



9/24/2017

CALENDAR EVENTS

Sun. Sept. 24
12:15 pm Covenant
Group "Point Person"
Info Meeting

Mon. Sept. 25
6:30 pm Wired to
Create

Tues. Sept. 26
7:00 pm Meditation
with Shell Fischer -
Discovering the Ease
of Equanimity

Wed. Sept. 27
10:00 am Women's
Sacred Circle
10:15 am UUCSV Book
Club
1:00 pm Last Wed.
Covenant Group

Thurs. Sept. 28
6:30 pm Course in
Miracles - Darwin's
Fish Room
7:00 pm Chalice
Singers

Sat. Sept. 30
3:00 pm Ministerial
Search Committee &
BCT Facilitator

Sun. Oct. 1
9:00 am Health Care
Reform
11:00 am Worship -
BCT
12:45 pm Singles
Lunch at Roma's
1:00 Beyond
Categorical Thinking
Workshop



October 8 Town Hall
Meeting

October 14 Ground
Crew Workday



The Narthex Collection
for Sept. is Bright
Futures. Please place
items listed in the
Narthex in the basket.



Don't forget to buy
your Food Lion,
Martin's and Shop n'
Save grocery cards.

If you are a visitor,
please fill out a
yellow "Welcome
Card," found on the
Welcome Table in
the Narthex and
place it in the
collection basket or
in the basket on the
Welcome Table



PO Box 1574, 6380 Valley Pike, Stephens City, VA 22655
Regular Office Hours: Mon - Fri. 10:00 am-2:00 pm, 540.869.6965

FROM THE MINISTER, REV. RUSS SAVAGE

Last Wednesday I had a luncheon conversation with a bunch of guys from rural Virginia. We got to talking about the stink bugs which are having such a heavy infestation right now. Everyone had stories about how many of them are in their house, where they come in, where they hide, etc. I told them that while I occasionally see one or two stink bugs where I live in urban Washington, DC, there's nothing like the volume of them we see out here. (Eat your heart out!)

That got us to talking about other critters we've encountered or heard about. One person who had traveled extensively in Africa told us about the seven-minute snake: when it bites you, you'll be dead in seven minutes! Not to be outdone, a Vietnam vet told us about the three-step snake: when it bites you, you can take three more steps and then you fall down and die.

Then we got to talking about the storms we've experienced recently-Harvey, Irma, Jose, they just keep coming! Their destruction seems to get greater with the passage of time. All this reminded us of the reality that we humans are not in charge in this life. Move and build and grow and multiply as we like, forces beyond us are really in charge. A good (and humbling) message to keep in mind these days.

See you in church.
Russ

UU Chalice Singers

The UU Chalice Singers plan a special Thanksgiving musical service for November 19, together with the Cranberry Chamber Music Ensemble. It will feature Bach's Cantata # 140, "Sleepers Wake", with new environmental texts and poems expressing thanks and concerns for our Planet Earth. There is room for some additional singers to join us for this special event. We will rehearse the Bach beginning in October on Thursdays from 7-7:45pm. Come experience this beautiful music with us! Please contact Pam Keim for more information at choirdirector@uushenandoah.org

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Thanks to all who joined us for the In-gathering picnic on Sept 10! Big THANKS to Jim Peters for organizing, Mark Lore for doing all the shopping, Bruce Bryant for being our in-house grillier and Dottie Cox, Amy Fielder and Sandra Henry-Stocker for keeping everything else straight! I hope everyone was able to meet our new choir director, Pam Keim and enjoy the Chalice Singers during our service.

As we enter into a new Church year, we have a lot of great things going on, most importantly preparing for a settled minister. If you haven't already attended a cottage party, there is still time to sign up. Be sure to read more about upcoming dates under the 'Search Box' section of the newsletter. This is a good opportunity to voice your opinions as we move forward with the search.

The Board of Directors met last night for our September board meeting. As always, I am in awe of this group and their devotion to the Church.

We, too, are preparing for a new minister! We are currently reading the book, "Governance and Ministry" by Dan Hotchkiss. We are considering new ideas of how we function as a Board and our overall role within the Church. As we slowly close the door on the past few years, this is a good time to take advantage of the calmness to reflect on how we move forward as a congregation aligning ourselves with the newly adopted mission statement - "The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc. is to build a community based on and committed to self-development, compassion, open communication, and action."

We had our annual retreat to discuss our vision and goals for this upcoming year. We'd like to share some of these ideas with you. This is a good time to chat informally as well as share your thoughts with the Board. Please join us for a Town Hall on Oct. 8 at 12:30 sharp! Hope to see you there!

In gratitude,
Monica Singh-Smith
President, Board of Directors
UUCSV



Ministerial Search Update:

Your Ministerial Search team is very busy planning Cottage Parties which will be held at church and member homes starting in mid-September and going through October. Cottage Parties will be small (6-12) groups of members and friends who will have a facilitated discussion on the many aspects of a selecting settled minister. This will likely be your last opportunity to formally provide input to your Ministerial Search team so don't miss it! Light refreshments will be served.

Table with 6 columns: Date, Time, Location, Host/Hostess, Facilitator, Note Taker. Rows include dates 10/8, 10/15 and locations like Westminster Canterbury, UUCSV, Darwin's Fish Room, and Ticknor's.

Contact Rachel Hanks to sign up for a session. Rachel will have signup sheets available after service each Sunday in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact one of your Ministerial Search team members or Sheryl in the church office. Your Ministerial Search Team: Bruce White, Gail Vasta, Lana Hurt, Claire Henderson, Bob Haskins, Rachel Hanks, and Cal Allen.

MINISTERIAL SEARCH UPDATE (CONT'D.)

B. C. T. BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING

Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I'm living with? How will the community respond to our minister?'

In answering these questions, a picture of the "ideal minister" (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) comes to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to our "picture," we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

On Sunday, October 1, The Unitarian-Universalist Church of the Shenandoah Valley (UUCSV) will participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. The UUCSV Ministerial Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a Sunday morning service led by Carol Carter Walker from UUA, followed by a soup and bread lunch hosted by our Social Committee, with pot-luck deserts. After lunch, Ms. Walker and members of the Search Committee will facilitate the afternoon workshop. In the workshop, UUCSV members will:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns they have for a new minister
- Learn more about the ministerial search process, and
- Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

Come on Sunday, October 1, for worship at 11:00 a.m., and stay for lunch and the afternoon to participate in this UUA-sponsored workshop, led by Carol Carter Walker, assisted by your Ministerial Search Committee.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: For us to have a good approximate number of attendees both for food preparation and materials for the workshop, **please RSVP by one or the other of these ways:**

- **Sign up on the BCT Workshop sign-up on the table in the Narthex next to the Cottage Party lists; OR**
- **Send an email to Rachel Hanks, rmhanks424@gmail.com.**

SECOND IMPORTANT NOTICE: To encourage the widest possible participation in this important event, childcare will be provided. To help us plan, when you RSVP by either method above, please indicate the number and ages of children you would like to have cared for during the workshop. Age-appropriate activities will be provided for them.

The selection of a new full-time minister for UUCSV is important. The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be a part of that process. This experience will provide guidance for the search committee in our work, and will help us collectively understand who we are as a congregation!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: ONGOING FOR EVERYONE

Kindness Rocks

If you did not have the chance to make a rock or you want to make more, Cory has set up an area in the Contemplation Room for you to make a rock as you feel the need. The Contemplation Room is located in the RE Wing, second door on the right.

What is a "Kindness Rock" - The Kindness Rocks Project (TKRP) encourages people to create inspirational rocks and leave them for others to find. The Kindness Rocks Project, a pay-it-forward service project created by life coach Megan Murphy in hopes of sparking joy in people's everyday lives, for more information go to <http://thekindnessrocksproject.com/home>. Her story reminds us that one message at the right moment can change someone's entire life. To make a kindness rock you may want to draw a picture on a rock or write a special message to the future receiver.

You are then invited to place the rock in our rock garden or take a rock with you for as long as you need it. Later you may want to place the rock at another location, or bring it back to the UUCSV rock garden, for another person to use.

TKRP shares with us that peace, love and understanding can only be achieved when we seek to create for the common good. We must be mindful to the needs and opinions of others to become an agent for peace. It is the mission of TKRP to bring light to that process. The main purpose is to promote kindness, whether with Kindness rocks or in other cool and unexpected

random ways. If you do choose to participate in placing Kindness Rocks, it is IMPORTANT to be mindful of that process. Consider taking a picture of your rock and placing it on our UUCSV Facebook page.

Book Club Facilitator(s): Rotating

Dates & Time: 4th Wednesdays @ 10:15 – 12 p.m. in Youth Group Room
Our first meeting for the new program year will be held on **September 27**. The book **Evicted** by Matthew Desmond will be discussed and facilitated by Barbara Peters. A green discussion guide for **Evicted** is located on the LFD Counter Book selections will for the year will be selected at this time.

Health Care Reform

Facilitator: Bob Gettings/Rotating

Dates & Time: 1st Sundays - 9 a.m.–10:30 a.m. beginning Oct 1st

Location: UUCSV Library

A recently published book, entitled "**An American Sickness**" by Elizabeth Rosenfeld will be the principal text around which the discussion sessions will be organized. Early sessions will focus on problems associated with various components of the nation's existing health care system (*e.g., hospital care; insurance; physicians and other health care practitioners; medical devices and supplies; etc.*)

SoulCollage® - An Intro

Facilitators: Cory & Ashley Ness

Date: Saturday, October 21

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: UUCSV Narthex & Library

Cost: \$15/person includes all supplies

Originated by Seena Frost, SoulCollage® is a process for accessing your intuition and creating an incredible deck of cards with deep personal meaning that will help you with life's questions and transitions.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Welcome back to our regularly scheduled programming.

Our Community Dinners return in full force in October.

We have offered a community dinner pot luck on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays for nearly 2 years. It is a fun way to get out and enjoy time with our UUCSV friends. Dinners are held at 5:30 pm in hopes that families with children will join us but also so there is time for other things.

NEW this year we are adding a **third dinner** opportunity. On the 4th Wednesday of the month we will have a Vegan/Vegetarian Community Dinner! Social Committee will still offer a main dish and everyone who attends should plan to bring a vegan or vegetarian dish to share. This is a great way to expand your meatless meal repertoire. We have many vegetarians in our congregation who are already excited to participate! We can't wait to see what new recipes we'll see.

The Social Committee is looking for helpers. If you are willing to help set up, tear down, or do dishes please let Mary know. Your half hour of help can make a big difference. Our next meal is on Wednesday, **October 11**, please put it on your calendar. Thank you to all the folks that show up and lend a hand! For more information, you may contact Mary Haskins via email: mehaskins@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Share the Plate and Narthex Collections

As announced last week Social Action and Justice has made some adjustments to the September and October Share the Plate and Narthex collection to attempt to get help to the victims of recent hurricanes as quickly as possible. We are partnering with Winchester First Presbyterian Church and other area churches to provide cleanup and personal hygiene kits to hurricane victims. Detailed lists of requested items are available in the Narthex. If possible, we would like you to contribute an entire kit as listed or you can contribute individual items. This collection will continue until October 1st. Also, be aware that to aid in this effort the normal Share the Plate collection date will be the first Sunday in October to make sure we can provide help to affected areas as quickly as possible.

"Standing on the Side of Love" T-Shirts

The previously announced sale of Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts has been postponed but will begin this Sunday. Order forms will be available in the Narthex and you can pay using either cash or check.

Collection Results

Recent Collection efforts for hurricane/flood relief have been truly remarkable. The Share the Plate collection on September 10th resulted in a \$1245.50 donation to the UUA/UUCS fund relief efforts. And your change (along with some bills) resulted in a \$145.00 contribution being sent to 'Diapers for Texas'. A huge thank you for all of your contributions.

Grocery Card Announcement

We recently received more grocery cards but instead of receiving Martin's cards, we were sent Giant cards. They are interchangeable so the Giant cards can be used at Martin's.