

First Unitarian E-News

Thursday, March 20, 2008

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1. THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, March 23 -- Rev. Sutherland, "*Practice Resurrection!*" — A service for all ages to celebrate the season of resurrection and explore what Easter might mean to Unitarian Universalists. Childcare will be available for 1st graders and below in the Youth Center. All ages are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for the worship service.

The Special Offering on March 30 will be dedicated to the emerging UU congregation in Dover. Our own First Unitarian Growth Committee along with other Delaware congregations are working with an enthusiastic group to establish the first UU congregation in our state capital. Now numbering about 40, they will be holding their first official service on April 6. Our offering will be a signal of our support as well as welcomed resources to help launch their efforts. Please plan to give generously. (A number of them plan to be here for the service so please do extend a warm welcome to our neighbors.)

There is also an opportunity to join the church on Sunday! We look forward to seeing you.

2. CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAY AND MONDAY

The church office will be closed on Friday, March 21 (Good Friday) as a staff holiday **and on Monday, March 24**, for 'illness.' (*Arline and Scott both have a 'bug' that we want them to recover from, Fran is recovering from knee surgery, our Monday volunteer, Jeanette Burke is also recovering from surgery, and Marina's kids both have 'the bug', too. So we are hoping the day will hold recuperative powers for us all so we can start Spring in good health.*)

3. CARING AND SHARING

In Memoriam

We send our condolences to Bill Lawrence whose sister Winnie Kensill died at the end of February. She was an amazing woman, a community activist, dedicating her life to making this world a better place to be.

We received word today that Malcolm Campbell has died. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

Please keep Scott Davidson, Rebecca Fisher, and family in your hearts and minds as they mourn the sudden death of Scott's brother and his mother, also. They both died within two weeks of each other. Please reach out and comfort them in this difficult time.

Get Well Soon!

As of this writing we have several folks suffering– or recovering — from “the worst cold/flu/bug” they’ve ever had, including our Hon. Minister of Music, Scott Ward. Fran Grubb, our administrative assistant, is recovering from knee surgery. Lois Kaylor remains hospitalized following her shoulder surgery last month. And Edith Fischer-Berr has been ill, as well. Please hold the First UU family up and send out healing thoughts. We wish them all well!

4. NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, March 30 Rev. Sutherland *“The Puritans’ Rebellious Descendants”* — How did Unitarianism and Universalism emerge in North America? Arline will explore the contributions of our religious ancestors and their relevance today.

5. ALLIANCE NEWS

On Monday, April 7, Alliance members and friends will meet in the Parish hall at noon for a ‘bring-your-own’ lunch. Dessert and beverages will be served.

Barbara Roewe will review for us “A Hundred Years of History of the Comic Strips.” It will be fascinating to hear about the evolution of the humor and social commentary in the daily comics. Do you still read them? How do they compare with our earlier memories? Let’s explore beyond “Blondie,” “Doonesbury,” and “Peanuts.”

Everyone is welcome to these gatherings. Come and have some fun!

6. STILL TIME TO REGISTER! LATE FEES WAIVED ‘TIL MARCH 20TH.

There is still time to register for the JPD Spring Conference! We are waiving the late fee for anyone who registers by 11:59 pm on March 20. (If you have already paid a late fee, it will be refunded.) If you register online, a refund will be posted to your PayPal account. If you register via snail mail, please feel free to deduct the late fee before writing your check. The registrations for the Spring Conference have not been meeting our targeted numbers and the District has the possibility of having additional fees from the hotel if we do not meet a certain quota of 80%. We want to give more people the opportunity to attend at the regular price. Limited scholarship funds are also available. For more information, please call Karen in the church office (302-478-2384.) **Help the district - come to the conference and bring your friends!**

7. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – SPECIAL CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

In preparation for the arrival of our special guests, the Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder and his family on April 18-27, we need to clean the interior of our church. We’ll get together on Saturday, **April 12th from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m.** This is an inter-generational event with everyone, children through seniors, participating. Come help us polish up the sanctuary, purge closets, re-organize the rooms on both sides of the sanctuary, reclaim the balcony and chair room. We also want to scrub the RE wing as a spring cleaning. We need as many hands as possible to lighten the load. Lunch will be provided. It will be fun so don’t miss out as we prepare for our future! Any questions, please contact Steve Cohen.

8. REMINDER: ITEMS NEEDED FOR CYRE OUTREACH PROJECT

Don't forget. The First Unitarian's 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are putting together CRAFT KITS for children at **A.I. DuPont Children's Hospital**. Please help us by bringing in the following items March 2 – March 30: Ziploc 2 gallon bags

- Elmer's Glue stick or bottle
- Scissors
- Construction Paper-assorted colors
- Crayons – box of 8, 16, or 32
- Markers – box of 10 or 12, thin or thick
- Coloring Books OR a Journal
- Assorted Stickers
- Pencils

Please place items in a box in the RE Hall way marked A.I. Hospital Craft Kits. And we thank you for supporting our children's outreach program.

9. THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Whether one believes in a religion or not, and whether one believes in rebirth or not, there isn't anyone who doesn't appreciate kindness and compassion.

Dalai Lama