



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Lawrence
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
April 2017

Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Events and Important Dates Ahead*

Saturday, April 1	Spring Work Day 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 9	Faith Like a River class begins 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 16	Easter Egg Hunt! for kids at 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 22	Auction! 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

*.See body of newsletter for more information

Spring Work Day, Saturday, April 1!

Spring Cleaning time is here and we need “all-hands” to turnout on Saturday, April 1st! Coffee will be ready at 8:30 and early birds will enjoy donuts and pastries.



Our youth group will provide the food for lunch with, two “elders” doing the grilling. We’ll enjoy, brats, burgers and veggie “Boca Burgers” with all the trimmings and drinks.

Please bring your work gloves, a spade and rake, or rags and newspapers for the windows. Plenty to do inside and out to keep our building and grounds looking beautiful. Come together with the UUCL community to do some spring cleaning.

UPCOMING 9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

April 2	Amanda Martin-Hamon: Transformation of the Spencer Museum of Art
April 9	Stuart Boley, Lawrence City Commissioner: Current Issues before the City Commission
April 16	Lynne Bodle: Easter - From Pagan to Christian with Stops in Between

LINK

Well over 100 people were served by many UUCL volunteers, adults and children, on Saturday March 11.

NOTE: Your pans and dishes used at LINK will be held in the downstairs kitchen where you can pick them up.



Theme for April

What Does It Mean To Be A Community of Transformation?



Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up your whole soil with the plowshare of self-examination, but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready for any seed the winds may bring, and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird; keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for an unknown God.

-Henri-Frederic Ariel

Make a bit of room. Leave a little space. That may not sound like anything radical or revolutionary. But it turns out that it is one of Life's favorite ways to make us into something new.

Be cautious with those cultural messages about aggressively tilling and turning up your whole soil. Watch out for all the heroic talk about striving and perfecting, struggle and control. Much of the time, transformation is a much subtler art. It's about stillness, listening and waiting to be led, not fighting with yourself and others to make sure you are in the lead.

In short, when it comes to transformation, the message of spirituality is "Be careful with what you've been taught and told because much of it takes us in exactly the wrong direction." Our challenge as a community of transformation is to remind each other to take a different tack. More often than not, it's about breathing rather than becoming better; patience not perfection; depth not dominance; attention not improvement.

That part about attention instead of improvement is especially important. It's so easy to get transformation mixed up with fixing. And fixing is transformation's biggest foe. Trying to

purify or prove ourselves is the surest way to stay stuck. The pursuit of purity focuses us on our inadequacy and inferiority, causing us to overlook those unexpected guests that Henri-Frederic speaks of.

And we don't want to miss those unexpected guests! Those seeds brought by the wind and those passing birds are the partners that make transformation possible. They help us notice new paths. They invite us to walk with a new step. They awaken in us new songs. They remind us that transformation is not something we do alone. They assure us that transformation doesn't have to be a long and lonely struggle, but instead can be more like learning a new dance with a new friend. All we have to do is trust, take the hand of that "unknown God" and follow its lead.

So this month, leave some room on that dance floor of yours. Keep your eyes peeled. And when that unexpected guest reaches out its hand, don't be afraid.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

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,

COMMUNITY CONNECTION FOR APRIL 2017

Our agency of the month for April will be **Ecumenical Campus Ministries**. UUCL is a sustaining sponsor of ECM and our donations this month will augment the basic funding from our annual budget.

Faith in Action: the Community Connection report

For the month of February, our congregation collected a **\$914.38** donation for the Social Service League and the check will be delivered by an SAJT member.

SAJT NEWS

Sunday, April 2, 3:30 pm will be a presentation "Climate Change and Environmental Security in a Trump White House" at the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. The speaker will be Brigadier General (ret.) Dr. Chris King. He is acknowledged as one well-versed in the security implications of climate change. He is chief academic officer for the United States Army's Command and General Staff College. Dr. King represents the U.S. on an international military advisory council dealing with security and climate change. He is an authority on the impact that climate change, water scarcity, and other environmental issues have on national security and international stability.

The film 1984 will be shown at Liberty Hall on April 4, and will be shown at theaters throughout the country.

April 8 is a National Day of Action, supporting Improved Medicare for All. April 8 is also the first day of a two-week "April recess" when members of Congress return to their

districts and will have to face constituents at town hall meetings.

April 10--the Citizens Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing will meet at City Hall at 6:30pm. Public attendance is encouraged, since this board meets only every other month, and recommendations for changes to the organization were given to the board members at the last meeting.

April 22: the March for Science.

- Show up! Visit the [March for Science](#) website and find satellite marches to attend locally.
- Advocate for continued, robust public funding of scientific research. Learn how by watching these [videos](#) at the Union of Concerned Scientists website, or attend the UCSUSA training on April 21st in Washington, D.C.

April 29--the Peoples Climate Mobilization will convene in Washington, D.C., "marching for jobs, justice and the climate." This date is also Day 100 of the Trump administration.

Sunday, April 30, 3:30 pm at the ECM Center, 1204 Oread, a presentation will be made on "**How Does Climate Change Effect People Outside of the U.S.?**" Dr. Richard Randolph will be the speaker. He is a family physician in Lenexa, Kansas, who serves as the Chief Medical Officer for Heart to Heart International.

SAJT Report for March

March 8 was International Women's Day and Lawrence women and allies participated at the "Train Park" across from the Library. Topics included the financial burdens and laborious paperwork requirements placed on immigrants to legally work in the country; the attack on women's reproductive rights; racial and income inequality; the importance of creating spaces where girls' creativity could be expressed in a non-competitive environment. The aim of the gathering was to allow the women/femmes in our community to get to know each other a little better, to recognize we have similarities and goals we're all striving towards.

March 10--WASHINGTON — Thousands of demonstrators, including members of dozens of indigenous tribes, marched through the streets of the nation's capital on Friday morning, capping a four-day protest against the [Dakota Access Pipeline](#) and President [Donald Trump](#).

[Stand with Muslim Neighbors Advocacy Day](#) - **Monday, March 13**, at the Capitol. At the Statehouse, about 200 people showed up to call for religious and ethnic tolerance. Moussa Elbayoumy, chairman of the Kansas chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, delivered the invocation in the House. "The message is a message of inclusion, solidarity and justice for all," Elbayoumy said.

Jennifer Ball, with the U.U. Congregation, quoted in the Topeka Capitol-Journal, said her objective was to urge lawmakers to embrace religious freedom. "I believe that today there's been vilification and discrimination against Muslims," she said.

WEALTH Day at the Capitol on March 16 was an opportunity for intersectionality among

organizations and individuals that represent five core areas: Water, Energy, Air, Land, Transportation, and Health in Kansas. Participants from UUCL heard legislative aides and staff talk about some of the bills that are currently in progress. The need to have dollars transferred to the Water fund was stressed; renewable energy sources were discussed; conservation easements and transportation were topics of discussion. Each attendee was given a handout to be delivered to the participant's legislators, listing issues that concern Kansans.

March 27--March to Restore the Revenue, meeting at the Supreme Court building at 10:30am, 301 West 10th Avenue in Topeka. Walkers from Manhattan, Emporia and Lawrence, are gathering to ask for comprehensive and fair revenue reform--a return to responsibility.

March 30 at the Lied Center--Justice Matters, a network of 20+ faith congregations in Lawrence and Douglas County is holding its annual Nehemiah Action Assembly at the Lied Center on Thursday, March 30th at 6:30PM. After conducting many house meetings and researching issues like the jail expansion and mental health crisis center, the assembly will be a call to action for our elected officials to work toward a more fair and equitable criminal justice system.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Adult Faith Development

Soul Matters

Every month a resource packet is available and available on our website at <http://uufl.net/soul-matters/> or in UUCL's lobby. This packet includes spiritual exercises and a large variety of resources for you to explore. I have chosen a few of the resources from the April 'Transformation' Packet to give you an idea what is available to you. Completing a spiritual exercise suggested in the packet is not required for attending a Soul Matters Sharing Circle. These resources are simply meant to accompany you on your journey, get your thinking started, and possibly open you to a new way of thinking about what it means to be *a community of transformation*.

April Soul Matters Sharing Circle date: Sunday April 9th at 9:30 am

Video Meditation

Video Meditation - Earth Song - Frank Ticheli

"Through darkness and pain and strife, I'll sing, I'll be, live, see."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aarowtnr-hs>

Inspiration

Shake My Future - Dorothea Smartt

A poem to shake our complacency and stir up our commitment to climate justice... Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st5clGxZ75A>

Podcast

The Body's Grace – On Being Podcast

A moving take on transformation through the mind-body connection with author, yoga teacher and paraplegic, Matthew Sanford.

Text :<http://www.necessaryshenanigans.com/matthew-sanford-the-bodys-grace/>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/330002>

Wise Words

For a New Beginning

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to
wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your
desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had
outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of
safety
And the gray promises that sameness
whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and
relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage
kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and
dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of
beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in
risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm.

John Donohue , *For your soul senses the
world that awaits you.*

Book

[*The Great Spiritual Migration*](#) by Brian McLaren

“When liberation spirituality frees the poor from the dehumanizing scripts of the oppressed, they can help the rich be liberated from their dehumanizing scripts of oppression.”

Movie

The Fisher King

The wise and humane real-world fantasy *The Fisher King* wants to heal and transform its audience. Anchoring itself in the Grail myth and illuminating the stages of a contemporary hero's journey, it is a beautiful and touching testimony to the power people have to heal and transform each other.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHaZuRo3DZ4>

Review: https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/fisher_king



New Adult Faith Development class coming April 9! *Faith Like a River*

In these times of political turmoil, Unitarian Universalism seems even more relevant. Your Adult Faith Development program here at UUCL hopes to give you more grounding in our faith to help you face our unfolding reality. Starting in April, we'll be offering the course *Faith Like a River*.

This course explores 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?

The series will begin with an introductory workshop, then, each month, we'll explore a different topic. Registration is required. You may register for only one topic, several topics or all of the topics. All of the sessions will be held at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

Here's the schedule:

- 4/9--Introductory workshop (all who register for any of the topics are invited to attend)
- 4/16, 4/23, 4/30-- Freedom of Belief
- 5/7, 5/14, 5/21-- Prophets and Social Justice
- 6/4, 6/11, 6/18-- Institutionalism (the U and the U and the UU)
- 7/2, 7/9, 7/16-- Diverse Community
- 8/6, 8/13, 8/20-- Unitarian Universalist Identity

You may register here: <http://uuf.net/faith-like-a-river/>
or on the clipboard in the lobby.

UU Parenting

Join Amber Watts-Hall and Christina Ihloff on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

April 2nd – The “X Factor” - Giving our teens a way to get out of dangerous situations without jeopardizing their autonomy, no questions asked. We will discuss ways to let our teens grow and experiment in a safe space.

April 23rd – Raising anti-racist white kids. Talking about racism is a heavy subject, but there are plenty of ways to make these conversations work for kids of most ages. Not everyone has the luxury of avoiding this awkward subject.

Children's Religious Exploration

Spirit Play

This month we link our April Soul Matters theme of identity to our Spirit Play curriculum map for 'UU Identity'. Ashley and Jennifer are our storytellers this month. Easter morning in Spirit Play we will have a special “Basket and ‘Feast’ Day”. Children will choose their favorite story baskets

to explore again followed by a simple healthy 'feast'. During our 10:30 UUCL social time, our Easter Egg Hunt will commence on our back lawn.

- 2 – *And Tango Makes Three* (Red Principle – **R**espect the importance and value of each person)
- 9 – *Stone Soup* (Indigo Principle **I**nsist on justice, freedom and peace for all)
- 16 – *Baskets and 'feast': children choose their favorite story baskets to explore again and a simple community 'feast'.*
- 23 *Painted Dreams* (Red Principle – **R**espect the importance and value of each person)
- 30 *Crow Birds* (Red Principle – **R**espect the importance and value of each person)

Easter Egg Hunt! Sunday April 16th at 10:30! (Bonnets optional). Assistance desired. Email ufl.dll@gmail.com if you can help Sunday morning.

AUCTION



“Hey, Hey, Baby,” hop into your “Little Deuce Coupe” and “Sail Away With Me” to our 2017 UUCL Auction. “Wouldn’t It Be Nice” to relax, slip on your sunglasses, flip-flops, and Hawaiian shirt, and have “Fun, Fun, Fun” as we raise a lot of clams? “Don’t Worry Baby,” we’ll have a swim up bar and some great food “Under The Boardwalk.” If you all don’t “Help Me Rhonda,” to fill up our treasure chests, “God Only Knows” how we will spread all the “Good Vibrations” to fulfill our mission.

Don’t “Wipe Out.”
Join us Saturday, April 22 from 5:00-9:00 pm.

There are three very important things you need to do: 1. Buy tickets. 2. Donate items for the live auction, silent auction, parties, or basket raffle. 3. Invite friends to come with you. Tickets are just \$10 until April 9, and will go on sale Sunday, March 5 in the lobby. You can buy them online here <http://ufl.net/auction-2017/>. Who will you bring to the party? Invite your friends! The more the merrier (and the more it enriches our treasure chest!) Each person who brings a guest will get a special gold doubloon, which can be redeemed at the bar for a drink or for extra basket raffle tickets.

When you decide what you want to donate, please go here <http://ufl.net/auction-2017/> to fill out the donation form so we know what to write in the catalog. We have noticed that handmade items, gift cards, baked goods, and services do the best in the Silent Auction. Please save your

garage sale items for the Youth, when they have their next fundraiser.

Hang loose, we'll see you on the beach!
Shannon VanLandingham, Auction Chair shannyvan@gmail.com



MUSIC NOTES

I hope you enjoyed the March music as much as I did! I want to thank all the wonderful and talented volunteers who make my job so much easier when they enthusiastically say “yes” to my requests. We want to grow our music program even more, so we appreciate the continued support of our beloved UUCL Community.

April brings diverse musical selections to UUCL and you might say, so what’s new about that? Really, not much! We try to have a variety of musical styles that can please a variety of musical tastes. As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, the April Soul Matters theme is “Transformation” and our services will focus on different forms of Transformation. I hope you will find the music selections support those messages well.

Our April Sundays start off really early in the month: **April 2nd**. That Sunday will feature a solo selection from a less than well-known Broadway musical from the 1960s. Its theme song, “On a Clear Day, You Can See Forever”, is a good compliment to Worship Associate Rebecca Gant’s message of personal transformation. **On April 9th**, ministerial intern Elizabeth Ide will be preaching about the transformational power of relationships and has requested “One Voice” (those of you who attended the service on March 26th will recognize this as the theme that accompanied the great slide show of UUCL members). A UUCL ensemble will be singing it this time and we’re sure you will enjoy it greatly!

April 16th is Easter Sunday. This celebration with roots in Pagan ritual that has been adapted by other religions has always been about powerful transformation and Reverend Jill will bring a moving and uplifting message. The UUCL Choir will present “Alleluia” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart for this celebratory Sunday. We hope you will plan to attend. Reverend Jill will help us consider how all we experience in life, both pleasurable and painful, has the power to transform us on **April 23rd**. The UUCL Choir will sing “Song of the River” which likens the flow our lives to the flow of a river and recognizes how rain (actual and metaphorical) can make both rivers and our lives lovelier and stronger. And, finally, April **30th** will be Joni Mitchell’s “Circle Game”, a song about the transformation of growing from childhood into adulthood and how “we can’t return, we can only look behind”.

Our UUCL Music Community welcomes all who would like to share their talents with the UUCL Greater Community. For information, please contact:

Susan Harper, UUCL Music Director, UUCLMusicDirector@gmail.com 785-830-8487.

MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP NEWS

UUCL T-shirt and Mug Sales

How cool are these?! Thanks to Michelle Compton, we have new designs and logos. These will help us move toward our goal of being more



visible in the community and letting people know what our mission is.

We have the shirts in kids and adult sizes. Kid's shirts come from XS-XL. Adult's come S-5XL. The shirts are \$10 for adults and \$6 for kids. The mugs are \$5 each or \$10 BOGO (Buy One Give One back to UUCL.) We need to have 100 of each to place our order, and we are about halfway there. Please place your order soon so we can get them ordered. You can pay by cash, check, or credit card on Sunday mornings or by contacting Shannon.

We want everyone to have a shirt who wants one, and we will order extras. So if your finances are tight, please email Shannon at uuconnections@gmail.com and let us know what size you will need.

Hospitality Teams--are on the Job!

April Hospitality Teams: April 2-Green, April 9- Blue, April 16-Indigo, April 23-Violet, April 30-Turquoise.

Ensuring that UUCL is a welcoming hospitable place is everyone's responsibility. Our newly organized hospitality teams have been working hard to create a warm environment for our members and guests alike. Each team serves once every eight weeks; 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. You may find more information on our website - there's a link on the Homepage. If you have not yet been assigned to a team and are ready to lend a hand, please contact Rebecca Gant at rkgant@hotmail.com.

Together we share in the work and the play that advance and deepen our community. *Thank you* to all who have shown up, taken their turn, said "yes" when asked to help, and shared their wisdom and our gifts.

ART EXHIBITION IN FOUNDERS HALL

On display through April 30, in Founders Hall, are photographs taken by UUCL member E. Jay Hilty. **Notice how vibrant the images are when no glass creates a glare or a fog. E. Jay sprays the photos with a special preservative.**

Price sheets are on top of the piano. It is also possible to purchase unframed photos. Contact E. Jay for information. <mailto:hiltyj@juno.com>

UUCL WOMEN'S GROUP

The UUCL women's group - **WITH A NEW TWIST!** - will meet at Mary Beth Musick's home, 3401 Tam O'Shanter Dr. on Saturday, April 8, from 2-4PM. We'll have a plant and/or seed exchange to liven up your spring garden. If you have plants and/or seeds and would like to share, bring them! If you'd like plants and/or seeds to plant in your garden, come with open hands. And if you'd just like to see what other folks are doing this spring, just come. Bring a snack to share, if you wish. Or not. Bring yourselves. And your friends. We're looking forward to seeing old friends, hoping to meet new ones, and learning what we're all about this Spring of 2017. Contact Lynne Bodle, 843-8263, or mlbodle2@gmail.com, with questions or requests for a ride. **SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

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.*