
THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

January 16, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration begin each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Child care is available.

Sunday, Jan. 23

"Are You Spiritual or Religious?"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Earlier this year I did a sermon called Spiritual Maturity. That was part one. This is part two. We will look at the difference between spirituality and religion. We will explore what it means to be involved in a church.

Sunday, Jan. 30

"The Art of Living: The Life and Faith of Joseph Campbell"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

"Follow your bliss" was his phrase coined in the Bill Moyers series. Campbell was asked repeatedly, "What is the meaning of life?" His answer was, "There is no meaning of life. There is only the meaning we bring to it."

Sunday, Feb 6

"The Woman Who Started it All: Mary Daly"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

My professor and the radical, theologian who changed the face of religion for all of us. Mary died last year. I will reflect on her thoughts and life.

Our Mission: St. John's is committed to creating a safe and caring community, working for peace and social justice, and celebrating beliefs that respect freedom of thought.

Interim Minister

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Minister Emerita

the Rev. Annie Foerster

Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

Director of

Religious Exploration

Elizabeth Wilson

Caretaker

Tim Johnson

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

e-News Submissions

enews@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Submissions

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Email List

reportermail@stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, Jan. 27, at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy

Dear Friends,

Someone asked me my favorite books a while ago. I said that when I had a column free for this use I would share my list. I actually have two lists. One for fiction and one for nonfiction.

Here is the fiction list:

"The Last Account of the Miracles of Little No Horse" by Louise Erdrich (my favorite book ever)
"To Kill a Mocking Bird" by Harper Lee
"The Mists of Avalon" by Marion Zimmer Bradley
"The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd
"The Lovely Bones" by Alice Sebold
"Bel Canto" by Ann Patchett
"The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver
"The Deep End of the Ocean" by Jacqueline Mitchard
"Midwives" by Chris Bohajalian
"Death Comes for the Archbishop" by Willa Cather
"The Awakening" by Kate Chopin



I read anything by Erdrich, Kingsolver, Wharton and Bohajalian. I also enjoy the Jacqueline Winspear "Maisie Dobbs" series and Alexander McCall Smith "No 1 Ladies Detective" Series. These last two are for a good put your feet up, for an afternoon with a cup of tea read.

I wrote this list while I was in Chicago and then lost it in transit...so one book is missing. Feel free to add the one you think I missed. I have been shaped by the feminist movement and love books by and about women's lives.

I'll give you the serious list another time.

Blessings for a Happy New Year!

Denise

Your Interim Minister

Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Numbers

private line at church 513-961-1994,

Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment

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pportunities & Invitations

Support PRM

You can help support Peace, Reading and Math at Pleasant Ridge Montessori (www.SupportPRM.org) Please bring in the following items if you can:

1. Gently used books, both hardback and paperback, appropriate for ages from 3-12 (Pre-k, 1st - 6th grade).
2. Picture books such as "coffee table books" that have nature or art in them.
3. Cultural items and clothing from anywhere in the world; items that show life in colonial times; and items that illustrate Native American life.

These can be placed in the box labeled for collection in Krolfifer. Thank you from all the children and staff at Pleasant Ridge Montessori, a CPS Neighborhood Montessori Elementary School. For questions, please contact Ruth Anne Wolfe.

-Ruth Anne Wolfe

Women's Retreat

Jan 30th from 1:00-4:30 p.m. at Rev. Tracy's home. Open to the first 30 women who sign up. (There will be a second retreat for those unable to attend this one.) Topic: "The Spirituality of Women's Friendships". Bring a dish to share. We will start with a potluck. There will be an article to read which will be available on Jan 23rd at church.

-Rev. Tracy

Partner Church Dinner tickets on sale now!

This year's partner church dinner, St. John's biggest social event of the year, takes place on Saturday, February 12. The evening's festivities will begin at 6 PM with wine and appetizers to be followed at 6:30 PM by a jazz concert by Cincinnati's Modern Groove Quintet.

Following the concert, there will be a sit down dinner featuring a variety of mildly spiced foods of India along with our traditional Hungarian apple cake. Tickets to the event are \$18 if purchased by February 2nd and \$23 if purchased after that. Partial and full scholarships for the dinner tickets are available.

This year there will be no children's program or childcare. We have found that the length of the evening's activities makes it too long an evening for



young children to enjoy. Look for the partner church table this Sunday and on the following Sundays to buy your tickets. At the same time, sign up for one of the dinner tasks on the big bulletin board just outside the doors to Krolfifer Hall. This event will only be successful if everyone signs up and helps. Remember, the proceeds from the dinner benefit our partner Unitarian congregation in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania. Please see Mary or Tom Darner if you have any questions or wish to purchase a scholarship ticket.

The January soup and bread lunch raised \$633 for the bread program benefiting elderly members of the Szentlaszlo congregation. Thanks to everyone who contributed food and helped with set-up, serving and clean-up.

-The Friends of Szentlaszlo

Food for Thought: Potluck & Movie Night

Please join us in Krolfifer for the next in our series of thought provoking evenings learning about the food industry. We'll start with a potluck at 7:00 on Friday, January 21st. Please bring a dish to share (preferably one that contains local and/or organic ingredients). Beginning at 7:30 we will be showing the documentary film "The Future of Food".

- Bo Wachendorf

Taste of St. John's Sampler

The Taste of St John's Sampler is Sunday, Jan. 23, during coffee hour. Following is a list of offerings that may be purchased at the event. Remember, you buy a great meal or service and St. John's gets the money. This is a great way to enjoy a night out and help the church, too. Please remember to bring your check book on Sunday, January 23. See full descriptions of offerings in the catalog which will be available at church on January 16.

1/28/11 - Two Ensemble Theater tickets to "The Fall," valued at \$78, min bid \$40.

2/05/11 Elegant champagne and wine dinner by candlelight. 5 course meal. \$50

2/06/11 - Super Bowl Party: watch game, enjoy dinner and beverages. \$20

2/18/11 Film Night: Light supper and drinks, followed by film and discussion. \$20

3/19/11- Chocolate Feast: Gourmet meal, chocolate in sweet & savory dishes. \$30

4/01/11 Pasta and Poker- Pasta dinner followed by friendly game of poker. \$20

4/02/11 Persian Dinner: Enjoy a meal in the Muslim tradition. \$25

4/09/11 Indian Dinner from the state of Gujarat. Vegetarian meal. \$35

Handy Man Services: Approx. 4 hrs of handyman/carpentry services, value \$400, min bid \$100.

-Ann Schuur

Immigration: Workplace issues

The Cincinnati area has had an increase in racial profiling directed at immigrants by police agencies recently. Recently a coalition of religious and community organizations has formed to work with the immigrant community against this type of injustice. Several immigrant leaders will share their stories. Presenter will be Don Sherman, director of the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center. This will be on **Tues. Jan. 18.** at 7 p.m.

Sunday Morning Forums

Forum participants last week did not think much of Doug Muder's "Reclaiming Krypton" article, but it made for a good discussion. Join us next Sunday morning, Jan. 23rd at 10 a.m. in Krolfifer and stretch your intellectual and spiritual muscles a little.

Jan. 23 - Pamela Wilz will present: What We Can Learn From Myths - A myth is a story--it is universal; it is about all of us. It is personal; it is about you. Psyche means soul, breath, transformation. We will explore what the myth of Psyche and Eros has to teach us individually. This story asks you to listen to your soul and discover that which is eternal within you.

Jan. 30 - Spiritual Directors – Have you heard the term “Spiritual Director”? Just what does a Spiritual Director do? Our UU congregation encourages “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” Would a Spiritual Director be helpful? Bring your ideas to our discussion.

-Ethel Ingalls

Men's Literary Group

There will be an organizational meeting of men who might be interested in forming a Men's Literary Group at St. John's. Please contact Richard Hadden for more details. The group will meet in the library (where else) at 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 23.

Few more places remain in classes

If you had intended to sign up for either of the 2 five-session classes starting this week, there is room for a few more people in each one. Please contact the leaders immediately.

Sun. Jan. 16, 4 p.m. Women's Dream Group - Susan Rivers-Payne or Mary Newman.

Mon. Jan. 17, 7 p.m. Articulating your UU Faith - John Kachuba and Martha McLeod.

There is also room in the session starting Feb. 1 Lighting the Lamp: Exploring the Psych/Eros Myth led by Pamela Wilz.

- Adult Religious Education Committee

Among ourselves

Snow Shovelers Needed

Would you like to help make St. John's a safer place during the cold weather months? Join the snow shoveling crew. Contact Pete Asman for details. Thank you!

Generosity Counts!

Thank you to everyone for the UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes. If you have not brought your boxes in yet...please do...let's get the total as high as we can!!

Remember to save your pop tops! We are still saving our pop tops. Bring them in and add them to the container. When it is full we will take the pop tops over to Ronald Mc Donald House. Every Pringle's can-full is worth \$10 and helps house a family with a sick child!

-- Rev. Tracy

Thank you to the Congregation Association Sunday Contributions

St. John's received a thank you letter for our contributions to the fourth annual Association Sunday last fall. We donated a total of \$698.15 to fund innovative projects through the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

Queen City AA

"We humbly wanted to take a moment to express our sincerest gratitude for a relationship that spanned more than two decades. Because of your generosity hundreds of alcoholics in need have had a haven to recover in. How can we thank you enough? Please accept this humble note as our sincerest appreciation."

At the end of 2010 this group decided to move to another location. St. John's wishes them well as they continue their important mission.

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

"A Concert for Susan: A Benefit for the Garden being created in her honor"

At 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb 6, in the sanctuary, our church choir, Muse and the Cincinnati Men's Chorus will present a concert of music. Each choir will sing three pieces and then the combined choirs will sing one piece together.

A free will offering will be taken for the support of the garden which will be at the back of the new Healthcare for the Homeless building. A lovely meditation space is planned for the community in honor of Susan. Members of St John's have helped initiate this garden and Susan has helped with ideas for its creation. There can be no more fitting tribute to Dr Susan Montauk, an avid gardener, than a living, growing space.



Got Movies?

In order to contain costs for our new Popcorn Theology curriculum, I am seeking donations of the following movies: "Back to the Future," "Star Trek Generations," "Forrest Gump," "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier," "Bowling for Columbine," "Hotel Rwanda," "Dances with Wolves," "Willow," "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring," and "Hoosier." If you have any of these movies and are willing to donate them to our RE program, contact the DRE, Elizabeth Wilson. Thanks!

Help Wanted!!

Our RE program is in need of "borrowing" people and things!! Please check out the RE page to see if you can help—and pay special attention to the underlined items. Thanks!

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Director of Religious Exploration

Gently-used Professional Clothing Sale—Jan. 30!

In support of YRUU efforts to raise money for the Wells Room renovation, Susan Montauk has graciously donated a large amount of professional garments for resale. YRUU will hold a clothing sale in Krolfifer during coffee hour on Sunday, Jan. 30. Come check it out!! In order to display all of the wonderful clothing items, we are in need of garment racks. If you have a garment rack you could lend to the group for a few days, please contact me or Karen Miller.

7th-8th grade class update

Our junior high teachers and class members weren't happy with their *Tapestry of Faith* curriculum, so we decided to switch to a new, more appealing offering—*Popcorn Theology*! As it infers, *Popcorn Theology* uses the concept and popularity of movie night to explore issues of theology and ethics for Unitarian Universalists. For example, the kids recently viewed an excerpt from "Forrest Gump" and then discussed how to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Class members are giving this new curriculum a 4-star review!! But in order to continue this class uninterrupted, we need your help. Our current 3-member teaching team has two members who will be traveling to warm climates during February and early March. We are in need of substitutes to serve as assistants with this class. Please consider lending a hand—contact me or Trish Hoge if you can help!

OWL Gathering #3

The next OWL Gathering will be at St. John's beginning at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 23. In order to prepare our RE rooms to host OWL, we will need some fast furniture movers. If you can help with room preparation (about a 20 min. job), please contact me.

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Official Church Nametags are Ready!

As mentioned in the last issue of *The Reporter*, Rick Prairie has completed official church nametags for all of the children and youth in our church. Encourage your kids to look for their nametags on the kiosk—and wear them!! If your child cannot locate her/his nametag, see me!

Upcoming Schedule

January 23: OWL Gathering #3, hosted by St. John's. Sunday afternoon session from 1-5:30pm.

January 30: Annual dragon parade during worship service postlude.

January 30: YRUU Clothing Sale in Krolfifer during coffee hour. Fundraiser to benefit the Wells Room renovation.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU,

to nametag guru, Rick Prairie; to my First Sunday helpers on Jan. 2—Stacey Calkins, Connie Prairie, and Maria Yunker; to my OWL Overnight helpers—Dana Bradley, Amy Fletcher, Jill Lampe, Lori Lobsiger, Paul Long, Milena Nelson, Sharon O'Neill, Mary Lynne Schuster, Rebecca Siekbert, Melinda Smith, Zac Southwind, and John Young; to Amy Fletcher and Melanie Malaviya who allowed me a most welcome day off on Jan. 9; and to all who made wonderfully warm contributions to the Mitten Tree!

Got suggestions? Send me an email (youthre@stjohnsuu.org) or give me a call (961-1940). I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! My office hours are Tu/Wed/Thu from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Leadership Development and Shared Ministry

Gather after service at 12:30 on Sunday, Jan. 30, in the Rosa Parks Room in the basement. We'll talk about needs in the church, leadership roles available at St. John's, and how your gifts may help. We'll have tasty desserts to tempt you. Hope to see you Jan. 30.

- Debbie

Combs

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, January 16

- 10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
- 11:00am Service Time
- 12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
- 4:00pm Adult RE Dreams for Women

Monday, January 17

- 7:00am MLK Day Office Closed
- 12:00pm LDC - Leadership Development Council
- 7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith
- 7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)

Tuesday, January 18

- 10:00am Yoga
- 7:00pm Immigration Talk (Adult RE)
- 7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, January 19

- 6:30pm Board Meeting

Thursday, January 20

- 10:00am Meditation
- 6:00pm Tai Chi
- 7:00pm Choir

Friday, January 21

- 7:00pm Food for Thought Potluck

Saturday, January 22

- 9:00am Sound Team Training
- 10:00am Worship Arts Group
- 3:00pm Nominating Committee

Sunday, January 23

- 10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
- 11:00am Service
- 12:15pm Taste Sampler
- 12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
- 12:30pm Haehnle Design
- 1:00pm OWL Gathering #3
- 4:00pm Adult RE Dreams for Women
- 7:00pm Men's Literary Group

Monday, January 24

- 7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith

Tuesday, January 25

- 10:00am Yoga
- 7:00pm Adult RE With One Voice Part 2

Wednesday, January 26

- 6:30pm Goddess Gathering
- 7:00pm Caring Circle

Thursday, January 27

- 10:00am Meditation
- 5:00pm REPORTER DEADLINE
- 6:00pm Tai Chi
- 7:00pm Choir

Friday, January 28

- 7:00pm Game Night

Saturday, January 29

- 9:00am Adult RE

Sunday, January 30

- 10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
- 11:00am Service
- 12:15pm YRUU Clothing Sale
- 12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
- 12:30pm Leader ID Meeting
- 1:00pm Women's Retreat @ Denise's home (must RSVP)
- 4:00pm Adult RE Dreams for Women

Monday, January 31

- 7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith

From the fice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

St. John's is still looking for an editor for the weekly e-news.

If you'd like to consider regularly letting other St. Johners know what's happening in the upcoming week, please contact Claire Wagner, or Joan Lane.

. It's not a big time commitment.

Thought f the Week

Religion is a response to life, not a description of it.

-Laurel Hallman