



UU Connections

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship
of Centre County**

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Monday through Thursday

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County

September 2018

The Vision of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County is to create a better world through our open minds, helping hands, and loving hearts.



Our Mission:

- Articulate and promote liberal religion,
- Provide a spiritual home for persons who seek to know truth for themselves, and
- Inspire and empower individuals to live out their values and principles in the community, both within and beyond our walls.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County is a Welcoming Congregation, which believes in and affirms the inherent dignity and worth of every person, and we include bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people in all aspects of Fellowship life.

Who We Are

UUFCC Vision

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SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m

Sunday, September 2, 2018 - Worship Leaders: Virginia Hubbs, Dorothy Blair.**Worship Associate: Charlotte Eubanks*****Hidden Music***

The songs of birds, the whispering of trees, the calls of coyotes, the purrs of our pets, the chattering of crickets and katydids - all offer music to our souls and spirits through their beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion. Yet so often this music goes unheard and hidden because we are not attuned to it. Rather, our attention is taken by our to-do lists, or traffic around us, or conversations completely disconnected from our surroundings. In this service, we will explore hidden music and ways to stay attuned to it through stories, poems, reflection, and of course, music.

Sunday, September 9, 2018 - Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel & the UUFCC Worship Committee***Ingathering & Water Communion Service******A multi-generational Service! All Ages Are Welcome!***

Welcome Home! This is our annual Ingathering and Water Communion, a service which we recreate each September as the Fellowship year kicks-off! UUFCC friends, family and newcomers join in as a community. Please bring a bit of water from a place that is sacred to you, and be ready to share its story with the congregation.

Sunday, September 16, 2018 - Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel***Love, Action, Remembrance and Atonement***

We live and love in motion...making mistakes, and often having to ask for forgiveness. We love, act, remember, and are called into a place of atonement -- in a cycle as old as time itself. This Sunday falls between two important days on the Jewish calendar: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Let us use this moment to question how we live, what moves us to act, what is worth remembering and what we may need to atone for - a service to open your hearts.

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SUNDAY SERVICES**(continued)****Sunday, September 23, 2018 - Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel*****Up, Up and Away***

Where is UUFCC going? What are our dreams? How will we work together to make them come true? The future lies before us; what are we going to do with it? As this church year begins, let's look ahead with eyes and hearts wide open.

Sunday, September 30, 2018 - The UUFCC Jazz Band***Jazz Sunday***

A be-bopping, swinging Sunday morning filled with music and words to lift your spirits and touch your hearts. Dancing in the aisles is encouraged and certainly expected!

**SOULFUL SUNDOWN***Recharge your soul for the week ahead with these special Sunday evening services.**Everyone is welcome!***Sunday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. - A Table in Honor of Love**

Bring an object that reminds you of someone or something you love deeply. We'll place these on a table for all to view, and you'll have a chance to tell others the story behind the object you brought, (You'll get to take it back home afterwards.), plus there will be readings, music, and our regular candle-lighting time for sharing whatever is on your mind. For more information, email Chas at chasbrua@gmail.com.

Thoughts From The Rev...

"You don't love someone for their looks, or their clothes, or for their fancy car, but because they sing a song only you can hear." — *Oscar Wilde*

"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind." — *William Shakespeare*

"Love me without restriction. Trust me without fear. Want me without claim. Accept me for who I am." — *Unknown*

"Love is all you need. Love is all you need. Love is all you need" — *The Beatles*

I believe we all want to love and be loved.

Yes, we want love. We want that...Perfect. Pure. Undemanding. Love.

The it-was-meant-to-be kind of love where lovers travel across the country and meet at the top of the Empire State Building. Or, the crazy kind of love when a besotted young man stands outside of a church, interrupts a wedding by banging on the glass doors while screaming, "I Love You!" to a woman poised at the altar ready to marry someone else.

Or that comfy old-shoe-love that hands you a glass of red wine at days end and asks, "Honey, how was your day?" and then actually listens to you and lets you unwind. Ahhh...now that's real love.

Love does not have to be swoon-worthy, knock-your-socks-off-love, or lightning bolt love. No, it can be easy, comfortable silence at the end of the day, or the kind of love that remembers to stop and pick up tomatoes and fresh mozzarella for dinner. It can last forever, or be a simple summer romance.

Most importantly, I've learned that our love has to be unconditional, given freely without strings attached. And. That. Dear. Ones. Is. Hard. Opening yourself and giving your heart away is tremendously hard.

It is also the only way to truly receive love in return.

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The President Speaks

Year after year, on the first day back at school, I remember being asked to cram my summer experiences into an essay. So I thought I'd revisit that question in our UUFCC context...

(Some of) What I Did This Summer By Etta Habegger

Enjoyed the UUFCC cookout and campout. Loved the magic of dusk turning to nighttime in our field, with playing, visiting, relaxing and making s'mores together.

Attended UUA General Assembly online as an off-site delegate. Gained insight into and inspiration from the larger Unitarian Universalist world and learned valuable best practices and ideas.

Savored some service auction activities (promised long ago on a chilly February night when summer was just a glimmer of warm hope), including:

- Took a lovely wildflower hike at Fisherman's Paradise led by Darlene Chivers. It was a walking mindfulness and joyful botany tutorial rolled into one. Ask about the oriole nest or headless moth when you see one of us.
- Learned much about electric vehicles from Troy Frank during his green sanctuary seminar. My favorite portion was definitely the hands-on Tesla test drive, even if we never left the UUFCC parking lot.
- Watched my daughter grin as she helped Claudia Snyder care for Romeo before and after a horseback riding lesson.

Enjoyed the array of our stellar summer lay-led services.

Relished Jay Searles' delicious pies, as well as the very fresh veggies grown in our gardens by dedicated volunteers.

Saw and caught up with many UUs out and about in the larger community.

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Shout oUUt Corner



Each month the Program Council recognizes those who have “gone the extra mile in service to the UUFCC.” This month, we send out thanks to the following:

Dorothy Blair and the Green Sanctuary Committee for all their work over four years to guide us to our recent Green Sanctuary Certification from the UUA. Thanks so much for leading this important effort from the very beginning, Dorothy!

Barb Hartle, Bob Herron, Claudia Snyder, Elaine Jurs, Emily Reddy, Graham Corby, Helen Dempsey, Ileen Carter, Jean and Bill Giddings, Peg Dobrinska, Shashi Ray, Stephanie Szakal, Sue Haug, Troy Frank, and Wayne Osgood for stepping up to be on the team that contacted members and friends who needed encouragement to make their financial pledge. They were instrumental in achieving an impressive \$343,000 total for this year's annual budget drive.

Rolf Dietrich for getting the weeds out of the curbs in front of the UUFCC building.

Francisco Diaz for securing a new bike rack from Penn State Salvage, with a donation from CentreBike.

Carol Pollard, for once again heading up the UUFCC annual yard sale! Thanks also to all who worked to prepare for the sale, helped on yard sale day, and donated goods to help us have a successful yard sale. It takes a Fellowship!

The DLRE Search Committee for their good work in helping to hire our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Ashley Hamlin! Let's all be sure to give Ashley a very warm UUFCC welcome when she arrives later this month.

If you know of anyone who has “gone the extra mile in service to UUFCC” and deserves a shout-out, please contact Elaine Jurs at emjurs@gmail.com and they will be recognized in the next newsletter.

Wednesday Game Nights

All are welcome at 6:00 p.m. on the first, second, fourth and fifth Wednesday night in Fellowship Hall to learn and play tabletop games. There will be no formal potluck, but please bring and share drinks and food, especially non-sticky, non-greasy game-friendly types.

Any games you want to play are fine, but most nights most of us play modern “Euro-style” strategy games. Except perhaps briefly and in a humorous way, you will not be attacked and eliminated. In most cases, we compete to earn victory points.

Questions? Ask somebody with a Meeple sticker on their nametag.



New Games in the Closet

The Red Planet! (Look at the electronic version to see the color and the shiny metallic resource cubes.) Want to participate in **Terraforming Mars**? It's one of the longer (2 hours), heavier games we play.

Of the games we bought with proceeds from November's game auction, we've played it the most so far (13 times). Gamers in the general hobby agree: it ranks 4th most popular on Board Game Geek. For comparison, another very long game, Monopoly, ranks about 15,700th.

Two to four players compete to earn Victory Points by gathering resources, creating technologies, and developing more sections of Mars. They might introduce plant and animal life, or create industries to generate greenhouse gasses. As they work together to create oceans and increase the temperature and oxygen level, new options become available. There is also a solitaire version.

But don't be daunted by this example...most of the games we play are shorter and easier than this one. I promise a much faster one next month (*a low hurdle, huh!*).

Chuck Berry

Group Meetings

Small Group Ministry

This September is our Small Group Ministry Awareness Month!

You should be hearing from members during services and will be offered a chance to sample a session on September 30 after the service. If you have not participated in a UUFCC Small Group, here's your chance to learn more.

The groups were active over the summer, dealing with topics of food, favorite novels, bodies, rivers, and helping/being helped.

And - very special: one of our UUFCC Small Group session plans (on citizenship) is now on the UUA list of small group sessions available to UU's everywhere.

Carol Pollard



Announcements

People News



Dario Luca Fordcross was born at 3:49 a.m. on August 11 to Karly Sarita Ford and Tico Cross. Karly says Dario has a full head of hair and a big appetite. Mother and baby are doing well. She adds that big brother Orlando is taking his big brother snuggle duties very seriously.

Perk Up!

News about Hospitality Teams

Hospitality Q & A

Q: I've just joined a team and want to be a good team player. What's expected?

A: Great Question! Here are some tips:

As soon as you get an email asking you to sign up for the team's next shift, SIGN UP! No prior experience is needed, just your willingness.

When it's your team's turn, PITCH IN! If possible, come every Sunday. Bring food for the buffet and lend a hand (even if you're not assigned a job that day or when you've completed your tasks). SAY HELLO! Get to know your teammates as you work together to offer wonderful Sunday hospitality.

KNOW THAT YOU AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

The August Grind

Bless the Bees for continuing to provide hospitality on September 2 and 9. For the remainder of September and the start of October, the Service Stars will be displaying their sparkling constellation of remarkable hospitality skills.

Espresso of Appreciation

Thanks to Olivia Harper and her daughter Chloe for checking every nametag to be sure it had the correct team sticker. Now check your nametag to know which team you are on, and check everybody else's to find your teammates! No sticker? Oh no! Check with Olivia or Laura Brown to find out about getting stickered.

A HUGE thank you to team schedulers: Roxanne Toto (EverRed Es), Sue Haug and Bill Butler (Ladybugs), Cherie Anderson (Helping Hands), Cheryl Bohn (Blessed Bees) and Linda Eller, (Service Stars). Hooray for their work in keeping us percolating.

If you want to be a robusta part of the UUFCC, sign up to be on a Hospitality Team by emailing Laura Brown at hteams@uufcc.com.

UU Member Spotlight

Meet the Brightbills!



Sometimes you just have to seize the moment. On a recent Sunday morning as I approached the Fellowship, I saw Rev. CTC snuggling with a perfectly contented little puppy. Was it Joy (her puppy)? Nope, turns out that it was Priscilla, a rescue who is currently being foster-parented by the Brightbill family. As I got closer, I saw a little enclosure with two more little canine-sweeties. I took the opportunity to introduce myself to Bryan Brightbill, the proud foster-dad of Priscilla, Elvis, and their mom,

Trixie, who had just arrived from a South Carolina rescue. It occurred to me that Bryan and his family would be perfect subjects for the September Member Spotlight. This gave me the opportunity to get to know the Brightbill family, including Bryan's wife Lauren, and their two little ones, Jack, five, and Emily, eight.

Bryan and Lauren met while attending Penn State. They were working a security detail and one thing led to another. Since they've met, they have grown their family by bunny leaps and furry bounds! Along with their children, they have adopted two Newfoundlands named Hohen and Bowie (yes, named after the one and only David Bowie), a St. Bernard named Leo, two cats named Panther and Laxus, a red-eared slider turtle named Link, two rabbits named Dumbledor and Gandolf, and six hermit crabs who shall remain nameless! Oh, and a betafish! They are also considering the addition of an about-to-be homeless tortoise. On top of all this, they foster dogs for PAWS until the pups can find their forever homes! If you look up animal lovers in the dictionary, you are sure to see a picture of the Brightbill family!

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Poetry Break

If you have a short (a maximum of 20 lines), meaningful, insightful, or motivational poem you would like to submit for our newsletter, please send it to: newsletter@uufcc.com, subject: newsletter materials.

A Blessing By Michael Bourgo

**"He has never seen God/but once or twice he believes/he has heard him."
--a haiku by W.H. Auden**

**I've never been summoned
to perform a task like Abraham,
or sentenced to the miseries of Job.**

**Far from it: it's all been ordinary--
the flat tires and the shopping,
washing windows and paying the bills;**

**the reprieve of easy temptations,
and most hints of tragedy
soon balanced by some gift--**

**yet even a modest life
must find some reference
to what is always true,**

**to wonder and gratitude,
some whisper of a voice.**



Fellowship Items

What happened in the August UUFCC Board meeting?

This column gives you a quick list of what the board worked on in our last monthly meeting, and offers points of information we'd like to share. In August we:

Unanimously voted to proceed with making an offer to DLRE candidate Ashley Hamlin, with Board President Etta Habegger and Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel conducting the negotiations. (Update: Ashley accepted the position!)

Discussed ways to engage the congregation financially through legacy giving so that UUFCC can continue to make our lives and the world a better place for years to come. A future workshop is being planned for those who want to learn more. Stay tuned!



Operations/Administrative Team (OAT)

Hello! We'd like to reintroduce you to the Operations/Administrative Team (OAT). The OAT was formed in January. This UUFCC board-approved group is one aspect of the transitions being made to our congregation's governance structure. Team members are Phil Halleck, Helen Dempsey, Rev. CTC and Office Administrator Audrey Barner (Audrey is a non-voting, ex-officio member). What will the OAT do? Our team has been charged with overseeing buildings and grounds, communications, office/administration, personnel, and technology. Although we are currently in charge of building and grounds, our plan is to recruit a coordinator for that group. That person will oversee and coordinate building and grounds activities, but will not actually be expected to do hands-on maintenance work. If you are interested in volunteering for that position, or have any questions about the OAT and our new role in the UUFCC community, please feel free to contact us at OAT@UUFCC.com.

Committee on Ministry

During the next two months, the Board, CoM and Rev. CTC will complete the UUA's standard ministerial evaluation. This is part of the process required by the UUA/MFC (Unitarian Universalist Association/Ministerial Fellowship Committee) for all ministers in preliminary fellowship. It occurs three times before a minister is moved into final fellowship status. Rev. CTC has already completed one of these evaluations.

To complete our work, input will be obtained separately from a limited number of congregants and staff by members of the CoM and the Board. We will gather information on both areas of strength/success and areas of growth/challenge for Rev. CTC. Before November 1, 2018, all three evaluation pieces (Board, CoM and Rev. CTC's self evaluation) will be submitted to the UUA/MFC. This body will determine the subsequent status of the minister's preliminary fellowship. If you have any question about this process of Rev. CTC's evaluation, please contact Leslie Brown, Peter Kemper or Francisco Diaz (of the CoM), or Etta Habegger, Doris McKenzie or Betsy Allen (of the Board Evaluation Task Force).



Passage Meditation

every first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Room 6

A regular meditation practice can help you to sharpen concentration, deal effectively with stress and anger, live more fully in the present, shed unwanted habits and develop patience. In passage meditation, you choose a spiritual text, or passage that embodies your highest ideals, memorize it, and then go through the words in your mind slowly, silently, and with as much concentration as possible. By training your mind to stay on words that embody your highest ideals, you drive them deep into your consciousness and, at the same time, gradually build your capacity to concentrate. For more information, you may want to visit www.easwaran.org/learning-how-to-meditate.html or take a look at Eknath Easwaran's book, *Meditation*, available in the Fellowship Library. For more information: <meditation@uufcc.com>

Gift Card Fundraiser

Have you ever wished you could donate more money to the UUFCC? You CAN, without spending one extra cent. The UU Grocery Gift Card fundraiser is the easiest, most painless fundraiser ever.

Here's how it works: Giant and Weis sell us cards at a 5% discount, Sheetz at 3%. We buy Weis and Giant \$100 cards for \$95, then sell them at face value, resulting in a \$5 profit for the Fellowship. If you're a person who spends \$100 a week, you could be donating \$250 a year to the Fellowship without even noticing it. Our treasurer calls it "free money." This year we're hoping to raise at least \$7,000 from this project, but if each of you started participating, we could double or even triple that amount.

Here are some ways you can use the cards besides just for groceries: Buy gas. Buy beer and wine. Buy stamps and mail packages (at Weis, North and South Atherton). Fill prescriptions. Give them as presents (one size really DOES fit all). Contribute some to a local nonprofit. The list really IS endless.

Gift cards are for sale each week after the service all year round in Fellowship Hall. You can pay with cash or check, and we can also make arrangements with your bank to send us a check. Now put a check in your wallet this minute so you can buy cards on Sunday.



Diving Deep

Diving Deep will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25 at the home of Barbara Minard to discuss *We Were the Mulvaney's* by Joyce Carol Oates. Jean Giddings will lead the discussion. You do not need to be a member to attend. All are welcome. Questions? Email Pat Meehan at pmeehan5@aol.com or call her at 703-447-7911.

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Supper

Mark your calendars for the September Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Supper, September 19 at 5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This month's supper will be hosted by the Green Sanctuary Committee. Vegetarian main dishes will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share if you can. To highlight our commitment to being a Green Sanctuary Congregation, please try to use ingredients that are locally sourced, organic, and/or fair trade. We'll honor those with summer and September birthdays with a cake and a song. Also, please bring a serving utensil, AND dishes, cups, and silverware for your family. It's going to be "carry in, carry out" to cut down on the amount of clean-up, though we will still need everyone to pitch in at the end to wipe down tables, put away chairs, vacuum, etc. After dinner, there will be karaoke in the Community Room. For folks of all ages!

In order for this very popular activity to continue, we need hosts for upcoming months. This could be a committee, a small group ministry, or even a group of friends. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Helen Dempsey at helendempsey49@gmail.com or Milena Danneker at danneker@verizon.net. Detailed instructions and support provided.



The President Speaks (continued)

Celebrated hiring our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Ashley Hamlin.

Gave items to our yard sale and helped sort donations.

Helped the UUFCC Board continue the shift to managing its ongoing responsibilities while doing more strategic work, so that the Fellowship continues to do much good with a shared mission and vision.

It's been a full and rewarding summer. Now it's a time that's filled with transitions: summer gives way to autumn and schools shift into full swing. Here at the Fellowship we are moving into an exciting new season together!

Help Ensure UUFCC's Future after You're Gone

Do you care deeply about the fellowship and what it does, not just today, but in the future? Many committed members care so much about the fellowship that they choose to make plans now that will provide financial gifts after their deaths to help ensure UUFCC's future. Such "legacy gifts" have been of great value to UUFCC, enhancing our programs, improving our facilities, and creating the endowment that gives us protection against hard times in the future.

If UUFCC has been important in your life, but you have not thought about a legacy gift, or have thought about it, but left it to deal with later, we hope you will consider your potential legacy now. Expect to hear more about this topic in the coming months.

Because legacy gifts are made through our wills, beneficiary designations, and in more complex ways, even thinking about your legacy can be daunting - and easy to put off. This is an especially good time to make a legacy gift to UUFCC, however, because of an unusual - and generous - match opportunity.

Match opportunity. A \$5,000,000 grant from the Shelter Rock congregation will provide matching funds **now** to UU organizations, including UUFCC, when members make commitments to **future** legacy gifts. When you commit to a future legacy gift, UUFCC will receive 10% of the future gift's value this year (up to a legacy gift of \$100,000 and match of \$10,000). This matching program ends June 2020.

Opportunity to learn more. If you think you might be interested in making a legacy gift to UUFCC, or are interested simply in learning more about legacy giving in general, we encourage you to attend a Planned Giving Workshop on Saturday, October 6, at UUFCC. We've invited Rev. Laura Randall, the UUA's Legacy Campaign Director, to present this workshop, which provides lots of useful information about potential ways of making legacy gifts and the match opportunity. The workshop will be from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Coffee and snacks will be available. If you plan to come to the workshop, please let us know at legacy@uufcc.com. Childcare can be provided, if requested in advance.

*Peter Kemper and Wayne Osgood, co-chairs
Legacy Giving Campaign Task Force*

Social Action (SA)

The Social Action Committee meets the second Sunday of the month in the library. Ken Riznyk is the representative to the Program Council. Peg Dobrinska is the overall chair. Every SA project has its own coordinator. If you have a justice issue, this is the place for you.

First Sunday Plate Collection - September 2, 2018

Playground Improvements for Children with Disabilities

As part of the RE curriculum, our class of 7, 8, and 9 year olds conducted a disability survey of the UUFCC building and grounds. To try to see things from a different point of view, we walked through the building and grounds with either our hands or feet duct taped and unable to be used. What we discovered was that while the building is accessible to people with disabilities, the playground is not. We are attempting to raise money to purchase an adaptive swing to replace one of the swings on the swing set at the far corner of the playground. The new swing would be accessible from the neighborhood road behind the playground. We believe having a swing designed for larger children who may have mental and or physical disabilities will help the UUFCC to be a more welcoming space. It will help us live out our first principle: All People Are Important.

Second and third grader students, and teacher Allison Becker

Opportunity for Social Justice advocates - October 13, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All Unitarian Universalists active in, or interested in social justice are invited to attend and participate in UUPLAN's Leadership Day. The day is intended for seasoned social justice advocates and those with no previous social justice experience. For a \$15.00 fee, breakfast, snack and lunch are included. Presenters include **Rev. Dr. Neal Jones** of the Main Line Unitarian Church of Devon, Pennsylvania, and **Rabbi Michael Pollack** of the March on Harrisburg

The program will provide:

- Inspiration and support less than a month before the November election
- A chance to discuss issues and share stories with others who are "in the trenches"
- Specific information on how legislation is enacted in the Pennsylvania legislature
- Lunch and refreshments for \$15.00
- Registration online at www.uuplan.org or through Peg for same day registration and carpooling. We do need a headcount to order lunch. Contact: Mdobrin-ska413@comcast.net or 814-883-6734

Social Action (SA) (continued)

UUFCC members participating in the UUPlan task forces include:

Economic Justice: Ken Riznyk

Immigration: Elaine Jurs

Mass Incarceration: Peg Dobrinska

Preventing Gun Violence in PA: Libby Gage

Reproductive Justice: Michal Stump

Good Government: Ron Simpson

Save the Dates:

October 13, 2018 - UU PLAN'S Leadership Day.

November **20 to December 15, 2018** - Guest at Your Table. This activity raises money for UUSC, which is the UU Service Committee, our international response to crisis such as famine.

April 26, 2019 - Freedom Seder

April 11 to 13, 2019 - UU/UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar in NYC

June 19 - 23, 2019 - General Assembly in Spokane Washington. Registration for each General Assembly (GA) generally opens on March 1, and pages are updated accordingly. Scholarships are available. For information: <https://www.uua.org/calendars/uua/general-assembly-2019>

The General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the association through the democratic process.

Green Sanctuary (GS)

We will kick off our post-certification season with an energy blitz: a First-Wednesday four-part energy film series in collaboration with Julia Hix and the Foxdale Green Committee, a solar car-week event in State College, and discussions about solar installations in Philipsburg. Also, G.S. is anchoring the Wonderful Wednesday vegetarian dinner in September: energy for your soul and your microflora. Energy will be our focus this fall and early winter. Below are some details of September events:

September 2, 10:00 a.m.: The Sunday Service will be green, featuring Virginia Hubbs and Dorothy Blair in "Hidden Music."

September 5, 7:00 p.m.: There will be a film at Foxdale Auditorium called *Happening*. Filmmaker James Redford documents the dawn of the clean energy era as it creates jobs, profits and sustainable communities.

September 8, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: The National Drive Electric event will be at the Country Inn and Suites at 1357 E. College Ave. For information, go to: www.driveelectricweek.org

September 19, 6:00 p.m.: There will be a Wonderful Wednesday vegetarian dinner sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee.

Plastic is like thrown-away energy and is toxic to humans and animals. In 2017, National Geographic reported that "of the 8.6 billion tons of plastic produced, 6.3 billion tons has become plastic waste." Half of all plastic produced is thrown away each year, but much of it is not locked up in landfills. In 2015 alone, 8 million metric tons of plastic entered the world's oceans. A local movement sponsored by the Sierra Club and members of the Green Sanctuary Committee promotes a single use plastic ban for the Centre Region. If you agree that a ban is needed, we have petitions for you to sign by township.

Green Sanctuary can help you with your switch to green electricity. You will need your electric bill customer number, so slip it in your pocket or purse so you have it on Sunday, and James Hynes will help you find a good fit on the <http://www.papowerswitch.com/shop-for-electricity/shop-for-your-home> website. You must specify renewable energy in the left hand column of choices to narrow your search. Usually locking in a price for a minimum of six months is a better deal, unless you monitor your electric bill like a hawk.

Dorothy Blair

Thoughts From The Rev... (continued)

As we enter the first month of the 2018-2019 UUFCC church year, my mind is on LOVE. It's our September theological theme this month. I hope that you dive into it. Read a romance novel. Google the words "agape love" and let yourself get pulled into the religious connotation of LOVE. Find a puppy to cuddle and fall in love with a fur ball. Open a bottle of soft red wine, sit on the deck or porch or balcony with your beloved and hold hands for a little while.

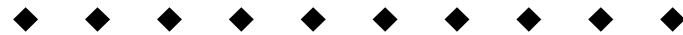
Love is there waiting for you...just open yourself up and let it out...or in.

See you at the Fellowship!
Rev. CTC

P.S. Here are a couple of things for you to read...and share...to start our September conversation about LOVE.

Is Unconditional Love Really Possible? <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/intimacy-path-toward-spirituality/201801/is-unconditional-love-really-possible>

What is Agape Love? <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2014/05/02/what-is-agape-love-a-bible-study/>



UU Member Spotlight (continued)

When they are not parenting their kids and motley animal family, Bryan teaches science at Park Forest Middle School (he has a degree in geology from Penn State). Lauren has been a volunteer teacher at Park Forest Montessori School.

The Brightbills are also very generous with their time and talent at the UUFCC. Lauren serves on the RE Committee and is a volunteer teacher for the K-1 crew. Bryan will also be teaching the 6-8 grade kids this year. Jack and Emily both enjoy attending RE at the UUFCC and are looking forward to a new year of fun and friends! When not busy tending to their flock, the Brightbills enjoy playing video games and watching Anime. If you see them at the Fellowship, ask what they named their new tortoise. And what about those nameless hermit crabs?



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Newsletter Policies and Guidelines

Deadline for the October Issue: September 15, 2018

Please submit your work **on time, and in final, completed form**. Do not ask for changes to be made. Once we get to layout, nothing can be added or deleted. It is important that people receive the newsletter by the first of the month.

Please submit articles to newsletter@uufcc.com; Newsletter Material. If you do not get a response of receipt within one day, please send your submission to: Marilyn Jones at maplecandy33@gmail.com. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

- Please send your submissions in a **WORD** document as an **ATTACHMENT**
- **Please write in Book Antigua, font size 11, no indents, everything single space, with two spaces between paragraphs**
- **Do not** highlight anything in color
- Write: a.m. or p.m., not AM or PM
- Write: Pennsylvania or Pa., not PA
- **Use first, second, third, etc., NOT 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.**
- Do NOT write July 24th, but July 24

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UU Connections is published monthly, August through June, to keep the UUFCC congregation informed about Fellowship life. Our newsletter can be e-mailed on request. Hard copy, if requested, is mailed to all members and friends listed in the Fellowship Directory. We are delighted to share our newsletter with anyone interested and will send complimentary hard copy issues, as requested, for a limited time. For non-members who wish to receive a mailed copy of UU Connections regularly, we request a donation of \$35 per year to cover expenses.



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