

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
July 21, 2010*



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Children's Summer Program

RE summer activities, led by Erin Zysett, have the theme "Gather the Spirit." On July 25 and August 29 children will go directly to the Religious Education wing to take part in the program. On other Sundays they will attend the first part of the service with their parents, moving to the front of the sanctuary for Erin's "story for all ages." August 29 is the last day of the summer program; there will only be nursery care on September 5.

Meditation Group

Buddhist meditation teacher Lee Ann Nail is now joining with our own meditation group on **first Wednesday** nights through November. She will provide beginning meditation instructions for newcomers and also be available to provide guidance to other meditators who seek it. Please join us and find the peace and calm that is available to all who seek it.

Rick Davis

New Treasurer Needed by 7/1/11

By this time next year, I will have been treasurer for four of the last five years and will have fulfilled the latest three-year commitment. It will be time for someone with new energy and new ideas to take on this position.

The treasurer oversees the accounting of income coming into the church and approves the normal expenditures of the church, reviewing the bills and signing the checks. UUCS has an excellent computer accounting system which does not require the treasurer to set up a separate system. Office Administrator Suzette Moyer will soon be fully familiar with the system.

The treasurer is a member of the Board. The UUCS member taking on the position must be comfortable with numbers and have the ability to analyze cash flow statements. I would be glad to send a more detailed list of the duties to anyone who is potentially interested. Just send an inquiry to me.

Paul Rice

Coffee Hosts may still be needed the next few Sundays. If you're available, you can reach Megan Jensen.

Ministerial Meditations
By The Rev. Connie Yost
UUCS Affiliated Community Minister

Beep beep beep. That's my "little friend" (sic), the hospital beeper. There's a code grey at the hospital, meaning security has been called. Patient very angry and asking for the chaplain.

I arrive to find "Bill" eating pancakes and bacon. Security had departed and Bill had calmed down, especially after getting the doctor to agree to let him have this breakfast. In between bites, Bill went on for some time, outlining his grievances against the hospital, white people, the government, etc. Then he mentioned that his wife had died four months ago, and he began to cry. He said, "I have to think of something that makes me angry so I don't cry like this." Bill and I were able to talk about his wife's death and his illness -- the real reasons for the anger. Bill ended up deciding that he would take his friend's advice to "do what the doctors and nurses want and get the hell out of there." Bill even said, "I just want to apologize to everyone."

Bill got me thinking a lot about anger, how he was "doing anger" in inappropriate ways. But don't most of us find it difficult to handle our anger? Or even acknowledge our anger? Bill was angry at his wife's death and his own illness, but he was also using his anger as a way to not feel the pain of these losses. In anger, he could still be in control.

Anger is a complex emotion, often accompanied by sadness, fear, shame, guilt, or anxiety. Anger is self-protective, and can often obscure awareness of our own inner state. Anger temporarily suspends any sense of wrongness on our part, as we plunge ahead in self-defense. Like Bill, we use anger to block painful feelings and experiences.

Anger, like all emotions, has a story to tell us. Beneath the surface (anger at the hospital), lies the truth (my wife died). Bill is still angry that his wife died, but now we can explore the fear and anxiety that accompanies the anger in the appropriate context. If your anger seems inappropriate or out of proportion to the situation at hand, explore what lies beneath the surface. Are you reacting to some prior abusive situation? What were the times that you felt powerless? What were the times when you lost yourself?

Anger can be a friend, too, if we listen well. The poet Hafiz has this to say in "Tired of Speaking Sweetly"

If you had the courage and
Could give the Beloved His choice, some nights,
He would just drag you around the room
By your hair,
Ripping from your grip all those toys in the world
That bring you no joy.
Love sometimes gets tired of speaking sweetly
And wants to rip to shreds
All your erroneous notions of truth
That make you fight within yourself, dear one,
And with others,
Causing the world to weep
On too many fine days.

Love, Connie



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
July 21, 2010

Religious Education Dates to Note

Weds. Youth/Adult – Meditation 7-9 pm

Aug. 17 RE Team Retreat – 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Aug. 28 RE Teacher Orientation – 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
This is for new and returning RE teachers - a time to get to know each other and plan for next year.

Sundays Child/Youth – Summer RE Programming and nursery care continue under RE Assistant Erin Zysett. Labor Day weekend we will have nursery care only.

Erin's Letter

I had some trouble deciding what to write in my first letter to the congregation. I'm still settling into a more official role in the church and it's odd to have this sort of space to stretch out my ideas. It's also odd to now be in a position of guidance for the adults in this congregation. For the past four years I have been offering guidance to our youth, but that is a different dynamic and one I have become accustomed to. Now I have parents asking me for advice about how best to guide their young children through the theological maze set before us, and at times I am at a loss. How do we explain our more abstract ideas to a literal-minded three-year-old? Especially in a religion that offers infinite paths and answers.

Young children require simple answers to complex problems, because they still haven't learned about symbolism, metaphor and shades of gray. Unfortunately for UU parents (who are often drawn to our faith because of its many shades of not only gray, but also puce, purple, and pink), there are few clear, short answers to give their children. Moreover, when they ask for guidance from a church leader the response is often..."Well, what do you think?"—which is not the most helpful reply.

The answers in creed-based religions are definitely clearer and more consistent (one might say rigid), and therefore easier for a three-year-old to grasp. However, the comfort and clarity felt as a

toddler can become confining and hurtful as that child begins to grow and ask questions. In contrast, UUism may start out difficult and less comforting for the young, but can become a place for ideas to stretch and grow as we age and discover our own minds.

I had the parent of a young child say to me recently: *"I guess we need to do some soul searching and find a common message and belief that will help our children. I just fear that we will make them believe what we believe instead of finding their own paths—which is a big deal for me."* To that I would reply: *"The fact you are even worried about it indicates you have already set off down the path to an open, welcoming home environment where your children will feel free to explore their ideas and surprise you on a regular basis."*

Raising children can be the most enlightening set of experiences. Answering their questions and guiding them on their journey forces us to know ourselves better and to finally find answers to our own questions. It forces us to take the helm of our own spiritual growth so as to get our little ones through the storm, and demonstrate to them the best ways to come to their own conclusions. Sometimes that means bouncing ideas off another adult, and seeing how your theories sound out loud. In my new role as REA I look forward to hearing your theories, offering my own and helping you navigate the spiritual typhoons.

Of course my role will shift again when Amy Beltaine arrives to take up her post as the Interim DRE. I, for one, look forward to meeting her, and to passing the larger responsibilities involved in guiding the RE program to her. In the meantime, I'll do my best to keep our little ship sailing in (roughly) the right direction. I trust you all will help me stay on course.

With Love,
Erin

Erin Zysett is the RE Assistant

Amy Beltaine, the Interim DRE, will begin in August

Lise Adams Sherry is on sabbatical between August 2010 and June 2011.

The Unitarian Universalist

published by

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Salem, Oregon

Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis
rdavis@uuma.org

Community Minister: The Rev. Connie Yost
Religious Ed. Assistant: Erin Zysett (Summer
Director)

Interim Religious Ed. Director: Amy Beltaine
Board Chair: Phil Carver

Office Administrator: Suzette Moyer

Phone: 503-364-0932 **Fax:** 503-364-3280

e-mail: uucsoffice@yahoo.com

Website: www.uusalem.org

*This issue was edited by Elsa Struble. **NEXT NEWS-LETTER DEADLINE:** 11:30 a.m. Sunday, **August 15.** (Following deadline is September 5.) Send news to editors@uusalem.org (or to Lois Nodland loisnod@comcast.net and Elsa Struble gstruble@willamette.edu), put it in the workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter") to UUCS.*

Current Office Hours

Suzette Moyer is working fewer hours than Rose Drake did. The church office is now open **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Suzette would welcome volunteer help with light office duties such as answering the phone and greeting visitors (under her direction) two to four hours a week. Your editor can vouch that this is a great way to feel "I'm part of this congregation!" Give the office a call!

Social Action Team

Join the Social Action Team next **Sunday, July 25**, following the service to learn "What's Happening with the Fred Meyer Workers?". We'll be hearing from some long time employees about the changes going on after new ownership took control of the com-

pany. For more information contact Laura Stine.

Marion Polk Food Share

During the offering each Sunday, we put food and checks in a basket so that Marion Polk Food Share can help feed the hungry. Janet Spingath of MPFS recently informed us that emergency food could be delivered once a month from the Food Share warehouse to a low-income housing development where many elderly people live IF they had volunteer drivers. They need two people who can drive the van with shelves of food, set up the shelves at Robert Lindsey Towers and stay for a couple of hours while residents "shop" for some extra food. If you can help out, please call 503.581.3855 x311 and ask for Janet. (<http://www.marionpolkfoodshare.org/>)

UU Teen Barbeque

Three northwest UU teens on a long distance bicycle ride from southern Oregon to northern Washington will sleep at the Vogel home near West Salem High School on **Thursday, July 29**. Salem UU teens (high school and middle school) are invited to a potluck from 5:30-8:00 p.m. to welcome these energetic adventurers.

Mom Chris is planning to grill. Plan to bring soda, chips, cookies, salads and other eats. RSVP to Mickey or if you can join in the evening of casual fun. You will be given directions at that time. Parents and teen advisers are welcome.

Soup Kitchen

On Sunday, June 20 we assisted the Kairos Soup Kitchen in serving over 53 people with BBQ Ham sandwiches, clam chowder and chili con carne. The following fine folks helped with the preparation, set up and clean up at St. Mark's Lutheran Church: Pamela Ruona, Mary Beth Hustoles, Dominic Maluski, Carter Maluski, Cathy Connelly, Lois Stanley, Liron Jakubowski, Ethan Reber, John Gorman and the Kairos Soup Kitchen Coordinating Team of Del and Kate Bayne along with Jean Bissel.

Our next soup kitchen is scheduled for **Sunday, August 22**. A donation basket to help defray costs for the commodities and a sign up sheet to work are located at the Social Action Table in Hanneman Fellowship Hall. Please call John T. Maluski, Social Action Team Soup Kitchen Coordinator for more information.

Keep off the Floor

Hanneman Fellowship Hall is scheduled for refinishing August 23 – 28 and cannot be used during that week.

Landscaping

I want to thank Ted Cory, Martin Prather and Iris Sea for helping me at the last Landscape work party. We moved a lot of the bark chips from the parking lot to underneath a tree behind the church. Ted will continue moving the chips back there over the next couple of weeks. Martin Prather took charge of the new "weed eater" and took down huge weeds on the west side of the church. It looks so much better.

Our next work party will be held on **Saturday, August 28** (the fourth Saturday, not the third) from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There will be refreshments. We will need many hands and arms to gather all the yard debris into one area so that when we rent a chipper, it will be easier to get to all of it.

We also need someone who has experience with laying water pipes for our **sprinkler system** around the parking lot. Something has happened to our system and it is not working. Bill Sea has taken care of it for years but is unable to do it this year. If you could help us with that, please let us know. For more information, please call me or Iris Sea.

Sharon Dearman

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UUCS Board Minutes Summary July 8, 2010

Present: *Vice-Chair* Barbara Stebbins-Boaz (Meeting Chair); *Treasurer* Paul Rice; *Secretary* Laura Stine; *Directors* Ted Dingman, Jerry Nathan, Barb Smith, Mieke Visser, John Gorman. Also present: Samantha Scales, Homeschool Outreach Program Coordinator.

Samantha Scales, Coordinator of the **Homeschool Outreach Program**, provided an update on the successful homeschool program which has been happening at the church for more than a year, bringing many new families from the Salem area into contact with Unitarian Universalist principles and values. As many as 45 children and their parents come for social time together. It was agreed to add the topic of the Homeschooling program to the next Board meeting's agenda for further discussion regarding ways to provide information of the program's good work to the congregation at large. The Board voted to formally recognize the Homeschool Outreach Program as an official group among the congregation's Ministries and Outreach programs.

Paul Rice submitted a written **Treasurer's Report** and reported orally that at the finish of the fiscal year, in a time of economic downturn for many in our community, the congregation's income for the year covered 98.5% of the expenses for the year. He advised caution as we move into the new fiscal year and to continue to carefully monitor expenses.

The Board clarified the exact date of Lise Adams Sherry's return as **Director of Religious Education** in 2011 to be August 15, 2011, with the addition of 20 hours in June, 2011 meant to smooth the transition.

The agreement between UUCS and **Intern Minister** James Beebe was approved covering the period from August 16th to November 26, 2010.

Paul Rice reported that the AED (**heart defibrillator**) has been purchased and is to be mounted near Hanneman Fellowship Hall by the operations team.

The Board began a discussion, to be continued at the next meeting, about the structure and duties of the **Personnel Committee**, prompted by recommendations submitted to the Board by Rev. Davis and Lise Adams Sherry.

The Board agreed to continue to operate the current **copier** under the current lease until such time as to be in a better negotiating position. Someone will be appointed by the Board to research the issue and provide information for further decision-making a year from now.

(The Treasurer's Report, the Agreement with Intern Minister James Beebe, and the Personnel Committee Recommendations, submitted to the Board, can be found in the UUCS Office.)

Laura Stine, Secretary

Rose's Recollections

(This is a slightly condensed version of the comments made by now-retired Office Administrator Rose Drake at the "Rose Roast" held at the church on June 25.)

I've been asked what I enjoyed most about my nine years at UUCS. It's not easy to say. It has been such a good nine years working here under Rick's kind supervision. Probably the first of the lasting benefits I have received from UUCS came from a sermon he gave about that time; it was named "Don't Take It Personally." The idea in that sermon left a permanent mark on my psyche. I have tried to adopt that good advice and incorporate it into my personal philosophy. I didn't say I was capable of adhering to the advice—only that I continue to try.

If we are talking about particular incidents—the most exotic would be the week that the Tibetan monks were with us and I was able to participate in some of their rituals—and then some time later I was able to observe another group of monks who created a sand painting in our sanctuary. From them I added to my view of life the importance of avoiding attachment to worldly things. Then there was the summer that Kate Lore spent with us and I adopted from her another important piece of my philosophy of life: "Embrace the mystery," she used to say. I enjoyed, as well, the two years Dennis was with us, his

delightful personality, and his thoughtful outlook on life. From him I learned the importance of gratitude and compassion. A weekly pleasure for the past two years has been my Monday morning work sessions with Paul Rice as we processed the contributions and paid the bills; and the Thursday morning visits for the entire nine years with Mary Sohlstrom during the printing and folding of the bulletins and orders of service—I think we missed only two or three Thursdays during that whole time—and the Wednesday morning staff meetings with Rick and whoever was DRE at any given time—most recently Lise, and with Suzette, who has been joining us in those meetings for the past several weeks. From them I have learned the meaning and value of true friendship. You have given me so much to take with me.

A high point was finding wonderful Suzette Moyer to take over my job just as I was realizing I really had to look toward this day and the end of my employment. Of course, there was Rick's lovely and generous tribute to me during the service a couple of weeks ago and the astonishing standing applause from the congregation. That made a warm place in my heart that will last a long, long time.

Another particular event stands out: The memorial for my husband, John, during which so many members of the church contributed to the celebration of his life and made it truly a joy to remember. Rick's thoughtful comments; Women's Alliance for the reception; John Prohodosky for helping with the photo montage and handling the sound system; Loraine Stuart and Ted Cory for the music; and so many of you who attended to support me emotionally when I most needed it.

More generally, I have loved the intellectual stimulation and the attitude of respect for others offered by the inquiring minds and compassionate souls of the people in this congregation. I will remember you all with fondness for the rest of my life and will miss you more than I can say.

On a whole other subject, I have something to say about Rick. Rick has been so good to me that I hate to tell you this, but it's only fair inasmuch as he invited you all here to "roast" me. Here it is: Rick has a flaw that I

have covered up and obscured for the whole nine years I have been here. He probably has had this problem since he was very young and it keeps coming up. I have covered for him and fixed it over and over again so no one would know. I don't think even Gordana knows about it. You know, the wife is always that last to know. I couldn't let anyone know before, because after all, he was my supervisor. But He ISN'T ANY MORE. I can tell you now. Are you ready for this? HE SPELLS TOMORROW WITH TWO EMS!

July Foster Parent Night Out

On Monday, July 12, our church hosted 14 children, including three preschoolers, for a rousing evening outdoors while their foster parents were gifted with three hours "Off Duty". The nice weather allowed us to have a picnic on the grass. The school aged children became involved in constructing "homes" using large pieces of cardboard as well as making themselves personal journals as a craft project. The preschoolers enjoyed water tables, and a butterfly project brought by the A.C. Gilbert House teacher. Volunteers this month were: John Roy Wilson, Laura Stine, Keith York, Allana McDonald, Jackie Klimowicz, Ruth Larson, Lynne Percey, Tom Lancefield, Janet Neuberg, Charles Hannegan, and Jim and Joan Stembridge.

Souper Sundays

Needed: teams, committees or individuals to sponsor a Souper Sunday on the last Sunday of some month this coming church year. There have been many who have expressed gratitude for this recently added monthly event, and it would be a shame to drop this opportunity for fellowship.

Christi Olesen has created a list of the procedures, so it would be easy to take over for one Sunday (but a lot to ask of one group to do it all year!). She is putting the calendar together now. For more information, please contact her.

KidsArt Classes

Registration is now open for the 2010-2011 KidsArt class! The class is sponsored by the Homeschool Outreach Program and taught by Richard Fenwick, a local artist. The class runs from September through May, concluding with an art exhibition to showcase the kids' work. We hope to have enough students next year to fill two classes. They will be on Fridays from 1-3 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Public school students are welcome!! For more information, please contact Samantha Scales.

Bridge, Anyone?

New member Dee Brooks is interested in forming a UU Bridge group. Interested in joining her?

Missing Library Book

The Salem Library's copy of *Curious George Goes to the Beach*, checked out by Lise Sherry, is missing and is costing her money. Please help!

Stan Tepper

UUCS member and World War II veteran Stan Tepper died June 22 at the age of 87. Despite declining health, he had been active in groups like the Lifelines Lay Ministry and the Sunday morning book discussion, as well as in Willamette University's Institute for Continued Learning. Rick Davis led a memorial celebration of Stan's life at UUCS on June 26, and Ted Cory provided some of the music. Memorial donations can be made to UUCS or to ICL.

News of the UUCS Community

We're pleased to have **Bill and Iris Sea** back "home" with us once again. While Bill recovered quite well from the most recent surgery, he's learned that radiation is ineffective for his current cancer, metastasized from the bout he had three years ago. Therefore he's receiving on-going chemotherapy, aware that it will not cure the disease. Best news is

that he and Iris continue plans for a trip to Russia they'd anticipated for later in the year.

It was birthday time once again for three members of many years' standing: **Barbara Hanneman**, our sole charter member, was 88; **Nina Cleveland** and **Dick French** were 90! Many happy returns of the day to each of them!

Wedding anniversaries were celebrated by **Harriet Trill** and **Glen Kaye**, their 48th, and **Claudia** and **Jim Koch**, their 49th. Congratulations!

Helen Trotter has survived a most memorable month! During a visit to her cosmologist, she experienced an extreme case of vertigo, and was transported to the hospital's emergency department. Staff there couldn't locate any name, telephone contact information, or medical information in her belongings and Helen couldn't think of anyone to call except UUCS! Fortunately, office staff knew that Delores Lusk is a close friend. Between Delores and Chuck and Ellen Howard, Helen was taken home and her life began to normalize.

The event was sufficiently traumatic that Helen realized it was time to make the long-anticipated move to an assisted living facility. Her daughter and granddaughter arrived from their home in Sitka, Alaska, to help Helen move to a spacious apartment at Lancaster Village. Over the past weekend Helen held a garage sale of the household items that wouldn't fit in the new space, and it's on with her life!

The message Helen hopes to convey is this: at all times carry personal identification, names and phone numbers of those to be contacted in case of emergency, and medical/medication information. Good lesson, well learned!

Condolences to Yani Chambers Davison, her mother Ardith and her family, following the recent death in Las Cruces, New Mexico of Yani's father, **Othniel Chambers**. A memorial service was held at the church last Saturday morning.

Loraine Stuart, **Lee Coyne**, and **John Roy Wilson** (who was responsible for much of the program) returned recently from a

week at the Unitarian-Universalist summer camp at Seabeck on Puget Sound.

David Cozart's daughter, who lives in Denmark, is spending a month here.

Maggie Klecker, daughter of **Beth Myers-Shenai** and step-daughter of Jay Shenai, recently returned from a ten day trip to Israel to attend a Christian Studies Tour led by her step-grandfather. Maggie stayed in Tel Aviv, Tiberius, Jerusalem, and at the Dead Sea. The group visited many biblical sites and historic ruins. Maggie's favorite spot was Caesaria by the sea, and favorite activities were swimming in the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, shopping at the bazaars in Jerusalem, and enjoying passionfruit-pear juice!

Erratum: I mistakenly named **Erin Zysett** as Director of the Salem Multicultural Institute, when in fact she is its Program Director. Institute Director is Graham Morris, who has just experienced his second and very successful World Beat Festival. He and Erin are the Institute's only paid staff; all other involved are volunteers. Erin also serves as UUCS' Religious Education Assistant and is running the summer program (her column is on page 3).

Share your joys or concerns with others in our community. Contact me.

Joan Erickson

Outside Events

Confluence Chorus

Congratulations to Confluence Chorus, the premier Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered (and Straight) chorus in the Willamette Valley, on their tenth anniversary. They will kick off their Anniversary Tour September 24 here at UUCS, which has been a supporter from the beginning. They need some help organizing the concert: Rev. Rick asks that volunteers leave messages on the office voice mail or email him at rdavis@uuma.com. (Rick is on vacation this month and on sabbatical in August.)

Dragon Boats

If anyone has ever wanted to try dragon boating and would like to practice with an easy going group of people, just out to have fun and race at the Portland Race on September 11 and 12, contact Erin Zysett. Regis-

tration is \$55 and covers all practices and race registration fees for September. The team practice Monday and Wednesday 5:30 to 7 p.m. with some Saturday practices...time to be announced.

* * * * *

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

10:30 a.m. (Child Care Available)

Sunday, July 25 UU Principles under Scrutiny: Loyalty in Human Relations Tim Patterson

“We generally think of loyalty as a positive trait. But is it always positive? Sometimes loyalty can lead you astray. Where do your loyalties lie?”

Tim currently is Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Interpretive Exhibits in Salem. . The son of a Presbyterian Minister, Tim is a drummer, musician and die-hard skier, a former radio announcer—and has served on the UUCS Sunday Services Team.

Sunday, August 1 Evil is as evil does? Lise Adams Sherry

Lise, our DRE on leave, writes, “While I don’t think this coincidence is meaningful, I do find it interesting that evil spelled backwards is live. How does evil work in our lives? Is it a purely human construct, an intentional malevolent force to be reckoned with, or something that simply is? How do we as rational UUs fit evil into our philosophy of life, or do we?”

Sunday, August 8 Immigrant Myths & Misgivings Francisco Lopez

Francisco Lopez is a human rights activist for immigrant social justice and a native of El Salvador. He currently serves as executive director for CAUSA, which deals with Latino social issues. He attends Queen of Peace Catholic Church here in Salem.

Sunday, August 15 One Dog at a Time Michelle Blake

UUCS member Michelle Blake is the local coordinator of Fences for Fido, a nonprofit that builds free fenced yards to liberate dogs from their chains. The very young organization has created a statewide sensation, unchaining 70 dogs in its first year. Michelle has discovered that this is “an experiment in nonviolent communication.”

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
5090 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97317

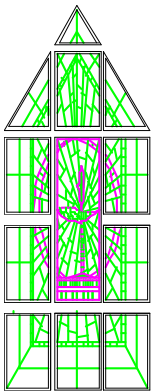
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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

July 21, 2010

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UUCS Calendar

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| Wednesday, July 21 | UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (every Wednesday) Chat & Craft, 7:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) |
| Sunday, July 25 | Social Action, after service |
| Monday, July 26 | Chalice Circle Players, 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, July 29 | Teen Barbeque at the Vogels' |
| Wednesday, August 4 | UU Meditation, with Lee Ann Nail, 7:00 p.m. Chat & Craft, 7:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) |
| Monday, August 9 | Foster Parents' Night Out |
| Wednesday, August 11 | UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (every Wednesday) |
| Thursday, August 12 | Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, August 15 | Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m. |
| Sunday, August 22 | Soup Kitchen at St. Mark's, 12:30 p.m. |
| Monday, 8/23-Saturday, 8/28 | Fellowship Hall floor refinished |
| Saturday, August 28 | Landscape Work Party, 9 a.m. |