UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP of LAWRENCE
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

1263 North 1100 Road
Lawrence, Kansas

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November 12, 2013

Sunday, November 17

9:30 a.m. Program: "Caring for Creation: Faith-based Environmental Stewardship and the Challenges We Face."

Continuing our social justice programming, Rabbi Moti Rieber, director of Kansas Interfaith Power and Light organization, will discuss the need to regulate power plants in the United States to help eliminate pollution.

Interfaith Power and Light urges congregations and citizens to conserve energy, increase energy efficiency and support renewable energy sources. "Together we can save energy, save money, and put our faith into action to address climate change."

11:00 a.m. Spiritual Celebration: "The Religious Response to Climate Change" Rabbi Moti Rieber with Worship Associate Rev. Jill Jarvis

Why should religious communities care about the issue of climate change? Our guest, the director of Kansas Interfaith Power and Light, explores ways that Unitarian Universalists might put our faith into action.

Upcoming 9:30 Programs

November 24. Harvest Festival, arr. by Lynne Bodle and Janney Burgess
December 1. Two of our members, Jon Coffee and Jordinn nelson Long are currently enrolled in seminary. They will discuss their experiences.

From your Director of Lifelong Learning…

Autumn greetings!

Time rushes by quickly this time of year (despite our extra hour), and I cannot believe it is nearly a month since I was in St Paul for the annual Liberal Religious Educators Association conference. I made connections, took in lots of RE/DRE tips, learned about a wealth of resources to extend my education past those chilly 4 days in Minnesota, but mostly I was energized and inspired to think outside the box by excellent conference sessions! I will be presenting key take-aways at the Program on December 15th.

RE Fall programming has been busy these past 2 months and I want to give you a snapshot of what that looks like in numbers. Our first official day of fall programming September 8th was our most attended Sunday with **55 children present! Our average Sunday attendance for RE is 41!** At 9:30 we have provided lessons and activities for 194 children and the 11:20 Activities time for 87 children. I have a loose count of at least 34 older children that have attended the entire 11 AM service. WOW! Yes, we have an amazing team of RE teachers! And Yes, we need more assistant teachers for RE!

Wednesday evenings have been busy as well. Between the Youth meeting and our nursery, we have nurtured and supported 90 children/youth. Our Youth attendance averages 6 per Wednesday evening but averages fail when looking at the childcare side of Wednesday because of extreme attendance swings. October 9th was our largest attendance on Wednesday with 15 children (this excludes Youth!). We had 8 infant/early elementary age children and 5 upper el/middle youth aged children stay on after dinner. On Oct 20th we had one child in the nursery and 2 older children stayed on.

I have noticed that several older children leave the UFL after eating and the ones that stay on are rather bored (or bouncing off the walls) having to stay in a room with nursery furniture and toys. We have a need to fill here and River is laying the groundwork for a multigenerational social action group to gather on Wednesday evenings. Look for more information on this in the near future but I can tell you three things right now. One – there is a need to split the older children from the younger ones on Wednesday evenings for safety reasons. Two – we may lose these kids if they associate UFL as a place that does not meet them where they are. Three – we will need volunteers – not to sit with our older children, but to **work on social action** projects our older children – possibly taking them on field trips or having leaders from area organizations come in and talk with them.

Briefly:

1. Stop in and meet Khabira Gruber (an energetic great grandma) that will be in the nursery often on Sunday mornings.
2. I still need registration forms from some families! Available online now!
3. I still need assistant teachers for our Middle Youth class. I filled in last Sunday and can tell you that you are missing an amazing curriculum with these

kids! Our topic and discussion surrounded the consequences of our choices and actions. Please consider stepping up and spending say – 2 mornings? – with our Middle Youth sitting on some cozy couches in our newly decorated Wollstonecraft room! (Hot beverage classroom ban does not apply – how's that for incentive!)

With Joy, Bonnie Blosser, Director of Lifelong Learning

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Exhibition In Founders Hall

The Insiders' Show consists of work by Ann Alexander, Stuart Beals, Lauralyn Bodle, Lynne Bodle, Janney Burgess, Courtney Foat, Rebecca Gant, Bruce Johanning, Ulrich Johanning, Celia Smith, and two artists whom Jake and Masha Kipp know. Be sure to see Rebecca's afghan, which is now hanging on the wall (but was folded on a piece of furniture at the reception). Go to the Wollstonecraft Room to check out the rug she made, too. We are fortunate to have such abundant talent in our fellowship.

--*Betty Baron for the Aesthetics Team*

Let's talk about our building

At the beginning of the summer as the Building and Grounds Team prepared office space for incoming Director of Lifelong Learning Bonnie Blosser, they found old termite damage in a few of the floor supports below the RE wing. After a thorough evaluation, a repair plan is currently in progress and although the termite damage appears mostly inactive, termite treatment was completed and a yearly inspection is planned. Have you visited the RE wing lately? Bonnie and a dedicated group of Team Leaders and volunteers have made the space cozy and inviting.

As the discussion about the RE wing repairs progressed, other facility needs were identified. Our restroom facilities clearly represent a barrier for those who have limited mobility, rely on mechanical devices such as wheelchair or walker, or who simply require more privacy. Are there other areas where near-term improvements may be needed?

Join Executive Board Chair Carol Eades Delnevo to discuss some of the history of our building and to brainstorm about our current building needs. Informal discussions will be held next Sunday Nov. 17 at noon in Founders Hall, Wednesday Nov. 20 at 7:00 (room to be determined) , and Saturday Nov. 23 at 2:00 in Founders Hall.

The Pop-Up Choir Returns!

All singers who would like to sing in the choir but don't have the time to make that commitment, this is your chance! You are invited to join the UFL Choir for some of our Sounds of the Season presentation at the 11:00 service on December 8. The two choir practices will be on Wednesday November 20 and Wednesday December 4. Choir practice is at 7:00 and child care is available. For more information, contact UFL Music Director Susan Harper at sbharper@sbcglobal.net or 785-830-8487. Hope to see you there!

Airport Ride Sought

Graham Kreicker needs to be at the airport by noon on Friday, 13 December.
He will pay $50 to the driver or make a $50 donation to UFL. Call 842-2332 or e-mail gkreicker@gmail.com

UUSC Cards For Sale

UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) holiday greeting cards are here and will be available for purchase for the next few weeks on Sundays between the Service and the Program. Cards are $10/pack of 10 cards or an assortment of 4 different cards in a pack of 12 for $10. This is one way we can support the work of the UUSC . The guest-at-your-table program is another, and information about that traditional yearly project will be coming soon. Contact Lynne Bodle if you have any questions.

Youth Con November 22

The UFL Youth Group will be attending Defcon 6: a Youth Con at First Unitarian Church YRUU in Des Moines, IA on Friday, November 22, 2013 to Sunday, November 24, 2013. For more information contact drewsmith84@gmail.com or cubanlilly@gmail.com.

Our Music Program: Opportunities, New Possibilities, Challenges
---and Dates for Dialog Circles---

UFL is in a rich transitional stage, alive with new people and new ideas in creative synergy with the old beloved, familiar rhythms of our congregational life. Our Music Director Susan Harper, along with our Committee on Shared Ministry, recognizes this as a time of intriguing possibilities for our wonderful music program. We are a music-loving community with talented members and friends, diverse musical tastes, and

an evolving awareness of the role of music in deepening the experience of our Sunday services.

We need to recruit more voices for our choir, for example, and there are other challenges, including limited financial resources, as well. Do you have ideas, suggestions, opinions, dreams about what direction our Music Program might take? What are some of the best musical experiences you've had at UFL? Can you think of new ways to integrate music into the worship experience? Do you know of resources that might be available to UFL to further enhance our musical offerings?

The COSM and Music Director are sponsoring three Dialogue Circles so that interested people might come together to share ideas and get creative. Whether you're musically inclined yourself, already involved in UFL music, or just love music and have suggestions – you're invited to be part of one of these circles. *The following dates have been set.*

Thurs., November 21, 7 pm at Shannon VanLandingham's and
Sat., Nov. 23, 10:00 am, at Joe and Rebecca Gant's.
Sign up sheets are in the lobby.

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, November 19

New Seniors Group is starting at UFL--
and ALL seniors are invited for fellowship, learning, problem-solving & discussion. Reserve the third Tuesday afternoon of each month. ***First meeting will be at UFL on Tuesday, Nov. 19th from 1pm-3pm***. If planning to come, email UFLseniors@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

November Community Connection – Headquarters Counseling Center
Open 24/7 at 841-2345, Headquarters' trained volunteer and paid staff improve the emotional well-being and safety of adults and children through readily available free counseling, education, and information services, with a particular focus on suicide prevention and crisis response.

ECM--Ecumenical Campus Ministries—NEWS

Weekly Campus and Community Forum at the Ecumenical Campus Ministries, 1204 Oread, Noon–1, with optional lunch ($3.50 for students and $6.50 for all others) at 11:30. On *Wed., Nov. 13*, Laura Routh, environmental scientist for the KS Dept. of Health and Environment, and chair of the Lawrence Assn. for Neighborhoods (LAN), will present "Development, Land Use, and the Preservation of Community and Neighborhoods in Lawrence."

Faith Forum Series, "Queering Christianity"
Wed., Nov. 13, dinner at 6:30 p.m., discussion from 7 to 8, of Cassie Osei"s "In the Church Closet: Queer People of Color in the Black Church." (See the Sept. 3 newsletter for a complete listing of topics for this fall.)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AND CLASSES NOV. 13

Everyone - members, friends and newcomers - is invited to join in each Wednesday night for dinner followed by classes and groups. Being part of this small group opportunity is a great way to get to know people better and cultivate a deeper connection to the people you enjoy seeing on Sunday mornings! Dinner is offered for a suggested donation of $5 per person for those over 10, but please don't let that stop you from joining us.

6:00-6:45 p.m. **DINNER**

Team 1 (Rebecca Gant, Carol Eades Delnevo, Tamara Fairbanks-Ishmael, Bruce and Silke Johanning) are cooking sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, ham, sausages, bread, salad and dessert.
Graham Kreicker is donating the beer. *Clean up help for afterwards is always appreciated!*
Please remember: either to eat upstairs in Founders Hall or vacate the sanctuary by 6:45 (because of choir practice at 7:00). Thank you.

7:00 p.m. **CLASSES**

Classes and groups begin at 7:00 (Sr. High Youth at 6:30) and childcare is provided from 6:30-8:30. Choir will begin at 7:00.

Titles for the fall semester are Celebration Chefs, UU Parenting Group, *Simply Pray* book group, and How Do You Explain UU? Information and a schedule for each class/group are available on the UFL website and in the UFL entryway. Sign-up sheets for classes and groups are also available at UFL, or you can e-mail Michelle Iwig-Harmon at miwigharmon@sunflower.com. Getting you signed up helps us plan ahead, but even if you don't get the chance, feel free to attend the first night of any group or drop-in when you can.

ONGOING

UFL Classifieds

Do you need a service or have a service to offer? Need a ride? Have a business to promote? Put an ad in the UFL Classifieds! It's FREE (UUFL members only). Email UFLclassifieds@gmail.com

Meditation Class Since April 2013, UFL has been hosting a mindful meditation class that meets on the third Thursday of the month. For questions, please contact Dale Nimz at dale.nimz@gmail.com or Valerie Roper.

Lawrence CUUPS - Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

Do you feel a strong connection to the Earth? Does your spirit feel most centered in Nature? You may be a Pagan. Paganism is a native religion of place, and it was practiced by everyone's ancestors, regardless of heritage. Pagans revere nature as sacred, recognize and honor the Divine Feminine & Mother Earth, attribute significance to the four directions/elements, and celebrate the cycles of the moon, the seasons, and the Wheel of the Year. The Lawrence UU Pagan group meets regularly to plan earth-based services and rituals. EVERYONE IS WELCOME! For information, email LawrenceCUUPS@gmail.com or ask to speak to a CUUPS member at a UUFL service.

*The **Kaw Valley Herbs Study Group…***

…meets monthly to learn about herbs. Everyone interested in herbs is welcome. Next meeting is Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m. Request monthly newsletter: herbstudygroup@gmail.com

REMINDERS

Deadlines

Announcements for Sunday due **Wednesday evening**.
Send items to ufloffice@sunflower.com

Newsletter articles due **Monday at noon**.
Send items to ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com

Minister Office Hours

12:30. - 4:30 p.m. Mondays
2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays

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