

The

Smithton Connection

April 2008

A Publication of the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Smithton

Member, Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Member, Pennsylvania Universalist Convention

Notes of Gratitude

Involvement, sharing, and giving enhance our congregational life. Over the past few months, the following individuals have stepped in to provide service to our congregation. We appreciate all that you do. This month, we want to take a moment to thank you for your contributions to congregational life at UUCS.

Sylvia Sholar has agreed to serve as one of our Sunday coffee hosts.

Mark Cunningham accepted our invitation to be our Sunday greeter.

Mary Lou Wade and Liz Anderson provided us with a wonderful Sunday brunch for our Easter Service.

Fred Lau kindly volunteered to cover our Sunday Easter service on behalf of his wife, Sue Lau, who was unable to attend.

Please thank these individuals for their efforts. And thank you to all of you who continue to be a vital part of our congregational life.

Ministerial Search Update

During March, we officially launched our ministerial search with the publication of our congregational record on the UUA's Transition website. To date, we have received a number of applications from interested candidates.

In the coming months, the UUCS Board will be reviewing these applications in an effort to select a candidate to be recommended to the congregation for consideration.

More details will follow in the coming months, and your input and feedback will be essential in reaching a successful conclusion to the search. Our goal is to have the successful candidate in place effective July 1.

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

~Ecclesiastes 8:4

Upcoming Worship Services

Services begin at 11:00 a.m. and are followed by coffee and social time.

April 6-Leo Nagorski "Our Skeptical Heritage"

With all the talk these days about religion and spirituality, especially in political campaigns, it might be nice to take a look at humanity's long history of skepticism.

April 13-Ken Wagner "The Responsibility of the Self"

What does the individual owe to his/her self? What does the individual owe to the community? We'll examine some insights into the tension generated by our consumer society expectations.

April 20-Sue Lau "Good or Bad"

Where do we get our sense of right and wrong, of good and bad? Are such notions a religious "given" or can they be found in the roots of our evolutionary origins? Come and consider the possible sources of our morality.

April 27-Susan Richmond "Expectations"

Newsletter deadlines, fundraising goals, Board meetings, physical plant problems, on and on. Indeed, we often are so overwhelmed by the daily needs of running our congregations that we neglect taking the time to focus on why we feel the need to be a part of the congregation in the first place. To be a member of a liberal religious faith - just what does that mean? What are the expectations we have of our faith for us? What expectations do we have of ourselves as members of a liberal religious faith? This exploration will be enlivened with excerpts from Jack Mendelssohn's *Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age*.

May 4-Leo Nagorski "Changing the World"

In their own ways, both Liberals and Conservatives are trying to change the world. How are each of them doing?

OMD District Exec on the Move
The Ohio-Meadville District Executive, Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, moved March 8 to a new office located in Lewis Center, OH, across the street from the North UU Congregation.

Her new contact information is:

Rev. Joan Van Becelaere
1539 Franklin Street
Lewis Center, OH 43035
740-657-1240
cell: 303-641-5896
jvanbecelaere@ohiomeadville.org

The earth laughs in flowers.

~e.e. cummings



OMD Summer Institute

Planning for Ohio-Meadville (OMD) Summer Institute 2008 at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, is in full swing. Theme speaker Meg Barnhouse is set to wow the Unitarian Universalist crowds that are expected to converge on tiny Gambier, Ohio, from July 13-19.

This year, in a push to make SI a "greener" event and to help our budget, we will be posting the Summer Institute brochure on www.OMDSI.org and on www.ohiomeadville.org. If you are willing to read the brochure online and not get the expensive paper copy via snail mail this year please e-mail us at omdsi2008@gmail.com

Experience Niagara

The UU Church of Niagara Falls is sponsoring a four-day Niagara Experience. The event takes place July 20-23.

Included in the experience is guidance from local hosts and tours at Niagara Falls, the Erie Canal, Fort Niagara, and an Underground Railroad experience.

The cost is \$500 per person and includes housing at a high-quality hotel. All funds raised as part of the Experience benefit the UU Church of Niagara Falls.

For more information, visit <http://www.uunex.net> or call 716-745-7149 or 716-791-4453. You can also e-mail uunex@yahoo.com.



Rainbow Rising

Spring is finally here. Welcome in the warmer weather with your friends at Rainbow Rising.

April 4-Bowling Night

We will be meeting at Charleroi Lanes at 1301 Prospect Avenue in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. Please let us know if you plan on attending so that we can reserve enough lanes.

April 18-Movie Night

We're looking for suggestions for a lesbian-themed movie to watch for this movie night. If you have a suggestions, please e-mail us at uucfsmithton@hotmail.com. A movie will be announced closer to that date of the event.

For more information on Rainbow Rising events, contact David Porter at 724-518-0431.

Where fall the tears of love the rose
appears, And where the ground is
bright with friendship's tears, Forget
-me-not, and violets, heavenly blue,
Spring glittering with the cheerful
drops like dew.

~William Cullen Bryant

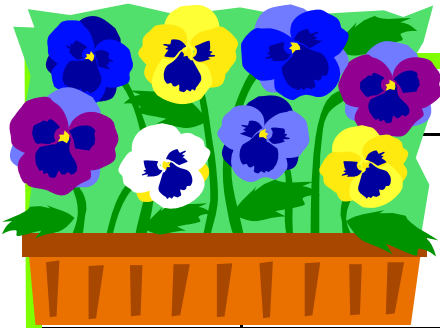
Light the Chalice for the OMD

The OMD Chalice Lighters Program provides you the opportunity assist UU programs and congregations throughout the Ohio-Meadville District and right here at home.

Joining the Chalice Lighters Program is simple: You sign a pledge to agree that if a call goes out from the district, you will contribute \$10 in support of the call. Calls may come in the form of support for a congregation that has experienced a natural disaster, such as flood or fire, or in support of a congregation seeking a new minister.

If you are interested in joining the Chalice Lighters Program or would like more information, brochures are available on the UUCS welcome table.

April 2008



Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1 All Fools Day		2		3		4 Rainbow Rising 7 p.m.		5	
6		7		8		9		10	
11		12		13		14		15	
16 May Connection Deadline		17		18 Rainbow Rising 7 p.m.		19		20	
21 Passover April Board Meeting		22 Neil Milechman Birthday		23 Administrative Professionals Day		24		25	
26		27		28		29		30	

April Coffee Hosts/Cleaners

Date	Coffee Host	Cleaner
April 6	Nancy Cohen	Anderson (List 4)
April 13	Sylvia Sholar	Dunlap (List 1)
April 20	BJ Searcy	Zimmerman (List 2)
April 27	Mary Lou Wade	Lesnick (List 3)
May 4	Liz Anderson	Anderson (List 4)

Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.

~Charles H. Spurgeon

If you cannot serve when it is your turn, please arrange to switch with someone.



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Smithton

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