



Unitarian  
Universalist  
Fellowship of  
Murfreesboro

# The Chalice

March 2018  
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## Member Spotlight

Each month we bring you a character sketch of a UUFM member. Our spotlight member this month is:

**JILL AUSTIN**

**TC: How long have you been a UUFM member?**

JA: I have been a member for about 10 and 1/2 years. My first visit was on May 20, 2007. I joined the church that October. We were still called Unitarian Fellowship of Murfreesboro (UFM) at that time.

**TC: What originally brought you to UUFM and keeps you coming back?**

JA: In 2007, I was attending a leadership program for department chairs at work. The facilitators asked us on the first day to develop a plan for outside of work activities so we would not fill all of our time with work. I called my plan a “get a life” plan. One of the activities I promised to do by the end of that program was to begin attending church regularly. I knew a little about Unitarian Universalism. I attended a service in Memphis with a friend in 1981 and had been to First UU in Nashville with another friend a few times. When I read an article in the local paper that said that all were welcome at UU and that this church was different (the article talked about atheists and agnostics)—I knew I needed to check out this church!!

The teachings of Unitarian Universalism that are essential to me are that we should live today, be our best selves, and make the world a better place. I have been working on these three things during all of this time at UUFM. I am much better at living today instead of waiting for the perfect time for things and I have stepped out of my comfort zone many times to work for social justice causes.

During that first year at church, several members spent about ten weeks studying a book called Building Your Own Theology.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UUFM Supports Dreamers.....	2
Sprouts Hold Fundraiser.....	4
March Services .....	5
March Events .....	5
March Music.....	5
Poem .....	6

Jill Austin (continued from page 1)

There was a bit of reading and lots of self-evaluation exercises. I explored and remembered my religious past and slowly began to build my religious values and beliefs around the principles and sources of Unitarian Universalism. All of this study over time has made me more open to other peoples' world views and it has helped me to reclaim some of the religious words/ideals from my childhood church that felt damaging to me as an adult

What keeps me coming back is the opportunity to learn and explore new ideas and theories and to think about religious issues. I am also committed to helping to build this community that is open to people like me who were searching for a family and a place to belong. I can't imagine not seeing my family every Sunday; the two hours at UUFM give me energy for the week. By heart and hand, our community lifts people up; I want to be part of that work.

**TC: How do you like to spend your free time?**

JA: I enjoy organizing, so I volunteer with non-profits to work on developing plans, scheduling, developing efficiencies, and generally putting things in order. Writing is fun for me also; so, I write academic papers (these are sometimes fun to write) and I like to write talks for UUFM. Recently, I have become a sous chef with Andrea as the "master chef." I help with cutting vegetables, grating cheese, and washing lots of dishes. The cooked/baked result is always worth the effort and spending time with the "master chef" is fun. Just relaxing is also a worthy way to spend free time.

**TC: What's the best vacation you've ever taken and what is one place you'd like to see?**

JA: I spent three weeks in Alaska traveling by car from Anchorage to Fairbanks to Valdez to Seward and back to Anchorage. What a beautiful place and a most relaxing vacation. I would like to take a European river cruise some time, but I would also like to see more of the American West.

**TC: If you could create a slogan for your life, what would it be?**

JA: Effort spent on something important is never wasted.



# UUFM members support the Dreamers

On February 2, several UUFM members showed up on the square to support Rutherford County and Murfreesboro Dreamers. We heard from several powerful speakers, including one woman dreamer who teaches in Murfreesboro City Schools. All of the speakers were passionate and spoke eloquently of their desire to remain in the only country they've ever known.

As of publication, it appears the dreamers are safe for now. On February 26, the United States Supreme Court refused to grant a writ of certiorari for an appeal filed by the current administration. This means the approximately 700,000 Dreamers could remain in legal limbo for many months unless Congress acts to make their status permanent.



# Sprouts Hold Well-Received Fundraiser

By Allie Becker

The UUFM Sprouts hosted a fundraiser to benefit the Murfreesboro Cold Patrol on February 5th. Jennifer Neal arranged to have the event held at the Discovery Center after hours. About 20 kids and many adults showed up to help put on the dinner. The Sprouts cooked chili and collected donations of cornbread, dessert and drinks from other UUFM members and friends. They helped set up the space for the event, served food, greeted guests and helped clean up.

In exchange for admission to the Discovery Center and a chili dinner, the Sprouts asked for donations of hats, scarves or a small monetary donation. They were able to collect a large box of hats and scarves and \$360 for the Murfreesboro Cold Patrol.

The Murfreesboro Cold Patrol is a nonprofit that works with the homeless community. They help to meet the immediate needs of the homeless and refer them to existing resources to help them become reestablished in society.



### MARCH SERVICES

4	Communion of Words: ""Women's Voices"
11	Rabbi Rami Shapiro: "It's All About 'They': Why Pseudo Science is the New Bad Religion"
18	Rev. Denise Gyauch: "Just Who Do We Think We Are? Humility as a Crucial Value for Our Time"
25	Doug Traversa: "Chop Wood, Carry Water"

March 2018							Calendarpedia Your source for calendars
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
25	26	27	28	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

### MARCH MUSIC

4	286: A Core of Silence 1026: If Every Woman
11	313: O What a Piece of Work We Are 291: Die Gedanken Sind Frei
18	Here Comes the Sun The Garden Song
25	38: Morning has Broken 63: Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers

### MARCH UUFM EVENTS

6	UUFM Humanists—See Carolsue Clery
8	Board Meeting—Barbara & Bob
14	Men's Group—See Blake Becker
21	Women's Group—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

MARCH

By Richard Kenney

Sky a shook poncho.  
Roof wrung. Mind a luna moth  
Caught in a banjo.

This weather's witty  
Peek-a-boo. A study in  
Insincerity.

Blues! Blooms! The yodel  
Of the chimney in night wind.  
That flat daffodil.

With absurd hauteur  
New tulips dab their shadows  
In water-mutter.

Boys are such oxen.  
Girls! - sepal-shudder, shadow-  
Waver. Equinox.

Plums on the Quad did  
Blossom all at once, taking  
Down the power grid.