



InSpirit

Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs

Located at the corner of Norwalk and Spring St Hot Springs, AR 71914-3095
501-625-3095 WWW.uuchurchhotsprings.org

The UU church of Hot Springs is a certified *Welcoming Congregation*. We welcome you, whoever you are, or whatever the birthplace of your ancestors. We welcome you whether you are young or old, man or woman. We welcome you no matter what your spiritual beliefs or physical needs. We welcome you, whomever you love. May you find the warmth and connection you seek here.

THEME FOR AUGUST IS HARMONY

4th- Carol Stanfill, will present "The Big Picture", an overview of the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly of Congregations in June 2013.

With Rebecca Ricks.

11th- Sharmel Rousseau, will tell the story of the interfaith environmental organization, Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light.

18th- Dane Thomas will play D.J and discuss a selection of songs that teach through music.

25th- Will feature "Harmony of Beliefs," Jane Hufstedler leads us in a discussion of what UU's believe.

Carol Stanfill	President
Alan Clark	Treasurer
Dorothy Clark	Secretary
Pat Jobin	Membership
Jane Hufstedler	Values in Action



PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

This month I am thinking about learning. It must be the student/teacher in me, as I have thought about going back to school this time of the year for about 60 years now! Attending General Assembly in June made me aware of how much I do NOT know about Unitarian Universalism. As Socrates said, "The more I learn, the more I learn how little I know."

I started with the website uua.org. From there I was led to tons of articles and information online. The resources are numerous. If you have ever thought about doing a Sunday service for our congregation, please try it. You can find information on any sermon subject online. Jane and others are always willing to help you become a lay leader. Or, if you just want to learn more, we have a terrific library at church, too.

We will have our annual "Water Communion" on September 8. Traditionally, this is a time for UUs come back together after summer travels and commit to our covenant again. Folks bring water from various locations around the world. Of course, since you often can't bring water conveniently from far away, you can just bring water that represents a distant place or local place. Each person will say a few words as he or she adds the water to our common vessel, representing our world community. A small amount of water is saved from our communion each year to carry the essence of this life force from year to year.

The board and an ad hoc committee are beginning a conversation about relocating to a new place in Hot Springs where we can grow our church. Many have expressed an interest in finding a place we could share with another group or two, where we would be more visible, and where parking and accessibility would be more convenient. Or we may decide to make some physical changes to our present location. Your input is welcome. You can always contact me at [501-538-5816](tel:501-538-5816) or carolstanfill@yahoo.com.

Namaste,
Carol Stanfill, Congregation President

PROGRAMS

August is "Harmony"

We are excited to offer a month of diverse and educational services in August.

August 4, Carol Stanfill, will present, "The Big Picture." Carol, congregational president, represented our church at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly of Congregations in June 2013. At the Louisville, Kentucky Convention Center, over 3000 participants gathered to educate, inspire, and covenant with one another. The realization that a small (but growing!) church in Hot Springs, AR is an integral part of the "big picture" was exciting. UUs around the world continue to work for justice, morality, ecological responsibility, and acceptance of all people. This has always been our tradition.

August 11, guest speaker Sharmel Rousseau will tell the story of the interfaith environmental organization, Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light, and illustrate how, as the Good Samaritan story illustrates, sometimes it takes a "nobody" like you and me to take action to correct a problem.

Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) is composed of individuals, congregations and groups who believe the sacred writings of all faith traditions ask us to care for creation, protect the planet and preserve fragile ecosystems that sustain life.

Ark. IPL views environmental issues from a non-partisan, theological perspective and is open to people of all faith traditions. Members make presentations to increase awareness levels of environmental issues, work on energy efficiency improvement projects at houses of worship and community buildings in low-income areas, and sign letters and call our representatives in Washington, D.C. regarding environmental legislation and ask others to do the same.

Scharmel Roussel was a founding member of Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light in 2009, and in 2013, she was named Executive Director. Since 2012, she has served as the organization's Arkansas Energy Corps Outreach Coordinator. Scharmel also served on the Steering Committee for the "Ground for Hope" Conference in April, 2013 at St. Margaret Episcopal Church in Little Rock, with attendees from a variety of faith traditions, including Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu.

Scharmel earned a BA in English at Hendrix College, an MA in Communication at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and certification in Information Technology also at UALR. She worked for Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church as Communications Director for 17 years before joining Arkansas Energy Corps. During her service years for Arkansas Energy Corps, she has also provided part-time freelance work for Ferncliff Camp, a Presbyterian facility; Arkansas Natural Awakenings Magazine, a monthly publication; Arkansas Renewable Energy Association's online newsletter; St. Paul United Methodist Church in Maumelle; and Eco Social Events, offering earth-friendly planning for social



Church in Maumelle; and Eco Social Events, offering earth-friendly planning for social occasions.

August 18, There are some singer/songwriters who obviously have a mission to teach through their music. From the hippie-eastern wisdom of Donovan, to the hard-won lyrics of the contemporary rock band Cloud Cult these songs can inspire and literally help us through hard times. Dane Thomas will play D.J. with a selection of such songs. He gleans his insights from a checkered past which includes evangelical Christian roots, a pagan ritual group in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Zazin sitting practice and participation in the radical faerie community.

August 25, "Harmony of Beliefs," Jane Hufstedler leads us in a discussion of what UU's believe. We find ourselves focused on attracting and retaining new members and it seems worthwhile to check in with each other to ensure that we are speaking to the public in a fairly consistent manner. It is easy to describe the UU religion based on one's individual beliefs, and it is important that we find a harmonious explanation of UUism without only speaking from personal bias. The service will include a short talk followed by a Q and A session.

September is "Homecoming"

Looking ahead to September, we will welcome back members and friends who have traveled the summer.

September 1- Allan Ward, one of our favorite speakers, will bring us stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. We find ourselves so inundated with disturbing news; it is uplifting and comforting to hear stories that inspire us.

September 8, Carol Stanfill, will lead us in our traditional Ingathering Water Ceremony. Members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a single container. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. It is often then blessed by the congregation, and sometimes is later boiled and used as the congregation's "holy water" in child dedication ceremonies and similar events.

September 15- Denise Henderson will be our speaker, and having just returned from a huge family reunion will surely have some great stories to share.

September 22- Bud Hearn will be back with us after he and Pat took the summer off. We always look forward to the message that Bud has to share.

September 29- Sunnye Davis will round out the month of five Sundays and we can be assured of a well planned and executed service.

Thanks to you, members and friends, who are willing to share your talents and thoughts with us.

Without your wonderful support and cooperation, this task would be too formidable for me! October will be here before we know it with a theme of "Forgiveness", please share your ideas for services with us.

Jane

Annual Blueberry Breakfast/Outing

We had our Annual Blueberry Breakfast and Lake Hamilton Outing hosted by Scott and Linell Lasiter. Scott took an early group out on his boat to see the wild life. Then setup the neighborhood clubhouse, and coordinated the breakfast. After breakfast he took a second group out for a quick trip down to the dam and back.

This is where we have to say it – Wait for it, Wait for it....

A Great Time Was Had By All. Thanks Scott and Linell.



Annual Bird Watching Tour

Well it may not be the Swallows Returning to Capistrano, but the annual Return of the Purple Martins to Lake Hamilton is a pretty big deal to us Hot



Springers (or is it, Springites, or maybe Springarruniuns; sorry I digress). Anyway a bunch of our UU'ers went out and had a great time.

**Habitat for Humanity Lunch
Provided for Volunteer's, Saturday, August 10th**



The UU Church has been asked to provide lunch to the Habitat for Humanity volunteer workers on Saturday, 10 am, August 10. There will be approximately 25 volunteer workers.

A sign up sheet will be available at church, Sunday, August 4th for food suggestions needed. The site location will be available at that time also. Thank you for your help.



Safe Haven Shelter for Women and Children, 110 Highrise Circle had their ribbon cutting opening event in April. Several UU members attended and were so impressed by the beautiful, and colorfully decorated rooms. Local business and individuals adopted the rooms. I asked Keila Patton, executive director, 267-7750, what could a small church like ours do to help. They need an evening meal provided one evening a month. Suggested menu- casserole, salad, rolls, and dessert. The staff would call us several days before we are to serve the meal with approximate head count. Pizza restaurants provide the evening meal every Friday. Safe Haven also has a Thrift Shop on Central Ave. (in the Weldon's Meat and Ambrosia Bakery shopping center) they are open Thursday - Saturday 9-5. and need volunteers. Please call me if interested in this Social Justice community involvement.

Dorothy Clark
C-318-3210

Wisdom Seekers
Meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays
From 9 to 10

Wisdom Seekers have selected: “*It’s Not About Sex*”. Confessions of an ex-Mormon, ex-Polygamist, ex-Wife.

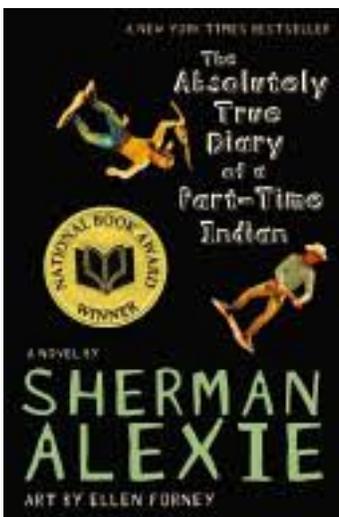
With wit, humor and style, Joanne Hanks takes you on a wild ride through the insanity of the Mormon-based polygamist cult that was her life for seven years. Get ready to laugh. Get ready to be outraged. And get ready to see polygamy as no one has ever revealed it before.

Joanne tells their crazy story with humor, satire—and insight. You’ll share her angst over sharing her husband. You’ll meet her “sister wives,” a prophet calling himself a “celestial stud service” who seeks divine guidance on threesomes, and apostles who dress in weird robes to curse the White House. You’ll fume at gut-wrenching tales of racism, sexual abuse, fraud, and manipulation. And you’ll find out why no one remembers when Jesus destroyed the world on March 26, 2000.

“It’s Not About The Sex” is more than an entertaining read. It’s a cautionary tale about the power of delusional thinking, and a hopeful tale of one family that came to their senses and found the courage to leave.

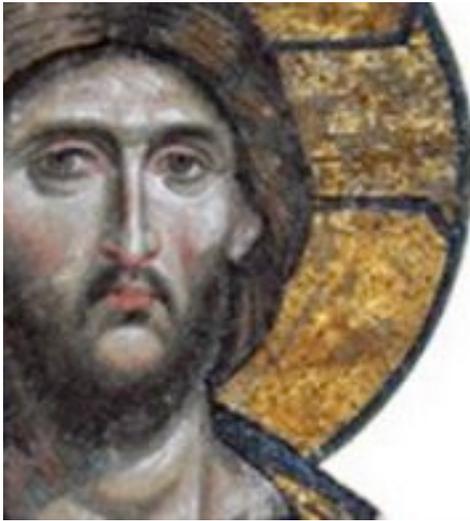
Next we’ll look at, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney, that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he thought he was destined to live. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Alexie's Young Adult debut, released in hardcover to instant success, receiving seven starred reviews, hitting numerous bestseller lists, and winning the 2007 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. Don't let the genre stop you from enjoying this book. It is very well written!



Religious Exploration
The Religious Exploration classes are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:00
with DVDs from Great Courses.

The Course is titled "**Jesus to Constantine**", by *Bart D. Ehrman PhD.*



Jesus to Constantine is a study of the first 300 years of Christianity. How it started as a small Jewish cult of an apocalyptic preacher, in a remote corner of the empire, to a major political and religious influence about that preacher.

The series has been very enlightening and

generated a lot of interesting dialog.

Everyone is invited to come join us. If you've missed some (or all) of the previous lectures, no problem, join us anyway. If you'd like you can catch up by viewing the missed DVD(s) on your own.



“The downfall of the attempts of governments and leaders to unite mankind is found in this- in the wrong message that we should see everyone as the same. This is the root of the failure of harmony. Because the truth is, we should not all see everyone as the same! We are not the same! We are made of different colours and we have different cultures. We are all different! But the key to this door is to look at these differences, respect these differences, learn from and about these differences, and grow in and with these differences. We are all different. We are not the same. But that's beautiful. And that's okay. In the quest for unity and peace, we cannot blind ourselves and expect to be all the same. Because in this, we all have an underlying belief that everyone should be the same as us at some point. We are not on a journey to become the same or to be the same. But we are on a journey to see that in all of our differences, that is what makes us beautiful as a human race, and if we are ever to grow, we ought to learn and always learn some more.”

— C. Joy Bell C

THE GO-TO PEOPLE

1. President - emails, Website	Carol Stanfill
2. Circle Suppers	Pat Jobin
3. Fourth Friday Film	Claire Beam
4. Grounds, Street	Oliver Driver, Larry Field, Rocky Vannucci
5. Kitchen	Claire Beam, Hazel Nino, Glenda Field
6. Langston School	Jane States
7. Church Library	Mary Arthur and Ann Hair
8. Music and Sanctuary	Joe Sturgill
9. Parliamentarian	Denise Marion, Dorothy Clark
10. Sound A/V Equipment	Joe Sturgill, John Nino
11. Membership directory	Geary Hufstedler
12. President	Carol Stanfill
13. Membership chair	Pat Jobin
14. Values in Action chair	Jane Hufstedler
15. Stewardship chair	Alan Clark
16. Secretary	Dorothy Clark
17. Inspirit newsletter	Geary Hufstedler
18. Local newspapers	Jane Hufstedler
19. Mail	Alan Clark
20. Historian, advisors	Betty Henderson, Oliver Driver, Jane States, Dorothy Clark



“The search for meaning is really the search for the lost chord. When the lost chord is discovered by humankind, the discord in the world will be healed and the symphony of the universe will come into complete harmony with itself.”

— John O'Donohue, *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*