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FEBRUARY 2012

Are You Passionate?

I looked up the word *passionate* and it led me to the word *ardent*, which merriam-webster.com defined as “characterized by warmth of feeling typically expressed in eager zealous support or activity.” Passionate persons tend to go out of their way to put forward their agenda or achieve their goals. They tend to strive for excellence in their projects or hobbies – at least as they see and understand excellence as it relates to their chosen project or hobby.

Having observed our congregation for some time now, I find that we have passionate persons who often try to exhibit their leadership skills and are sometimes misunderstood as being bossy. I also find others who appear to be passionate about nothing. I hope that isn't true because, at least to me, life without passion isn't much of a life. But I find some in our congregation who seem to be floating through life, at least in terms of their relationship to our church and to others who feel quite passionate about what we are trying to

do.

Where do you stand on the passionate scale? Are you totally committed to make the best UUCE that we can make? Or would you



rather sit back and take a wait and see attitude, having the option of pulling out an “I told you so” when new ideas don't work as well as we would like.

Change is difficult. Our company president once told his leaders that he didn't want us to embrace change or tolerate change; he wanted us to create change in the organization. That challenge was startling to many of us. What did he mean to “create change”? What kind of changes?

He could see that we were headed in the wrong direction and if we didn't change

we were going off a cliff. Of course, we could wind up making things worse if the changes didn't improve our situation, but if we didn't change course we would most certainly go over that cliff. He figured the chances of success were slim, but they were improved if we could change course. But changing how a company does things isn't easy – the old answer (“we've always done it that way”) is hard to overcome.

Change is never easy, but passionate people can make a difference. What are you passionate about? Art? Music? Liberty? Justice? Put your passions to work for UUCE and make a difference. And when you see someone else being a bit bossy in their interaction with others, step back and ask yourself – are they feeling passionate about their chosen activity? Give them room to learn how to be a leader in their own way.

Respectfully,
Jack Carden
President
UUCE Board of Directors
j.carden@ieee.org



Sermon Topics

February 5- **REVELATION: Flannery O'Connor's vision.** Tom Moor will share a reflection on Flannery O'Connor's short story Revelation.

February 12- **HEART HEALTHY** Rev. Anisa

Evans will preach on Heart Healthy, reflecting on love and reminding us of Valentine's day. Ed Howard worship leader.

February 19- **HERE IF YOU NEED ME** Nancy Higgs will share a reflection

on Rev Kate Braestrup's award winning memoir. Ed Howard worship leader.

February 26- **THE SUFI JOURNEY** Erich Sheldon will lead a service on The Sufi Journey.

Jesus of Nazareth, the Historical Jesus: Sage and Brilliant

A presentation by Chuck Meny.

Beginning on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 P.M. and continuing each Tuesday for 10 to 12 weeks at our Church.

I will present an in depth program based on the historical research by the Jesus Seminar, a group of scholars representing most of the main denominations from this country and several from Europe, New Zealand and Australia. They began their work in 1985 and continue to this day to

seek the authentic words and deeds of Jesus which have been mostly covered over, misunderstood or wrongly interpreted. They do not work under the direction of any church or denomination; they are independent; they work in collaboration; meaning that they all have a voice in the conclusions that are reached.

Why should anyone care about this today? There are some two billion Christians in the world today. The western world has been

influenced by Christian traditions and practices for two thousand years. This is certainly true of our nation. I believe that all of us need to be well enough informed to make judgments about these matters. Much in our country needs some correction. I will shed some light on many areas of Christian tradition and teaching showing that all is not well and that Jesus needs to be reclaimed for the betterment of our society.

UUCE sends its condolences and good thoughts to all who are grieving.

Passings

Matt Hoyt, a former member of this church, died January 2, 2012. Matt, his wife Betsey, and their daughter Kate were very active members of UUCE when they lived in Evansville (1999? - 2005?), and then moved to Northern Georgia when Matt found a

position there. They became members of the UU Church in Chattanooga.

David Fentress' mother, Jo Ann Lynos Fentress, Passed away January 17, 2012 in Leitchfield, Kentucky.

Our condolences to both families.





SAVE THE DATE!

July 15 - 21, 2012

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
MidWest Leadership School

Contact:

Paul Goddard - Chair, MWLS Faculty
(815) 965-3995 or Goddard.paul@gmail.com

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS), a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's nationwide network of leadership schools, will be held July 15 - 21, 2012 (Sunday thru Saturday), on the campus of Beloit College in southeastern Wisconsin. MidWest Leadership School is sponsored by the Central MidWest District, in collaboration with Heartland District and Prairie Star District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) develops lay leaders in the Unitarian Universalist (UU) community. The week-long intense program includes leadership, group and system dynamics, UU history and theology, and elements of worship. The program is designed to provide insights, confidence, and enrichment for each participant's congregation, work, and personal life.

MidWest Leadership School (held concurrently with MidWest Youth Leadership School) - is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's nationwide network of leadership schools. Complementing other district offerings, this school offers a week-long intensive program in which leadership and group dynamics can be developed and reflected upon. Led by lay and ordained staff with a deep understanding of UU congregations, a combination of lectures and small group encounters heightens understanding and the ability to navigate group process. By immersing the student in a milieu both supportive and challenging, the MWLS experience provides leadership tools and skills, develops the student as a leader, and deepens the student's Unitarian Universalist identity and understanding, all designed to prepare students for leadership in UU congregations and beyond.

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 4th Sunday of each month for potluck and fellowship.

Social Justice Donations

Donation of spaghetti, toiletries and diapers are needed. Cash donations also accepted.

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.



Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly

Some folks still aren't sure what to expect at the upcoming General Assembly.

There will be something for everyone at this GA, no matter where you may be in the spectrum of social justice work. Whether you're a seasoned activist or a beginner, there will be educational and preparatory programming and other opportunities for you to have meaningful involvement.

There will be community events outside as well as work done indoors. Phoenix will be hot, but you will be able to limit your exposure. GA housing is very close to the Phoenix Convention Center, and there are many food options within the Center. There will be an exhibit hall - the Justice GA Expo - with social justice exhibitors and resources. GA programming will be focused on justice issues, including topics such as the spiritual foundations of justice work, the theology of social justice, as well as a more tactical focus on organizing.

There will be Plenary sessions for governance, as well as programming and worship such as the Ware Lecture and Service of the Living Tradition. A preliminary schedule of events is available.

Much more information about the upcoming Justice General Assembly is available at www.uua.org/ga.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville

2910 East Morgan Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711
812-474-1704
Services Sunday at 10:00 AM

Youth RE at 10:30 Sundays



Board of Directors:

President	Jack Carden
President Elect	open
Secretary (acting)	Chris Norrington
Secretary Elect	Marla Minton
Treasurer	David Fentress
Treasurer Elect	Chris Norrington
Director	Linda Sue Cates
Director	John Schaefer

Other Volunteers:

Religious Exploration	task force— Jack Carden
Youth Leader	Mary Helen Weldy
Building and Grounds	John Schaeffer
Stewardship	David Fentress
Communications	Chris Norrington
Social Justice	Chris Norrington
Congregational Life	Susan Thomas
Worship Associates	Marla Minton
Newsletter Editor	Beth Heil
	uceeditor@hotmail.com
Webmaster	open
Website	www.uuevansville.org

Upcoming Events & Activities

Wednesday, Feb 1— 6:30pm Stewardship Committee

Wednesday, Feb 1— 7 pm, SMART meeting, Chalice House

Friday, Feb 3—7:00pm Drum Circle

Wednesday, Feb 8— 7 pm, SMART meeting, Chalice House

Thursday, Feb 9— 7:00 pm Women’s Group— Alice Carden’s house

Monday, Feb 13- 6:45 pm Board Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 15— 7 pm, SMART meeting, Chalice House

Friday, Feb 17— 3:00 pm United Caring Shelter

Friday, Feb 17—7:00pm Drum Circle

Monday, Feb. 20— Compass submissions due

Wednesday, Feb 22— 7 pm, SMART meeting, Chalice House

Thursday, Feb 23— 6:30 pm Congregation Life Committee

Friday, Feb 24— Coffee orders due

Sunday, Feb 26— Potluck following service

Wednesday, Feb 29— 7 pm, SMART meeting, Chalice House

