

SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

JANUARY 2 ♦ COMMITMENT STONE

This service, led by the Rev. Jeff Briere, will give us a chance to make a commitment to ourselves for the new year.

JANUARY 9 ♦ 20 QUESTIONS: CREATION, EVOLUTION, OR DESIGN?

The Rev. Jeff Briere preaches about the relative merits of the three leading explanations for our existence.

JANUARY 16 ♦ ZEN BUDDHISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

We welcome Zenkai Taiun Michael Elliston, from the Atlanta Soto Zen Center to our pulpit. This service will address the relevance of Zen Buddhism in the 21st century and includes an opportunity for the congregation to share comments and questions. Please read about Sensei Elliston on page 9.

JANUARY 23 ♦ HOPE NEEDS ONLY HANDS AND HEARTS

We welcome Marc Adams to our pulpit. Marc is an author and inspirational speaker and director of the Heartstrong Institute. He will speak to us of his experiences at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University after he acknowledged being gay. You can read more about Marc on p. 9.

JANUARY 30 ♦ WHAT HARM DOES IT CAUSE?

Wolfgang Poe, president-elect of our board of trustees, will explore the issues surrounding same sex couples, gay marriage and the current neo-conservative push to suppress this group's rights.

SUNDAY FORUMS

The Forum meets downstairs in the last room on the left at 9:30 am. All are welcome to attend. Contact Jim Welborn for more information.

- January 2 A conversation with the Giris, a Nepalese immigrant family-Where the third world meets the 21st century. Facilitated by Hugh Everhart
- January 9 Immigration as a Moral Issue-UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2010-2014. Facilitated by Matt Hoyt
- January 16 Zen Buddhism. Elliston Roshi, who will be speaking at the 11:00 service, will present to the forum. A priest in the Soto Zen Buddhist community, Elliston Roshi has been involved in Zen Buddhism since 1966 and has been a priest since 1970. Matt Hoyt will facilitate.
- January 23 Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice - UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for 2008-2012. Facilitated by Matt Hoyt
- January 30 Continued discussion of a Solar Energy Project for Our Church. Facilitated by Ken Beaver

The articles in *the nUUsletter* are representative of the diverse and varied opinions and beliefs of the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga (UUCC).

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB
by Steve Hollingsworth

$$dS = \frac{\delta Q}{T}$$

~ *Second Law of Thermodynamics*

As a Unitarian Universalist (UU) through and through, with a deeply ingrained rational streak, I must face the contradiction implied in my being in Las Vegas as I write this. I can't take cover in having made the trip for a convention or to see relatives. We stayed on Fremont Street and played our nickel poker machines until our eyes were bleary.

What's going on? Well, for one thing, it feels good to be in a place where people give you things just because they hope you'll voluntarily do something that will benefit them. I can OD on 99 cent shrimp cocktails and know that I haven't committed to do anything besides show up. But how to explain ever putting money at risk where, in the end, the house always wins?

It may be sophisticated rationalizing, but I say there is something wired into us to take pleasure in trying to beat the odds. All life, even the simplest forms, top a spectacularly unlikely pyramid of winners against long odds. We balance risk and safety and need both.

It is always in my mind how life itself is pitted inexorably against *entropy* (substitute *randomness* if physics makes you queasy). The equation I cited at the beginning is the mathematical statement of how all life must ultimately be defeated. The universe is running down and we can't stop it.

Life is about facing down the inevitable. We root for underdogs. Across our society, we seem to want to see wealth accumulate. The left and right seem happy for even the wealthiest to pay relatively low taxes; what difference there is, is only one of degree. Looking at our UU Small Group Ministry curricula, I see a session plan for "If You Were to Win the Lottery." At least one group in our church got together and talked about it. In an odd way, what you can get out of playing the lottery is feeling part of something that bucks the normal order of things—*someone* will be rich who wasn't before, even if it isn't you.

I doubt there can be an untarnished defense of a place where lots of people have fun but vanishingly few of the winners are players. Of the people who live and work here, most get mediocre wages and benefits. But it's also where a nameless person dropped a 50 cent cash voucher on the machine we were playing as she hurried out of the casino. I'm certain I need reminding that small amounts of money can be insignificant. Who remembers the excitement of a kid watching the odometer roll back to 000000? At last and just once I want to see that AKQJ10 royal flush, to face the long odds and win.

PAGAN NUUS

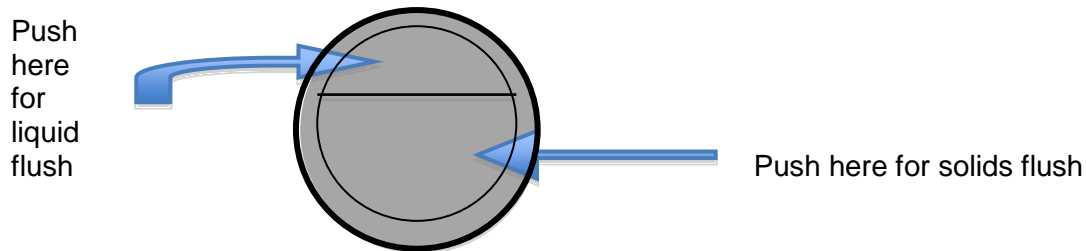
January 2 – Study Group 9:30 am – Topic Planning for upcoming year
January 4 – New Moon 2:04 AM
January 19 – Full Moon 2:22 PM



GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE
by Sandy Kurtz, Green Sanctuary

PUSHING YOUR BUTTONS

When a small Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga group formed years ago with a desire to become a Green Sanctuary, we devised an action plan. Among other things, the plan lay out what we would do to reduce our use of natural resources for our building. We looked for ways to save water so we asked **Paul Adler** if we could install low flow toilets in our restrooms. Paul, in his usual curmudgeon-like fashion, rejected the whole ridiculous idea Toilet dams or bricks to displace water wouldn't do either. However, unbeknownst to us, a seed was planted, and we now discover that Paul has installed new buttons on the upstairs toilets that enable water conservation. They look something like this diagram:



Paul is very pleased to report that his new installations have solved some water problems we have had for years and that we are saving money while conserving water. Not only has Paul saved us water, but over time he has slowly been replacing our incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs thereby cutting our use of electricity and the associated expense not to mention reducing the amount of coal needed to produce the electricity. Thank you, Paul!

AND SPEAKING OF ENERGY

David Zenner, President of the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Atlanta, spoke to the Forum in December where he described the process involved in placing the first solar panels on their church roof. Presently the panels are supplying about 20% of the energy needs. They will be placing more panels in the future as financial resources allow. Ken Beaver also informed the group of the work of our UUCC Solar Exploration Committee. The roof has been inspected and the potential for solar panels has been assessed. The committee is moving closer to making recommendations. Solar panels for UUCC would serve as a visible energy-saving demonstration for others and free up some money to be used for purposes other than heating and cooling the building.

I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait till oil and coal run out before we tackle that.

~ Thomas Edison

UUCC Board of Directors

President, Eric Papendorp

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VP, Programs, Kristie McKinley

VP, Religious Education Bonny Sinclair

VP, Ways and Means, Frank Caperton

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NUUS
DEEP BELLY LAUGHS**

by Kay McCurdy, Director of Religious Education

"I've never been so insulted in all my life."

"Well, it's early yet."

~ The Marx Brothers, *A Day at the Races*

Got perspective? If not, I'd like to invite you to join us one Sunday morning in our Religious Education program. You'll find that in addition to bright smiles and imaginative minds, we are simply awash in perspective. Once their immediate needs are met, no one possesses a greater ability to "bounce" from tragedy to triumph than a child. I love to peek into the nursery and watch the little ones cruising the room....."Clean diaper? Check. Sweet mommy-type ladies to comfort and adore me? Check. The world is my oyster."

The same is true for the Unitarian Universalist kids rushing downstairs for their classes from service. They don't gripe about the weather, the length of their inseam, or whether they had doughnuts or oatmeal for breakfast. You might think that children aren't living in the same complicated world we adults inhabit, but that's pure hoey. You want complicated? Try learning to tie your shoes. Or navigating the strange world of public restrooms. Or expressing your feelings clearly and concisely, when you're still grasping the subtleties of the English language.

I opened this article with a quote from my youngest daughter Sophie's favorites, the Marx Brothers. In our home, we love to crack wise. In fact, our family considers laughter to be the most sacred and essential element of daily life. It wasn't always so. I grew up in a home darkened by the accidental death of a sibling, and my husband suffered great losses early in life, as well. At eleven years old, I was allowed to stay up late one Friday night (10:30!) and watch Johnny Carson's opening monologue on *The Tonight Show*. It was a revelation. I loved his classy delivery and the self-deprecating way he giggled at jokes that bombed. I loved that, even on a day when very bad things had happened to very good people, it was okay to take a deep breath and plop down on a whoopee cushion.

Face it, life hurts. Some days, it hurts an awful lot. And whether you're nine or ninety, pausing for a deep belly laugh is an absolute must. Laughter, and the perspective that accompanies it, puts our ego on hold, and sets free what is buried under all our worries and fears. And it is also a gentle reminder that we are, all of us, rowing the same boat. I'll close with a quote from one of my favorite funny people, a man who knew just how to mix the salty with the sweet.

That's all we are....amateurs. We don't live long enough to be anything else.

~ Charlie Chaplin, *Limelight*

*Preventing conflicts is the work of
politics; establishing peace is the work
of education.
~ Maria Montessori*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR R.E. FAMILIES

When you registered your child for religious education classes at the UCC, you also agreed to retrieve them as soon as the service ended. Our wonderful R.E. volunteers give so much of their time and energy to provide a nurturing environment for the children of our church. Let's thank them by doing our part, and picking up our UU Kid(s) immediately after service.

LIGHTING A CHALICE
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY NUUS
by Wendy Sapp, SGM Co-coordinator

If you walk through the doors of a Christian church to attend a worship service, there are elements that will be present every time: prayer, scripture readings, talk about God. In Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, life isn't so simple. Studies have attempted to find out what elements are most commonly included in UU worship services, and not surprisingly they find that UU churches are as varied in their worship practices as members are in their beliefs. Nevertheless, one worship element stands out above the others as almost ubiquitous: the chalice. Here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, we light a chalice during every worship service and our Small Group Ministry groups also open and close by lighting and extinguishing a chalice.

What is it about a chalice that is so compelling? The answer to that could take an entire book and more knowledge and insight than I have, but I want to mention just a few possibilities.

A chalice, especially when lit in a small setting, provides a focus for attention. It provides a visual image to help quiet the mind and to direct our thoughts, emotions, and energy.

A chalice, or any other source of light and heat, feeds a primal need within us for security and community. Since time immemorial, people have gathered around a flame for safety, for warmth, and for the chance to simply be with others.

A chalice, like other light sources, shines out to those who are not near. It provides a small beacon of hope that everyone can experience something other than darkness and cold.



No wonder our Small Group Ministry groups light a chalice each meeting. It serves the three purposes that guide SGM. A chalice provides a focal point for spiritual or personal contemplation. A chalice provides a sense of community. A chalice provides a visual image of our ability to share our beliefs through service to our church and community.

To learn more about Small Group Ministry, contact co-facilitators Dez Papendorp or Wendy Sapp at sgm@uuc.org.

<p style="text-align: center;">Small Group Ministry Current and Upcoming Service Projects</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dogs and Cats</u>: Assist with Seder dinner <u>Dogs and Cats</u>: Service project to support community animal rescue projects <u>Parents</u>: Create birthday cards for church <u>Maitri</u>: Mardi Gras Festivities for the benefit of church and community</p>
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CLEANING FOR A REASON

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides free housecleaning, once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. *Cleaning for a Reason* will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help women in treatment. For more information, go to www.cleaningforareason.org.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY?
AN R.E. WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH**

Together let's explore what YOU say when some else ask: What's Unitarian Universalism? It's a somewhat tricky question to answer. Answers to this vary depending on where you are and who's asking.

WHO: Any child 3rd grade to High School student

WHERE: Church

WHEN: January 16th, Sunday after church service from 12:30-2:30p.

WHAT TO BRING: Your creative thoughts, experiences and a sack lunch.

Parents, this is a drop off event. We have 3-4 adult volunteers to run this 2 hour workshop. RE will provide drinks and chips for the youth attending; we will not provide lunch (you bring that for your child/ren). You are encouraged to sign them in, leave church and return to pick them up afterwards, promptly at 2:30p. If you stick around, we might put you to work!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Eric Davis ~ January 3
Anne Johnson ~ January 4
Maurice Scheni ~ January 8
Pat Mann ~ January 14
Alex Faulkenberry~ January 15
Marge Pasch ~ January 16
Claire Ballew ~ January 17
Velma Whittle ~ January 17



Alan Larson ~ January 21
Georgia Wooten ~ January 21
Elaine Hill ~ January 23
Maddie Kertay ~ January 23
Sky Papendorp ~ January 23
Martha Berry ~ January 26
Isabel McCurdy ~ January 27
Ehlana Davis ~ January 28

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.

~ Albert Einstein

All we are saying is give peace a chance.

~ John Lennon

PEACE

When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.

~ Jimi Hendrix

There was never a good war or a bad peace.

~ Benjamin Franklin

SHARE THE PLATE

On January 9th we will Share the Plate with The Newton Child Development Center. The Newton Center is located across the street from a public housing project in Chattanooga. Children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age are enrolled. The classroom environment is set up by the Creative Curriculum Philosophy that children learn best by doing and making choices in learning centers. The Newton Center is Licensed by the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Our own Skip Stevens is on the Board of the Newton Child Development Center and volunteers there once a week. If you would like to know more about the Center, talk with Skip or visit their website, www.NewtonChildCenter.org.

Month	Share the Plate with	Amount Donated
July	Greater New Orleans UU	\$219.27
August	Minister's Benevolence Fund	\$95.00
September	Living Waters for the World	\$373.29
October	UUA	\$268.00
November	Community Kitchen	\$471.25
December	Pet Placement Center	\$222.61
January	Newton Child Development Center	???

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**STEP ONE: BUDGET MAKING UNDERWAY**

by Frank Caperton, Vice President of Ways and Means

Roughly five months from now, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga annual meeting, the congregation will consider the proposed budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Our budget reflects our effort to sustain and extend the liberal religious tradition we have inherited. We live that tradition in the activities of our community, and our budget is an outline of what we plan to achieve together. This article is the first in a series of updates to keep you informed about our stewardship campaign.

Our stewardship campaign will again feature one-on-one conversations with each member of the congregation. We have used this approach many years with great success. Just as important as raising funds, this approach encourages members to communicate with each other about the life of the church and the ways we can contribute our time and energy.

In preparation for our stewardship campaign, the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees will adopt a proposed budget this month that will be reviewed and revised between now and the May annual meeting. Key volunteers and church staffers have made their estimates of what our expenses will be. A parallel effort is underway to project just how much income we will have available to pay for those expenses.

To conduct the campaign we will recruit a group of steward captains who, in turn, will each recruit four stewards for their teams. Many members will be asked to serve, and those who accept will be trained on making the stewardship calls.

Most of the campaign will take place during March. At April meetings of the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees, a proposed budget will be approved for recommendation to the congregation. Based on the UUC history of generosity, we anticipate a victory celebration.

Your participation and ideas are welcome. Please send me your suggestions. I would also like to hear from those of you who might be interested in serving as stewards. Previous experience is not required. You may reach me at acape1066@aol.com.

WHO'S PREACHING?

Zenkai Taiun Michael involvement with Zen began in 1966 when he met Matsuoka-Roshi, founder and head teacher of the Chicago Zen Buddhist Temple. After two years of training under Matsuoka-Roshi's supervision and at his suggestion, he underwent a combined initiation and discipleship ceremony, and was given the dharma name Taiun, meaning "Great Cloud".



Sensei was registered with the Soto Shu in Japan July 13, 1969 and ordained as a Zen Priest March 22, 1970. He continued his duties at the Chicago Zen Center until 1970, when he moved to Atlanta. In the early 1970's he began offering Zen meditation and teaching, and in 1977 he founded the Atlanta Soto Zen Center (ASZC). Matsuoka-roshi presented the title of "roshi," to Sensei in a special ceremony at ASZC on September 20, 1983.

Sensei continues to offer his services as the head teacher of ASZC, encouraging the numerous members to lead a Zen life, and to maintain a harmonious balance with the demands of family and livelihood. As abbot, he oversees the training of disciples and priests, as well as ministering to the needs of a growing group of members and newcomers. The Center has prospered owing to the sincerity of practice of its members, and the shared commitment and support of many qualified trainees and teachers who have adapted Sensei's ordinary-everyday style of Zen practice and training.

Sensei completed "Shuso" (head student) training and precepts ceremony with Seirin Barbara Kohn of Austin Zen Center (Suzuki lineage); completed Transmission ceremony with Shohaku Okumura (Uchiyama lineage) in August of 2007.



Marc Adams is the author of eight books including his award-winning autobiography, *The Preacher's Son*, five collections of poetry, and *The Do's & Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right*. Reared in a cultish, fundamentalist Baptist home, aware that he was gay by the age of seven, and weaving his way through religious schools and reparative therapy techniques, Adams began his journey to self-acceptance at age 23. Marc Adams is the founder and executive director of Heart-Strong, Inc. It is the only educational nonprofit in the world with the sole mission to provide outreach and support to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students terrorized at religious educational institutions world-wide.

Excerpt from a letter to the editor which Marc titles, *Luke Otterstad's Words About Me*.

I feel bad for people who have made choices to follow religions that cripple their humanity. But, I also know there is hope. Hope that somewhere inside a spark can be ignited into a flame that will help them find their way out...Because there is real life, love, peace and happiness in life regardless of your sexual orientation or religious choice.

The most erroneous stories are those we think we know best—and therefore never scrutinize or question.

~ Stephen Jay Gould,

WHO'S PLAYING?

On January 16th, Jenny Wilkes, cellist, will join us as a guest musician. Jenny earned a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance from the University of Memphis and a Master of Music in Cello Performance from Boston University. She is a former member of the Memphis and Chattanooga Symphonies and has performed with numerous orchestras including the Illinois Symphony, Northwest Indiana Symphony, the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic and the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra.



Before returning home a few years ago, Jenny spent ten years in Boston and Chicago as a freelance cellist and private lesson instructor. She has coached young chamber groups in schools and music centers in the Boston and Chicago areas including Indian Hill Music Center (Littleton, MA), St. Lawrence Academy (Groton, MA) and the Hyde Park Suzuki Institute (Chicago, IL). In 2006, she co-founded and continues to co-direct the Bella Musica Festival, a summer chamber music program in Hinsdale, IL, designed for intermediate to advanced string and piano students in the Chicago area. Currently, Jenny is an active chamber musician in the Chattanooga area, is the Ensemble Coordinator for the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Youth Orchestras and teaches cello at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Covenant College.

EAST COAST REGIONAL GATHERING OF UU PEOPLE OF COLOR**FEBRUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 27, 2011**PENN CENTER, ST. HELENA ISLAND, SC**"SO GLAD WE'RE HERE; BEING RENEWED IN COMMUNITY"**

This gathering, sponsored by DRUUMM (Diverse and Religious Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) and the Thomas Jefferson District, and hosted by the UU Fellowship of Beaufort, SC, is an opportunity for every UU, aged 13 and over, who identifies as a Person of Color* along the east coast to feel a sense of belonging, experience a homecoming and some reconciliation in claiming space as UUs of color in our regions and within the UUA.

* Person of Color refers to people who self identify on an everyday basis as being African, Hispanic/Latino/Latina, Asian, Pacific Island, Native American, middle eastern/Arab and/or of African descent.

Join us in worship, community building activities, historical overviews, updates, cultural expression and work on internalized racism. There will be programming for non POC parents and partners at the UU Fellowship of Beaufort while meals, worship and cultural expressions will be shared jointly at Penn Center.

The closest airport is Savannah, GA; transportation will be provided to the Center.

\$75 Registration covers all on site expenses from Friday 2pm to Sunday 1pm including lodging.
\$45 Commuter rate covers food and programming.

Click here to **Register** or type <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CNWKKS> into your browser.

Detailed agenda and directions will be sent with confirmation.

We would like to know about your interests and preferences for how we spend the time together. People who register will be invited to complete a brief survey, which will aid in the planning.

Subsidies can be requested on the registration form but are limited.

TIME TO COLLECT YOUR GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOX!

by Skip Stevens



On January 2nd and 9th, we will collect the Guest at Your Table boxes or envelopes.

In recent weeks, our Guest at Your Table boxes and *Stories of Hope* have taught us about real people engaged in struggles for justice in the United States and around the world. It has also taught us about our power to change the world when we support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the many amazing people they partner with.

Before bringing back your Guest at Your Table box, be sure to complete the form on the box. And please convert your cash and coins to a check made out to "UUSC."

We'll announce the results of our Guest at Your Table program as soon as possible. On behalf of UUSC, we thank and commend every person who has chosen to share their blessings through Guest at Your Table.

If you are not able to attend church the first two weeks in January, you can pass your box or envelope to Chris in the office.

CHIONS

The Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science meets January 8th, 10:30 AM to noon. Jim McNew, Ph.D., will present *Blessed Being: The Joy in Loving your Life*. Jim will share three sacred stories with us to help us experience a new awareness or consciousness in our lives. The more consistently we can love ourselves and our life, the more often we can receive love from others. Enlightenment is not the achievement of knowledge but is the achievement of love and intimacy in life.

Jim McNew has a Ph.D in Psychology from Louisiana State University. He served as an assistant research professor at the Brain Research Institute at UCLA Medical School, and has spent many years as a community and clinical psychologist, with biases towards humanistic and transpersonal approaches to psychotherapy.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	1/2	1/9	1/16	1/23	1/30
TOPIC	Commitment Stone	20 Questions: Creation, Evolution or Design?	Zen Buddhism in the 21 st Century	Hope Needs Only Hands and Hearts	What Harm Does It Cause?
LEADER	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Zenkai Taiun Michael Elliston	Marc Adams	Wolfgang Poe
GREETERS AND USHERS	Carol Hobbs Sue Knight Jim Joyner	Jesse Blue Monique Lewis Susan Kennedy	Kristie McKinley Eric Slaton Nicky Ozbek	Elaine Hill Richard Ralston Linda Park	Pat Mann Donna Crompton Linda Helton
BOARD REP	Donna Crompton	George Helton	Eric Papendorp	Wolfgang Poe	Bonny Sinclair
MUSIC	Kate Briere	Steve Hollingsworth	Jenny Wilkes	Jesse Blue & Rich Dwyer	Marcia Jenison
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Eric Davis	Kristie McKinley	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis	David Reed

December 2010

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January 2011

February 2011

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26	27	28				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 9:30a Pagan Group 11:00a RE	3	4	5 6:30p SGM	6	7 12:00p Homeschoolers 6:00p UU Kids Night (Sanctuary & Fellowship areas)	8 10:30a CHIONS 4:30p Bridge Group
9 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a RE	10	11 6:30p SGM 6:30p Finance Committee	12 6:30p Spiral Scouts	13	14	15
16 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a RE 12:00p RE Workshp (3 rms) 12 to 3pm 7:00p SGM	17	18 7:00p Board Meeting	19 6:30p SGM	20	21	22
23 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a RE	24	25	26 6:30p Spiral Scouts	27	28	29
30 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a RE	31					