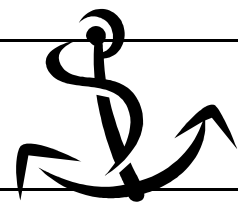


# Universalist Anchor



*from the heart...*

Let us not try to persuade ourselves that this time of year is no different than any other season or time in our lives.

Holiday celebrations are all around us.

Even if we are our own version of Scrooge, there are cultural, religious, and social events that happen regardless of whether we want them to happen, or not. And when they happen, we miss those we love who live far away. We miss those we love who have died. And most of all, losses and changes of our lives come to mind, whether we want them to, or not.

Yes, the holidays affect us, sociologists say, more than we might recognize. And believe it or not, it is as negative for some, as it is positive for others. And for everyone in between, there is the bittersweet living of Christmas.

Anxiety, seasonal depression, fear, and many other *ways of being* are part of us year-round; however, the holidays seem to exacerbate our challenges.

This year, embrace everything that makes the holidays painful; allow the negative to fertilize a spiritual growth which can make us stronger and closer to God and to others. Pray, contemplate, and take advantage of the longer, darker evenings. Stay in and meditate. The possibilities are endless.

This is a special time of year. Celebrate it all!

See you in church, Pastor Lillie



## Joining Sunday

If you have been considering joining UNMC and/or have attended one or more “steps to membership,” we will have a **Joining Sunday** on December 20. If you have found a spiritual and/or religious home here, then it may be time to think about making a commitment to Universalism and UNMC.

If the church has met your needs for a connection to others and given you an opportunity to serve, **and** you know in your heart there is something here for you—to give and to receive—then the Church welcomes you. The journey shared is powerful and a wonderful way to make a difference.

There will be an opportunity during the service for you to sign the UNMC membership book and for the congregation to welcome you into membership.

We will continue to have gatherings for guests and members. In January we will have a “Share Your Spiritual Journeys.”

Welcome and Membership Committee and Pastor Lillie

## Holiday Concert December 13th

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is upon us. This is the time for sharing fellowship with family, friends, and people in need. This is a time of Peace and reflection. The choir tries to embody the holiday spirit almost every Sunday throughout the year with the Congregation of UNMC with their unselfish dedication of talent and time. It is our hope that the Congregation will support us in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Holiday Concert on December 13<sup>th</sup>. What could be a greater present to the choir than your presence? Bring a friend or two and a covered dish and share in the music of the holidays. Gee.. friends, music, food, free admission...I guess I will show up too.

Blessings,

Darryl

**Please see page 3 for more details!**

## Services for December

Services begin at 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted

**December 6, “Getting to Bethlehem”** continues Rev. Henley’s plans to explore the meaning of the Messiah’s birth. What fills us with anticipation as we journey to “our Bethlehem?”

**December 13, “The Miracle Is Born”** will give us an opportunity at personal fulfillment. What do we do to prepare ourselves for a life of living the Messiah’s story?

**December 20**, Rev. Henley will explore the celebration around the **birth of Jesus**. What did the shepherds and the angels know that we need to consider?

**December 24, at 7 p.m.**, will be our **Christmas Eve story**. We will have our traditional “**Lessons and Carols**” that are part of our Church’s story.

**December 25** there will be a noon Christmas Communion service.

**December 27**, Rev. Henley will ask us to reflect on the **joys and sorrows** of this past year. We will be invited to share what made a difference or changed our lives.

## 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. In December, UNMC will share ten percent of its collected offerings to Christ House.

A 34-bed health care facility, Christ House is a temporary residence for those who are homeless and sick. It is a place where they can receive medical care, social services, nutritious meals, and plenty of rest.

## Interweave News

On Friday November 20, UNMC and All Souls Interweave members lifted a few brews to "give thanks" at a happy hour at Nellie's Sports Bar on U St. It was a nice social and a great way to end a hectic work week.

A holiday brunch is planned for Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Dupont Italian Kitchen. We will meet in the second floor dining room at 1 p.m. The restaurant is located in walking distance at 17th & R Sts., NW. We will be joining All Souls Interweave and members of the Washington Ethical Society for brunch. The brunch is open to ALL and participants can order off the menu and get a separate check. Please RSVP to Ron Eanes by Friday, Dec. 4 if you plan to attend.

In addition, UNMC Interweave is planning a service project for January and an activity to celebrate love, justice and marriage equality for the UUA's "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign on Sunday, Feb. 14. Look soon for our Standing on the Side of Love banner to be hung from the tower of UNMC. Interweave is the GLBT social/service group of the church and is a national organization affiliated with the UUA.

## Welcome and Membership

The Welcome and Membership Committee has planned Dec. 20 as a Joining Sunday for all UNMC friends wishing to become members of the church. A Steps to Membership Class is planned for January, if you would like to learn more about Universalism and joining UNMC. Press releases promoting our Christmas choir concert on Dec. 13 and UNMC's Christmas Eve service has been sent to the local media. In addition, we will be replacing the outdoor information box that was on the church's fence with a new clear box to hold UNMC Welcome brochures for the public.

## Celebrate Christmas at Leland Place

Our next dinner at Leland Place, a halfway house for men recovering from addiction, is scheduled Saturday December 19. Volunteers looking to share the Christmas spirit are welcome.

At our last dinner, November 21, just before Thanksgiving, we feasted on a Moroccan fricasse of chicken, cous cous with chickpeas, spiced carrots, salad, and good-old American pumpkin pie. Thanks to volunteers Bob Sanderlin, Marsha Silverberg, Pastor Lillie, and Dave Skidmore. Eighteen appreciative Leland residents attended.

Those interested in participating on December 19 should RSVP to Dave Skidmore at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org) by Thursday December 17. We gather in the church kitchen at 2:30 p.m. with the goal of serving our meal at Leland, a facility of SOME (So Others Might Eat) on North Capitol Street, by 5 p.m. We travel by carpool and return volunteers to the church by about 6:30 p.m. Volunteers generally share the cost of the meal, between \$15 and \$25. Those wishing to donate their labor, but not money, are most welcome and should see Pastor Lillie or Dave Skidmore.

## Calling all young adults, ages 18 until...

Vision. Dream. Act. What do you see as the role of UNMC young adult ministries in the DuPont Circle area? Is it the role of the Church (in the corporate sense) to be the community? How is it with your soul?

Over the next few weeks we will be engaging in targeted and directed Bible Study and small group discussions regarding lent and the future of young adult ministries. We look forward to seeing you there!

Feel free to come and participate in our visioning process of the Young Adult Ministries of Universalist National Memorial Church in the next few weeks. For additional information, reach Rev. L.A. McCrae at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org)

## Decorating the Sanctuary

Every year at this time we "green up" our church sanctuary for the Christmas season. The greens that we put up around the sanctuary will be in place by Sunday, December 6th, Christmas trees can be brought in then or later. Since the choir is having a concert on December 13th, we won't add the poinsettia's until after that is over. If you would like to donate a poinsettia or a Christmas tree you have two ways you can do that. Either buy one and bring it to the church, or, perhaps easier for everyone, you can give money for the purchase of one of those items. Jennifer Sandberg is the person to contact regarding donating items for Christmas decorating. A monetary donation of \$30 for either a tree or a poinsettia will cover the purchasing of one. You can indicate if you are donating in memory of someone or not, but your name will appear in the Order of Service for all of the Sundays we have decorations. See Jennifer after church prior to Dec.13, email her at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org)

Let's have the most beautiful sanctuary for Christmas ever!

## Delighting in the Feminine Devine

We will hold the next class on December 6. This class is based on the book of the same name by Bridget Mary Meehan. Our topic will be centered around the chapter, "Shekinah: Transforming the Church". How is the Feminine Divine transforming churches and other faith communities today? Last month's lively discussion was around the topic of how we can find the Feminine Divine dwelling within each of us. Please join us and discover something new! Copies of the chapter to be discussed will be available in the church parlor. We meet in the library on the 2nd floor after church at 12:20 p.m.

**The January Anchor Newsletter submission deadline will be Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Please send any submissions to Shawn Logue at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org)**

# Meeting Jesus **AGAIN** for the First Time

By **Marcus J. Borg**

## *A BOOK DISCUSSION*

*Hosted by David Burton and David Gatton*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each  
month, beginning  
December 9th

7:00 PM in the UNMC Parlor

### To reserve your space

E-mail [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org)

**WINE & CHEESE WILL BE**

**PROVIDED**

**OTHER APPETIZERS WELCOMED**

## The UNMC Artists' Series

Presents

# A Family Holiday Concert



Featuring

Joyce Lundy Anne O'Dell  
G. Stephen Stokes Colleen Fay

The UNMC Choir and The Maytime  
Symphonette

Michael Crabill and Michael Arrington, Keyboards  
Virginia Gardner, Cello Oscar Velasco, Flute

**A Concert of Traditional Holiday Music PLUS...**

Robert Ray's

# Gospel Magnificat

With the UNMC Jazz Ensemble  
With Special Guest

**Charisma Wooten**

Conducted by

**Darryl Winston**

FREE Concert FREE Lunch FREE Parking

**Sunday December 13, 2009**

Luncheon 12:30... Concert 2pm

(A Free Will Offering will be collected for the music fund)

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.



[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)

43 Vermont Court  
Asheville, NC 28806  
828-281-3253

For more information, visit  
[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
or write to  
[info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com)

The Universalist Anchor is published monthly for the members and friends of the Universalist National Memorial Church in Washington, DC. It is also on our website, along with Rev. Henley's sermons, and announcements and activities.

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202-387-3411  
[office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org).

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The Reverend Lillie Mae Henley  
[pastorlillie@universalist.org](mailto:pastorlillie@universalist.org)  
301-655-3798

***Minister Emeritus***

The Reverend Dr. William L. Fox

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***The Universalist Anchor***

Universalist National Memorial Church  
1810 Sixteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

**Visit: [www.universalist.org](http://www.universalist.org)**

**Our Mission (adopted May 2002)**

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