



January
2012

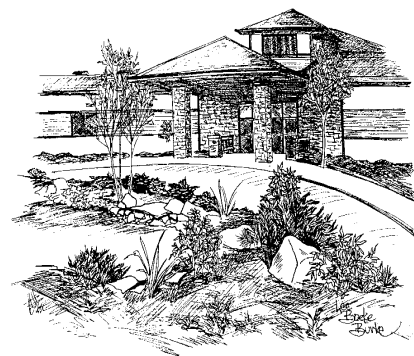


DIRECTIONS

When all else fails
... Read the
Directions!

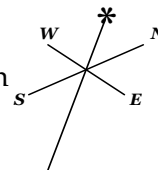
The Weathervane

by Senior Minister Roger Bertschausen



My midwinter sermon series is about race and racism. We'll explore how race and racism plays out in our hearts and minds, in Unitarian Universalism, in our Fellowship, and in our wider culture. I'll begin at the level of hearts and minds by talking about the concept of white privilege. I am convinced that understanding how this dynamic operates is a necessary first step to coming to a deeper understanding of race and racism. In the second sermon, I'll shift my focus to the history of race and racism in Unitarian Universalism. A deeper understanding of race must include wrestling with our history. The third sermon will shift the focus to how race and racism function in our individual lives as well as in our collective life in the Fellowship. My main focus will be on what we might do to make our lives and our Fellowship more consistently and deeply in synch with our Unitarian Universalist values of inclusivity, justice and healing. And in the fourth sermon, I'll shift my gaze to a broader look at how race and racism operate in our culture. My focus will be on Jim Crow segregation in our prison system. I think this is a very significant issue in and of itself in our culture; I also think how we deal with those convicted of wrongdoing in our society says a lot about our cultural attitudes and understandings—including about race.

I'm including January's focus on race and racism in the overall theme of sermons this year: transitions. When I talked with folks at the final Wellspring Wednesday of the year last spring, I asked them to brainstorm important transitions in their lives. Many identified various awakenings of consciousness as important transition points. I hadn't expected this, but figured out as we talked that this is a very rich concept. It occurred to me that awakening our consciousness about race and racism could be an important transition point in how we deal with race in our lives, in our Fellowship, and in our culture. So the theme of transition in consciousness undergirds the series.



I don't mind telling you that this feels like a challenging sermon series. Race is incredibly tender and often raw territory. But we must explore it if we desire to grow spiritually and live holistically and justly in a multicultural city, nation and world. Unitarian Universalism gives us a hopeful vision of the human soul and human community—a vision of souls and communities that are whole rather than fractured and estranged. So this is work that is not optional, but necessary if we are to fulfill the great vision of Unitarian Universalism.

See you at the Fellowship!

~ Roger

**Services on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. & Sunday at 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Unless otherwise noted.**

**January 1 (9:15 & 10:45 a.m.): "The Turning of the Year"
with the Rev. Roger Bertschausen and Jason Seymour**

We ring in the new year with our annual service that looks back at the significant events of our lives in the year just completed, and looks forward to the new year.

**January 7-8: "Awakening Conscience #1: An Introduction to White Privilege"
by the Rev. Roger Bertschausen**

An awakening of conscience involves a transition: an old understanding is replaced by a new understanding. And new understandings help us live our lives differently. This month I'll use my mid-winter sermon series on race and racism as a focus on this kind of transition. I'll explore race and racism in my own life, in Unitarian Universalism, and in our larger society.

**January 14-15: "Awakening Conscience #2: Racism and Anti-Racism in Unitarian
Universalism" by the Rev. Roger Bertschausen**

We have a long and extensive history in Unitarian Universalism of both racism and anti-racism. Every major achievement in anti-racism has been supported by some Unitarian Universalists, and opposed by others. An awakened conscience requires that we honestly assess our history.

**January 21-22: "Awakening Conscience #3: Where Do We Go from Here?"
by the Rev. Roger Bertschausen**

We'll shift our focus from Unitarian Universalism to our Fellowship and to our individual lives: How can we translate an internal commitment to anti-racism and multiculturalism into action in our Fellowship and in our lives beyond these walls?

**January 28-29: "Awakening Conscience #4: Jim Crow Segregation Is Alive and Well--in
Our Prisons!" by the Rev. Roger Bertschausen**

Our prison system is a striking example of how racism can become institutionalized and perpetuated. How did this happen? What does it mean? What can we do to end Jim Crow in our prison system?

February 4-5: "Failure or Perhaps An Open Window?" by Karon Sandberg

I spent a lot of time in my youth trying hard to avoid failure. Even as a young adult, I often navigated my life to avoid things that might cause me to experience failure. Now in middle age I have begun to see failure much differently, as a teacher, as an opportunity and even a muse. Failing at something often creates a transition, a change of path or plans. How can we embrace failure as a wise teacher who may really be opening a new window?

Fellowship Mail:
PO Box 1791
Appleton WI 54912-1791
Phone: 920-731-0849

**Staff Office Hours
during program year**

Sr. Minister

Tuesdays-Fridays
9:30am-4:30pm
Appointment times by request
fvuufmin@fvuuf.org

**Interim Assistant
Minister**

Appointment times by request
fvuuf2min@fvuuf.org

**Director Of
Religious Education**

Monday thru Thursday
9:00am—3:00pm
Appointment times by request
fvuufdre@fvuuf.org

Music Director

Please call 920-731-0849
fvuufmd@fvuuf.org

**Membership
Coordinator**

Please call 920-731-0849
fvuufmem@fvuuf.org

**Business
Administrator**

Monday thru Friday
8:00am—2:30pm
fvuufoa@fvuuf.org

Secretary

Monday thru Friday
8:00am—3:00pm
fvuufsec@fvuuf.org



Mark your calendar and get ready for some fun. It's time to start planning the Fellowship's midwinter "Funraiser" - CABARET! It's an evening of humor and talent with munchies and drinks included. Look for the Cabaret display in the lobby and see how you can get involved. We'll need performers, kitchen workers, decorators, organizers, and more. And of course we'll need an audience! So plan to attend on Saturday, February 11. You'll be glad you did.



RE—VISION

Bridget Kramer, Director of Religious Education (DRE)
920-731-0849 fvuufdre@fvuuf.org

Religious Education in January

This month all of the classes will be focusing on the Third Principle—Acceptance of One Another and Encouragement of Spiritual Growth.

January 7—8th, 2012 regular Religious Education classes resume.

Spirit Play (Pre K4 and Kindergartners)—4:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. on Sundays

1st-3rd Grade—4:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. on Sundays

4th and 5th Grade—4:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. on Sundays

6-8th Grade—4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10:45 a.m. on Sundays

Deva Partner Church Committee Members will visit the 1st-8th grade on January 7-8th

High School Youth Group *The Happy Movie* (www.thehappy movie.com) is coming to Appleton

Monday, January 23 3:00-5:00 p.m.—Appleton Public Library

Thursday, January 26 8:00 –10:00 p.m. Warch Center, Lawrence University

Appleton North High School on Thursday, February 2nd, 2012 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. ***

(*** I will be attending this showing)

What are Your Hopes & Dreams for our Fellowship?

Our Fellowship has adopted a 5 year cycle for Long-Range Planning that will be led by the Governing Board with the help of the Crystal Ball Committee. During the current program year our charge is to review and update the Fellowship's Vision and Mission statement.

In January the Crystal Ball Committee will be holding focus group sessions after the 4:30 & 10:45 services on the weekend of January 7 & 8 and after all services January 28 & 29. During these casual sessions (which will include refreshments and snacks/treats) we'll discuss a short series of questions designed to help us determine your priorities for the direction of the Fellowship.

As a democratic institution all members & friends have a voice in setting the direction of this awesome place. It is SO important that we get YOUR opinion. No one else has your exact experience here. No one else can tell us your ideas, your hopes & dreams. Please plan to join us for any of these open sessions. For planning purposes we ask that you sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby, or by contacting Cyndi Polakowski, Fellowship Secretary at fvuufsec@fvuuf.org or by calling 920-731-0849.



Our second round of Circle Dinners will take place Sunday evening, January 29. Chase away winter's dark and chill by making some new friends and sharing a potluck dinner or restaurant meal!

Sign up in the lobby beginning January 8 or contact Heather Urness at heather-urness@sbcglobal.net or 920-993-2236. Please consider hosting (good karma for the new year)!

Thinking About Joining?

We encourage all who wish to join our community to consider areas in which you'd like to be involved. When you would like to join or talk about joining, we offer times on Saturday mornings for you to meet with us to discuss this exciting decision. I will talk with you about the different aspects of membership, including involvement and financial support. Jason Seymour will talk with you about your personal spiritual journey.

Please contact me at fvuufmem@fvuuf.org or 920-731-0849 to schedule a time on **Saturday, January 24** from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The next date will be Saturday, February 11.

-Marie Murton, Membership Coordinator

Wellspring Wednesday in Oshkosh

Wednesday, January 18

"Awakenings" with the Rev. Roger Bertschausen

This Wellspring Wednesday program will provide an opportunity to delve more deeply into Roger's sermon series topic in January, see page 7 for more information.

B'nai Israel Congregation Social Hall
1121 Algoma Blvd.

5:30 p.m. Catered dinner - \$7 adults/ \$4 children

6:15 p.m. Chalice lighting and program
Concurrent children's program available.

Please RSVP by 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning, January 16, at <http://tinyurl.com/fvuufforms>. You may also sign up in the lobby of the Fellowship. All Fellowship members and friends are invited to attend. Hope to see you there!



Ministerial Search Committee Update: What's Going On Now?

We are pleased that the first part of our task – the information gathering – is now complete. Our survey and our focus groups helped us to gain a good understanding of the hopes and expectations the congregation holds for a new Assistant Minister, and helped us to create an accurate profile of the Fellowship for potential ministers to see. After our survey and focus groups, we compiled a Congregational Record to post on the UUA Transitions website, and created an information packet about the Fellowship to share with interested candidates. We hope you have had a chance to check out our information packet on display in the lobby. We're very proud of it!



So now we're on to the next part of our task – examining actual candidates. Once we received a list of interested potential ministers from the UUA, we read through and discussed their ministerial records. We determined which individuals we wanted to learn more about and exchanged information packets with them. We examined all the information they provided in their packets – a ministerial portfolio of sorts – and determined which candidates we wanted to talk with. As of the writing of this column, we are conducting interviews by phone and Skype, and determining which of those candidates we would like to meet in person.

We are, unfortunately, unable to share specific information about the candidates under consideration. We need to maintain confidentiality because many of the candidates may be coming from positions in other congregations. But we are hopeful to have a final candidate to recommend to the Board by late March. If you have any other questions about what the Search Committee is up to, feel free to ask any of us. Committee members in addition to Roger Bertschausen are Gail Dolan, Jean Kenevan, Eric Riggers, Bart DeStasio, Jan Lesperance, and Paul Smith.

**FVUUF INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY
AS OF October 31, 2011**

		<u>11/30/2011</u>	<u>YTD 7/01/2011 through 11/30/2011</u>	<u>YTD Prior Year</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>	Contributions				
	Pledges	35,239	197,498	200,571	207,870
	New Pledges	85	305	3,765	5,000
	Unpledged	790	3,745	4,708	5,000
	All Other Income	8,848	23,615	16,046	23,750
	Total Income	44,962	225,162	225,090	241,620
<u>Expense</u>	Service Expenses	438	2,620	6,776	4,683
	Personnel Expenses	31,916	152,850	169,229	164,097
	Office Expenses	1,394	9,174	10,755	13,479
	Mortgage P&I	3,985	19,927	22,221	19,928
	All Other Expenses	6,722	23,514	15,315	25,760
	Total Expense	44,455	208,086	224,295	227,948
<u>Difference</u>		507	17,077	795	13,672

Notes:

- Pledge income for the month was \$5,684 under budget. This brought YTD Pledge Income to \$197,498, which is \$10, 372 under budget.
- YTD, Total Income is \$16,458 under budget.
- All lines of expenses are under budget YTD. Total Expense is \$19,862 under budget.
- YTD, Total Income exceeds Total Expense by \$17,077, which is \$3,405 ahead of budget.

FVUUF Financial Report Card

	November	YTD
Income vs. Budget	C	C
Expense vs. Budget	A	A
Income minus Expense	C	A

A = ahead of budget
B = at budget
C = behind budget



What are your UU resolutions?

Do you want to attend service more regularly? Finally get to one of those Wellspring programs you have heard so much about? Work on your regular spiritual practice?

Whatever you may want to do, this community is here to help you accomplish it! Find someone to check in with, or to challenge you if that is what you need. Talk to Marie Murton, Membership Coordinator, if you are looking to deepen your spirituality or connections and are not sure how to do it. Talk to Jason Seymour, Interim Assistant Minister, if you need pastoral care. Reach out and connect!

Appleton Wellspring Wednesday

Dinner served from
5:45-6:00

Dinner cost:
\$6/adult \$4/child

Program: 6:30-8:00pm
Concurrent children's
program

January 11
January 25
February 8
February 22
March 14
March 28
April 11
April 25
May 9

Sign up by Tuesday at
9:00 a.m..



Signing Up for Wellspring Programs

- On the bulletin board in the lobby
- On the website at <http://tinyurl.com/fvuufforms>
- Email fvuufsec@fvuuf.org
- Call 920-731-0849

Wellspring Wednesday Returns!

The **January 11th** adult program will provide an opportunity to explore more deeply a really difficult and challenging concept: white privilege. Gaining an understanding of this is a central task for anybody—regardless of color or ethnicity—who wants to become more conscious of race and racism, how they play out in our lives, and how we can individually become more anti-racist in the way we live our lives.

January 25th adult program: Race is an idea, a cultural story. In the United States, it is a story with a complicated history. What is this history? How has the story changed over the years? What - if anything - is still useful or relevant today? What spiritual tools exist in our UU tradition that can help us to make sense of a modern social order in which race plays such a visible and often divisive role? Guest presenter Leon Dunkley will be joined by Jason Seymour for a constructive conversation about race in the United States. Come ready to think and be challenged, but also ready to laugh. Leon is a Unitarian Universalist minister in St. Paul, MN, and a former director of the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture at Duke University; he holds a PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh. Jason is Interim Assistant Minister at the Fellowship. Leon and Jason met while working together at Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, MN; they remain good friends and are pleased to appear together for this evening's program.

Mark your calendar!

**Connecting Spiritually
to Nature through the
Elements – Earth, Air,
Water and Fire
Led by Heather
Westley**

**February 7, 2012;
7:00-9:00 p.m.**

More information can
be found on fvuuf.org.



January Programs

UU 201

Tuesdays, January 24, 31 and February 7; 7:00—8:45 p.m.
Led by Jason Seymour, Interim Assistant Minister

There are three important facets of UU Theology: Unitarianism, Universalism and Community. First, we will explore our Unitarian roots and the implications for this belief in our current world. Next we will delve into the history and contemporary implications of Universalism. Finally we will venture into the meaning of community—in our past and in the present. Then we will take a look at the future of Unitarian Universalism and your part in it. Come and learn where you fit in to your chosen spiritual family, or the one you are considering for spiritual nourishment.

UU 101

Thursdays, January 26, February 2 and February 9, 2012; 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Led by Rev. Roger Bertschausen & Jason Seymour

This class is especially helpful for newcomers to the Fellowship and new members, though anyone who hasn't taken this class before is encouraged to attend. We offer information about our history, governance, programs, and liberal faith.

Sign up in the lobby of the Fellowship or by contacting Cyndi Polakowski, Fellowship Secretary at fvuufsec@fvuuf.org or 920-731-0849.



CALENDAR JANUARY 2012

Sunday January 1 - Services 9:15 & 10:45am
Smiling Dandelion Sangha Small Group 6:30-8:30pm

Monday January 2
Goddess Group Small Group 9:00-11:00am
Partner Churches Committee 6:00pm

Tuesday January 3
Art Committee 6:30pm
Word for Word Small Group 7:00pm
Crystal Ball Committee 6:30pm

Wednesday January 4
First Wednesday Lunch 12:00pm
OWLS 6:30-8:30pm

Thursday January 5
Choir 7:00-8:30pm
1st Thursday Book Club Small Group 6:30-8:30pm
Men's Group Small Group 7:00-9:30pm

Saturday January 7 - Service 4:30pm
Zen River Sangha Small Group 6:25-9:00am

Sunday January 8 - Services 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45am
Freethinkers Symposium 8:30-10:15am
Smiling Dandelion Sangha Small Group 6:30-8:30pm

Monday January 9
Goddess Group Small Group 9:00-11:00am
Hunger & Homelessness Task Force 6:30pm
Women's Talking Circle Small Group 6:30-8:30pm

Tuesday January 10
Lay Ministry Team 7:00-8:30pm
Planned Giving Committee 7:00-9:00pm

Wednesday January 11
Appleton Wellspring Wednesday
5:45pm Diner 6:30pm Program

Thursday January 12
Choir 7:00-8:30pm

Saturday January 14- Service 4:30pm
Zen River Sangha Small Group 6:25-9:00am
South of 40 Small Group (see page 9)

Sunday January 15 - Services 8:00, 9:15, & 10:45am
UU Q&A 9:15am
Third Sunday Circle 1:00-2:30pm

Crafter's Corner 2:00-5:00pm
Smiling Dandelion Sangha Small Group 6:30-8:30pm

Monday January 16
Goddess Group Small Group 9:00-11:00am

Tuesday January 17
Men's Group Small Group 7:00-9:30pm
Board Meeting 6:45-8:45pm

Wednesday January 18
Oshkosh Wellspring Wednesday 5:30pm

Thursday January 19
Choir 7:00-8:30pm
UU Book Club Small Group 7:15pm

Social Justice Ministry 6:30-8:30pm
Saturday January 21 - Service 4:30pm

Zen River Sangha 6:25-9:00am
Sunday January 22 - Services 8:00, 9:15, & 10:45am
Smiling Dandelion Sangha Small Group 6:30-8:30pm

Monday January 23
Goddess Group Small Group 9:00-11:00am
Gathering Circle Small Group 7:00-9:00pm

Tuesday January 24
UU 201 7:00-8:45pm
ADULT Drum Circle 6:30-8:30pm

Crystal Ball Committee 6:30-8:30pm
South of 40 Small Group (see page 9)

Wednesday January 25
Appleton Wellspring Wednesday
5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Program

Thursday January 26
Choir 7:00-8:30pm
UU101 7:00-9:00pm

Saturday January 28 - Service 4:30pm
Zen River Sangha Small Group 6:25-9:00am

Sunday January 29 - Services 9:15 & 10:45am
Smiling Dandelion Sangha Small Group 6:30-8:30pm

Monday January 30
Goddess Group 9:00-11:00am

Tuesday January 31
UU201 7:00-8:45pm

Hearing Loss Association - Second Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm

Miracles Group - Mondays 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous - Sundays 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Survivors of Suicide - Second Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm

Fellowship Services and Bad Weather

Every effort will be made to hold our services in spite of bad weather. Enough members and staff live close by that in most cases we will be able to go on with our services. Please use your discretion when considering whether to brave the elements and come to a service. We'd much rather have you safe at home than have you risk life and limb to get to a service! If the weather is so bad that you think even nearby folks will have a hard time getting to the Fellowship, call 920-731-0849 and check the information voicemail for a cancellation notice.



1st Thursday Book Club

We will read *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson and meet

at the Fellowship at 6:30 p.m. on January 5th. Everyone is welcome even if you haven't read the book. For more information call CyAnn Martin at 920-729-0477.

Revised 2011-2012 Reading List

February – *To Destroy You Is No Loss: The Odyssey of a Cambodian Family* by JoAn D. Criddle

March – *The Heart and the Fist: The Education of a Humanitarian, the Making of a Navy SEAL* by Eric Greitens

April – *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson

May – *Those Who Save Us* by Jenna Blum

June – *The Chicken Chronicles* by Alice Walker

Women's Talking Circle

The *Talking Circle* is a safe gathering place for adult women to share personal feelings, experiences, and thoughts on any topic, without judgment or interruption. The next Talking Circle will take place on January 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. For more information please contact Debra Morningstar at 920-915-4154 or debra@debramorningstar.com.



UU Book Club



Monthly discussion of a fiction or non-fiction book of modest length.

Books are chosen by members on a rotating basis, not with an eye to what the others' usual interests are, but with an eye to what the selector thinks would be good for the others to read. Please join us every third Thursday at 7:15 p.m. The January book is *I Feel Bad about my Neck* by Nora Ephron. For more information, contact Ed Hudak at ehudak2@yahoo.com.

Crafter's Corner

The next Crafter's Corner will take place on Sunday, January 15 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. Email Theresa Spoehr at cmtheresa@gmail.com to reserve a table. If you scrap, stamp, knit, or anything else please join us!

First Wednesday Lunch

The **First Wednesday luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, January 4 at noon at the Fellowship. Join us for a time of fellowship, food, and conversation! If interested, please sign up on the bulletin board at the Fellowship or call the office (920-731-0849) by Monday, January 2. The cost of lunch is \$6 and includes a sandwich and one side dish. Lunch will be catered by the Kangaroostaurant.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the February newsletter are due by January **15th**. Email your articles to Cyndi Polakowski, Fellowship Secretary, at fvuufsec@fvuuf.org.

South of 40 Young Adult Small Group

The young adults (ages 18-40) of the Fellowship gather for caffeine and conversation on the 2nd Saturday of each month as well as dinner and dialog on the 4th Tuesday. Contact Jessa Green for locations and times or to RSVP: greenj4keeps@gmail.com or (920) 850-4950.

UU Q&A



Do you have questions about the Fellowship? Or about Unitarian

Universalism? All newcomers are invited to Join Jason Seymour, Interim Assistant Minister, in learning more about the Fellowship, Unitarian Universalism and membership within the Fellowship. This class will be offered monthly on Sundays at the Fellowship. You do not have to sign up in advance to participate.

**Sunday, January 15
9:15-10:15 a.m.**

Did you know.....

.....that, according to the Ministerial Recruitment Survey, the ages of Fellowship members are 38% 44 years and younger, 46% 45 to 64 years, and 16% 65 years and older?

.....that, also according to the Survey, 16% of members have been associated with the Fellowship for 2 years or less, 46% for 3 to 10 years, 25% for 11 to 20 years, and 13% for 21 years or more?



Compassion for Human Rights & Diversity Task Force



DIVERSITY: Melting Pot vs. Salad Bowl?

On December 12, 2011, members of our Compassion for Human Rights and Diversity Task Force met with 60 middle school students to discuss diversity. A teacher had asked Fellowship member Prerna Kvalvik to help out with some racial tension, and she, in turn, recruited Fellowship members Scott Peebles and Shawn Beatty, both Toward Community trainers.

Scott and Shawn first asked the teens to fill a large salad bowl (drawing) with words describing similarities and differences they saw between themselves and others in the room. The students hesitated, but then began to talk about liking to play drums or football or learning to speak a different language. Then they started listing their various ethnic heritages – from Mexican to German, to Laotian, etc. Finally, they added religions such as Christian and Muslim.

While Scott wrote words on the salad bowl picture, Shawn put food items into a blender, such as candy corn, wheat biscuits, cheese puffs, and who knows what else. After he blended the food, he asked for a volunteer to taste what he had created. A number of hands shot up. The teen who drank a bit of the mixture had some unprintable words to describe how awful it tasted.

Scott and Shawn asked the group to consider what the world would be like if we all became blended into one (the “Melting Pot” idea, versus living with a salad bowl of diverse persons. The event ended with the students generating ideas of how to reach out to someone who appears to be “different,” even though it might seem awkward at first.

Our task force hopes to assist Toward Community in doing more such presentations in schools. Certainly the principal and teachers of these two classes were glad that we had come! When we met with Rev. Bertschausen recently, we examined barriers within ourselves to welcoming diversity at the Fellowship. Stay tuned for our next meeting, where we’ll consider ways to help our Fellowship expand diversity within our walls.



ESTHER notes:

We continue to work on issues of immigration and transportation. We had a wonderful event with Congressmen Petri and Ribble, who both committed to working on federal legislation to save our transit system. Our immigration task force is planning a reader’s theatre in the spring, a know your rights training for immigrants, and is working with folks in Wautoma and Manitowoc to visit the issue of domestic violence in the Hispanic community. Our statewide “11 by 15” campaign (to reduce the prison population by 11,000 by 2015) kicks off in February and we will be looking for people to be part of this very aggressive and exciting effort! The immigration task force meets the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Methodist Church, 740 E. College, and the transit task force meets the third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church, 326 E. North St., both in Appleton. Please join us! For more information, check out our website at <http://www.esther-foxvalley.org> or like us on Facebook!



Sending Hope

It’s time to **count** the money, write the **check to UUSC** and **deliver** it to the Guest at Your Table box in the lobby beginning on the weekend of **January 7-8, 2012**. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee depends on your **membership** to continue its human rights and social justice work both here at home and around the world.



When you return your box or envelope, you will have a chance to **guess** the amount of money in our Guest box and total that is collected during the Guest at Your Table program. There will be a **youth award** of a selection of chocolate bars and an **adult award** of fair trade products all from Equal Exchange.

continued...

continued from page 10...This month's conference call featured **UUSC President and CEO Bill Schulz**, with an overview of 2011 successes — including UUSC's role in the **Arab Spring**, achievements in **California** for the **human right to water**, our special appeal for **Somalia and East Africa**, and volunteer **trips to Haiti**. With the release of UUSC's Annual Report for 2011, an elevated rating with Charity Navigator was announced. Shelley Moskowitz and Kara Smith provided an overview of 2011 in terms of public policy and mobilization, highlighting successes, thanks to the support of UUSC members. Finally, Sam Jones of the College of Social Justice announced upcoming Haiti volunteer trips and application deadlines. If you want more information, go to www.uusc.org or contact Suzie deBeers at 715-258-7375.



Heart to Heart 2012 A Couple's Enrichment Weekend Retreat



A retreat for couples, sponsored by Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, will be held on **Friday, March 30th – Sunday, April 1st, 2012** at The Pilgrim Center in Ripon, WI. Pilgrim Center is a 75-minute drive southwest of the Fox Valley area located on beautiful Green Lake.

The Heart to Heart retreat is open to all couples – same-sex, opposite-sex, married and unmarried. The retreat is an opportunity to **focus on your relationship** and to deal with important issues that arise in our day-to-day lives. Heart to Heart is designed to enrich the communications and intimacy of your relationship by emphasizing personal reflection (written) and couple dialogue (private conversations with your partner).

Space is limited to the first 15 couples that send in their completed registration forms and payments. The cost includes two nights lodging, five meals Saturday and Sunday, and program expenses. Because of our Pilgrim Center contract obligations, **registrations canceled after March 1st, 2012, cannot be refunded** unless an alternate couple is found.

Please note: *For couples in severe crisis the retreat may not be appropriate; it is not a substitute for therapy.*

Weekend Cost: \$350 per couple

Includes: 2 nights lodging and 5 meals

Scholarships may be available. Please contact Jason Seymour at fvuuf2min@fvuuf.org for further information.

Registration:

Registration form available in the lobby or contact Cyndi Polakowski at fvuufsec@fvuuf.org.

Space is limited to 15 couples

Reservation Deposit: full payment of \$350

Reservations are on a first come/full payment basis

Full Payment Due: January 20, 2012

Retreat Leaders:

Tim Watson & Peter Smaby, Beth & Bart De Stasio, Cheri Bricco & Paul Reiser

For further retreat information, please email us at h2hfvuuf@gmail.com or see the flyer in the lobby.

Third Sunday Circle

Every third Sunday - from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. you are invited into small group ministry to discuss the monthly Wellspring topic. Small group ministry is a great format for people who are processing life transitions (aren't we all!) and who are interested in connecting with others in a compassionate and respectful setting. These informal sessions will be facilitated by ministerial staff and Lay Ministers. They are appropriate for new and old members alike, and no commitment is required. Come for connection, or come to deepen your understanding of the monthly theme. For more information, and/or to RSVP, please contact Jason Seymour at the Fellowship fvuuf2min@fvuuf.org. The next Third Sunday Circle will convene on January 15.



2600 E. Philip Lane
P.O. Box 1791
Appleton, WI 54912-1791

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT NO. 183
Appleton, WI
54911

Return Service Requested

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote these principles in our Fellowship and in our religious education program:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relationships.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

↓Keep Scrolling↓



We would like to thank everyone who made the Art and Craft Sale a wonderful experience, especially Kathy Hogan, chair, and the

vendors who brought their beautiful items. The Fellowship raised over \$1000 from the sale!

Touch the Earth Nourishing Springtime Fellowship Retreat

Come immerse yourself in the healing traditions from the East and West. Join B Alford & Debra Morningstar as they lead you in healing ceremonies, chants, restorative yoga and drumming that will help you return to your true self and remember your own dreams. You're invited to partake in a Spring Retreat which promises to "nourish the body, soul and mind." Come...and walk with us as we align ourselves with the energies of Nature as Mother Earth awakens once again.

A brochure with more information will be available in January.



Social Justice Collection:

Harmony Café \$987

Total collected for 2011-2012 as of 11/30/2011 =
\$6,239

Thank You!

Updated Member Directories

In January an updated Members & Friends address/ phone directory will be available in the lobby. If you need one, feel free to pick one up any time or email Cyndi at fvuufsec@fvuuf.org to request a PDF copy. Please remember that the directory is meant for Fellowship use by members and friends and is not to be used for marketing purposes, mass mailings, or business gains. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the office at 920-731-0849. Thank you!