

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](http://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.

## DECEMBER 2015

December 6<sup>th</sup> Barbara Thexton will speak to us about "Growing Up an Enemy Alien."  
December 13<sup>th</sup>. Bud Hearn will be back with us  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Claire Beam will present our Christmas service.  
Christmas Eve Joe will lead our annual service and carol singing.  
December 27<sup>th</sup> Rick Ward-Harder will present another of his inspiring services.

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# Presidents Letter

Happy Holiday Season! I just love the traditions from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. There are so many ways for your family to celebrate. I am glad that, as UUs, we freely choose which traditions fit with our beliefs. Personally, my family chooses holiday ideas from many different cultures. I really believe the world would be a better place, if everyone chose to respect the beliefs of others.



Our church ends the year 2015 on a positive note! We had a great retreat. Everyone worked to make our rummage sale a success once again. I think our congregational meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> will generate lots of new enthusiastic ideas for our church. As a family sized church, we are always here to support one another. Every person who attends our church is welcome to participate in our decision making. We welcome all input.

So, as I look forward to 2016, I see a great church, influencing our community and providing support and fellowship for all people in our area who are interested in a liberal, open, progressive religion. I just know 2016 will be better than ever.

Happy Holidays,  
Carol Stanfill, President [501-538-5816](tel:501-538-5816)  
[carol.stanfill76@gmail.com](mailto:carol.stanfill76@gmail.com)

# PROGRAMS

Dear congregation,

Our theme for the month is The Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All.

At this time of year we all seem to be rushing and keeping busy, trying to stay warm and hurrying into our cozy homes. We as a world community celebrate many holidays this month so I wish you a happy holiday season.

December 6<sup>th</sup> we have Barbara Thexton presenting a program entitled “Growing Up an Enemy Alien.”

December 13<sup>th</sup> Bud Hearn will gift us with another of his enlightening services.

December 20<sup>th</sup> Claire will bestow to us a Christmas presentation.

December 24<sup>th</sup> I will lead a Christmas Carol singing at 5:00pm.

December 27<sup>th</sup> Rick Ward-Harder will present another of his inspiring services.

I hope you all have the merriest season of all and I'll see you at church.

Joe



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“The sixth Principle seems extravagant in its hopefulness and improbable in its prospects. Can we continue to say we want ‘world community’? ‘Peace, liberty, and justice for all’? The world is full of genocide, abuse, terror, and war. What have we gotten ourselves into?”

“As naïve or impossible as the sixth Principle may seem, I’m not willing to give up on it. In the face of our culture’s apathy and fear, I want to imagine and help create a powerful vision of peace by peaceful means, liberty by liberatory means, justice by just means. I want us to believe—and to live as if we believe—that a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all is possible. There is no guarantee that we will succeed, but I can assure you that we will improve ourselves and improve the world by trying.”

—Rev. Sean Parker Dennison, Tree of Life Congregation, McHenry, IL

## A Unitarian Christmas by Tracey Springberry

(full article can be found on the uua.org website)

One of the most influential moments in the transformation of Christmas was the publication of “A Visit from St. Nicholas” in 1823 by Clement Moore, a Unitarian. Moore invented the Santa Claus we all know and love. Before that there was no unified tradition of a Christmas visitor bringing gifts to all. “He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,” wrote Moore, “And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself! A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.” He had, with a single poem, transformed St. Nicholas, a bishop known for acts of charity, into the myth of Santa Claus. Moore’s Santa Claus believed in the worth and dignity of every child, and that all deserved some kindness and pleasure. He reminds us of our responsibility to be kind and generous to one another.

Later it was another Unitarian, Thomas Nast, a cartoonist, who placed Santa on the North Pole as message that he existed for all the children of the world.

The Unitarians also brought us the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree had become a symbol of the holiday in Germany in the 1700s. One Christmas Charles Follen, a German immigrant, a Unitarian and the first German professor at Harvard, invited several colleagues to his home where he had put up a tree lit with candles and covered with ornaments as he remembered from his childhood. Two of his Unitarian guests wrote about the experience and in a short time, middle-class Americans were celebrating Christmas by putting up Christmas trees.

Unitarians also brought us family gift giving, especially the tradition of children giving to parents. Again the tradition came from Germany. Samuel Coleridge, the Unitarian poet famous for “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” traveled to Germany one winter, and there he saw a ritual around a fir tree, where not only did the children receive gifts from their parents, but they also gave their parents gifts. Coleridge loved how this tradition taught children about generosity and unselfishness. This gift exchange among parents and children became part of the Christmas tradition, not only in Unitarian homes, but also in homes across the country.

Unitarians also brought us Christmas charity. They believed our responsibility as a religious people was to follow the teachings of Christ, and an important part of those teachings was care for the poor. The publication of The Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, a British Unitarian, brought charity to the forefront of Christmas. A Christmas Carol is steeped in the Unitarian theology of the spirit of Jesus and that how we treat each other matters deeply. I love all the Christmas traditions brought to us by our Unitarian ancestors. I love how they remind us to be giving, generous, and kind to the people we know and the people we don’t. This for me is the spirit of Christmas. I’m proud to say that the spirit of giving is itself a gift from our religious tradition.



# UU Wednesdays

You can pencil in your calendar now. Carol will send more details as they become available. All activities are at the church unless otherwise noted. Everyone is welcome.

10:00 each Wednesday.

Dec. 2, fun and games at the church, 10:00

Dec. 9, Christmas party at Carol's, 97 Woodland Springs Dr. 10:00, Bring a little gift, home-made is good, up to a \$10 value for our Santa Game. Guests welcome. Email Carol to coordinate carpooling. I live 18 miles west of Hot Springs, first right turn in Montgomery County along HWY 270 toward Mount Ida.

Dec. 16, Christmas movie, Sherri, at the church, 10:00

Dec. 23, we'll skip this one

Dec. 30, Spirituality Session, Linda and Dian, location to be determined later, watch your email

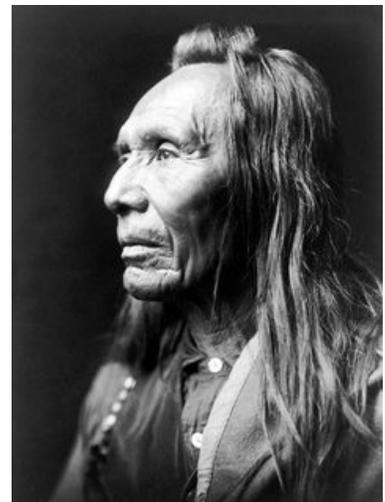


If you'd like to lead a class or plan an activity in 2016, let Carol know.

## Indian 10 Commandments

1. Treat the earth and all that dwell there with respect.
2. Remain close to the great spirit.
3. Show great respect for your fellow beings.
4. Work together for the benefit of all mankind.
5. Give assistance and knowledge whenever needed.
6. Do what you know to be right.
7. Look after the well being of mind, body and spirit.
8. Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good.
9. Be truthful and honest at all times.
10. Take full responsibility for your actions.

Submitted by Judy. Thanks Judy  
Photo by Edward S Curtis



# FACES IN THE UUCHS NEWS

Over the last few months we've had a few new members and a change in the UUCHS Board that we've not formally recognized. So we'll try to rectify that now.

First of all, although everybody has known Pat Patterson for a while, he formally became a member on June 21<sup>st</sup>, shortly after he married our sweet Sunnye Davis.



Sherri Griffin also signed the Book, in June, and assumed the responsibilities of Pot Luck/Circle Supper/Film Night Coordinator.

One of our newest Friends Dian Hauser quickly became a Member on October 18<sup>th</sup>, shortly after she and her husband Peter moved here from Laurence Kansas. She's gotten real involved with UU Wednesdays.

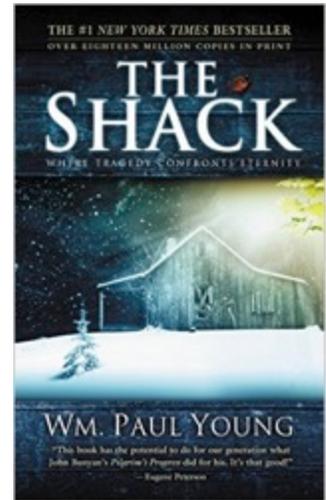


Our long time Member Pat Jobin has had to give up the responsibilities of Membership Chair for health reasons, but has promised to assist the new Chair with some of the important tasks. Her very large shoes will attempt to be filled by your humble but smiling editor Geary Hufstedler.



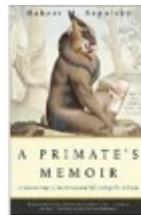
## Wisdom Seekers Book Group Meet on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays From 9 to 10

Our next book will be “**The Shack**” by William Paul Young. You should be able to find at the local library, or it is available on Kindle for \$6.99 or less. “Mackenzie Allen Phillips's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in this midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change his life forever.”



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Our new book will be:  
*A Primate's Memoir* by Robert M. Sapolsky  
Discussion will begin Dec. 27




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

*This book views world history not from London, Paris and Rome but from Bagdad, Damascus and Cairo. “Destiny Disrupted, A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes” takes, as its point of departure, the following question: “What are the key events of world history and the shape of the overall story if one assumes that the center of the world is not Europe but the Islamic heartland?”*

We expect to finish *Destiny Disrupted* in the next few sessions so that in January we will begin “**A Chosen Faith.**” **By John Buehrens and Forrest Church.**

“For those contemplating religious choices, Unitarian Universalism offers an appealing alternative to religious denominations that stress theological creeds over individual conviction and belief. In this new edition of the classic introductory text on Unitarian Universalism, which includes a revealing, entertaining foreword by best-selling author Robert Fulghum (*All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten.*)

The authors, John Buehrens and Forrest Church, explore the many sources of the living tradition of their chosen faith.” We strongly encourage all especially our new Friends and Members to read and/or join the discussion. Jane will be the facfacilitator.



# Rummage Sale Report

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to report that we had a very successful rummage sale. Thanks to our wonderful members and friends who contributed all the sale items and worked tirelessly to fill the hours needed to organize and price the sale, man the sale, assist with boxing post sale items and putting our church back in order. Tammy from Jackson House Two, showed up at 5:00pm with a load of young helpers and had an entire truck full of our left overs by 6:00pm. So even what was left went to help the needy. It is a great feeling.



We had the following good results:

Total Gross Profits	\$2,355.66
Total Expenses	\$252
Total Net Profit	\$2,103.66

The Values in Action Committee, will make a recommendation for the distribution of the net profits to local charities. And the congregation will vote to approve distribution at the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Congregation Meeting Sunday November 29.

Our mover, Steve Longinotti, discounted his \$75 fee to \$50 per hour and extended the same offer to anyone who bought from our sale and needed help getting it home. Jackson House does not pick up on Saturday, but Tammy knowing that all our proceeds are going to charity came out with the truck and friend and family members to pick it up for us so that we could use our sanctuary on Sunday.

Linda



Notice: The Hot Springs Gay Pride Group meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 5pm. All are welcome.

# Retreat Report

**The UUCHS First Ever Retreat** was held at Mt. Harbor Resort on November 6, 7 and 8. Roughly twenty-five members and friends participated in the retreat, with many staying in cottages and at the lodge. Friday evening began with a soup and cornbread supper prepared by Sheri, Linda and others, followed by a hilarious game of Catch-Phrase.



Saturday Shirley Mathey talked to the group about listening and conducted some exercises. At noon the group took a break for lunch and free time, during which some played more games, some drummed with Dee, and others walked in the beautiful resort or relaxed in their cottages. There was another afternoon session with Shirley, after which many dined at the Mountain Harbor restaurant, others at Jenn's, and still others ate in their cottage. There was one final listening lesson on Saturday before relaxing and singing led by Jason and Brian at Cottage 24.

The retreat ended with a Sunday Service, lay led by Joe, in which Shirley coached us on positive thinking.

Reviews of the experience were favorable, with all attendees hoping to have another one. Location, lodging, food, and cost were rated good or great by all or nearly all of those turning in reviews. Favorites were the beautiful location and comfortable accommodations, evening fun and singing, and, of course, the camaraderie. Many constructive comments were given on all parts of the retreat, including lodging, food, activities and programs, insuring that our next retreat will be awesome!



Many thanks to EVERYONE who helped on the retreat and all those who took the trouble to help us with evaluations.

—Dee

Denise Marion

# CALENDER DECEMBER

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <b>UU Wednesdays</b> 10:00 Sara – Card Games	3 “BIRDS” Practice 5:15	4	5
6 <b>Barbara Thexton</b> and Rebecca Ricks  RE: Destiny Disrupted	7	8 “Dealing with Change” w/ Michelle. 2-3:00 Moved to 311 Ramble St	9 <b>UU Wednesdays</b> 10:00 UU Women Christmas party, Carol's house	10 “BIRDS” Practice 5:15	11	12
13 <b>Bud Hearn</b> and Rebecca Ricks  WS: The Shack	14	15 .	16 <b>UU Wednesdays</b> 10:00 Sheri will show a favorite Christmas movie	17 “BIRDS” Practice 5:15	18	19
20 <b>Claire Beam</b> and Rebecca Ricks  RE: Destiny Disrupted	21	22	23 <b>UU Wednesdays</b> No sessions, Happy Holidays	24 Midnight Xmas Carol Program W/Joe	25	26
27 <b>Rick Ward-Harder</b> and Rebecca Ricks  WS: Primates Memoir	28	29	30 <b>UU Wednesdays</b> 10:00 Spirituality session, Linda and Dian	31 No Practice Happy New Year		

RE = Religious Exploration. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 9:00 to 10:00AM

WS = Wisdom Seekers. 2<sup>ed</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 9:00 to 10:00AM