



InSpirit

Unitarian Universalist Church of

Hot Springs 100 Norwalk Norwalk and Spring St

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.

MAY 2014

THEME FOR MAY IS PEACE

- May 4 Luis Oseguera Cinco de Mayo
- May 11 Carol Stanfill Flower Communion and Mother's Day
- May 18 Dr. Allan Ward "Our Personal Quest for Peace"
- May 25 Jane Hufstedler "Finding Peace With Those We Love"



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

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:



May means spring days, Mother's Day (and my mother's 84th birthday), Memorial Day, Cinco de Mayo, and Flower Communion. I love celebrations and traditions.

For our new members: Flower Communion is celebrated in many UU churches around the world, usually in May. Each person is asked to bring a flower or two to church. We place them in a community vase to represent many different people coming together to make something beautiful. Just wait till you see our amazing bouquet this year. Our

Flower Communion will be celebrated with Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11.

I am excited to see new members and new affinity groups in our church lately. If you have an idea for a group or an activity, be sure to let a board member know. In our UU tradition, there are three types of church groups: Covenant Groups meet for spiritual deepening, Affinity Groups meet for a common purpose, such as book discussion, crafts, movies, outdoor activities, or many other things, and Caucus Groups meet about a specific issue. So, we can have a number of small groups, even as our family sized church grows.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be June 22. This is an important meeting for all members, so please try to attend. We will elect new officers, hear reports from committees, and discuss how we're doing as a congregation.

Save the date for our second annual church picnic with our friends at the Hot Springs Village Church, the last Sunday in June, the 29th. Details will be in your email.

Enjoy our spring days!
Namaste!
Carol Stanfill, president



Gardening is an active participation in the deepest mysteries of the universe.

-Thomas Berry

Submitted by Judy Walters. Thanks Judy!

NEW MEMBERS

Getting to know new members

Rob Tinna and Jason Nickerson

Rob

I am originally from Northeast PA but spent most of my life in the Phoenix, AZ area (33 years). I enlisted in the Navy in '70 and spent over 4 years in that time. In '77, I realized that I missed what I was doing in the Navy so I reenlisted again for another 2 year hitch. I found out that I did not miss it that much. I met Jason 10 years ago and it has been the best 10 years of my life. We've been thru a lot in those 10 years. I was laid off from 3 jobs in 6 years, one I had was almost 26 years and it was a shock when that one happened but it was Jason that said things would work out. He was right. After I got laid off the last time, I told Jason the next day that we would move to AR so he could be near his family. Once he picked himself up off the floor he was ecstatic. We moved here in June, 2012. I enjoy camping, photography, woodworking, and travel.



Jason

I was born and raised in New Orleans. My parents and I moved to Hot Springs when I was seventeen. I've always enjoyed playing music from an early age. I've played in school bands, orchestras, and a Celtic group. I enjoy all sorts of fiber arts, as well as gardening. Spiritually, I've practiced Buddhism and Quakerism.



Jesse Davis

I am a Hot Springs native and a retired chemical engineer and chemist, who worked for about 30 years in the civilian nuclear power industry in Tennessee and in Maryland.

I remain interested in science and how science is viewed by organized religion. I also have interests in Taoism, collecting music, and outdoor activities.

I was attracted to the UU church because it can allow a way to grow spiritually without the church telling me how I must do that.

Judy Walters

I'm married to Richard, I have 1 son and 2 granddaughters along with several step children and step grandchildren. I'm retired but still work in dog/cat rescue for Paws and Claws Rescue in Hot Springs and Malvern.

We have several special needs pets, a blind/deaf dog and 2 three legged cats. My hobbies include organic gardening, junk collecting, healthy cooking, dancing and yoga.



Other Bio's to follow soon. In the meantime this reporter has heard:



Sylvia Dickey and Bill Smith were run out of Texas by Governor Rick Perry's Committee For Truth In Fiction.



Lin-Mros, Pai Yin (Bai)

Is a recent arrival from

Ireland and heir to the Guinness Beer fortune.

Barbara and Pete Thextons are past members who have returned to pray for Hillary's return to politics.

These last three Bio's may not be accurate but this is just what I've heard. Editor.



PROGRAMS

Dear Friends,
Spring is here at last and aren't we celebrating it! Such a welcome respite from the very cold winter. Speaking of celebrating, come Sunday, May 4th, as we welcome a very special guest speaker, Luis Oseguera. He will speak about the significance of the celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Rebecca Ricks will be here to accompany us singing new hymns and old. May 11 is Mother's Day and Carol Stanfill will lead us in a service to honor mothers and for us to share in a Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion. (see article elsewhere that explains the origin of this tradition.)



We welcome back our long-time friend Dr Allan Ward, who will share a service he entitled, " Our Personal Quest for Peace." Those of you who know and have heard Dr. Ward, know this is not one to miss.

To round out our month of Peace, Jane Hufstedler will share some thoughts on "Finding Peace With Those We Love."

June with "Courage" as the theme, is also a great month at UUCHS. June 8, a new speaker to our church, Robert (Bob) Van Hook, will speak to us on courage as it relates to work in support of Civil Rights. June 15, our very own Jesse Davis, will share a program he calls, "The Science of Why People Don't Believe Science." On Sunday June 22, we will conduct our Annual Meeting and election of new officers for 2014-15. This is an important date to highlight for all members, as we need your vote and input. Finally, we close the month with a lovely service by Bud Hearn, followed by our annual picnic with the UU Village church. It will be held at the Steven's Pavillion at the bottom of Blakely Dam, Ouachita State Park (south)

There is still an opening for June, **we need a speaker for the first Sunday June 1.** If you have a topic you would like to share, or know of a speaker you would like for me to contact, please let me know right away, thanks.

Happy Spring Everyone!

Jane

The Flower Communion A Service of Celebration for Religious Liberals

Excerpted from an article by Reginald Zottoli

The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time he had felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. So he turned to the native beauty of their countryside for elements of a communion which would be genuine to them. This simple service was the result. It was such a success that it was held yearly just before the summer recess of the church.

The flower communion was brought to the United States in 1940 and introduced to the members of our Cambridge, Massachusetts, church by Dr. Capek's wife, Maja V. Capek. The Czech-born Maja had met Norbert Capek in New York City while he was studying for his Ph.D., and it was at her urging that Norbert left the Baptist ministry and turned to Unitarianism. The Capeks returned to Czechoslovakia in 1921 and established the dynamic liberal church in Prague; Maja Capek was ordained in 1926. It was during her tour of the United States that Maja introduced the flower communion, which had been developed in the Prague church, at the Unitarian church in Cambridge. Unfortunately, Maja was unable to return to Prague due to the outbreak of World War II, and it was not until the war was over that Norbert Capek's death in a Nazi concentration camp was revealed. From this beginning the service has spread to many of our Unitarian Universalist congregations and has been adapted along the way.

People were asked to bring a flower of their choice, either from their own gardens, or from the field or roadside. When they arrived at church a large vase stood waiting in the vestibule. Each person was asked to place their own flower in the vase. This signified that it was by their own free will they joined with the others. The vase that contained all the flowers was a symbol of the united church fellowship.

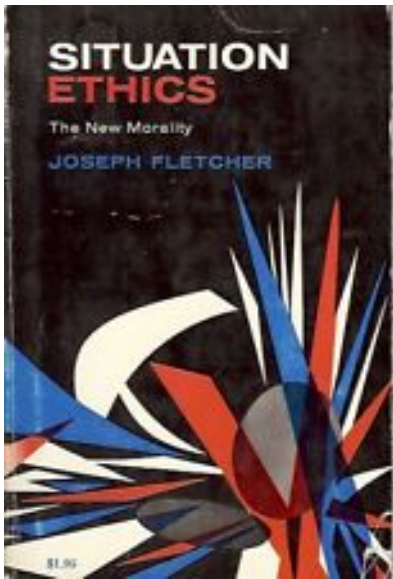
After the service, as people left the church, they went to the vase and each took a flower from the vase other than the one that they had brought. The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community, it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this service is a statement of our community.

By exchanging flowers, we show our willingness to walk together in our Search for truth, disregarding all that might divide us. Each person takes home a flower brought by someone else - thus symbolizing our shared celebration in community. This communion of sharing is essential to a free people of a free religion.

Religious Exploration
The Religious Exploration Classes / Discussion Group
1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:00

We are reading and discussing the controversial book *Situation Ethics* by Joseph Fletcher. Here is a synopsis.

Igniting a firestorm of controversy upon its publication in 1966, Joseph Fletcher's *Situation Ethics* was hailed by many as a much-needed reformation of morality--and as an invitation to anarchy by others. Proposing an ethic of loving concern, Fletcher suggests that certain acts--such as lying, premarital sex, adultery, or even murder--might be morally right, depending on the circumstances. Hotly debated on television, in magazines and newspapers, in churches, and in the classroom, Fletcher's provocative thesis remains a powerful force in contemporary discussions of morality.



Let's talk about what almost 50 years has done to those *controversial* views since Viet Nam, The Sexual Revolution, Watergate, Trickle Down Economics, AIDS, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, Helen Gurley Brown, "I Did Not Have Sex With That Woman", 9/11, The Internet, Smart Phones, Iraq / Afghanistan, and Obama Care.

Books available on Amazon and eBay

Library Notes

Here's a reminder: I have added another new book to our library. I recommend this: [This Hebrew Lord](#), by Bishop John Shelby Spong

In case you haven't looked at our book list, it's online at <http://www.librarything.com/>. Our user name is uuchurchhotsprings our password is s33k3rs

You can see any books we own there.
If you donate books to our library, just let me know, so I can add them online.

Happy reading!

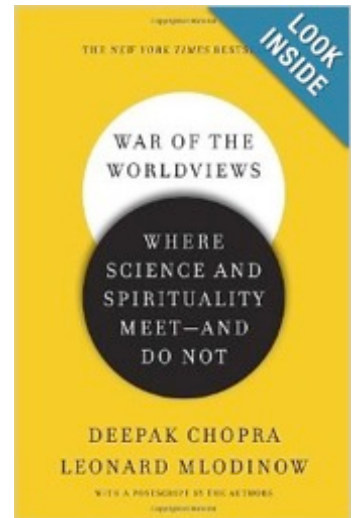
Wisdom Seekers
Meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays
From 9 to 10

The Wisdom Seekers are starting a new book this month.

War of the Worldviews: Where Science and Spirituality Meet – and Do Not, by Deepak Chopra and Leonard Mlodinow. Both print and Kindle editions are about \$12. There are 18 chapters and we could take 3 or 4 chapters at a go, which would be 5 or 6 sessions. Denise Marion will facilitate.

Dr. Deepak Chopra, holistic health and new age spiritualist, and Dr. Leonard Mlodinow, American physicist, author and screenwriter, explain and defend their respective world views in essays on a wide range of philosophical questions. Chapters include: Is the Universe Conscious?; Did Darwin Go Wrong?; Is the Brain Like a Computer?; and What is the Future of Belief?

“A tension exists between the way that we think about the laws of physics and our own subjective experience. Chopra and Mlodinow ponder both perspectives in their lively debate, leaving the reader enriched to see the world with a new depth. War of the Worldviews offers clear choices for these rapidly changing times.” – Jeff Tollaksen, Dir. Center of Quantum Studies, Schmid College of Science, Chapman Univ.



Notice: The Hot Springs Gay Pride Group meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs on 2nd Sunday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome.



Equal Exchange



Equal Exchange has created Big Change since 1986. It all started with an idea: what if food could be traded in a way that is honest and fair, a way that empowers both farmers and consumers? What if trade supported small farmer co-operatives that use sustainable methods, rather than industrialized agribusiness that rely on exploited labor and harmful chemicals?

Today, Equal Exchange continues to find new and powerful ways to build a better food system. Their products now include fairly traded and organic coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks from small farmers all over the world, including here in the United States.

We have Fairly Traded coffee whole bean and drip grind and hot cocoa available for purchase in the lower level of the church. The price is \$7.50. Carol is the co-coordinator for ordering items. Pamphlets are available describing other items that may be ordered. These products make great gifts. Enjoy the products supported by our UU church.

Dorothy M. Clark

Member of Value's in Action



Circle Suppers

I look forward to being a hostess for UU Circle Suppers on May 10th @ 6 p.m. I can accommodate eight guests and would love to have a complete table. The entree will be Grilled Smothered Chicken with Rice Pilaf. I might suggest bringing an appetizer, salad, bread, veggie or dessert. I hope you can come. Please give me a call or send an e-mail. .

Dorothy Clark, 1620 Marion Anderson Rd. 760-1264 or 318-3210 Cell.

Geary and I will also be Circle Supper hostesses on May 10th.

Jane Hufstedler 729 Quapaw

At print time all places have been filled at the Hufstedler table.

THE GO-TO PEOPLE

- . President
- . Membership chair
- . Values in Action (Programs) chair
- . Stewardship (Treasurer) chair
- . Secretary

Carol Stanfill
Pat Jobin
Jane Hufstedler
Alan Clark
Dorothy Clark

- . Circle Suppers
- . Fourth Friday Film
- . Grounds, Street
- . Kitchen
- . Langston School
- . Church Library
- . Music and Sanctuary
- . Parliamentarian
- . Sound A/V Equipment
- . Membership directory
- . InSpirit newsletter
- . Local newspapers
- . Mail
- . Historian, advisors
- . Website, eMail

Pat Jobin
Claire Beam
Oliver Driver, Rocky Vannucci
Claire Beam, Hazel Nino
Jane States
Ann Hair
Joe Sturgill
Denise Marion, Dorothy Clark
Joe Sturgill, John Nino
Geary Hufstedler
Geary Hufstedler
Jane Hufstedler
Alan Clark
Betty Henderson, Oliver Driver, Dorothy Clark
Carol Stanfill

BIRTHDAYS

IN MAY

Denise Henderson May 12