

CommUUnicator

The Newsletter of the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Waukesha, WI



January
2015

506 N. Washington Ave
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-544-1050
www.UnitedUUC.org



Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m.

Office hours

Tuesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Minister's Office hours

Tuesday & Friday
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



UUUC Sunday Services (10:30 a.m.)

January 4, 2015

“Affordable Healthcare”

Speaker: Rusty Borkin

Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative (CGHC) is dedicated to changing health insurance by delivering a new and better way to experience quality, comprehensive care. CGHC's approach is simple . . . value people above profit. Led by a team of passionate, experienced professionals, CGHC is member-focused and member governed.

January 11, 2015

“Values in the Real World”

Speaker: Schuyler Vogel

It's easy to live our values in the abstract. It's harder in the real world. How do we live with integrity, when our values make our lives difficult or when there is a lot at stake?

January 18, 2015

“The Beginning is Now”

Speaker: Kaye Wickenberg

This sermon is from the Church of the Larger Fellowship's Quest Series. Sara Huisjen, Minister of the UU Church of Ellsworth, Maine originally presented this sermon, as she explored the new beginning we all face each year, as we strive to define our lives anew.

January 25, 2015

“Spiritual Integrity”

Speaker: Schuyler Vogel

Integrity is important for all of us. But what does integrity look like for a church? How is it different for us as a religious community, and especially for us as Unitarian Universalists? I think it has to do with what our church is all about and what we are trying to do together?

Minister's Letter



Minister's Office Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM



EMAIL
Minister@uniteduuc.org

PHONE
(262) 544-1050.

MEET OUR MINISTER



Wednesday,
January 7, 2015

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Steaming Cup
Waukesha

*Come and meet our Minister,
Schuyler Vogel on the 1st
Wednesday of each month.*

Happy New Year! It's the time of new beginnings and fresh starts, resolutions and plans. Here at United, we are taking this time of year to heart. Starting in January, we are starting a new project, and one that we hope you'll be part of. Our Social Justice team has done a wonderful job over the years in working with the community and supporting the causes we all care about. Now, we are looking to expand our impact and our ministry. And that begins with you. Research has shown social justice ministries are most effective when the congregations themselves, not simply committees or individuals, feel committed about their work. When congregations are united in purpose and passion, more work gets done a greater impact is made, and the congregation itself grows in mission and identity. Our ultimate goal is to identify one or two major causes, focus our justice ministry and allowing it to flow more cogently and smoothly through the life of the church.

So we want to begin a conversation and hear from you. Starting in January, our Social Justice team will be holding listening sessions with members, friends and staff. Our goal is to find out what is important to you, how you see United working for justice in our community and how you might be excited to be part of it. We hope you'll sign up for one of these discussions. Members of our justice team will lead them at various times throughout the next few months. Our hope is that they will allow us as a congregation to identify our values, our priorities and the gifts we have to offer.

Frederick Buechner once wrote that "the place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." We believe that this is where our social justice ministry can begin. The relationships and the conversations that emerge will connect and unite us, building consensus and excitement at what is possible. In doing so, we will take the first steps in harnessing our incredible potential to make our world a better place.

Schuyler

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, January 22, 2015

All items **MUST** be UU related.

SCHEDULED SESSIONS

Session 1

January 20, 2015

6:00—7:30 PM

*(Future sessions will be on the 3rd
Tuesday of each month)*

Session 2

January 21, 2015

6:00—7:30 PM

*(Future sessions will be on the 3rd
Wednesday of each month)*

Facilitator:

Pastor Schuyler Vogel



SPIRIT JOURNEY

***A Journey to explore and reflect on
spiritual themes.***

This is a combination of a new, small group ministry and an adult education opportunity that begins in January. See the dates and times in the box to the left.

Spirit Journey groups will gather once a month to explore a spiritual theme, reflecting on our lives and hearing from each other about what matters most.

The themes are varied and theologically inclusive ranging from subjects such as, wonder, integrity, devotion, and resilience. Participants will go deeper into the spiritual questions and themes.

Pastor Schuyler Vogel will be facilitating these sessions that will continue over the coming months.

For more information about the sessions, contact Pastor Schuyler Vogel.

262-544-1050

minister@uniteduuc.org

QUILTS ON DISPLAY

The Linus Project is a national effort to bring some comfort to youngsters in medical distress. Eight Members and Friends at UUUC have been busy since last summer creating quilts for seriously ill local children, as part of the Linus Project. Twenty four of their beautiful creations will be on display in our Sanctuary during the month of January. After the display ends, the quilts will be sent to Children's Hospital in Milwaukee.

Each week will feature a different group of quilts, two of which will be sold at our Annual Auction. The proceeds of these 2 quilts will go toward the purchase of more fabric, so that this project can continue.

A very special thank you goes to Marcia Romashko, who was our inspiration and generously offered not only her quilting expertise and enthusiasm, but her home to those, who took part in the project.

These beautiful quilts will brighten the coming dreary Sundays of January. So, come and enjoy our Quilt Show.

*Thank
you*

CHRISTMAS EVE

2014

This year, 86 adults and 10 children attended our candlelight Christmas Eve service. That's the largest group we've ever had at a service in our new building!

Also, on Christmas Eve, the congregation collected \$671 to be donated to the Hebron House in Waukesha.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In January the children will be learning about Moses. The stories of Moses are well known stories and it is very important that our children are familiar with these stories.

January 4th—Moses in the Bulrushes

The story of Moses birth and how he was adopted by the daughter of the Pharaoh. We will discuss persecution and related it to stories in our history.

January 11th—Moses and the Burning Bush

We discuss what it is the children would like to do when they grow up and if there is anything special they are meant to do with their lives. We will also discuss how people, who have found the special thing in their lives and how they become dedicated to a cause.

January 18th—Let My People Go

In this lesson we will discuss oppression and slavery.

January 24th—The Ten Commandments

What is the difference between rules and responsibilities? The Ten Commandments are rules of how we should be responsible to ourselves, others and God.

Treasurer's Report 2014-15 Fiscal Year

TREASURER'S REPORT for January, 2015

Income	7/1/14 - 12/9/14	Amount Budgeted for the Year 7/1/14- 6/30/15
Pledges	\$19,226	\$52,728
Other Income	\$10,876	\$40,037
Total Income	\$30,102	\$92,765
Total Expenses	32,904	\$88,006
Income - Expenses	(\$2,802)	\$4,759

The endowment balance as of October 31st is \$232,438.

Our mortgage principal as of Dec. 1st is \$151,162.

We have \$6,922 in the Fellowship Hall Renovation Fund. Only \$4,000 more to go!

Just A Note



FACEBOOK

Coming Soon!

Watch the announcements for news about our new website coming soon.

Christmas Families

Gift Project

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas gifts to make the 2014 Christmas Families Project a success. You made the Holiday a joy for a lot of local families.

Handwritten thank you notes from some of the children are on display in the Fellowship Hall.

Hebron House Dinner

Thank you to everyone who planned, prepared and delivered the dinner on December 7th to guests at the Hebron House.

Winter Weather

If a church service or planned church event must be cancelled due to winter weather, announcements will be made on **WTMJ4** and **WISN 12**.



Mark Your Calendar! POTLUCK SUNDAY JANUARY 11TH

The January Potluck theme is **BAKED POTATO BAR EXTRAVAGANZA**. Signup in the Fellowship Hall, so that we have plenty of the toppings to share. Call Kaye for more information.

**Quilt Show
January**

**New
website!**

2015

**Blood Drive
March**

**POTLUCKS
Sept—May**

**Annual Auction
April 25th**

**News on our
Facebook Page**

FELLOWSHIP HALL RENOVATION

Building & Grounds has talked to several members about finishing the Fellowship Hall renovation project. Five very generous families have stepped up and made donations or pledges of more than \$4,500 and we now have \$7K of the \$11K we need to complete the project. That means we only need \$4K more. We are now asking the rest of the congregation to consider a gift toward the Fellowship Hall so we can finish it and make it a warmer and more inviting room for all of us to enjoy during coffee hours and pot lucks. Please consider making a donation or pledge by the end of January. Thank you.

Former UUU Society of Mukwonago Building

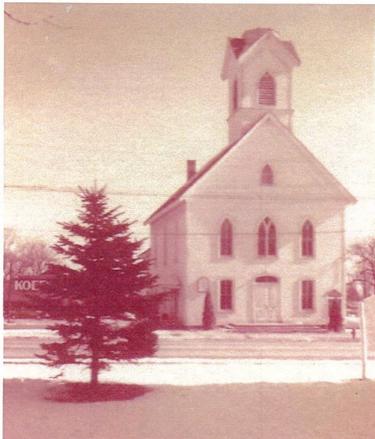
It was with shock and sadness that I read in the December 3, 2014, Mukwonago Chief that the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection had closed. When we sold our white clap board church to them for \$305,000 in May 2007, we were relieved that it was going to remain a church. Our congregation had worked hard to have the building placed on the Register of Historic places in 1995, and we did not want it to be used for retail business, or worse yet, torn down.

The Episcopal Church was a perfect buyer. They were excited to finally find a building they could afford, and they believed that the visible location would be a great place for them to expand their membership. We agreed to let them have the pews, and use our furniture until we found a new home. It was an agreement that worked for both congregations. Full of hope and enthusiasm, the Episcopal congregation cleaned up the building, painted the door red and moved in. They had been renting space at the UCC, so we switched places and we rented space from the UCC.

Why one church succeeds and another one fails is a bit of a mystery.

We had some advantages the Church of the Resurrection did not have.

Perhaps the most important one is that from the beginning our congregation owned the building free and clear. The fact that our founders never took out a mortgage served us well. In 1884 there were 20 Universalist churches in Wisconsin, and by 1893 the number had dwindled to seven. By 1989 only three from the original list; Racine, Wausau, and Mukwonago were left. We almost disbanded in 1984, but one of the reasons the congregation survived was that we owned the building. Nissley Kaste said, "In starting over we had the advantage of a church that was structurally sound, and we had \$24,000 in the bank. None of this would have happened without over 100 years of devotion of lay members and the service of many fine ministers." Today we also have an endowment, and that has given us a great deal of stability over the years.

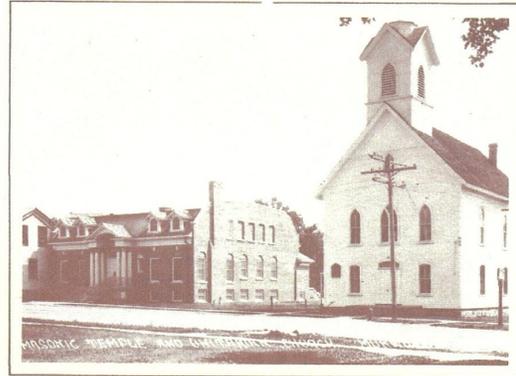


UUUSM building, 1956. Behind the tree you can just make out Koeffler Chevrolet. The business was owned by longtime members Harold and Charlotte Koeffler.

It is always difficult to keep a church going when in hard times there is no building or endowment to fall back on. When the Episcopal Church purchased our church they took on the challenge of maintaining a historic building. The lack of dedicated religious education space, the constant upkeep and high heating bills were reasons we moved, and I expect those were challenges for the Episcopal Church too. According to the article in the Chief, as the Church of the Resurrection struggled to find a permanent priest, membership numbers dwindled to 20 from their high point of 50.

The decision to leave our beloved old building that had served us so well for the past 129 years was extremely difficult for our congregation. Some of our congregation were third-generation members, and for them it was particularly heart wrenching. It took five years of discussion and study to reach a consensus on the need to move. The result of this slow and

difficult process allowed us to leave our charming, history-filled building with its happy memories as a united congregation. The Episcopal Diocese is now in possession of the church, and no decision has been made about what to do with the building. Since its dedication in 1879 our former church has not only been the spiritual home to many families, but has been used by government bodies for auctions, elections and livestock sales, and by civic organizations for socials, dances, and lectures. It was even home to the first village library. Now our once vibrant church, home to so much of our history, sits vacant, and forlorn. The siding on the north side of the building is turning green, but whatever happens to our beloved old building, we can be thankful for the legacy that our founders left us. The building has served us well, and with our new home we have much to be grateful for. We can only hope that the building will be sold to another church, so it can continue to be there for future generations to enjoy.



MASONIC TEMPLE & UNITARIAN CHURCH
The Universalist & Unitarian Church was built in 1879. It is the oldest church still standing in Mukwonago. The spire was removed after being struck by lightning in 1902.

UUUSM circa 1927

JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						3
						
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Food Pantry Collection		Meditation Grp 7 PM	Coffee w/the Minister Steaming Cup 4 PM		10
				Buddhist Group 7 PM		
	11	12	13	14	15	16
POTLUCK			Meditation Grp 7 PM			17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
Soc Concerns Committee Meeting After service			Spirit Journey 6 PM	Spirit Journey 6 PM	Newsletter Deadline	
			Meditation Group 7 PM	Buddhist Group 7 PM		24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Meditation Group 7 PM			31

Thank you!

January Volunteers

Thank you!

GREETERS

1/4 John W & Kaye W

1/11 Dona L & Herb L

1/18 Chet & Sally C

1/25 Alex R & Marcia R

COFFEE HOSTS

1/4 Kelly M & Lisa B

1/11 POTLUCK

1/18 Dona & Herb L

1/25 Stewart K & Paula P



WHAT WE DID IN DECEMBER

- **Began planning for 2015 listening sessions between the congregation & our Social Justice Team.**
- **Setup a Quilt Show of the lovely, handcrafted quilts made for the Linus Project.**
- **Celebrated Christmas Eve with 86 adults & 10 children at a beautiful candlelight service.**
- **Donated Christmas gifts to local families.**
- **Collected items for the Food Pantry.**
- **Prepared & delivered dinner for our friends at the Hebron House.**
- **Collected \$671 to be given to the Hebron House.**

“WE PUT OUR FAITH IN YOU.”

Consulting Minister

Schuyler Vogel

Director of Religious Education for Youth and Children

Margaret Devlin dre@uniteduuc.org

Office Administrator

Pat Daebel uniteduuc@gmail.com

UUUC Board of Directors

Monica Whaley (Facilitator),

Ellen Poplawski (Secretary),

Paul Bergmann (Treasurer),

Carol Pauly, Mike Reavis, Alex Romashko
(Trustees at Large)

OUR MISSION

We scatter and nurture seeds of spirit, service, and community.

OUR VISION

We envision a large progressive religious community, growing in spirit and in service.

OUR COVENANT

As a congregation:

We encourage children,

We preserve the environment,

We nurture spiritual enrichment,

We embrace authentic relationships,

We serve each other and the larger
community.

This we covenant with each other.