

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
January 2017

Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Events and Important Dates Ahead

Sunday, January 1	Community Champagne Breakfast* 9:30-11:00 a.m. (see below)
Saturday, January 7	Men's Group breakfast 9:00 a.m. (see below)
Sunday, January 8	Hospitali-TEA after the service for lunch*
Saturday, January 14	2-4 p.m. at Janney Burgess' (see article below)
Sunday, January 21	Soulful Suppers
Sunday, January 29	Connections Fair *
Saturday, February 18	Drumming Workshop 3:30 to 5:30 (see <i>Music Notes</i>)

*(See articles for detail)

UPCOMING 9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

January 1	* <i>Scrumptious Breakfast</i> with selected baked goods and treats, plus mimosas, nonalcoholic pomegranate sunrises, assorted fruit juices and coffee. Come join us to bring in the New Year. 9:30-11: a.m.
January 8	<i>Denise Stahl</i> , quilter: "A Conversation with a Curious Kansas Quilter." Join Denise Stahl as she shares her journey of discovery through quilting. In addition to color, texture, and pattern, Denise reveled in new challenges, lifelong friendships, and personal insights she experienced while quilting.
January 15	<i>Micah Kubic</i> , executive director of the ACLU
January 22	<i>Tom Witt</i> , director of Equality Kansas: LGBTQ challenges ahead
January 29	Our own <i>John Brewer</i> with "A Humanist Manifesto"
February 12	<i>Dr. Clarence Lang</i> , Chair of the KU Dept. of African and African American Studies on Open Housing in Lawrence (or the lack of it).



Soul Matters

THEME FOR JANUARY

"Prophecy" (Wake Up!)



What Does It Mean To Be A Community of Prophecy?

“Our times ask us to exercise our capacity for prophetic witness. By Prophetic witness I mean our capacity to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what we know.... Prophetic witness ...is the ability to name those t where we resist knowing what needs to be known.”

~Rebecca Parker, UU theologian and minister

“I am not crushed. I am awake.”

- A liberal activist interviewed about the presidential election

Prophets are known for their condemnation. Images of an angry bearded man shouting and predicting God’s judgment come to mind. But for Unitarian Universalists, the prophetic voice has always been less about shouting “You’re evil!” and more about pointing out “We’re all asleep!” The prophetic message, for us, is not so much “Repent!” but “Wake up!”

Recent political events are relevant here. On election day, many of us realized we had been living in a bubble. We existed in an echo chamber but told ourselves we had a clear picture of the world. Whether it was class, condescension or comfort, something distorted many people’s view.

And so if election day was about realizing we were asleep in a bubble, the question on Inauguration Day becomes, Are we ready to wake up? And let’s be clear: this is not a politically partisan thing; liberals and conservatives both have a ton of waking up to do. One unemployed Michigan factory worker was quoted after the election saying, “I vote Republican because I won’t vote for anyone who doesn’t see and respect me.” On the other side of the political fence, black, Latino, Muslim and LGBT families are struggling with real fear about what’s been unleashed and what may be unleashed against them. And they are wondering if this country will wake up to and take their fear seriously.

Bottom line: we need prophetic communities now more than ever. As Rebecca Parker says, we need circles of brave and bold people who are willing “to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what they know.” Which means that being a community of prophecy is not just about helping people wake up to each other’s realities and fears; there is also the matter of waking up to and being wide-eyed about the need for resistance. Most of the time, holy work is about finding common ground among differing world views. But sometimes, holy work is about prophetic judgment and knowing when some views need to be opposed. As that activist said, “I am not crushed. I am awake.”

So many ways to wake up. So many people who need us to do so. Sleep is no longer a luxury. In the end, maybe that is the most prophetic message of all.

MITTEN TREE AND GAYT BOX REPORT

We collected \$996. 29 from the guest-at-your-table boxes and envelopes. Of that, there were 4 donations of \$125 which will be matched by the Shelter Rock congregation on Long Island, New York. That gives us another \$500, for a total of \$1496.29. If anyone still has GAYT contributions to make, please return them in the next couple of weeks and we'll send in a supplemental donation.



We delivered two large bags of warm items from the mitten tree to the Lawrence Community Shelter, which will make a lot of folks warm and happy for the rest of the winter and beyond. A large and enthusiastic THANK YOU! to all who donated to the less fortunate in our community and to the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee world-wide.

Our fully-laden mitten tree
Sunday, December 18, 2016

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

!! KANSAS NEEDS YOU !!

Come take over the Kansas Capitol with 1,000+ Kansans including Unitarian Universalists from across the state!

Show Solidarity, Demand Change, and set the Legislative Agenda!

Wednesday, January 11, 10:15am #KSPeoplesAgenda Rally

The building opens at 8 a.m. Arrive around 9:30 because 1000+ people takes time to process and get situated!

Order the official t-shirt: www.loudlight.org/kpa/shirt

Please RSVP: goo.gl/forms/wXlwWs0FzKPELP862

After the Rally: Visit your legislator, sit in on a committee meeting, sightsee in our beautiful capitol, be a moral witness, and more.

This is an inclusive event and agenda planned by many Kansas organizations and hundreds of folks from every region and walk of life.

The Kansas People's Agenda:

Economic Justice

Racial & Indigenous Justice

Adequate & Equitable Public Education

Healthcare Access

Anti-Corruption Policy

Environmental Stewardship & Sustainable Agriculture

Criminal Justice Reform

Gender Equity

Responsible Gun Policy

LGBT Rights

Voting Rights

Immigrant Rights

Infrastructure Investment

Children Protection

Religious Freedom

Questions? Email us at: kspeoplesagenda@gmail.com

Rev. Jill Jarvis

BOARD MEETING DATES

The next Board meeting will be on January 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend.

Martha and Bob Burbank, Co-chairs

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS.

The Kansas Peoples Agenda 2017 will be in Topeka on January 11. See Minister's Musings article above.

Imagine 1,000+ people in our State Capitol on January 11, 2017 all together setting the agenda for the 2017 Legislative session! We need to raise the heat! This is an inclusive effort of Black, Brown, Muslim, Christian, LGBTQAI, Union, Democrat, Republican, Green, Teachers, Clergy, Students, and more...so much is at stake. It's time to rise! Over 100 people and many organizations from around the state began planning this fall to build a coalition of people to stand in the capital as a united front. WE NEED YOU TO JOIN US!

Here is for information, and to RSVP:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRPGiKHOYJKRSwjHvG7fW9qpWpwt0P1F03m9CD1BbHmT7sDw/viewform?c=0&w=1>

MONTHLY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Each week, our Sunday collection is given to a community organization that reflects our values and is chosen by our Social Action and Justice Team,

So far for FY 2017 we have contributed the following amounts:

July	Willow Domestic Violence Center	\$ 580.75
August	Kansas Equality Coalition	\$ 657.16
September	Parents as Teachers	\$ 676.35
October	UUSC, Syrian Refugees	\$ 791.84
November	Sexual Trauma and Abuse Center	\$1,110.31
December	Headquarters Counseling Center	TBA

COMMUNITY CONNECTION FOR JANUARY 2017

The Lawrence Community Shelter

LCS is the only emergency homeless shelter serving Lawrence and Douglas County in Kansas. The mission of the Lawrence Community Shelter is to provide a safe shelter, offer comprehensive services, and administer programs that together pave a path to a positive future for individuals and families currently experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The Lawrence Community Shelter was established in 2005 and was founded by two nonprofit entities, The Lawrence Open Shelter and the Community Drop-In Center. In August 2012, the Lawrence Community Shelter moved from downtown Lawrence to a much larger facility at 3655 East 25th Street. LCS is now a leading social service organization in Douglas County and remains focused on reducing homelessness in Lawrence and throughout Douglas County.

DONATIONS TO STANDING ROCK DELIVERED BY GRAHAM KREICKER

Our UUCL congregation donated an SUV full of needed items which were delivered to the Standing Rock Sioux and their allies on Christmas Eve by UUCL member Graham Kreicker. Below is a photo of Graham standing by the yurt that UUs donated to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) protest community.

Graham Kreicker at the Interfaith Yurt funded by donations to Bismarck-Mandan UU's Oceti Sakowin Camp Fund. Yurt sleeps 16 but currently is headquarters for the legal team.



Multigenerational program: A Multigenerational program to involve parents, grandparents, children and youth has been implemented: the program is about engaging kids in social justice activities, noting 3 ways of contributing— 1) Warm

bodies, meaning donating gently used coats and outerwear to Penn House and Willow Domestic Violence Center 2) Brainfood, donating used or new books to United Way, for distribution in backpacks to students in need 3) Lunch box, making lunch at UUCL for some hungry kids, a Harvester program Donation boxes for the Warm bodies and Brainfood will be in the hallway of the RE wing, and the Lunch box program will be organized.

December 19 at 6:30 pm was the last meeting of the **Citizens Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing**, at City Hall. As the meeting night was very cold, only about 5 members of the public showed up, and only 3 of the LPD and CAB were there for the meeting. Lacking a quorum, the meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be in February as the group meets only every 2 months. Barbara Johnston handed the copy of a prepared statement to a Board member, and a copy of a research paper on LPD done in 2008 was e-mailed to Captain Trent Mckinley of the police department.

Dakota Access Pipeline opposition (DAPL) in Cannonball, North Dakota: (see article and photo above about Graham Kreicker's delivery of our donated items. The website of the Unitarians in Bismarck, ND is <http://www.bismanuu.org/>

December 29 was the anniversary of the **Wounded Knee Massacre** which took place in 1890. Here is a website for information:
<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/knee.htm>

LIFELONG LEARNING

Adult Faith Formation at UUCL **Prophecy ~ Identity ~ Transformation**

Our times ask us to exercise our capacity for prophetic witness. By Prophetic witness I mean our capacity to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what we know.... Prophetic witness ...is the ability to name those places where we resist knowing what needs to be known.

-Rebecca Parker, UU theologian and minister

Faith Like a River

Faith Like a River is a dynamic course of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist (UU) history—the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our faith heritage. It invites participants to place themselves into our history and consider its legacies. What lessons do the stories of our history teach that can help us live more faithfully in the present? What lessons do they offer to be lived into the future?

This UUA Tapestry of Faith Adult comprehensive curriculum

- Introduces the rich history of Unitarian Universalism

- Explores our inheritance of theology, practice, and institutional organization
- Presents some of the events, historical settings, and people that influenced Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism
- Demonstrates connections between historical events, people, and stories and current Unitarian Universalist values, symbols, organizational structures, and traditions
- Offer participants a way to enter into the story of Unitarian Universalism so that it becomes personally relevant.

Focused sessions include:

- **Freedom of Belief** – Orthodoxy & Heresy, Reform(ation), Martyrs & Sacrifice
- **Prophets and Social Justice** – Freedom, Idealism & Utopianism, The Evangelists
- **Diverse Community** – Religious tolerance, globalization and multiculturalism
- **Institutionalism** – Unitarianism, Universalism and consolidation
- **Unitarian Universalist Identity** – Reason a religious source, covenant and polity

Email me at ufl.dll@gmail.com if you would like more information on participating or facilitating these workshops.

Soul Matters Sharing Circles with Elizabeth Ide – “Prophecy”

- January 25 - Wednesday evening 6:30 pm
- January 29th - Sunday morning 9:30 am.

Packets are now available at the Welcoming table in the lobby or through our website: <http://uufi.net/soul-matters/> UUFL. Net>Education>Adult Enrichment & Faith Formation>Soul Matters.

Each Packet includes additional readings, websites, books, video’s and movie suggestions on the monthly theme. Optional spiritual exercises and the opportunity to carry with you and explore a related question that speaks to you, provides you with active reflection throughout the month.

UU Parenting Circles

Join Amber Watts-Hall to seek guidance and support through the collective wisdom and compassion of our UUCL parents, grandparents and guardians who move forward (through love and exhaustion) raising the leaders and laborers of our future.

- January 8th 9:30 am - Teaching kids about money and its value
- January 15th 9:30 am - Practicing Gratitude with our family
- January 22nd 9:30 am - (How) should we teach our children about Prayer?

We are fully aware that there is no shortage of parenting topics that can be discussed and supported but please let Amber know if there is a topic you wish the group to explore.

As we launch 2017, and put away many of the tangible gifts we received this holiday season, I wish to thank all of you that were able to contribute tangible gifts to our greater community. Last week I delivered 6 large bags of clothing to Penn House and over 35 books to United

Way through our joint initiative with our Social Action and Justice Team! This January (date to be announced) we will gather at UUCL to make healthy lunches for children that Lawrence school nurses have identified as not receiving enough nutrition. This is a family friendly collaborative project that together with our Social Action and Justice Team and Harvesters is guaranteed to nourish us all cooks as well.

Blessings for this new year as we support, nourish and grow in faith and action.

~Bonnie Blosser, DLL

HOSPITALI-TEA JANUARY 8

Help us roll out the red carpet for our guests and visitors!

Please join us January 8 after worship for a “Hospitali-TEA” and learn about our new Hospitality Teams.

Ensuring that UUCL is a welcoming hospitable place is everyone’s responsibility. To make that happen, soon all members and friends will be on a Hospitality Team, participating at a level that is right for them. Each team will serve once every eight weeks. We invite you to come and find how you would like to serve. There are opportunities for each person, no matter your age, length of time at UUCL, or physical abilities, to use your expertise, learn new skills, and build relationships within and beyond our beloved community.

Together, we share in the work and the play that advance and deepen our community. We show up, take our turn, say “yes” when asked to help, and share our wisdom and our gifts.

On Sunday, January 8 after the Worship Service in Founders’ Hall, we will provide a light lunch, introduce the teams, and show you how it all will work.

So that we have enough food, please RSVP by signing the sheet in the entryway or by contacting Rebecca Gant at rkgant@hotmail.com or Shannon VanLandingham at shannyvan@gmail.com.

NEWS TEAM NEWS



A year and a half ago we decided to move from a weekly newsletter to a monthly newsletter. At the same time, the News Team took on



the task of coordinating the news items that go out from the office or the website, with the aim of reducing unnecessary duplication. Since then we have established a Weekly Update to disseminate the Sunday morning information every week, updated our mailing system by using the more efficient Mail Chimp, and streamlined our electronic communications by channeling most news items through one UFL communications mailbox.

I retired as news team leader at the end of the year
Now that the Program Council is reorganizing, things will change. Keep tuned!

Emily Russell

(Past News Team Leader)

With thanks to hard working News Team members Jennifer Donnelly, Barbara Schowen, Mary Beth Musick, Betty Baron, John Brewer and Michelle Compton

Note: I believe that all of us at UUCL owe Emily a huge debt of gratitude for her dedicated leadership and her tireless, thoughtful, and careful oversight of our various news outlets for more years than we can count. **Thank you, Emily!!!**

~Barbara Schowen, ed., Monthly Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP NEW INITIATIVES

We are preparing to roll out a few new initiatives in January. These will help us connect with each other and with newcomers, and meet our congregational goals for this year.

Coming in January are Soulful Suppers, Hospitality Teams, and the Connections Fair. You can read more about Soulful Suppers in a separate article and sign up online.

Since we are ALL responsible for making UUCL a welcoming place, each member, friend, and newcomer will be invited to serve on a Hospitality Team this year. The teams will work together to greet, usher, make coffee, and provide snacks on Sunday mornings. There will be 8 teams, so each will only be “on duty” once every two months. There are opportunities for all ages and abilities in this important work. Please join us for a “Hospitali-TEA” on Sunday, January 8 after the service for lunch and to find out how this exciting new program will transform how we practice radical hospitality in our congregation.

On January 29 we will have a “Connections Fair.” This idea came about through feedback from some recent newcomers who didn’t know where to start, whom to contact, or what opportunities for service or connection are available at UUCL. Some longtime members have wondered the same thing, since things change a little every year. So come one, come all to see how you can serve the congregation and the world, how you can get more connected with your spirituality and with other UUs, or feed your passion for justice. You just might meet someone new, learn something, or deepen your connections.

Shannon VanLandingham, Connections Coordinator uucconnections@gmail.com

SOULFUL SUPPERS COMING IN JANUARY!

Please join us for a new way to connect with others in our congregation. Soulful Suppers are potluck dinners held in people's homes or at UUCL. Some of the dinners will be adults-only and others will be kid-friendly (kid-friendly dinners may start earlier). On that evening, you will have an opportunity to discuss your response to the theme of the month (January's theme is Prophecy- Charting our Course), followed by free-flowing conversation, laughs, and getting to know one another better.

The first Soulful Supper will be on January 21st. Please sign up using the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeu7j468ZxMjpm1vDzNFAXbxEmxX8DX1qZ0g8d7MwKmiccdw/viewform>

Questions? Contact Shannon VanLandingham at shannyvan@gmail.com or Rebecca Gant at rkgant@hotmail.com.



MUSIC NOTES

Wasn't the seasonal music provided by our wonderful volunteer musicians just fabulous? We are so fortunate to have such talented musicians who are generous with their gifts as members and friends. A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone!

Remember last month I told you about the purchase of a djembe? Well, we now also have two beautiful conga drums that will compliment the djembe in our services. The **Drumming Workshop** has been scheduled for Saturday, February 18, from 3:30 to 5:30, possibly followed by a potluck. Dylan Bassett, African drumming instructor at KU and in private lessons, will lead the Workshop. He will teach healthy hand techniques as well as some traditional rhythms that will fit several of our favorite hymns. Dylan will also bring additional djembes and other hand drums so that all who attend will be able to play. **To that end, there will be an opportunity later in the month or in early February to sign up so that we will know how many drums will be needed.** If you have your own drum, you are welcome to bring it. Dylan will tell us if other drums will have tones compatible with the djembe and congas or if they should be used on separate occasions. All of these exciting developments are the result of the generous anonymous gifts of \$500 each to the Music Departments of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan, Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church and to UUCL to honor the joint concert held in April, 2016.

Music Want Ad! Do you play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass, guitar)? Please contact Susan Harper, UUCL Music Director, sbharper@sbcglobal.net, 785-830-8487.

~Susan Harper, Music Director, sbharper@sbcglobal.net 785-830-8487.

ART EXHIBITION IN FOUNDERS HALL, through February 26

Denise Stahl asks "Questions of a Curious Quilter." Meet Denise at a reception on Sunday, January 8, between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.

ECM FALL 2016 COMMUNITY FORUM SPEAKER SERIES

University Community Forum is sponsored by Ecumenical Campus Ministries. This program is held each Wednesday during the Spring and Fall semesters at the Ecumenical Campus Ministries (ECM). All presentations are free and open to the University and Lawrence communities.

Every presentation begins at 12:00 noon and usually includes a brief question and answer period before concluding at 1:00 p.m. We also serve an optional light lunch at 11:30 am for \$6.50 (\$3.50 for students). Free parking is available in the ECM parking lot for attendees.

2017 Schedule--TBA

UUCL MEN'S GROUP

The next Men's Group breakfast will be on January 7 at 9:00 a.m. AT UUCL. Please join us for coffee, pastries and conversation.

UUCL WOMEN'S GROUP

The women's group will again meet from 2-4 p.m. on the SECOND Saturday of January, (Jan. 14) with Janney Burgess at the Dogwood Unit of Brandon Woods, 4721 Bob Billings Parkway. All UCCL women are welcome, especially the newer and younger among us. Bring a snack to share if you wish, but mostly just bring yourselves ready for a casual, relaxed time of getting to know each other better. Contact Lynne Bodle, 843-8263 or mlbodle2@gmail.com, for more information or for a ride. See you then!

To contact the NewsTeam, please email uflcommunications@gmail.com

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation
1263 N. 1100 Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66047
785-842-3999**

Helping Hands Team

uflhelpinghands@gmail.com

or call UFL office, 842-3339

This team provides short-term practical assistance, e.g., meals, respite, rides.

Transportation Line

785-842-7529 (to UFL events or medical appointments)

Pastoral Care Associates: Rev. Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530 jjarvis1@kc.rr.com or Valerie Roper at 785-979-8339, or vgracev@sunflower.com

This team provides confidential listening for those experiencing bereavement, illness, unemployment, life transitions, aging, loneliness, etc.

Minister Office Hours

Rev. Jill Jarvis' hours tend to be variable. It is best to contact her for an appointment 816/853-6530 or <mailto:jjarvis1@kc.rr.com>

Director of Lifelong Learning

Bonnie Blosser works at her UFL office and from home

Sunday through Wednesday Contact her at ufl.dll@gmail.com or call 785-318-6030 for an appointment.

Administrative Office Hours:

Monday 12:30-5:00 pm Tuesday 8:00-12:00 noon Wednesday Closed Thursday 8:00-12:00 noon Friday 12:30-5:00 pm *Please be sure to call first, 785-842-3339, if coming out during the week as doors are often locked.*