

SERMON
TOPICS
FOR
APRIL:

- April 3–
Queen of
Heaven
- April 10–
Ongoing
Justice
- April 17–
Science and
Spirituality
- April 24–
Communion:
A Sacred
Bonding

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Sermon Topics	2
Word From The Board	2
Consultant Information	2
Worship Associates	3
Congrega- tional Meet- ing Report	3
Word from the District Executive	4
PSG News	5
E-scrip Contest	5
Church Activities	6

The compass

APRIL 2011

Minister's Musings

Sadly, this year UUs across the country have found it necessary to rally for basic rights for the people of this great nation. It reminds me of the 60s. Civil rights are being trampled or ignored and concerned citizens are mobilizing to let their voices be heard. This is definitely a time to take a stand for justice.

Some of us are closet activists. Show us a cause and we will join it, showing up for rallies, signing petitions and even writing letters to the editor when that seems appropriate. A few of us are even willing to put ourselves on the line for the causes which we hold dear, - perhaps peace or gay rights or immigration reform.

Some of us would not call ourselves activists. We don't like to publicly take stands, to march, to make a fuss. It reminds me of the time William Ellery Channing chided Samuel F. May about the in-your-face tactics of the abolitionists. May pointedly responded, "Dr. Channing, I am tired of these complaints....It is not our fault that those who might have pleaded for

the enslaved so much more wisely and eloquently, both with the pen and with the living voice, than we can, have been silent. We are not to blame, sir, ... that you have not spoken. And now that inferior men have begun to speak and act against what you acknowledge to be an awful system of iniquity, it is not becoming in you to complain of us, because we do it in an inferior style. Why, sir, have you not taken this matter in hand yourself? "

Channing heard him, pondered the truth to that statement and published a position paper. He never fully embraced the abolitionist stance. It simply was not his style.

In this time when civil rights issues are at the forefront of the political agenda, people of conscience must consider standing up for what is important to them. Justice is a basic right that will only be fulfilled when committed people bring it to the table, over and over again. To quote Aristotle: "At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst." Mak-

ing our laws just is an important, noble cause.

Some of us abhor speaking out. It is anathema to us to impose our views on someone else. Let me leave you with a story which invites further thought:

Two men who often golfed together were becoming good friends, even enjoying each other's company at other events. One of them, a Baptist, often invited his friend to his church; the other, a Unitarian Universalist, always politely declined. After awhile, the UU noticed that his friend was not inviting him out as often as he had previously. The UU asked him why. The friend replied, "Well, I often invited you to my church but you never invited me to yours, so I got to thinking that you did not value my friendship enough to invite me to your service." Inviting someone into conversation about important issues values them and their opinions as well as introducing opportunities for change. Go shining!

May peace be with you,
Rev. Deane

April showers bring May flowers!!!





Sermon Topics

4-3 *Queen of Heaven*

Ms. Jennie Ebeling will discuss the role of goddesses in ancient Israel including the worship of Asherah, the 'Queen of Heaven' and other female deities in ancient Israel. Ms. Ebeling has a PhD in archeology and is a professor at UE. She is the published author of "Women's Lives in Biblical Times" and is the Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Art History at UE. Ben Sizemore - wor-

ship associate

4-10 *Ongoing Justice*

Chris Hotard, one of the CAJE organizers will speak on the ongoing justice work the we are a part of as a member church in the CAJE organization. Tom Moor- worship leader

4-17 *Science and Spirituality*

Join us for a lively discussion of the relationship between these two concepts. Or are they even related? Just how anti-spiritual is a person who

relies on science for his answers. Hardin Rathgeber and Rev Deane, Worship Team

4-24 *Communion: A Sacred Bonding*

Once again we will share an intergenerational communion of breads and juices on this traditional day of joy and re-birth. Join us in this celebration of life and community. – Rev Deane with Stephanie Young, Worship Associate

*We, your board
of directors,
continue to work
very hard for you
and our church*

A Word from the Board

We, your board of directors, continue to work very hard for you and our church. Some of the things that we are dealing with include a building use policy review, coordinating with the consultant committee, ongoing church business, and trying to think outside the box about the best utilization of our organic human capital.

As you know our beloved church's financial situation has taken center

stage but the business of our being a church goes on. We concluded some months ago to postpone the fund drive until the questions surrounding our ability to retain full-time ministry were answered. We will see a lot of things happen in short order. We have to approve a budget, get our fund drive started, and elect a slate of officers to fill the board vacancies that are looming.

With some of our un-

certainties answered we collectively hope we have made decisions that will chart our common course towards the best UUCE possible.

The next board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., the 18th of April. All are welcome.

As always should you have questions please feel free to talk to any of your board members.

Respectfully,
Ben Sizemore
UUCE President-Elect

Consultant Information

As you may know, the Consultant Committee was formed with six UUCE members to select someone to help us move forward. We chose to work with the Center for Congregations, since we did not want a consultant assigned to us by the UUA - we felt that an objective, non-affiliated consultant was more important

to us than religious affiliation. The CFC gave us three recommendations, each of whom were interviewed by the Consultant Committee, and all three were excellent. After many e-mails and discussions, the Consultant Committee chose Sandra Herron (www.middledge.com), who lives in (continued at top of next page)

Indianapolis, as our consultant. Sandra has answered e-mail queries promptly and thoroughly, is very personable, and is very interested and enthusiastic about helping us - she even greatly reduced her standard fee so we could afford her with our matching grant from CFC. She had more of a non-traditional upbringing than the other two candidates (retired Christian ministers), is involved in a women's spirituality group, and is familiar with family therapy theories (which we felt would be especially helpful since we are still

in the "family size" church grouping with 58 members). She also, unasked, sent us a well-thought out simple organizational chart listing "Proposed Timing", "Project Phase", "Key Activities", "Who" (Sandra, board/committee, others) and "Budget" (Consult Fees and Expenses). She will be distributing a written survey by the beginning of April, will be here April 17th for in-face meetings, and will be returning on May 1st to facilitate a Congregational Meeting to hear and discuss her overall findings

and recommendations and to vote on our plans for the future.



Worship Associates



Hello everyone,
The worship associates coordinate the services, arrange the

chapel, and make every attempt for us to have a wonderful experience. We, your worship associate committee, would like to recognize the newcomers to our committee.

Sarah Weitkamp has been a worship associate for a few services now. Sarah brings new ideas and an immediate ability to speak with a real ease to the pulpit. She has taken to worship associate work like a proverbial "duck to water".

Dr. Stephanie Young has recently joined us. Stephanie, as some of you know, is a professor of Communications at USI. Stephanie brings energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas with her to our committee.

We are thrilled to have new faces join our committee.

I would also like to honor the longtime service of Lincoln Christensen and John Schaffer. John and Lincoln were mainstays in the worship associate committee for years. Their contributions are too numerous to mention and they will be missed. Thank you gentlemen.

Respectfully,
Ben Sizemore
Worship Associate
UUCE

Congregational Meeting Report

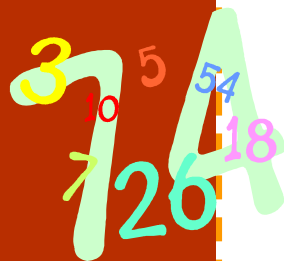
On Sunday, March 27th we had two items of business for the Congregational Meeting. The first was to vote for the members of the nominating committee who will select a slate of officers for the 2011-2012 church year. Out-going board members David Granholm, Tina Sizemore, and Jan Steinmark were elected to be the nominating committee - please let any of them know if you are willing to serve on the board next fiscal year.

The second order of business concerned the settlement package

offered to our resigning minister to be included as a line item "ministerial expenses" in next fiscal year's budget. Ben Sizemore spoke about the UUA guidelines, David Granholm spoke about finances, and then there were questions and statements from the audience. The written ballots were then distributed, and there were 38 votes submitted. Since more than the required 51% voted "yes", the UUCE will be paying Deane one month's salary and benefits for each year she served as our minister (three months for three years). In July, August, and

September of 2011 she will receive a settlement check from us for \$5,328.43, or a total of \$15,985.29.

Even though we are facing financial difficulties, we felt that by honoring her service with us with a financial settlement package, the UUA would acknowledge our commitment and responsible behavior when in the future we are financially able to afford a minister and contact them for referrals - in short, one way to look at this vote is an investment in our future.



A Word from the District Executive

From Rev Dr Lisa Presley, Heartland District Executive:

I know that sometimes, I'm like a broken record, and one of the times is when you give me numbers to play with!

That's what has just happened with the release of all the numbers that congregations have sent the UUA in the certification process. We now have "real" numbers to be able to talk about what's happening in UU congregations. Now, the numbers I use in this article aren't the official ones, and not every one of our 1046 congregations provided all the details, but if the numbers are off, it's only by a bit.

So here it is. There are about 162,796 adult members of those 1046 congregations. The smallest recorded size is 1 - and that means that in a congregation that is merged with another denomination, there's still one person holding out their UU identity! The largest congregation in the States is in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with 1,900 members; the largest

congregation overall is the Church of the Larger Fellowship, our congregation without walls, with 3,577 and then the congregation in the Philippines, with multiple locations, weighs in at 2,235. The average congregation is 155 members, when you include CLF and the Philippines. It's 150 when you remove them from the overall picture.

The median size, where half the congregations are larger and half smaller, is 95. Here in the Heartland, our average size is 139 and the median is 98, one a bit smaller, and the other a bit larger. Our largest congregation is First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI with 578 members, and the smallest is the Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship with 12. Fascinating how one city bookends our numbers! Only 18 congregations in Heartland have over 200 members, while seven congregations are so small (under 30) that they would not qualify for acceptance as a congregation under today's requirements.

For the congregations

that reported it, the total budgets are \$236.7 million! The average budget is just about \$238,000, and the mean is \$154,000. That's a lot of collection plate passing. Religious Education enrollment is 54,671, with average of 51 and mean of 35. And, of the 999 congregations that reported attendance, the average was 101, while the mean was 70.

Although it's not a "race," I always find it fascinating to see where our congregations stack up. Some of you have done amazing things this past year, and for others, your turn is around the next bend. Let us know how we can help.

The key measure, of course, is health and vitality, but numbers are important too. Primarily because I so believe that Unitarian Universalism is a faith for our time, and I know so many people who yearn for congregations like ours. I wish you all the best, and hope to see as many of you as possible at our District Assembly April 1-2!

In faith,
Lisa

emma's revolution Concert



Plan to attend an *Earth Day* Celebration concert by emma's revolution on Friday April 29th at 7pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro- 1221 Cedar Street.

Tickets are \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door/pay what you can

Advance tickets are available at emmasrevolution.com or by contacting Rev. Claudia at (270) 683-1462.

emma's revolution's songs have been sung for the Dalai Lama, praised by Pete Seeger and recorded by Holly Near.

Patchwork Central

Patch Work is part of the Evansville Emergency Food Pantry Consortium. The goal of the EEFFPC is to provide food for those in Evansville who are hungry.

During 2010 they provided food for 41,387 people, or about 435,000 meals. The cost to provide these

meals was about \$0.36 per meal. The Consortium has been able to leverage their dollars through food donations and buying food at maintenance costs through the Tri-State Food Bank.

The federal government funds about ¼ of the cost. Local Evansville Churches provide about half the cost.

The rest comes from individuals, grants, agencies and organizations.

Certainly the needy in this community appreciate your support! Your continued support is needed in 2011. Donations of money and food can be made to Food Pantry, PO Box 2536, Evansville, IN 47728.



Standing on the Side of Love

Seven folks from UUCE rallied in Indianapolis to protest House Joint Resolution 006, a bill which would amend the Indiana constitution to recognize marriage as valid only between one man and one woman. A

petition signed at UUCE the prior weekend was delivered to the Senate Judiciary Committee which is conducting hearings on this matter.

Earlier in March, a petition signed by many mem-

bers and friends of UUCE was delivered to the legislature on behalf of worker justice. In April a petition advocating immigration reform will be delivered to Washington. We are standing on the side of love.

PSG News

The PGS continues to meet at UUCE on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. The focus for the second quarter of 2001 is "Air". Meeting topics for April are: **4/5/11** – How to make "gods' eyes" (magical tool for protection) and "arrows" (used in the Shamanis-

tic concept of moving between different points in our life) with Penny
4/12/11 – Herbology with Kyle
4/19/11 - "Are you an Air Witch?" checklist & open discussion; BEL-TANE planning
4/26/11 – Divinations; ALL members

are encouraged to bring their knowledge, experience and questions, as this will be a group discussion/learning experience, not led by any particular person.

E-Scrip News & Sweepstakes Info

Don't forget to use your e-scrip card at Schnucks. It looks like we're currently earning about \$25.00 a month. The Mark Rigney household set a new one-month purchasing record in January leading by almost a two-to-one margin over John Schaeffer's and Susie Feinberg's families, who came in second and third. Way to go – keep up the good work.

Thanks to everyone who is helping to support UUCE with

your purchases (and remembering to show the card) at Schnuck's. If you don't have a card, they are available in the church lobby.



Help the Unitarian Universalist Church Evansville win \$250! Group ID #500019570 "Like" eScrip on Facebook for a chance to win \$250 for the church.

The Sweepstakes starts March 1, 2011 and ends May 15, 2011. Simply go to <http://www.facebook.com/escrifans> Enter on eScrip FB Fan page, "like eScrip" anytime prior to May 15, 2011 for entry into the Spring Sweepstakes to win \$250 for the group of your choice. (Note) Followers who have liked eScrip prior to contest announcement dates will also be included in the contest with 1 (one) entry.

"Like" us; click the Sweepstakes link on the left side of the page; and enter the sweepstakes.

Remember to send this to all your friends!

Whether you shop at Schnucks or not, you can like eScrip for a chance to win \$250 for your favorite charity. Only takes about one minute!

Coffee

Place your order for chocolate, cocoa and coffee by the 25th of the month. Contact Chris Norrington for details 471-9867.

Monthly Potluck

Join your fellow UU's after church the fourth Sunday of each month for potluck.

Adult Discussion Group

The Adult Discussion Group meets the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 8:45 in the Chalice House. Contact Hardin with any questions.

United Caring Shelter

UUCE prepares a meal at the United Caring Shelter on the 3rd Friday of the month. We work from 3:00– 5:00. Helpers are needed!

Donations of spaghetti noodles and sauce are always needed too!

You can also make monetary donations– look for the jar in the church foyer.

Lunch Bunch

On Sunday March 20 the group went to Charlie's Mongolian Barbeque – the owner made a donation to our church for eating there. Many of the restaurants we have been going to give us a donation.

Harden is doing a wonderful job – everyone is having a great time – so join us for the next Lunch Bunch. Harden will announce where during the service.

Harden is open to any suggestions you might have as to where to go – do come it's a great way to end the Sunday Service.

Circle Dinners

The Circle Dinners for April will be on April the 16th. The e-mail notice has gone out – if you have not sent in your response please do so today.

March hosts were Ed Howard, Jack & Alice Carden and Susie Feinberg – from what I have heard all had a wonderful evening.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

Sign ups are on the front bulletin board for this popular workshop. The curriculum introduces participants to ancient Goddesses, weaving their stories together with major concerns of today's women. Audio Visual programs will enhance this exciting five week course facilitated by Alice Carden starting on Thursday, April 21st.



Volunteers Needed

UUCE will host the only concessions booth at the Ohio Valley Birding Festival at Wesselman Park on April 30th. It's one day only, so please sign up to help transport food and supplies, cook or serve. Lots of fun; all funds go to UUCE. See Linda Sue or Susie for more information.



Meditation ends on March 30. Thank you for your participation!



Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville

2910 East Morgan Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711

812-474-1704

Services Sunday at 10:00 AM

Rev Dr Claudene F Oliva, Minister

Office hours: Wed.& Thurs. 2-5 or call for an appointment (Rev Oliva will be out of town 3/30-4/3, 4/8-4/10, 4/14-4/16. Please call 270 779-9222 if you need to speak with her during those days.

Home Phone: 812 490-7145

Cell Phone: 270 779-9222

email- cogenisys@aol.com

Child and Youth RE at 10:30 Sundays

Board of Directors:

The UUCE board meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30PM.

President	Jan Steinmark
President Elect	Ben Sizemore
Secretary	Tina Sizemore
Secretary Elect	Joan Hargis
Treasurer	David Granholm
Treasurer Elect	Jack Carden
Director	Susan Thomas
Director	John Schaefer

Other Volunteers:

Religious Exploration	open
Youth Leader	Diana Brewer
Building and Grounds	Hardin Rathgeber
Caring Committee	MaryHelen Weldy
Newsletter Editor	Beth Heil

Webmaster

Website

uceeditor@hotmail.com

open

www.uuevansville.org



April Events at UUCE

1st: 7pm Drumming Circle

3rd: 8:45 AM Adult discussion group

5th: 6:30 Pagan Group

6th: 6:30 Stewardship Committee
7pm SMART, Chalice House

11th: 11am Membership Committee
7pm Worship Associates

12th: 6:30 Pagan Group

13th: 7pm SMART, Chalice House

15th: 3pm United Caring Shelter
7pm Drumming Circle

16th: Circle Dinner

17th: 8:45 AM Adult discussion group
Plate Share

18th: 6:30 Board meeting

19th: 6:30 Pagan Group

20th: 7pm SMART, Chalice House

21st: 6:30 Adult RE: Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

24th: Potluck following service

25th: Coffee orders due

26th: 6:30 Pagan Group

27th: 7pm SMART, Chalice House

28th: 6:30 Adult RE

29th: 7 PM emma's revolution concert- UU Owensboro

30th: Wesselman Park Birding Festival food booth