

Universalist Anchor



BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH RALLY SUNDAY!

Sunday, September 7th is the first service of our regular church year. "Rally Sunday," for our newcomers, is the traditional name for the first Sunday after Labor Day when most everyone is back in town after their summer travels.

Below is a photograph of one of our young members, modeling "Bring a Friend to Church!"



Rally Sunday Picnic & Entertainment



UNMC is pleased to welcome Luci Murphy and friends back for the third year in a row to perform for our Rally Sunday picnic and jazz party on the lawn on Sunday, Sept. 7 immediately following the church service. Luci will be joined by Roger St. Vincient

on bass, Earl Richardson on percussion, and a special appearance by Richard Miller on guitar. Richard is a great Brazilian-influenced guitarist who was actually born in Rio de Janeiro to American parents. You can hear samples of his music at www.dcjazz.com/richardmiller. Luci brings her warm, strong and technically perfect vocals and wide multi-lingual repertoire again this year. We are blessed to bring such uplifting musical talent to our front lawn. See you there.

Sunday Services for September

Regular hours — services begin at 11:00a.m.!

September 7 — Rally Sunday – A Picnic on the Grounds after Church. Rev. Henley preaching on "Planting Seeds." Sometimes, in the midst of Harvest, we realize that we haven't planted all that we need to plant. The seeds we are in most need of planting are seeds of compassion and justice. One is personal; one is systemic—we are called to live out both.

September 14 — Rev. Henley preaching "Making Amends," a sermon on forgiveness. It is an act grounded in love for God, for others, and for self.

September 21 — "Young Adult Exodus." Our Intern Minister, Michael Relland, reflects on ministry to young adults here at UNMC and in other places where people are leading lives of transition and transformation. This is a time to lift up the changes in our lives!

September 28 — Communion Sunday, our first communion of our new church year. Rev. Henley will be preaching "Living the Word." As people of faith, we are called to live our lives in joy, loving each other, and working together with one mind and purpose.

October 5 — "When It Doesn't Work the First Time." We work, we build things, we enter into relationships, all with positive and hopeful thoughts; yet, somehow, sometimes, they don't work out. What do we do then?

Adult Religious Education

Sunday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. Adult religious education class taught by Eric Stetson on Universalist History, "Part 4: Universalism in the Early Church and the Middle Ages" - Second floor study.

Sunday, September 28, 9:30 a.m. The Christian Prayer/Spirituality Covenant Group will meet in the second floor study.

12:30 p.m. Another chance to attend Eric Stetson's class on Universalist History, "Part 4: Universalism in the Early Church and the Middle Ages" - After hospitality in the second floor study.

From the heart ...

One of the reasons I accepted the call to the ministry here at UNMC is the church's Congregational Covenant, a copy of which is enclosed with this *Anchor*.

The drafting and adoption of the Covenant was a church-wide effort, facilitated by the Committee on Ministry. It provides guidelines for the members of the congregation to be in healthy and affirming relationships with each other. It describes our commitment to each other, to the congregation, and to the greater community.

Covenantal relationships are deeply rooted in humankind's story. Yahweh made unconditional and conditional covenants with the Israelites. The unconditional covenant was to never again destroy the earth with water. The conditional one was to take care of them as long as they followed Mosaic Law.

The earliest recorded covenants are the suzerain covenants of antiquity. These covenants established the relationships between a conquering ruler and the kings of conquered lands. There was a formula for these covenants.

First there is a section of *adorations*, in which both entities list the "admirable" qualities of the other. It is intended to create a foundation for mutual respect. Second, there is a section of *obligations*, in which it is clear what is expected of each party during the term of the covenant. Last, there is a section of *resolutions*, which describes how grievances are to be addressed when obligations are not met.

While our Covenant doesn't have these three historical sections, it does call us to the intentionality of all three themes. I paraphrase:

Adorations: Assume the good intentions of others and embrace our differences.

Obligations: Answer the call to serve, create opportunities to share, promote acceptance of our differences, adhere to our core traditions, strive for inclusiveness, and remain open to the possibilities that change presents.

Resolutions: Confront each other directly and respectfully in times of conflict and act in good faith.

There are several reasons why I bring the Covenant to our attention, including my own inability to always live out the terms of our Covenant as fully as I would like. I have not always followed the preferred process for achieving a solution to a problem that church committees should be solving. Since I tend to be a "full-steam-ahead" kind of individual, it has been a challenge for me to wait for committee decisions to resolve pending issues. It is something I have to learn to do, and I am trying. I think that my appropriate role is to encourage and facilitate congregational processes, rather than trying to "solve" the church's issues by myself. With our traditional model of congregational governance, the processes and systems we put in place today will help carry and sustain the congregation into the future.

Another reason to bring up our Covenant is to remind all of us that we are part of a religious community that finds its meaning in the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. By that ministry, we are called to be part of a positive and affirming part of this religious community and the world. And the Covenant provides an outline of expectations and behaviors that serve as a guide to us in our relationships with each other and the broader community.

We need to keep the Covenant in front of us at all times, during committee meetings, religious education, social activities, and in our conversations with one another. And when we fail to live up to our Covenant perfectly, we have to remember what the last paragraph says:

As we make this commitment in community, we recognize in our humanity that we will at times fall short of our aspirations, but we will always seek to reflect God's love by forgiving ourselves and each other.

As we begin this new church year, know that as long as we love each other and work to create a loving, joy-filled congregation that serves each other and the broader community; all will be as Julian of Norwich wrote: "... all will be well, and all matter of things will be well..."

See you in church,

Pastor Lillie



Congregational Covenant of the Universalist National Memorial Church

Approved at Annual Meeting May 15, 2005

The congregation of the Universalist National Memorial Church, in order to create a loving community for worship and service in the spirit of Jesus Christ, and to welcome all and respect individual beliefs as we grow together, covenant that

In our relations with one another:

- We will make everyone feel welcome and create opportunities to form personal connections through increased purposeful fellowship.
- We will support each other in times of need.
- We will create an environment and processes where people will feel safe to speak openly and honestly.
- We will embrace the differences of views inherent in our community, expressing our differences respectfully while listening to others—recognizing difference is a strength, offering opportunities for learning and growing together.
- We will confront each other directly and respectfully when disagreement or conflict occurs, in a spirit of gentleness and humility—then be willing to move on without criticizing others behind their backs or being passive-aggressive.
- We will draw upon the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as guides to behavior.
- We will make concrete and attainable commitments, then follow through on those commitments.
- We will act in good faith and assume the good intentions of the people with whom we are interacting.

In our service to the church and greater community:

- We will stay engaged with the church community and answer the call to serve each other.
- We will engage more purposefully with the local community, structuring opportunities in a way to increase participation.
- We will work to make our facilities and activities more accessible to people with disabilities.

Regarding our beliefs:

- We will create opportunities to share beliefs.
- We will promote respect and acceptance of differences in our beliefs through purposeful activities that will educate us to the range of Christian and other theologies.
- We will respect personal privacy in matters of belief, letting people participate when ready.

In our worship:

- We will uphold a meaningful, consistent approach to worship that adheres to our core liberal Christian and Universalist traditions, while remaining open as a community to consider change.
- We will strive for inclusiveness in our worship by avoiding unexplained religious jargon and unnecessary gender-specific language, as well as by recognizing the diversity in the spiritual paths we travel.
- We will draw from a variety of resources for uplifting music and inspiring readings, from the Bible and other sources of spiritual insight.

In our congregation and its leadership:

- We will promote and seek diversity of ideas, including through diversity in our leadership and congregation generally.
- We will expect and encourage our leadership to communicate with us, and we will engage in discussing the goals, challenges and opportunities that we face together.
- We will create clear and open processes to enhance opportunities for participation in decision-making.

This covenant represents our commitment in community with one another. We recognize in our humanity that we will at times fall short of our aspirations, but we will always seek to reflect God's love and generosity by forgiving ourselves and each other.



UNMC Bookshelf

Back in 1999, my nephew, Turner, asked me to recommend some great books to read I thought were important. I did. Here are three:

The Republic: I was 17 when I read it. Plato convinced me that virtue, far from being a duty, really is its own reward. To know that is to know true freedom.

The Bible: Every great figure in the story of Israel has a serious flaw. “Why,” I asked, Anne Glass, daughter and granddaughter of rabbis, “bring up this?” “The Torah,” she said, “plumbed the depths of the human heart.” Jewish tradition does not worship individuals. Shortcomings were recorded to make sure this did not happen. I prefer the King James Version, for the language.

Hamlet: Given the turbulence of the times, Shakespeare probably took seriously the possibility we are under the thumb of a tyrannical God and there’s nothing we can do about it. Can anything worse befall us? Hamlet speaks for helpless, vulnerable “us.” Where is that in the Bible? — *Kirk Perrow III*

Leland Place Dinner Set for Saturday, Sept. 20

The Leland Place crew took a summer break in August but plan to return with renewed vigor at the next dinner on Saturday September 20.

Leland, a program of SOME (So Others Might Eat), is a halfway house on North Capitol Street for men in recovery from addictions. Volunteers will gather in the UNMC kitchen at 2:30 p.m., prepare a meal and take it to Leland and eat with the men around 5 p.m.

If you are interested in participating, please call the office at 202-387-3411 or email at office@universalist.org. Volunteers share the cost of the meal usually, between \$15 and \$25 per volunteer.. If you'd like to volunteer your time only, please see Dave or Pastor Lillie. If you are short of time but would like to contribute to the Leland effort, please use one of the special envelopes found on the table near the entrance to the sanctuary and drop it in the collection plate.

Standing in the Light: My Life as a Pantheist (Sharman Apt Russell): UU congregations are home to many pantheists. What do we learn from this Quaker pantheist’s spiritual journey and naturalist journal? The uncertainties of seeking and longing are rarely conquered.

Beatitudes (Herménégilde Chiasson): This Acadian poet constructs a universalist message in his take on the Beatitudes. By expanding the universe of the meek and the weak, Chiasson shows we all need to be, and will be, blessed. — *Richard Russo*

Welcome and Membership Committee

The Welcome and Membership Committee welcomes the new Anchor Production Team as members of our committee. The Anchor Production Team is Jan-Christine Johnson and Richard Russo.

Our committee will be hosting a new members’ brunch, Saturday, Sept. 20. Our new members will gather to explore their call of service to the church.

We’re also planning to send out copies of our new Welcome brochure this month to neighborhood apartment and condominium buildings to be posted on their community bulletin boards.

The Welcome and Membership Committee has met with the Building and Grounds Committee to discuss having banners attached to our sanctuary and public light poles. After some research we’ve learned that we have to get DC permits and an okay from the historical society. At our next meeting we will be making decisions regarding what the banners will say, the sizes and the colors to submit for the permits. We’re also pursuing obtaining UNMC directional signs with the DC government to be attached to street poles in the neighborhood.

In addition, Keith Maly has agreed to help us launch a new website ministry for UNMC. At our initial meeting we discussed what we liked about our current website and what we would like to change. Guest information with parking and metro information will be moved to the top of the website. Links will be added for a members only page and for property rental fee information. The ability to search our website will also be improved too.

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.

HAVE SOMETHING APPEAR IN THE NEWSLETTER
 Contact a member of the new Anchor Production Team (office@universalist.org)

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.



Chancel Flowers

Mary Templeton, Coordinator

Sept 7 — GRANDPARENTS' DAY--OPEN. It is not too late to sign up for flowers; your tribute to your grandparents will be noted in the Order of Service.

Sept 14 — Chancel flowers are given in memory of H. Jerome Graham, organist emeritus, by his daughter Sally and son-in-law Douglas Simon.

Sept 21 — Chancel flowers are given in honor of their parents, Ruth R. and James L. Salmon, and Audrey and Alton Templeton, by Mary S. and Al Templeton.

Sept 28 — COMMUNION SUNDAY

Spiritual Enrichment

This fall Rev. Henley offers the following opportunities for spiritual growth.

If you have any questions, call her at 301-655-3798.

Sign up sheets will be on the round table in the Parlor.

BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER...

Second & Fourth Tuesdays—6:00—Meditation & Potluck

Meditation and Reflection—We will focus on American Buddhist nun Pema Chödrön's technique of meditating from her book *The Wisdom of No Escape*. After an in-gathering, we read and then meditate on Chödrön's writings in her book *Comfortable with Uncertainty*. Afterwards we will share our reflections and close with chanting.

All are invited to bring a dish to share. During dinner, there will be a time to share our joys, sorrows, and stories. Rev. Henley and others will facilitate our gatherings.

And, "no," we are not going to become Buddhists. We will learn to meditate, contemplate, and focus on God or Presence. We will deepen our awareness of what in life is sacred and affirming, and learn to let go of that which takes us away from love and joy.

BEGINNING IN OCTOBER...

Every Thursday Evening—6:00—Bible Study and 7:00—Potluck

Studying the Bible will deepen our knowledge of God's Universal love. There are many contemporary Bible study programs available today, and as a group, we will choose a program that best suits the needs of the group. Please do some research and bring your ideas. After our Bible study, our potluck will give us time to get to know each other better and share our stories.

We create a loving community for worship and service in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

We welcome all and respect individual beliefs as we grow together.

Mission Statement, Adopted by Congregation

May 2002

Our Path to Membership at Universalist National Memorial Church

Having strong roots in the congregational, “free church” tradition, we here at UNMC understand that joining a church may not be for everyone. Yet we also know our faith community offers something special—if not unique—in a world and society increasingly fractured, fractious, and polarized. UNMC offers genuine community: the chance to connect meaningfully with others.

Within our welcoming congregation you will find members and friends who are young and old, urban and suburban, national and international. You’ll also find opportunities to engage others who come from different religious, ethno-cultural, and political backgrounds. Such differences enrich UNMC, so we value them and seek “common ground,” instead of allowing our differences to drive us apart. And in our ongoing efforts to share God’s love in community, we are guided by our Mission Statement, Congregational Covenant, and Minister.

If you’d like to learn more about this community, UNMC offers the following three events on a regularly scheduled, cyclical basis throughout the church year. Each is scheduled for 90 minutes, which should allow some time for fellowship. We invite and encourage all who are interested to attend, ideally—but not necessarily—in order.

Kindred Spirits is a gathering of newcomers, guests, and other members of the congregation interested in exploring their spiritual journeys. This is a spiritually affirming time when participants share meaningful stories from their life journeys. The session begins with an in-gathering, during which individuals share what brought them here. Then everyone is given materials on which to “draw” his or her spiritual journey. Next, participants are paired and tell their stories to each other. In the last segment, the partners introduce each other to the entire group, and each shares the other’s story. We close with a short ritual and prayer.

Get to Know UNMC provides newcomers, guests, and interested others useful information about Unitarian Universalist history and the history of UNMC. We open with a welcoming in-gathering, after which participants watch an interesting video outlining UU history. Then a member shares some of UNMC’s unique history. Next, participants discuss “What Unitarian Universalism Means—or Could Mean—to Me.” We close with a short ritual and prayer.

Thinking About Commitment is for all those interested in making a commitment to the works and ministries of the Church, although no one is obligated to join the church upon attendance. It is a time when participants explore what it means to be part of a religious community. Current members talk about the ministries of UNMC and the mission and vision of our Congregation. Rev. Henley, someone from the Board, Budget, Finance & Stewardship Committee, and the Welcome & Membership Committee also share information and perspectives with the group, plus we’ll allow time for your questions and discussion.

What’s Next? Joining Universalist National Memorial Church is the next formal step toward personal commitment to our mission and shared vision for the Church. After attending *Thinking About Commitment*, those ready for membership should share their desire to join with someone from the Welcome & Membership Committee, Rev. Henley, or Sue Mosher, UNMC Registrar. Newcomers become members by subscribing to the Church Bylaws and signing the Membership Book on Sundays. Periodically, new members are recognized and welcomed during Sunday worship.

UNMC's Community Minister Intern



As many of you know, I am working to welcome young adults to UNMC and to create a ministry that invites people in their 20's and 30's (or who are 20-30's-minded!) to our worshiping community. What is a young adult?

We are not traditional church-goers. We pick and choose, given the many priorities in our lives. But when we commit, we commit! We are a playful bunch. Many of us are just as comfortable hearing "The Lord be with you" as we are hearing, "The force be with you." In both cases, we happily reply, "...And also with you." And some of us don't even like Star Wars.

Really, there are no neat categories in which to place our particular brand of living, which is dynamic—not easily explained or expressed. It is a life both exciting and exhausting. Young adulthood is a time for discernment, prayer, hope, and celebration, not unlike the rest of our lives!

I notice that we have many visitors who walk in Sunday morning, yet do not stay for fellowship and hospitality. I want to find a way we young adults can walk together, out and about in our fair city. I think we can welcome young adults in the way we would welcome anyone who finds us. We carry no agenda but the love of Universalism, and we express that love by listening to each others' stories. I know they will be good ones.

See you in church,

Michael Relland (mjvielle@yahoo.com; 301-233-3552)

Religious Education Resumes

The Religious Education program will begin for the new year on Sunday, September 14. We will debut a new curriculum: The Seven UU Principles and Jesus. With each week teachers and students will review a principle and discuss its meaning. Then a relevant passage or two from the Bible will be read, compared and contrasted with the principle. We hope to have different adults in the congregation join us from time to time as we love to hear different perspectives and examples from our daily lives.

Sharing our Plate

Beacon House is our September recipient. Beacon House is a neighborhood based organization that supports at-risk youth and families of the Edgewood Terrace community in Washington, D.C. It offers a range of programs.

Beacon House was founded in 1991 by Rev. Donald E. Robinson, a Unitarian Universalist (UU) Minister. To learn more about beacon House, visit their website www.beaconhousedc.org

SUMMER SINGERS

All summer we have had members and guests provide beautiful music for our services. The joy-filled singers on August 24 are: from left to right: Jan-Christine Johnson; Maria Cantella, our guest soloist mezzo-soprano; Eliserena Kimol; and Darryl Winston. Second row guests: Marianne Julian and Deo Kimolo.



A Musical Note



Greetings! I want to thank everyone for their warm welcome and support. I have really enjoyed working with you this summer and I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. UNMC is going through a period of growth and Music will play a great part in the Church's growth. My vision is to have a meaningful worship service where The Word and Music will combine into an uplifting, flowing time of faith, inspiration and enlightenment.

The change has already begun...visitors are returning, the music office is being put in order, organ challenges are being addressed, an Artists Program is being instituted, and last but not least...we will have a choir that will carry on the rich musical tradition that once belonged to UNMC.

I have assembled a choir of interested people that is multi-cultural, multi-generational, and multi-talented. An excellent vocal team of soloists and section leaders will support the choir. You will be astonished and proud by the caliber, sound, musicianship and dedication of our new singers. As with any musical group; practice makes perfect and we will be no different.

The church will be a beacon of light, growth, activity, and music on 16th street starting on **Thursday September 4th at 7pm when the choir has its first rehearsal.** We have a list of 21 singers so far. I am sure we will be able to have a main core of at least 18 people every week making music and sharing fellowship. We welcome your support. We look forward to making Thursday Night the 2nd best hour of the week at UNMC.

Every month The Anchor will feature an article by yours truly. I will take this opportunity to talk about our progress, our needs, and your support. Also, I will be spotlighting each month one of our choir members. I think it makes a difference when you learn more about the person behind the face, behind the voice. I will start with the soloists and work my way through the bass section.

Also, I will ask a **musical** question that you will have an entire month to answer. Alright! No cheating! Put down that dictionary. This has to be in your own words and complete. The answer might change the way you hear and read music. There will be a box in the parlor where you can submit your answers. **QUESTION # 1: What is a staff?**

Blessings,
Darryl

Music Room Facelift!

Catherine Robbins, Sally Segal, and Mike Dillon have spent many hours recently to make our music room livable. The walls and ceiling were scraped, which showed that only one coat of paint was ever applied. Also, they washed off 78 years of dirt and grime.

They report that the walls are essentially sound, and with sanding and spackling, primer and paint are next.

Thanks to them for all their hard work!

UNMC Travelogue

Travel, like church, can be truly inspirational. One place that has recently inspired two members of the UNMC community is Istanbul, Turkey. Sue Mosher just returned from there, and Richard Russo traveled there in March. It is a cosmopolitan city filled with religious history and architecture.



"I had wanted to visit Hagia Sophia (left) since I was 10 years old. This photo shows a bit of the fascination that it still holds for people of all ages and many faiths.

The fresco below is from the Chora church, also in Istanbul. The name "Chora" comes from a Greek phrase that de-

scribes Mary (in translation) as "the container of the uncontainable." I just love the mystery there. The fresco depicts the resurrection in the classic Eastern manner, with Christ yanking Adam and Eve from their tombs. Below Christ is a vast collection of locks and keys of all kinds – quite fascinating."

— Sue Mosher

Turkey is also home to Alevi Islam, a sect with a universalist-leaning theology. About 20% of the Turkey's 70 million people are Alevi. --RAR

