

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:00 am

Accessible to Handicapped

~ February Theme: Love ~ Meredith's Musings: Love

"Of all the worn, smudged, dog's-eared words in our vocabulary, 'love' is surely the grubbiest, smelliest, slimiest. Bawled from a million pulpits, lasciviously crooned through hundreds of millions of loud-speakers, it has become an outrage to good taste and decent feeling, an obscenity which one hesitates to pronounce. And yet it has to be pronounced, for, after all, Love is the last word."

-Aldous Huxley

In Hesiod's *Theogony* (ca. 700 BCE), at first, before there were any other gods, there were just three: Earth, Chaos, and Eros. Eros unnerves the limbs and overcomes the reason of both gods and humans. For the Greeks there were a number of forms of love: heterosexual and homosexual passion, parental, filial, and conjugal affection; fraternal feeling; friendship; love of country; and the love of wisdom (philosophy).

In Plato's *Symposium* (ca. 380 BCE), the guests at a dinner party take turns making speeches on the nature of love. Different viewpoints are presented. It sounds very Unitarian Universalist, except that Plato has clearly arranged the speeches so that each speaker is to be understood as giving us a more adequate account than the previous. The final speech, the superior speech to which all the others lead up, is Socrates'. Through the speeches the distinction is made and developed between love of soul and love of body -- love of soul, of course, being higher and better. The highest form of love, for Plato turns out to be love of wisdom (surprise!) -- that is, love of the divine eternal forms which represent the ideal, immaterial beauty toward which earthly material beauty is merely a signpost pointing the way.

Following up on Plato, psychiatrist Scott Peck says that falling in love isn't love. "Falling in love has little to do with purposively nurturing one's spiritual development. If we have any purpose in mind when we fall in love it is to terminate our own loneliness and perhaps insure this result through marriage." Rather, says Peck actual love "is an action, an activity. Love is not a feeling."

Perhaps material bodily love, as Plato says, is only for preparing us for the immaterial and ideal. Or emotion, as Peck implies, only a start toward spiritual development and action. Or perhaps we can embrace all the things that love is -- each in its appropriate time. Eros, philia (sibling love), agape (generalized beneficence toward all), and everything else that goes by the name "love" are connected -- for all of them are about connecting. Whether in the thrilling flutter of the heart or in the patient years of small acts of care -- whether in the sweeping away of rational faculties or in the employment of our most careful thought in service of a high ideal -- whether in dedication to a mate, or to children, or to parents, or to a tribe of friends -- love is our name for what connects us to something outside of ourselves. Worn and smudged; grubby, smelly, and slimy; love remains the last word.

Community Unitarian
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468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY
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www.cucwp.org
Established 1909



**Nurture Spirituality
Foster Compassion
Engage in Service**

February 2015 Inside this issue:

Page:

Rev. Meredith	1
Sunday Worship	2
Board of Trustees	3
Religious Education	4
Events	6
Calendar	8

FEBRUARY SERVICES

10:00 AM

February 1

7th Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

What's Love Got to Do with It?

Love comes in many, many forms. And loving -- for all the ways it can be mishandled and cause pain -- is good for us.

February 8

8th Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Love and Justice

"Justice is what love looks like in public" (Cornel West). Let's think about how CUC can commit to being a force for justice in our world. A congregational discussion will be part of the service.

February 15

9th Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Instead of Guilt

No one likes to feel guilty -- or, especially, to be *made* to feel guilty. Can we be alive to possibilities to act compassionately in every moment -- but without feeling guilty about our various failures to do so? Yes.

February 22

10th Sunday of winter

Guest speaker and topic TBA.

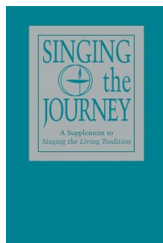
Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout February contact Robert Youngman 948-2973, robeau44@optonline.net or Gail McLeod 235-8212, gail.w.mcleod@gmail.com

Hymnals

We'll be adding to our hymn repertoire and singing out of the new hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey!*

Please think about gifting CUC one or several of these hymnals. For \$18 per hymnal, we'll put a bookplate inside the cover acknowledging your gift or dedicating the hymnal in honor of, or in memory of, someone. Contact the church office, or complete an envelope at Sunday Service.



Reflecting on a news story you wished you could share with your CUC friends?

Want to congratulate a fellow CUC'er, or even simply to request advice?

Join the CUC Forum on Facebook!

The CUC Forum is a Facebook closed group, so you can chat with other CUC members in a space that no one else can see. There are currently 69 members, and we're growing...

To join the CUC Forum, you must first be on Facebook. Then:

- In your Facebook search bar, type in "CUC Forum" and Enter.
- Select the group when it appears as a search result.
- Click on "Join Group".
- A message will be sent to the group administrator, and once you are accepted, you will be able to see and post in the Forum.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From the Chair's Chair

I had the chance to visit another UU congregation in January, the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter (FUUSE). Becky and I were visiting our daughter Zoe who attends Phillips Exeter Academy prep school across the street. She had gotten involved in the UU congregation and invited us to attend the Sunday service with her.

The church was a quaint New England clapboard building with a white interior, seating in pews, and a standard chancel and pulpit. The shoulder high windows that ran the length of the sanctuary on either side gave onto the surrounding bare tree branches and steel gray sky of the January morning. About 100 congregants were in attendance, mostly older folks, along with about a dozen kids with their families. There were no people of color in attendance that day. The service featured a sermon from one of the congregants about climate change, with some readings and commentary by the minister. A choir of about 10 sang a song, and the hymns were drawn from the same hymnal we use, the accompanying music being provided by a Music Minister sitting at an upright piano at the front, facing away from the congregation.

What struck me about the service was its internal focus. The sermon was on climate change, but it focused on the dangers to the New Hampshire sea coast with an expected rise in sea level of 3 or 6 feet depending on whether you listened to the optimists or the pessimists. A fairly long segment of the service was dedicated to joys and concerns voiced by the congregants. We also wrote our worries about the environment on ribbons that were passed to the front, and were each given a puzzle piece to take home to represent how we might fit into the larger puzzle. Although there was a wonderfully warm feeling in the room and we were greeted enthusiastically by some of the congregants at coffee hour, visiting that service made me realize what I like so much about CUC.

There is a certain dynamism in our congregation that is quite noticeable by comparison. Our relative diversity engenders an energy of possibility, of breaking new ground with new people, of hearing new perspectives, of learning and expanding one's horizons. Our congregation is welcoming and I am friends with so many, but the three tenets of our mission urge us to be active in our faith and our community. Our journey groups and worship services urge us to nurture one another and grow through compassion and understanding, and our upcoming plans to engage in social action feel important and outward looking.

I have been a member of CUC for more than 15 years and I have never felt more the possibility of making a difference in the world through our community. Yes, the pledge drive is coming up, which will certainly remind us how much our financial contributions matter to the life and growth of the congregation, but it is experiences like this one that make me realize that the energy and time that all of us put into this place is what directly gives us back so much. We are here for a purpose. We are here to give and take and interact and give some more. At the risk of sounding like a cheerleader with the Super Bowl just around the corner: Go CUC! Rock on!

Enjoy the frosty weather of February! See you at CUC!

Yours in Faith,

Randy Marshall, Chair, CUC Board of Trustees

Perry's Ponderings...



"That was so cool!" two boys in RE exclaimed about their protest march during the Winter Wonderland Brunch as they exited Fellowship Hall. It was cool that they felt proud of their first protest, along with the other children present. They later expressed that they were nervous when they marched in the room with all those people watching, but the crowd was supportive and they found the courage to carry on for their cause.

That Sunday morning of MLK weekend started with a story about Paula Young Shelton, the daughter of Civil Rights activist Andrew Young, who took part in the Selma March when she was four years of age. Paula's story ends with the baton being passed onto the next generation, children of the Civil Rights movement. Our children voted on which human rights they think are most important. They chose "have a voice in any situation that affects you," "have your basic needs met," and "defend your rights if they are being taken away." The children explained that everyone should be able to speak about what they think and believe, but without food, water, and shelter you cannot do anything. In addition, if you cannot defend your rights then you do not actually have them.

It was inspiring to see the children share such poignant thoughts about the importance of rights and how each one affected people's lives. They created their own protest posters and a special chant, before heading to Fellowship Hall for their march. It was an empowering experience for each of them and the loving support of the adults present made it a positive experience. This small moment increased their courage and feeling that they can be heard. As we move from the January congregational theme of *Justice* to the February theme of *Love*, the children experienced the connection between the two. We are loved when we are seen and heard.

Teacher Development Day

**Sunday, February 8
from 8:15-9:45 a.m.**

- Learn more ways to engage the children
- Further your classroom management techniques
- Connect your UU identity to teaching



RE Extraordinary Sunday February 22 at 10 am

Spiritual Practices

An opportunity for children and youth to sample spiritual practices to:

- find calm
- learn to focus
- know themselves better
- be in touch with the world around them



Is your child participating in a scouting program? There are **Unitarian Universalist Faith Emblem Award programs for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.**



We have mentors who will help children through the process. It's a great way to discover more about the meaning of UU identity and connect it with the scouting activities they enjoy. To see the program guides: [CLICK HERE](#)
Please contact Perry for more information.

STITCHING IN SPIRIT

CUC Adult RE Workshop

**Sunday, February 1st
at 11:45 a.m.**

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason, Community Minister



For millennia, fiber arts and handicrafts have figured significantly in people's communal and spiritual lives. This has been especially true for women, historically, although these interests now hold very broad-based appeal. Today we see the resurgence gaining ground in the "maker movement" and crafting circles. Come join affiliated minister and avid crocheter Kelly Murphy Mason in this exploration of what it might mean to our faith community to be "stitching in spirit."

Please feel free to bring with you any handicrafting projects you might have underway – or else just bring an open and inquiring mind. Written materials will be provided at the workshop, but companion volumes to our conversation will include Peace Fibres: Stitching a Soulful World, The Knitting Goddess, Contemplative Crochet, The Knitting Sutra: Craft as Spiritual Practice, Anonymous Was a Woman, and The Prayer Shawl Ministry, Vols. 1-2.

Everyone with any degree of interest is welcome to this event. There is also a possibility that the class may become an ongoing CUC group, given sufficient commitment.

EVENTS

What's In a Name? Small group meetings

We would like everyone's input.
PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING
ONE OF THESE MEETINGS if you
have not done so yet:

**Sunday, February 1st
at 11:40 in room 24.**

**Sunday, February 8th
at 11:40 in room 41.**

THESE MEETINGS WILL NOT
TAKE MORE THAN 20 MINUTES as
our mission is simply to gather infor-
mation from you. Child Care will be
provided. Grab your coffee and come
on over.

It is important that you read the short, infor-
mative packet before completing a survey at
one of the meetings. For the packet: [CLICK
HERE](#), or you can find it on the website
home page. Hard copies are also available on
the welcome table in the lobby.

If you have any questions, please contact any
one of us on the committee. We look forward
to meeting with all of you.

Karen Dreher
John Cavallero
Karen Schatzel
Scott Damashek
Adine Usher



This Chili Will Warm You Up!

**Chili Brunch on Sunday,
February 8
after the service**

Hosted by the 5th-6th grade class to support
their social justice projects.

\$5 per Adult,
\$3 per child,
\$15 per family



How are we doing??

Please join the Committee on Ministry for a

Community Chat

Sunday Feb 22nd

after service in Fellowship Hall.

Help us reflect on church activities and living our
Mission.

Bring your coffee - we'll have some cookies!

SAVE THE DATE

CUC COOPERATIVE SEDER RETURNS

The evening of Saturday, March 28



GREETERS NEEDED

Now that the holidays are over, we are asking
you to

choose some Sundays

when you can offer "radical hospitality" to all
who walk through our doors by greeting them
with your very warmest smile.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

to sign up or call/email Jane Dixon 949-5919/
jrdixon@optonline.net

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Here are some important dates:

Your General Assembly (GA) planning should start in February. Please contact Denice Tomlinson denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com or Mary Cavallero jmlmwp@aol.com for more information.

Save the Date:

The UU United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar for Adults and Youth is scheduled for April 9-11, 2015. The seminar topic will focus on the criminal international justice system. [READ MORE](#)

The 2015 District Annual Meeting will be held May 1-2, 2015, at the Hyatt Morristown in Morristown NJ.

The 2015 General Assembly will be June 24-28 in Portland, Oregon. Theme for 2015 GA: "Building a New Way". Ware Lecturer will be Dr. Cornel West.

If you are planning to go to GA the Housing Reservation System will open on **March 2.**

~ February 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8a-9:30a RE Council (R41) 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:40a-12:40p In The Spirit Of Truth (R41) 11:40a-12:40p STITCHING IN SPIRIT workshop (FH) 11:40a-12:10p What's In A Name? CMT (R24)	2 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	3 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	4 3:30p-7p Roxbury Farm CSA pickup (FA) 7:30p-9:30p Program Council (R41)	5	6	7 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
8 8:15a-9:45a Teacher Development Day (FH) 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 10:30a-11:30a Chili Sunday (FH), Ktc) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group A (R12) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group N (R22) 11:40a-12:10p What's In A Name? CMT (R41)	9 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	10 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	11 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	12 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality (R24)	13	14 Valentine's Day 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
15 Communitarian Deadline 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a NO RE Classes, RE FUN DAY 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group H (R12) 5p-6p Journey Group I (off site) ((off site))	16 Presidents' Day 11a-12p Journey Group B (off site) (Harrison) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group C (off site) (Harrison) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	17 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group E (off site) (Rye)	18	19 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group F (off site) (Irvington) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group G (off site) (New Rochelle)	20	21 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
22 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Extraordinary Sunday (FH) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Community Chat - Committee on Ministry (FH) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group M (R12) 11:40a-12:40p UURoots Conversations for visitors & newcomers (R41)	23 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 8p-9p Journey Group J (off site) (New Rochelle)	24 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group D (off site) (Scarsdale)	25	26 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	27	28 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 3p-4p Journey Group L (off site) (New Rochelle)

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
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Communitarian Deadline for
Next Edition:

Sunday, February 15

Submit information to
Emily Economou, Editor
emily.economou@gmail.com

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

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