, beetles, spiders, jellyfish, squid. Thank you for fish: shiny, darting. Thank you for reptiles: tortoises, dark green gators, bright little lizards. Thank you for birds, and the unignorability of the fact of flying. Because they are, and I am they, I, too, fly. Thank you for other mammals, the things with hair and milk-making bodies: foxes and alpacas and manatees and rabbits.

I imagine living on a space station: the view, so deep; the black, and vast starfields, filling me with infinity every day. But it takes ground to be grounded. I was made to be among your colors and life and limited horizons, Earth. Even when it is dangerous, too hot, too cold, too rainy, too dry, I was made for you, Earth. All the 7.7 millions of animal species, all the three hundreds of thousand plant species, all the fungi, protozoa, and chromista, they were made for you, too, and by you, out of dirt and water and sunlight.

Did you make snakes able to be thankful? Have blue jays gratitude? Lobsters? Maybe they are always grateful – and what they aren't able to be is not thankful. This is a wonder to me, who am sometimes ungrateful and who other times, like today, am sky-blue thank you and leaf-green thank you and blood-red thank you and snow-white thank you and mud-brown thank you.

Grateful feels good, Dear Earth, and you offer so much for which. Sometimes I forget. Then I remember again.

Yours faithfully,
Meredith

Sign up for **"Our Story, Our Faith"** taught by Rev. Meredith. Two classes on January 25th and February 1st. See page 7 for details.

Community Unitarian
Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660
www.cucwp.org



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JANUARY SERVICES 10:15 AM

January 5: 3rd Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

The Ecospiritual Imperative

Joining ecological activism with spirituality

Leitmotif: 3rd Principle: acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth

January 12: 4th Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

The Ecospiritual Challenge

Meeting the challenges of the new ecological reality

Leitmotif: 4th Principle: the free and responsible search for truth and meaning

January 19: 5th Sunday of winter.

ML King Weekend.

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Nonviolence

Dr. King's most important legacy.

Leitmotif: 5th Principle: the right of conscience and use of democratic process

January 26: 6th Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Behind the Kitchen Door

What we rarely think about in the restaurant business -- but maybe should.

Leitmotif: 6th Principle: goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

A M O N G U S

In Memory.

Our thoughts are with Adine Usher and her family on the loss of Adine's husband Sam. Sam Usher, a long time very involved member of CUC from Hartsdale, passed away on November 30th. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, January 11th at CUC at 3 pm.

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout January contact Janet Giewat at 617-2137 or Robert Youngman at 948-2973.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustees Updates...

As the year draws to a close, I thought I would take time to reflect on where we are in meeting our goals for this year. One of our major goals was to adopt a mission statement, and we are close to finalizing that goal. The Board of Trustees will be calling a congregational meeting on January 12 to vote on a final version of our mission statement. Our thanks to Rev. Meredith for keeping the conversation moving forward at the neighborhood gatherings, and to the Mission Committee (Mary Cavallero, Joe Majsak, Randy Marshall, Al Rocchi, and Janice Silverberg) for all their hard work.

We have continued to strengthen our internal connections and community through monthly gatherings for brunch, an extraordinarily successful auction, and the creation of a Giving Campaign committee to be headed by Bennett Rink – thank you Bennett for taking the lead on this. You will be hearing more from Bennett and the committee after the first of the year. Social justice ministry teams have been launched, and our recent emphasis on holiday giving is going strong, thanks to Ray Messing and the many others who have helped.

An Aesthetics Committee is forming which will have responsibility for considering the atmosphere we want to create not only in the Sanctuary but other

parts of the building as well. I encourage you to stay tuned for how to add your input to this group.

Our Nominating committee is exploring how and if CUC could add leadership development opportunities offered to members.

Goals that we are still working on include developing a small group ministry infrastructure. The Board is hopeful that we can yet begin 2014 with a formal orientation for the congregation regarding the purpose and structure of small group ministries, as well as launching training for small group facilitators.

One area where we have not been as successful as we hoped has been in hiring a youth advisor and strengthening the ministry for that group. We are poised to recruit soon after the holidays with the hope that by starting earlier, we will have a youth advisor in place by September.

Heartfelt wishes for a good holiday season.

***Yours in community,
Ginny Strand, Chair
Board of Trustees***

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Board of Trustees calls a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 12, 2014, following services, for the purpose of voting on a mission statement for CUC.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education: “Happy New You!”

By Lily Rappaport, Acting DRE

The Roman god, Janus, is the god of doorways, of entrances and exits. He symbolizes beginnings, transitions, and the flow between past and future. Depicted with two opposing faces, Janus simultaneously views where he’s been and where he’s going.

His name gives us “*January*.”

The month of January brings opportunity for a fresh beginning. Several years ago, while blessing a new year, a young boy replaced the word “*year*” with “*you*”. “Happy New You!” he gleefully shouted. The idea being both *happy* and *new* has stayed with me since.

This January may we look forward to the changes and opportunities that are to come, and at the same time may we remembering to honor the passing of old traditions and old ways. Transition is a time to rethink the way we do things. We may feel nostalgic for the old, uncertain about the new, or we may take time to grieve. All the while, as we move forward into a new year, may we be grounded with new ideas and continue to ask ourselves questions like, “Who are we?” and “What shall we do next?”

Currently CUC is rewriting its mission statements. The congregation has had several discussions about what brings us together and what we hope to achieve together. We’ve looked at how we can strengthen connections within our community and how we might build an intentional multigenerational community.

While one Congregational Meeting about a new mission statement was going on, the children gathered together to have their own brainstorming session. There were twenty-six children and eight youth, divided into five groups. In each group there were one to three senior high youth who served as facilitators in the discussion about the mission statements.

In general, the children seemed to favor the following phrases:

- Creating spiritual connection by
- Fostering tolerance and understanding
- Opening to life’s diversity
- Serving needs greater than your own

And this year, may you experience a “Happy New You!”

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN 18 AND 35! Join Metro NY District Young Adults on President's Day Weekend (Feb. 14th - 17th) for our Winter Retreat at Frost Valley! This is an opportunity to meet new friends, re-connect with old ones, or just relax in the Catskill Mountains. Make art, go hiking and go snow tubing. Take some time for personal reflection and spiritual growth. Space is limited and registrations are first come, first served. To learn more or to register, go to <http://www.uumetrony.org/ya/fv14/>.

NOMINATING FOR COMMITTEES

The Nominating Committee welcomes your suggestions for members of the congregation whom you believe would be worthy candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees. Please discuss your suggestions with one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Creighton Cray, Erin Foster, Cynthia Roberts, and Ray Schmitt. We are looking for candidates who are actively involved in our community and have a history of service to CUC. If you prefer to do this by email, you can write to the Nominating Committee via schmitt790@verizon.net."

Ordination Of Lara K-J Campbell

Please join us as former CUC Director of Religious Education Lara K-J Campbell becomes a fully ordained minister.

**Sunday, January 26th 4 pm
At Community Unitarian
Church**

RSVP: [http://event.celebrations.com/
lara-ordination](http://event.celebrations.com/lara-ordination)

If you would like to help in any way with this celebration, with advance preparation or on the day of the event, please email laraordination@gmail.com.

POETRY SLAM!

Presented by the Youth Group

A multigenerational event. Friday night fireside sharing of poetry and short stories. Read your original work or read a favorite of someone else. Attend and listen to others.

**Friday, January 10th,
7-9 pm
followed by refreshments**

Let us know what you'd like to read, or if you can provide a snack.

RSVP:

[http://www.signupgenius.com/
go/10C0E4FACA722A6FF2-poetry](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FACA722A6FF2-poetry)

GUIDELINES: All poetry or very very short stories should be 3 minutes or less.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$5

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Through the years, the people who greet people arriving on Sunday morning have been part of a committee that has gone through several name changes. It was called The Membership Committee, because a goal was that visitors who walked through the door would eventually become members and help keep the congregation strong and growing. But then we realized that most of our work began when we greeted a visitor and involved trying to make them feel a part of the congregation. Once they became members we thought there wasn't much for us to do. Hence, the name change to Welcome Committee.

But.....(keep reading)there is another name change. We are now called the Path To Membership Committee because although we "welcome," we also provide a series of events and classes that are, indeed, an opportunity to follow a "path to membership."

And while the work of organizing a plan and following up with visitors is the work of a committee, the work of making visitors feel welcomed and included is the **work of the congregation**. I expect this is a concept with which we all feel comfortable. Those of us who participate fully, in this congregation, know that incredible feeling that comes from having such a large extended family and I believe you want others to feel that connection.

So.... If you can smile and say hello and get to church by 9:45, then perhaps you will help do the work of the congregation by signing up to greet one Sunday morning. Individuals, couples, families and youth are all invited to sign up, There is a sign up sheet in the lobby or you can email at jrdixon@optonline.net or call me directly at 914-949-5919. If you greet, please know that you will not have to miss any of the service. There are 26 Sundays left in the church year. Will you let visitors see what CUC means to you, by sharing your smile and your welcome on one of those Sundays? We hope so.

~ Submitted by Jane Dixon

CUC donated \$2860 to the Food Pantry in November following the recent appeal for funds to purchase special Thanksgiving food. Thanks to all who contributed so generously. You helped 262 families.

Vicky Van Wert



CUC filled an entire car with gifts for children of inmates at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility! CUC also succeeded in covering all the requests for gift cards for children at the Coachman Family Center, and we even have a few extra gift cards for families that arrive at the Coachman in recent weeks and were not there for the sign-up. In total 189 Coachman children were given gifts!

Ray Messing



**Bird/Nature Walk at CUC
January 5, 2013
(It's National Bird Day!)**

To commemorate National Bird Day and the theme of the month, Creation, we will have a bird walk on the **CUC grounds at 8:30am** before the Sunday morning service. **Meet behind the parsonage near the garage.**

(Yes, it's early -- but the early bird sees the birds!)

Come prepared for cold, and bring your favorite bird poem or reading to share. After we end the outdoor portion of the activity we can regroup in the parsonage to watch birds at the feeders from the warmth of the den and a fire. Bring binoculars, although there will be extra pairs for your use. The goal is to be nourished by the beauty and wonder of nature, build community and grow relationships, and start compiling a bird list of species observed on CUC property so we can contribute as citizen scientists to the world's knowledge of bird populations.

Led by Rev. LoraKim Joyner, DVM. If you have any questions, you may contact her at amoloros@gmail.com.

Adult RE: Our Story, Our Faith

led by Rev. Meredith Garmon

Sat Jan 25 and Sat Feb 1

Noon - 2:30pm

The Parsonage



This five-hour workshop/class (two sessions of 2.5 hours each) explores the nature of Unitarian Universalism -- where we've been, where we are, and how to articulate your UU faith. Truly a class for long-timers and newbies alike. Please plan to be there to take advantage of this chance to understand UUs -- including yourself -- better.

"BEHIND THE KITCHEN DOOR"

CUC WILL PARTICIPATE IN 2013-2014 UUA COMMON READ

Reverend Meredith along with some members of the congregation will lead a discussion on this year's book, Behind the Kitchen Door.

How do restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America? And how do poor working conditions—discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens—affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables?

Copies are on sale at CUC. You'll have plenty of time to get the reading done, as the discussion won't take place until later in the winter or early spring. Please plan on joining us for this congregational event.



Snow Closing Guidelines

Sunday service is never cancelled ... but meetings, events, and Religious Education can be cancelled due to bad weather.

You can find out if activities have been cancelled by:

- * Going to the homepage of our website at cucwp.org, where closings will be posted.
- * Checking the church's main line greeting at 946-1660.
- * Checking your emails from CUC & Facebook.

Information will be available at these times:

- * By 7 am for Sunday morning activities, including Religious Education.
- * By 1 pm for Sunday afternoon and evening events.
- * By 3 hours before the event for Saturday activities.
- * By 3 pm for weekday evening meetings and special events.

**Need a member's phone number but can't find your directory?
Can't place that name with a face?
Your Member Directory is now online!**

online directory!

You can now go online to CUC's website for all that and more. Since our online member directory is private, for member/friend use only, you must first obtain a password to use the system. Please e-mail Karen Schmitt at schmitt8@verizon.net for your personal login information. After you have received this, go to CUC's website, and on the right hand side of the homepage, under "News and Events", you will see a link to the "Online Member Directory". Click on that link, and you are ready to go. (Thanks to Margaret Gold for taking us electronic!)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) ~ DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Upcoming scheduled webinars from the Central East Regional Group (CERG)

<http://www.cerguua.org>

January 9, 2014: Multicultural Ministry with Children

January 16, 2014: The Price of Renewal: Why Dying and Rebirth are Essential Components of Growth

January 31-February 2: Youth Con at CUC

Save the date:

Building the Beloved Community: An Intercultural Competency Workshop: February 8, 2014,
Community Unitarian Church at White Plains, White Plains NY.

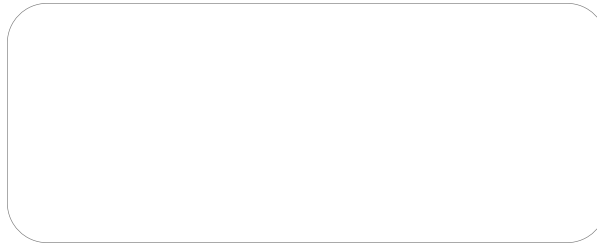
The UU United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar for Adults and Youth is scheduled for April 3-5, 2014. The theme is Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with keynote speakers the Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President, and Vyda Ng, Interim Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council. Registration will be open in January 2014. <http://www.uua.org/international/events/seminar/>

The 2014 District Annual Meeting will be held May 2-3, 2014, at the Hyatt Morristown in Morristown NJ

~ January 2014 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4
5 9a-10a COA Mentor Matching (R11) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Welcome Committee Meeting (R41) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	6 Epiphany 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	7 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (FH)	8	9 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (R24)	10 7p-10p Poetry Slam (Youth Group) (FA)	11 9a-2p BOT Retreat (Off Site) 3 pm Memorial Service -Sam. Usher
12 9a-10a COA Mentor Matching (R11) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30 am CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	13 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	14 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (FH) 7:30p-10p RE Council (R41)	15 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	16 9:30a-2:30p LREDA meeting (R43\, FH)	17	18
19 Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Inside the Music (Sanc)	20 Martin Luther King 8a-9a OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	21 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (FH)	22	23 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	24	25 12p-2:30p Our Story Our Faith (Parsonage)
26 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care 10a-11:30a RE Classes 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12p Newcomers Orientation (R 12) 11:30a-12p UU Roots 4 p Lara Campbell Ordination	27 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	28 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (FH)	29	30	31 Metro NY Dist Youth Con (All)	

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468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



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Community Unitarian Church
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Founded 1909

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Communitarian Deadline for the next edition:

Sunday, January 19

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