

CUC VOICE

August 7, 2009

A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock

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SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 10:45 A.M.

We continue our summer worship schedule, at our regular time of 10:45 a.m., up through Labor Day Sunday September 6th, either upstairs or downstairs, depending on the service. Nursery care is available. Coffee and treats are usually not arranged for.

August 9th – “Journey to Israel & Palestine”

Marcia Johnson will be talking about a trip she participated in to the Holy Land with 45 Lutheran Bishops in January of 2009. The group was invited by Bishop Munib Younan to come and visit the 5 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). This is a Palestinian Lutheran Church with congregations and schools in the West Bank (Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Ramallah and Amman, Jordan. Marcia’s hope is that people who come to this service will go away with a deeper awareness and understanding of the long standing conflict in this land, the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, and now the impact of the "wall" on daily life. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians have a powerful narrative. She will have slides, maps and stories to share. Carol Alfus will host the service.

August 16th – “Sharing”

Reverend Sandra Lott will lead a service on sharing. Dan will host the service. We will discuss how, in spite of the state of the Universe, (with more and more homes being forced into foreclosure, jobs being eliminated, hours and pay being cut, prices rising and businesses closing) we can still reach out to our neighbors and have a more communal approach.

August 23rd – “Annual Animal Blessing”

Join Reverend Dan Larsen in this annual event. Bring any and all animals (no snakes please – Dan is afraid of them) to be blessed. Animals are welcome “downstairs” for obvious reasons. Animal treats available.

August 30th (We are going to switch this service)

Dan & Pat have accepted an offer on their house and will be moving into Woodstock after the first of the year. In beginning to make preparation for that move we would like to move this service to the church.

Our topic will be “The UU Message” – together we will attempt to put together a “UU Message” at least for those people who attend. Please come prepared to do some work on your own “UU Message”.

“A BAT IN OUR BELFREY”

As you know our church has a belfry, which houses our wonderful church bell. We also now have a bat which has escaped from the belfry and is roaming throughout the church. His name is “Emerson” (for Ralph Waldo, one of our UU heroes). He introduced himself the other day and said that he had been looking all over McHenry County for a Unitarian church where he could feel at home. (He is originally from Marengo).

Anyway, we have turned the matter of “Emerson” over to our Building Czar, Dave Dreyer (a.k.a. Batman Dave). In the meantime, don’t panic and just say “hi” to Emerson if you see him at church. He is most active after 9PM.

Dan

P.S. “Emerson” is just a little different, just like most UU’s!

SAVE YOUR WATER FOR WATER COMMUNION

On Sunday September 13th, the first Sunday of our Fall Worship Schedule, we will again celebrate "Water Communion" and the summer experiences we bring to church. Please save a container of water from some place special this summer, a vacation or visit, or just from home. We will pour the water together into one bowl and share our summer stories.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Lora Cantele, Karen Stowe, and Gail Wells share in the secretarial duties at the church office. You will find the office schedule below.

Sunday, August 9: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Lora Cantele

Wednesday, August 12: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Thursday, August 13th: all day– Janet Burns

Monday August 17th: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Lora Cantele

Tuesday, August 18th: all day – Janet Burns

Wednesday, August 19: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Gail Wells

Thursday, August 20: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Lora Cantele

SECOND CHANCE BOOK, MUSIC & MOVIE SALE RAISES \$700

A special thanks to Carol Alfus who organized and managed our Book Sale, and all of our other members who helped. We raised \$700 for the Church. Every bit helps!

DONATIONS

We now have a "Donate" button on our website. This is for one time donations and NOT to be used for pledges. The transactions go through PayPal and you may use a credit card.

WIRELESS

The church is now set up for wireless service! If you are someone who requires wireless service while working in the church, please stop in the church office and pick up a copy of the "User Agreement". After signing the "User Agreement" you will be provided with the User ID and Password for connecting to the wireless service.

EBAY SALES

The church now has an eBay account and will soon begin selling items on eBay to raise funds. We need items to sell from you (or your neighbors') attics, basements, garages, junk drawers, etc. that you will donate to the church, or that you will let the church sell for you for a portion of the profit.

Since not everything readily sells on eBay, we also need people who have a knowledge of particular classes of items (collectibles of any kind, video/electronic games, musical instruments, old comic books, depression glass, cut glass, antiques, sporting goods, Hummel figurines, automobiles, tools, etc.) to help us evaluate the items donated and best list them for sale.

If you would like to volunteer your expertise and/or donate an item for sale, call the church office (815-338-0731) or Don Metivier (815-334-0015).

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Last Sunday, Peter Lopatin gave a very thoughtful talk about Health Care Reform in our country. Some of us want to get involved. If you do, please leave a message in the Church Office for Dan.

HELP WITH DIVERSITY DAY

Diversity Day on the Square is coming up Sunday, September 27th after church. We are looking for volunteers to set up, clean up and promote the event now. If you can help, please contact Patrick Murfin at: pmurfin@sbcglobal.net

ZEN MEDITATION WITH HAROLD RAIL

This meditation group is less formal than the Ten Directions Zen Meditation, e.g. no robes and takes place at 861 Clay Street, Woodstock on Sundays 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursdays 6:00 a.m. – 7:00a.m., and Saturdays 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. All donations go to the church!

THE “2030 PLAN”

The “2030 Plan” is a proposal for how the future of McHenry County will be carved up in terms of Land Use.

On Monday August 24th at 7:00 p.m., the Green Sanctuary Committee will sponsor a discussion of the plan and how the church can be involved. Dennis Dreher, Chair of the County’s Regional Planning Commission will help us with the discussion.

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

We have several small groups that are open to new members. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Spiritual Practices - we share our spiritual experiences. This Monday, August 10th, 7:00 p.m. in the Parsonage.

Spiritual Reading – we read and discuss book on the topic of Spirituality. We will meet again in September.

Small Group #2 – we are recruiting now to form a new group, to meet monthly in the homes of its member for fellowship and discussion (and maybe food!).

Sun City – meets monthly in Sun City in the homes of its members for discussion, fellowship and dessert!

A Course in Miracles - group meets Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the parsonage. The curriculum is handed out before each session, so there’s no text book to buy. All are welcome!

Adult Discussion Group – will begin meeting in September, Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Parsonage for discussion and fellowship.

CUUPS (Pagan) - group will be meeting in the Social Room Friday August 14th at 7:00 p.m.

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP TO START IN FALL

We are going to begin a new group for families with younger children in the fall. Carlos Valdes and Shelly Nicholson who are new to the church this spring, have offered to organize this group to provide fellowship and community to our families with younger children. If you have some interest, please contact the church office or e-mail Shelly at: snichol33@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEER TEACHERS NEEDED FOR 2009/2010 CHURCH SCHOOL

Would you like to share your time and talents with the younger members of our church? Consider volunteer teaching. No experience needed. All that is needed is a willingness. Sam Jones, our Religious Education Director will lead you every step of the way. If interested please e-mail Sam at: samjones@ameritech.net .

MIND OVER MOOD

This is an 8 week group to address depression/anxiety through cognitive restructuring. In this group, you will learn to identify negative thoughts and beliefs that lead to emotional problems and, eventually, to problem behaviors. We will have two groups. One group will meet from 7 to 9 pm on Wednesday s and the other on Thursdays starting Wednesday & Thursday August 5th & 6th. Cost is \$10 per person per week, and is limited to 8-12 participants per group. The group will be led by Gale Harris, a licensed clinical social worker with 25 years of experience. The group builds on skills learned each week, so it is important to attend all sessions. There will be make up options, as needed.....and there WILL be homework!

“MAY YOU BE WELL, HAPPY AND PEACEFUL”