

SERMON  
TOPICS FOR  
DECEMBER:

- December 6:  
Beauty
- December 13:  
Your Story  
and Our Story
- December 20:  
Joy!
- December 24:  
Christmas Eve
- December 27:  
Catching Fire

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# The Compass

DECEMBER 2009

## Barry Finkelstein to Return

Barry Finkelstein will return to UUCE January 29 - 31 to help us build our strategic plan. He will work with us on the church's vision, strategic plan and help the stewardship committee with its planning for the Annual Budget Drive.

Share your vision for

UCCE. Help build a plan that will help us better reach out to the community, to our members and for social justice!

Details on the weekend will be coming. For more information, contact Rosi Weatherwax or Mary Helen Weldy.

Please read the attached sum-

mary from Barry's first visit in preparation for his visit in January.



## Minister's Musings

To each and every one,

Best wishes for a joyous holiday.

December leads us into a very special season. It is a season of joy, memories, forgiveness, love and inspiration. It is also a season of sadness, memories, loneliness and despair. May we enter this season mindful of the hardships of the times.

This year many of us, our neighbors, friends and family members have suffered changes in their economic status. Some have taken pay cuts. Some have been laid off; others have seen their work places close.

As much as we would like to deny it, most of us live on a month to month basis. A loss of income adversely affects us almost immediately and it is not long before a sense of desperation pervades. Even though we recognize that "things will get better," fear of the unknown is a stubborn companion.

At UUCE our hearts are full of love and compassion. As a group, we want to assist those in need, reassure those in despair,

and comfort those who have suffered loss. We want to work toward improving the lives of those around us, our friends, our neighbors and those we have yet to meet.

This year are asked to respond to a great need. It would be wise to be prepared to stretch, to give just a little more of our time and, when possible, our treasure, to assist those in our community through this hard winter season. We can volunteer to serve meals, donate food, or search for our old coats, shoes, blankets, and other items which may make a great difference to someone in acute need.

This season we can keep our eyes and our hearts open to needs as we see them. We have several volunteers who are searching out ways in which UUCE can give that little extra which might mean a great deal to someone. Just how do we fit in the help chain in Evansville? We want to find our useful niche. Please consider volunteering your time when the call is made. Yes, we know how busy every-

one is, how inconvenient it can be to get out in the cold in a neighborhood that is not ours, but the need is real and our assistance will be appreciated. We will be making a difference.

And if you have been adversely affected this year, please, please, let us know. Perhaps we can only offer you our hearts, but, perhaps, we might be able to help in other ways. Being there for one another is the true meaning of community. Helping each other, helps each of us for it is when we are given the opportunity to help each other that we feel love flow.

Every volunteer at the United Caring Shelter reports that they feel so good after they have served a meal to such an appreciative group. We are lucky to have this opportunity. Every box of spaghetti, every jar of pasta sauce, is a reaching out, a helping hand. Even if you cannot come down to the shelter, we hope that you feel the worth of your donation each month. A little thing? Yes, but such a joyful one. (continued on page 2)

# Minister's Musings Continued



'Tis the season of  
great joy!

(continued from page 1)

'Tis the season of great joy. The plate collection the third Sunday of this month and again on Christmas Eve goes to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, a fund whose sole purpose is to assist those in acute need. The money in the fund comes only from individual donations. It does not come from your pledge; it does not come from the operating budget. Some-

times the money is used for bus fare to a doctor's appointment. Sometimes it becomes a utility payment on a one time basis. Sometimes it's for emergency food or medication. Each request is unique. Each serves someone who has nowhere else to turn. I appreciate your generosity and will always endeavor to use the money compassionately.

'Tis the season of great joy.

I am so grateful for this kind and loving congregation. It is good to be associated with a group of people dedicated to spiritual nourishment, religious freedom and social justice.

Karen and I wish each of you a warm, safe and blessed holiday. May your sense of the holy fill you with wonder wherever you may go.

In loving peace,

Rev Deane

## Sermon Topics

December 6<sup>th</sup> – **Beauty**- Is there a neural link for beauty? Is beauty spiritual? Who decides? Rev Deane and Diane Brewer

December 13 – **Your Story and Our Story** – Self talk is such an important part of who we choose to be. Let's explore the choices that we have made. Perhaps a makeover is in order. Rev Deane and Tom Moor

December 20<sup>th</sup> – **Joy!** Today we will celebrate the season of joy with a multigenerational, music filled service. Come! Enjoy! **Music Makers** wanted for 12/20 service. See Rev Deane

December 24<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Eve** – Join with us for a traditional Christmas Eve service and social. Bring your neighbors and friends to this holiday celebration which will include music, readings, great

joy and quiet reflection, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Time: 7 pm --Rev Deane and Diane Brewer

December 27<sup>th</sup> – **Catching Fire: Thoughts on Change, Starts, Stops, Beginnings and Ends**- Observations in preparation for traditional, intergenerational Fire Communion service, Sunday, January 3, 2010. John Schaeffer, Worship Leader.

Celebrate the  
season with your  
friends and family  
at UUCE

The practice of sitting has been a spiritual practice for generations.



## Meditation/Sitting Practice

Monday and Friday at Noon at UUCE.

Known by many names, the practice of sitting in silence has been a fundamental spiritual practice for generations. At UUCE we sit for forty minutes twice weekly. Sitters may take off their shoes before entering the sanctuary, although it is certainly not required. Persons may sit on cushions, kneel-

ing benches, chairs or the floor, whatever is their preferred mode. Leaving early, coming late, done in respectful silence, is expected.

To begin, we will bow slightly to each other to acknowledge that we are entering a spiritual practice. Once settled, a bell will be struck three times and the timer set. To end, the bell will be struck once. As we stand we will bow slightly to each other, indicating the conclusion of our practice.

There is no explicit reason or requirement to face the front of the sanctuary. It is purely for convenience that the chairs are left in this configuration. We light a candle before we begin for those who might use this object as a centering tool and we quietly blow it out when we rise to leave.

The last practice for 2009 will be on Monday December 21st.

You are welcome to join us.

# Adult Religious Exploration News

Here is our ARE schedule for the new year:

## The Monday Series-continues:

**The Eightfold Path** – Offered on the third Monday of each month for eight months. This series utilizes *Awakening the Buddha Within: Tibetan Wisdom for the Western World* by Lama Surya Das as the structure for studying ways in which Unitarian Universalists can concretely carry out their faith on a daily basis. Jay and Holly Ziemer, co-facilitators

## Search for Truth and Meaning:

**Building Your Own Theology: Volume III, Ethics**- Winter, 2010. “*Ethics* explores the moral implications of participants’ values

and beliefs, with each session featuring a different dimension of ethical decision-making: authority, motivation, responsibility, the situation, intention, relationships, values, and character.” See new start date.: **Begins Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please fill out Green Registration form at the Membership table or email Rev. Deane.

**Covenant Group** – We have a few people signed up for our covenant groups but we need a few more to make this a reality. The group is scheduled to meet on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm. If you would like to join but the time is not exactly right, let Rev. Deane know.

## Ongoing events-

**Adult Discussion Group**- first and third Sundays at 8:45AM. Hardin Rathgeber-leader.

**Movies** – A Friday series on Heresy is being facilitated by Lincoln Christensen. Watch for dates.

**Third Thursday Brown Bag Lunch has been suspended until further notice.**

We do not yet have enough people who can regularly attend, so we will postpone this event for awhile.

## Monthly Potluck

Join your fellow UU’s after church the fourth Sunday of each month for potluck. All are welcome!

## 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.

## It's a date in 2010!

It's time to put the master calendar together for 2010. If you are working on any projects for the church and have your dates ready, please forward them to Rosi Weatherwax by the end of the month. Include meetings, special services, movies, weekend events and anything else of interest! The more we know.... Thanks! Rosi

## Shamanic Drumming

The First Friday and Third Friday Shamanic Drumming Circle s meet monthly at the church from 7:00-9:00 PM. All are welcome.

## Coffee

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

## 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!

**Holiday Choir** for 12/20 and/ or 12/24. We will have two rehearsals, from 12 to 2 on 12/6 and 12/13. No age restrictions. No long term commitment. Sign up in the foyer and let Marla know if you would like to join ([mminton@wowway.com](mailto:mminton@wowway.com)). It will be fun and beautiful!

**Check out these UUCE events!**

## PSG News

This past month was a time of fun and remembrance as we all joined together to celebrate Samhain. There were fairies, witches, and fair maids aplenty gathered around the bonfire that night. They were joined by handsome forest lords, a fierce dragon and even a cunning warrior or two. Even mother nature couldn't resist being in good spirits as she provided us with a relatively warm, clear night to hold our ritual. And as always a feast was prepared and shared as well.

In the coming months we will be exploring more aspects of energy work, guided meditation, and both stone and herbal properties. We will also be planning for our yule ritual, which is tentatively scheduled for December the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The sessions are taught by other group members. We occasionally have guest speakers. Normal group meetings are held Tuesday nights at 7 pm. They are open to anyone who wishes to come. You can find out more about the group by contacting the yahoo

group [psgevanville](mailto:psgevanville), emailing us at [evansvillepsg@hotmail.com](mailto:evansvillepsg@hotmail.com) or call Jennie at 517-974-6261.

To all Veterans and active duty Military, we would also like to say, Thank you for serving. Thank you for all the times you risked not only your life but your sanity, for all the times you stayed up late for watch or missed being with your families for the holidays. Thank for all you do and did. Happy Veterans day!



**Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Evansville**

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Rev Dr Claudene F Oliva, Minister,  
Office hours: Wed.2-5 & Thurs. 3-6PM  
Home Phone: 812 490-7145  
Cell Phone: 270 779-9222  
Email:cogenisys@aol.com  
Deane will be on leave 12-30-09 to 1-8-10.

Board of Directors:

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

President	Jan Steinmark
President Elect	Marv Albin
Secretary	Rosi Weatherwax
Secretary Elect	Tina Sizemore
Treasurer	Chris Norrington
Treasurer Elect	open
Director	Janet Lindholm
Director	Ed Howard

Other Volunteers:

Religious Exploration	Natasha Goodge
Youth Leader	Lincoln Christensen
Building and Grounds	Hardin Rathgeber
Caring Committee	MaryHelen Weldy
Newsletter Editor	Beth Heil
	uuceeditor@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Marv Albin
	www.uuevansville.org

**Child and Youth RE at 10:30 Sundays**



# December Events at UUCE

Meditation- every Monday and Friday at noon in the sanctuary

Drumming Circles- Friday December 4 and 18 at 7:00- sanctuary

Adult Discussion Group- Sunday December 6 and 20 at 8:45- Chalice House

Blooming Lotus Sangha- Dec 2, 9, 16, 23

Holiday Decorating Party- Saturday, December 5 from 4-6 PM

Board Meeting- Monday December 7 at 6:30 in the entry

United Caring Shelter dinner- Friday December 18 from 3-5:30 at United Caring Shelter

Buddhist Retreat Saturday December 19- all day.

Newsletter deadline- Friday, December 20 at midnight (or sooner!)

Eightfold Path- Monday, December 21 at 6:30

Potluck Sunday- December 27 following the service

Social Justice Meeting- Monday December 28 at 6:30 in the entry

Coffee orders due- Dec 25 to Chris

Deane will be on leave 12-30-09 to 1-8-10.

## January Preview:

Meditation- every Monday and Friday at noon in the sanctuary

United Caring Shelter dinner- Friday January 15 from 3-5:30 at United Caring Shelter

Board Meeting- Monday January 4 at 6:30 in the entry

Barry Finkelstein from UUA returns

