

Universalist Anchor



From the heart...

Our last service of the regular church year is Sunday, June 8. We will be recognizing the volunteers who have given of their time and talents to the church this past year. We will welcome five new members and celebrate communion.

Many of us will be traveling this summer. The pastoral prayer each week will include a petition for those who are traveling. If, in your journeys, you experience an especially moving landscape or any other event which you would like to share, take a digital photograph and send it to the church email address, office@universalist.org. We will include the image in a summer *Anchor* or maybe even in one of our weekly UNMC list serve messages.

I plan to take a week in June and a week in July for spiritual retreat. I'll be going to an ashram in Oklahoma which is a couple of hours from Oklahoma City where I will attend the Christian Universalist Association annual conference. And in July, I will spend a week in a log cabin in the deep East Texas woods. This will be a solitary, silent retreat. The only time I will talk to another person will be when I meet with my spiritual director each day and at meals. I've been to this retreat center before. It is so deep in the woods that one can hear the coyotes howling at night. The first time I went it was a little scary, but I'm thinking this time it won't be as frightening—sure! Of course, I'll have my dog Skeeter to protect me!

My hope for all of us this summer is that we take to heart Jesus' message from Matthew 6:25-34, which we explored this past Sunday. The radical rabbi exhorts us to trust God to provide for us amidst all the anxiety and worry of our lives. The sermon is on our website, but essentially I suggested that worry separates us from God and by worrying over things we don't need to worry over, we are withholding our trust in God. The only way to trust God to provide is to put God first. Once we make our relationship with God primary, all other relationships fall into place—our family, our friends, our career.

This summer, make room for God. Everyday take some time to explore your relationship with the Ultimate Source, that presence of Universal Love which sustains us. It will look different for all of us, but the end result will be the same—a stronger spiritual self—grounded in a God-centered life.

Have a great summer!

See you in church, Rev. Lillie

Sunday Services for June

June 1, 11:00 a.m. worship: “Sing ‘The Old Rugged Cross’ at My Funeral,” a collaborative sermon with Deacon Lisa Harris and Rev. Henley. Come explore the meaning grief, mourning, funerals and memorial services have for us. It will be a time to think about one's own service.

June 8, 11:00 a.m. worship: The last service of our regular church year. We will recognize our volunteers, welcome our new members, and share communion. Let's celebrate our growth of Universalism in Washington, DC!

Notice summer hours begin:

June 15, 10:30 a.m. worship: Father's Day Service. A collaborative service led by our Deacon Richard Hurst and his father, Morgan Hurst of Philadelphia, to celebrate our fathers this Sunday. Bring stories of your fathers to share with the congregation.

June 22, 10:30 a.m. worship: “Unintended Consequences” by Deacon Richard Hurst. It is the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar. The family dynamics of those who founded our faith still have much to say to us today.

June 29, 10:30 a.m. worship: “Love God, Love the Earth” A look at religious naturalism, panentheism, and how our natural world can sustain and reinforce our belief in a Creative, Sustaining, Ultimate Source of Life.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO...

BE A GREETER/USHER on Sundays. Call Ron Eanes.

PROVIDE HOSPITALITY after church, call Jennifer Sandberg.

GIVE CHANCEL FLOWERS in memory or in honor of someone? Call Mary Templeton, our flower coordinator.

JOIN THE CHURCH, or participate in a “Newcomer Class,” or attend a *Fireside Chat*, talk to or email Rev. Henley.

All contact information is in the UNMC membership directory. Call the church office for contact information and/or a directory.

PRAY FOR PEACE

Wednesday, June 4, 6:00 p.m. "Pray for Peace" Deacon Marti Martinson will hold his first Wednesday of the month prayer service. Come after work and participate in prayer from many religious traditions. This prayer service is every month on the first Wednesday.

Children/Youth Religious Education

The religious education (R.E.) year concluded on May 18th with its final lesson. The new year will begin in September and will combine a new curriculum with community service activities. Youth Group met for the last time on Sunday evening, May 4th. We discussed the topic of "Justice." Cookies were eaten and a good time was had by all. Anyone wanting to volunteer to be Youth Group facilitator, please contact Pastor Lillie.

For the summer services, the nursery will continue to be open. Children first grade and above will remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

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 June, the recipient will be Ross Elementary School at 1730 R St NW. The school offers

- Small, Nurturing Instructional Environment with One Class Per Grade, Pre-K to 5th
- Progressive Reading, Writing, and Math Curriculum
- Spanish/English Dual Language Program
- Newly Renovated, State-of-the-art Library with Thousands of New Books
- Dedicated Science Program
- Fillmore Arts Center Fine Arts Program
- Environmentally Friendly Modern Playground and Playing Field
- After Care Program Includes Enrichment with Spanish, Soccer, Chess, and Dance Instruction

Deacons Invite Congregation to Sing for Our Own Nonagenarian!

Rose Dennis, who is 97 this year and our oldest member, is living at Thomas House. A faithful member all of her adult life, she still misses the church, even though she has not been able to attend in a long time.

Perry King is organizing a **SUMMER SONGFEST** for Rose! **Sunday, June 29**, after hospitality. Everyone is welcome to go, regardless of your musical talent! Rev. Henley plans to go and stand beside a "strong soprano." There will be a short practice to go over the music after hospitality on June 22.

Thomas House is delighted for the group to be there and the other residents should enjoy the visit as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 1, 9:30 a.m. Universalist history with Eric Stetson in 2nd floor study. The topic will be "Universalism in the Gospels and Teachings of Jesus"

Monday, June 2, 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting in Parlor

Wednesday, June 4, 6:00 p.m. "Pray for Peace" Deacon Marti Martinson will hold his monthly prayer service.

Sunday, June 8, 9:30 a.m. A Christian Course in Miracles taught by William Spruiell, study, second floor.

Saturday, June 21, 2:30 p.m. Church kitchen: **Leland Place** ministry

Saturday, June 21 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary: Jose Luis Sanchez in concert

Sunday, June 22, 9:00 a.m. Covenant/Prayer study group in the second floor study.

Sunday, June 29, 12:00 p.m. After hospitality there will be a second chance to participate in the June 1 class on "Universalism in the Gospels and Teachings of Jesus," Second floor study.

Washington National Wagner Society
Darryl Winston, Artistic Director
Presents

Evenings in Bayreuth
Calvary Baptist Church
855 8th Street NW (8th and H Sts, NW)
Saturday, May 31 and June 7—7:30
Admission \$25 and \$40

***THIRD OF A SERIES OF "MUST-READS"
ON RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE***

Reviewed by Dr. Ken R. Vincent, AHS member
originally published in DE NUMINE (official
publication of the Alister Hardy Society for the
Study of Religious Experience), Vol. 44, 2008

The New Frontier of Religion and Science: Religious Experience, Neuroscience, and the Transcendent by John Hick

The New Frontier of Religion and Science is the latest offering by the world's best-known Universalist/Pluralist theologian. Now in his 80's, John Hick is not content to rest on his laurels as a world-renowned author of religion and comparative religion. In this book, he has broadened his knowledge to include a working understanding of not only research into religious experience from a social science perspective, but also from the perspective of the exploding field of neuroscience. In a very real sense, this book is a continuation of his research into mystical (a.k.a., religious or spiritual) experience. Prof. Hick uses the term "mystical" in its broadest sense to include the transformation of the natural world, a sense of Divine presence, religious visions and auditions, and union with God (or if you prefer, Ultimate Reality). To make his point, he draws on the religious literature of the ages; for contemporary accounts, he relies on the case files of the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre (which is the premier research center for mystical/religious/spiritual experience in the world). The central question of the book is whether some or all of religious experience is veridical. He explores religious experience in the world's religions, as well as religious experience from the perspective of neuroscience and research into consciousness. He then considers the philosophical implications of this research and, finally, he examines religious experience from the standpoint of religious pluralism. His conclusion is that, "the criterion that operates within all the great world faiths to distinguish delusion from authentic awareness of the transcendent is the long-term fruits of the experience in the individual's life; these are essentially the same within all the world faiths."

Reviewed by Dr. Ken R. Vincent, AHS member



Chancel Flowers

Mary Templeton, Coordinator

June 1 -- Chancel flowers are given by Lisle, Paul, Jackson, and Peter Hannah in loving memory of Lisle's father, Jay Carlisle Rippard.

June 8 -- Communion.

June 15 -- Chancel flowers are given by Brian, Vicki, Stephen, and Irina Pepper in memory of Brian's father, Miles W. Pepper.

June 22 -- Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of her parents by Mary Simmons.

June 29 -- Chancel flowers are given in celebration of Reverend Henley's "grand" nieces and nephews, Jared, Vanessa, and Brady.

If you would like to donate flowers for Sunday morning's service, please call the office at 202-387-3411 or email office@universalist.org.

Adult Religious Education in June

Sunday, June 1, 9:30 a.m. Universalist history with Eric Stetson in 2nd floor study. The topic will be "Universalism in the Gospels and Teachings of Jesus"

Sunday, June 8, 9:30 a.m. A Christian Course in Miracles taught by William Spruiell, study, second floor.

Sunday, June 22, 9:00 a.m. Covenant/Prayer study group discusses the Lord's Prayer in the second floor study.

Sunday, June 29, 12:00 p.m. After hospitality there will be a second chance to participate in the June 1 class on "Universalism in the Gospels and Teachings of Jesus," Second floor study.



**Chocolate Candy
Communion**

Mother's Day, Rev. Henley preached a sermon about Mother Gump, and then everyone celebrated their mothers with a chocolate candy communion.

Below right, selecting their chocolates for communion are José Luis Sanchez, Jan-Christine Johnson, and Catherine Bocskor.



Natasha Kislenko in Concert

Remember the name, for she is one of the best pianists you will ever hear!

Natasha performed in our Sanctuary May 16. She is a Russian pianist now living in California. We were lucky enough to enjoy her performance because she is a friend of our pianist Ilya Sinaisky.

Above left, enjoying the concert are Kelly Nuxoll, Richard Russo, and Ken Kadlec.



Maly Boys Baptized

Christine and Keith Maly brought their sons to the congregation for Baptism and dedication on May 18. Both boys had birthdays that week.

One of our young members, right, participated in the Baptism by offering her hopes and best wishes for the boys.

