

Universalist Anchor



December Christmas Calendar



Sunday 7th at 4:00 p.m. — Young Adults “Hot Chocolate and Labyrinth Walk”



Sunday 14th at 12:30 p.m. — “Hanging the Greens” — Decorating the Church

At 1:00 p.m. — Potluck Lunch

From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. — Christmas Concert — Our Choir and Guests Singing Our Favorite Christmas music including selections from the Messiah.



Saturday 20th Leland Place ministry

Sunday 21st at 12:30 p.m. — Caroling — Everyone invited to Sing with the Deacons at Thomas House on Thomas Circle



Wednesday 24th at 6:00 p.m. — Christmas Caroling and Potluck before Christmas Eve Service

At 8:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Service

Thursday 25th at Noon — Christmas Communion

Services for December

Services begin at 11:00a.m.
except where noted

Sunday, December 7 — Rev. Henley Preaching “Into the World Came Jesus” What kind of world was Jesus born into? What was Palestine like and is it obvious that the world needed a light and spirit like Jesus? What would Jesus say about Palestine today?

Sunday, December 14 — Richard Hurst preaching

Sunday, December 21 — “Mary’s Song of Praise, Her Joy of Service” by Rev. Henley. Mary’s joy at Christmas, as expressed in the Magnificat can have real meaning for us this Christmas.

Wednesday, December 24, 8:00 p.m. — “Lessons and Carols,” is the traditional service for UNMC and this year our Chancel Choir will touch our hearts with their beautiful music.

Thursday, December 25 Noon— A Noon Communion Service

Sunday, December 28 — Rev. Eric Stetson, founder of the Christian Universalist Association and a UNMC member will preach.



Hot Chocolate Labyrinth

Sunday, December 7th -- Dusk (4–5 pm) — Hot Chocolate Labyrinth
No, it's not the name of a band! It's a hidden labyrinth
And I bring Hot Chocolate.
And I bring a guitar. Wait for it...

Young Adults sing Christmas songs while we walk the labyrinth on the corner of 18th and Church, NW, just steps from Universalist (@ St. Thomas Episcopal Church)!

Until then, see you in church! Michael Relland (mjvielle@yahoo.com; 301-233-3552)



From the heart...

On these shorter, darker, and colder days; it is a good time to ruminate. Stay in, meditate, contemplate, and in general, let go of the “busyness” of our lives.

Yet, it seems December is filled with parties, shopping, concerts, and travel. All of us, have our challenges this time of year, from “seasonal affective disorder” to “holiday blues,” to simply being tired of the pace of our lives.

So this year, I invite all of us, in the midst of our activities, to take time to see this as a holy season. A time to appreciate what Nature gives us and a time to celebrate the coming of a genuine *light bearer*. That is what Jesus was—a light bearer—and his ministry brought hope to a conquered and hopeless people. It can also bring hope and light to our lives.

Paul wrote in Second Peter 1:19, “And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”

We can find a way, in the midst of all that is going on, to see this time as a holy time, a time of gratitude, and a time to deepen our relationship with God. From the lyrics of Michael Smith’s “More Love, More Power:”

More Love, More Power,
More of you in my life.
More Love, More Power,
More of you in my life.
I will worship You
with all of my heart.
I will worship You
with all of my mind.
I will worship You
with all of my strength.
For you are my God.



Have a wonderful holiday season. I hope to see you in church, and if you travel, be safe.

Pastor Lillie

UNMC Prayer Ministry

24-hour Prayer Request Line
703-568-9854

Member William Spruiell, a minister with Universal Prayer Ministries, has volunteered to provide a 24-hour prayer request line for UNMC. If you have any prayer request, call 703-568-9854, and leave a message for prayer. William will be praying for the congregation every day as part of his daily devotions.

Building One's Own Holiday Traditions in Washington D.C.

One of the important lessons my Southern California Mom shared with her single and childless baby boomer daughter is to build holiday traditions on the east coast. High winter holiday air fares prevent travel to Los Angeles and New Mexico. Telephone calls are either too brief or never returned because family get-togethers are busy with small grandchildren.

In the past, family and friends have shared their holiday traditions with me. Mom's gravy from scratch, the holiday tree, Santa Claus sitting on the window sill, Dad's chocolate chip walnut cookies, Paul Stevens' intimate dinner parties for 100 of our closest friends in Topanga Canyon.

What a treat it was to bump into my old Southern California Unitarian-Universalist friend Joseph Lawson at UNMC on Christmas Day 2007. New UNMC friends Sue Mosher and Jennifer Sandberg shared that their holiday traditions include baking dozens and dozens of cookies, awesome fudge, and Christmas bread.

This Winter Holiday 2008, I am cooking New Mexican tamales to share with 100 of my closest friends.

May This Holiday Season Shower You with Warmth, Love, and Community.

— *Jan-Christine Johnson, Anchor co-editor*



Brown Bag for the Hungry

Beginning Sunday, November 30th and
Continuing through
Sunday, December 21st

UNMC will feed the hungry at McPherson Park

Each of us needs to help.

Bring to church a cheese sandwich, undressed,
A small bag of carrots or a piece of fruit
and a box of juice.

The church has mustard & mayo packets, napkins, and plastic
knife, AND the brown bags!

This is a Christmas Season Ministry
Pastor Lillie

Young Adults Participate in Food Ministry to Leland Place

Community Intern Minister Michael Relland and participants in our church's young adult's group -- Jarod Taylor and Heather Wolfe -- joined Leland Place coordinator Dave Skidmore in serving a bountiful pre-Thanksgiving feast to the men of Leland Place.

Real mashed potatoes, garlic string beans, tossed salad, and scratch biscuits complemented the breaded-and-baked chicken. Hot apple crisp and vanilla ice cream finished the meal, served to 11 appreciative Leland residents and their weekend counselor.

Leland, a program of So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E), is a halfway house on North Capitol Street for men recovering from addiction. **Our next dinner is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 21.** Volunteers gather in the church kitchen at 2:30 p.m. and car-pool the meal to Leland at 5 o'clock, returning to the church at around 6:30. Participants generally contribute between \$15 and \$25 to the cost of the meal, but those who can only volunteer their labor are welcome. Interested in spreading Christmas cheer at our next meal? Contact the office at 202-387-3411 or office@universalist.org.

Religious Education

In Sunday morning Religious Education in October and November we finished studying the 1st and 2nd UU Principles and started on the 3rd: "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations". We can accept others but not necessarily all their behaviors. And while we can all agree to accept others and encourage growth we must be careful in setting limits. We are looking at the Peter's encounter with the Gentiles. This led to an opening up of Christianity to others that was largely unprecedented. How do we know when to open up? If it's right to open up, how do we find the courage?

Housing for UU Inaugural Visitors

With DC officials anticipating nearly 4 million spectators for the January 20th Inaugural ceremonies, many DC-area hotels are long-booked, leaving latecomers scrambling for housing during that week. The church office has started to receive calls from UU churches and members in various parts of the country, wondering whether any of our members would be interested in hosting individuals or families during Inauguration Week. Although UNMC cannot be responsible for whatever arrangements individuals would like to make, if anyone is interested in hosting out-of-town UUs, please let our church administrator, Marguerite Bogle, know how many people you would like to host, for which dates, how much you propose to charge (which will hopefully be donated to the church), and your proximity to Metro or other public transportation, and we can try to put potential hosts and housing seekers in touch with each other to work out the necessary details.



UNMC Bookshelf

The Bible: A Biography by Karen Armstrong (2007).

Armstrong is a well-known religious historian who writes for a popular audience. In this relatively brief, but comprehensive look at the Bible, she alternates between Jewish (Torah, Midrash) and Christian (Gospels, *Lectio Divina*) interpretations. A history of exegesis, showing that charity, mysticism, and allegory, not literalism, represent the “traditional” modes of reading the Bible.

— R. Russo

Halloween Costume Concert and Party

On November 1st, a festive group of UNMC members, friends and neighbors gathered at the church for a wonderful concert of standards and favorites performed by Darryl Winston and a cast of talented actors and singers. The concert followed a costume contest, in which the Relland children won prizes for their inventive costumes, and Michael Relland, as a dashing pirate, beat out Ron Eanes’ “Sheik of Araby” costume to win the right to designate the charity of his choice for a \$100 donation from the church. Michael graciously designated the UNMC Building Fund as his pick, and the event ended up taking in nearly \$350 to support ongoing building projects. After the concert, everyone enjoyed socializing in Perkins Hall and savoring the wonderful buffet of snacks, foods and desserts contributed by many church members. Special thanks to Marti Howard for the outdoor seasonal display and help with inside decorations, set-up, food and clean-up; Jeff Kellum for decorations, terrific barbecue and setting up the sound and light show; Devry Becker and Jeff Jacobs for running child care during the concert; Darryl Winston for organizing the concert; Pastor Lillie, for helping organize the event, MC’ing the costume contest, and providing decorations and her special crock-pot chicken wings; and to all who brought food and helped clean-up afterwards.



Chancel Flowers
Mary Templeton, Coordinator

FLOWER COORDINATOR POSITION AVAILABLE!

Please contact the office to learn what is involved.

December chancel flower contributions will be listed in the Orders of Service for each Sunday in December

Start Your Online Shopping at the Church Web Site

If you plan to shop online for gift books, music, clothing, household items, or just about anything else, consider starting at the UNMC web site at <http://www.universalist.org>.

Whenever you use the “Visit the UNMC bookstore at Amazon.com” link at the bottom of the home page to enter the Amazon.com site, a portion of your purchases goes to the church’s Pastoral Discretionary Fund, which allows Pastor Lillie to help meet the pressing needs of church members and the wider community.

Sharing our Plate

Each month we share 10% of our free-will plate collection with a non-profit organization that works in our neighborhood and gives to those in need. For December, the recipient will be Project Northstar. Project Northstar is a non-profit organization whose fundamental mission is to help children who are homeless or disadvantaged overcome barriers to a quality education. Partnering with parents, educators, donors and diverse volunteers, we provide one-on-one tutoring, mentoring and enrichment activities to students in grades 1-12 to help pave the way to success in school and life. We strive to be a beacon – a north star – by which children can find their way to a better, brighter future.

Around the Church



Chancel Choir Rehearsal



Around UNMC Hospitality



A Musical Note



Musical Notes Dec 2008

So where is my gift? Every year I rebel against the commercialism of the Christmas season. This year's world economic situation has made it even more apparent to me why. Each year after dealing with a deluge of glitzy TV commercials, sales people with attitudes, getting stressed out at the Mall, driving in traffic, making a list and checking it twice, and trying to figure out why who came up with the idea to use electric lights on a Christmas tree in the first place; I decided to look up the word "GIFT".

According to one source the definitions are as follows: 1: a notable capacity, talent, or endowment 2: something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation 3: the act, right, or power of giving. Perhaps we have lost the track of the true meaning of this Blessed holiday season and have crowded out the "First Noel" in lieu of Macy's.

Perhaps the simple gift of a few kind words, a willing heart, a helping hand, a silent prayer, or just the sharing a talent is a real gift giving. Remember Christmas when you were a kid? On Sunday, December 14th at 2pm the UNMC Choir will be sharing our gifts with you. It is our hope that you can join us for a musical gift that will take the hustle and bustle out of the Christmas Season. Please let the choir members know how much they are appreciated — your warm reception of these news faces at UNMC are also a gift.

Speaking of gifts...our church has been blessed with the gift of fine soloists. Allow me to present basso Grigory Solovyev. Introduce yourselves to him. Grigory will soon be on tour as well as a trip to Russia



Russian bass Grigory Solovyev is in his second season with the Young Artist Program of the Washington National Opera. He has performed with the Connecticut Grand Opera, New Opera Festival di Roma, Opernwerkstatt Laubach, and Opéra Monte-Carlo. Recently, he was awarded the Rising Star prize in the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Last season, he appeared at WNO as Leporello in the Young Artist performance of Don Giovanni and Ceprano in Rigoletto. This summer he sang Colline in La Bohème with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Zaretski in Eugene Onegin with the National Symphony Orchestra. He also won Third Prize in the Palm Beach Vocal Competition in 2008. This season he sings the Marchese D'Obigny in La Traviata, Zuniga in Carmen, and Gazella in Lucrezia Borgia.

Musical Answer: What is pitch?

In music the pitch of a note means how high or low a note is. The pitch of a note can be measured in a unit called Hertz. A note that is vibrating at 256 Hz will be caused by sound waves that vibrate at 256 times a second. This will be Middle C on the piano. Not all musical instruments give notes of a particular pitch. Many percussion instruments like drums, triangles and cymbals are instruments used for rhythms. They do not play tunes because they have no definite pitch (although often a definite pitch can just be heard when listening carefully.) Some musicians have a sense of absolute pitch or perfect pitch. This means that they always know what note is being played, even without comparing it to another note.

Musical Question: What is "solfeggio"? Hint: Rodgers and Hammerstein!

Blessings...

Darryl



The UNMC Artists Series
Presents

A Family Christmas Concert



Featuring
Lynda Edwards
Soprano
Joyce Lundy
Soprano
Susan Sevier
Mezzo-Contralto
G. Stephen Stokes
Tenor
Michael Nansel
Baritone
The UNMC Choir
The Maytime Symphonette
Kathleen McWilliams
Larry Crosley



Conducted by
Darryl Winston

Sunday December 14, 2008

Luncheon 12:30
Concert 2pm Free

The Universalist Memorial Church
1810 16th Street, N.W.
202-387-3411



Interweave —UUA's LGBT Concerns

There will be an organizational meeting to discuss starting a UNMC Interweave Continental chapter on Sunday, January 11, 2009 after hospitality. Interweave is a UUA affiliate organization for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender (BGLT) concerns guided by UU principles. Membership is open to everyone. Interweave actively works to end oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It also strives to celebrate, connect and nurture all BGLT individuals, communities, groups and their allies. A UNMC Interweave chapter would be a welcoming liberal religious voice within our Dupont Circle neighborhood. In addition, monthly social events and service projects are planned. Join us for our first meeting and make this organization into what you want it to be! For additional information, see Marti Martinson or Ron Eanes.

Jambo Africa!

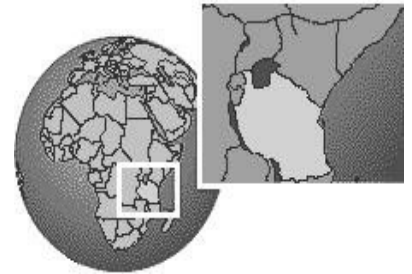
After Church on December 7th

Eliserena Kimolo, a choir volunteer, has founded a non-profit organization to help the orphaned, homeless and helpless street children of Tanzania.

She will tell us about her organization, Jambo Africa Child Hope, Inc., after church on December 7th, and will provide a traditional African meal. All are invited.

In Tanzania, many children leave school after a basic education, without enough skills or training to earn a sustainable living. They end up living on the streets. Less fortunate children have never attended school, and may be orphaned by the AIDS epidemic. Now, the Tanzanian government has given Jambo Africa land to build a school to educate this growing population of young people.

Please plan on staying after church on December 7th to learn more about Eliserena's foundation, the Tanzanian street children, and how we can help.



Construction Update

Many have noticed that the accessible rest room next to the church parlor has been finished with a new light fixture and ventilation fan, and some may have seen heating and cooling fixtures being installed on the second and third floors of the education wing. As reported at the Annual Meeting last spring, the Board of Trustees authorized work to proceed on finishing the rest room, installing a new filtered water cooler in the first floor hallway, and installing energy-efficient heating and cooling units on the second and third floors, along with a number of behind-the-scenes but nonetheless important electrical and plumbing system improvements. In early January, we expect that a non-profit group, the U.S. Climate Action Network, will be making its headquarters on the third floor, promoting worldwide actions to reduce global warming and providing a significant amount of rental income to the church. Additional building improvements will be made as funds become available.

marina v

Russian-born recording artist from Los Angeles



марина ви

www.MarinaV.com

If anyone missed the Marina V concert at the church, you missed out on some wonderful music; engaging stories and the beautiful experience of meeting Marina in person! Her heart and soul radiate out into the world...an amazing and touching gift! Marina is coming back to the U.S. after going to Australia and will be playing at the Russian Cultural Center at 1825 Phelps Place NW on Saturday December 6th.

She also expressed an interest in doing a 'house concert' on Sunday the 7th. As summer wanes and winter fast approaches, we could all use a little inspiration such as the moving spirit of this talented and personable singer/songwriter! Personally, I can vouch that she stirred something in me and I know this would be a truly special event.

My place is WAY too small for anything like this. If anyone would like to investigate hosting a house concert...(or maybe at the church again, who knows) please let me know. I would be happy to help set something up. Check out <http://www.marinav.com/houseconcert.html> for more information.

Thank you!

— Bob Sanderlin