



Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship of
Murfreesboro

The Chalice

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Missed issue

You may have noticed there was no October issue. We were busy preparing for our trip out west, plus there was the whole job-loss thing. At any rate, we hope to continue uninterrupted into the future.

The day love drove out the white supremacists

By Andrea Dawson

Saturday, October 28, 2017: the day Love drove out the white supremacists in Murfreesboro. In an era of division and distrust, our community came together to show that racism is not welcome here. People of various faiths, races, and ethnicities came together at the Square, at Barfield Park, at Church St., and at Old Fort Park with signs and chants intended to drown out the hateful messages of the While Lives Matter protesters scheduled to arrive in our town. UUFM was well represented in each location, and the buttons made by our members of all ages were quite a hit at the event! The chilly day didn't stop us from waving cheerfully at the mostly-enthusiastic passing cars.

In the end, the poor showing of the white supremacists was win for our well-prepared police and for our community. Murfreesboro showed that, while we can disagree about many things, we can still work together toward a unified goal which crosses boundaries of faith, ethnicity, and race. We still have plenty of work to do, but I feel more hopeful.



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Reflection on Second Hour: Eight years of interesting discussion

By Jill Austin

We just completed eight years of offering Second Hour as a program at UUFM!! Talkback, book discussion, social justice, movie discussion, What's New at UUFM, and spiritual practices are examples of topics scheduled for the first month of second hour programs that were held in October 2009. After much deliberation and discussion over the summer of 2009, members agreed to get to Center for the Arts at 10:00 a.m. instead of 10:30 a.m. so we could add informal discussion to our church activities. This program was started on a trial basis after consensus from members to try this new format.

In the beginning, we offered three options each Sunday. We also offered "Adult Life Enrichment" as an option some Sundays during Second Hour. Adult Religious Education was previously offered from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m., so the congregation decided to continue this for some Sundays as Second Hour programs. The board developed ideas and made plans for Second Hour in the early days because there was no Worship Committee at that time.

Some of the reasons to try Second Hour that were discussed in 2009 include:

1. Informal time will be helpful for building community.
2. Second Hour provides opportunities for varied programs and discussions.
3. Members and friends can offer the expertise in small, informal group settings.
4. Second Hour can help to build stronger commitment amount members to the church goals.
5. Evidence from other UU churches indicates growth in attendance and membership often happens when Second Hour is added.
6. The new schedule offers a later beginning time for adult life enrichment class.

Second Hour was a very popular addition to our Sunday service. Our paid speakers liked having Talkbacks and our members enjoyed learning from each other.

I think these programs are still very helpful to members. Through these programs, we learn and laugh and debate and seek answers to important issues. And sometimes we just enjoy others' company. When we developed this idea, the board wanted to be sure we developed Second Hour as a positive experience for everyone. These were goals we developed in 2009 for ensuring we all stay in community.

- Be polite in our contributions so that everyone who wants to speak can do so.
- Respect the leader and allow that person to make his/her points.

Second Hour (continued from page 2)

- Remember that a leader is speaking from his/her perspective and we may not all agree with that perspective. Trying to think about the issue from another person's perspective can have value in adding to our views; winning a debate is not really the point of our programs.
- Presenters feelings are to be respected and considered in our interactions so we can maintain congenial discussions.

Through these years, we have discussed many serious issues and have solved some of them (at least for our congregation). I look forward to hearing more of these informal presentations for many years in the future. Do you have a Second Hour idea? We need ideas and presenters. Contact me at austinmj@gmail.com.

Top ten horror or science fiction stories that reflect the state of society

By Bob Kimbro

In a Second Hour on October 29, someone asked if I could list the top films, either horror or science fiction, that reflect the zeitgeist of the country/world. As with any list, your mileage may vary.

1. *The Mist*, 2007 directed by Frank Darabont: 9/11 and its ensuing repercussions.
2. *Videodrome*, 1982 directed by David Cronenberg: When does the content we watch take hold and become enmeshed into our very being?
3. *The Live*, 1988 directed by John Carpenter: "The most anti-Reagan film ever to come out of Hollywood." Lewis Beale, *Chicago Tribune* film critic.
4. *The Shining*, 1980 directed by Stanley Kubrick: Unconscious guilt at the horror our happiness and prosperity is built upon.
5. *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, 1956 directed by Don Siegel, and a 1978 re-make directed by Philip Kaufman: Fear of Russian/foreign invaders. Both versions worth watching.
6. *The Exorcist*, 1973 directed by William Friedkin: Female empowerment.
7. *Alien*, 1979 directed by Ridley Scott: The Corporation as a living entity.
8. *Jaws*, 1975 directed by Steven Spielberg: Reflections on the horror of war and adult denial hubris.
9. *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, 1974 directed by Tobe Hooper. An allegorical feast of fury and terror beneath the waning days of Vietnam. About the class of Americans most often served up for infantry slaughter in the war.
10. *Night of the Living Dead*, 1968 directed by George Romero: Pure visceral thrill ride which has its horror amplified to "11" by the all too real social-political horrors of 1968 America: racism, class inequality, and the death of a free, loving society.

How I Rediscovered the United States

By Bob Kimbro

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.

— Mark Twain

Back in the day I had a job which allowed me to travel, by road, the entire continental United States. I was, of course, away from home a lot, but I wouldn't trade that experience for anything. You don't get to know the country by flying over it; you have to "get your hands dirty," if you will, and get down in the weeds.

I've moved on from that experience over 30 years ago, and since that time I've been pretty much sedentary. One tends to get caught in the minutia that makes up the day-to-day grind.

So when Barbara and I set off on our vacation to the [Colorado Plateau](#) and surrounds in early October, I was a bit surprised. I was surprised, first of all, how much I missed the West. I love the wide open spaces, the "big sky," and the history. But mostly I love the mountains. As an undergraduate at the University of Utah, I didn't own a car, so walking (or cross-country skiing) was my primary method of getting around. I frequently hiked the canyons and trails surrounding Salt Lake City. But my favorite outing was backpacking the West Rim Trail in Zion National Park. Three days and not another human (except my two companions) in sight. What *was* in sight was some of the most beautiful, breathtaking topography I've ever encountered. There is a memory from this trip that will be with me forever: waking before the others on the second morning and seeing an Elk, standing on a ridge, silhouetted by the rising sun. That magnificent sight is seared into my mind.

So this trip was, to risk a maudlin note, a kind of re-birth. Or perhaps I'm just a guy getting older and pining for his youth. In either case, it was delightful to watch Barbara see it for the first time. The Plateau makes a deep, fundamental impression.

Twain was right. I have always felt that every American's education should include travel. It would go a long way toward diminishing that human urge to "other" those who don't look, act, talk, or think the way we do. And in these trying times of late, it just might help ground us as a nation.

But we must work to preserve these natural treasures. last week the Interior Secretary proposed tripling park entry fees, while allowing energy companies to drill, mine, and extract right up to park boundaries. Contact your representatives today!



Moon setting, Zion National Park

NOVEMBER SERVICES

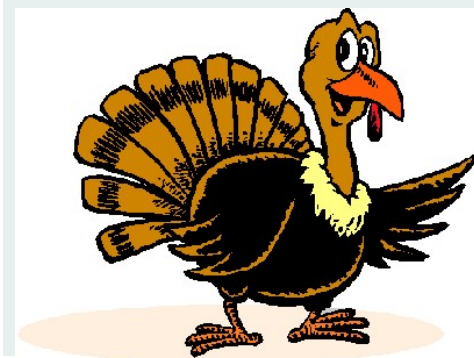
5	Jill Austin: "Welcoming Congregations: The History of UU and LGBTQ Rights"
12	Doug Traversa: "TBD"
19	Rev. Denise Gyuach: "The Words that Came Before All Else: The Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving"
26	Rabbi Rami Shapiro: "TBD"

NOVEMBER MUSIC

5	361 Enter Rejoice and Come In 1014 Standing on the Side of Love
12	83 Winds Be Still 1031 Filled With Loving Kindness
19	123 Spirit of Life 203 All Creatures of the Earth & Sky (v 1—4)
26	71 In the Spring With Plow and Harrow 67 We Sing Together Now

NOVEMBER UUFM EVENTS

7	Humanists 6:00 pm McAlister's Deli
8	Men's Group 6:00 pm TBD
9	Board Meeting 6:30 pm TBD
15	Women's Group 6:00 pm TBD



UNITARIAN
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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

Solitude Late at Night in the Woods
by Robert Bly

The body is like a November birch facing the full moon
And reaching into the cold heavens.
In these trees there no ambition, no sodden body,
no leaves,
Nothing but bare trunks climbing like cold fire!

My last walk in the trees has come. At dawn
I must return to the trapped fields,
To the obedient earth.
The trees shall be reaching all the winter.

It is a joy to wak in the bare woods.
The moonlight is not broken by the heavy leaves.
The leaves are down, and touching the soaked earth,
Giving off the orders that partridge love.

