

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER *January 2009*

Choosing Love This Holiday Season A Pastoral Letter from Rev. William G. Sinkford

Dear friends:

As the winter days of this holiday season grow shorter, we light candles in the darkness. Outside there may be blustering wind and even snow, but inside our homes and congregations, we create warm sanctuaries. We celebrate the joys of the season and anticipate the return of the light.

In this season of contrasts, I am reminded of the words of the Rev. Rebecca Parker: “Your gifts, whatever you discover them to be, can be used to bless or curse the world.”

This past November, I spent several weeks on a pilgrimage to Africa, accompanied by Rev. Eric Cherry, UUA director of international resources; Paula Cole Jones, an antiracism consultant for the UUA’s JUUST Change Consultancy; and Maria Sinkford, my wife. We went to learn about truth and reconciliation in South Africa; to fellowship with Unitarian Universalists in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa; to meet with justice-making partners; and to visit Goree Island, one of the departure points for Africans enslaved in the transatlantic slave trade.

Along the way, we were witnesses to humankind’s capacity for cruelty – and for compassion.

One of the most important and difficult parts of the journey was visiting Goree Island, off the coast of Senegal.

There we saw the small, dark cells where enslaved people were held. Dozens of human beings were crammed into these dank and crowded spaces and were only allowed outside once a day. There were separate cells for slaves who resisted, for virgin girls who were to be raped by slave traders, and for slaves who were force-fed so that they could be transported across the ocean. Slaves who became sick

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The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs is published monthly. To submit material for the newsletter please do so by the 15th of each month. Please submit material as **non-formatted text** in your e-mail or as an MS Word attachment in 12 pt New Times Roman with no formatting (bold, italic, etc...). Send material to David K. at: **tau.athanasios@gmail.com**

January 2009 Program Calendar: Sunday, January 18

Sunday, January 4

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Pivotal Choices."

10:00 a.m.: "Beyond Morality", presented by the Reverend Grover E. Criswell. The notions of morality and ethics often get tangled, making for perplexity if not confusion. Criswell will address some of the differences and how the two function in our daily lives. This will be more an existential and functional approach to ethics rather than an academic inquiry. The framing of the issues will be more concrete than abstract, more here and now than there and then.

Grover Criswell is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples) and preaches frequently at the First Presbyterian Church in Yellow Springs. He is a pastoral psychotherapist in Dayton who has been in private practice with his wife Kathryn Van der Heiden since 1980. He has been the chairperson for the Ethics Committees of the American Academy of Psychotherapists and the International Integrative Psychotherapy Association. He wrote the Code of Ethics for both organizations.

11:30 a.m.: A potluck lunch follows the program. Please bring your own table service and a generous dish to share.

Sunday, January 11

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Wonderment."

10:00 a.m.: "Auslanders 'raus," an UnAmerican Idea Unworthy of Americans," George K. will speak about the personal history of immigration in this country and the racist and theologically evil motives for the current anti-immigrant policies. He will also speak about the legal challenges and opportunities presented by the current laws.

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Spirituality and Sexuality."

10:00 a.m.: "A Look at Islam from Different Views" Guest speaker Kamran Z. will speak about his Sufi faith. There will also be a power-point-style view from Amna in Pakistan.

Sunday, January 25

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Emotional Reactions to Religious Words."

10:00 a.m.: "Theology in Film," seminarian and fellowship member David K. will present on theology within film, and how to look at film with a theological lens.

It's "Souper Sunday". Plan to stay for soup, bread and conversation.

Coming in February, 2009 Sunday, February 1

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Spirituality, Firsthand and Secondhand."

10:00 a.m.: To be announced

11:30 a.m.: A potluck lunch follows the program. Please bring your own table service and a generous dish to share.

Greeters Have More Fun

Please greet the greeters greeting you each Sunday. For December, it was Debbie D. and Sharon M.; for January it is Hardy and Jeanne B. The February roster is already taken, but if you want to find out who the people are who grace our halls (especially the new ones), the month of March is still available. Contact Ann T. to start Sunday mornings with fun and good cheer.

Upcoming Small Group Opportunities

By Mary C.

Over the past five years our Fellowship members have led and participated in opportunities to explore their own journeys to seek truth and meaning through respectful dialog. The Covenant groups and the 8:30am Discussion group are prime examples. There are more opportunities available. Two curricula designed by UUA, the three volume Building Your Own Theology and With Purpose and Principle-essays about the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, are self-guided and rely on shared leadership by the group members.

A group of eight recently studied Building Your Own Theology-Volume 3-Ethics. The eight sessions are designed to help people think through the ethical dilemmas of ordinary life from a liberal religious perspective. The group shared experiences of ethical decisions confronted personally and discussed the dilemmas presented through case studies and questions. The impact of challenging individual belief systems was powerful. A second group is discussing With Purpose and Principle relating personal experience, world views, and Fellowship concerns to our Principles, which are the backbone of our religious community. The Principles state who we are as Unitarians in the larger community, emphasizing our diversity, the individual freedom of belief, and the autonomy of the local congregation. It has been an eye opening, challenging, and enriching seven

weeks.

Our Principles encourage "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning" and "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." There are three opportunities to become involved in challenging our belief systems this winter. Dick R. will facilitate one Covenant group starting in midwinter. Please call Dick, home-431-1517 or cell-937-654-4769, for dates, times and to sign up. Those interested in discussing With Purpose and Principle can contact Denise C., 767-9435 or 937-831-6441, to sign up. Denise is interested in starting an evening group. Anyone interested in any of the Building Your Own Theology groups needs to be the organizer. Books for Building Your Own Theology volumes 1 and 2 are at the Fellowship. Those wishing Volume 3 or the With Purpose.. books will need to order individually through the UUA Bookstore or contact Mary S. The BYOT books are \$16 each plus shipping. The WPAP book is \$12 plus shipping.

The Fellowship is a community of seekers and willing volunteers. I have been enriched working with Small Group Ministry and participating in Covenant groups and study groups for the past five years. I plan to continue searching and learning, no longer as the coordinator for Small Group Ministry, but as a willing and eager volunteer to help plan future small group experiences. I deeply thank all those who worked with me and shared their wisdom, humor, and stories. It has been an incredible journey.

New Face in the Office

The Executive Board has hired Helen P. as the new fellowship administrative assistant. Helen has a bachelor's degree in communications management and social work, worked at Antioch College in Operations, and has studied the computer systems we currently use. Helen will be employed for 10 hours a week and in that time is expected to: Pay all bills and keep the accounting

software accurate and up-to-date, prepare the weekly Order of Service and announcements, update mailing lists and prepare new directories, ensure the monthly newsletter is printed and distributed both on paper and electronically, prepare materials for the Board such as pledge drive brochures, prepare annual statements of charitable donations for pledgers and donors and otherwise ensure that important information is communicated as necessary. With this work load, please welcome her and then let her get back to work!

**Minutes Summary November 9th, 2008
UUFYS Board Meeting**

Present: Joan C., Mary D., Debbie D., Martha G., Bengt G.,
and Mary S.

Absent: Jim R.

The meeting began with the following member issue: Peter W. (via Joan)-- encouraged the board to support Barack Obama's presidency through social action and advocacy. A board discussion ensued about UUA social justice issues.

The formal part of the meeting began at 12:15 p.m.

--Religious Education: Members had a spirited discussion about the future of the program. At an 11/16 meeting Martha will present a list of RE curricula available and/or teaching ideas for parent feedback about the direction of the program.

--The minutes of the 10/5/08 board meeting were unanimously approved.

--Treasurer's report: Mary S. reported that the Fellowship has no outstanding bills, however, no formal figures for October could be provided. Mary is learning the accounting system. The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

--Budget: Mary S. reported that UUFYS has adequate funds to operate the organization for the foreseeable future. She will provide committees with their expenses for July – October. More information about committee budgets will be forthcoming after finalization of the 2008-2009 budget.

Old Business

--2009-2010 Pledge Drive: The Leadership Development Committee is forming a Stewardship Committee to undertake next year's pledge drive.

--Coordinating Council: A meeting was not held in October. Mary D. will follow up with Jim about scheduling a meeting.

--Congregational Survey: Martha will follow up with committee chairs to obtain info for the survey with a 1/09 distribution date.

--B&G/Presbyterian Church: A Presbyterian district committee is assisting the church chart its future. Mary S. called to follow up on previous overtures about sharing their space, but no one had returned her call at the time of this meeting. Mary D. will call some local Presbyterians to follow up.

--Building rental: The contract as amended was unanimously accepted. The final rental agreement will go into immediate use.

--Personnel: David K., DRE resigned 10-19-08 effective 10-31-08. Martha expects the Adminis-

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trative Coordinator to resign before the end of the month. The Personnel Committee was developed with supervision of employees as one of its major responsibilities, however members of the PC do not feel comfortable in a supervisory role at this time. The committee will continue to be involved with six-month and yearly performance reviews. Mary S. has agreed to supervise the Administrative Coordinator in the future. Other issues that will need further attention: 1) A decision about whether to hire a replacement DRE; and 2) the timing of payroll checks.

--Behavioral standards (Dangerous & Disruptive Behavior) and Conflict resolution guidelines: Members will inform Debbie of suggestions and changes to these policies prior to the December board meeting.

--Defibrillator training: Peter W. will present a Sunday program on 11/16 about use of the defibrillator and he will organize training classes.

--50th Anniversary photo album project: Marlene M. will be contacted to assess progress and request the final albums.

--Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC): According to David T. of GSC and Hank L., chair of B&G, the fellowship cannot save money on overhead expenses (10% was the goal) without first spending money. Examples include insulating the ceiling and/or duct work and adding a third layer to the windows.

--Tribute to former treasurer: This idea was dismissed as no such tributes have consistently been done in the past.

New Business

--Finance Committee: Mary S. reported that this committee needs to hold a meeting and that board support was needed for this committee. Investments in certificates of deposit and the stock market are priority topics.

Discussion continued until next meeting: Training on congregational leadership; Progress on 2008 board retreat goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie D., Secretary

The next Board meeting will be held on Sunday, 1/11/09 at noon at the Fellowship. Prior to the meeting the Board will meet with congregation members and friends to address their concerns. Agenda items will include:

- Chalice lighting, check-in and agenda review
- Review of the December minutes
- Treasurer's report
- 2008-2009 Budget
- Finance Committee
- Leadership Development/Stewardship Committee and upcoming pledge drive
- Committee oversight & Coordinating Council
- Congregational Survey
- B&G/Presbyterian Church
- Personnel including RE
- Behavioral standards (Dangerous & Disruptive Behavior)
- Conflict resolution guidelines
- Progress on 2008 board retreat goals
- Defibrillator training
- 50th Anniversary photo album project
- Green Sanctuary Committee
- October training regarding congregational leadership

Religious Education Committee Meeting

November 16, 2008

Present: Blythe P., Bengt G.,
James B., Martha G., Patty O.,
Shelly A., Helen P., Debbie J., Tami
and Brian S., Jim R.

Topics

A. Do we need to hire a RE director?

1. Discussed no decision made
2. Will re-evaluate in 2-3 months
3. RE Program topics List Presented (see hand-out below)
 - Are there more topics to add?
 - More service opportunities
 - Youth do more readings
 - More overnights
 - Continue visiting other religious venues
 - Discuss religious similarities especially when making comparisons
 - Have members of fellowship share beliefs with youth
 - Give kids as much info about religions that they claim as their own so they are prepared to talk with their peers
 - Have others from outside UU come talk with youth about their beliefs
 - Have a program on drug use
 - Is it likely that all these topics will be used in a 3-4 year period?
 - No guarantee that all of them will be used.
 - Many will be used.

C. Parents are encouraged to talk with RE teachers about what they want for their kids at any time.

D. Respect, Responsibility and Accountability are the principles that the teacher and students model and try to follow in their interactions.

E. Blythe's theme currently is "Beliefs." Youth are encouraged to write their beliefs down and then make changes when it is pertinent.

F. Can we have Blanket Yearly Permission Slips?

1. Would eliminate problem of forgotten permission slips
2. What if there are parents who don't know

where there child is?

3. What about 1 permission slip for multiple activities?

4. Needs Legal counsel for clarification.

5. To let the Board and Fellowship Members know what is happening in RE, Bengt and Helen will be responsible for informing them in one or more of the following ways:

6. In the weekly service announcements

7. In the monthly newsletter

8. After the fact

9. Tell about a program during announcements

10. Have stated goals and objectives for the year Handout

"There are many different topics that could be included in an RE program for our children.

It would be possible to find supporting materials and teaching suggestions that have been developed by UU RE staff for any of these topics and tailored for different age groups.

All selected topics would not be covered in one year, but could be included in a three- or four-year cycle.

- Unitarian-Universalism: History, Values, Principles and Practices

- Our Local UU Fellowship History

- World Religions: including visits to other religious services (Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Christian); earth-centered religions; atheism.

- Bible: Old Testament and New Testament Stories

- Social Justice: issues such as homelessness, human rights, environmental protection, peace.

- Self-identity: including relationships with others, family, gender differences, sexuality

- The Web of Life

- Coming of Age

UUFYS Behavioral Covenants

Holy manners for our faith community

As noted in the Unitarian Universalist document on Congregational Polity and the Covenant, “Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal faith, created and sustained by relationships. We come together not around religious dogma or creed, but unite to walk together toward a vision of the Beloved Community as named in our Statement of Principles and Purposes as well as the vision that our congregation has named.”

As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we have covenanted to:

- affirm and promote the equal worth and dignity of every person;
- create justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- accept one another and encourage spiritual growth in our congregation, as well as work toward a community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

As an organization we have also covenanted that love is the spirit of this fellowship and service is its law; we aim to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love and to help one another.

In order to live out these principles and ideals as part of our spiritual practice and discipline, we covenant (promise) to:

- respect and care for each other
- treat our time together as an opportunity to make an important gift to each other and to our fellowship
- listen with an open, non-judgmental mind to the words and ideas of others in our fellowship whether at services, in classes, at meetings or at other activities
- discuss, debate, and disagree openly, expressing ourselves as clearly and honestly as possible, so that we are certain that others understand our point of view
- in our conversations focus on issues and behavior, not people and personalities
- refrain from gossip
- invest energy in ascribing to others the best possible intentions and motivations
- when talking about events or issues in our congregation, we will seek to initially use words and sentences that describe the situation and seek not to use words and sentences that evaluate the situation
- view conflict as inevitable and as an opportunity for growth
- share information with the full group appropriately so that everyone has the information that they need, and we will not reserve our comments for after a meeting or to be shared only with people who agree with us
- embody a spirit of cooperation and openness
- take whatever time is needed to resolve an issue or problem
- maintain hope in the midst of despair and disappointment
- support each other in our journey together
- serve the common good
- try to discover what is best for our fellowship as a whole, not what may be best for an individual or small group in the fellowship
- support the final decision of the board or congregation, whether or not it reflects our view
- live by the Golden Rule – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

UUFYS Policy on Dangerous and Disruptive Behavior

As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we have covenanted to affirm and promote the equal worth and dignity of every person; create justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and accept one another and encourage spiritual growth in our congregation. These principles require us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zones, to make a concerted effort not only to tolerate, but to welcome and celebrate the many unique individuals who make up our religious community.

However, in our efforts to accept and celebrate our differences, we must not lose sight of the fact that sometimes, whether intentionally or otherwise, individuals may engage in behavior that disrupts our common endeavors or threatens the health, safety or wellbeing of others within our community.

Scope

This policy applies only to conduct that unreasonably disrupts or interferes with the activities or interests of our fellowship community as a whole, or threatens the health, safety, or wellbeing of individuals participating in the life of the UUFYS community. By way of example and without limitation, this may include the following:

- Any act or threat of violence;
- Any act of coercion or intimidation;
- Repeated outbursts, interruptions, or other inappropriate behavior that unreasonably disrupts worship, Religious Education classes, or any other UUFYS-sponsored program or activity;
- Verbal or physical conduct that, intentionally or otherwise, demeans or ridicules another, particularly when such conduct is based upon factors such as race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, national origin, age, etc.
- Unwanted physical contact;
- Inappropriate sexual advances;
- Theft, damage, or destruction of property;
- Sale, distribution or use of alcohol with underage minors on church property or in the course of any UUFYS-sponsored activity;
- Sale, distribution, use or possession of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia on church property or in the course of any UUFYS-sponsored activity;
- Criminal misconduct.

While we should always strive to treat one another with dignity and respect, the purpose of this policy is not to codify a standard of “perfection in character.” It is not intended to apply to ordinary personal conflicts, rudeness, incivility, or similar matters that unavoidably arise within any community, particularly one whose founding covenant includes the phrase “not as agreeing in opinion.” Of course, if such conduct becomes unduly disruptive or potentially dangerous, it may fall within the scope of this policy.

Response to Disruptive or Dangerous Conduct

When disruptive or dangerous behavior occurs, we will strive to address the behavior in a

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constructive manner and to take effective measures to avoid repeat occurrences. Consistent with our covenant and principles, we will strive to do so without excluding those who, through no fault of their own (e.g., due to a mental or emotional condition), may have a propensity to engage in disruptive or dangerous behavior. Unfortunately, in some cases, this may not be possible without unacceptable risks to the health, safety, or wellbeing of others, or undue disruption of church programs or activities. In such cases, we will take appropriate measures to protect the UUFYS community and its members, and to ensure that fellowship activities and programs are not disrupted.

Implementation by the Executive Board

It will be the responsibility of the Executive Board, to address dangerous or disruptive behavior that occurs within our congregation. When possible consistent with the need to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all members of our community and to ensure that the ongoing work of this congregation is not unduly disrupted, the Executive Board will work to find solutions to behavior issues that do not exclude the individual(s) involved from UUFYS programs or activities. However, if this is not possible, the Executive Board may take steps to remove the individual from the situation and/or to limit his or her future involvement in UUFYS programs or activities.

In addition to responding to behavior issues that may arise, the Executive Board will be responsible for advising committees and other fellowship leaders on formation and implementation of practices and procedures consistent with this policy; and for cooperating with the RE Committee, Communications Committee, and appropriate others to provide information, education, and training consistent with this policy. In carrying out this policy, the Executive Board is at liberty to consult with various others that may include but is not limited to the Unitarian Universalist Association, Heartland District, and UUFYS Conflict Resolution Team.

Reporting Dangerous or Disruptive Behavior

Dangerous or disruptive behavior should be reported to the Executive Board. The names and telephone numbers of the members of the Executive Board will be posted on the bulletin board in the gallery or in a similar prominent location.

OXFAM Lunch Success!

The poor person's lunch of beans and rice held on Dec. 7 as a fund-raiser for OXFAM was a success! We raised \$452 in donations, plus we reminded another family to send a donation in their name, which was \$100. A big Thank You to everyone who contributed food or money! To learn more about what OXFAM and the 17 member nations can do with our money, visit their website www.oxfam.org for pictures.

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were thrown into the shark-infested sea.

And we saw the “Door of No Return.” Through that door, Africans departed the island alive and enslaved, or dead. There is no way to completely describe the horror of this place, but I left Goree Island with a deep respect for the tenacity and courage of those who survived to mother and father a new people here in America. And I wondered if I myself could have survived the hardship and cruelty that they endured.

But we also witnessed the human capacity for love and for hope. One of the most wonderful moments of the trip was our visit with the Manya Krobo Queen Mothers Association of Eastern Ghana, a program partner of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office. In this district of Ghana, each of the 320 Queen Mothers represents one of the district’s member communities. The entire district is governed by a chief, who is selected by the Queen Mothers Association.

When the HIV/AIDS epidemic began, the Queen Mothers were the information-gatherers. Ghana has suffered less from HIV/AIDS than most West African countries, but rates in this district were high. The Queen Mothers and the chief responded with a massive educational campaign. They received some money from the national government, but relied mostly on personal contact with people in impacted communities. Their campaign successfully cut in half the rate of new infections in their communities.

Meeting the Queen Mothers was inspiring. Theirs is an impressive and hopeful story. In the face of a virulent epidemic, they were able to save lives through their compassion and dedication. During our journey, we visited a school and the orphanage run by our Unitarian Universalist brothers and sisters in Kampala, Uganda. The resources of the Kampala congregation are modest, but these Unitarian Universalists have nonetheless been successful in vastly improving the lives of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

For many here in the United States and around the world, this year’s holiday season will be a challenging one, in which the continuing problems of war and poverty will be exacerbated by worldwide economic strains. Now, as much as ever, it is critical that we affirm the primacy of love and hope.

I am heartened by the stories of Unitarian Universalist congregations that are practicing generosity this holiday season. I am proud to hear about our congregations that are collecting goods to keep struggling families warm, that are supporting food banks, that are resisting rampant consumerism and promoting ethical consumption, and that are advocating for a more just society. There are so many opportunities in this holiday season for each of us, and for our congregations, to shine the light of compassion. Even if we have meager resources and great challenges, we can still serve the larger good.

My holiday prayer is that we will continue to find ways to choose love. By affirming the human capacity for compassion, we – individually and collectively – can be a blessing to the world.

In faith,

Rev. William G. Sinkford, President
Unitarian Universalist Association

Staying Connected.....

By David K.

After I visited Methodist Theological School in Ohio, the seminary I currently attend and now live at, I was very impressed by their ability to stay in contact with me. After my initial visit I fell in love with the institution, applied, and was accepted. One thing that the school administration did that kept me in contact with them was a simple gesture of friending me on “Facebook.” Facebook is an on-line networking service, similar to Myspace, that allows people to stay in touch and network with one another. It is easy to establish a Facebook account. You will need a computer and on-line accessibility, and you will need to go to: <http://www.facebook.com> and follow the directions to start an account.

I have created a group page for the fellowship labeled UUFYS. You can either search for it, once you join Facebook, or you can send me an e-mail (tau.athanasios@gmail.com) and I’ll send you a group invite. Additionally, I am listed on Facebook as David Oliver K. I’ll gladly friend anyone from UUFYS to better stay connected since I’m not able to attend as often as I did in the past because of my schooling.

Another means of staying connected using the Internet is Myspace; however, I’m not an avid user of Myspace. A fellowship member who uses Myspace should establish a page for UUFYS to help fellowship members and friends stay connected using Myspace, as I do Facebook. Different networking tools appeal to different people. Myspace is easier to customize and make “pretty,” whereas Facebook has a cleaner look but isn’t as easily customizable. Both serve as good networking tools to stay connected with people.

Another networking tool that I have only recently been introduced to, but have yet to use, is Twitter. Twitter is located at <http://twitter.com> and helps you stay connected with friends and family through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? While I don’t use Twitter, I know several people who do and consider it a wonderful networking tool.

Something that Unitarian Universalism has taught me is the building of meaningful relationships, and being able to maintain relationships can be difficult when one doesn’t see their friends on a consistent basis. The innovative networking and communication tools mentioned above helps one to nourish and maintain lasting friendships in our fast paced world.

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs

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