



# The Chalice

## Symbols of Peace

By Jill Austin

It all seems so simple. A simple peace sign—a simple definition and simple discussion. But, no—this peace thing is not simple at all. There are three easily-recognized symbols for peace:



1



2



3

The peace symbol, Figure 1, circle drawing combines a circle, a vertical line, and downward sloping lines. Gerald Holtom created this symbol in 1958. At that time, Holtom worked with the Direct Action Committee against Nuclear War. The BBC quoted Holtom saying, “I drew myself: the representative of an individual in despair, with palms stretched outwards and downwards in the manner of Goya’s peasant before the firing squad.” Holtom based the symbol on the naval flag codes; in semaphore the symbols represent the letters N and D for nuclear disarmament, the objective of his group. The peace symbol made its first public appearance in the United Kingdom during the 1958 Easter weekend Direct Action Committee anti-nuclear march. By 1960, the symbol was being used by the counterculture anti-war peace movement in the US. By the end of the 1960s, Holtom’s Nuclear Disarmament symbol had become known as “the peace symbol.” The peace symbol was not patented or restricted, so the symbol’s usage and meaning quickly spread around the world.

The “V” hand sign, Figure 2, we now know as the peace sign was used for centuries to mean victory. During the second world war, the sign was made popular by Winston Churchill – this is when the hand sign was considered a V sign and meant victory. In the 1960s, protesters against the Vietnam War and counterculture activists adopted the gesture as a sign of peace. Because the hippies of the day often flashed this sign while saying "Peace," it became popularly known as the peace sign.

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## UUFM SPROUTS FIRST FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!

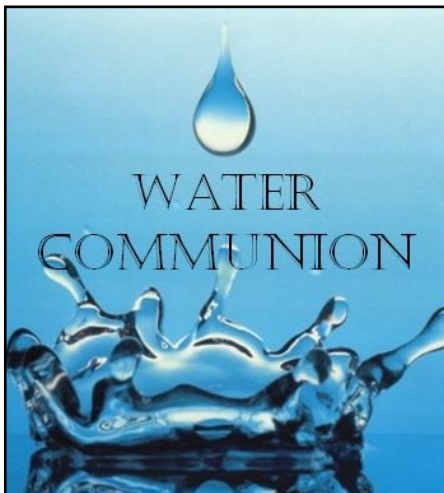
By Allie Becker



The UUFM Sprouts held their first fundraiser on Wednesday, August 9th. They sold lemonade and baked goods in their brand-new lemonade stand at Quinn's Mercantile. The Stones River Market was generous enough to allow to them to set up during pick-up hours, so the Sprouts had plenty of foot traffic!

The kids worked very hard and made \$151.00! All proceeds went directly to the Murfreesboro Community Garden. A few of the Sprouts presented Autumn with the check at the garden. The money will go towards seeds and other needs for next year's garden.

For their next service activity, the Sprouts will be making and handing out buttons at Boro Pride on September 9th. Hope to see you there!



## Welcome New Members!

During our service on August 13, our congregation grew by the addition of two new members.

Anna and Tom Deck signed the Membership Roll, and are now full fledged partners with us on our mutual journey toward "truth." The Decks relocated to Murfreesboro from Baltimore, Maryland, so there may be a little cultural adjustment shock, as many of us experienced when we moved here. Please make Anna and Tom feel welcome!



## 10TH ANNUAL UUFM RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 29–30

By Jill Austin

This year marks the 10th annual UUFM Retreat. The theme is “UUFM: A Perfect 10.” This is our 10th annual retreat at Camp Youth Incorporated (YI). Events are being planned around this theme. There will be informal time, lots of food, some fun, and some sessions to learn.

Registration continues through September 24. The cost is \$20 for adults 18 and above. No charge for children and teens accompanied by a parent or guardian. Tee-shirts : \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tee-shirts must be ordered by September 17.



## PEACE SYMBOLS

Continued from page 1

The dove and olive branch, Figure 3, has been a peace symbol for a very long time. The olive branch was a symbol of peace dating back to at least the 5th century BCE. Ancient Greeks thought the olive tree drove away evil spirits. The Romans believed there was an intimate relationship between war and peace. Mars, the god of war, had another aspect, Mars Pacifer, Mars the bringer of Peace, who is shown bearing an olive branch on coins of the later Roman Empire. From the Bible story, Noah knew he could leave the ark after the flood when a dove brought a living olive branch. Jews never gave significance to the olive branch and dove, but the early Christians gave the meaning of peace to that symbol. In 1949, Picasso's lithograph of a dove was chosen as the emblem for the world peace congress in Paris. The symbol was used in Communist demonstrations during that time. At the 1952 World Peace Congress in Berlin, Picasso's Dove was depicted in a banner above the stage. The dove symbol was used extensively in the post-war peace movement.

These three common symbols for peace have a long association with the ideals of peace. I think of something else as a peace symbol—water. Consider how many references to peace are related to water. We think of the meditative sound of a river flowing over rocks, or the sound of the waves coming to shore, or the quiet sound of rain on the roof. Water is restorative; water is essential for life. So, to me water is a symbol of finding peace within ourselves. The following song lyrics about peace were written by Kate Campbell. I love the imagery of the peaceful water in her words about finding inner peace:

We live in a world of trials and tribulations.  
 People filled with hatred everywhere.  
 So we bow our heads and we raise our voices.  
 Offer our petition in this prayer.

Peace come stealing slow  
 Fall like silent snow  
 Swing down sweet and low  
 Peace come stealing slow.

I wish us all peace and I hope that “peace comes stealing slow just like silent snow” for all of us so we can be ready for the MAKING, DOING, and GIVING AWAY of peace to the world.



### REFERENCES

Zelinsky, Nathaniel. “From Churchill to Libya: How the V symbol went viral,” *The Washington Post*, March 25, 2011.

Rosenberg, Jennifer. “Evolution Born in Britain in the Cold War, Now a Worldwide Symbol” [www.thoughtco.com](http://www.thoughtco.com), June 08, 2017.

Dorothy Willette. “The Enduring Symbolism of Doves,” [www.biblicalarcheology.org](http://www.biblicalarcheology.org), July 1, 2017.

### SEPTEMBER SERVICES

3	Jill Austin: "Reframing Words III"
10	Water Communion
17	Rev. Denise Gyauch: "Getting Proximate: Moving Toward Justice by Living Where We Live"
24	Doug Traversa: "TBD"

### SEPTEMBER MUSIC

3	
10	1064 Blue Boat Home 100 Peace Like a River
17	170 We Are a Gentle Angry People 172 Siph' Amandia
24	145 As Tranquil Streams 352 Find a Stillness

### SEPTEMBER UUFM EVENTS

4	Humanists 6:00 pm TBD
13	Men's Group 6:00 pm TBD
14	Board Meeting 6:30 pm Kimbro home
19	Women's Group 6:00 pm Marina's on the Square





**UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP OF  
MURFREESBORO**

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Murfreesboro, Tennessee (UUFM) is a liberal religious society associated with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). UUFM is a member of the Southern Region and the Mid-South District.

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**POEM**

*Crazy Horse Speaks* (part 6)  
by Sherman Alexie

6.

I hear the verdict  
in the museum in New York  
where five Eskimo were flown in  
to be a living exhibit.  
Three died within days  
lacking natural immunity  
their hearts miles  
and miles of thin ice.  
Three dead Eskimo  
were stuffed and mounted  
hunched over a fishing hole  
next to the two living  
who held their thin hands  
close to their chests  
mortal and sinless.

