

The Beacon MONTHLY



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery Newsletter

2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

December 2016

Sundays

December's Theme: 7th Principle of the Unitarian Universalist Association Covenant:
"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Dec. 11 – Interdependent

Second Hour:

- Harvest the Power: UU lay leadership program.
- Dealing with Casual Bigotry: with Mandy Goheen
- Jubilee Recorder Chorus rehearsal

Dec. 18 – We Are a Part

Second Hour:

- Poetry discussion: "The Benefit of Not Knowing Yourself" by Henry Shukman, with Charlie Suhor.
- Social Action Committee: with Beverly Shaffer.
- Friends and Family Chapel: with Courtney McKenny.

Dec. 25 – Darkness and Light

No Second Hour

Holiday Celebrations

- *Human Rights Day:* 4:30 p.m., Dec. 10
- *Christmas Eve Service with Carols and Candles:* 6 p.m., Dec. 24.
- *Christmas Dinner with the UUFM family:* 2:30 p.m., Dec. 25. Bring food to share and your own dishes. Be prepared to help with set-up and clean-up. All are welcome!

What's Happening Downstairs this Month?

	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25	
<i>Elementary 1</i> <i>PreK – 2nd</i>	Social	Forgiveness	Friends &	
<i>Elementary 2</i> <i>3rd – 5th</i>	Justice	Arithimancy	Family	
<i>Youth</i> <i>6th – 12th</i>	Sunday	Lisa the Skeptic	Chapel	

- *Elementary 1: "Moral Tales"* – Good stories enlarge our student's minds and hearts. Stories not only nourish the imagination. They nourish the soul.
- *Elementary 2: "Harry and UU"* – A social action curriculum for grades 3-5 based on J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books.
- *Youth:* A middle-school Unitarian Universalist curriculum based on the religious teachings of the animated television show, "The Simpsons."

Church Events

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Dec. 6: 7 p.m. Auction Planning Meeting | Dec. 13: 7 p.m. Social Action Committee |
| Dec. 7: 7 p.m. First Wednesday
Separation of Church & State | Dec. 14: 6 p.m. Harvest the Power |
| Dec. 10: 4:30 p.m. Human Rights Day | Dec. 15: 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees |
| Dec. 12: 6:30 p.m. Council of Committees | Dec. 24: 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service |
| | Dec. 25: 2:30 p.m. Christmas dinner |

Weekly Meetings

Every Sunday:

- 10 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:15 a.m. Second Hour/Lifespan
Religious Education
- 7 p.m. Real Connections

Every Tuesday:

- 6 p.m. Choir Practice
- 7 p.m. Refuge Recovery
- 8 p.m. Young People's AA

Every Wednesday:

- 5 p.m. Baha'i Junior Youth Class
- 7:15 p.m. Meditation/Discussion group

Every Thursday:

- 8 a.m. Building and Grounds
Committee meets

Every Saturday:

- 8 p.m. Young People's AA

First Wednesday Forum: Separation of Church and State

On Dec. 7, UUFM member Sharon Sexton will present and discuss many common myths about the separation of church and state not covered in her Sunday morning talk. The program will start at 6 p.m.

UUFM phone: 334-279-9517

Email: info@uumontgomery.org

Web: www.uumontgomery.org

Share the Plate: Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless

The Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless is UUFM's Share the Plate organization for December. The group serves as a vehicle to secure HUD funding and provides support to and resources for organizations that provide services for the homeless in the River Region.

The coalition works to lead the community's effort to plan, coordinate, and develop resources with the goal of ending homelessness. On any given night, 886 people are homeless in this area.

UUFM Income & Expenses for the Month of October 2016

Income		Expenses: Operations	
Pledges received	\$7,735*	Mortgage & Insurance	1,173
Regular donations not pledged	75	Utilities	1,067
Sunday collection	603	Building & Grounds	958
Fundraising (includes auction)	2,986	Kitchen & Office Expenses	851
Building rentals	845	Operations subtotal	<u>\$4,049</u>
Total income	<u>\$12,245</u>	Expenses: Mission	
Expenses: Staff		Religious Education	54
Wages	6,127	Committee Expenses	
Benefits	2,016	Share the Plate	
Taxes	106	Mission subtotal	<u>\$54</u>
Staff subtotal	<u>\$8,249</u>	Total expenses	\$12,352
		NET INCOME OR (LOSS)	<u>(\$107)</u>

* Some full pledges were paid in previous months. Current expenses were paid from those available funds.

Fundraising & Miscellaneous Donations, July - October 2016

Members have donated the following amounts in honor of the listed person who has provided a service or some other help to them for no fee.

Norm Wagner	\$240
Lynette Morse	240
Bill Weaver	100
Christine Freeman	50
Lynette Morse	30

Other donations:

Meditation group	\$240
Art show musicians	47
Fifth Sunday potluck	19
Mug fundraiser	308
Roof Principal	2,505
Miscellaneous donations	500
Total for donations	\$4,279

Newsletter submission

Submissions for the January newsletter should be submitted no later than Dec. 23. Submissions can be sent to Janice Wood at jrwood.montgomery@gmail.com

Living in Holidays / Holy Days

By the Rev. Lynn Hopkins

It is December again.

Some things are very different this year. Never in my lifetime have these words from Dr. King been more cogent: “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.” As we prepare for a presidential administration whose words and actions consistently contradict every one of our Seven Principles, we must find **ways of compassion and nonviolent communication**, of building bridges even in the midst of fierce and tireless resistance.

Some things are not different, and it is important to **maintain the traditions and practices that have enriched our lives and fed our spirits**. For some, that means the Advent season and Christmas. For others, this is a time of heightened stress or profound sadness. Some of us are going into a first holiday season without a beloved family member or a dear friend. Some are bombarded with advertising extolling the virtue of consumerism in times of family strain, financial hardship and economic insecurity.

I ask you to pursue those things that bring true joy. For me, that means taking a break at least once a day to sit and watch the frenetic dance of squirrels and mockingbirds on the lawn. Because the December prison visitation schedule falls on what would be my days off, I will be intentional about creating sabbath space on the calendar to ward off exhaustion. What will you do?

I encourage you to find **places of safe and supportive community**. For those of us who are addicts, it may mean getting to a few more meetings. The AA meetings held in our building are “open” meetings, meaning **all are invited** into a space of welcome and authenticity. If god-language is disturbing, Refuge Recovery welcomes those seeking a Buddhist-based approach to addiction. For those with fond memories of church at Christmas or who feel a deep connection to the ancient story, I would encourage to visit other houses of worship that may meet a yearning for some particular ritual.

Advent is a time of anticipation, both anxious and hopeful. In the religious tradition in which Jesus of Nazareth was regarded as a master teacher (“rabbi”), the christ figure represents a divinely appointed agent of liberation who would restore power to a people living under violent and oppressive occupation. The Gospel of Luke tells of Jesus’ return to his childhood house of worship. As an honored teacher, he is invited to read from scripture. The selection is a poetic oration from the prophet Isaiah:

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.*

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Whether or not you feel connected to the story of Jesus or the Hebrew prophets, I hope this word -- **a proclamation of justice, mercy, and restoration** -- may be a word for your holiday season.

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Poinsettia dedications

The fabulous array of holiday poinsettias in the sanctuary and elsewhere in the building was generously contributed by the following:

Donor

Deborah Little

Sharon Sexton

Ruby Gough

Tom Huber

Rhonda Thomason

Barbara Witt

Susan Enzweiler

Lynn Shaw

Lynette Morse

Barbara DeMichels

Christine Freeman

Jeanne Gregorowicz

My family

My grandmother, Mabel Daster

Francis

Mary Thomason & Tommice Coleman

Bea & Robert Shaw

The MacDonald aunts

Glenn & JoAnn Enzweiler

Forrest & Louise Lamb

Fred Shaw

Mal MacRobert

My mother, Diane Wittman

Richard Freeman

Susan Singleton & Palmer Singleton

Phil Gregorowicz

Fred Shaw

Bob Becker

John Leofsky

Helen Tavish

Doda Walker

Francis Gough

In honor of

Carol Honaker

Lynn Shaw

Sandy Loveday

All UUFM volunteers

UUFM staff

Tis the season of Chalica!

By Courtney McKenny, Director of Religious Education

What is Chalica?

It's a weeklong celebration of our UU principles. It begins on the first Monday of December, and each day is focused on one of the UU principles.

This year, Chalica began on Dec. 5.

People are encouraged to think about how the day's principle has meaning in their lives and celebrate it by doing a good deed that honors the principle.

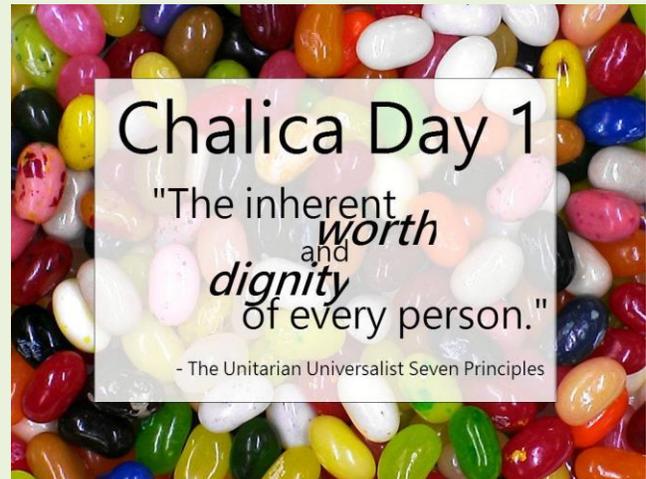
Chalica emerged in 2005 out of a desire for a holiday organized around UU values and principles. It's not celebrated by all UUs, but more and more folks are choosing to

celebrate this holiday. Chalica is a great way for families of all types to talk about how to live our UU principles every day.

For more information, check out the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/UU.Chalica/>

<http://chalica.blogspot.com>



Minister and Staff

Minister: Rev. Lynn Hopkins
Director of Religious Education: Courtney McKenny
Office & Bookkeeping Assistant: Steve Pearson
Music Director: Lynette Morse

Committee Chairs

Building & Grounds: Bill Weaver
Finance: Rhonda Thomason
Membership: Liz Campbell
Public Relations: Nick Morgan-Moore
Religious Education: Christine Freeman
Social Action: Beverly Shaffer

Board of Trustees

President: Barbara Witt
Vice President: Sandy Loveday
Secretary: Janice Wood
Treasurer: Felicia Wilburn
Members at Large: Susan Enzweiler, Jimmie Ilachild, Pat Thomason