

UMICROSOFT

SERMON
TOPICS
FOR MAY:

- May 1– The Meaning of “We”
- May 8– The Great Turning
- May 15– Safe Zones
- May 22– Flower Communion
- May 29– In Memory: The Aftermath

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The Compass

MAY 2011

Minister’s Musings

Alleluiah!

It is said that when times get tough, the tough get going, -- one step at a time. And so we will.

We have extraordinary hymnals. Last month we used one of the songs in those pages in a reading for it had much to say to us. There is great wisdom in our music if only we take the time to hear the meaning of the words. Here is one hymn that speaks to this congregation at this time. It is #168, *One More Step*.

We will take one more step, ‘til there is peace for us and everyone, we’ll take one more step. One more word.

We will say one more word, ‘til every word is heard by everyone, we’ll say one more word.

One more prayer.

We will say one more prayer, ‘til every prayer is shared by everyone, we’ll say one more prayer. One more song.

We will sing one more song, ‘til every song is sung by everyone one, we’ll sing one more song.

Let us turn to this song when we are disturbed, distressed, distracted, dismayed. Let us not be in despair and denial when conflict and confusion are real.

Let us take one more step, making sure that every voice is heard *including our own*, that everyone’s wishes for the future are shared *including our own*, and that everyone’s hopes for our community are sung. Everyone’s hopes. When we hear and share; when we are open to the

loving thoughts of everyone; then we can truly process and move forward toward peace.

We yearn for a beloved community of open hearts and open minds, comfortable with each other and our commitment to justice and spiritual nourishment. We know that we have to work for it.

Let us take that one more step. Let us move forward with both heart and intellect. Let us trust the process. Let’s open our hearts everyone and don’t be afraid of some change, for today will be a joyful day, enter, rejoice, and come in.

Blessings in this time of change,
Rev Deane

Join Us for Fun on the Water

Once again the members and friends of UUCE are invited to a day of fun on the water. Join us on May 21 as we explore Pigeon Creek by canoe! Experienced guides from Canoe Evansville will guide us on a 3 1/2 hour

paddle (including put in and take out time). \$15/per person.

Last year we had a great group and a great time! Contact MaryJane Steele for more information. 476-5072 or msmjsteele@aol.com





Sermon Topics

May 1st – The meaning of We – Does “we” mean “me?” How big is we? What are our obligations to “We?” Rev Deane, Sarah Weitkamp, Worship Associate

May 8th – The Great Turning- Chuck Meny will share with us thoughts on ‘: The Great Turning , from Empire to Earth Community” This topic will include thoughts on politics, economics, sustainability, community, and spirituality.

Tom Moor will be worship leader

May 15th- Safe Zones – Join Dr. Amie McKibbon as she explores ways in which you can become an active supporter of GLBT rights. Stephanie Young Worship Leader, Sarah Weitkamp Worship Associate

PLATE SHARE – SWIRCA May 22nd – Flower Communion – You are invited to bring a fresh flower to this service which honors the beauty of our individual

elves as well as the splendor of community. Rev Deane with Stephanie Young, Worship Associate
POTLUCK TODAY May 29th – In Memory: The Aftermath – How do we think of the service men and women who have lost their lives? How can we honor their legacy, what should we hold dear? Rev Deane, Tom Moor, Worship Associate

Question Box Sermon

On Sunday June 12th, we will have a question box sermon. During this time Rev Deane will answer questions relevant to our faith and community. Please place questions in her church mailbox or email them to her by June 5th.



It's QUESTION TIME!!



Save the Date!

Save the date Saturday June 18 from 7AM-2PM for the UUCE Rummage Sale and "Everything" sale.

We have expanded this year to include plants, crafts, baked goods and anything else you think people would like to buy.

We need your donations, so be thinking of the sale when you are doing your spring cleaning and decluttering. We need your household items, furniture, decorative items, lawn and garden, antiques, and adult

clothes (seasonal only). Especially needed are babies' and children's clothes and toys.

More information will come later on when to bring things by church and how to arrange for pickup of large items.

Questions– contact Pam Stivers.

Severe Storm Fund

Tornadoes Touch UU Communities

Communities and families across the South were devastated by the storms and tornadoes of April 27th! Unitarian Universalist folks in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee have major property damage and are reeling from the effects of the storms. Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was particularly hard hit, and a number of UU families there are without their homes. Mid-South District has established the **2011 Severe**

Storm Fund to assist Unitarian Universalist families and their communities as they repair their lives and properties after the tornado-filled storms.

Congregations, individuals and other gatherings may help out by sending contributions to the address below or donating through the Mid-South web site: www.msduua.org. Thanks to all for care and support!

Checks should be payable to "Mid-South District," noted: "2011 Severe Storm Fund," and mailed to

Mid-South District Bookkeeper
4605 Elkins Ave., Nashville, TN
37209

Let's show our neighbors to the South that they are part of our Heartland family, too.

Thank you.
Lisa Presley, District Executive
Nancy Combs-Morgan, Faith Development Director
Barbara Hamilton, District Administrator

Check out
these ongoing
UUCE
activities!

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.

Monthly Potluck

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

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.

Coffee

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

Ministers Hours in May

Rev Deane will be out of state Thursday, May 5th through Tuesday, May 17th. Contact a board member if you need assistance.

Otherwise, regular Office Hours: 2-5 Wednesdays and Thursdays.



Letter from the President-elect

Dear UUCE'rs,

This has been quite the month. The highs and lows associated with my involvement in our church have been as wild as the weather.

Ms. Sandra, our consultant, did a wonderful job of gathering a lot of information and relating that information to us in a way that seemed very relevant and certainly timely. Our board meeting was very fruitful with a large assignment from Ms. Sandra for us to accomplish, along with all of the other workings of our church. We, the board are convening again next Monday, the 25th of April, to report back on our respective assignments.

As your President Elect, I am tasked with being the chair of the church council. I took on the projects that directly related to church council. One of those was to facilitate a meeting to look at our Religious Education (RE) program. I emailed all of the people I could think of that either had children in our RE program, were current and/or past teachers, and/or was an RE director in the past.

We met on Wednesday the 20th of April. In attendance were Rev. Deane, Susie Feinberg, Jack Carden and myself. There were some good ideas put forth such as splitting up the year for our volunteer teachers, hiring a paid teacher, and many others. I received emails from some of the invitees that couldn't attend, offering ideas for our current situation and thoughts about where we go from here.

Rev. Deane lead us in an exercise that, in the end, pointed out how few people we have that can fill the role of an RE teacher or director. It seems to me that we have a very high burnout rate with our RE teacher/director volunteers.

Our church, through it's RE program, has had and continues to have huge impacts on the lives of the children in our congregation. Currently we have 3 wonderful, bright, and caring ladies that carry the load. Almost every Sunday they traipse out of our sanctuary to offer our youth a vision of the world that can be found

no other place (unless they are fortunate enough to be the child of one of these gifted three). In the past, as I recall, we get to the start of another teaching season and we enter into crisis mode to find someone to devote part of their lives to our kids, and someone has always stepped up. Not the best way to run a railroad but, at least, until now, it has worked. Let's all hope that it continues to.

Through all of this I have repeatedly asked others and myself "what is our common thread?" One of our board members offered what I think is a brilliant observation. He thinks the common thread is that we are all on a quest, a quest to continuously search for our own "truths". I agree with him. I think that's what the common thread seems to be. If that is the case for you, as it is for me, then I look forward to the journey with you.

Yours truly,
Ben Sizemore
President elect

PSG News

PSG meetings will be held at UUCE on the following dates.

5/3/11 – BELTANE ritual and celebration 7 p.m.

5/10/11 – Guided meditation of Air led by Daniel 7 p.m.

5/17/11 – Spell Singing / Chanting with Penny and Leah 7 p.m.

5/24/11 – The Ethics of Paganism; discussion led by Leah 7 p.m.

5/31/11 – SOCIAL night; next quarter planning (FIRE); potluck 7 p.m.

Endowment Funds Considerations

The Stewardship Committee has begun the process of planning for our next Annual Budget Drive which includes a proposed budget for next fiscal year which begins in July. In examining our expected expenses and planning our proposed budget, we have included expenses related to the monies that we have borrowed from our endowment fund.

Some members have asked about our endowment fund – where did it come from and why is it important to begin to pay back the amounts we have borrowed since FY 2007-08? Members have every right to understand our endowment fund, how it works and why it is important to honor our commitments to those members who made the contributions in the first place. As past chair of the Stewardship Committee and as your Treasurer-Elect on the board of directors, I have researched the subject and offer this attempt to answer some of these questions.

Let us first consider this section of our Church Fiscal Policy document: Section IV: The Endowment Fund A. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to receive, hold, manage, and invest gifts, such as money, stocks, bonds, and property. These gifts derive from bequests, legacies, wills, trusts, and special gifts from friends or members of the congregation.

B. The value of the Endowment Fund at any time is defined as the total of our entire investment holdings value, minus the other funds within the investments account. Fluctuation of market value of investment vehicles (i.e. stocks, bonds, cash, etc.) are reflected in the value of the Endowment Fund.

C. The Endowment Fund principal is permanently held. Only its income is used (for general operating expenses). Withdrawals from the principal can be made only if the Congregation votes to do so in order to meet some very special need or to resolve some dire problem. A 2/3 majority of the members

attending a special meeting of the Congregation would be required. These limitations regarding the withdrawal of funds are intended to assure donors that their gifts to the Endowment Fund will be retained for the long-term benefit and financial stability of the church.

D. In the event that institutional Unitarian Universalism ceases to be a viable reality in metropolitan Evansville, serious consideration should be made by the congregation to give the Endowment Fund assets to the Unitarian Universalist Association without restriction. The Endowment Fund represents the aggregation of many gifts from those who have supported our congregation here in Evansville. Their generosity has allowed us to acquire the properties on Morgan Ave, including the Chalice House and to establish the fund which in the past has held significant investments that were designed to supplement the budget and support the programs offered by the church.

Why is this important? The Endowment Fund has enabled us to attract our current minister. Without that fund, we would never have interested any professional minister in considering our “offer” since it would have been significantly below the minimum compensation recommended by the UUA. And, I believe, without a significant Endowment Fund to back up our next offer (whatever that might be,) we will have an extremely difficult time convincing any professional ministerial candidate to take us seriously. As many of you know firsthand, the current “economic hard times” has forced many people to resort to using their savings to survive. Without this important cushion, UUCE will have a very difficult time surviving the next few years.

In July 2007, the congregation voted to authorize borrowing from the endowment fund in order to be able to afford to hire a second interim minister. Since that time we have borrowed each year and, with the exception of FY 2008

-09, we have not even paid back the interest to which the endowment fund is entitled. Our total debt to the endowment fund is projected to be \$57,424 as of the end of June this year and the endowment fund is projected to be depleted to about \$12,416.

As we plan for next year’s budget, it is not reasonable to continue to ignore this debt that we owe to ourselves. The past gifts were made to help insure the long-term prosperity of the church. As one of the financial stewards of the church, I cannot support the continued use of these funds to support the short term objectives of our budgetary needs. The proposed budget for next fiscal year will contain two line items relating to the endowment fund borrowing: interest at 4% for the next fiscal year on the money we already owe to the fund and an installment payment which when completed will allow us to repay the fund over the course of the next 13 years. (The original plan was to repay the loan over 15 years, but that was two years ago.)

If we don’t commit to repaying our endowment now, when will we be able to commit to repay our “debt” to ourselves?

This note may not have addressed your specific concerns. If it has not, please let me know and allow me the chance to respond to your additional questions regarding the endowment borrowing and our need to address it in our next fiscal year’s budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Carden, Treasurer-Elect



It's Time to Work Together

Members and Friends, it concerns me to see a division in our church. It concerns me to see so few people doing so much. It concerns me to see some who take but do not pay back.

We do not want those who serve on so many committees to burn out so I ask you, members and friends of the church, who have not served on any committee, to please step up and help those who are serving. Offer to serve on just one committee or activity where help is needed.

I ask that you give back – if you are not happy with the way things are going, then get in there and become/serve in one of the many places that needs a helping hand – use your talents.

Here is a list of but a few places where your help is needed:

House and Grounds – needs help with the grounds.

Kitchen – needs help with cleaning up after each Sunday Service.

The upcoming Rummage/Everything Sale will need help with getting the large stuff to the church, pricing, setting up and at the end of the day closing/cleaning up, being a cashier, baking goods to sell, helping in the food booth.

The June 5th Picnic will need help from you in the way of food, transporting a big grill to the Overlook Park, and organizing games for our youth and adults.

RE: needs leadership – this does require special talents to work with the youth in our church.

The Fall Festival will need many helping hands.

Our Fundraising Committee needs more Friends and Members on the committee as you know the more heads we can brainstorm with the better ideas we will come up with to put funds back into our treasury.

I know we are all busy people, but if each person can do just one thing it will make all of our jobs easier, provide true ownership of our beloved church, and you will benefit from working together.

It is not our intention to think alike, but to walk together.

Respectfully,
Linda Sue Cates



Many thanks to all who helped with the food booth at the Ohio Valley Birding Festival. We had beautiful weather and many people thanked us for being there. Profits have not been tallied yet but hopefully we made some profit!

Mark Your Calendar

Fall Festival is only 5 months away. Mark the week of October 3-8 on your calendar and plan to help out.

Set up will be Sunday October 2. Dates for cleaning and other prep work will be announced later.

Don't miss out on the fun. Plan now to help!!





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 May 5-17. 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
	uuceeditor@hotmail.com
Webmaster	open
Website	www.uuevansville.org



May Events at UUCE

1st-- 8:45 Discussion group

2nd -- 6:30 Board Meeting

3rd -- 7pm Pagan Group

4th -- 6:30 Stewardship Committee

4th -- 7pm SMART (Chalice House)

5th -- 6:30 Adult RE

6th -- 7pm Drumming Circle

9th -- 11am Membership Committee

9th -- 7pm Worship Associates

10th -- 7pm Pagan Group

11th -- 7pm SMART (Chalice House)

12th -- 6:30 Adult RE

15th- 8:45 Discussion group

15th -- Plate Share

15th -- Budget Drive begins

15th -- Congregational Meeting with consultant

16th -- 6:30 Board meeting

17th -- 7pm Pagan Group

18th -- 7pm SMART (Chalice House)

19th -- 6:30 Adult RE

20th -- 3pm United Caring Shelter

20th -- 7pm Drumming Circle

21st -- Circle Dinner

21st-- Canoe Evansville

22nd -- Potluck

22nd -- End of budget drive

24th -- 7pm Pagan Group

25th -- 7pm SMART (Chalice House)

29th- 8:45 Discussion group

31st -- 7pm Pagan Group