

The Beacon MONTHLY



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery Newsletter

2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

November 2015

Sunday Service

November 1: Day of Re-membering

Coinciding with the Day of the Dead, this is the annual service in which we acknowledge our grief and honor the lives of those dear to each of us who have died over the past year. We add their names to our wreath of remembrance that hangs in our sanctuary.

November 8: Making Room

Among UU congregations, UUFM stands out in the way that we welcome visitors and newcomers. That is certainly something in which we can take pride. Perhaps, though, radical hospitality means more than just a smile, hug and light conversation on Sunday morning. (This day marks that start of our trial week of hosting families through Family Promise.)

November 15: Since Injustice is Here –

presented by the UUA President's Council and Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

We are thrilled to host the worship service that will close out the meeting of UUA President Rev. Peter Morales' advisory council. They have invited a nationally renowned preacher, the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, who leads a large, diverse, progressive church in Manhattan. Read more about the preacher here:

<http://www.middlechurch.org/about/staff/ministers/jacquilewis>

November 22: Talk is Cheap; Free Speech Isn't

– presented by Janice Wood

November 29: Who's In Charge Here?

Congregational polity – what it looks like, where it comes from, why it matters. A little history, a little theology, a little organizational theory. Maybe something you always wanted to know but didn't know that you didn't know.

Wednesday Evening Programs

1st Wednesday

First Wednesday Forum: A local speaker makes a presentation on a topic of broad general interest, with opportunity for Q&A or discussion.

2nd Wednesday

Vespers Service: This is a brief service of quiet reflection, prayer and meditation. Afterwards, we join for an informal potluck style supper.

3rd Wednesday

Quaker Reflection and Sharing: A short reading will be used as the opening for those present to share reflections using the Quaker contemplative method.

4th Wednesday

Metaphysical Teachings: Rev. Maureene Bass shares from her studies in metaphysics.

Church Events

Every Monday:

7PM Course in Miracles

Every Tuesday:

6PM Choir

Every Wednesday:

9AM CFQ Class

7:15PM Meditation/Discussion group

Every Thursday:

5:30PM Taoist Tai Chi

Every Sunday:

9AM Quaker Meeting

10AM Worship

11:20AM Second Hour

8 – 14 Nov: Family Promise Hospitality

5 Nov: 7PM Committee on Shared Ministry

7 Nov: Pew cleaning

12 Nov: 1PM Social Action Committee

12 Nov: 6PM Sisterlight

15 Nov: UUA President's Council visit with special worship and special lunch

16 Nov: 6:30PM COCO Meeting

17 Nov: 6PM Finance Committee

18 Nov: 6:30PM Montgomery Pride United

19 Nov: 6PM Board of Trustees Meeting

20 Nov: 6PM Transgender Day of Remembrance Service and Recognition

21 Nov: 9AM RE Teacher Training

26 Nov: THANKSGIVING DAY –

NO Tai Chi

(Book Club and Publicity Committee are postponed until December 3)

Notable Announcements

Share the Plate for November

NAMI Veterans Outreach is the Share the Plate recipient for Nov.

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

The NAMI Veterans Outreach Program offers resources, support, and partnerships dedicated to mental health policy, education initiatives and advocacy priorities that impact active duty military personnel, veterans with mental illness and the family members of these individuals.

- More than 100,000 combat veterans sought help for mental illness since the start of the war in Afghanistan in 2001, and about one in seven of those have left active duty since then, [according to VA records collected through 2007](#). Almost one-half of those were PTSD cases.

Thanks,

Hiram "Hank" Moore

NPR & Dexter Ave Baptist Host Bus Boycott Anniversary Event on Dec 1

This year has been a painful reminder of many of the worst moments in America's racial history. Yet many activists see 2015 as a chance to reinvent the civil rights movement for a new century, and make real progress toward racial reconciliation. The 60th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott offers a rare opportunity to both look back and forward. Our event will feature a dialogue with elders who took part in the movement, as well as conversations with a diverse group of young people who will share their vision for the future. Musical guest Belle Monique will perform with Ron Handy. She will be joined by the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church Choir. A few UUFM'ers have already secured their allotment of 10 tickets. They will be printed and posted outside the office for anyone to help themselves. Tickets are free, but will go fast.

UUSC's GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

UUSC's GUEST AT YOUR TABLE will kick off on Sunday, November 22nd! This is the 41st year for the program and it is UUSC's (UU Service Committee's) 75th anniversary! More details coming soon.

Announcements Continued

Family Promise Hospitality Events Calendar

11 Nov: Family Game Night

This event will begin after the Vespers and dinner (approximately 7PM). Bring your favorite game to share and maybe try some new games.

13 Nov: Movie night

More information to come.

Poinsettia Sale

We have a tradition, here at UUFM, of decorating the sanctuary each December with poinsettias purchased by members in honor of special people in our lives or to decorate our homes. November 8th is the last Sunday to you purchase plants after the Sunday service in the Fellowship Hall. This year the plant prices are:

7 inch -- \$12.00

8 inch -- \$22.00

10 inch -- \$30.00

Please help make our sanctuary joyful and beautiful this December. Barbara Witt

UUA President's Council visit November 15

The President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Peter Morales, and his advisory council will hold their meeting in Montgomery November 13-15. They typically enlist a prominent, high-powered preacher for their closing worship, often held in a hotel ballroom; this year, they asked us if we would host them on Sunday morning. This is an exciting opportunity to connect with the larger UU community and with those who make and influence the big decisions in Boston that guide our global movement. Our preacher for that service, Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, is a leading voice in creating multi-cultural and multi-racial worship space. She serves Middle Collegiate Church, a large and diverse congregation in Manhattan. [More info on Dr. Lewis here.](#) It promises to be a dynamic and inspiring worship experience, as well as a time of fellowship and connection.

Newsletter submission

Submissions for the November newsletter must be submitted no later than 27 November. Submissions can be sent to Andre Goheen at goheen100@yahoo.com and Janice Wood at jrwood.montgomery@gmail.com

Ministerial Musings

By Lynn Hopkins

You may have seen a note from me recently saying that I posted my days off on the master calendar, at the request of the Board. Most ministers take Monday off, but I find that important things often happen on Monday. In contrast, almost nothing happens on Friday. In addition to it being the least likely day for congregational activity, Friday sabbath became part of my preparation for Sunday. After a week of immersing myself as fully as I can in a topic, I leave it for a full day. On Saturday, I take time in solitude to solidify ideas and settle on what I need to say in those few minutes on Sunday. I have heard that sermon prep takes an average of one hour for each minute of preaching; I think that is fairly accurate.

Here, I find that I cannot always take Fridays off and still engage in ministry most important to me. First, death row visitation days are set by the Department of Corrections and they alternate month-to-month between Monday and Friday. When I began those visits, I did not take another day when I made Friday visits. I quickly found that working three weeks straight without one day of sabbath took a toll on my well-being and my effectiveness. In addition to prison visits, I sometimes accept other opportunities on Friday, when I can find another day in the week for rest. This month, for example, the Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20) falls on a Friday. That is a holy day for me; the importance of holding a service on that day outweighs the inconvenience of shifting my day off for the week.

I realize that the irregularity of my schedule can be frustrating to people. One of the words that came up during the last board meeting, as we talked about this, was “transparency.” Ministers too often forget that most of what we do is completely invisible to the congregation. Do people have any idea how a minister spends a typical day or week? Before I started my internship, I had no clue. Therefore, in the interest of transparency, or just to satisfy curiosity, I decided to fill you in on my typical day:

8am	I'm up, but not much good to anyone until after coffee
9a – 11:30a	In my home office, reading and responding to emails and other correspondence Curious, I kept a tally for a week and found that my daily email is, on average: 335 pure spam; 15 legitimate but routine contacts (e.g., solicitation for money) requiring minimal attention; 5 updates or news from organizations; 2 purely personal; 3 courtesy copies; and 15 that actually require some attention, consideration and response.
11:30a– 1:00p	Most days, a noon meeting or business lunch
1:00 – 4:00	Office hours Although other commitments sometimes require me to be elsewhere, I am in the office and available for scheduled or unscheduled meetings. This time is used for reading mail, returning phone calls, and talking to people who call or drop by. I get about two visits from someone in the community each afternoon; some days none, but some days as many as eight have come by. Depending on the day and other demands, I may use this time to pick up and reset the sanctuary after Sunday service, to read ahead in the middle school RE curriculum, to sketch out upcoming services or themes for coming months, etc.

4 – 5pm	Finishing whatever I started during office hours I try to stop responding to new calls and emails at 4, but I almost never get out of the office by 4:30 and often not before 5
6:00 – 8:30	Usually some activity at or related to the Fellowship. e.g., meeting or worship; Moral Monday, Montgomery Pride United, Hate Crimes Vigil planning; meeting with couple preparing to marry or pastoral visit. When this time is uncommitted, it becomes prep time for Sunday service. Often, while wrestling with ideas, I get to do other things: walking, house cleaning, etc. Last night, I made pie.
11p – ... whenever I get done or can't do anymore	Wrapping up the day More emails, reading UU and other periodicals, scanning Facebook/ Twitter for items of religious interest and sharing as I find them, trying to catch a little daily news from local and national outlets, and trying to make meaningful progress on planning for the next service.

Of course, every day is little different from the one before. If you need anything, or just want to talk, I can make myself available at almost any time. I try to have meals at home with Carolyn whenever possible, and many of my external business meetings are scheduled around lunches, so noon is most challenging – but if you can be a little flexible on time, I can usually get together with you the same day.

My cell phone number is not on the web site, but it is in the footer of my email and it is my primary business phone. Feel free to use it: (404) 877-2354. I won't answer if it is my day off, but I will listen to my messages (It works for text messages, too – but remember to tell me who you are if you text).

Minister and Staff

Minister: Rev. Lynn Hopkins
 RE Director: Courtney McKenny
 Office & Bookkeeping assistant:
 Steve Pearson
 Music Director: Melissa Galanopoulos

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