



The Beacon MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery
2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

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JUNE 2015

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Sunday Services for June 2015

Our **theme for the month** of June is **PEACE**.

Service Topics:

June 7: Non-Violent Communication

One of my seminary professors had an expression: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can make wounds that can last a lifetime." Can we learn to speak healing into being?

June 14: Non-Violent Action

We can change the course of individual lives and communities by erecting barriers and raising weapons. Very different tactics are needed if we hope to make meaningful change that will sustain humanity, ecology, and life itself.

June 21: Juneteenth

On paper, under the Emancipation Proclamation, slavery was abolished in the Confederate States on January 1, 1863. In real life, though, slavery went on uninterrupted until Union forces landed in Galveston on June 19, 1865. This date holds countless lessons of victory and loss, suffering and healing, progress and regression.

June 28: TBA - Rev. Maureene Bass

Letter from Lynn

As we enter the heat of summer, new things are emerging all around us and among us.

The annual meeting will bring new leadership in virtually all areas of the Fellowship. The Board of Trustees will be a new body of members selected to guide and oversee both the internal activities and the visible signs of our life as a congregation. Only one member remains from this year's board. Seven volunteers are coming together to chart a path through conversation and cooperation, with shared principles and different perspectives, through common history and creative conflict, into a future of possibility and promise. It is an honor, a recognition of particular gifts and wisdom, for each board member. It is also a great responsibility, and too often a thankless task. Board members take heat when things get rough, but also deserve credit when things go smoothly. It has been my great privilege to work during my first year at UUFM with a board whose members take this responsibility seriously and carry it gracefully. They have been a great asset and a true blessing to the Fellowship.

Along with a new board, we will elect new chairs for many of the committees that are the moving parts of congregational life. In a few positions, the current committee chairs have expressed willingness to continue their service. These individuals are taking on the burden of service as the face of all the activities of our busy congregation, responsible for those things that make UUFM the welcoming and thriving home we so cherish.

As we select and ratify these leaders of the Fellowship, may we honor their dedication and commit ourselves to their success. Let us be mindful that criticism, in the absence of active support, is poison to the life of community. On the other hand, offering fresh ideas and giving aid in their execution is the way we bring forth new life and unlimited possibility.

The annual meeting will take place during the final day of the UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. The theme of GA is "Building a New Way." In our liberal religious movement, that is an ongoing endeavor, never finished but marked by milestones and occasions along the way. Annual Meeting is such a moment. It is my hope and my prayer that we notice and honor it as the religious occasion that it is.

Civil Rights Martyrs - June

June 2, 1965 • Bogalusa, Louisiana



Oneal Moore was one of two black deputies hired by white officials in an attempt to appease civil rights demands. Moore and his partner, Creed Rogers, were on patrol when they were blasted with gunfire from a passing car. Moore was killed and Rogers was wounded.

June 10, 1966 • Natchez, Mississippi



Ben Chester White, who had worked most of his life as a caretaker on a plantation, had no involvement in civil rights work. He was murdered by Klansmen who thought they could divert attention from a civil rights march by killing a black person.

June 12, 1963 • Jackson, Mississippi



Medgar Evers, who directed NAACP operations in Mississippi, was leading a campaign for integration in Jackson when he was shot and killed by a sniper at his home.

June 21, 1964 • Philadelphia, Mississippi

James Earl Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Henry Schwerner, young civil rights workers, were arrested by a deputy sheriff and then released into the hands of Klansmen who had plotted their murders. They were shot, and their bodies were buried in an earthen dam.



Column from Courtney

We have an amazing congregation of people. The very best part of our congregation is that we are all different! All sorts of people with all sorts of interests, coming from different backgrounds. We have an amazing opportunity to connect to people of all ages every Sunday. For many of us, this is the one place we see our church family, on Sunday mornings. We all have gifts to share with each other and engaging with the youngest members of our congregational family is wonderful way to share your gifts! Can you think of an adult from your youth that made a lasting impression on you? Someone that took time to share with you some of his or her wisdom? I still remember some of the adults from the UU congregation I grew up in who I got to know on Sunday mornings. I admired them then and still do today.

What do you have to offer the youngest of our UUFM family? Do you have a special skill? Do you like to craft? Do you like to play and be a little silly? Everyone has a gift to share! And with that, here are the top ten reasons to volunteer in Religious Education:

10. Kids say the darndest things! Sure, they will catch you off guard with how deep their comments and answers will be, but you never really know what to expect!
9. Grow in your own faith. Religious education is a place where everyone can deepen their sense of being at home with the universe; where they can think about their own experiences and explore what meaning other stories have for them; where they can express joy; and learn skills to carry their values to the wider world. The best way to learn something is to teach it.
8. Be part of the village. It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes our congregational village to raise the next generation of justice-seekers. Parents count on our religious community to help them to equip their children and youth with skills they need for a lifetime as religious people.

7. Have fun with children and youth. Some volunteers enjoy working with the youngest children; others enjoy hearing from and guiding older elementary children and youth.
6. You won't miss out on Adult 2nd Hour. Our schedule is such that you can volunteer as often as you like, that could be once a month or that could be every Sunday.
5. Make Multigenerational Connections! You will be absolutely blown away by your students, and throughout the years you will see them grow into incredible human beings. As a teacher, you will help that process, and you will get to know some of the future leaders of our Fellowship (and our faith!)
4. Have an opportunity to be creative, if that's your thing; or follow a plan, if it's not. If you are arts and crafty, you can bring those skills to the group. If not – no worries. The Tapestry of Faith program that we use for most of the groups has several activities and you will always have another adult in the classroom with you.
3. Create caring communities for children and youth that are unlike any other that are available to them. Sunday school can be a place for each person to bring their whole selves, and be invited into a group where compassion and equity is fostered by trusted adults
2. It's fun! The biggest reason I have the best job in the world is because I work with the most amazing children and youth in the world. Our children and youth are creative, kind and intelligent. Getting to know each of them is one of the best parts of my job! On top of that, we have fun crafts, deep discussions, time for silly, time for depth, and time for fun.
And the top reason to volunteer in RE is...
1. To change the world. You'll change lives; you'll save lives – yes, children and youth need our safe and sacred places to survive – and you'll plant seeds of compassion, wisdom and courage that will make the world a better place.

Dishwashers and Coffee/Snack Servers for June

| | Dishwasher(s) | Coffee/Snack Server(s) |
|------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 6/7 | Karen Ross | Joan Boltz |
| 6/14 | Roger Burdette | Mac Hollinger Joan Boltz |
| 6/21 | Joan Boltz | Uschi Kling Deborah Little |
| 6/28 | Paul Hayes | Lisa Murphy Joan Boltz |

Welcome to Katherine McKenny and Indee Goheen to the chalice café team of regular volunteers!

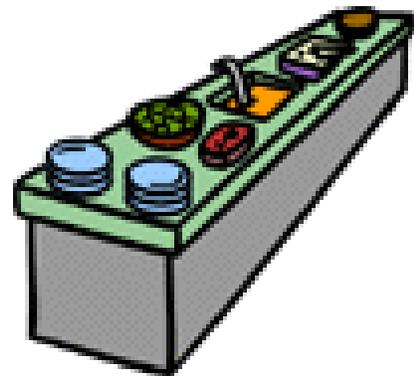


Lunch Bunch for June

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 6/7 | Panera Bread | 2829 Carter Hill Road |
| 6/14 | King Buffet | 2727 Bell Road |
| 6/21 | Asia Bistro & Seafood | 7839 Vaughn Road |
| 6/28 | Jason's Deli | 1520 Eastern Blvd. |

On most Sundays, several UUFM members and friends are in the habit of going to a local restaurant for lunch after 2nd hour (usually around 12:30). The group would like to grow. Please consider joining us! We especially welcome visitors.

The Peele's usually decide restaurant choices. Suggestions for new restaurants would be appreciated.



JUNE 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | Choir 6:45 pm | UUFM Community Worship & Supper 6:00 pm Meditation / Discussion Group 7:15 pm | | | wedding (rental) 2:00 pm |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Quaker Meeting 9:00 UU Worship 10:00 Second Hour – RE 11:15 am | Finance Committee 5:30 pm Choir 6:45 pm | UUFM Community Worship & Supper 6:00 pm Meditation / Discussion Group 7:15 pm | Sisterlight 6:00 pm | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Quaker Meeting 9:00 UU Worship 10:00 Second Hour – RE 11:15 am | | Social Action Committee 6:30 pm Choir 6:45 pm | UUFM Community Worship & Supper 6:00 pm Meditation / Discussion Group 7:15 pm | Board of Trustees 6:00 pm | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Quaker Meeting 9:00 UU Worship 10:00 Second Hour – RE 11:15 am | | Choir 6:45 pm | UUFM Community Worship & Supper 6:00 pm Meditation / Discussion Group 7:15 pm | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| Quaker Meeting 9:00 UU Worship 10:00 Congregational Meeting 11:30 am | | Choir 6:45 pm | | | | |