

OPEN Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Newsletter

may/
june
2011

Message from the Fellowship President

Greetings Open Circle Friends,

As I write this message on a wet, gray day, I am reminded that the spring equinox has passed nearly a month ago and it is April, the month of showers that will bring us May flowers. The days are growing longer. And the temperatures are generally warmer. Warm winds and sunny days will soon be upon us. And so, the seasons change in Wisconsin.

We have been blessed in Christina Leone with the presence of a student minister who brings both head and heart to her messages. It has been wonderful to have her with us this year to lead our worship services. The message this past Sunday, "Earth Teach Us," was especially powerful for me. She has also provided great support in our new member orientation sessions, to our Religious Education committee, and in helping us to develop a Coming of Age program for our youth. Thank you Christina Leone for blessing us with such warmth and wisdom.

Our Open Circle Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 22, following the service. At that time, we will elect new board members and approve a 2011-12 Open Circle Budget. The board has prepared a budget that we believe meets the needs of our fellowship and that is feasible for the coming year. Packages (including the proposed budget and pledge form) will be distributed at the service on Sunday, April 24.

Several of our members are interested in earth-based approaches to spirituality. They are discussing the pagan tradition and beginning exploration of what might be involved in the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS). If you are interested, you can speak with Tammy Prus, Stephanie Evergreen, Paisley Harris or Liz Woodworth Zanto.

Our maintenance committee (John McDowell, Howie Zanto, Ron Cross, and Jerry Marcoe) has been busy lately. Through their efforts, Semenas Excavation was engaged and recently completed work to re-grade our parking lot, install a new storm sewer and lay a new sewer line to prevent flooding of our building. Thanks to John for coordinating this with the committee. Thanks to Jerry, we now have an on/off switch for our water heater, saving many kilowatt hours of electricity charges when we are not in the building.



The Green Sanctuary Committee, spearheaded by Jeanne and John McDowell developed an incredibly impressive candidacy application for Open Circle to become a UUA Green Sanctuary Community. The list of projects suggested for exploration and consideration was well thought out, and the Action Plan touches many areas of our fellowship and many of our committees, from a Harvest Brunch to Adopting a Bike Path to supporting the Food Bank to Food for Thought Book Discussions. Members of the committee are and will continue to be in discussion with other committees within our fellowship to ascertain the feasibility and level of support for the many projects that might be undertaken. Eighteen people from our fellowship are listed in the application as contributors and participants. Many thanks to those of you who provided ideas, served on the committee, and helped develop this application.

Work is proceeding on our new web site. A developer has been engaged. Design is beginning. We are beginning development of text and pictorial content. If you have pictures that might be helpful for our web site, please get them to me.

Ruth Lane has served as our treasurer and an Open Circle Board Member for the current 2010-11 year. As you know she will be leaving us in May and moving on to Minnesota where she will be attending Law School. Many thanks to Ruth for her service and support of Open Circle.

Teale Greyford has stepped forward to assume the role as interim director of our Religious Education Program for the children as Monica Walk steps down from this role. The transition is going well. Teale is also teaching many of the RE classes. Thank you both. The RE Committee has also been involved in extensive discussion about the future direction of our RE program. Many thanks to Kris, Liz, Terry, Jerry and other committee members for your efforts. Our new youth program, Neighboring Faiths, is going well as our young people explore alternative traditions, thanks to the RE Committee and Christina.

(continued on page 7)

get involved with OCUUF!

Eco Food Group Meeting

The next scheduled UU Eco Food meeting is May 21st. If anyone is interested in attending or would like to know more about the committee, please feel free to contact me. Jeanne McDowell (920) 251-0499 or j_mcdowell77@yahoo.com. (I will provide more details to anyone who is interested.)

Religious Education

Please contact interim RE Director Teale Greylord to talk about teaching and to get on the schedule.

Green Sanctuary Program

For details about the OCUUF Green Sanctuary Program (GSP) contact John McDowell at eastbrook06@gmail.com.

Men's Group Announcements

The OCUUF Men's Group meets on the first Sunday of every month. *Where:* Ramada Inn. *When:* 8:00 a.m. For more details contact John McDowell at eastbrook06@gmail.com.

Book/Video Club

Will meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8 pm at OCUUF. Books & videos will be selected based on the titles entered into the hat draw. The next meeting will be on May 17 and the book, *Through the Narrow Gate* by Karen Armstrong will be discussed.

Religious Discussion and Coffee

OCUUF women Jane Dennis continues to extend an invitation to gather for coffee and "religious discussion" on the 1st Monday of each month. Meeting will be held on May 2 and June 6 at 9:30 AM at Gift and Gab in Peebles (151 North and turn onto WH at light).

EarthSpirit: A CUUPs Chapter

Interested in earth spirituality? Feel a connection to nature? Anyone interested in getting involved with (or learning about) this group is cordially invited to speak with Tammy Prus, Stephanie Evergreen, Liz Woodworth-Zanto, or Paisley Harris.

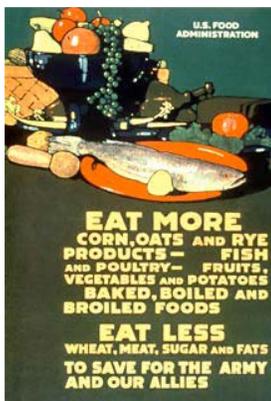
meatless Mondays

By Jane Dennis

Meatless Mondays dates back to WW I when the U.S. Food Administration under Herbert Hoover urged citizens to reduce their meat, sugar, and wheat consumption since those foods took more energy to produce than others. Americans who chose to do that were told they would be supporting the war effort. Vegetarian cookbooks, pamphlets, and newspapers published meatless recipes for this patriotic campaign.

The campaign was tried again during WW II under Roosevelt and Truman but never really got off the ground. Food was rationed during that time in order to aid Europeans suffering from the war.

Then, in 2003, the current "Meatless Monday" initiative started from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for a Livable Future. The original purpose was to promote better health and prevent certain diseases including obesity. This time the movement is growing rapidly as people realize that besides health benefits, there are benefits for the future of the planet.



Livestock production accounts for 20% of all man made greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. It takes a minimum of 1800 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef and 40 calories of fossil fuel go into producing one calorie of feed lot beef.

You can google Meatless Mondays to find more information and more delicious recipe ideas. Please share a new favorite recipe you discover for our second edition of the OCUUF Meatless Monday Recipes. Watch for lobby groups such as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association or the Farm Bureau trying to stop this growing movement.

DEB DOLL OFFICE HOURS

Deb will be available at the OCUUF office on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Please contact Deb if your contact information has changed including email and/or address.

eco food news

by Jeanne McDowell

The March peanut butter drive for the Fondy Food Bank was a great success. We collected 159 jars of peanut butter and almost \$100. The Food Bank was extremely appreciative of our donation since their supply of PB was almost exhausted. Thank you all for your help!

How are your Meatless Mondays going? Do you have a magnet on your refrigerator to remind you? Even if you do have that reminder, you might find yourself forgetting which day of the week it is!

I am really beginning to look forward to Mondays. I often have a yummy vegetarian pizza that night. There are several frozen varieties that I love. I hope it's OK to name names because I think Palermo's, a Wisconsin-based company from Milwaukee, makes the best frozen pizza. They even won an award in 2010 for their Primo Thin Garden pizza. It is on Health magazine's America's Healthiest Buys list. You can't beat the flavor of the ultra-crispy multigrain crust, topped with part-skim mozzarella cheese, fire-roasted green and red bell pepper, sliced olives, and broccoli. One of these Monday, why not give it a try!

Let us know what your favorite meatless dish is. We'd love to hear from you.

If anyone wants to learn more about the Eco Food Committee, please contact Jeanne McDowell at j_mcdowell77@yahoo.com. The next scheduled UU Eco Food meeting is May 21st.

POETRY PROVIDED BY JOHN MORRIS

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No programme accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about: We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

-- Archbishop Oscar Romero

If you feel you have found a spiritual home in the Open Circle, but have not yet joined OCUUF, we hope you will consider signing the membership book. Signing the membership book means that you feel you have found a spiritual home here and that you are committing to support the Open Circle Fellowship financially and with your time and talents. Feel free to talk to Jeff Reed (jreed@marianuniversity.edu; Madonna Bowman (mebowman@charter.net; or Paisley Harris (paisley.harris@uwc.edu about membership.

MAY 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>May Day/Beltane</i> OCUUF Men's Group meeting at Ramada at 8 AM Service topic: A Community of Blessing and Belong...for All the Ages Presented by: Kelly Crocker	2 Yoga with Jeanne McDowell 5:45 to 6:45 PM Women's Group at Gift and Gab at 9:30 AM	3	4	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	6	7 Dandelion Fest OCUUF Highway clean-up at 8:30 AM
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> Talk topic: Buddhism Presented by: Toner O'Connor	9 Yoga with Jeanne McDowell 5:45 to 6:45 PM	10	11	12	13	14
15 Talk topic: Farm to School Presented by: Fred Depies and Diane Chapeta	16 Yoga Potluck	17 <i>Flower Full Moon</i> Book Club meeting at 6:30 pm	18	19	20	21 Ecofood Group Meeting
22 Service Presented by: Christina Leone OCUUF Annual Meeting after service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Community Potluck	30 <i>Memorial Day</i>	31				

JUNE 2011

Calendar of events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 <i>Ascension Day</i>	3	4
5 OCUUF Men's Group meeting at Ramada at 8 AM Meatless Sunday Picnic presented by OCUUF RE Service Presented by: Scott Prinster	6 Women's Group at Gift and Gab at 9:30 AM	7	8	9	10	11
12 Theme: Poetry Presented by: Max Garland	13	14 <i>Flag Day</i>	15 <i>Strong Sun Full Moon</i>	16	17	18
19 <i>Father's Day</i> Service Presented by: Jim Coakley	20	21 <i>Summer Solstice/ Midsummer</i> Book Club meeting at 6:30 pm	22	23	24	25
26 Service topic: Flower Communion	27	28	29	30		

Was your announcement or event missed in this newsletter?

If so, please send a notification to Madonna Bowman at mebowman@charter.net and she will make sure your event is included in the weekly announcements.

Thank you!

"Meatless Sunday" Picnic

Come one, come all! Sunday June 5th the RE class will celebrate the end of the school year with a "Meatless Sunday" Picnic. The Picnic will be held during the regular service time in the front room. ALL children are invited to attend (including childcare age, RE age, Neighboring Faiths age and adults)! We will learn about the pilot program "Meatless Monday" currently in our public grade schools (learn more at <http://www.meatlessmonday.com/>), the impact of eating meatless on our bodies and society at large, and enjoy our interactive meatless picnic snacks (including homemade mini-pizzas). All participants will receive a magnet, a handout on the meaning of "Meatless Sunday (Monday)", child-friendly meatless recipes, and a delicious picnic experience. The picnic will be supervised by adults (including myself, the childcare supervisor, and parent volunteers), so grown-up participation is optional (although everyone is welcome to participate!) We hope to see you there!

Please speak with Teale Greylord, interim RE Director, if you have any questions.

Dear Friends and Members of Open Circle,

Concern: Building Security & Safety.

On Thursday (March 3), one of our Open Circle community members arrived at the building to find the side door unlocked and the inside hallway light turned on.

REMINDER:

Please be sure that if you are the last one to leave the building,
>> the building is securely locked – both front and side doors
>> the lights are turned off
>> the temperature (thermostat) is set correctly
>> the water heater is turned off

Concern: Fiscal Stewardship.

To conserve on energy, our Facilities Committee has installed an On/Off switch for our water heater (located in the maintenance closet just outside of the office.)

Before this, we were keeping hot water in the building 24/7 – an unneeded energy expense. Many thanks to Jerry Marcoe, John McDowell, and others on the Maintenance Committee involved in this improvement

REMINDER:

To get hot water (e.g., for washing dishes), it will now be necessary to turn on the hot water heater and allow the water to heat.

Thank you very much.

"Calling a Sacred Circle"

(BY TAMMY PRUS C.2011)

In the east
Crow plays with the wind
And caws for the power of air
Sharing wisdom

In the south
Snake dances with passion
And hisses for the power of fire
Igniting creativity

In the north
Wolf sits in meditation
And howls for the power of earth
Nourishing all who listen



In the north
Wolf sits in meditation
And howls for the power of earth
Nourishing all who listen

In the west
Frog sings the rain
Bringing the power of water
Quenching a soul's thirst

In the center
Humans drum a sacred song
Gathering the power of love
Building a sacred community

(continued from page 1... **Message from**)

The board has reviewed discussions that took place in our January Planning Workshop. We are developing a set of goals for the next 1 to 5 years.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their work in identifying Board Members for the coming year. In May, we will be electing our new President and Vice President, and a new Treasurer to replace Ruth.

Mid-West Leadership School (MWLS) occurs each summer, when Central Midwest District (CMwD) sponsors a week-long, intensive leadership training institute for lay leaders in the UUA community. This summer it will occur from July 17 through July 23. Typically attended by about 35 people, participants come to Beloit College from throughout the Midwest – as far away as Kansas or Kentucky. Past participants from Open Circle, in addition to me, are Monica Walk, Paisley Harris, Tammy Prus, and Brad Seibel. For information, see: <http://www.mwls.org/>. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact me or Paisley.

This summer's General Assembly will take place in Charlotte, NC, Convention Center, June 22-26. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the merger of the Unitarian and Universalist communities. Keynote speakers include sufi imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, composer/ conductor Nick Page, writer and activist Linda Stout, and founder of Border Angels Enrique Morones. Information is available at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>.

I look forward to attending the Central Midwest District Assembly April 29-30 in Bloomington, Illinois. The keynote speaker is Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, speaking on "The Perversity of Diversity – Fuzzy Aspirations and Hard Realities."

There are many others who have contributed to our fellowship – members of the Service Planning Committee, Eco Food Committee, Book Discussion Group – to make it such a vibrant fulfilling experience for so many.

Thank you to all for your contributions to Open Circle and your efforts to create community and to be a transforming presence in the Fond du Lac Community. Thank you to the members of the Board for your service, counsel, and assistance. And, thank you for the opportunity to serve as on the board of our fellowship.

In peace, advocating for justice, with hope for the future,

Jeffrey G. Reed

Board President

may and june service schedule

May 2011

May 1

Service topic: A Community of Blessing and Belong...for All the Ages

Presented by: Kelly Crocker

May 8

Talk topic: Buddhism

Presented by: Tonen O'Connor

May 15

Talk topic: Farm to School

Presented by: Fred Depies and Diane Chapeta

May 22

Presented by: Christina Leone

May 29

Community Potluck: join each other for fellowship and food! Please bring your own plate and silverware and a dish to pass.

June 2011

June 5

Presented by: Scott Prinster

June 12

Theme: Poetry

Presented by: Max Garland

June 19

Presented by: Jim Coakley

June 26

Service topic: Flower Communion

All services are held at Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship located at 19 E Third St in Fond du Lac at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

Please note: We will not have services in July and August. Hopefully, we can do some non-service things that will allow people to enjoy fellowship during the summer.

green sanctuary news

Our hard working Green Sanctuary Team has completed and submitted the GS application in time for Earth Day. We are excited about getting our fellowship moving in a green(er) direction. One thing the GS Team discovered during the green sanctuary process was how many environmentally sound decisions had already been made.

A special thanks to Jeanne McDowell for the many hours she spent putting all the pertinent data together.

OPEN CIRCLE Web Site Development Pictures Welcome

We have selected a vendor for development of our new Open Circle Web Site and are in the initial design stage.

We are looking for pictures that can be used on the web site and invite you to submit:

- **Pictures / photographs of Open Circle - the building, events, people, etc.**

For each picture that you submit, please provide the name of each person in the picture and indicate what the event is.

We assume that we have your permission to post on the web any pictures that are submitted.

Please note that for children under age 21, we must have written parental permission to post pictures.

You can submit pictures in hardcopy or electronically. If you submit electronic pictures, please make sure that they are in .jpg / JPEG format.

Submit pictures to: Jeff Reed,
jreed@marianuniversity.edu

Thank you for your help.

Missed Christina's most recent service on April 17, "Earth Teach Us"? You can check it out on YouTube!

It's three links, since YouTube only allows 10-minute clips at a time.

Thank you!

Blessings... Christina :-)

Earth Teach Us: April 2011

Earth Part One:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bx1olr7ehH0>

Earth Part Two:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jVNorQBJo4>

Earth Part Three:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Gg2WHsyX6Q>

Midwest Leadership School July 17 – 23, 2011 Invitation to Participate

Each summer, Central Midwest District (CMwD) sponsors a week-long, intensive leadership training institute for lay leaders in the UUA community (in partnership with Prairie Star and Heartland Districts of the UUA).

This summer it will occur from Sunday, July 17 through Saturday, July 23 at Beloit College.

Each summer about 35 participants come to Beloit from throughout the midwest – as far away as Kansas or Kentucky.

The program includes UU history and theology, elements of worship, leadership, group and system dynamics, and developing and sharing personal belief statements. All of these elements are essential for today's congregational leaders. It uses an intense set of workshops, discussions, intimate small groups, worship preparation, personal theological exploration and growth sessions.

People interested in a leadership role within the UUA fellowship or larger community are encouraged to participate.

Open Circle has budgeted to support participation of one or two members each summer.

A brochure is available at: <http://www.mwls.org>

If you are interested in participating, contact Jeff or Paisley.

Unitarian Universalist Guiding Principles

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Open Circle Mission Statement

We come together as Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship open to experiencing transcendent mystery and wonder, honoring diversity and religious freedom. We come to pursue Unitarian Universalism's prophetic vision of peace, justice, compassion and sustainability and to create Beloved Community.

Open Circle Vision Statement

To be a transforming presence in the lives of individuals and the Fond du Lac community.

Contact Information

Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Committees and Chairs

Membership Coordinator: Madonna Bowman

Religious Education: Kris Evert

Service Planning: Sylvia Reed

Hospitality: Susanne Dennis

Building Maintenance: John McDowell

EcoFood Group: Jeanne McDowell

Men's Group: John McDowell

Green Sanctuary: John McDowell

Library Committee: Linda Moore

Décor Committee: Madonna Bowman

Diversity: Paisley Harris

19 E Third St
Fond du Lac WI 54935.
Phone: (920) 924-8598
Email: OCUUF@tds.net

Board Members:

Jeffrey G. Reed - President
jreed@marianuniversity.edu
Paisley Harris - Vice President
paisley.harris@uwc.edu
Tracy Gravelle - Secretary
Ruth Lane - Treasurer
Jerry Danner – Member-at-Large

Next newsletter deadline:

Please send submissions for the July/August 2011 newsletter to Stephanie Evergreen via email at stephcevergreen@yahoo.com no later than June 20, 2011. Thanks in advance!