

The Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo

"We are a growing liberal religious community, open and inclusive of all."



Issue VIII, August 2013

Sunday Service Themes

August 4th: "The Wisdom of Fools"

Speakers: Ibsen & Midge Birgers

Lay Leader: Midge Birgers

Greeters: Don and Steve

August 11th: "Healing the Heart of Democracy: A Sermon on Community"

Speaker: Rev. Roger Butts

Lay Leader: Dorie Silverman

Greeters: Ibsen and Midge

August 18th: How Does That

Make Me Feel? Part 2

Speaker: Steve Acker

Lay Leader: Ibsen Birgers

Greeters: Midge and Shawn

August 25th: "Applied Buddhism"

Speaker: Natalie Florentine

Lay Leader: Shawn Collins

Greeters: Ibsen and Don

What is Unitarian Universalism?

Unitarian Universalism is a religion that embraces theological diversity. There are seven principles that Unitarian Universalist congregations 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.



*"Summer's lease hath all too short a date."
– William Shakespeare*

Sunday Service Themes: Expanded Titles and Descriptions

August 4th: Ibsen and Midge will talk about wisdom. The Reverend Lynn Strauss believes that the link between wisdom and foolishness is ego. We UU's take ourselves too seriously!

August 11th: Rev. Roger Butts will explore with us Parker Palmer's book: "Healing the Heart of Democracy". It is profound and moving and it asks important questions, such as: can we create a way of being together that is worthy of the human spirit? Can we find ways to encourage finding common ground with one another, even when we are at odds? These are questions that are vitally important in our national deliberations, at a time when people are so very divided. But, they also raise important questions about how we shall be together in our families, workplaces, and churches. Invite a friend and let's explore a critically important conversation.

August 18th: Steve Acker will present "How Does That Make Me Feel - Part 2". Our feelings are neither right nor wrong, but are an accurate gauge of our mental and emotional state. When we are conscious of what we feel, we can initiate proper action or response.

August 25th: Natalie Florentine will talk about "How Buddhism made my life better".

Bits from the Board of Trustees

The next meeting is on August 13th at 6:15 PM; all are welcome to attend.

The new Board is focusing on reorganizing & getting our committees and volunteers organized and productive. We still welcome all those who can share their talent and time to strengthen and support our special community.

Some of the areas we are focusing on (we welcome input and interest) include:

- Sunday morning programs
- Social action
- Planning other activities or programs
- Helping maintain building and grounds, community outreach
- Member support services

UU Food for Thought

“Community” by Reverend Roger Butts

Do you remember a time when you experienced deep community? Authentic community? Let's imagine we put 30 people in the room at First Unitarian Society, and ask the simple question: What does community mean? How many different definitions would we get? My guess is roughly 30! And I know that if we said: Tell me a time when you experienced community, we'd get 30 amazing stories.

Even so, I bet we'd hear some common themes:

- I experienced a sense of freedom--freedom to be me!
- I experienced a sense that I could contribute to the good of the whole, alongside others who also felt that way.
- I felt safe, and felt like I had a role in making the space safe for others.
- We had a common goal.
- We told stories, that helped define the past and orient our future.
- We were there for each other.
- My sense of loneliness disappeared.
- I experienced a call to serve others, without getting paid or acknowledged.
- There was deep conversation and connection.
- It was a time when I grew.
- I felt a sense of sanctuary and solidarity.
- I experienced respect, even when there were disagreements.
- It was a time of real intention and attentiveness.
- And I bet some would say: There was food!

Parker Palmer's book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy* explores how the sense of community in our larger democracy is at some risk. In post-9/11 United States, our appreciation for democracy was enhanced AND demons that threaten our democracy were activated. He asks tough questions: How did we forget that our differences are among our most valuable assets? What happened to 'we have nothing to fear but fear itself?'

When will we learn that violence in the long run creates as many problems--at least--that it solves? Why do we not value life, every life, no matter whose, or where? Where have 'we the people' gone?

This is a book about healing, so he asks the questions that will put us on a path towards wholeness and restitution: Can I find a small patch of common ground with someone who holds different opinions than I do, no matter how small, and stand there and talk a while?

He lifts up Lincoln's memorable phrase, uttered towards the end of the Civil War--"malice towards none, charity for all." Lincoln teaches us about embracing political tension in a way that opens our heart towards others.

The heart is a crucial idea for Parker Palmer. He treats the heart as the place where all of our ways of knowing converge--intellectual, emotional, metaphorical, embodied, all of it. And the heart's root word in Latin is *cor*, also the root word for courage.

“The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions. Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole being, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And...can we trust our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy?” Terry Tempest Williams

We'll explore this book because it says a lot not just about democracy and the American condition but also about how churches--small, medium, and large--can understand what community is and how it operates. He says there are some key things that we as citizens of the U.S. simply must do in order that all life might thrive and flourish:

We must understand that we are all in this together.

We must develop an appreciation of the value of 'otherness.'

We must cultivate the ability to hold tension in life-giving ways.

We must generate a sense of personal voice and agency.

We must strengthen our capacity to create community.

Sounds like good things to reflect upon in a church that wants to reflect on the idea of community in the next year. I'm delighted to bring to your attention the wisdom and insight of this marvelous book. See you on August 11th. Invite a friend and let's explore this topic together.

Dave and Gennifer Wagner: A Fond Farewell & Wealth of Thanks

Dave and Gennifer Wagner have been long time members of our church, including several years at the Calla location. Their two sons were active in the children's religious education program. Dave has served on the church Board of Directors several terms, including treasurer and member at large. He has been chair of our Social Justice and Finance Committees. Gennifer has co-chaired the Children's Religious Committee and served faithfully as a teacher. You may have noticed her selling King Soopers grocery cards.

For the past two years Dave and Gennifer have presented many stimulating Sunday services, along with being greeters every month. Dave also runs our electronic equipment when needed.

We take credit for Dave and Gennifer's meeting at the church which resulted in a great wedding at the Damon Runyon Theatre -- and it wasn't fantasy!

Thank you Dave and Gennifer. We wish you the best of luck in your new home in Denver, you will be so missed!

Social Activities

Happy Bookers: On the first Wednesday, August 7th, The Happy Bookers will lunch at Magpie's, (229 S. Union) at 11:30 a.m. We always have lively conversation and scrumptious food. On the third Wednesday (August 21st at 12:30 p.m.) we will meet at FUS and discuss Maeve Binchey's "Tara Road". We were not able to discuss that book in July. So, we are extending it into August. The book for September will be the "The Orphan Masters's Son" by Adam Johnson. This will be discussed in September.

Fellowship Breakfast: Hope to see you at Do-Drop Inn (1201 S. Santa Fe Ave) on August 9th at 9:00 a.m. We have been having a good turnout and lively conversations.

Farewell Potluck: Dave and Gennifer Wagner will be moving to the Denver area soon. We don't want to let them go; but we must! They have been so active and helpful to us for years. Come to the potluck luncheon Sunday, August 4th after the Sunday morning service to wish them well on their new ventures.

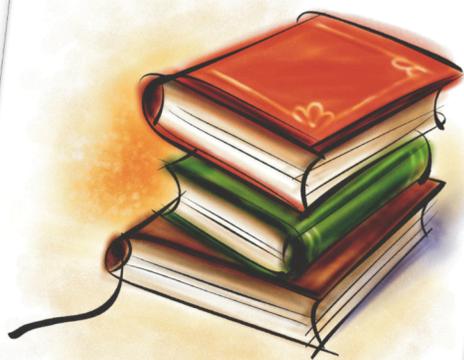
Potluck and Movie: There will be a potluck (5:00 p.m.) and movie (6:30 p.m.) at FUS on Saturday, August 24th. The movie is adapted from Mike Birbiglia's one man show, book and stand-up album of the same name. "Sleepwalk With Me" tells the true story of Birbiglia's struggles with adulthood and relationships. The film began as an episode of NPR's "This American Life" and was produced and written by Ira Glass. This is a movie for anyone who's ever been unsure, and surely that's everyone.

Sunday Documentaries: On Aug 18th we will resume our social documentaries after the Sunday service. Bring a snack lunch and we will watch and discuss the documentary film *Sing Your Song* which documents the life and songs of Harry Belafante and his involvement in working for civil rights and social justice in our country and around the world. This documentary was nominated as one of the top 10 documentaries in 2012. Aug 28 a new march on Washington is being planned to commemorate the original march on Aug 28, 1963

Ice Cream Sunday: To celebrate August Birthdays, organic ice cream will be served after the August 25th Sunday Service.

The Pueblo Humanists group has been meeting at our FUS building on the third Tues of the month. They have interesting dialog, and presentations. If you are interested, join them or contact John Petersen or Jim Colson.

Adult Education and Discussion Groups: Socrates Cafe continues to meet every Sunday before the service at 9 AM with interesting and sometimes provocative discussions. We are looking forward to the fall to start some new offerings and resuming our discussion on the TAO. We are planning an Adult Ed offering next year on the history of Unitarian Universalism.



Farewell Cheerio
Ciao AU REVOIR
AUF WIEDERSEHEN ADIEU
Ta-ta BON VOYAGE
ARRIVEDERCI ADIOS
Peace Out SO LONG
TOODLE PIP T.T.F.N.
BYE-BYE Sayonara
CHEERY-BYE Hasta La Vista
SEE YA LATER, ALLIGATOR
IN A WHILE, CROCODILE





About the First Unitarian Society

The First Unitarian Society is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. The religious organization is non-creedal and encourages free inquiry and exploration of ideas; members are not required to share the same beliefs. Members have come from a variety of backgrounds including lifelong UUs, Humanists, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Wiccans, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists, and others. The First Unitarian Society welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. For more information, see www.first-unitarian-society.org and www.uua.org. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact pueblounitarian@earthlink.net or leave a message at 719.561.0880. Our facility is handicap accessible.

First Unitarian Society

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