



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF CHATTANOOGA
*a liberal religious
community*
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[HOMEPAGE](#)

THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
DO WHAT YOU LOVE,
AND DO IT OFTEN. **LIFE.**
IF YOU DON'T LIKE SOMETHING, CHANGE IT.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR JOB, QUIT.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME, STOP WATCHING TV.
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE, STOP;
THEY WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU
START DOING THINGS YOU LOVE.
STOP OVER ANALYZING, ALL EMOTIONS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
LIFE IS SIMPLE. WHEN YOU EAT, APPRECIATE EVERY LAST BITE.
OPEN YOUR MIND, ARMS, AND HEART TO NEW THINGS
AND PEOPLE, WE ARE UNITED IN OUR DIFFERENCES.
ASK THE NEXT PERSON YOU SEE WHAT THEIR PASSION IS,
AND SHARE YOUR INSPIRING DREAM WITH THEM.
TRAVEL OFTEN; GETTING LOST WILL
HELP YOU FIND YOURSELF.
SOME OPPORTUNITIES ONLY COME ONCE, SEIZE THEM.
LIFE IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU MEET, AND
THE THINGS YOU CREATE WITH THEM
SO GO OUT AND START CREATING.
LIFE IS LIVE YOUR DREAM,
AND WEAR
SHORT. YOUR PASSION.

INSIDE THE NUUSLETTER

Sunday Mornings.....2
Lightning.....6
mUUsic nUUs.....8

SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

DECEMBER 4 ♦ CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service, in which he explores the reasons why we must accommodate those among us who do not hear well, see brightly, climb stairs or are otherwise unable to participate fully in congregational life. We will dedicate the Assistive Listening System.

DECEMBER 11 ♦ THIS IS YOUR LIFE.

The Rev. Jeff Briere is inspired to preach about living life on purpose after he sees an image macro. (See the image on the cover of this issue.) The choir performs special music of the season.

DECEMBER 18 ♦ A PERFECT LITTLE UNITARIAN CHRISTMAS

The Rev. Jeff Briere re-tells the story of how Unitarians were involved in the beginnings of Christmas in this country. The choir performs special music of the season.

DECEMBER 24 ♦ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our service begins at 6 pm and will feature traditional carols, solos, the choir, readings from Matthew & Luke and holiday images. We finish the evening with "Silent Night" in candlelight.

DECEMBER 25 ♦ A YOUNITARIAN YOUNIVERSALIST CHRISTMAS

Some songs for you to sing, some stories and mUUSIC for you to enjoy, and a chance for you to share the spirit of Christmas no matter whether you are Christian, pagan, atheist, agnostic, Jew, or merely believe in the saving power of coffee. Be with your friends and make some new ones during this multigenerational service.

MORE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

The Forum meets downstairs in the last room on the left at 9:30 am. All are welcome to attend.

December 4 – Angela Stinnett will facilitate for guest speaker TN state representative, **JoAnn Favors**.

December 11 –Representatives of **Occupy Chattanooga** will be our guests.

December 18 - To be determined.

December 25 – *No Forum*

The Pagan Study Group meets **December 4** at 9:30 am downstairs in the last room on the right. James Joyner will lead the discussion.

Chalice Circle will take a break in December so that everyone may spend Christmas Day with their family.

I do not want the peace which passeth understanding,
I want the understanding which bringeth peace.

~ Helen Keller

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB
by Steve Hollingsworth

The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness.

~ John Kenneth Galbraith

[I]f you knit together the union worker and ex-hippie, the college student sharing some shade with the cop, you find a belief that working together instead of against each other presents the very real possibility that people will end up not as triumphant winners but as people with enough—and in a radically inclusive networked world enough is, well, enough.

~ Todd Essig in *Forbes* (10/16/11)

My regular readers will recall that December's column is usually about giving. In the annual cycle of our family life we do most of our giving in lump sums at year's end, so it's invariably on my mind around now.

What's more on my mind this year, however, is politics. Because of the *Citizens United* decision I'm specifically focused on money in politics—which campaigns and candidates I want to give to. It's all the more important now because any campaign manager will tell you that the earlier the contributions, the more helpful they are to the cause.

I believe that a specious framing of what taxes buy and what we actually expect from government has caused us to become dangerously confused. Since FDR's New Deal, in tough times government has spent on infrastructure. The spending helped ease poverty and modestly contributed to the war effort that followed. Structures built then have served us well for decades.

Nowadays many are hurting but a few are doing fantastically well. Income and wealth inequality now rival the Gilded Age. There is no other answer for me than higher taxes. Our own personal federal "tax burden" the last two years has amounted to less than \$100. I cannot find words to express how crazy that seems to me. If we cannot find the will to tax those who have capacity to pay, then we deserve to have our bridges fall, our children go uneducated, and our ability to compete in a high-tech world eroded.

In this giving season our regular charities will still receive our support, but heightened priority now is to fund selected candidates and causes. To recreate an America where there is again an understanding of basic fairness is to me a moral imperative: To do anything else or to do less would be to abandon the UU principles I hold dear.

There has been no comparable gridlock in Washington in over a century. I consider myself a centrist at heart, very liberal on matters of social policy but with a sharp pencil, demanding a good return on investment for tax dollars. Yet I will not bow to a mean agenda that implies that ensuring a fair share for all takes away too much from anyone. So I embrace Todd Essig's vision of the Occupy movement and choose to donate to the candidates and causes who I trust to put the interests of the 99 percent first. You can count on me.



Occupy Chattanooga



UCC member Heidi Davis homeschooling her daughter at Occupy Chattanooga

Photos by Alex Washburn, Chattanooga Time Free Press

GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE
by Sandy Kurtz, Green Sanctuary

GROUNDING IMPROVEMENT

Even though Privet Patrol is complete for this season, you may notice continued clearing around the upper parking lot. **tom kunesh** has taken it upon himself to see that brush is removed far enough back from the curb so that when you park your car, you don't worry.

- **SPECIAL GROUNDS PROJECT.** Many have commented about the uncontrolled growth of the giant grass at the corner of the church. It spreads underground. The way to stop it is to enclose it in about 18 inches of metal placed underground around the plant and then roto-tilling outside the metal circle to destroy the extra roots. We have the metal, but now need worker or workers to put the metal in place and the tools to do it. Contact Sandy Kurtz if you are willing and able.
- **BIG THANKS TO PRIVET PATROL WORKERS.** Kudos from coordinators Nancy Anderson and Sandy Kurtz to all those involved in removing truck load after truck load of privet, vines and other excessive growth from church grounds. The place looks better for the efforts of Charles Redwine, Ron and Marge Pasch, Mack McClellan, Juniper and Vivian Russo, Karol Stroud, tom, wenona and tashi kunesh, Bill and Sandy Kurtz, Les Kertay plus a couple of anonymous workers. Becca Fowlkes actually created a new garden space at the top of the steps to the lower parking lot.



The holly and the ivy, when they were both full grown, Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. . .

GIFT SEARCH. As holidays arrive in December, it's time to select gifts. As people of faith, we are called to be good stewards for the planet and its inhabitants. Environmentally friendly gifts can help. Of course, buying and giving no gifts assures far less energy and loss of resources, but that seems Scroog-ish. Still, energy efficient products, consumables, live plants, or something you create from recycled or reused materials around the house is more Earth-friendly. The gift of your time to walk with a friend or enjoy a theatrical production together is very special. You can donate to a worthy organization in someone's name. You can also help the poor. Give food or donate gently used coats in the box at the front door.

If you must buy something, UU Ministry for Earth recommends Beacon Press' just published *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis*. Is it ethically wrong to waste water? Order online from Beacon Press.

PAGAN NUUS

December

- 4 - 9:30 am - Pagan Study Group - Discussion to be led by James Joyner
- 10 - Full Moon 9:36 am
- 22 - Winter Solstice/Yule
- 24 - New Moon 4:48 pm



Winter Solstice/Yule

Winter Solstice marks the time of the year when the light returns as the sun shifts and starts to move northward again. In Europe, the tradition of the yule log is celebrated on Winter Solstice. A special log is brought in and placed on the hearth where it glows for the twelve nights of the holiday season. After that, it is kept in the house all year to protect the home and its inhabitants from illness and any adverse condition. The Christmas tree also dates from old European or pagan rituals celebrating the renewal of the earth with greens and the returning heat of the sun with red candles.

**LOOK AT ALL THOSE SMILING FACES!
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY NEWS**

by Dez Papendorp, SGM Co-coordinator



I know why all those UUs are smiling in our sanctuary. Do you? Guess... that's right Rev. Briere, the photographer, just made a funny face. But why are all those people hanging out at our church all day on a Saturday? Don't they have a life full of to-do-lists? Of course they do. What brought us all together was Small Group Ministry within the Unitarian Universalist faith. For that day, it was at the top of everyone's list and I'm so glad it was.

As an early Christmas gift to myself, I've been recently reminded how the relationships I've built at this church within Small Group Ministry have uplifted my mind when it's burdened and my heart when it's sad. It's powerful to have a fellow church friend recognize the goodness of my intentions, when I feel lately my intentions don't matter much. Through years of getting to know my fellow congregants better by being involved in Small Group Ministry, I feel more connected to people who I believe know the *real me*. By being near them while I'm having some personal struggles in life, I've been granted incredibly supportive gestures. Wow, my church friends actually help me find myself when I feel lost. How very meaningful and worthwhile.

If you would like to gift yourself some meaningful church relations, I invite you to join in Small Group Ministry. Now is a great time to join. Contact a Co-Coordinator at sgm@uuc.org to get started.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nicole Barnhart ~ December 2
Steve Hollingsworth ~ December 4
Logan Vanderhoof ~ December 5
Connie Anderson ~ December 10
Kate Briere ~ December 10
Fred Wright ~ December 12
Adam Couch ~ December 13
Aaron Long ~ December 13



Kay Spehar ~ December 18
Keefer Dorris ~ December 21
Jim Welborn ~ December 23
Tom Clark ~ December 29
Donna Crompton ~ December 29
Charles Redwine ~ December 30
Frank Caperton ~ December 31
Charles Wright ~ December 31

Bonny Sinclair ~ December 17

Say what you will about the Ten Commandments, you must always come back to the pleasant fact that there are only ten of them.
~ H.L. Mencken

LIGHTNING

by Kay McCurdy, Director of Religious Education

The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter—it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.

~ Mark Twain

In the years since my family began attending the UUCC, our church has cycled through five Directors of Religious Education. I'm the fifth. Looking at the list of awesome women who held this job before me, I find myself singing their various praises. They each had a spark, something special they wanted to share with our youngest UUs, and with our congregation as a whole. Many of them, myself included, are also mothers, whose children are growing up in this place we call our church home. It's been a source of pride for me to carry on the tradition of open hearts and open minds as I celebrate and explore with our UU Kids.

Then, a few Sundays ago, I snapped. It was around 10:00 a.m. I come in on Sunday mornings at 8, so I'd been doing my thing for a while already. Downstairs was busy with Forum, Pagan group, and a nursery full of wee ones. The rest of us (adults and kids) were prepping for R.E. classes, socializing, and being genuinely happy to see each other after a week apart. As is often the case, the kids became exuberant and were having a grand old time, doing what kids do. They play, they giggle, they screech. Wait, what? Screeching?

I found myself gently checking in with the kids once, then twice, and asking them to keep a lid on the volume. We were packed, with meetings and gatherings and folks spilling out all over. If you limit your time to the fellowship area and the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, you really are seeing only a fraction of the church. You realize that, right? There's a whole 'nother world happening under your feet, and it is rarely subdued or quiet.

And then, I snapped. That screeching pushed me right over the edge. I marched into the room where the screechers were located, and, in my most schoolmarmish voice, told them to stop the noise, and stop the behavior. Many other words flew out of my mouth like *respect* and *boundaries* and *unacceptable*.

I've been assured by several witnesses that my *snap* was more like a stern reprimand. What I can tell you is this: I raised my voice, and I spoke to the kids in a tone that I consider neither respectful nor caring. It was a low point for me, as DRE. One of my primary goals as the director of this program has been to communicate to the kids that I love them not *for who they might someday become* but *for who they are right this minute*. In losing my cool, I fractured that trust.

What happened next? Tears in my office. Five minutes of slapping my hand to my forehead. A few more minutes mumbling to my dear friends Dez and Nicole (great folks to have nearby in a crisis) Additional time spent wondering what sort of evil demon had jumped into my body and forced me to overreact. Remember that I do not believe in demons, so that explanation goes out the window.

I gathered up the screechers in question, and their families. I did what any shame-faced adult would do in a similar situation: I apologized. To the kids, first, for losing my cool, and for not sitting down with them and trying to work through what was bothering me. To the families, second, for not following through with right relations. Words are powerful, and words spoken strongly to a child by an adult are even more so. Remember the lightning bug and the lightning?

What I apologized for was not only my choice of words, but the way I spoke them.

So, from me to all of you: a promise. If I have an issue with you, I will make time to talk with you about it, and if you are a kid, I will make the time to talk with your family, too. I will make the time because that's why I 'm here: to live in community with you. Obviously, I am less than perfect. No surprises there. But I will do my best never again to use lightning, when a lightning bug will do.

A DIFFERENT SHARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS
by Elaine Hill, President, Board of Trustees

The holiday season is upon us and many are making plans for a family gathering. Plans include shopping for gifts, traditional dishes, parties, decorating and special activities that have been a part of your family for many years. This year what about adding something new while your family is together? Share family medical history. By providing family medical history, everyone has an opportunity to be a part of a document that may save the life of a relative.

There are many reasons to create a written, accurate, complete, family medical record of blood relatives. A particular disorder might be described as “running in a family” if more than one person in the family has the condition. Tracing illnesses suffered by your parents, grandparents, and other blood relatives can help predict disorders for which you may be at risk. Knowing your family’s risk for a disease may encourage you to change your lifestyle or avail yourself to appropriate screenings.

Some disorders that affect multiple family members are caused by gene mutations, which can be inherited or passed down from parent to child. Other conditions that appear to run in families are not caused by mutations in single genes. Instead environmental factors such as dietary habits or a combination of genetic and environmental factors are responsible for these disorders.¹

To help focus attention on the importance of family history, the Surgeon General, in cooperation with other agencies with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has launched a national public health campaign, called the Surgeon General’s Family History Initiative, to encourage all American families to learn more about their family medical history.

A new computerized tool has been developed to help make it fun and easy for anyone to create a sophisticated portrait of their family’s health. The Web-based tool helps users organize family history information and then print it out for presentation to their family doctor. In addition, the tool helps users save their family history information to their own computer and even share family history information with other family members. Access the My Family Health Portrait Web tool at <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/>.²

Having a family medical history is not the perfect answer. However, it may be an important part of a relative’s health. Give your family a new tradition of sharing medical information during the holiday season and have your medical family tree grow.

¹ <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/handbook/inheritance?show=all#runsinfamily>

² www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/

SAVE THE DATE!
JANUARY 29TH

UCC DIAMOND JUBILEE:
60 Years and Growing

Potluck and Program following the service
Watch for more details!

MUSIC NUUS

by Kate Briere, Music Director

It's hard to believe that we are getting ready for Christmas and that Thanksgiving is upon us. Time has truly flown this fall. Yes, we have been having fun but we have also been extremely busy organizing the Music Ministry and its programs.

**Music Survey**

By this time, I hope that most everyone has completed the music survey. If you have not already done so, please return yours before December 1, 2011. The survey will remain on the church website until that date and copies will be available before and after church services throughout November. Please leave completed surveys with a choir member or in Kate's mailbox in the office.

chattanUigans

Rehearsals are going very well for the upcoming holiday season. Of course we will be singing for services and for the special Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24th. We have invited Julie Kurtz-Kunesh to play the bodhran for a Celtic seasonal song by Jason Shelton entitled *Winter Star*. We are also very fortunate to have Tamblin Papendorp sing the solo for The *Little Drummer Boy* on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Concert

The choir is sponsoring a Christmas piano concert at the church on Saturday, December 3 at 7pm. Joseph Akins and Michael Dulin will be playing original pieces and their versions of traditional Christmas music. Refreshments will be served and admission will be donations. Money collected will be divided three ways—1/3 to each pianist and 1/3 to the Music Enhancement fund. We hope you will come and start your holidays with us that evening.

Children's Choir

All children are invited to sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. The children's choir will rehearse Dec 4, 11 and 18 at 10:15 in the sanctuary. Children must arrive at 5pm on Christmas Eve to rehearse with Kate and practice with the candles. Parents please let Kate know if your child/children will be singing. Any child intending to sing must attend at least 2 of the 3 planned rehearsals.

WHO'S PLAYING?

Julie Kurtz-Kunesh started playing bodhran (Irish drum) a few short years ago, but her love of Celtic music has been life-long. She blames her parents, Bill and Sandy Kurtz. It was her parents who encouraged her to sing folk songs on long car rides and around the campfire. Many of these songs would turn out to be Irish and Scottish in origin. Because of her love for group singing Julie started hosting music parties. It was there that she picked up the bodhran so she could play along with the fiddle and mandolin players. Julie and this core group of musicians formed The Chattanooga Session which still meets weekly at a local pub.

You can hear Julie perform with two local Celtic bands: Olta, the traditional, family-friendly band, and The Molly Maguires, the band that focuses on "drinking and fighting" songs.

Tamblin Papendorp, age 12, is our guest singer for December. Tamblin sings in the Concert Choir with The Chattanooga Boy's Choir and takes piano lessons from Megan Johnson on Lookout Mountain. He currently plays the piano and vocal cords. In Nov. 2011, he was the understudy for Amahl in the CSO's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Tamblin has said about being the guest musician this month, "I'm excited to sing a carol with the church choir. I've always liked Christmas music."



PIANO CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Saturday, December 3, 2011, 7pm



Dr. Joseph Akins and Michael Dulin will perform a piano Christmas concert with original arrangements of holiday favorites. Each pianist has a Christmas album and they will be performing selections from. It will be a fun and delightful evening of solo piano music with a few surprises! There will be door prizes and giveaways. There is no charge to attend, and a free will offering will be collected for the musicians and to support the music enhancement fund of the church.

For many years, Dr. Joseph Akins (pronounced "Ache-ins") has lived a parallel life between being a college professor and a performing and recording artist. To date, he has released three solo albums titled *Keys to the Heart*, *Masterpeace*, and *Spirit Touch* that feature him as a piano artist. The latter reached #7 on the Zone Music Reporter Top 100 Radio Airplay Chart in 2009. For the last several years, Joseph has been touring the country performing his heartfelt music in churches, homes and performance halls often sharing the stage with piano artists such as David Lanz, Liz Story and David Nevue. In addition, he is an award-winning associate professor at the prestigious Department of Recording Industry at Middle Tennessee State University. He completed a doctorate of education in 2006.

Micheal Dulin, a native of Brookside, Alabama, studied music since a child and completed his musical studies at The Julliard School in New York, working with master teacher and concert pianist Adele Marcus. Michael's albums of original music and his performances have received national awards. In addition to performing his original music throughout the United States, Michael appears both solo and with orchestra in performance of classical music. He has also toured as keyboardist with the legendary Motown group, the Temptations. Michael and his business partner, Daniel Whiteside, own and operate PSI Studios, a digital recording facility in Birmingham, Alabama. Michael is president of Equity Digital and Equity Digital Music. In addition to being an award winning composer of music for radio, television, theater, and film, he is in demand as a session musician and producer.



COOKIE ELVES
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, AFTER SERVICE

Cookie Elves at UCC will again be serving their magic goodies following the Christmas Eve service. To join their ranks, see the sign-up sheet at church.



YES! I CAN HEAR YOU NOW!*by Marge Pasch*

The long-awaited Assistive Listening System is up and running, and it's wonderful! Paul Adler and Ron Pasch worked many long days affixing a telecoil (T-coil) three feet below the ceiling around the entire sanctuary. This coil transfers the voice of speakers at the microphone into a magnetic field that can then be picked up either by the T-coil setting on some hearing aids or by special headphones that came with the system. The telecoil also shuts out all the ambient noises that make hearing so difficult for hearing impaired people, so that every word of speech can be distinctly heard.

The church has six headphones which are for the use of members or guests. If you are having a little trouble hearing speakers, stop by the sound booth before the service and pick up a headset. You might be surprised to realize how much you have been missing.



Ron Pasch and Paul Adler installing the telecoil.

Nicky Ozbek conceived the idea of the Assistive Listening System, got Board of Trustee approval, and suggested that a fund be started to honor the memory of Bruce Hollingsworth. A Share the Plate offering and generous donations from individual church members raised funds. Paul Adler then spent many hours researching the various types of systems and soliciting bids on the induction system that best suited our church. Paul and Ron Pasch then spent over a week installing the system. Special thanks to Nicky for her foresight and perseverance in starting the project, to Paul for all his hours of work on bids and specifications, to Ron and Paul for all the days spent standing on the scaffolding, and to the generous members of our church who made the purchase possible. Thanks to all!

Our church is now one step closer to being accessible for those with disabilities. As more of us lose hearing due to aging or aural damage, this system will play an important role in allowing us all to fully engage in church services. We can truly say "Yes! I CAN hear you now!"

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.
~George Bernard Shaw

CHATTANOOGA INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCE

CHIONS will meet December 10, 10:30-noon for *The Living Matrix: A Film on the Science of Healing*

Please be on time so we can see it all! In this full-length film, we bring you breakthroughs that will transform your understanding of how to get well and stay well. We explore how quantum physics, energy fields, and consciousness directly affects our health and well-being.

Science based healing or "miracle cures?" In the film, researchers and practitioners reveal the scientific theories behind alternative healings and offer their perspectives on how those new concepts may shift the future of healthcare. From the quantum physics of the human body-field to heart coherence and informational healthcare, we will explore innovative ideas about health. Scientists, psychologists, bioenergetic researchers and holistic practitioners share their knowledge, experiences and insights.

Empower yourself with information. Based on the latest research, find out how you can enliven your body's own self-healing capabilities and transform your ideas about how to get well and stay well.

BYLAWS REVISION

COME ONE, COME ALL! WE SEEK YOUR INPUT

The UUCC BYLAWS REVISION TASK FORCE
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A PUBLIC FORUM TO DISCUSS
PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR BYLAWS

Everyone is invited to remain after worship services on **Sunday 4 December** to share thoughts and to listen to the thoughts of others as they relate to important changes being suggested for the Bylaws of the UUCC, which is the primary governing document for our church community.

Charles Wright, Chair; Daidee Springer; Wendes Jones

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

On Tuesday, November 15th, the board of trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga met. Items discussed during their meeting included:

- Bylaw Task Force Open Forum Dec 4 after service (see details above)
- Christmas Service on Dec. 25
- 60th Birthday Party, Sunday, Jan 29
- Declined offer to sell cell tower

UUCC Board of Directors

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VP, Ways and Means, Frank Caperton

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Treasurer, George Helton

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CHALICE LIGHTING AND YOU



Chalice Lighting is a very important part of our service. It brings light with all its various meanings. It signals the beginning of this wonderful time of worship and fellowship, of being together in spirit. The extinguishing of the flame reminds us to take this spirit out into the world.

We are in the process of including more people in this act of chalice lighting. We want everyone to have the opportunity to feel a part of the service. The added benefit is that we get to put a name with a face. It is difficult to know everyone in the church, and this will help.

There is a signup sheet on the glass wall in our fellowship area. Please feel free to sign up for a Sunday you would prefer. If a couple or an entire family would like to participate, that would be terrific. Be sure to leave both email and phone number so we can remind you as the date approaches. Thank you for helping in our worship service.

ANNOUNCING!
by the Rev. Jeff Briere

From time to time, I find that I must re–state the worship committee’s policy on spoken announcements. During the last eight years, the way this congregation makes announcements has changed. I thought it might be time to review our procedure for handling publicity and announcements. Here it is:

Everyone in the church who is leading an event or project wants it announced on Sunday morning. That’s just not possible anymore, given our growth and number of activities. Further, announcements are not, at their core, worship. That’s why we developed several alternatives to spoken announcements that will help you get the word out. You should realize that in any medium, an announcement about an event which has no connection to the church will not have a higher priority than one about congregational activities.

1. **the nUUsletter.** This vehicle carries words, pictures, links and it’s in color. Moreover, it’s available 24/7. As such, it ought to be your first consideration for publicizing your event. Please send your announcements to Wendy Sapp nUUsletter@uuc.org. Copies are available in the office for anyone who does not have an internet connection.

2. **UUpdate.** This e-mail message comes out every Friday and contains up-to-the-minute breaking news about church activities and other items of interest to the congregation. It carries only words and links, although some photos have appeared. Send your information to Chris Tregaskis in the office officeuuc@gmail.com. What you send Chris will appear in the weekly UUpdate and as a printed sheet inserted into the bulletin.

3. **Bulletin Boards.** These attractive vehicles were made by Bonny Sinclair several years ago and are maintained by Kate Briere and/or Linda Helton. They carry words, colors, photos, drawings, charts, 3-D things and news clippings. Place your items in the bin under the center board and it will be posted within the week. Items will not stay on the board forever. Do not pin items to the board; just place them in the bin.

4. **Make a poster.** We have two or three easels on which you may place a poster and set it up in the fellowship area. Sign–up rosters often appear posted on the door next to the kitchen. If you post anything on the window or the front door, make sure it has an opaque backing and that any tape is completely removed when you take it down.

5. **Make an insert.** Contact Chris in the office for information about this option. She cannot create it for you, but she will assist you in the creation of an insert for the bulletin. It must be complete and in her hands by Thursday so she can stuff it into the bulletin before she leaves on Friday.

6. **Word–of–mouth.** This is probably the most effective method to get your message out. Just talk to as many people as you can.

In spite of all that, you may hear a spoken announcement on Sunday morning. The worship group determined two criteria for making a spoken announcement:

- a. If an important event develops after the UUpdate is released, it ought to be mentioned.
- b. Major events in the life of the congregation ought to be mentioned. The Wowzers did not define “major,” but left it to the discretion of the worship leader. A major event might be the Seder Supper, the Stewardship Campaign, a memorial service, Thanksgiving Dinner, or a special concert. In every case, spoken announcements are short and contain only the most basic information. A spoken announcement should not be used to promote or publicize your event, only remind people of time and place and so forth.

Do not hand your announcement to the service leader on Sunday morning. By then, the service leader will have already written the script and included any important announcements. Contact me or any Wowzer a couple weeks ahead of your event if you believe it merits a mention during the worship service.

Do not bring political announcements to the church. Do not place your announcement on the round table. That table is for church-related publications and visitor information.

SHARE THE PLATE

On December 18th, we will receive donations to the Minister's Benevolence Fund. Nearly every church has a special fund to help those in the parish who find themselves in trouble, or without a job, or needing some help in meeting their needs or obligations. We have such a fund, called the Minister's Benevolence Fund. Rev. Briere has used this fund to help people pay their rent, repair a car, buy food, pay a light bill or to relieve other intolerable situations.

SHARE THE PLATE THROUGH THE YEAR

Month	Share the Plate with	Amount Donated
December	Minister's Benevolence Fund	???
November	Chattanooga Homeless Coalition	\$315.67
October	Tennesseans for Fair Taxation	\$210.70
September	Walker County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association	\$300.04
August	Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep	\$215.00
July	UUC in Brunswick, Maine	\$640.00
June	Himanchal Education Foundation	\$302.00
May	The Children's Home/Chambliss Shelter	\$331.00
April	Northside Neighborhood House	\$242.23
March	The Mountain	\$755.52
February	Interfaith Homeless Network	\$505.00
January	Newton Child Development Center	\$381.68

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

In December, on the first two Sundays, we will receive donations to the Staff Holiday Gift Fund. This collection will be distributed to the staff, but not the minister. Rev. Briere has declined a gift this year so that those with less can have more. He is most appreciative of the staff and hopes their holiday can be a little brighter. He believes his gift is the opportunity to be the minister in this church.

HONOR CONGREGATION

We are writing to offer a warm and heartfelt message of appreciation and gratitude for your congregation's full financial support of our Unitarian Universalist faith through your contributions to the UUA Annual Program Fund in 2010-2011. We are pleased to recognize yours as one of our esteemed APF Honor Congregations.

Together, we can do more and be more than we can alone. Together, we stand on the side of love and justice, actively working on behalf of those seeking advocacy and support. Together, we give voice in opposition to the forces of oppression that are barriers to freedom and peaceful relations. Together, we educate our children, empower our youth, and provide nurturing and healing ministry for all ages and life stages.

Sincerely,
 Laurel Amabile
 Director, Annual Program Fund

Jim Sanders
 Chair, Annual Program Fund Committee

GRATEFUL GOBBLER WALK



Thanksgiving morning 17 kids and 16 adults from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga gave up snuggling in their warm beds or cooking the Thanksgiving turkey. Why? To participate in the Grateful Gobbler Walk. Thanks to the generosity of our members who sponsored most members of our team and the time and energy of the walkers, we were part of an interfaith effort to fight homelessness and hunger in Chattanooga. Photographs courtesy of Kay McCurdy and Nicole Barnhart.



DECK THE HALLS!

The beautiful greens gracing our sanctuary were not brought by Santa Claus but are the results of a dedicated crew of decorators. A very big thank you to **Patty Parks & Marcia Parks** (wreaths), **Marge Pasch, Kate Briere & Laura Pasch** (garland), **Uncle Ron Pasch and Uncle Paul Adler** (scaffold), **Jeff Briere** (tree) and **James Joyner** (hangman).



Christmas gift suggestions:

- To your enemy, forgiveness
- To an opponent, tolerance
- To a friend, your heart
- To a customer, service
- To all, charity
- To every child, a good example,
- To yourself, respect.

~ Oren Arnold

THANKSGIVING AT THE CHURCH



As usual, Rev. Jeff Briere and Kate Briere hosted an open Thanksgiving dinner at the church, which was enjoyed by members, friends, and anyone else who decided to show up!

Photographs courtesy of Patty Parks.



WELCOMING A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

For many years, we have welcomed a *Guest at Your Table* each November. This program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee gives us the opportunity to learn how the work of the service committee puts our Unitarian Universalist principles into action around the world and offers us an opportunity to contribute to their efforts. Each year, we offer a box that can sit on your table to represent the “guest at your table” who could benefit from the UUSC’s work. The box is accompanied by a small booklet telling stories of some of the people who have been supported through previous *Guest at Your Table* programs.



One of the children in our congregation has been fascinated with the *Guest at Your Table* box since she was 3 years old. Each year she eagerly looks for the new boxes and asks to hear the stories of the people who are pictured on it. Last year, when she turned in the money she had collected, she asked to keep her *Guest at the Table* box. She took it home and set it in her kitchen. Throughout the year, she put in coins and bills slowly filling the box. When she saw that this year’s boxes had arrived, she rushed home and got last year’s box to bring to church. The “guest” had been in her home all year teaching her to look outside of herself, and now she was eager to give back to the “guest.”

You can be part of this year’s *Guest at Your Table* program by taking home beautiful guest at your table box or an envelope and reading the *Stories of Hope* booklet. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnership with grassroots organizations, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

We can each place a box in a prominent place in our home where we think of the needs of the many we serve by the proceeds of this annual fundraising project. If you have not already received your box or envelope, you can pick one up in the fellowship area or church office. The boxes and envelopes will be returned the first or second Sunday in January and all collections sent to the UUSC. You may return dollars and change or you may total your contribution and submit a check made out to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Martha Berry or Nancy Anderson.

We hope you will welcome a guest to YOUR table!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/24	12/25
TOPIC	Can You Hear Me Now?	This is Your Life.	A Perfect Little Unitarian Christmas.	Christmas Eve	A Younitarian Youniversalist Christmas
LEADER	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Charlotte Davis
GREETERS AND USHERS	Nicky Ozbek Marge Pasch Ken Nickerson	Betsey Hoyt Matt Hoyt Margaret Hudson	Elaine Hill Richard Ralston Linda Park	Margaret Hudson Donna Crompton	Linda Helton Pat Mann Elaine Watkins
BOARD REP	Charlotte Davis	George Helton	Elaine Hill	Wendes Jones	
MUSIC	Steve Hollingsworth	Kate Briere	Kate Briere	Kate Briere The chattanUUGans	Steve Hollingsworth
SOUND REINFORCE -MENT	Eric Davis	Kristie McKinley	Karl Hunt	TBD	Roger Davis

POETRY CORNER

Holidays

Red cement steps, smooth and cool,
a maze of tiny rooms.
Grandma pressing me into layers of
spongy, fragrant flesh.
Always the stuffy smell of ham.
A pyramid of glistening fudge set
down on the coffee table along
with bowls of cashews,
salty, ridged potato chips and
mounds of French Onion Dip.
Grandpa snoring at the empty dinner table,
head thrown back, napkin still tucked
under his chin, an audience of
dirty dishes gathered round.
Uncle Hugh showing all the kids his
rock collection,
before the days when he would become
too drunk to sit upright in his chair,
and Aunt Phyllis would drop him at
the Holiday Inn
before we came over.

~ Nancy Beel

ART OFF THE WALLS: HOLIDAYS IN MINIATURE

In addition to full-sized swags of greenery, twinkling lights and a Christmas tree, this December our Sanctuary will be decorated with several miniature room boxes and a wreath enclosing a Christmas scene made by Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga member **Marge Pasch**.

Two of the room boxes are Christmas-themed. In **“The Santa Shop,”** a little girl has stopped to peer into a shop filled with toys and Santa-shaped items, while the salesman—who looks suspiciously like Santa himself—holds out a shopping bag to another little girl shopper who dances with excitement at being surrounded by all the toys. **“Yes, Virginia, There Is...”** is a scene of a Victorian living room decorated for Christmas. Virginia, a little girl admiring her newly decorated tree does not notice that her dog has pushed aside a curtain to get a better look at Santa Claus, who is standing in the snow outside peering into the living room window.



Other miniatures are just as enjoyable though not specific to Christmas. A log cabin **“Museum of Appalachian Crafts”** is having a quilt show. Inside the museum is a gift shop area selling homemade items while many quilts are hanging on the walls and on racks. Look for the blue and red ribbons on the prize-winning quilts. It is 1895 in **“Miss Sophia, Dressmaker,”** a shop run by a seamstress who sews dresses for fashionable women. Miss Sophia’s front room is beautifully decorated for the customers in which to choose their dress fabrics and trims, but the workroom in back is in chaos. Fabric is everywhere, and the floor is littered with material scraps, pins, and thread.

The miniature projects will be on display until December 29.

November 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011

January 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 12:30p CofG 7:00p A Piano Christmas
4 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Pagan Group 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship 11:15a RE 12:15p Open Mic (Sanctuary) 1:00p Adult RE	5 6:30p Finance Subcommittee (Fellowship Area)	6 6:30p SGM (Forum Rm) 7:30p Rental	7 6:30p SGM 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	8 1:00p SGM	9	10 10:30a CHIONS 12:30p CofG til 10p
11 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship 11:15a RE 1:00p Adult RE	12	13 6:30p Finance (Fellowship Area) 7:30p Rental	14 7:00p Singing Mediation	15	16 10:00a Labyrinth Prep (Sanctuary)	17 12:30p CofG 6:30p Bridge Group
18 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship 12:00p Labyrinth Prep Sunday, Sanctuary 1:00p Adult RE	19	20 6:30p Board Meeting 6:30p SGM (Forum Rm) 7:30p Rental	21 5:30p Labyrinth 6:30p SGM	22 1:00p SGM 3:00p Labyrinth	23	24 12:30p CofG 6:00p Christmas Eve Service
25 11:00a Worship Lite	26	27 7:30p Rental	28	29	30	31 12:30p CofG