

UUCL WEEKLY UPDATE

November 1, 2016

This Coming Sunday
November 6

9:30 AM Traditional Program: “The 2016 Presidential Election: A Point of Crisis in American Democracy” – Robin Rowland of the KU Communications Studies Department



The 2016 presidential election provides strong evidence of a number of crises in our political system. Clearly, the success of Donald Trump indicates that millions of Republicans feel alienated from their party and long for a candidate who can produce fundamental change. The fact that Trump has not taken clear positions on many issues and has taken conflicting positions on other issues indicates that the desire for change is not primarily ideological, but for a busting up of the system. The support for him, despite his obvious lack of relevant experience and various temperament “issues,” suggests a rejection of the norms of political leadership. While Republicans continue to idolize Ronald Reagan, Donald Trump is no Reagan.

The success of Bernie Sanders in the primaries indicates that many Democrats also want fundamental change. But unlike Republicans for the Democrats the desire for change is largely ideological. This has made it easier for Democrats to unify behind Hillary Clinton than it has for Republicans to unify behind Trump.

The personal tone of the 2016 campaign and the failure of the debates to focus attention on key issues indicate that American politics is not functioning effectively as a battle of ideas. The tone of the campaign,

especially the anger often expressed at Trump rallies, again suggests that something is very wrong in our democracy. And yet there are other more positive signs as well. In the eighth year of his presidency, Barack Obama's approval rating has increased significantly. Among Democrats and Independents, he is extremely popular, demonstrating that for at least a majority of the nation a commitment to audacity in policy and rhetoric still produces a sense of hope.

10:30 a.m. Coffee and Art in Founders Hall

Work by photographer Tony Peterson will be up Nov. 6 through Dec. 25. Meet the artist on Sun., Nov. 13, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service “Please Don’t Tell Me How the Story Ends” – Rev. Jill Jarvis with Worship Associate Jonathan Andrews



We are all story-tellers, and we are the stories we tell – as individuals, as a community, as a nation. But our evolving stories are constructed of selectively recalled pasts and wishful anticipations of the future. On this Sunday before Election Day, we ask, who controls the narrative? We each have many stories – but which of them is the real one? All of them, or none?

Lifelong Learning

9:30 am UU Parenting Circle – Adults

Can stories about evil can be helpful for kids? Many Unitarian Universalist parents are concerned about the perceived scariness of stories as well as about the violence and suffering present in many TV or video games aimed for children. Our justice-seeking, peaceful living, compassionate, and Unitarian Universalist values are often in conflict with these popular options for children.

9:30 am Spirit Play – 4 yrs to 5th grade

This week, our story reminds us of our Green Promise: Every person should be free to search for what is right and true. For Heaven's Sake tells the story of a boy named Isaiah who is confused about heaven. He hears people talk about it but he isn't sure what it is, or where it is, so he sets out to discover heaven with his grandmother. Join Jennifer and Ann to find out what he learns!

Questions for parent and family reflection...

What is your own personal thought or belief of heaven?

Do you have a 'heaven on earth' place?

How might your answer be different if your child was 5, 9 or 16?

9:30 am Middle Youth – Grades 6 to 8

Middle Youth leaders Michelle Iwig-Harmon and Melissa Kelly will be giving our 6th-8th graders more choices in and control over what they do in their hour together on Sunday mornings. They are welcome to bring an electronic device if they have one or we will have several available. Most weeks they will be guided to explore topics of their choosing and consider how this and/or current world events might be viewed through a UU lens. In addition they will have unscheduled time to hang out with others their age, play board games or spend time outside.