



THE SUUN

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

December 1, 2009
Volume 18 Issue 6

WORSHIP — *touch the earth, reach the sky*

Upcoming Worship Services at 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

The Zen Of Japanese Flower Arranging

Ellen Krehbiel, Guest Speaker

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Different Faiths Perspective

Venerable Thubton Chodron, Guest Speaker

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Keeping the Faith: Living Our Unitarian Universalist Principles in Our Congregations and Our Lives

Diana Serquina, Guest Speaker

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Requiem Service

Diana Anderson, Carla Brannan, &
Nancy Hand, Guest Speakers

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Rev. Hollis Bredeweg, Guest Minister

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Title TBA

Vincent Lachina, Guest Speaker

Washington State Chaplain For Planned Parenthood

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Partner Church Sunday

Julie & Jerry Jose, Guest Speakers

Special Holiday Services

please note:

service times & days vary:

Saturday, December 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Winter Solstice Service

see page 2 of the SUUN

Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

Erin Fitzgerald, Coordinator

Thursday, December 24, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Tracy Springberry, Guest Speaker

Sunday, December 27, 2009

No Worship Services On This Sunday

All Church Holiday Party

Saturday, December 5th at 5:30 p.m.

Youth Group Dinner : Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Please bring desserts to share, greenery to deck our halls, ornaments for our tree, and your holiday spirit to this wonderful event.



"From Darkness to Light" A Winter Solstice Singing Ritual

Experience the magic of the season in story and song as we celebrate the great turning of the year

Find that transformative place within you as you add your own light to the world

Join us:
Saturday December 19th
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Ritual at 7:00 p.m.
no latecomers admitted

Canned and boxed food donations to Second Harvest gratefully accepted

Childcare is available; please call 325-6383 by Thursday noon December 17th.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane
4340 W Ft Wright Dr
Spokane WA 99224

Music Notes

Yule—a variation of the Scandinavian word "Jul", meaning wheel—is observed on the first day of winter (Solstice), the shortest day of the year. One of the common themes during this celebration comes from the Celts. It's the battle between the aging Holly King (representing the darkness of the old year) and the young Oak King (symbolizing the light of the new year). Usually, the tale is told while lighting the Yule log on the Winter Solstice. The log (a symbol of the Oak King) adorned with traditional evergreens (a representation of the Holly King) signifies the death of darkness and the warmth of the Sun during the newly born solar year. It is a ritual to welcome the Sun, to encourage its easy birth, and to persuade it to cast its warming, healing rays upon our bodies, hearts, and spirits. According to tradition, the log should burn continuously for twelve days, and a bit of the wood should be saved to start the next year's fire.

Although Solstice traditions vary around the world, all of them include light and fire. In Iran, for example, a Solstice celebration called Yalda or Sada involves keeping vigils through the night as seaside fires burn to encourage the Sun to defeat its alter ego, Darkness. Some Germanic peoples still light a fire on this night to honor Bertha—sometimes called "Hertha"—a Sun goddess who tends to home and hearth.

Here at the church we, too, have taken a shine to this ritual night. Our first Solstice service was in 1995. Since then it has evolved over the years to what it is now—a large singing ritual service that includes friends of the church from the larger Pagan community. Many people have told me that it was the highlight of their holiday season. It is a most beautiful service. You are all invited to be here on Saturday, December 19th to celebrate the Darkest Night's turning to the light. Doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. and closing promptly at 7:00 p.m. so we can center ourselves and sink into an atmosphere of ritual on this special night. In order to preserve this focus, we will not be seating people once the ritual starts. Please come early to garner a seat to your liking.

In celebration of both the Light and the Dark,

Deborah Jacquemin



We Need You!

Do you want to increase your active role in this church? How about working with some of the great speakers scheduled this year? Have you thought about being part of the Sunday service? Accomplish all three by becoming a Worship Leader! Come to a training class on Wednesday, November 11th at 6:30 p.m. We will give you all the information you need to take on this exciting opportunity. For those who are already Worship Leaders, this class will also present recent updates for this lay-led church year, so please join us. Contact Isabelle Green or Erich Richter for more information.

Relax into the Silence

The Worship Team is experimenting over the next several months with a slightly longer silence during our meditation time. You'll be experiencing about three minutes of silence as opposed to the sixty seconds that has been our practice in recent years. Please be patient with this and give it a chance. We think that, in our hectic lives, a bit more silence in our worship services could be of support to us all. We'll evaluate this after we try it out, but of course, please feel free to give your feedback about this or any other part of our services to any member of the Worship Team.

Susan Virmig



Children's and Youth Programs

Religious Education Program Closed
Sundays, December 20th and 27th

There are no religious education classes on the above Sundays in December. On the 20th the entire church school is invited to participate in the Multigenerational Service "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?" and on the 27th the entire church is closed for a holiday break.

Junior High Our Whole Lives Program Update

The Religious Education Council will not offer a sexuality education class for junior high school students for 2009 – 2010.

Coming of Age Mentor Orientation

Sunday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m.

The participants in the senior high Coming of Age program are matched with a same gender mentor from the congregation. This meeting will provide orientation for those adults who are mentors this year.

Youth Group Meetings

Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Puppet Show Dress Rehearsal

Dresses are optional but clothing is required.

Sunday, December 13 1st and 2nd Service

The Latke that Wouldn't Stop Screaming

A story for all ages about a noisy potato pancake.

Sunday, December 13

The Last Meeting for 2009

We are way too far out to have actual plans for this night.

Hopefully, it won't be canceled because of snow.

Erin Fitzgerald

Director of Religious Education and Programs

325-6383 or programs@uuspokane.org



Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Thursdays, December 10th and 17th at 6:30 p.m.

On December 20th at 10 a.m. the congregation will enjoy our annual Christmas Pageant but in order for that to happen we need you. This pageant is created through a silent tableau and everyone is welcome to participate. We need Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, Innkeepers, a donkey, camels, friendly beasts, angels, and shepherds to make this all a success. You are neither too young nor too old to participate. You are just right, so volunteer right away.



Adult Religious Education and Faith Formation

Problem Solvers Coffee Club

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

The Problem Solvers are an irreverent bunch of philosophers, male & female; who argue amongst themselves about politics, religion, and many of life's other absurdities. Besides chewing the fat, they take turns bringing goodies and normally stay until the coffee is gone (at least the leaded pot). Except for holidays, they usually meet in the Cummings room at 10 am on Mondays. Feel free to drop in, or contact Mickey Thompson for further vague information.

Conversations with the Bible

Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

This on-going group meets twice monthly to explore the meaning of the bible from a liberal perspective. The class format is to listen to an instructional DVD for the first portion of the class and then to have a facilitated discussion. Newcomers are welcome to come and check out the class.

Scrapbooking

Friday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Diana Serquina holds monthly get to together in her home studio. Scrapbookers are welcome to bring a snack to share. For more information please contact me in the church office.

Buddhism in the West

Monday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Back in October of 2003, Venerable Thubten Chodron, an American Buddhist nun, moved into the Sravasti Abbey/. The Abbey offers service weekends and true examples of the Dharma in action. /In addition to programs at the Abbey, Venerable and her monastic community of nuns monks and lay teachers offer teachings or to the community. Twice in the past year, we have asked and graciously been given the opportunity to have Meditation and Teaching workshops lasting from six to eight weeks at the Church. This unit will culminate in Venerable Chodron giving the sermon on Sunday, December 13.

Our Shared Ministry Team

Shirley Cannon, *Team Leader,*

Lee Dominey, Scott Fitzgerald, Gail Furman, Lynn Jinishian,

Karen Olson, Travis Peterson, Jan Wingenroth, and

Erin Fitzgerald, *Director of Religious Education*



Classroom Happings

Preschool: The Preschool class had fun making masks out of grocery bags for Halloween. On November 1st, they celebrated the Southeast Asian Mid-Autumn Festival or "The Birthday of the Moon." It is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth moon in the Chinese calendar when the moon is brightest and seems to be roundest. The following two Sundays the children did art projects with leaves, and selected a tree in our backyard to watch through the seasons.

Kindergarten – Second Grade: This group continues to study our Unitarian Universalist principles. They learned about the second principle by hearing about Fannie Barrier Williams, a Unitarian who was active in the club movement and in creating clubs for African American women. Sophia Lyons Fahs' story was the basis for studying the third principle, and the kids made Zen gardens. Also, for the third principle the class learned about Aisha, a pagan Unitarian Universalist girl who celebrates the harvest holiday, Lammas, at a peace rally.

Third & Fourth Grades: This class studied St. Francis Day to honor the values of Francis of Assisi, and to affirm our interdependence with nature. They made bird feeders out of oatmeal containers. The Sunday before Halloween the children took UNICEF boxes with them to collect money, as well as candy. The purpose of this lesson is to raise their awareness of the plight of many of the world's children. On a following Sunday the class counted the money raised, which was \$66.55. The class also studied Ramadan to introduce them to one of the most important Muslim holidays, and Divali which is a fall festival that welcomes the Hindu goddess of good fortune, Lakshmi.

Fifth & Sixth Grades: Session four for this class had the kids confront the fact that the line between good and evil is often thin and unclear. Telling right from wrong is not always easy. Session five used a story to express the Unitarian Universalist belief that no one religion has a monopoly on religious truth. Then they checked out our congregation's activism by going out to the parking lot and reading our bumper stickers. Session six considered intended and unintended consequences of human actions and examined the nature of guilt and punishment. Session seven explored Universalism, the concept of universal salvation, and the meaning of being "called".

Junior High: This class has been working on photography and families. Session four addressed the elements of effective photographs and the process of creating them. They also practiced "framing" photographs. In session five, the kids learned ways of gathering information and narratives from people. They explored the value of learning from our stories and the ethics of representing them. Session six had the kids use photography and sketching to interpret and record their faith community from their unique perspective. During session seven, the youth put final touches on their Family Event which is scheduled for November 22nd.

Senior High: This class continues their learning through poetry. Workshop 4 asked the youth to broaden their ideas about teachers and learners. It provided an opportunity for reflections, discussions, and writing of a more personal nature than previous workshops. Workshop 5 used poetry to reflect upon having a mission in life, and invited the youth to ponder how we have come to think about our mission, our journey, our path. They created poems that reflected their personal experiences and individual mission. The youth, for workshop six, identified and investigated cultural and personal ideas about romantic love, explored different aspects of love, and compared and contrasted love poems.

Annual Teacher Check-Back Meeting: We had our annual teacher check back meeting on November 8th, which means we needed 10 more volunteers. Our angels who agreed to help were Laurie Baugher, Shirley Carlson, Alene Zander, Bonnie Brunt, Angie Dierdorff, Kathryn Ann Hobbs, Lynaia Liptak, Cindy Phillips, and Cindy Fine. They worked with the children while Erin met with our regular teachers. I really appreciate you!

If you have any questions/comments concerning our Religious Education program, please feel free to ask me or Erin. We would love to talk with you!

Shalom,

Diane Huigen

re@uuspokane.org

The Adult Enrichment Team Thanks You!

The Afghan Dinner and Art Sale were a great success! Thank you to all who helped the Adult Enrichment Team to celebrate Afghanistan!

The Art Sales and Dinner allowed us to send about \$500 to both The Central Asia Institute and The Nooristan Foundation! Your purchases helped to give work to the artists, and send money to two organizations who work hard to educate girls, train midwives, and build strong communities in a country during very hard times!

The dinner was a fantastic celebration of our community embracing a culture. The art, the food, and the conversation were inspiring and exciting. What a great congregation we have...one that shares and gives back a lot!

Special thanks to Maria Beebe, who gave us an insiders look at what Washington State University is doing, along with others, to increase educational opportunities to many in Kabul.

- Huge thanks also to the shoppers and cooks of the dinner: Pam Davies, Barb Stuebing, Ann-Scott Ettinger, Rob Benedetti, Scott Fitzgerald, Stephanie Samson, and Nancy Avery!
- Set-up was beautifully done by Nancy and Dale Avery, Judy and Dick Gammon, and the Dubiel family!
- Thanks to the servers: Deanna and Bob Fendler, Lynaia Liptak, and Chris Haralam, Lila and George Girvin, and Penny Reid!
- And last, but definitely not least, thanks to those who really pitched in to help with cleanup: Craig Aldworth, Jenny Avery, Jean Edwards, and Edna Ripka!
- Thanks to all who helped with the other many tasks that arose...the help of many hands, added to the joyous community of the occasion!

If you have ideas for future themed 'activities' please contact Ann-Scott Ettinger, leader of the Adult Enrichment Team (adultenrichmentteam@uuspokane.org). We're looking at local community organizations for next year's benefit dinner and need ideas for art!

Ann-Scott Ettinger

...and the Search goes on...

The Ministerial Search Team continues moving ahead with our efforts to find a new minister. We recently met with Janine Larsen during her recent visit to Spokane. She suggested contacting other churches that have gone through the search process. This suggestion led us to correspond with John Westin, the UUA Transitions Director in Boston, for a list of churches that have recently completed successful searches. We requested limiting the list to churches comparable in size to ours. John immediately forwarded us a list of eight churches. Our team members will soon be contacting these churches and requesting information from their search teams to learn how they approached this process and what tools, documentation, etc., they thought most appropriate leading to their success. We will analyze this information and apply what we learned to our activities.

Members of our Team are also working with members of the Board of Trustees in reviewing the comments collected during the All Church Visioning process that occurred on October 24th. Our first meeting is over and at least one more is scheduled. The input that was collected during the process is very interesting! Several memes within the data are discernable. One of these is the desire to have a "Strong Minister". The Ministerial Search Team will in the near future be holding a Town Hall meeting open to all congregants which will focus on fleshing out exactly what this concept of a strong minister really means. The date of this meeting will be announced soon, and all are invited to participate.

On behalf of the Search Team,

Dale Avery



The Challenges of Hearing Loss

"What was that you said?" "Speak up, please." "I don't attend because I can't hear what is being said."

If you find yourself, or someone you know saying any of the above, please attend the hearing loss workshop sponsored by your Pastoral Care Team. Audiologist, Misty Shores, from Providence Holy Family Hospital Speech and Hearing Center, will conduct a workshop at our church Sunday, January 10th at 12:45 p.m. in the Thoreau Room.

Come ask your questions and seek answers to this frustrating problem that many face as we age. If you have questions please contact Sue Stirtz at pastoralcareteam@uuspokane.org.



Unitarian Universalist Women and Outreach

UU Women will meet on Sunday, December 13th at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanger Room. There will be pizza for lunch (at a nominal charge) and then a discussion of "outreach" opportunities/possibilities in Spokane. Please come with your ideas of how we might become more involved in our larger community. The meeting is open to all.



Pastoral Care Team: Pastoral Care Associates

Your Pastoral Care Team focuses on needs of congregation members and friends who may be facing a crisis or life transition.

In the absence of a minister, five congregants with pastoral experience have been appointed by the Board of Trustees to do pastoral care and plan and lead memorial services and weddings. They are: James Beebe, Doug Huigen, Chuck Smith, Tracy Springberry, and Jeff Wasson. If you have a need for any of these services, please contact Doug Huigen who is acting as coordinator for the Associates.

For other Pastoral Care concerns, please call Pastoral Care Team coordinators Donna Sponseller or Sue Stirtz.



Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team focuses on needs of congregation members and friends who may be facing a crisis or life transition. Please keep the team in your thoughts and contact a member of the Pastoral Care Team if you have a need or know of someone who does. Team co-leaders are Donna Sponseller and Sue Stirtz with Erin Fitzgerald as our staff liaison and Devon Greyebiehl as advisor. Bette Brattebo has graciously agreed to be our new Wheel of Life writer. If you have an event in your life you would like to share or know of someone who has a joy or sorrow, please contact Bette by e-mail at wheeloflife@uuspokane.org. Other team members are:

Patty Bedalov	Mary Jane Blanpied	Dick Borden
Dianne Cook	Gennie Gregg	Linda Hodge
Torge Lorentzen	Avis Monroe	Martha Nerpel
Teri Ray	Stephanie Samson	Chuck Smith
Lee Smith	Patty Tyler	Devon Greyerbiehl
Doug Huigen		



Be Willing to Ask for Help!

As a person who has recently been on the receiving end of our wonderful Pastoral Care Team, I want to encourage you all to ask for help when sickness, injuries, losses, or whatever else makes life harder for you. This church is blessed with a wonderful group of people willing to support and nurture us and spring into various kinds of needed action on behalf of those of us who suddenly could use some assistance. Even though it can be hard to ask, here's some encouragement to go ahead and do so!

Which brings me to part two of this brief article: thank you, thank you, thank you to the Pastoral Care Team not only for what you've done for me, but for what you do for all of us! You are the heart and the helping hands of this congregation.

With deep appreciation,

Susan Virnig

Why We Pledge To This Church

When Bob and I first joined this church about eight years ago, it was with a certain amount of trepidation. He had been raised a Lutheran and I'd never belonged to a church before. Frankly we didn't know what the experience in this church would be like.

Shortly after we started attending worship services here on a regular basis, we figured out that the way to feel more a part of this church community we needed to join one (or more) of the Teams and/or Small Groups. That's exactly what we've done and continue to do. Sharing our time, talents, and experiences (gifts) to this church in as many ways as possible is a joy to us. It allows us to stretch our boundaries a bit, view our life from a different perspective, and keeps us connected to other liberal people we enjoy being with.

Through our experiences here we've developed some wonderful friendships. In many ways the members of this congregation have become a part of our extended family. Because our connection to this church community has become an integral part of our life, Bob and I choose to pledge to support the UUUCS financially each year.

Deanna and Bob Fendler



Humanist Focus Group Upcoming Programs

December 5, 2009 at 8:15 a.m.

Breakfast at Old Country Buffet, Division & Rowan

Join fellow Humanist thinkers for breakfast and discussion following a presentation.

December 20, 2009 at 12:45 p.m.

Thoreau Room, Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

John Douglas and Eileen Starr will discuss: *Easter Island, A Look At Ancient And Modern Rapa Nui Culture*. John and Eileen first visited Easter Island several years ago as tourists. John then returned twice more to investigate its archeology with an emphasis on agricultural practices. Thirty-eight hundred people live on this speck of land in the middle of the South Pacific - some 1800 miles from any other lands.

Sign up for free weekly humanist Network News at www.humaniststudies.org. Ray Ideus is a certified Humanist Celebrant and available for your service. He can be contacted at lorry@comcast.net. The Humanist Focus web site is www.spokanehumanists.org.

Art Wall "Holiday Close-Out Sale" December 6 & 13

After 20 years as owner/manager of The Frame Shoppe on Garland, our fellow Unitarian Universalist and former Art Wall Team Leader, Dick Borden, will be closing his picture frame shop at the end of the year. The church's December Art Wall exhibition will feature paintings, drawings, photos, posters and frames from his shop's shelves and cupboards. You'll find some surprising holiday bargains, and a portion of the art and frame sales will benefit the church's general fund.

Coming on the January Art Wall: Meaningful Memories

During the month of January you'll have a chance to share a favorite piece of art from your personal collection with your fellow Unitarian Universalists. Most of us have art in our homes that holds a special place in our hearts. Maybe it was passed to us by our grandparents; we found it in our parents' attic; it was painted by a now-grown child, or given to us by a dear friend.

The January Art Wall will feature an exhibit of such special art, each item holding its own meaningful memory. Choose one piece with meaning for you and include a neatly printed card to hang beneath the art to help in telling its story.

Unlike most months, the personal pieces in this show will not be for sale. They'll hang from the New Year until the first of February, helping us share meaningful memories with our fellow Unitarian Universalists.

Please contact Susan Mossuto, Art Wall Team Leader, or one of the following team members soon, to arrange for delivery and hanging: Mary Jane Blanpied, Dick Borden, Lisa Conger, Tukcha Kim, Bill and Marjorie Tracy, or Anna Vamvakias.

Wheel of Life

Bill and Linda Greene have both recovered remarkably well from their surgeries (Bill's on September 3rd and Linda's on October 26th). Not only did they have the opportunity to care for each other, they have also been the recipient of love and support shown to them by their friends from the church and outside the church. They give a warm thanks to you all.

Sometimes life just doesn't go smoothly for Linda Moulder—cars have been the problem. First of all, their VW Jetta burned up, a short caused it to ignite and, luckily, it didn't take the house as well. They are not sure what caused the fire. You will no longer see it in the parking lot with the sign indicating it (used to) run on vegetable oil. But that's only a third of the story! Linda was broadsided while driving their camping van. Then, her spouse Jerry White loaned their pickup to be used for wood gathering and a tree landed over the hood so now they are driving a rental car.

Bobbie Bennett was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. She is about one third through her radiation treatments and is feeling much better. She has enjoyed calls and cards and wants to thank everyone for keeping her in their thoughts.

Zoe Lynette McGarry, a friend of the church and a longtime active member of the Singular Unitarians group, died suddenly on October 29. She was hospitalized October 20 for viral pneumonia, followed by emphysema, and an embolism. Lynette had planned to again host the singles Christmas party at her Browne's Addition home. She taught Spanish and French at Lewis and Clark, North Central, and Shadle high schools for 29 years. Her sister, Diane Emmingham, lives in Kennewick.

Dianne Cook had an update on Carol Hetherington. Carol now lives in Franklin Hills Health and Rehabilitation Center located at 6021 N. Lidgerwood. She would love visitors and cards from her friends at church. If you are able to stop by for a visit, please ask at the front desk for Carol's room number.

Congratulations to Dean Tyler-Babkirk who was just notified that he passed his National Boards in Teaching! Over the past two years Dean participated in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Assessment. This process included ten areas of evaluation with several written entries, a small art project with limited materials, video tapes of him in the classroom, and a timed test on his content area (art for early adolescents through young adult). Dean teaches art and publications at Shaw Middle School in Hillyard.

Have an item for the Wheel of Life? Please contact Bette Brattebo by email at wheeloflife@uuspokane.org.

SOCIAL JUSTICE — *step by step the longest march*

Alternative Gift Fair Cancelled

The Alternative Gift Fair originally scheduled for Sunday, December 6th, has been cancelled due to lack of volunteer participation.



Our Church & the Spokane Alliance

Many Unitarian Universalists are working in the Alliance with some exciting results obtained through strong efforts put in with the last Legislature! Senate Bill 5649 was passed due essentially to work done by Spokane and Puget Sound Alliances. This bill provides for the standards and requirements for obtaining stimulus funds to do energy retrofits in residences, small businesses and nonprofits. The Alliance had formed the non-profit Community Development Corporation, "Sustainable Works"; about \$1.2 million has been awarded Sustainable Works and will be spent in Spokane on energy-efficient retrofits. Several of us are engaged in tasks to enroll customers and organize the project in the South Perry Neighborhood, initially, and then to be followed in another area yet to be determined.

Unitarian Universalists who have been active in Sustainable Works include Evan Armstrong, Jerry White, Bill Prouty, Elinor Enz, Jean Larson, Wayne Atwood, Dave Roberts, and Ed Tyler. Of course, Senator Majority Leader Lisa Brown was centrally important in producing the essential legislation! Several more Unitarian Universalists helped celebrate with Brown and other Legislators at the South Perry Ribbon Cutting: The Dorn-Steeles, Bonnie Brunt, Katie Helmer, Art and Elizabeth Keeler, and Lisa Conger were some joining in.

This work will result in creating over 50 living-wage jobs, reduce energy bills for about 300 homes or businesses, increase occupancy comfort and cut thousands of tons of carbon dioxide being spilled into Spokane regional air space!

Another exciting issue being undertaken is a Children's Fund Initiative. Elizabeth Keeler and Julie Rector have been active on the Youth and Education Research Action Team generating the ideas, enlisting allies in the community and scoping the ballot measure which will appear next year. The effort is aimed at providing after school activities that will engage, mentor and build community among students and give them greater incentive to stay in school. Elizabeth and Julie have already identified thirteen other Unitarian Universalists committing to work for the measure as the campaign takes shape.

Additionally, Unitarian Universalist Board member Bonnie Overlie and our Core Team Co-chair, has trained or refreshed 22 Unitarian Universalists in the Alliance's typical techniques of "Relational Meetings." These 22 have in turn undertaken each to hold three more individual meetings with church members on what shall be a positive vision for our church going forward. Alliance folks will assist in the discernment of the visioning with the Board.

Please contact Bonnie, Elizabeth, Jerry, or Bill with any questions you may have about the Alliance or how to become involved.

Recycling Emergency for Unitarian Universalists

Effective immediately, we need a replacement for Julian Powers on Sunday morning recycling days (first Sunday of each month). He is no longer able to be there with the red truck for collecting mixed office waste paper. We need a volunteer for (or several to share) the duty of having a vehicle to collect and recycle all the scrap paper on the first Sunday. We can use a van, pick-up, or SUV with the seats removed to collect the paper and then take it to the recycler in East Spokane on Monday. All that's needed is a little time and dedication. If there are questions, please contact Owen Mir or Bob Fendler.



Spokane Unitarian Universalist Christmas Project

With our economy in decline this holiday season will be a difficult time for many Spokane families. This year we are again going to provide Christmas gifts and holiday food vouchers. At a table in the back of the church there will be names of those needing gifts and food vouchers. Gifts should be returned to the church for distribution by December 20th. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Keeler.



The Make It Happen Fund Wants You!

The Make It Happen Fund has again been fully funded with a \$12,000 contribution from a generous anonymous donor. This Fund, which began in 2004 to support outreach projects that directly involve church members in the larger community, has supported a wide variety of projects. To name a few: Pride Outreach sponsorship of and activities at Spokane's Pride Festival, Habitat for Humanity building projects, Growing Childs Minds (bringing hands-on science to fifth graders at Sunset Elementary), EWU Single Parent Scholarship program and activities, HIV/AIDS Speakers Bureau, Martin Luther King March and Community Fair, Crosswalk. Grants have ranged from a few hundred dollars to \$6000. One of the current projects, called Grandmothers Voices, involves building relationships with local tribes. You'll be hearing more about this during the next several months.

What have you or your team been wanting to do that will involve fellow church members and make a positive difference in our community? Activities can be big or small! Applications can be from a team, a ministry, or an individual, and are considered on a first-come, first-serve basis until all the funds have been allocated. You can find application forms online at our church web site (www.uuspokane.org) or in the bottom file drawer in the foyer. For more information, contact Nancy Avery from the Social Justice Team, or Curt Chambers, President, Board of Trustees.



ADMINISTRY — stand by this faith

Additional Management Team Members Sought!

The Background

According to our church Governance Policies, "the Management Team shall consist of 3 – 5 members including the Minister, the Administrator, the Director of Religious Education, and at least one member from the congregation appointed by the Board of Trustees." The job of the Management Team is to oversee the day-to-day operations of the church, while the Board of Trustees is concerned with "outward vision, future focus, and strategic leadership – to represent and lead the membership in determining and requiring appropriate organizational performance."

The Current Situation

Today, the Management Team has been reduced to just three members: Erin Fitzgerald, Director of Religious Education, and lay members Mary Lou Johnson and Linda Moulder. The new, part-time Administrator will join the Team in December. Given this current period having no Minister, and the probability of having an interim Minister during the next church year, it has become clear to both the Board and the Management Team that more members are needed to help carry out the business of church operations. Thus, the Board has asked the Nominating Team to seek out potential members to join the team, two in January and two in April – for a two year term. (Mary Lou's and Linda's terms expire in June, 2010.)

Recent Management Team Activities

Here is a small sampling of the recent Management Team activities:

- Oversee hiring of new bookkeeper and administrator
- Oversee installation of new computers
- Create policies regarding avoiding potential conflicts of interest, use of space in the building, issues regarding locking the building after meetings
- Oversee the finances of the church
- Ongoing liaison with some of the Teams and Ministries

Now, the Executive Team!

Adding four new members to the existing Management Team will somewhat change the makeup of the Team and will drastically change the work load for its members. As this change in membership may well be a temporary one, for just a two year period, it seems appropriate to change the name for this same period - from Management Team to Executive Team. The job of the team remains the same.

Are You Interested?

This represents a wonderful opportunity to help make a difference in our own community. Here are the requirements:

- Plays well with others.
- Current pledging church member.
- Administrative skills.
- Ability to commit 6 hours a week.
- Known and respected by congregants.
- Reliability.
- Flexibility.
- Familiarity with church history & procedures.
- Embraces Policy Governance model.
- Ability to see big picture and willingness to carry out the details.
- Embraces consensus model.

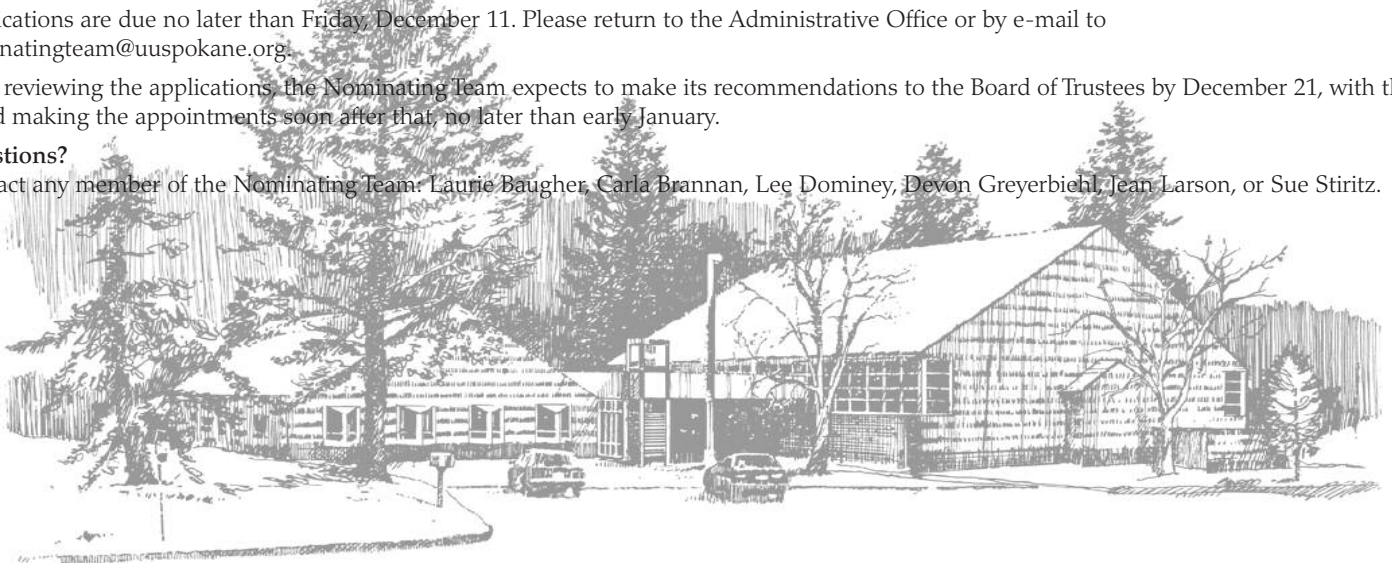
Applications, and a complete job description, are available in a number of ways: On the church Web Site, by contacting the office for a printed or e-mailed copy, by sending an e-mail request to nominatingteam@uuspokane.org. Beginning on Sunday, November 29, printed copies will be available at the Board of Trustees table in the Fellowship Hall.

Applications are due no later than Friday, December 11. Please return to the Administrative Office or by e-mail to nominatingteam@uuspokane.org.

After reviewing the applications, the Nominating Team expects to make its recommendations to the Board of Trustees by December 21, with the Board making the appointments soon after that, no later than early January.

Questions?

Contact any member of the Nominating Team: Laurie Baugher, Carla Brannan, Lee Dominey, Devon Greyerbiehl, Jean Larson, or Sue Stirtz.





Meet Our New Administrator

We have a new Administrator and her name is Deb! Deb McCandless will join our staff beginning December 1. Deb has had over 15 years of experience with both for-profit and non-profit organizations with a wide-ranging background in facilities and volunteer management. She will bring expertise in day to day management, fund development, PR, and volunteer recruitment.

She has worked as a Director of Membership and Outreach Services and Assistant Executive Director for the Santiam Girl Scout Council and was an interim Director of Operations with the Civic Theatre. She has served on various Boards, including Odyssey Youth Center and is currently serving as an arts commissioner for the City of Spokane.

Deb will be working just 20 hours a week and it will take a while to determine how to best use her skills. She will be focusing her energies on facilities management and general oversight, so will not be as available to congregants as Phillip had been.

In the cover letter of her application, Deb says, "I want to work for an organization which is making a difference in the lives of people and our community, and one which treats people with respect and compassion. From personal experience and the experience of others, I know that this is true for the Unitarian Universalist Church and I would be very pleased to be part of your team, so I hope you will seriously consider me for this position." And we are very pleased to welcome her!

ThoughtBubble

For everything you have missed, you have gained something else, and for everything you gain, you lose something else.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803-1882
Poet, lecturer, essayist

Ministry Professionals Contact Information

Erin Fitzgerald, Director of Religious Education & Programs
programs@uuspokane.org

Deborah Jacquemin, Music Director
uumusic@uuspokane.org

Deb McCandless, Administrator
dmccandless@uuspokane.org

Deb Hubenthal, Administrative Assistant
admin-asst@uuspokane.org

Diane Huigen, Religious Education Assistant
re@uuspokane.org

Jeanete Facer, Contract Bookkeeper
jfacer@uuspokane.org



Newsletter Deadlines

Tuesday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. (for January issue)

Send newsletter submissions to
suun@uuspokane.org

Our Ministry Professionals:

Rev. Dr. William H. Houff.....Minister Emeritus
Erin Fitzgerald ..Director of Religious Education
Deborah JacqueminMusic Director
Deb McCandless.....Administrator
Diane HuigenRE Assistant
Deb HubenthalAdministrative Assistant
Gennie GreggPianist
Stephanie SchulerNursery Caregiver
James Beebe.....Seminarian
Tracy SpringberrySeminarian

Board of Trustees:

Curt Chambers, *President*
Diana Anderson, Cly Evans, Isabelle Green,
Nancy Hand, Melissa Lloyd, Bonnie Overlie,
Penny Reid, & Betsy Rush
boardoftrustees@uuspokane.org

Management Team:

Erin Fitzgerald, *Director of Religious Education & Programs*; Linda Moulder, *Lay Member*; and Mary Lou Johnson, *Lay Member*
managementteam@uuspokane.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane
4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., Spokane WA 99224-5275

Website: www.uuspokane.org
Phone number: 325-6383
FAX number: 325-6635

If you no longer wish to receive the SUUN, please contact us at
admin-asst@uuspokane.org.

Check Run Cut-off Dates

Dates are subject to change
December 10 December 21

Whose Email Address Is That?

If you submit regular articles to the monthly newsletter, the Spokane Unitarian Universalist Newsletter (SUUN), you may have noticed an unfamiliar email address listed as your contact information.

In order to be able to make the SUUN available on our website, we removed all personal phone numbers and email addresses of church members. Team email addresses were set up and any email sent to the email address will automatically forward to the Team Leader's personal email address.

For example, you can email your Board of Trustees at boardoftrustees@uuspokane.org and it is automatically forwarded to Board President Curt Chamber's personal email address.

If you are a co-leader of a team and not sure which leader is receiving the forwarded email, please contact Linda Moulder at lmoulder@uuspokane.org. Changes in Team Leadership should also be sent to Linda so that we can make sure that email is being correctly forwarded.





CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION
12/1/09	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Erin Fitzgerald	Potter Room
12/1/09	12:00 PM	Order of Service Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/1/09	12:00 PM	Pulpit Announcement Submissions Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/1/09	12:00 PM	SUUNday Focus (Weekly Newsletter) Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/1/09	1:00 PM	Tuesday Web Weavers Group	Isabelle Green	cummings Room
12/1/09	5:30 PM	Management Team meeting	Mary Lou Johnson	Sanger Room
12/1/09	7:00 PM	Shared Ministry Team	Shirley Cannon	cummings Room
12/1/09	7:00 PM	Women's Choir	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/2/09	10:00 AM	Building & Grounds Coffee Club	Linda Moulder	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/2/09	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	Curt Chambers	Thoreau Room
12/2/09	7:00 PM	Conversations with the Bible	Stephanie Samson	cummings Room
12/3/09	5:00 PM	Adult Enrichment Team	Erin Fitzgerald	cummings Room
12/3/09	5:30 PM	Children's Choir rehearsal	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/3/09	7:00 PM	Mixed Choir Rehearsals	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/5/09	5:30 PM	All Church Holiday Decorating Party	Erin Fitzgerald	Entire Church
12/6/09	9:15 AM	Sunday Worship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/6/09	9:15 AM	Childcare	Erin Fitzgerald	Channing Room (Nursery)
12/6/09	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary
12/6/09	11:00 AM	Religious Education Classes	Erin Fitzgerald	Religious Education Wing
12/6/09	12:45 PM	Singular Unitarian First Sunday Brunch	Kialynn Glubrecht	Sanger Room
12/6/09	5:00 PM	Coming of Age Mentor Orientation	Erin Fitzgerald	Sanger Room
12/6/09	7:00 PM	Senior High Youth Group	Matt and Beth Budke	Bartok Room (Youth Group)
12/7/09	10:00 AM	Problem Solvers Coffee Club	Mickey Thompson	cummings Room
12/7/09	5:00 PM	Music Team Meeting	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanger Room
12/7/09	6:30 PM	Buddhist Meditation Group	Sara Edlin-Marlowe	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/8/09	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Erin Fitzgerald	Potter Room
12/8/09	12:00 PM	Order of Service Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/8/09	12:00 PM	Pulpit Announcement Submissions Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/8/09	12:00 PM	SUUNday Focus (Weekly Newsletter) Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/8/09	5:30 PM	Management Team meeting	Mary Lou Johnson	Sanger Room
12/8/09	7:00 PM	Women's Choir	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/9/09	6:00 PM	Worship Team	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/9/09	6:30 PM	Membership Team Meeting	Erin Fitzgerald	Potter Room
12/10/09	5:30 PM	Children's Choir rehearsal	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/10/09	6:30 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Erin Fitzgerald	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/10/09	7:00 PM	Partner Church Team Meeting	Julie Jose	Potter Room
12/10/09	7:00 PM	Mixed Choir Rehearsals	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/13/09	9:15 AM	Sunday Worship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/13/09	9:15 AM	Childcare	Erin Fitzgerald	Channing Room (Nursery)
12/13/09	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/13/09	11:00 AM	Religious Education Classes	Erin Fitzgerald	Religious Education Wing
12/13/09	12:30 PM	UU Women	Judy Gammon	Sanger Room
12/13/09	7:00 PM	Senior High Youth Group	Matt and Beth Budke	Bartok Room (Youth Group)
12/14/09	10:00 AM	Problem Solvers Coffee Club	Mickey Thompson	cummings Room
12/14/09	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Leadership meeting	Penny Reid	Sanger Room
12/15/09	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Erin Fitzgerald	Potter Room
12/15/09	12:00 PM	Order of Service Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/15/09	12:00 PM	Pulpit Announcement Submissions Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/15/09	12:00 PM	SUUNday Focus (Weekly Newsletter) Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/15/09	5:00 PM	Spokane Unitarian Universalist Newsletter Deadline		TBA suun@uuspokane.org
12/15/09	5:30 PM	Management Team meeting	Mary Lou Johnson	Sanger Room
12/15/09	7:00 PM	Religious Education Council	Erin Fitzgerald	Potter Room
12/15/09	7:00 PM	Women's Choir	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

Don't forget! Our full calendar is online! Go to www.uuspokane.org and click on the "Calendar of Events" tab!

CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION
12/16/09	6:00 PM	Pastoral Care Team	Donna Sponseller	cummings Room
12/17/09	5:30 PM	Children's Choir rehearsal	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/17/09	6:30 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Erin Fitzgerald	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/17/09	7:00 PM	Mixed Choir Rehearsals	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/18/09	9:00 AM	Winter Solstice set up and dress rehearsal	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/19/09	7:00 AM	Solstice Celebration Set-up	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/19/09	7:00 PM	Solstice Celebration	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/19/09	10:00 PM	Solstice Celebration Takedown	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/20/09	10:00 AM	Childcare	Erin Fitzgerald	Channing Room (Nursery)
12/20/09	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship - Multigenerational Service	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/20/09	12:45 PM	Humanist Focus Group	Bill Prouty	Thoreau Room
12/20/09	7:00 PM	Senior High Youth Group	Matt and Beth Budke	Bartok Room (Youth Group)
12/21/09	10:00 AM	Problem Solvers Coffee Club	Mickey Thompson	cummings Room
12/22/09	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Erin Fitzgerald	Potter Room
12/22/09	12:00 PM	Order of Service Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/22/09	12:00 PM	Pulpit Announcement Submissions Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/22/09	12:00 PM	SUUNday Focus (Weekly Newsletter) Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
12/22/09	5:30 PM	Management Team meeting	Mary Lou Johnson	Sanger Room
12/24/09	5:30 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/24/09	6:30 PM	Fellowship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/24/09	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
12/25/09	All Day	Church closed for Holidays through January 1st		Entire Church
12/27/09	7:00 PM	Senior High Youth Group	Matt and Beth Budke	Bartok Room (Youth Group)
12/29/09	5:30 PM	Management Team meeting	Mary Lou Johnson	Sanger Room
1/2/10	6:00 PM	Soulful Sundowns	Ariel Fitzgerald	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
1/3/10	9:15 AM	Sunday Worship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
1/3/10	9:15 AM	Childcare	Erin Fitzgerald	Channing Room (Nursery)
1/3/10	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
1/3/10	11:00 AM	Religious Education Classes	Erin Fitzgerald	Religious Education Wing
1/3/10	12:45 PM	Singular Unitarian First Sunday Brunch	Kialynn Glubrecht	Sanger Room
1/3/10	5:00 PM	Coming of Age Youth and Mentor Meeting	Erin Fitzgerald	Potter Room
1/3/10	7:00 PM	Senior High Youth Group	Matt and Beth Budke	Bartok Room (Youth Group)
1/4/10	9:00 AM	SUUNvisors	Deb McCandless	Sanger Room
1/4/10	10:00 AM	Problem Solvers Coffee Club	Mickey Thompson	cummings Room
1/4/10	5:00 PM	Music Team Meeting	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanger Room
1/4/10	7:00 PM	Auction Item- Dance Lessons	Mike Tonkyn	Thoreau Room
1/5/10	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Erin Fitzgerald	Potter Room
1/5/10	12:00 PM	Order of Service Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
1/5/10	12:00 PM	Pulpit Announcement Submissions Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
1/5/10	12:00 PM	SUUNday Focus (Weekly Newsletter) Deadline	Deb Hubenthal	Administrative Office
1/5/10	1:00 PM	Tuesday Web Weavers Group	Isabelle Green	cummings Room
1/5/10	5:30 PM	Management Team meeting	Mary Lou Johnson	Sanger Room
1/5/10	7:00 PM	Shared Ministry Team	Shirley Cannon	cummings Room
1/5/10	7:00 PM	Women's Choir	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
1/6/10	10:00 AM	Building & Grounds Coffee Club	Linda Moulder	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
1/6/10	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	Curt Chambers	Thoreau Room
1/6/10	7:00 PM	Conversations with the Bible	Stephanie Samson	cummings Room
1/7/10	5:00 PM	Adult Enrichment Team	Erin Fitzgerald	cummings Room
1/7/10	6:30 PM	Harvest the Power	Erin Fitzgerald	Sanger Room
1/7/10	7:00 PM	Mixed Choir Rehearsals	Deborah Jacquemin	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
1/10/10	9:15 AM	Sunday Worship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
1/10/10	9:15 AM	Childcare	Erin Fitzgerald	Channing Room (Nursery)
1/10/10	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship	Erich Richter	Sanctuary
1/10/10	11:00 AM	Religious Education Classes	Erin Fitzgerald	Religious Education Wing
1/10/10	12:30 PM	UU Women	Judy Gammon	Sanger Room
1/10/10	12:30 PM	The Challenge of Hearing Loss	Sue Stiritz	Thoreau Room
1/10/10	7:00 PM	Senior High Youth Group	Matt and Beth Budke	Bartok Room (Youth Group)

Don't forget! Our full calendar is online! Go to www.uuspokane.org and click on the "Calendar of Events" tab!

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane



4340 West Fort George Wright Drive
Spokane, WA 99224

Address service requested

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Phone 325-6383 FAX 325-6635
www.uuspokane.org

Mission Statement

We join together to create an inspiring and nourishing liberal religious home. In the wider world, we champion justice, diversity, and environmental stewardship.

Covenant Statement

*We, the Unitarian Universalist congregation of Spokane, promise to:
support and care for one another,
embrace diversity of persons and spiritual paths,
search for truth and understanding,
and
work for social justice and environmental stewardship.*

With this covenant, we honor each other with our laughter and tears, our compassion, and respect.

We are a community of open hearts, open minds, and open hands.

Do You Have Questions About Unitarian Universalism?

Would you like to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Do you have questions about our church's history or ministry? Do you know about our Lifespan Religious Education activities? Are you aware of how you can get involved in sharing the ministry of our church? For the answers to these, and other questions you may have, don't miss our Newcomer's Q & A every Sunday. For more information, inquire at our Welcome Table on Sundays or you may contact the Administrative Office at (509)325-6383.

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal the World.

Are you considering making the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane your spiritual home? Are you ready to deepen your understanding of our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes? Our next series of Path to Membership classes are scheduled for Sunday, February 7th and Sunday, February 14th at 12:45 p.m. For more information, inquire at our Welcome Table on Sundays or you may contact the Administrative Office at (509) 325-6383.

The Unitarian Universalist Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part