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Newsletter • August 2009

Peace Camp 2009

The 2009 UUCV Peace Camp was once again a great success. Thanks to the Freemans for the use of their log cabin in Micheaux State Forest and for hosting the camp. There were 18 kids and about a dozen adults present this year, with Jim Freeman, Chuck and Janet Folsom, Ann Berger-Knorr and Mary Lynn Lynch running the activities and handling the cooking.

Wednesday afternoon camp began with the set up of many tents in anticipation of rain, a 5 mile bike trip downhill to Fuller Lake for a dip, and dinner over the campfire. Thursday

was one of the hottest days of summer so far, so after a scrumptious breakfast of pancakes on the big cast iron skillet over the open fire, the campers stayed cool in the refreshing (i.e., cold), green water of Fuller Lake. About a dozen adventurous UUCVers biked up Old Ship-



pensburg Road and then Jim led a hike on Sunset Rocks. A couple of snakes were spotted, but none with rattles and none in close proximity. The crew headed back to camp and enjoyed another good dinner followed by some campfire singing to the guitars of Becky Pettit and her friend, Culver's mother. The campers were rather pooped after the opening night frenzy, and many slept under the stars by the campfire with Jim.

Friday was the epic canoe ride down the Susquehanna, a favorite annual event. Twenty-six canoers rode the vans from Blue Mountain Outfitters up to Haldeman Island for an 8 mile ride down a nicely full and swift river. There were dozens of great egrets spotted, many

blue herons, and both an immature and mature bald eagle. Bass fishing was also good, with fish leaping behind Mitch and Dave Mooney's canoes. After negotiating three sizeable rapids at the Dauphin Narrows, the kids moored to a huge sandstone boulder in the middle of the river and jumped into the channel from the top! We have fearless girls in the congregation, with Hailey Freeman and Shannon Lynch leading the leapers.

Our two daughters have made good friends with kids they met at peace camp; it is a great bonding experience and a way to get our geographically separate youth together long enough to really get them to know each other. Kids get to cut and split wood, ride down long mountain roads, climb over rock faces, swim in open water, and do lots of other challenging activities in a safe and supervised environment that has helped ours with their self-confidence and sense of adventure. We hope the Freeman's and other volunteers have the generosity and fortitude to continue this worthy and fun UUCV tradition and look forward to seeing even more kids and parents next year!

— Dave Mooney
Photo copyright Janet Folsom

MINISTER'S COLUMN

From the Well

Can you think of any more inviting words than "Let me tell you a story?" Who doesn't perk up their ears when they hear "Once upon a time...?"

Everyone loves a good story, and a truly good story has something in it for everyone: humor, adventure, suspense, and hopefully a good solid message at the end (or somewhere in the middle...). With stories we can say things that we wish were so, or cast ourselves as the heroes, or wildly engage our imaginations in fantastic and unbelievable situations.

This coming year, the staff is going to introduce two new ways of bringing stories into the life of the congregation. Nominally these stories will be for the benefit of our children, but we adults know that there's something in every story for ourselves as well.

Starting in September, we will have "Story Sunday" every other month. Story Sunday will be a service for all ages (except the youngest children who really would be happier in the nursery). The 45-minute service, which will start at our usual 10:30 time, will be built around a story with a useful message, but which also will be fun and fascinating. (Think of "The Frog Prince, Continued.") All of the elements of the service will be included (chalice lighting, offering, singing, prayer, joys & sorrows, and a brief message or homily), but they will be woven throughout the story in a way that will hold everyone's attention.

With Story Sunday we hope to bridge the "attention span gap" with a service that meets everyone's needs. Families will worship together and children will have a holistic experience that allows them to be an authentic part of our worshiping community.

Our first Story Sunday will be September 27. Mark your calendars, and if you want to be an occasional member of the "Story Sunday Players" who read or act out the stories, be sure to let me know.

Continuing in our ongoing quest to teach our children what worship is and help them to develop a relationship with their ministers, we are also introducing Family Worship once a month this year. On the first Sunday of the month (starting in November), there will be a Family Worship service in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. This 20-minute service will be designed for families and children, although anyone is welcome to attend. It will consist of a chalice lighting, a song or two, a story, joys and sorrows for the children, and a prayer or silent meditation.

When family worship is over at 10:20, the children will go downstairs to their R.E. classes and the regular service will begin at 10:30 as usual. Because it won't include a Children's Moment, the adult service will

conclude at about 11:45.

Duane and I experienced this kind of Family Worship service when we visited the Unitarian Church of Oakland, CA during our first sabbatical. We were delighted to see not only most of the families with children in attendance, but a large number of adults who didn't have children as well; it was a popular service for the whole family-friendly congregation.

These two new approaches to children's worship will be conducted throughout the year, with an opportunity next spring for all participants to evaluate them and refine them for the future. Please do your part by attending Story Sundays and Family Worship whether you have children or not; as with so much that we do at UUCV, everyone stands to benefit when everyone participates.

With these new experiences for our children, we intend to expand upon the understanding that religious education is what the whole congregation does together. In addition to the curricula that the children will experience in their classes (see Margaret's column in this issue), our children will develop their self-understanding as Unitarian Universalists while experiencing worship with their families and their peers. These are worthy goals for all of us to embrace.

See you in church!

Love, Judy

Congregational Meeting on August 16 at Noon

Please join us after the service on Aug. 16 for a congregational meeting at which members will be asked to decide whether we air-condition the sanctuary. The board of trustees will offer the choice between two refinancing plans. One plan borrows just enough money to replace the leaking roof. The other plan borrows a little more money to also install energy-efficient windows and air-conditioning in the sanctuary. We need your input on this important decision! Child care will be available during the meeting. Look for more detailed information on the two proposals in the next few weeks.

From the President of the Board:

I have some gratifying news to report this month. Despite the difficult economy, UUCV members have overwhelmingly honored their pledge commitments. In the past fiscal year the board budgeted \$8,706 for "pledge shrinkage," which is the difference between the total amount pledged and the total amount received. Every congregation has to allow for some pledge shrinkage and so we anticipated that amount to be about 6 percent of total pledges. But, as of June 30, pledge shrinkage was only \$2,383.70, or less than 2 percent of the total pledged. That's a sign that UUCV remains a priority in members' lives and that you understand how vital your pledges are to the health of this congregation and its ability to do good in the world. The board of trustees thanks you for honoring your financial commitment to UUCV in these recessionary times. Give yourself a pat on the back from us!

The board requests your presence at an important congregational meeting to be held at noon following the Aug. 16 service. At this meeting we will ask you to choose between two refinancing plans. One plan borrows enough money to replace the failing sanctuary roof. The other plan borrows a little more money to also install energy-efficient windows and air-conditioning in the sanctuary. So this will be a meeting and a decision you don't want to miss! Look for more information on the two proposals in the coming weeks.

I also want to draw your attention to the announcement in the article below of the new "In Tribute" feature that will debut in the September newsletter. It will be a forum for sending birthday, anniversary and get-well wishes, congratulations and condolences to other members while also helping to support the community we share.

Finally, the board welcomes new member Dave Molino, who was appointed last month to replace Bev Mottich. Bev resigned her seat on June 30 to spend more time on her pledge administrator and other duties. Thank you, Bev, for your service and thank you, Dave, for stepping up to the plate when we needed you. See you at the Aug. 16th congregational meeting!

— Ellen Lyon

Next Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, August 23

Please send your submissions to newsletter@uucv.net and feel free to include photos or graphics. Remember, fewer words = more interesting eye appeal!

Introducing "In Tribute"

We are inaugurating in September's newsletter an "In Tribute" section as a way to knit our community closer together and to raise funds for UUCV. The concept, which is in use in many congregations, is a simple one. People can honor or memorialize someone for a minimum donation of \$10 to UUCV that can be directed to the building fund, the music ministry fund or the religious education fund. The donor and the honoree's names will be published in the "In Tribute" section, along with any special message the donor wishes to send. The amount given will not be published. It's a nice way to congratulate someone on a special birthday, anniversary or other milestone or to send thanks, condolences or get-well wishes while also supporting all the good things that go on here at UUCV. Honorees will receive a card informing them that a donation has been made in their name, along with the donor's name and address so they can personally thank them.

To honor someone in the newsletter send a check to UUCV, attention Marilyn Durr, by the second Sunday of the month, with an attached note designating who is being honored and to which of the three funds you would like the money to go (building, music or religious education). Also include what one-sentence message you want published in the newsletter. Or you can drop an envelope with this information and a check in the offering basket. The next time you want to do something special for someone, please consider "In Tribute."

— Ellen Lyon

Save the Date for 2009 Association Sunday!

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster will be hosting 2009's Association Sunday Service on Sunday, October 4. This annual service will host congregants from seven other area churches within our district.

This is sure to be a very exciting service including our "Keynote Minister," Meg Barnhouse as well as a performance of "Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle", an Anthem for All Ages. For more details about Meg Barnhouse and her music, please check out this web site: www.megbarnhouse.com

Additional events are planned for the weekend including a Saturday evening Coffee House where Meg will perform at UUCL, a youth service project, and activities at the church on Sunday afternoon including tours of the Sanctuary and a Labyrinth Walk.

Details regarding time and location will be forthcoming within the next month.

Michael Eby-Good

Publications Coordinator

Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster

RE: Likeness to God

Reverend Rebecca Parker, President of the Starr King School for the Ministry, addressed the 2002 Liberal Religious Educators Conference on the topic of the theology of religious education (tape recorded). She described Reverend William Ellery Channing's philosophy of "Self-Culture" as calling forth all the faculties or powers of the soul. These powers include things like our five senses, our ability to perceive beauty, our ability to reason, moral goodness, and others. Reverend Parker explains that all these powers of the soul are powers of God reflected in us – are, in fact, our "likeness to God." The purpose of religious education, then, is to develop the full potential of the soul – to develop all the powers of the soul, and in so doing, to increase our likeness to God. To increase our likeness to God in effect increases the Divine presence in the world.

Reverend Parker says that relationship and societal engagement are important aspects so that we are not self-focused only. As our souls develop, we become concerned with what systems prevent the growth of the souls of others. This is why much of our work toward social justice is a natural part of religious education, as we seek to end systems that prevent the learning and growth of others.

One of her other topics was the theology of salvation. The Universalist minister Hosea Ballou made it clear that God's love was our salvation. Love redeems us – not the death of Jesus. Reverend Parker also said that as religious educators, we are teachers of love. She explained how research shows that violent people learned violence from other people or societal systems. To counteract the violence, and societal systems that would cause harm to life, we must be teachers of love and systems of love.

The RE Committee is planning programs to help our children/youth develop the full potential of their souls. We are planning a new program for children aged 7 and older to light the children's chalice in the worship service after receiving an orientation about the chalice as a symbol of our faith and candle/fire safety. This will mark a rite of passage and celebrate their growth.

Our curricula will be structured around our monthly Funday Sundays, which provide experiential learning. Planned curricula come mainly from the UUA/Tapestry of Faith series and include the following:

K—2: Faithful Journeys. Children need to learn who Unitarian Universalists (UU) are, what we believe, and how we live in faith. Faithful Journeys equips them with language and experiences to answer these questions.

3—5: Windows and Mirrors helps children to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about, and respect those of others. The program

teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone's viewpoint matters.

6—8: A combination of *Amazing Grace* and a philosophy guidebook invite children toward an adolescence enriched by self-knowledge and a deepening ethical sense.

Youth Group: this new Sunday morning program will use either *Life Issues for Teenagers* or *Small Group Ministry for Youth*.

—Margaret Light

Annual Auction Set

Preparations are underway for UUCV's biggest and best event of the year—the annual auction on November 14, 2009. It's an evening filled with fun, food and a chance to bid on everything from home-baked pies in the silent auction to vacation homes in the live auction. But the highlight for most are the sign-ups, offering a chance to participate in everything from dinners to workshops, hikes, camp-outs and game nights, all hosted by UUCV members and friends. In fact, many claim that they'd have no social life if it weren't for the auction sign-ups!

The official launch for Auction 2009 will take place on Sunday, September 6, following our annual Gathering of the Waters service. As is our tradition, the Auction Committee will announce the theme with much hoopla and celebration in the Social Hall. Information packets, including donor forms and volunteer registrations, will be available for all in attendance and mailed to those who cannot be there.

Returning this year to call the live auction is professional auctioneer Tammy Erb, as well as emcee extraordinaire Marc Renault and a special program for the kids. Back by popular demand after a brief hiatus is the \$5 admission charge (kids get in free) and the Bring a Friend, Get in Free promotion. Watch for more details in the weeks to come.

It's not too early to be thinking about donation ideas (deadline for submissions is Sept. 27). If you need some help, members of the Auction committee will be on hand each Sunday beginning September 6 to assist you—just look for them at the auction table.

One last item: auction co-chairs Paul and Carol McAnulty are still looking for some folks who can help on the committee. Join in the fun! Contact Paul or Carol at 717 249-4433 or paulandcarol913@embarqmail.com.

So mark your calendar now for Saturday evening, November 14. It's an event you won't want to miss. Everyone goes to the auction!

—Laurel Belding

Nurse's Notes

Do you know how to respond in case of emergency? Should I call an ambulance or drive myself to the hospital or just see my doctor in the morning? Should I administer first aid if I see someone in need? Am I liable if I do something wrong? These are all thought provoking questions for many of us.

UUCV has an emergency response procedure in place should something happen on church grounds. This procedure is explained to the staff and worship associates and reviewed periodically for changes and updates. There are first aid kits available (one located in the janitor's closet right outside the sanctuary across from the restrooms) at the meetinghouse plus there are many folks with medical training right in our congregation. In the event of a medical event at our meetinghouse, don't be afraid to call out for assistance. Inform the worship leader of the emergency. Have someone call 911. The person that calls 911 should let the dispatcher know our location—if you don't know or can't recall the address as 2 Forge Rd, just tell them it's the Unitarian church near the point at Forge Rd., or across from Aniles, or any kind of landmark that would be helpful for them. Saying 'UUCV' could be confusing for the dispatcher. It is also helpful to give the dispatcher some basics about what type of medical emergency is occurring. This allows the medical personnel some advance notice as to what to expect and what type of equipment to have immediately available.

If you are willing and able to render first aid, don't hesitate to help as you feel qualified. According to About.com.first aid, Good Samaritan laws are meant to protect those who come to the aid of others for no other reason than kindness. Good Samaritan laws only help if the rescuer (or would-be-rescuer) is acting without any expectation of reward. These laws vary from state to state.

I have had some requests to hold a basic CPR class at UUCV. If there is enough interest, I will schedule one in the next couple months. Look for a sign-up sheet at the table right inside the social hall at the sign-up table or call me if you are interested. Stay tuned for a resource center in the social hall containing information that may be of value to you and your family. I plan on having varying information available from different organizations on display for your perusal.

—Carol McAnulty

All in the UUCV Family

We offer our loving condolences to *Dave Mooney* and the rest of his family; Dave's father, James, died at the end of June after a serious illness. Two important birthdays happened last month too late for press time: *Michael Politzer* turned 16 and *Carolyn Hocker* turned 80.

Many happy returns! *Bill Vernon* is feeling like a new man after receiving a pacemaker in June. *Jill Kachmar* is recovering well from recent surgery. At press time *David Powell* was still at Healthsouth Rehab Hospital in Mechanicsburg, hoping to return home soon.

Change for the World, August 2009

Carlisle Meals on Wheels is a small, local organization that prepares and delivers daily meals to people living within the Borough who have difficulty shopping and cooking for themselves or getting out to restaurants. The clients are mostly seniors, but occasionally victims of accidents who have no other resources. This service allows people to continue to stay in their homes rather than having to go into some institutional or family setting. Carlisle Meals on Wheels currently has a crew of about 50 volunteers serving about 30 clients. Typically, each day five parties of two volunteers go out doing the delivery. If the clients are able to pay, there is a modest charge of around \$4 per meal delivered. Support for Meals on Wheels comes from local churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals, and from a fundraiser they produce annually. Carlisle Meals on Wheels works closely with the County Office of Aging and Community Services, but is not part of the Carlisle United Way. Those wanting more information should call Ruth Fields (245-0707).

—Alan Franklin

The Writers' Group

The Writers' Group will meet on Saturday, August 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the home of Susan Helm, 618 Mill Race Court, Carlisle. Call or email Susan if you plan to attend in case of changes to the schedule. Tel. 218-5136; snhelm@embarqmail. Come join us for a fun and creative afternoon. You can share prose or poetry you've written or read a favorite written by someone else. As always, new members most welcome!

—Joan Campbell

On a Musical Note ...

The Music Committee will be sponsoring a Fall Talent Showcase on Saturday, October 24, 2009. Admission is free along with refreshments and prizes! UUCV is blessed with abundant talent that we hope you want to share with others. Start thinking of a song, dance, skit, etc. you always wanted to perform. All are encouraged to participate. Mark your calendars now. Keep a look out for more info in the coming months.

—Mary Lynn Lynch

Piggy Accepts SHARE Contributions

The paper-maché pig on the table next to the "Project Share" collection tub is there to encourage you to put cash or checks for Project SHARE in the "Pork and Beans" can next to him on the second Sunday of each month. This will be a new opportunity to contribute to SHARE in place of, or in addition to, putting the usual food items in the tub. Either Marilyn Durr, whose job it now is to collect the SHARE items, or Gail Black, who's a long-time SHARE volunteer, will collect the cash and checks along with the regular contributions after coffee hour each second Sunday.

If you'll be putting a check in the can, please remember to make it out to "Project SHARE" and not to UUCV, since it will go directly to SHARE. (By the way, the pig is there with the compliments of Bev and Elizabeth Motich, so we'll take good care of him!)

—Marilyn Durr



Serious Stuff for August

On August 23, Serious Stuff Book Group will discuss Mulk Raj Anand's 1935 novel "Untouchable," a work of fiction depicting a day in the life of a member of India's "untouchable" caste. In what is said to be Anand's finest and most controversial work, he conveys what it must have felt like to be a sweeper and latrine cleaner with a vitality and richness of detail that led him to be acclaimed as his country's Charles Dickens. Marilyn Durr will lead the discussion, set for 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the church library. Questions? Call Marilyn at 249-4019 or e-mail her at <mdurr137@comcast.net>.

—Marilyn Durr

Anyone Up for Apple Picking?

Project SHARE is looking for apple pickers this fall and UUCV is scheduled to join Congregation Beth Tikvah to do that very thing the morning of Saturday, October 3.

At 8:30 that morning we'll meet at SHARE headquar-

ters, at 5 North Orange St., Suite 4. We will find out that morning from Sharon Devenny of the SHARE staff where we'll go in the general area. There will be a good number of apples that can be reached from the ground. Ladders will be provided for the ones we'll need to climb for. SHARE will provide collection bags for us.

This would be a wonderful "family thing" for everyone, and a good way to get to know new members of the congregation--and the Beth Tikvah folks, too! So plan to take part--moms, dads and kids, and UUCVers of all ages. There'll be a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall during August and September. Put your names there, or call Marilyn Durr at 249-4019 or send her an e-mail at <mdurr137@comcast.net>.

—Marilyn Durr

Adult Religious Education

UUCV members and friends are invited to sit in on either or both of two courses Dan Cozort is teaching at Dickinson College starting August 31. "Native American Religions" meets MWF at 9:30 for fifty minutes (Tom Vernon, Dee Louderbach, and Ann Sheehan sat in this summer, if you want an insider's point of view). The course is broad, but pays special attention to the Lenape/Delaware, Cherokee, Lakota, and Navajo traditions. "Religion, Love and Sex" meets Tuesday/Thursday at 10:30 for 75 minutes (description in the course catalogue: "Sexuality: the power of the sacred within us, or the curse of original sin? Romantic love: an illusion created by hormones and imagination, or a path to union with the divine? Love and sex are basic facts of life with which religions have always had a deep and complex relationship. This seminar will use a multi-disciplinary and comparative religions approach to understand the history, science, and theology of love, sex, and religion.") For a book list/more information, contact Dan at cozort@dickinson.edu

Some "Thank yous" from the Bulletin Board

"Thank you, *Jill and Judy*, for putting together the Coming-of-Age Service. And thank you to the anonymous doner of the chalices."

"Thank you to the people who step in and do coffee even though they did not sign up for it."

"*David Glasgow*—thanks for a super cabaret and for sharing it with UUCV."

"Thanks, *Char*, for being such a COOL mentor. I had fun with you and the whole program."

"Thanks to *Carol McAnulty* for great FIRST AID tips!"

"Thanks to *Paula Terry* for decorating the Bulletin Board."

Sunday Worship Services • August 2009

August 2— “Crossing the Boundaries Between Good and Evil”—Rachel Teates, Worship Associate, and Bev Motich, Graduate Worship Associate. Music by Carole Knisely.

Why does the image of the vampire still attract and intrigue us in the 21st Century? Join us as we explore the blurred boundaries of good and evil and the boundaries between the living and the dead. And find out how the subject of vampires relates to our Transylvanian roots.

August 9— “Growing out of the Dark”— Jill Kachmar and Mark Renault, Worship Associates. Music by David M Glasgow and Ordinary Folk.

Life has its ups and downs, with challenges and disappointments. Why do we exert so much energy trying to race out of those dark nights? Together we'll explore how we can use the dark times in our lives to our advantage.

August 16 – “What’s On Your Mind?” Revs. Judy Welles and Duane Fickeisen; music by David M. Glasgow.

The annual Question Box service gives you a chance to ask the ministers whatever questions are on your mind, be they theological, institutional, intellectual, spiritual, or pastoral. You will have an opportunity to write your questions early in the service and hand them forward; Judy and Duane will answer a representative sampling of them and keep the rest for future use in sermons, newsletter columns or other communications.

PARENTS: Please help your children think of questions they want to ask the ministers during the Children’s Moment.

Note: There will be an important Congregational Meeting after this service. See elsewhere in this issue for detailed information.

August 23—“The Transient and the Permanent”—The Rev. Duane H. Fickeisen and Rachel Teates, Worship Associate. Music by David M. Glasgow.

Any non-creedal religion that claims "revelation is not sealed" must ask what lasts and what changes. What are the fundamental elements of Unitarian Universalism that are permanent, and what are the parts that change as our understanding grows? Theodore Parker, who was one of the best preachers in Unitarianism, asked and answered that in 1841, and others have been asking since. We'll celebrate Parker's 199th birthday by pondering his great question.

August 30 – ““The Enemy of the Good.” Rev. Judy Welles and Jill Kachmar, Worship Associate. Music by Carole Knisely.

It was Voltaire who wrote “The perfect is the enemy of the good.” Today we’re going to consider the imperfect — the sloppy, the disorganized, the cluttered, the messy — to gain some understanding of its virtues. What would be a “perfect mess?” And what are the blessings of imperfection?

This service was originally scheduled for May 3 but not delivered because Judy was in the hospital. Let’s give it another try!

Other Events in August

(Be sure to check the on-line calendar at <http://www.uucv.net/calendar.html> for other information and details.)

Saturday, August 1, 9a.m. — Soul Collage

Saturday, August 8, 6p.m. — Circle Supper; location still to be determined.

Sunday, August 9, 12-1:30p.m. — “Conscious Discipline” program in the Dining Room

Tuesday, August 11, 7-9p.m. — Social Action Council in the Library

Tuesday, August 11, 7-8p.m. — Finance and Funding Committee

Thursday, August 13, 1-2:30p.m. — Compassion and Caring Circle at Anne Gero’s house: 100 Linn Dr. in Carlisle (x249-4262)

Saturday, August 15, 1-3p.m. — The Writers’ Group at Susan Helm’s home

Sunday, August 16, 12p.m. — Congregational Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 7p.m. — Board of Trustees in the Meetinghouse Board Room

Sunday, August 23, 12p.m. — “Conscious Discipline” program

Sunday, August 23, 12p.m. — Music Committee in the Board Room

Sunday, August 23, 6:30-8p.m. — Serious Stuff Book Group in the Church Library

Thursday, August 27, 1-2:30p.m. — Compassion and Caring Circle; meeting place to be determined (x776-9451)

UUCV Contacts and Resources

Meetinghouse and Office

2 Forge Road, Boiling Springs • 717/249-8944
www.uucv.net • uucv@pa.net

Staff

Ministers: Duane Fickeisen, Judy Welles

E-mail: ministers@uucv.net, duane@uucv.net, judy@uucv.net

Phone: 241-0410 (home study)

Office Assistant: Elena Yarlett

E-mail: uucv@pa.net

Phone: 249-8944 (office)

Religious Education Coordinator: Margaret Light

E-mail: margaret@uucv.net

Phone: 530-8128 (home)

Music Director: David Glasgow

E-mail: david@uucv.net

Phone: 580-2432 (cell)

Board of Trustees

Ellen Lyon, President: emlyon1@gmail.com

Dave Mooney, V.P.: jdavemoo@comcast.net

Rick Heckman, Treasurer: heckmanr@comcast.net

Jill Kachmar, Clerk: jkachmar@state.pa.us

John Kallmann: johnkallmann@earthlink.net

Priscilla Laws: lawsp@dickinson.edu

Anne Gero: annegero@mac.com

Rachel Teates: teatesrl@gmail.com

Dave Molino, Building consultant,
davidmolino@embarqmail.com

Committee Chairs and Other Leaders

Building & Grounds: Letty Kress
kresswolf@paonline.com

Coffee: Joyce Lukima, Gail Witwer
joycelukima@hotmail.com

Committee on Ministry:

Carol McAnulty,

paulandcarol913@embarqmail.com

Jon Tarrant, jwtarrant@comcast.net

Virginia Jackson, virginialaws@yahoo.com

Communications Council: Vacant

Compassion and Caring Circle: Anne Gero,
annegero@mac.com

Finance & Fundraising: Bev Motich
bmotich@yahoo.com

Flowers: Mary Lynn Lynch
marylynn_lynch@yahoo.com

Greeters: Vacant

Membership: Gail Black, gailblack@comcast.net

Music: John Kallmann, johnkallmann@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor: Gisela Roethke, newsletter@uucv.net

Religious Education: Nancy Bittinger, nbittinger@comcast.net

Small Group Ministry:

Anne Gero, annegero@mac.com

Margery Andrews, md.andrews@comcast.net

Gisela Roethke, roethke@dickinson.edu

Social Action Council: Kit and Alan Franklin, co-chairs

akfrank@kuhncom.net