

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community – Please Join Us!

November 2017

Our Sunday Schedule

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

November Sermons

Gifts of Abundance

Rev. María McCabe

November 5

Swiss poet and Buddhist Jules Petit-Senn says: “it’s not what we have that constitutes our abundance but what we appreciate.” How might we make room in our lives for those things we don’t always remember to appreciate? And how might that practice renew our experience of abundance?

For the Beauty of the Earth

Rev. María McCabe

November 12

In this season of harvest festivals, we will explore our expressions of gratitude for the gifts of the earth and the holiness of nature.

*The Social Justice Collection supports
Homeless Concerns
A potluck luncheon follows the service.*

Unsung S/Heroes

Rev. María McCabe

November 19

In this service we will explore the long history of service and commitment in our Unitarian and Universalist religious traditions and we will give thanks for the many gifts shared in our beloved UUFHC congregation.

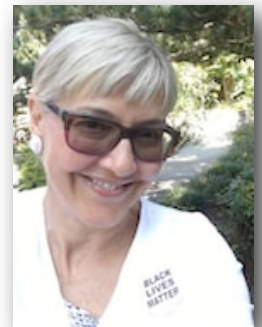
A Native American Thanksgiving Ceremony

Buffalo Trace Society

November 26

Buffalo Trace Society (BTS) invites and wants the UU Fellowship to participate in the Native American Thanksgiving Ceremony. Please bring some small symbols that represent the Animal Kingdom (no live critters, please!), the Plant Kingdom, Foodstuffs, Creatures of the Air (Birds, Insects...) and of the Water (Fish, Frogs...). Those objects will be placed on and around the Altar when indicated during the Ceremony. We look forward to conducting this ceremony and your participation with us again this year.

The Buffalo Trace Society is the amalgamation of many apprentice groups, originally taught over a thirty year period on both the East and West coasts by Grandmother Saundra PathWeaver, now led by Grandmother Carol FireHeart, Cherokee Metis teachers of Native American traditions and practices. Those teachings emphasize Nature and Natural Laws and our role and duty in the stewardship of Mother Earth so that it Sustains All Things, Honors Creation and Great Spirit Our Creator. Our mission is to be Teachers and share those traditions with **all** so that **all** use practices that sustain the planet we call Earth. It is our sacred duty to pass it onto future generations in better condition than we enjoyed, since we borrowed it from them. For further information, contact GrandFather Ron “Silverwolf” Henry at Ronald.Lee.Henry@gmail.com.



From Our Minister

Praise Song

Praise the light of late November,
the thin sunlight that goes deep in the bones.
Praise the crows chattering in the oak trees;
though they are clothed in night, they do not
despair. Praise what little there’s left:
the small boats of milkweed pods, husks, hulls,
shells, the architecture of trees.

by Barbara Crooker

NOVEMBER HAS ALWAYS FELT like a month of contradictions to me. The sunlight is thin, as poet Barbara Crooker describes, night comes earlier and earlier, and we can feel the growing chill of incoming winter. In our part of the world, the landscape completes its transformation from lush to bleak. Nature is closing

down for its winter rest. It is beautiful to be sure, especially in its early days. And what's not to love about so many varieties of pumpkin, not to mention pumpkin spice coffee? But it can feel challenging too, especially to those of us who struggle with SADS, or Seasonal Affective Disorder. For as many as 20% of us, the season of harvest festivals and holiday celebrations can bring heightened feelings of loneliness and even mild depression. At a time when we are seeking to cope with so many disasters of both human and natural origins, we have some additional heaviness of heart to consider too.

Into this space comes our worship theme for November, which is "abundance." From a material perspective it's not hard to see why. In fact, it is tempting to speak of "excess" rather than mere abundance. We are projected to spend more than \$9 billion this year to celebrate Halloween in the United States, with \$400 million on pet costumes alone. Now don't get me wrong, I love a good pet costume. I have frequently subjected my elderly cat Nemo to wearing a Taco Bell chihuahua hat for Christmas. I'm not proud of this, mind you, but it *is* funny to watch him pause for moment, give me a look of disdain and then remove the offending headgear.

And yet... it is something to think about, isn't it?

Because in this particular season of celebration, I can't help but think about the hundreds and hundreds of thousands of folk who are struggling to recover from this season's devastating hurricanes. How can I hold the tension in my heart between the abundance some of us enjoy and the desperate need of so many others? I know I am not alone in wrestling with this question.

Parker Palmer, the world-renowned educator and thinker helps me when he offers Barbara Crooker's words. He invites us first to lean into the scarcity inherent in this autumnal season and then give thanks for what remains. "*Praise what little there's left,*" she says.

Before the praise and before the giving of thanks, let us see clearly what has been lost and what remains scarce. Before we can truly appreciate the abundance that is available to us as people of faith, we need to understand what we have lost. When I follow Parker Palmer's guidance, I allow myself to see the deep loss so many have recently suffered. I allow myself to respond with my heart and my resources to that need and loss.

And then I have the space to praise and appreciate the abundant gifts that remain. I can give my heartfelt thanks for the courage and resilience of people in Puerto Rico for example, and I can celebrate the generosity and courage of folks who are doing so much to help in so many desperate situations. I can give thanks for the

many gifts of community that come from belonging to UUFHC. And I can acknowledge that generosity, beauty and support are everywhere I look. I am grateful that we will give thanks and praise together during this season of contradictions.

- Warmly, Rev. María

From Our President

What does it take to be "involved" at UUFHC? Is it getting to service early and helping to set up the chairs or coffee? Welcoming and talking to new attendees? Serving on a committee? Painting, weeding or fixing items? Cooking, sending cards to the sick or making a troubled soul laugh?

A church is like any other organization that runs on human resources—all of our little actions work together to produce big results. Take a minute to reflect on how you might possibly increase your involvement at UUFHC and help us grow our community. Just a few suggestions:

- Become a member and attend meetings
- Volunteer in RE
- Provide a ride
- Stay after service to help clean-up
- Serve on the Serendipity Auction committee
- Help with social activities
- Volunteer at the homeless shelter
- Donate pantry items
- Help beautify our church
- Weed the garden
- Help put the newsletter together
- Volunteer technology services
- Send a card
- Contribute to potluck
- Help plan the Chili Cook-Off
- Say hi to someone you have never met

The list goes on and on. In the Thursday Bytes, you will see a new section called "Help Wanted." If you or your committee is in need of help with an activity, please send it to Karen and she will post it along with any dates and contact information. Please don't be shy! We need you! Together, we can continue to flourish and achieve our goals!

- Diana Rudolph,
Board President



Religious Education

Somewhere in the woods in Maryland, lived a young red fox named Edgar. Edgar lived with his mom, his four new siblings, and his dad. Things had gotten busy since mom had the pups. More food was needed for everyone, now that they were a family of seven. Every day at dawn and dusk, Mom would stay with the pups while Dad and Edgar would go out to hunt for food.

Edgar was new at hunting, but because they needed so much food, Dad said they couldn't go together. Splitting up would give them the best chance at finding enough food for the whole family.

One night, Edgar was gathering some earthworms when he realized he was being watched. He looked around, but didn't see anyone. Then he heard fluttering from above. It was Bellamy, the Pirate Parrot who escaped from his home and now lived in the woods. He was big, and fierce, and famous. "Surrender or die, ye barnacle bottomed sorry sea dog!" Bellamy squawked. "I'll give ye twenty lashings 'o the cat, ye lily-livered swine!"

Startled, Edgar dropped his worms. Bellamy swooped down screeching, "I'll skewer yer gizzard, ye stinking scabby sea bass!" and he pecked at Edgar, walking after him on his gnarled feet.

Edgar was so terrified that he ran. "Dead men tell no tales!" Bellamy called after him.

When he arrived back at the family den, his father was dismayed to see he didn't have any food. "What happened?"

"It was Bellamy. He attacked me and screamed at me and chased me and I was so scared!"

His father nuzzled him. "That's terrible."

"It was, Dad. I thought he was going to eat me and I think I was being insulted, too."

"That pirate parrot needs to learn a lesson." growled Edgar's father. "I'm going to find him and tell him a thing or two."

"Wait, Dad. I think this is something I have to do myself." said Edgar. "If I can't figure out how to stand up to Bellamy now, this kind of thing will happen again and again."

"That's why I should be the one to pluck his feathers. That angry bird has it coming!"

Edgar spoke softly, "Someone was probably mean to him and so now he's mean to everyone. He doesn't know any other way to be. I can't change him, but I can stand up to him and tell him I won't be treated that way."

His father sighed. "I guess you're right. You're sure?"

Edgar stood up straight. "This isn't going to be easy, but it's something I have to do."

He slowly set off into the woods. He was nervous, but he put one paw in front of the other. The night air felt cool.

Suddenly, Bellamy whooshed down from the trees! "Swab the deck, ye flea ridden rascal!" He hovered over Edgar and nipped at his tail. "A black spot upon thee, ye slovenly blaggard!"

Edgar spun around and yelled, "Stop! You're acting mean and I don't want to be treated this way."

"Why not, ye rotten timbered landlubber?" questioned Bellamy while landing in front of Edgar.

"Because I'm out here doing an important job and you have nothing better to do. If you can't be kind then be quiet and leave me **Alone!**"

Bellamy paused, his round eyes staring.

"Arrrrrrr...okay."

And he flew off into the night. Edgar exhaled the breath he hadn't realized he was holding. He did it. He gained strength from that moment and he knew it would be easier next time. He trotted confidently into the night.

This month in RE:

November 4: Chalice Making Night from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm. Please join us us to make a chalice to use during the holidays. We will begin with a pot luck dinner and then decorate chalices. There is a \$5 fee per chalice. Please RSVP dre@uufhc.net

November 5: OWL 7-8 will run from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

November 10: Parent Support Group will meet from 5:45 pm to 8:30 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

November 12: Children's Worship for PreK-3rd Grade: Children's Worship provides an opportunity for students in preschool through 5th grade to interact through music, stories, games, and crafts. **Young Leaders for 4th – 5th Grade:** Young Leaders is an opportunity for maker space and service activities. **JYG (6th-8th 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 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The **Youth (9th-12th Grade)** will attend the field trip as well. Classes end at 11:30 am. 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.

November 19: OWL 7-8 will run from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.



- Stephanie Kalka,
DRE

Corner on Finance

Staying the Course – Fall has always been a special time of year for me. As a boy, I spent crisp fall mornings delivering the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and would rush back to the lake before anyone else in the house got up so that I could enjoy the quiet solitude of the waves reaching the rocks and watching leaves fall into the water. I remember feeling safe, and happy, and loved, so that by the time Thanksgiving arrived, I was full of gratitude for the many blessings in my life.

Things have evolved over the years, but some things stay constant. Tomorrow I will get up early and deliver all of your pledges and gifts to the bank, then hurry back while it is still early and watch the leaves fall into the river behind our house. I am full of gratitude for so many reasons. The money flow has been good, since so many of you are paying your pledges early and almost everyone on a regular and steady basis. We are midway through our budget cycle and we are financially healthy. This allows us to make needed repairs at the Montessori

school, consider purchasing new chairs for our growing congregation, and make other significant financial decisions without fiscal trepidation.

As the holidays approach I hope you take comfort in the safe place you have helped create. We work and share together to make this community and thereby the world a better place.



- Rob Lieb,
Treasurer

Holiday Bazaar News

**Friday, December 1:
11:00 am to 8:00 pm**
**Saturday, December 2:
8:00 am to 2:00 pm**



The Holiday Bazaar Committee has been collecting some wonderful items for this year's event. There are some beautiful knitted items, quilted items, holiday pillows, baskets with fresh greens, some wreaths, and table decorations. Glenn Brown will be making his famous wood pens and other wood items, There will be a dog section, cat section, bird section, and spa section.

There are also many nice items for the White Reindeer table. In addition, books, CD's and lots of jewelry will be available for purchase.

Mary Jane Price and the older UU children will be selling homemade meatball sandwiches on site.

The committee is still looking for people to bake cookies or baked goods for sale. They especially need a lot of cookies for a "cookie walk."

Help is also needed during the Bazaar:

- Set-up Prior to he Bazaar
- Clean Up after the event on Saturday
- Assemble the food table and White Reindeer table
- Help with the book table
- Act as table keeper, hall monitor or sales help.

There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer sometime in November for anyone interested in helping with these jobs. Thanks in advance to all who contributed items or signed up to help.

Contact Noreen Anderson or Sara Morton. (Email sent to bazaar@uufhc.net will go to both Noreen and Sara.)

Two New Adult Education Offerings

Soul Matters Sharing Circle - Rev. Maria McCabe leads this group first and third Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. This group gives Members an opportunity to explore spiritual practices that relate to the monthly worship themes. Participants can discuss the sermon topics or reflect on a set of questions to dig deeper. Child Care is available.

The Lunch Bunch - The lunch bunch is back! Rev. Maria McCabe and participants will explore “Living Into Our Unitarian Universalist Values” and what this means during this moment in history. Where can we go for strength and inspiration? Do our Seven Principles inform our lives and are they enough to guide us? Participants will discuss the proposed 8th Principle, which addresses the need to confront racism in our religious movement.

The Lunch Bunch will meet first and third Thursdays of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the library. Bring your lunch, your mindfulness and your curiosity!

For further information, contact the UUFHC office at office@uufhc.net or call (410) 734-7122.

Remembering Veterans

November 11, 1918 was considered the day when the First World War ended even though the Treaty of Versailles to mark that ending was signed later, on June 28, 1919 in France. Known as “the war to end all wars,” the 11th of November was proclaimed to be a legal holiday in 1938 to be known as Armistice Day. Fast forward to the ending of the Second World War and then the war in Korea, and in 1954, November 11 became known as Veterans Day to honor all veterans, no matter when the veteran served in the Armed Forces. Many of us memorialize American veterans from all wars beginning with the Revolutionary War.

Many Unitarians and Universalists served and are currently serving in our military branches of service. We



pause at the eleventh hour on November 11 to honor those who served and remember those who gave their lives for America to remain as we are: “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” We thank them all for their service.

Furthermore, on November 4, 2017 one Harford County veteran will be remembered by military speakers and others at a luncheon from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to be held at the Ames United Methodist Church, 112 Baltimore Pike, in Bel Air. During a battle in the American Civil War, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton of the USCT ultimately gave his life trying to prevent the U.S. flag and the regimental flag—the colors—from touching the ground. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously after succumbing to infection after his right leg was amputated as a result of a serious wound. He was 22 years old.

Please contact JoAnn Macdonald if you are interested in attending the luncheon. The donation is \$25.00 per person. Also see the notice in this newsletter, forthcoming announcements in nUUsbytes, and on the Bulletin Board.

— JoAnn Macdonald

Support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

This is the time of the year to support the UU Service Committee (UUSC). In the past, UUFHC participated in the “Guest At Your Table” campaign. We had success and even became a UUSC banner congregation for several years. We don’t always participate in Guest at Your Table now—many have found it more effective to send a check rather than collect coins in a box. But the need is still there and I encourage you to join me in sending a check so that the organization can continue its good work around the world.

This year the focus is on Myanmar and the Rohingya refugee crisis, climate change in the South Pacific (islanders homes and livelihoods are threatened) and immigrant issues around the world.

Visit www.uusc.org for more information about their programs and/or to make a donation.



Enjoy Bed & Breakfast in Sunny Southwest Florida

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers offers Bed and Breakfast rooms in sunny southwest Florida during the months of January through April. Your UU hosts will provide a private room and bath, daily breakfast, UU hospitality and maps and a guidebook. Pick any period up to seven days and we will arrange a host home with a room for one or two people. The cost is only \$75 per night!

Fort Myers offers pristine, beautiful beaches, historical sites, golfing, tennis, biking, boating and fishing, nature areas, music, theater and art galleries, shopping and more! During this time period, the temperature is a high of 81°, a low of 60° and 99% sunny days.

For more information, please visit the website www.uucfm.org/about-uucfm/hospitality/bed-a-breakfast There is a questionnaire of interest to match you with a host of similar interests. Or you may email at bedandbreakfast@uucfm.org for a brochure.

Shopping Ideas from *InSpirit*

InSpirit is the name for the UUA Bookstore, because not only does it sell books, but it sells all manner of UU and chalice jewelry and paraphernalia—it's sure to have the perfect gift for all the UUs in your family. Included at the on-line store are many styles of t-shirts, onesies for infants, caps, chalice water bottles, note cards, bumper stickers and magnets, cups, pens, and a wide array of chalice jewelry—everything to help you “let your light shine” and show your UU identity. There is also “Standing on the Side of Love” merchandise.

Yes, *InSpirit* does sell books, too. The children's section has activity books, stories about role models, ways to help parents discuss race, the variety of people around the world, and how to choose values for life.

For adults, there are inspirational books of readings, social justice books as well as selections from UUA's publishing companies, *Skinner House* and *Beacon Press*.

Visit www.uua.org/bookstore to begin browsing.



UUSJ News

New UUA President Encourages Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice's Advocacy Work

UUSJ was delighted that Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, recently-elected UUA president, dropped in on the September 9 Board meeting to discuss her priorities and how UUSJ can work to amplify the voices of marginalized communities through our advocacy in the Nation's capital. She encouraged UUSJ to work closely with her office to coordinate efforts to raise the moral voice in these challenging times, and reminded us to “be proximate” with the communities whose interests we strive to champion. Her grassroots immigration coalition work in Arizona has informed her social justice posture and value of the prophetic voice to frame policy discussions and the need for the faith community to take a stand in support of our beliefs.

Advocacy Corps reaches Senators about Healthcare Legislation

UUSJ's Advocacy Corps gave a “thumbs up” to MD Senator Ben Cardin on September 26 for his stance on healthcare legislation. The Advocacy Corps delivered letters expressing UUSJ concerns on pending healthcare legislation, urging bipartisan collaboration to ensure accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare, to 33 senators' offices, including Senators Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, and John McCain. The UUSJ Advocacy Corps visits Capitol Hill on the second Tuesday of each month to convey UU values and principles on key issues. To learn more contact advocacy@uusj.org.

UUSJ Supports “Dreamers”

On September 3, UUSJ joined with the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium and other organizations, including the UUA and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) as part of a 22-day “Dream” vigil in front of the White House to defend Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and Temporary Protective Status designation. UU clergy from Cedar Lane and All Souls Unitarian churches shared prayers and reflections.



Campaign 42 Event to Honor Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Saturday, November 4 at Ames United Methodist Church

Campaign 42 is the African-American History of Harford County Project. Residents have been collecting fascinating stories about the African-American role in our county throughout the years. One of our heroes is Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton, a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient who gave his life while taking the American Flag up the hill—and preventing the flag from hitting the ground.

An event honoring Sgt. Hilton for Veterans Day takes place on Saturday, November 4 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Ames United Methodist Church, 112 Baltimore Pike in Bel Air. A luncheon is available for a donation of \$25.00. For further information or to make a reservation, call (410) 652-1448.

Planning for Disruptions

We live in a time when some people or groups think that their beliefs are the true beliefs, and those who disagree are not only mistaken but sacrilegious. Some individuals or groups have disrupted UU congregations around the country, from the anti-abortion fundamentalist Christian group, “Operation Save America” or the shotgun wielding man who killed and wounded individuals because he “hated liberals.” Since these incidents, the UUA has recommended that congregations develop a “security response plan.”

In 2013, the editor of the UU publication, *InterConnections* interviewed the Rev. Aaron Payson, a founding member of the UU Trauma Response Ministry (www.traumaministry.org). He recommended that every congregation develop a safety plan that covers not only intruders in church but also for natural disasters.

Payson specifically recommended that:

- key leaders carry inexpensive two-way radios for quick communication and response to an intrusion on Sunday morning;
- keep open as few church building entrances as possible;
- calls to 911 be made from a landline for quicker response;
- congregations consider hiring “security sextons.”

Recommendations from other sources include:

- decide beforehand who calls police in emergency situations;
- designate someone to take a video of any disturbance;
- don’t engage with intruders any more than necessary—they’re not there to thoughtfully consider your viewpoint.

At a disruption at a New Orleans congregation, the youth, who were being honored that Sunday, quickly started singing and got the congregation members to form a circle. So the congregation included this in the policy to react to future disturbances. The service leader would direct the protesters to leave and then begin singing. This would be a signal for the congregation to join in and for a designated response team to escort the protesters out and for others to secure the religious education classrooms.

For more advice, see the *InterConnections* article, “Planning for Emergencies and the Unthinkable” (www.uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/285048.shtml).

Disaster Relief Sites

The UUA has established a Hurricane Irma relief fund. Just go to <https://giving.uua.org/irma-aid>. For more information about our denomination’s efforts, check out www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds. In addition, the UU College of Social Justice will be organizing volunteer efforts associated with Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma.

The Hurricane Maria Community Relief and Recovery Fund will be housed at the Center for Popular Democracy (CPD). One hundred percent of monies raised will be used to provide relief from the storm. The fund is governed by local, grassroots Puerto Rican organizations. Check out [Hurricane Maria Community Recovery Fund](http://HurricaneMariaCommunityRecoveryFund.org) or <https://connect.clickandpledge.com> and search for the Hurricane Maria Recovery Fund.



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



Please note: Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, November 12, 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: TBA	
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:	office@uufhc.net
Minister Email:	minister@uufhc.net
DRE Email:	dre@uufhc.net
Newsletter Email:	newsletter@uufhc.net
Webmaster Email:	webmaster@uufhc.net
Website:	www.uufhc.net

Wayside Pulpit

The study of the art of motorcycle maintenance is really a miniature study of the art of rationality itself. Working on a motorcycle, working well, caring, is to become part of a process, to achieve an inner peace of mind. The motorcycle is primarily a mental phenomenon.

– Robert M. Pirsig