

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

~ VISION ~

The "Theme of the Month" for September is "Vision." To begin that theme, let me describe a vision for theme-based ministry.

Each monthly theme plays a part in the development of a well-grounded religious and spiritual life. The church's offerings each month are by no means limited to the themes. However, these topics provide an axis around which many elements of church life gain more meaning and depth. The themes provide us with a set of common stories and ideas that become elements of an ongoing community conversation. The purpose is to engage and empower CUC and its members to think theologically and live our ministry and calling both at home and in the wider world -- thereby also strengthening the Unitarian Universalist network of congregations so engaged and empowered.

Be warned: Seriously engaging these themes could transform your life!

A number of North American Unitarian Universalist congregations, responding to a yearning for spiritual depth in their Unitarian Universalist faith and to a need to equip members with resources for living each day with faith, integrity and wisdom, have begun to adopt theme-based ministry and programming. Through this approach, UUs across the continent are learning the language and religious understanding that will guide their own spiritual maturation as well as facilitating dialogue with people of other backgrounds regarding issues of faith, values, ethics and religion.

Unfortunately, most Unitarian Universalist congregations today do not offer their members a common language of faith, a common set of stories, or a clear and systematic map for developing their own understanding of theology and liberal religion. Members are rarely provided with ways to engage their religious life at various levels of depth and understanding. The result is many congregations with members who are not being offered competency in the areas of liberal theology, biblical literacy, familiarity with World Scripture, or religious ways of dealing with loss, betrayal, addiction, evil, etc.

Moreover, UU congregations often lack significant coordination or collaboration between the Sunday school programming for children and what is being discussed by the adults in worship, classes and small groups. The lack of integration across the lifespan is a missed opportunity for community building and hinders intergenerational religious learning.

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



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A concerted effort to develop our "religious competence" will provide us with resources for dealing with challenges, tragedies, crises -- as well as all the day-to-day minor annoyances -- and finding deepening joy in simple, ordinary life. Development of a spiritual life takes time -- and therefore cannot wait until a time of crisis when we "need it."

Through a theme-based approach, Unitarian Universalists may develop resources for living throughout their lives. We thus are better able to draw on a well-established religious understanding and perspective as we encounter, cope with, and savor, all life's vicissitudes.

Yours in faith, Meredith

SEPTEMBER SERVICES 10:15 AM

September 1

David Finch

The UU United Nations Office

September 8

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Ingathering and Water Communion Service

September 15

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Mission: Possible

September 22

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Vocation: What Is Yours To Do?

September 29

Rev. Michael Tino, minister, UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester in Mt. Kisco

New!

CUC is on Twitter!
Look for and "follow":
"CUCWP".



CUC is on Facebook!



If you haven't done so yet, be sure to "like" the new Facebook page, "Community Unitarian Church." Be sure to select "Get notifications," and "All updates."

Rev. Meredith Garmon (search for "Meredith Garmon") is also on Facebook and encourages all CUC members to "friend" him. He'll gladly "friend" you back!

CAN YOU SMILE AND SAY GOOD MORNING?

If you can answer "yes" to the question above, we need to you greet at least one Sunday during this church year.



At CUC we are a welcoming community. We want to invite everybody in and help them to feel comfortable-that begins when they walk up to our doors. So please check your calendars and pick one or more Sundays when you can join us to greet at 9:45, before services.

Please email or call Jane Dixon (Welcome Committee chair) at jrdixon@optonline.net or 914-949-5919.

SPEAKING OF SMILES ...

The new CUC Photo Directories are here!

If you had a photo taken for the directory, come pick up your directory during coffee hour on

September 15th, 22nd, or 29th.

Special thanks to Anne Majsak, Liliana Keith, Margaret Gold, Jane Dixon and all those who submitted photos to help make the directory possible!

Karen and Ray Schmitt

AND ANOTHER WELCOME!

CUC rents physical space on a short term basis (such as film crews), and on longer terms (such as the Montessori School). We've recently invited another group to share CUC space during the week on a long term basis.

Westchester Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy (WCSPP) is a not-for-profit educational institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents in 1974. The Center offers training programs to psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and other mental health professionals who are already established in their careers and are seeking an additional advanced educational experience.

The WCSPP office will be housed in R 23 at CUC starting Sept 1st, 2013 and their classes will be offered on Tuesday nights in the RE classrooms. We welcome them!

Also space can be rented by you for parties, recitals, weddings, etc. Speak to church administrator Liliana Keith for details.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Welcome Back – Welcome Home

As I started to write this it was to say “Welcome Back” after what I hope was a restful and enjoyable summer, but I realized that for many of us returning it is actually a “Welcome Home” - a return to our spiritual community at CUC . For those just joining us this year, it is also to say that we hope that you, too, find this to be your spiritual home.

As some of you know, the Board of Trustees continues to meet over the summer. This summer we were busy overseeing the small improvements that needed to be made to the parsonage to welcome Meredith and LoriKim, who successfully moved in July 11. FYI, Board members include Randy Marshall, Vice-Chair, Johanna Bauer, Secretary, Nicky Klemens, Treasurer, members at large: Janet Bear, Russ Gold, Ingrid Hartmann, Barry Litcofsky, Bennett Rink, Karen Schmitt, Bob Smith, and youth representative Charlotte (Charlie) Blatt. The Board has begun to plan for the coming year.

An initial focus has been our building. We have had years of doing the minimum in terms of repairs due to our financial situation. A bright spot will be the arrival of a new long-term tenant, the Westchester Center for the Study of Psychology and Psychotherapy (WCSPP). They have signed a three-year lease and will be using 8 classrooms on Tuesday nights and an additional classroom has been dedicated to them for an office, which will no longer be available for CUC use. This will not impact this year on our need for classrooms, as we do not currently use all the classrooms on Sunday morning, and we have preserved 3 classrooms for CUC use on Tuesday nights. As we continue to grow, the space devoted to this group and our other long-term tenant, the Montessori school, will need to be re-evaluated. To help us think about this, as well as to develop a plan for repair and renovation to our building, the Board has asked the Buildings and Grounds committee to come up with both a short-term and long-term plan for the building.

The Board has also begun to plan for a fall retreat in September. One focus will be to revisit goals set last year and to re-define or define new goals for this year. Over the last year, the Board identified and began work on a number of initiatives. A main focus was the spiritual life of CUC, and a major goal was to have a successful search for a settled minister. We have achieved that. A second goal related to the spiritual life of the congregation was the completion of a mission statement. While we have not finished that, it is begun and you will be hearing more about this from Meredith and the committee working with him shortly. A third goal was to develop small group ministry. Again look for more information about this from Meredith and the Board in the coming months.

Other initiatives planned and needing refinement are the role and form of commitment to social justice at CUC, and an updating of our by-laws and governing structure.

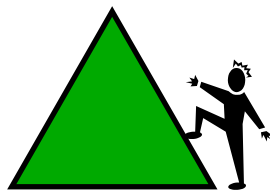
Please feel free to give ideas or feedback to me or any Board of Trustee member at any time. Board meetings are always open to the congregation – we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. I look forward to being together with you all at our Ingathering on Sunday, September 8, 2013.

*Yours in community,
Ginny Strand, Board Chair*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Register for school, soccer, piano lessons, karate,
AND CUC!

If you haven't yet registered your child/youth for Religious Education, you can do so online. Visit our homepage at cucwp.org and click on "Register for RE".



Our Preschool room would appreciate gently used dolls, puzzles, books, cars, trucks, blocks and other toys appropriate for children in the nursery. Donations can be dropped off in the Resource room or the DRE's office.



Religious Education Council

Religious Education takes a *Community*, more than the parents of youth alone. We welcome adults of all ages to guide our young. Please consider joining us this year to expand our children's minds, hearts and spirits!

The CUC Religious Education Council is looking forward to providing a great experience for the children of CUC this year. The Council had its annual retreat in early August with an eye to hitting the ground running. Many exciting activities have been proposed, and we look forward to the active participation of the congregation to help it all come together. Please keep an eye out for opportunities to help our R.E. program flourish.

For those who are interested in either teaching Sunday school, occasional support or in being a mentor to our coming of age class, please contact Lily Rappaport, our Acting Director of Religious Education. Either experience is extremely rewarding and provides an opportunity to make a difference in our children's lives.

~ Joe Magnus, Religious Education Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

21st Century Faith Formation

I still remember the trusty Smith Corona electric typewriter on which I used to write papers in college. With correction tape it was so much easier than using the old manual typewriter. After graduation, I was introduced to a personal computer. Unlike today's laptops or notebooks, it was a big, clunky machine. However it was easy to see tremendous possibilities.

In the 1990's, the information superhighway of digital communication and the internet became mainstream. It converged television, telephone, computer and various enterprises into a single interactive information commodity. The 21st century had arrived, and so did an explosion of new communication technologies, including Google, Facebook, Wikipedia, Google+, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and blogging. People today have immediate access to the growing digital content. For many today, being online is a way of life.

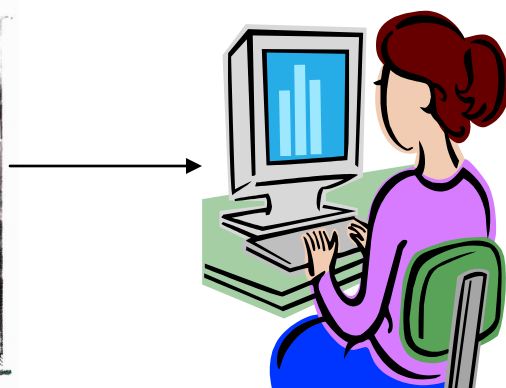
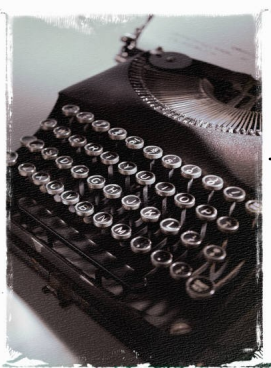
Digital media and the world-wide web have already altered the way many congregations do church. In August, Reverend Meredith and I attended a three-day educational program held in Princeton, New Jersey. The program, called ***The Vision and Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation***, was an interactive and engaging experience that explored the changing landscape of 21st century faith formation: changing religious practices, changing technologies, and changing society.

In the training, we examined the impact of the new technologies and how congregations are using these platforms to nurture spiritual growth and facilitate interpersonal relationships. We learned about new approaches, models and technologies that are available today and how they can be used to further develop our faith.

This year we intend to take necessary steps to bring our RE program further into the 21st Century. We plan to develop and expand CUC's online digital platforms and offer a variety of resources that should facilitate growth. We'll provide resources for parents to help develop their parenting skills and to network with other parents. RE teachers can go online to gather content to enhance programming in the classrooms. We'll explore ways that a digital platform can build our community outside of the walls of the church.

Religious Education is not just what happens at church on Sunday mornings. It is what happens for everyone, anytime, anywhere.

~ Lily Rappaport, Acting Director of Religious Education



[Www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)



OTHER EVENTS...

Share the Plate

For the month of September, twenty-five percent of the Sunday offering (not counting checks specifically marked "pledge") will be donated to:

SHORE—Sheltering the Homeless is Our Responsibility.

SHORE “an all-volunteer, interfaith, not-for-profit housing organization in central Westchester County, NY, began in 1985 when a half-dozen churches and temples joined forces and opened their doors to provide overnight shelter for nineteen single, homeless adults. In the years since, **SHORE** has expanded its mission to include other housing-related programs, primarily permanent, affordable rental homes for homeless families. “



For more information visit: shelteringthehomeless.org.

The 2013-24 Themes:

See Rev. Meredith's article on page one for details about theme based ministry.

September: Vision.

As we discover our vocation we must develop a vision of how to use our unique gifts.

October: Evil

We will explore the role of real and perceived evil in our lives.

November: Democracy

Democracy is born of the revolutionary idea that individuals can govern themselves and can choose to put the common good above their own self-interest.

December: God

Human concepts of God are many and various. How can we best understand them?

January: Creation

One unique human quality is the capacity to imagine, create, and bring new things into being.

February: Religious Authority

Is it possible that the final authority in religion is oneself?

March: Redemption

The possibility for redemption after we have made a mistake or caused harm is a great blessing.

April: Freedom

Concepts of freedom are as intrinsic to our faith as they are to our country.

May: Mercy

Even at times when justice is beyond our reach, there is the possibility for mercy.

Jun-Aug: Ecospirituality

How can we facilitate the connections to nature that develop our spirits?



CHOIR NEWS

The CUC Choir is looking forward to another exciting year. We have some events coming up to mark in your calendar for you to participate in and attend:

Sunday, Sept. 22 – Choir Open House:

11:45-12:45pm in the Sanctuary after Coffee Hour

Sit in with the Choir and sing rounds, folk songs, and some UU favorites and find out how much fun we have and how we make such great music.

Saturday, Oct. 12 – Choir Fundraiser: Celebrate the 60s and 70s!

6:00-9:00pm, in the Sanctuary

Come and join Lisa Meyer and the CUC Choir for dinner and a sing-along featuring music by the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Peter Paul and Mary, Pete Seeger and other favorite songs from that time. A fun night out for families and get-togethers with friends. Admission is \$25, \$10 for children under 12.

Saturday, March 29 – UU Choral Festival at CUC: 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

The CUC Choir will be joined by three other NY UU congregations to collaborate in a concert to celebrate fellowship through music. More details to come – mark it in your calendars!

Welcome Alex!

The CUC Choir welcomes Alex Arellano as our new Choral Intern for the coming year.

Alex has occasionally sung with the Choir over the past several years and is looking forward to developing his conducting skills during the next 10 months with us. Alex has a B.M. in Music Education degree with a concentration in cello performance from the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University. Along with the Orchestra and String Ensemble, he was very active in three of the vocal ensembles at Post.

We are looking forward to working with this versatile musician and assisting him to attain his musical goals during the coming season.

The CUC Choir is looking for new members!

- **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ MUSIC!**
- **All voice parts are welcome.**
- **You just have to be able to match pitch - we'll help you learn the rest!**
- **Dedication is needed – you only make progress if you attend rehearsals each Tuesday night from 7:30pm to 9:15pm, but with only 2 Sunday services to participate in each month, the commitment is very doable.**
- **If a weekly commitment is not possible, we can work with those that can only attend the Tues. rehearsal before Sundays in which the Choir performs.**
- **If you cannot join long-term, sing with us for special events like concerts and holidays.**
- **Ages 12 and up are welcome.**
- **You do not have to be a member of CUC to sing with us.**

We perform a variety of repertoire including world music, American spirituals and folk songs, Christian and Hebrew anthems, and contemporary pieces relating to family, nature, and the challenges and joys of life. There is always something for everyone.

Please contact Choir Director Lisa Meyer at 516-299-2475 during the day, 347-278-3187 after 7pm, or at choir@cucwp.org at any time, for more information. If you wish to observe or sit in on a rehearsal to see what it's like, please do – all are welcome!

Saturday, November 16, 2013

is not just another Saturday night...it's

Midnight in Madrid

CUC's fabulous night of auctions, food and fun

Save the Date

Preview at 5:30; Auctions start at 6:00

*To donate items, for tickets or for more information call
914.948.1660*

*A fundraiser for the Community Unitarian Church at White Plains
468 Rosedale Avenue*



Save the Date for a Flamboyant Evening!
Saturday, November 16th

And -- Help us prepare for the Goods and Services Auction by asking

Just 1 Question

It is easy to do! Simply walk into your favorite restaurant, salon, shop, coffee shop, golf course or other merchant and ask:

“Would you be willing to make a donation to support a very worthy cause?”

Merchants are happy to support their regular customers and to receive the free promotion we give them at the auction.

For more information and to get a formal letter requesting the donation, contact Ann Marie Damashek at scottam@verizon.net or Catherine Kortlandt at cemk_99@yahoo.com

**The Auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year.
We need everyone's help to make it a success.
Even if you cannot come to the auction, you can help.
All you need to do is ask Just 1 Question.**

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout September contact **Barbara Mair** at 769-7186 or Barbara.mair@verizon.net, or **Janet Giewat** at 617-2137 or bean1a2@aol.com.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) ~ DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

This year's General Assembly (GA) took place in June in Louisville, KY. I attended via online streaming for 35 hours and I was not disappointed. So again General Assembly featured worship with some incredible preaching, workshops and a business meeting where delegates from congregations across the country listen, debate and vote on matters that concern our congregations, the UUA and the world. This year we voted for a new moderator. The moderator's chief role is presiding at the General Assemblies and at meetings of the Board of Trustees. Jim Key won by 40 votes. This year's delegates voted to adopt the statement of conscience for the Congregational Study Action Issue "Immigration as a moral issue." This was a topic that was studied over the past three years and this was the final statement and implementation. See <http://www.uua.org/statements/statements/288860.shtml>.

There were 3 Actions of Immediate Witness. Witness is the public profession by word or deed of the convictions of an individual or group regarding a particular issue. Actions of Immediate Witness profess convictions grounded in Unitarian Universalism. They are proposed to the GA delegates and voted on. The UUA can act and speak on behalf of UU congregations if the delegates vote to pass an action of immediate witness. **This year the three acts of immediate witness were a) Support the proposed 28th "We the people" amendment to the constitution: Corporations are not persons and money is not speech, b) Consider Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry and c) Condemn the racist treatment of young men of color by police.** See <http://www.uua.org/statements/statements/288864.shtml> All passed. I encourage you to read transcripts or watch some of the online demand video of GA on the UUA website. See <http://www.uua.org/ga/2013/index.shtml>.

This year we were asked to think of the promises we make as Unitarian Universalists. What promises do we make to each other; in our congregation, to our communities, to the greater world? They asked us to think about how we show up for each other. This year I hope to help you connect with the congregations in our area, to our district, region and the UUA. I will invite you to attend meetings, conferences and hopefully talk a few of you into attending GA in June 2014 in Providence RI.

The UUA has announced this year's **Common Read** *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman. The book reveals how restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America and how poor working conditions – discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary conditions affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables.

I encourage everyone to purchase a copy and sometime this year lets talk about it and discuss the actions we can take as UU's.

~ Denise Tomlinson, Denominational Affairs



~ September 2013 ~ ~ Theme: Vision ~



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	2 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	5	6	7
8 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10:15a-11:30a Ingathering- Water Communion-Extended Family Ser- vice (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p RE Teacher Orienta- tion (Classroom)	9	10	11 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	12 9:30a-2:30p LREDA meeting (R43\, FH) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (FA)	13	14
15 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes start (FH & classrooms) 10:15a-11:30a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:45 Choir Open House	16 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	17	18	19	20	21
22 Communitarian Deadline 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10:15a-11:30a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:45a-12:45p Welcome Cmt Meet- ing (R41)	23	24	25 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	26 10a-11a COM- MUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	27 8:30p Midnight Run (FH\, KTC)	28
29 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10:15a-11:30a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	30					

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605

Remember to collect water
from your summer travels or
musings—

**Ingathering &
Water Communion**

Sunday, September 8



If you no longer wish to
receive this newsletter, write
'refused' across your
address and return it
unopened. No postage is
required.

Community Unitarian Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
Founded 1909

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Communitarian Deadline for
September Edition:

Sunday, September 22

Submit information to
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