



UUFM

UUFM Fellowship of Murfreesboro
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

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The Chalice



Morning Meditation

By Carol Sue Clery

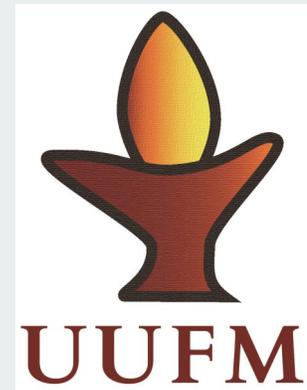
Thinking about many things that have led me to Unitarian Universalism and to the adoption of Humanism. A commitment to the UU principle asking us to respond to each person as important and the Humanist ideas about making this a more compassionate world through our human activities had a great deal to do with my journey.

Sometimes I get bogged down in the idea that those actions have to be big and grandiose—and there are many outstanding models of people doing great things in the world—and I feel overwhelmed. But my actions are usually small and go unnoticed by the wider world. Nonetheless, I think this is where I need to be.

I think about all the places I have volunteered in my life: as a teen I was a “Candy Stripper” in hospitals where I delivered mail, talked to patients, and held hands for comfort. I volunteered to re-shelve books in my local library (I spent a lot of time there anyway). Some books were probably never found again, but I tried. Volunteering in food pantries and United Way immersed me in the wonderful “messiness” of everyday life. Volunteering my teaching skills to help students when parents were not able to pay the needed help—most of the teachers I knew did this.

I don’t say those things to brag, but to point out that no action is too small or too little. Volunteering is essential to create a kinder and more caring society. It is a great way to get to know yourself and others (think about “the inherent worth and dignity”) in ways you never can through work.

Yes, I always start my meditation/musings with good coffee in my favorite mug.



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Get to Know a Member

We frequently run this feature to familiarize you with our members. This month's member spotlight is on Anna Deck.

How long have you been a member?

I joined UUFM over two years ago with my husband Thomas. I was also a member at TUUC in Dulaney Valley, Maryland with my daughter Angela and her family.

What originally brought you to UUFM and keeps you coming back?

We were aware of UUFM as soon as we moved to Murfreesboro but it took me three years to walk through the door. Hmm, I would say it was more than one thing that brought us to our UUFM family. We are from Baltimore, Md., born and bred, which is very different compared to Murfreesboro, Tn. We were told upon our arrival that we were not only in the bible belt, we were the buckle! I consider myself a very liberal Democrat, flower child, old hippie, free spirit.... I was searching for like minded people. And then number 45 was sworn in and I am not ashamed to say I spiraled down, down, down. Thomas and I showed up at UUFM out of desperation to be around like minded people and we were immediately welcomed with open arms. It is the love and acceptance and challenge of free thought and new ideas and the People that keep me coming back. Thank you family.

I keep coming back because I felt welcomed from the start, and I liked the UU principals and all the members who I got to know as we continued to attend. Now, I feel close to and respect UUFM's members.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Wow, gardening, baking, family, crosswords, being involved socially, reading, music, dance, and I must admit, I love a bar!

What is the best vacation you have taken and what is one place you'd like to see?

Thomas and I were fortunate enough to go to Hawaii with his work early in our marriage. It was the most beautiful place I've ever seen! I feel so connected to the ocean and so at peace on a beach, anywhere from Ocean City, Maryland to Hawaii would be a most wonderful trip for me.

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

Peace and love.



Earth Hour 2019

By Monica R. Ashbaugh

Earth Hour is a global environmental movement to raise awareness of the world's energy consumption.

Each year, the Earth Hour organization asks that cities and individuals shut off their electricity for one hour between 8:30 PM and 9:30 PM local time. This year's Earth Hour is Saturday, March 30, 2019. Many cities worldwide participate in this symbolic conservation effort. The first Earth Hour was celebrated in Sydney, Australia in March 2007, followed by San Francisco in October of that year. Since then, it has been celebrated annually in March as an international event. Major cities and landmarks across the globe have participated. The Eifel Tower, the Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, Mt. Rushmore, Niagara Falls, the Sydney Opera House, Big Ben, the Las Vegas strip, the Parthenon, the Forbidden City, the Empire State Building, the Taj Mahal, and Buckingham Palace all have darkened their lights to highlight the plight of our planet.

Earth hour invites us to slow down and raise our awareness of how casually we take electricity for granted. So, we are invited on March 30th between 8:30 PM and 9:30 PM to shut off all our electricity—the lights, the heater, the radio, the television—and while away the evening in a non-energy consuming activity. Have dinner or family game night by candlelight. Share stories, sing songs, play musical instruments (unplugged, of course), or just cuddle by the fireplace hearth and unite with the world in conserving energy.

The lesson of Earth Hour is to challenge ourselves to incorporate an “Earth Hour” every month in our lives, a time to slow down, embrace the simplicity of yesteryear's pre-electric life, and to walk softly on our planet.

Stewardship Drive

By Jill Austin

UU minister Rudy Nemser said, “It is the long-haul people upon whose shoulders (and pocketbooks and casseroles and daylight/nighttime hours) a church is built and – more importantly maintained. . . . The long-haul people bless a church with a very special blessing.” We are the long-haul people of UUFM and it is up to us to be the engine that makes church happen each week. It takes both volunteer time and our financial resources!!

The board, officers, and committee chairs do our best to spend UUFM financial donations wisely. Did you know that Sunday expenses are typically about \$750 each week? This includes costs for rent, speakers, childcare workers, a religious education teacher, and our pianist. And there are expenses for printing programs and religious education supplies. We also have insurance, social media costs, and dues to the UUA. So, in a typical month our expenditures are about \$3,400 . . . and we must have coffee!!! During the 2018–2019 year, our budget is \$41,748. We will be planning soon to determine our budget for 2019–2020.

Continued on next page

Stewardship Drive**Continued**

Each year during the spring, we hold a stewardship drive. During this time, our members and friends are asked to complete a form indicating their plans for supporting the church through volunteer time and financial resources. The dates for this year's stewardship drive are March 17 – April 7. On March 17, packets of information will be provided to everyone. We will ask members and friends to put your completed forms into the offering basket or mail them to UUFM.

Our church year begins in June, so we will need to know your commitment to UUFM for June 2019 – May 2020. The board committees will make requests to fund their committee initiatives for the year and they will present those needs to the board. The board will develop a budget based on the amount of pledges received. (Note that only the UUFM treasurer will see the pledge amounts that are turned in.) After the board approves the budget, it will be voted on by the congregation at our annual business meeting the third week of May.

Please be thinking about how you can give back to this fellowship that is so important to us.

UUFM COMMITTEES—2019

As part of the stewardship drive, members and friends will have the opportunity to volunteer to serve on a committee. The board will review the volunteer forms and make committee assignments. Specific duties of the committees are listed below.

Hospitality Committee (open to members and friends)

- Plan for food for church break time (including children's snacks)
- Greet visitors
- Plan and implement food/informal community interaction at fall retreat
- Plan and implement holiday potluck and May picnic

Religious Education (must be UUFM member)

- Oversee instruction of children and teen RE
- Monitor quality
- Develop direction and content in cooperation with UU board and chair
- Coordinate childcare for young children
- Help to facilitate teen group

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Committees (cont. from page 4)

Membership/Outreach (must be UUFM member)

- Maintain/order materials for new member inductions and assist with new member ceremonies
- Follow-up with visitors the week following the service to welcome them
- Add visitors' names to list for mid-week e-mail
- Communicate needs of members/friends to chair (and possibly to congregation)
- Handle calls/visits to members in need

Social Justice (open to members and friends)

- Organize and coordinate four or five planned activities each year
- Serve as conduit for information on social and community issues, keeping membership informed about opportunities to become involved
- Develop ideas for "give away the basket" Sundays
- Report on social justice activities to the membership

Communications Committee (must be UUFM member)

- Maintain website
- Develop advertisements for UUFM
- Develop press releases for UUFM
- Implement new media as new technologies become available (with approval of the board)
- Newsletter
- Develop/maintain the Member/Friends Directory of information
- Coordinate social media

Worship Committee (must be UUFM member)

- Plan programs for UUFM services
- Plan programs for Second Hour
- Develop scripts and printed programs
- Remind program volunteers about activities (service leader, story, readings)
- Select lunch bunch locations
- Follow-up with speakers and program helpers (reminder, thank you notes)
- Select people to do story for all ages and serve as monitor

MARCH SERVICES

3	Joy Warren: "Justice for Farm Workers"
10	Doug Traversa: "Life is like a DVD"
17	Rev. Denise Gyauch: "Many Kinds of Beautiful Lives: Transgender Visibility"
24	Rabbi Rami Shaprio: "The Jewish Holy Day of Purim & the Power of Faux History"

MARCH UUFM EVENTS

5	UUFM Humanists—6:00 pm Firehouse Subs
14	Board Meeting—6:30 pm Kimbro home
13	Men's Group—6:00 pm TBD
19	Women's Group—6:00 pm TBD

SETUP VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY:

Jill Austin

Andrea Dawson

Beth Skinner

John Skinner

Jennifer Uhl

UUFM 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

By **Kitti McConnell**

O stirring Spring, Persephone
Home planet Earth, all family.
O shifting symphony of life, I seek improvement. Take in stride.
My even need for employment,
Healing sleep, and enjoyment.

POEM

The Greening Chant

By **Monica R. Ashbaugh**

Mud, mud, deep in the mud,
all life comes
from deep in the mud

Winter melt,
Spring rainfall,
vernal ponds fill
Frog and toad awaken
Sing their chorus trill

Worms rise up
like Lazarus
Renewal has begun
Open up your eyes
My salamander son.

Arise, arise
Mud under azure skies
Belch up your yellow daffodils
Echo robin redbreast cries

Mud, mud, deep in the mud
all things grow
from deep in the mud

Brother bulb, Sister seed
Erupt from sleepy dreams
Birth through the darkness to the
light
In search of golden beams

Lotus climbs from
blackest muck
Beauty from the foul
Heartbreak's torn from
darkest days
Saging for the soul.

Mud, mud, deep in the mud
All wisdom's found
deep in the mud.

Mud, mud, deep in the mud
We're all born
from deep in the mud,
breathing, thinking, living mud.