

LFD NEWSLETTER

UU White Supremacy Teach-In led by Cory Ness

On **Sunday, May 7**, we will Join a large, growing group of Unitarian Universalists who will shift their regularly scheduled Sunday morning worship on Sundays, April 30 & May 7, to participate in a teach-in on racism and white supremacy. We will be participating with thousands of UUs around the country in this large-scale historic action.

From this call to action and worship comes from a growing network of UUs—religious professionals and lay leaders from both within and outside congregations--led by UUs of color and white UUs working together.

Over the past few weeks, many have been responding to calls by UUs of color to look critically ***within*** our faith communities--including hiring practices, power brokers, and cultural habits--for the ways racism, sexism, and white supremacy live.

“White supremacy” is a provocative phrase, as it conjures up images of hoods and mobs. Yet in 2017, **actual “white supremacists” are not required in order to uphold white supremacist culture.** Building a faith full of people who understand that key distinction is essential as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times.

For more information about:

- What is the UU White Supremacy Teach-In and how did it originate?
- Why is our congregation participating?
- How does white supremacy culture show up in our congregation?
- What is the 8th Principle project and how does it connect to white supremacy in UU spaces?

Go to uushenandoah.org - Social Action & Justice - UU White Supremacy Teach-In

You will also find Resources for Families and a wealth of Teach-In Resources to guide your understanding on the systems of oppression.

Covenant Group News



Our spiritual theme for the month of **May** is **Mental Wellness**. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 50 percent of Americans will, at some point in their lives, seek help for their distress and get a diagnosis. Almost all who do will eventually work themselves into a healthier place again. Unfortunately mental health conditions are stigmatized in our society. To lessen the stigma we need to watch our language. Language influences how we think and is relayed to others. Another existing problem are the technical terms for mental illness becoming popularized and used to mean dysfunctional. A courageous way to combat stigma is to take the radical and countercultural step of treating our own mental health challenges like we treat our physical health challenges. For instance, if we come out and talk about it with others and let mental health just be a part of health in general. In order to live openhearted and openminded lives, it is good for us to be aware of mental health issues and how they affect us, friends, and loved ones. It is also beneficial to share our stories with others. Our stories are powerful and can influence those around us.

At one time or another, most people go through a period of sadness, trial, loss, frustration, or failure that is so disturbing and long-lasting that it can be called a dark night on the soul..

- Thomas Moore

Adult Education Offerings

Book Club

May - The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Facilitation: Rotating

Date: Wednesday, May 24th @ 10:15 a.m.

The seminal work of speculative fiction from the Booker Prize-winning author, soon to be a Hulu series starring Elizabeth Moss, Samira Wiley, and Joseph Fiennes.



The Handmaid's Tale is a novel of such power that the reader will be unable to forget its images and its forecast. Set in the near future, it describes life in what was once the United States and is now called the Republic of Gilead, a monotheocracy that has reacted to social unrest and a sharply declining birthrate by reverting to, and going beyond, the repressive intolerance of the original Puritans. The regime takes the Book of Genesis absolutely at its word, with bizarre consequences for the women and men in its population.

The story is told through the eyes of Offred, one of the unfortunate Handmaids under the new social order. In condensed but eloquent prose, by turns cool-eyed, tender, despairing, passionate, and wry, she reveals to us the dark corners behind the establishment's calm facade, as certain tendencies now in existence are carried to their logical conclusions. The Handmaid's Tale is funny, unexpected, horrifying, and altogether convincing. It is a scathing satire, dire warning, and a tour de force. It is Margaret Atwood at her best.

~~~~~

## **We want your suggestions!**

Our **UUCSV Book Club** is selecting books for next program year 2017-2018. **What books would you like to see added to this list?**

Send your suggestions to Cory at [corythedre@gmail.com](mailto:corythedre@gmail.com).

# Journey for the Planet

All of our children will be taking part in *Journey for the Planet: An Adventure to Create an Earth-Friendly Life*. *Journey for the Planet* is fun and engaging for everyone who wants to make a difference for the world. This program will guide children through a series of action steps that can impact both climate change and the environment as a whole. The core message is one of empowerment. Taught by a series of animal characters, each of its actions illustrates in clear, accessible language exactly how a simple change can positively impact the environment.

April 30 - Buys are Forever with *Your Guide: The Chipmunk* and Rhona Collins

May 7 - Dumping on Garbage with *Your Guide: The Earthworm* and Zelda Zadnik

May 14 - Wasting Water is All Wet with *Your Guide: The Frog* and The Peters

May 21 - Watch Out Planet, Here I Come! *Your Guide: The Dolphin* and Katy Pitcock

## **Child Dedication**

We are excited to announce the following TEN children were officially brought into our church family on Sunday, April 23, 2017! Welcome!

Melina Crettier

Malcolm & Daniel Francis

Caroline Rezabek

Emmit Stell

Daniel & Ryan Gallagher

Sage, Linden & Seneca Welpott

---

## **COMING SOON - Dr. Seuss!**

Dr. Seuss will be spending time in our RE Wing beginning June 4! Teachers, look for sign up in the Narthex beginning May 7.

---

**Cory will be out of town from  
May 11 - May 20.**

**Emails/correspondence will be addressed upon her return.**

**In the case of an emergency you may contact Sheryl Wilhide our Office Administrator.**