

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St
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Pottstown, PA 19465
uupottstown.org

March 2007

Sunday, March 4, 2007

Iraq Perspective: March 2007

Speaker- Majid Alsayegh
Lay Leader- Marianne Yarnall

Who better than Majid, a native Iraqi and a member of U.U.F.P. to speak today on this crucial subject.

Majid has relatives currently living in Iraq who have experienced hardships of the times. Join us for help in our understanding of this war torn country and its people.

Choir performance and also special music.

Sunday, March 11, 2007

A Helping of Stone Soup

Lay Leader/Speaker: Emily Quarles

Do you remember the folk tale "Stone Soup?" I remember reading this story as a child and feeling smarter than the villagers who thought the stone in the bottom of the pot was a more important ingredient of the soup than the food.

Like the villagers in the story, we often feel that in order to give, we must give up. However, one message of "Stone Soup" is that sharing is not necessarily a burden. This service will focus on this and other themes of "Stone Soup."

Sunday, March 18, 2007

Remembering the Dead

Minister: Colin Bossen

This March is the fourth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. We will mark this anniversary by taking time to remember and honor those who have died in Iraq.

Note: An important congregational meeting will follow directly after the service. Please plan to attend. Fingerfoods are requested for the potluck.

Sunday, March 25, 2007

Multiple Intelligences Theory and The Search for Truth:

How the Way We Learn Affects the Way We Seek

Lay Leader: Stefanie Fulwood
Speaker: Lynn Medley

Our culture puts much emphasis on the "nurture" part of the nature/nurture question when it comes to spirituality. Are we Unitarian Universalists because of psychological aspects of past spiritual experiences that "drove" us to be UU? Are we running or seeking?

In fact, there is much about the way we learn in other aspects of our life that affect our searches for Truth. Multiple Intelligences Theory will be used as a basis for an exploration of individual learning styles, a discussion of why some styles may choose some types of faiths over others, and why there is room within Unitarian Universalism for all styles.



From the Minister's Desk:

One of the metaphors people sometimes use when describing the work of an interim is that of a midwife. With a child on the way, this an especially apt metaphor for me. Interim ministers are like midwives because while we are present at the birth of a new being we are not the ones doing the work and not the ones who, after the birth, will stick around and raise the child. Right now you have choices to make about who as a congregation you will become and how you will grow. I can't make them for you and I won't be around long enough to see the fruits of your labors. What I can do is help you through the process and do my best to be present with you as you change and grow as a community.

At the beginning of my time with you, the Board, Rev. Dr. Richard Speck (the JPD District Executive) and I, all met to determine four areas that we would work on together.

These were:

- Membership
- Restructure of Board and Committees
- Sunday Liturgy
- Stewardship

For the past couple of months my work with the Board has mostly focused on figuring out how to restructure the board and committees to best serve the needs of the congregation. For the next few months I will be working more on issues related to the Sunday Liturgy and Membership. As part of this I will be meeting with the Sunday Services committee this month to discuss the development of standard elements to the service and how to make services consistently welcoming and attractive to visitors. In May and June I will both be offering another New UU class and holding a couple of all-congregation workshops on the development of a congregational covenant.

Finally, in case you haven't heard, Sara's due date is April 1. Assuming everything goes well I am planning on taking the month of April off to spend time with mother and baby.

love,

Colin

Colin Bossen
Contract Minister

President's Message

In the midst of the ice and snow, there is a hint of spring in the air, a sign of coming growth and renewal.

Many initiatives are underway in our congregation which we are hopeful will lead to our own sense of growth and transformation. This month, I'll review some of them.

Three members of the congregation are attending 5 all-day sessions at the JPD for exploring how to become a healthier congregation. The attendees are Linda Pallay, Lynn Medley and me. The theory behind the workshop is if people in leadership positions learn what healthy behavior and practices are, they can bring that back to the congregation, and all the systems become healthier. Kind of like throwing three pebbles in a pond, and watching all of the concentric and overlapping circles it makes. Our first session explored the differences between an anxious congregation and one of strength. As we learn more, I anticipate that we'd have some sharing sessions about what we're learning.

Another group of folks are studying covenants and congregational polity. This is a series of classes being held by our minister, Colin Bossen. The group is learning the UU history of covenants and congregational polity, and how this affects our congregations today. As the group finishes their reading materials they have agreed to pass the books on to others in the congregation so that as many as possible can be aware of this information. We are hopeful that this will lead to our congregation developing our own behavioral covenant (as opposed to a creedal covenant), and approving it at our June meeting. This is very exciting work, and I strongly believe that our promising to work and be together in the spirit of love and community can give us a very strong anchor on which to base our UUFP community.

The transition team just completed the first round of reviews of a governance model change with the board and congregation. I was very excited to see so many attend this session on February 18th. We intend for this change to position us for a pastoral size congregation model (50-150). Our congregation has been going up and down around this transition point for a number of years, and we need to intentionally change some things to move beyond this "wall". This change in governance should enable us to streamline the committee and Board structure, and make the structure more transparent and accessible to all. Please see the roadmap and outline of this change elsewhere in this edition of the Sojourner.

I encourage all members to attend the congregational meetings on March 18th where we will discuss and vote on our new governance model, new Board officers for the 2007-2008 year and April 1st where we will review the preliminary budget for the year, and determine the level of ministry we want for next year.

In Faith,
Carla Johnson
UUFP Board President

Love and concern for all are not things some of us are born with and others are not. Rather, they are results of what we do with our minds: We can choose to transform our minds so that they embody love, or we can allow them to develop habits and false concepts of separation.

From: 'Loving-Kindness - The Revolutionary Art of Happiness', Sharon Salzberg

Sunday Service Committee

Hot Cross Buns

“Hot cross buns predate the arrival of Christianity - the cross originally representing the pagan sun wheel. Queen Elizabeth I converted the buns to Christianity and declared that the buns may only be eaten at funerals, Easter and Christmas.”

See the Hot Cross Buns Recipe from the website at www.cuisinedumonde.com/hot_x_buns.html.

We're approaching the spring equinox, a time of balance. Light and dark dance upon the fulcrum point as we race headlong into birth and renewal. It's a time of simplicity and spring cleaning! We slough the snow and ice off and look with expectation at what the warmth and light of spring will bring to us. It is a time of hope. What will the future bring?

Here at the Fellowship it will bring a new baby for Colin and his family. It will bring a new interim minister. It will bring a new governance structure. It will bring more organized closets. It will bring the annual Service auction and all the fun that entails. We have a lot to look forward to this spring and summer. We also have a lot to be thankful for in the people around us and their dedication to the change that we have embraced as a congregation. It is with hope and the brightest of blessings that I embrace the coming season of balance.

*"She changes everything she touches.
Everything she touches changes."*

Bright Blessings,
Stefanie Fulwood, Sunday Service Chair

This I Now Believe...

I now believe that little things can make a difference. Sometimes it's just taking an extra minute and letting a car get in front of you. I believe that if everyone let someone in front of them, we would all be a lot less frustrated. Pulling over for an ambulance takes a minute, but it could mean the difference in someone else's life. Asking grocery stores for all natural, organic products has caused the food industry to sit up and take notice. Every dollar we spend for food that doesn't contain pesticides and hydrogenated oils eventually supports sustainable farming. They're all just little things, but they can make a difference.

It's the small steps that give us momentum. Little things can make a difference in a global way. Take plastic shopping bags, for instance. Most of the time, when I go in a store, if it is something I can carry, put in my purse, or make one of my children carry, I say, "No thanks. There are too many bags in the world." Frequently I get a funny look. The person is clearly thinking that it's just one bag, who cares about one bag? But sometimes people agree with me and perhaps I've caused them to think about plastic bags and whether or not they really need one. I know that I've personally saved thousands of bags by not using them. If everyone used one less plastic shopping bag a week, the natural resources saved would have a positive impact on our planet.

I get very discouraged sometimes when I think about the environment. I don't always know where to start or what to do to help. Then I heard a news piece on the radio about microscopic bacteria that have adapted to consume, to live on, nuclear waste. The fact that tiny bacteria are positively affecting the planet gives me hope that people can do this as well. And it gives me hope that all the little things will eventually add up to positive environmental change. My children tell people there are too many bags in the world, read labels and dream up creative ways to rid the planet of pollution, so here are two more little voices to add to the song of change that is growing into a big chorus. Little things can make a difference and they give me hope.

Stefanie Fulwood

Aesthetics Committee

Have you hung up your coat lately?

Of course you have and hopefully you've noticed the new tidiness of our front coat closet. It was a lot of fun to do! We moved many items to other, more appropriate, storage locations. For instance, **all the brooms and other implements of cleaning, were moved to the "boiler room" with other similar items that already live there.** What we threw out was a lot of empty boxes and a little bit of trash.

I do want to draw your attention to the revived 'Lost and Found' box in the bottom of the closet. There were a few items we placed in there, that we felt might belong to folks. We'd like for everyone to take a look between now and the congregational meeting in March. Anything left after that meeting will be donated to Goodwill.

We'll be tackling other closets and consolidating storage, a little bit at a time, so that all similar items can be located together and our storage can be used more efficiently and effectively. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please do not hesitate to talk to me.

Respectfully,
Stefanie Fulwood

Hold that Date!

Take note of these important upcoming UU dates and mark your calendars.

March 9-10: UUFP hosts the JPD board meeting.

March 18: UUFP congregational meeting.

Please plan to attend this important annual meeting where we elect the officers of our Fellowship for the coming year.

March 18: A large area worship service will be held at 2 pm at the Unitarian Society of Germantown. Our goal is to have participation from all of our area congregations. Come hear the latest planning details and find out how you can help us get the news out for what is sure to be an exciting event. *UUFP Choir members are expected to arrive at 1:00 for practice preceding the service.*

April 1: Congregational meeting after service

April 21: UUFP Service Auction

April 27-29: JPD Spring Conference, Harrisburg
This is a great event with keynote speakers, workshops, and a chance to meet other UU's from the district. You can attend for all or part of the weekend.

May 11 & 12: Leadership sessions with Tom Chulak

May 12: Kindling the Flame 2:

A day of networking and workshops for lay leaders and members on Saturday May 12 at the UU Church of Delaware County.

June 20-24: General Assembly in Portland, Oregon.

Transition Team Report

When UUFPP entered into the UUA consultancy program in 2005, it began moving toward a vision that placed a high priority on the health and growth of our congregation. The Transition Team was asked to evaluate current UUFPP Board and Committee structures and to develop a governance system that would enable the UUFPP congregation to move forward.

The Board approved the Transition Team's draft proposal at the February Board meeting. On February 18th, the Team met with the congregation and presented the suggested adjustments to the congregation's governance structure. It is hoped that this governance structure provides an intentional path that emphasizes shared ministry and fosters leadership continuity. Please review the following pages for the UUFPP Governance Plan and Shared Ministry Model.

A final proposal will be submitted to the congregation at the March congregational meeting. The 2007-2008 nomination process will be based on this new governance structure. On the advice from UUA consultant, Rev. Tom Chulak, the changed process will be tried for a year prior to modifying our bylaws. At the end of the first year, the structure will be evaluated and finalized for the 2008-2009 year. At the time of final adoption, the congregational bylaws will be revised to correspond with the new system of governance.

The Transition Team appreciates your support and your feedback throughout this process. Please feel free to let us know your concerns, your comments or questions. The members on the Transition Team are: Mary Alsayegh, Colin Bossen (Contract Minister), Carla Johnson (UUFPP Board President), Bob Jones, Linda Pallay, and Kay Price.

Respectfully,
Mary Alsayegh, Transition Team Chair

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, March 18th

At this meeting the congregation will begin to implement our new governance model by electing 7 members to the UUFPP Board of Directors. They are as follows:

- **President Elect** 3 year term (July 2007- June 2010)
- **President** 2 year term (July 2007- June 2009)
- **Past President** 1 year term (July 2007- June 2008)
- **Secretary** 1 year term (July 2007- June 2008)
- **Board Member 1** 1 year term (July 2007- June 2008)
- **Finance Secretary** 2 year term (July 2007- June 2009)
- **Board Member 2** 2 year term (July 2007- June 2009)

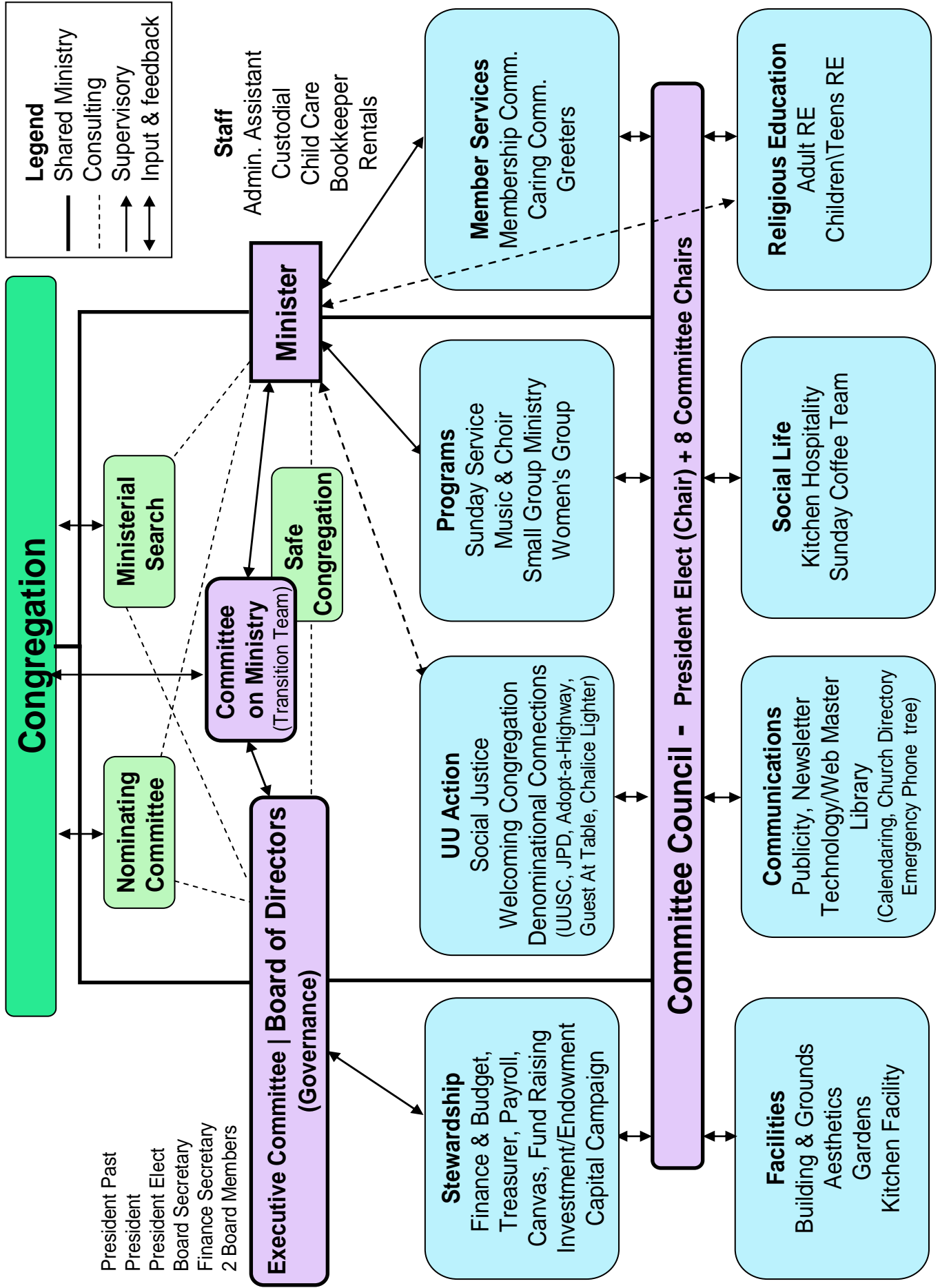
We have a lot to cover during this meeting and several members of the congregation have to leave to participate in a JPD event, so we will be starting immediately after the service.

As this is the week for 3rd Sunday potluck, please bring finger foods that can be eaten during the meeting. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Mary Alsayegh is donating mini-queche.

Plan to attend and participate in this important meeting.

UUFP Shared Ministry - Draft

February 18, 2007



Religious Education Notes

Family Chalice Lighting for this quiet month of winter:

We light this chalice as a symbol
of our connection to the stars in the sky,
to the warmth of the sun,
and to our own bright place in the universe.

The Pre-K class, led by Linda Pallay, this month will learn about the world we live in, including *My World Has Animals*, *My World Has Fish*, *My World Has Birds*, *My World Has Water*, and *My World Has Air*. We have several lessons with no teachers - if one of these lessons sounds like your specialty, contact Lynn Medley at 215 527 5903.

K-3, led by Suzanne Molyneux, will continue their exploration of ways to think and talk about god. The 4-6 class, led by Mary Alsayegh, will learn about the Temptations of Jesus, Jesus in the Temple, Jesus and the Law, and the Miracles of Jesus.

The February 13th Joseph Priestly District meeting of middle school RE groups was cancelled due to the snow storm. It has not yet been rescheduled, but we hope to be in attendance when it is.

Have a cozy month - we hope to see your children in RE.
Lynn Medley, RE Chair

Stronger Congregations in the Philadelphia-Wilmington Area

The *Stronger Congregations* committee of the Phl-Wilm Growth Team seeks members willing to work to enhance the vitality and growth of membership in the local area congregations. Projects under consideration include (but are not limited to):

- Preparation of Congregations for Membership Growth
- Organization and facilitation of "affinity groups" that would convene lay and professional leaders with common areas of responsibility, e.g., Children's RE, Adult RE, Worship, Ministry, Pledge Drive, Capital Campaign, Music.
- Website development that would collect and publish "Best Practices" of congregational life used by the local area congregations.
- Development of a network of "Sponsoring Congregations" to provide supportive follow-up and mentoring to local congregations that participate in JPD workshops.
- Review and promote all of the resources (staff consultants, grants, workshops) available from the UUA and JPD that promote Membership Growth.

If you are interested in Unitarian Universal membership growth please contact your local Phl-Wilm liaison Carla Johnson, or David Sheppard (deshep@udel.edu , 302 737 3405) or Rebekah Visco (rebekahv@yahoo.com , 215 295 3506) who serve as Co Chairs of the *Stronger Congregations* committee.

From the Fundraising Front

Many thanks to all who came out and participated in the Art show. This effort would not have happened without the support of our volunteers, Bob Hakun, Gladys Smith, Emily and Clayton Mowrer, Marianne Yarnall, Bob Jones with the lighting, and more I am sure I am forgetting to mention!

It is a real treat to get to work with the local art community, and a wonderful chance for our Fellowship to bring new folks in our doors. I am very grateful also to the local businesses who have donated so generously to our Raffle, giving us over \$900 worth of gifts and certificates to give away.

Thanks goes out to: Applebee's, Bella June Hair Studio, Big Daddy's Pizza, Earth Speak, Gourmet Buffet, Havana Joe's, Ice House Pizza, Kimberton Whole Foods, Longhorn Steakhouse, Peking Gourmet, Phoenix Lanes, Positively Pasta, TGI Fridays, the Trappe Book Center and Wentzel's Picture Framing.


Thanks also to all who came out to join us for Friendly's Night on the 27th, and especially to those who volunteered their time at the door.

Hope to see you all at our March Chautauqua!

- Jeanne Bautista, Fundraising Chair

UUFP Presents the

CHAUTAUQUA CAFE



February Featured Performers:
RON KRAVITZ
Hang Drum Percussion
www.musicinthemoment.com
THE WING-IT PLAYERS
More Crazy Skits!
and our host, performer/director
MICHAEL "COUGAR" REDDY
www.shamansweb.org

Where a variety show
with a conscience
meets a coffeehouse
with a heart.

Saturday, March 24th, 2007
7:30 pm at the Fellowship
Activity Sets begin at 8 and 9:30 pm.

Tickets : \$5

The Cafe will sell
espresso, coffee in a
variety of flavors, tea,
soda and a delectable
selection of desserts.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown
1565 South Leim Street,
Pottstown, PA 19465
<http://www.uupottstown.org>

Contact Jeanne Bautista at (484)363-0576 or JeanneBautista@msn.com

UUFP Service Auction

Mark Your Calendars NOW!!!

The Annual UUFP Service Auction is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 21st.

Start thinking about what you'd like to offer and start saving your pennies (and dollars!) for the wonderful events/items that are sure to be open for bids.

Please look for announcements about this fun event coming soon.

About Us

Who's Who at the UUFPP

Sojourner Policy/Deadlines

The Sojourner is the voice of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown. Notices pertaining to the Fellowship, its activities and members, and denominational news may be submitted to the Fellowship in writing or by email.

The submission deadline is the 15th of each month.

**Please note the email address for the Sojourner:
UUFPPNewsletter@aol.com**

Interim Minister: Colin Bossen

Board of Directors:

President: Carla Johnson

Vice President: Jeanne Bautista

Treasurer: Albert Jenkin

Secretary: Mary Alsayegh

Sun. Services: Stefanie Fulwood

RE: Lynn Medley

At Large: Matthew Molyneux

Committee Chairs:

Caring Committee: Ruth Daly

Aesthetics: Stefanie Fulwood

Finance: Judy MacDonald

Fundraising Committee:

Jeanne Bautista

Hospitality/Kitchen: Open

Publicity: Open

Membership: Kay Price

Ministerial Committee:

see Transition Team

Social Justice: Open

Sojourner Editor: Kay Price

Transition Team: Mary Alsayegh

Website Updates: Bob Gross

Choir: Marianne Yarnall

Building/Grounds:

Matthew Molyneux

Sunday Morning Teams:

Judith Van Beek

Gardens: Dorothea Hamlin

Address changes and email changes: Address changes? If you have changed your home or email address please send your updates to uufppmailings@aol.com.

Meditation Moments...

TODAY I AM FORTUNATE TO HAVE WOKEN UP

I am alive,
I have a precious human life,
I am not going to waste it,
I am going to use all my energies
To develop myself,
To expand my heart out to others,
I am going to look for ways to show kindness.
Today I am fortunate to have woken up.

- the Dalai lama

Come join us for meditation the first Tuesday of the month
in Fellowship Hall from 7pm - 8:30pm.

No experience is necessary, just a desire to take some quiet time for centering and development of inner calmness.

Any questions, please call Sally Martin 610-323-3067

March 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Yoga: 7:00	2	3
4 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	5	6 Meditation with Sally: 7-8:30 Membership Mtg: 7:00	7	8 Yoga: 7:00	9 JPD Board Mtg at UUF ^P	10 UUF ^P Choir Practice: 2:00 (Germantown)
11 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Sunday Service Mtg: 11:30 Covenant Class: 3-5	12 Board Mtg: 7:15	13 Transition Team Mtg: 6:45 Women's Group: 7:00	14	15 Yoga: 7:00	16	17
18 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Congregational Mtg: 11:15 <i>3rd Sun Potluck</i>	19	20	21	22 Yoga: 7:00	23	24 Chautauqua Café: 7:30-10:30
25 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	26	27	28	29 Yoga: 7:00	30	31

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

1565 South Keim Street
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*Pottstown Cluster food pantry collection during service
every third Sunday of the month.*