

# The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



**Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!**

**October 2017**

## Our Sunday Schedule

Childcare 10:00 am - 12 noon  
Worship and Church School 10:30 am

## October Sermons

### Domestic Violence

*Rev. Allen Siegel* *October 1*  
October 1 is the unveiling of our Silent Witness silhouettes. Our guest speaker that morning will be Reverend Allen Siegel the chaplain and director of spiritual care services at UM Upper Chesapeake. Rev. Siegel will be sharing his wisdom about domestic violence as he encounters it in his vocation.

*Please join us for the Silent Witness Ceremony immediately following the service.*

### Brave Spaces

*Rev. María McCabe* *October 8*  
Is it possible that our need to feel safe (and comfortable) holds us back from difficult conversations that would help us grow? In this service we will follow the lead of our Unitarian Universalist youth as we consider creating conversation spaces that are ‘brave,’ and not just ‘safe.’

*Social Justice Collection today!  
A potluck luncheon follows the service.*

### Courageous Together

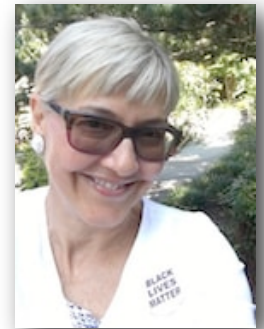
*Rev. María McCabe* *October 15*  
It was activist and s/hero Helen Keller who said “alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Our community of faith can inspire us and help us cultivate resilience and courage for the journey of our lives.

### The Courage to Change the Things We Can

*Rev. María McCabe* *October 22*  
This well-known line comes from the so-called Serenity Prayer of liberal theologian Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971). In this service we will explore the courage required to heal, especially from the chronic disease of addiction.

### Honoring Our Ancestors

*Rev. María McCabe* *October 29*  
From Samhain to Santería, the prehistoric Naledi to modern celebrations of the Day of the Dead, our global human family has long created rituals and remembrances of our ancestors.



### From Our Minister

*To Face the World's Shadows*  
*by Lindsay Bates*

*To face the world's shadows, a chalice of light.  
To face the world's coldness, a chalice of warmth,  
To face the world's terrors, a chalice of courage.  
To face the world's turmoil, a chalice of peace.  
May its glow fill our spirits, our hearts, and our lives.*

**“LOVE IS THE MOST POWERFUL MEDICINE WE HAVE.”** One might expect this statement to have come from a spiritual leader, a New Age practitioner or even a Unitarian Universalist. But no. This was the formidable Dr. Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General of the United States in the Obama administration, speaking from the stage at Bel Air High School last night during a public forum on the opioid epidemic. “It took me many years,” he continued, “of practicing in medical school and treating my patients to realize that love is our greatest tool for healing.”

The packed auditorium applauded without restraint. On a day when two more residents of Harford County tragically lost their lives to the scourge of opioid addiction, Dr. Murthy shared a message of love, good science and hope. Treatment works. Prevention is effective. Training medical professionals to understand addiction improves outcomes. Educating our children from an early age gives them the tools to make better

choices. Recognizing that addiction is a chronic brain disease and not a moral failing radically changes the playing field in the struggle to reverse this crisis of our public health. Removing the stigma is essential. And yes, every speaker on last night's panel, from the Harford County Executive, to the Sheriff and Superintendent of schools acknowledged that our communities of faith can be powerful allies.

Dear ones, I can't tell you how deeply this event moved me and how much it affirmed my conviction that our religious movement has the power to heal and transform lives. Dr. Murthy's words might have come straight from the pulpit of one of our Universalist ancestors, proclaiming that a loving God would never condemn any human being to eternal damnation.

The values we proclaim and the principles that guide us as Unitarian Universalists are a powerful tool for healing in the world. They call us to be a people of welcome and they call us to be a people of courage.

We will explore what it means to be a people of courage in October. At a time when so many among us feel increasingly unsafe and unsettled, where will we find the courage we need to 'face the world's shadows' with love? Can we find the courage to face the shadows within ourselves? Mary Anne Radmacher tells us that "courage doesn't always roar... sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says 'I will try again tomorrow.'"

"Love isn't some namby-pamby thing," said Dr. Murthy in conclusion. No it most definitely isn't.

*Warmly,*  
- Rev. María

---

## From Our President

*"In the entire circle of the year, there are no days so delightful as those of a fine October, when the trees are bare to the mild heavens, and the red leaves bestrew the road, and you can feel the breath of winter, morning and evening—no days so calm, so tenderly solemn, and with such a reverent meekness in the air."*

- Alexander Smith

Fall is in the air and the church year is in full swing! Some of you may wonder what has been on the Board agenda. We have been busy! Just to name a few of the items we have been working on:

- Welcoming Rev. María
- Updating our Safety Procedure Guide
- Developing the church calendar through a successful Council meeting
- Approving a Classroom Management Policy
- Exploring our technology usage for communication and archiving material
- Updating, approving and organizing our policy books
- Revising our organizational materials, including filling positions
- Exploring the concept of a Mission Based budget
- Making a plan for the Start-Up Workshop

And it is only October! Do you have ideas for items you would like us to explore? The Suggestion Box is right next to the coat closet and we would love to hear from you! Please feel free to share your suggestions, concerns or questions and we will do our best to address them.

I would like to personally thank our fantastic Board for all of their hard work, long meeting hours (sorry!) and willingness to serve and take on many responsibilities. It is a pleasure to serve with you!

- Diana Rudolph,  
Board President



---

## Religious Education

When I was seven years old, we moved to a new neighborhood. I quickly made friends with a four-year-old girl who lived across the street: Alison. Alison told me all about the neighborhood--the other kids on the street, the secret path to the baseball diamond, and trick-or-treating on Halloween. That year was going to be Alison's first year being able to trick-or-treat all over the neighborhood. Really, it would be mine, too, since I used to live in the country where we only had a handful of neighbors. How fun it was going to be to trick-or-treat through a whole neighborhood! And then Alison told me about Mr. H. She hadn't experienced this herself, but her older brothers were more than happy to tell her all about creepy Mr. H on Halloween.

Every Halloween, Mr. H. would remove the screen from his front door and replace it with a black shade. When trick-or-treaters rang his doorbell, the shade would fly up and Mr. H. would scare everyone.

Alison and I discussed Mr. H. and the black shade every day. We wondered if he could see through the shade or if he had some kind of magical power that alerted him to trick-or-treaters? How did he do it? Would he have a scary costume? Would we be scared?

After a couple of months of this talk, Halloween finally came. Alison and I set off trick-or-treating with our fathers. It was so much fun going from house to house. And eventually, we arrived at Mr. H's house. We slowly walked up to the front porch and looked at the big black shade. Our dads stood a little distance away, watching. Alison and I started to lose our nerve. "Ring the doorbell." "No, **you** ring the doorbell." "I don't want to ring it. You ring the doorbell!" "No way! You ring it!"

Suddenly, the shade flew up and Mr. H. yelled, "Will one of you ring the doorbell!"

I levitated off the front porch and Alison bolted to her dad while screaming and sobbing. Mr. H. wore a bowler hat and made a couple jokes while offering us candy, but we were done. Our dads were laughing, but we had had enough.

So, that was our first trick-or-treating experience in the neighborhood. After that night, everything was fine. We spent that year playing together. We ate lunch at each other's houses and went swimming and ice-skating and watched movies. We knew each other's favorite foods and songs and colors. We told each other secrets and laughed until we fell on the floor.

We had a year of building a strong friendship by the time Halloween came around again. This time we knew what we were in for with Mr. H. Now that we knew what would happen, do you think we were still scared? Absolutely! The difference was that we were together. We knew it would be okay because we had each other, so we held hands and rang that stinking doorbell.

**October 1:** The **RE Committee Meeting** will follow the service. Do you have a question or concern? Ask one of the committee members and we will discuss it during a meeting. Members: Candace Crew (Chair), Brenna Kupferman, Alison Rainey, Jim Stewart, Sara Stees, and Susan Lang.

**October 8: Children's Worship for PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Children's Worship provides an opportunity for students in preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to interact through music, stories, games, and crafts. **Young Leaders for 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Young Leaders is an opportunity for makerspace and service activities. **JYG (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Junior Youth Group is a chance for middle school youth to build community through different activities. This class

will be a field trip to Harman's Farm for a hayride and pumpkin carving. The **Youth (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)** will join the adults in the service. Classes end at 11:30 am.

**October 13:** Parent Support Group will meet from 5:45 to 8:00 pm. We will share a light dinner of pizza, salad, and dessert. After dinner, the kids will go with babysitters to the RE Wing and the parents will talk. The cost is \$5 per family—unless you'd like to bring a salad or dessert, and then there will be no charge! Please RSVP [dre@uufhc.net](mailto:dre@uufhc.net)

**October 29:** The **Halloween Party** will take place during the service. Costumes are encouraged!



- Stephanie Kalka,  
DRE

---

## Corner on Finance

### Starting the Year Right!

The opening service of our church year was heartwarming in so many ways. We showed our generous commitment to those in need by collecting over \$600 for the Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund at our first service of the new church year. As your treasurer, I was preparing to send out a plea for everyone to catch up with your pledges after the summer lull, and then there you were, with pledge checks in hand. I received 36 pledge checks on opening Sunday. It looks like everyone was ready to start off with a **Bam!** With all of the recent devastation in our country, it is apparent that, as a group, we are grateful for what we have here at UUFHC, willing to support our Fellowship with our resources, and that we are also willing share our wealth with those in need. I couldn't be more proud to be serving as your treasurer. You can trust that I handle your gifts with the upmost gratitude, for they show vigorous support for our spiritual home and allow us to do the important work of healing this bruised and battered world.



- Rob Lieb,  
Treasurer

## **Don't Miss the Silent Witness Ceremony Sunday, October 1, immediately following the service**

Please join us for our Silent Witness Ceremony at around 11:30 am on October 1. This is always a very moving ceremony and includes speakers from the community, including representatives from SARC and the Harford County Government. The ceremony is open to all in the community. We have become known as the church with the Silent Witness figures. There are also many ways you can help make the ceremony a success.

- Bring a savory finger food for the reception that follows the ceremony.
- Attend the ceremony and the reception to show your support and to help raise awareness in our community about the tragedies of domestic violence.
- If you are able, help move the figures from the church to the road and secure them in the ground after the ceremony, weather permitting.

We leave up the figures, silhouettes with the names of actual Harford County victims, for about a month at the foot of the road to bring awareness of Domestic Violence to the entire community. Relatives and friends of the victims often leave bouquets to show that their loved ones have not been forgotten.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month throughout our country. Many members of our Fellowship participate in another event this month: SARC's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holly's Hope 5K Run/1 Mile Walk. This year it will take place Saturday morning, October 14 at the Harford County Equestrian Center.

Some of you may remember that Holly came to speak about her experience at UUFHC at a Friday night service four years ago. Holly escaped an abusive spouse and lived in SARC's Safehouse. She was able to start a wonderful new life with the counseling and other services SARC provides. Her nephew planned the first walk, and Holly herself is an ambassador for survival. For further information, go to [www.sarc-maryland.org](http://www.sarc-maryland.org).

The Silent Witness program raises awareness about this issue, and the hope is that there will be fewer domestic violence fatalities and more inspirational stories of survivors like Holly.

A former member, Dorothy Lemmey, started UUFHC's Silent Witness program around the year 2000. It is part of a nationwide Silent Witness program. Over the years, many Members have organized the annual drive. For the past few years Judi Walkley and Marlene Lieb have planned and implemented the program. Please contact

Marlene or Judi if you are willing to follow in their footsteps to become a future organizer.



**Remember My Story.  
Remember My Name.**

---

## **Mark Your Calendar for the Minister Start-Up Weekend Friday, October 20 and Saturday October 21 at UUFHC**

Rev. David Pyle, our representative from the Central East Region, will lead the weekend with a goal of building a strong foundation for our Congregation and our new minister, Rev. María McCabe.

Friday evening is for all members to meet and share a potluck supper. It's a time to let Rev. María know about our history and our aspirations. Rev. Pyle will certainly have exercises to help the ideas flow.

Saturday morning is for church leaders, including Committee chairs and anyone who has a role in the church. The Board will meet in the afternoon to conclude the workshop.

I've been to many startups for ministers and DREs and find that not only is a Start-Up Weekend a good way to learn about the new minister and for her to learn about us, but it's also a way for Members of the Fellowship to bond and become a more vibrant community. We hope to see you there on Friday night for the beginning of a new journey.

*- Kay Saucier*

---

## **Making Every Moment Count – A UUFHC Retreat Saturday, October 7, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at UUFHC Led by Chondzin Kelsang from the Kadampa Meditation Center**

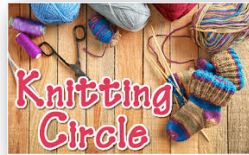
Register with the UUFHC office before September 28 for "Making Every Moment Count – A Death Awareness Retreat." We can learn how coming to terms with our mortality enriches our life and enables us to meet our



passing with dignity, confidence and even joy. We can be inspired to live a pure, liberating lifestyle in which every moment is meaningful. This retreat will include very helpful information on exactly what happens in the process of death and rebirth, and how to help ourselves and others die peacefully. The \$30 exchange includes lunch.

---

## Knitting and Crochet Circle Resumes



Come join us on Sunday, October 1 from 9:15 to 10:15 am (before service starts) in the middle school room. New members are welcome to join established group members to work on charity projects. The group will not meet every month, but you can work on your own, and Pam Lottero-Perdue and April Fritts will offer guidance. Beginners make squares (bring size 7 or 8 straight bamboo needles or a crochet hook (size 7 – in between a G and an H). Advance knitters and crocheters will make prayer shawls for the minister to give to members of the UUFHC community. Pam and April can provide yarn or you can bring your own. See the Adult Education brochure for more information.

---

## UU Leadership Institute

The UU Leadership Institute is offering a series of four online leadership development courses for only \$30 each. They are designed so that prospective or new leaders can take beginner courses and experienced leaders can take higher-level courses. The topics in each course align so that all of the leaders can get together in person to work on case studies, do interactive learning and discuss topics with materials that the UULI provides. The four courses are *Faithful Membership*, *Healthy Leadership*, *Strategic Leadership* and *Adaptive Leadership*.

The UULI offers other classes on topics such as Compassionate Communication, Revitalizing Small Congregations, Transgender Inclusion for Congregations, Visitor to Member, and Spiritual Companionship.

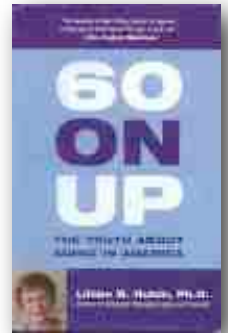
There is no need to spend a week away from home at a costly event. You can take courses online, on your schedule.

Learn more about the UU Leadership Institute at its website, [www.uuinstitute.org](http://www.uuinstitute.org).

---

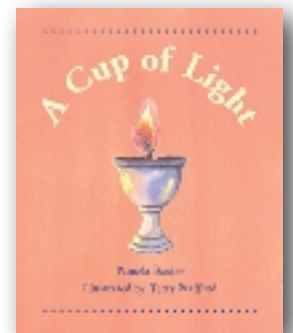
## Available from the UUA Bookstore, *InSpirit*

*60 on Up: The Truth about Aging in the Twenty-first Century*  
Lillian B. Rubin, Ph.D  
Beacon Press, \$21



In this wide-wide ranging book, Dr. Rubin examines how the new longevity ricochets around our social and emotional lives, affecting us all for good and ill, from adolescence into senescence. How, she asks, do sixty-somethings fill another twenty, thirty, or more years post retirement without a “useful” identify of an obvious purpose? In tackling the subject of aging over a broad swath of the population, cutting across race, class, gender, and physical and cognitive ability, Dr. Rubin helps us to understand thoroughly the realities we face and to prepare as individuals and as a society for a long life from sixty on up.

*A Cup of Light: All About the Flaming Chalice*  
Pamela Baker  
Skinner House Books, \$5



This lovely, thought provoking little book for young children opens the door onto an exploration of the symbol of our UU faith. It invites a look at what happens when the symbols of the cup and the flame are put together, and what the flaming chalice might mean when we bring it into our faith communities and into our homes. This is a book that children can take to heart. They can also personalize it by coloring in the illustrations. Parents and religious educators will appreciate the brief history of the chalice at the back.

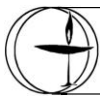
Visit the website at [www.uuabookstore.org](http://www.uuabookstore.org) and browse the many selections, some available for e-readers. You can order from the site; it's a good place to find the perfect gift. Besides books for adults, children and young adults, *InSpirit* also sells CDs, DVDs, apparel, jewelry and more! Happy shopping!

The Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Harford County  
2515 Churchville Road  
Churchville, MD 21028

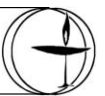
Building Liberal Religious Community  
*Please Join Us!*

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at [www.uufhc.net](http://www.uufhc.net)



Please note: Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, October 8, 2017



Minister:	The Rev. Maria McCabe
Director of Religious Education:	Stephanie Kalka
Administrative Assistant:	Karen Kurrle
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle):	
Tues, Wed & Thurs:	10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Minister's Office Hours:	
Mon:	Weekly Sabbath Time
Tues & Wed:	11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Thurs:	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Fri:	Writing & Research Day

Director of Religious Education Office Hours:	
Mon:	Day Off
Tues, Wed & Thurs:	9:30 pm to 2:00 pm
Fri:	Day Off

Office Phone:	410-734-7122
Office Email:	<a href="mailto:office@uufhc.net">office@uufhc.net</a>
Minister Email:	<a href="mailto:minister@uufhc.net">minister@uufhc.net</a>
DRE Email:	<a href="mailto:dre@uufhc.net">dre@uufhc.net</a>
Newsletter Email:	<a href="mailto:newsletter@uufhc.net">newsletter@uufhc.net</a>
Webmaster Email:	<a href="mailto:webmaster@uufhc.net">webmaster@uufhc.net</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.uufhc.net">www.uufhc.net</a>

## Wayside Pulpit

There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread, but there are many more dying for a little love.

– *Mother Teresa*