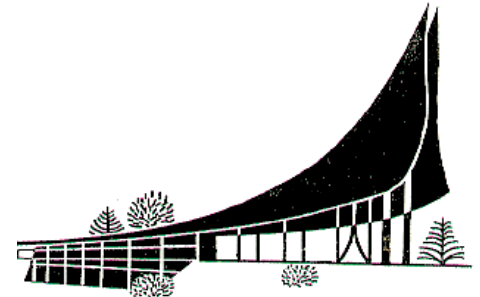


SOUNDINGS


The Unitarian Church in Westport
 10 Lyons Plains Road
 Westport, Connecticut 06880
 203 227-7205
 uuchurch@uuwestport.org
 www.uuwestport.org



THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, NOV. 18

Nov. 13 - Dec. 3, 2011

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov. 13 Worship Service: 9 & 11 am OWLParents Gr., E.W. - 12:30 pm Rainbow Task Force, Chapel - 12:45 pm Neighborhood Circle Facilitators, Sanct., ... 12:45 pm	14 Fundraising for UU's., Chapel, ... 7:30 pm Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	15 Finance Committee Meeting Hse., ... 5:30 pm Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	16 Chant&Meditation Library ... 7:00 pm Comm, Organizing, M.H., - 7:30 pm Abolish Death Penalty, Fellow.Rm. ... 7:30 pm Chamber Choir, Chapel - 7:45 pm	17 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir - 8:00 pm	18 SOUNDINGS Deadline - ...12 pm Odd Couple Performance, Sanctuary, 8:00 pm	19 Choir Sectionals, Sanct., 9:00 am Small Gr.Facilitators, M.H.... 10:00am Everyone Can Improve, E.W., ... 11:00 am Odd Couple Performance, Sanct. ... 8:00 pm
20 Thanksgiving Family Service 9 & 11 am Sheila Lane Congregational Vote, Sanctuary - 12:30 pm Odd Couple Performance Sanctuary - 4:00 pm	21 O&AF Rehearsal, ... 7:45 pm	22 Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	23 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant &Meditation Library... 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Day Dinner set-up, Sanct., ... 7:30 pm	 HOLIDAY Office Closed No Choir Rehearsals RSVP Thanksgiving Dinner ... 5:00 pm	25 <u>HOLIDAY</u> Office Closed Shawl Ministry, Meeting Hse., ...12:30 pm UU Movie Discussion Grp., M.H....7:30 pm	26 Carla Ivison Memorial Service, ... 2:00 pm
27 Worship Service: 9 & 11 am No RE, Childcare Available	28	29 Men's Choir, ... 8:00 pm	30 Chant & Meditation Library ... 7:00 pm Chamber Choir, Sanctuary ... 7:45 pm	Dec. 1 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir - 8:00 pm	2 SOUNDINGS Deadline, ...12 pm Voices Cafe Committee, M.H., ... 6:00 pm	3 Circle Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am REEL Justice Film, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm

SERMONS:

- November 13 ... 9 & 11 am ... **"Getting to the Promised Land"** Frank Hall
Life is filled with promise -- expectionation of improvement, a better life, a better world. So some disappointment is inevitable.
Music: "Exit 43" sings at both services.
- November 20 ... 9 & 11 am **Thanksgiving Family Service** The Staff
We'll have our annual Corn Bread & Cider "communion", served by the children.
*The staff will offer a story appropriate for the harvest season. **Music:** 9:00 Youth Choir; 11:00 Teen Choir.*
- November 27 ... 9 & 11 am **"My Morning Walks With Me"** Frank Hall
The walks along the beach help to balance body, mind and spirit. Without balance you can't walk; without some quiet time you can't allow solutions to your problems to rise to the surface; without a sense of appreciation there is no spirituality.
Music: 9 am: Men's Choir; 11 am: Women's Choir.

Last week, I preached about transitions and transformations. Because of the snow, many people were unable to attend, and I hope you will read or listen to the sermon online. Here's in part what I said:

Frank has announced his resignation as of June 2013. We have begun the ending of his successful ministry, and we are in the middle place before the new beginning. It is a time of community transition.

Many of you have spoken to me of your anxieties: will Frank be able to do your or your loved one's funeral? Will he be able to stay a part of the community? Will the rifts in the congregation be healed? We are a little bit at the beginning of the wilderness.

But like most transitions, we are not alone and we are not the first people to be dealing with this situation. In the case of a ministerial transition, there is both an orderly process recommended by the Unitarian Universalist Association and our own bylaws...

The UUA guidelines and the UUMA guidelines allow us to vote as a congregation to name Frank Minister Emeritus; I hope we will do so. Doing so will allow us in the words of a document you can find at uua.org to "affirm a continued relationship of mutual affirmation and regard." As Minister Emeritus Frank will have a covenant with the congregation and the new settled minister about his future roles with us.

We will have help...from our District Executive and the UUA Settlement Office. Our constitution, newly adapted and ratified, spells out the process for the Search Committee selection and its role, which includes that the Search Committee is elected by the entire congregation, that although the Board nominates its 9 members, that anyone can run for the Search Committee by sub-

mitting a petition signed by 30 members, and that the Search Committee only recommends the candidate. All members will vote on the candidate for the new settled minister, who is only likely to accept a call here if at least 90% of us vote yes.

Who are we to be to each other during these next two years and then the two after that? We need to hold each other accountable to the words of our affirmation. We have to create a climate of trust and transparency. We know we have to focus on dealing with our grief and loss. We have to have compassion for ourselves and each other ... we need to remind ourselves that transitions take time and go slowly. It is important that we recognize and accept our own anxiety and discomfort during this time. We need to have compassion for each other during our coming year, knowing we will respond to the church transition in many different ways, and all feelings are valid.

We need to remember that it is in the transitions of our lives that we may experience the most growth. It helps if we can imagine the benefits of the new beginning ... to think through what is waiting to be born now. I have described times in my life between an ending and a beginning as feeling myself to be inside a chrysalis. One of my close friends, who is also a minister, said to me, "You know what happens if you break the chrysalis before it is time?" We know that before the butterfly emerges it is a time of struggle to develop strong and beautiful wings.

We can remember that it is in times of transition that we will learn what we need to become strong and beautiful. May we have the compassion, care, wisdom and knowledge to go through our struggles – our individual ones and the ones facing this community, long enough to emerge as the beautiful butterflies we know we can be.

Five Facts and One Reminder about Thanksgiving 2011

First the Facts:

1. *Thanksgiving was initially meant to be a fast, not a feast. (So much for American asceticism.)*
2. *The author of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb" engaged in a 17-year letter-writing campaign to urge President Abraham Lincoln to declare the last Thursday in November as our national Thanksgiving holiday. (She won!)*
3. *Every President since Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day. But in 1939, 1940, and 1941 Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Thanksgiving the third Thursday in November to lengthen the holiday shopping season. (This upset people?)*
4. *Twenty percent of cranberries eaten are eaten on Thanksgiving. Native Americans did not eat cranberries. They did, however, find them extremely useful for dying fabric and decorating pottery.*
5. *The tradition of watching football on Thanksgiving began in 1876, when the newly formed American Intercollegiate Football Association held its first championship game on the holiday.*

REMINDER: At the Thanksgiving Potluck at church this year there will be no football (except for those with smarty-pants phones) so the f-word of our holiday is FOOD. Sign up to bring something and be part of our tradition!

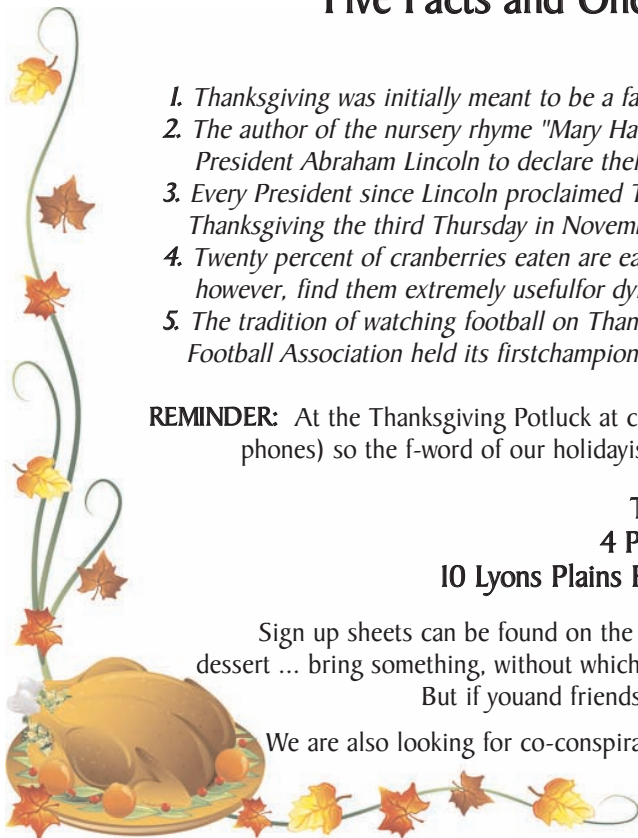
**Thursday, November 24th
4 PM until the dishes are done
10 Lyons Plains Road (the church not the Meeting House)**

Sign up sheets can be found on the tables at the rear of the foyer. Sign up to come, bring an appetizer, side dish, dessert ... bring something, without which, Thanksgiving dinner simply would not be, well, Thanksgiving dinner.

But if you and friends/family members are planning to come, you do need to sign up.

We are also looking for co-conspirators to help with this event. Contact any of the Three Turkeys to join the team.

Diana Bell - ladydianamary@yahoo.com
JoAnn Coviello - coviellojc@snet.net
Lynda Shannon Bluestein - blueslyn@aol.com



November 7, 2011

Dear Friends,

There were 21 in this year's Coming of Age class. On Saturday night each of them stood at the candle table, individually, and spoke to their family, telling them what they most appreciated about them – to thank them, and to express their love.

Then it was their parent's turn, and they did the same, listing the qualities they most admired and the things they appreciated about their sons and daughters. It's a very *moving* ceremony.

That, of course, is what the 'coming of age' program is all about – helping our young people to *move* into a new life chapter, to navigate the white-water, rock-strewn passage from dependent childhood to the maturity required to continue the course independently.

It doesn't happen without some spills and tumbles; some bumps and bruises, including family squabbles. It doesn't happen all at once, like the birthing experience, but the coming of age class, the Saturday night ceremony, and the Sunday morning service in front of the congregation, helps launch them into the next chapter of this Great Adventure we call Life.

Part of the process is to ask each of them to write a belief statement which they share at the family and congregational services. We listened attentively as each wove words to summarize his or her values, ideas, opinions, and aspirations into a brief, cogent affirmation – a belief statement.

I smiled inwardly as one said, "I want to find something I love doing so I never have to work a day in my life," explaining what he meant. I could hear Robert Frost's closing lines in *Two Tramps in Mud Time*: "*But yield who will to their separation my object in living is to unite my avocation and my vocation, as my two eyes make one in sight. Only where love and need are one and work is play for mortal stakes, is the deed ever really done for Heaven and the future's sakes.*"

Four of them spoke about things they experienced during the Coming of Age class; one spoke about the Boston trip, including the walk around Walden Pond to the site of Henry David Thoreau's famous ten by fifteen foot cabin he built by himself in 1845, for a total cost of \$28.12 1/2 and where he lived for two years and two months.

One spoke about the tour of Arlington Street Church and the organ whose sounds fill the huge sanctuary, and the 16 massive Tiffany stained glass windows. The other two told about their trip to New York City with Jamie Forbes to feed the homeless – surprised at the 'hundred or two hundred' people of all ages waiting in line for some food. "In that moment I realized how fortunate I've been to have enough food and water and a safe place to live...I felt sad for them, and I felt thankful for my life in a deeper way than I've ever felt before."

There were members in this Coming of Age class that I held in my arms at services of dedication of parents and children when they were infants and I said, "*May you find aid in time of trouble, comfort in time of sorrow and guidance into the ways of truth. We wish for you a full and healthy life and hope that you find joy, and peace, and the satisfaction of years well spent.*" We repeat those words at our Coming of Age ceremony, and I offer them as a blessing to you, now.



Carl Sandburg, from 'The People, Yes'

A father sees a son nearing manhood.
What shall he tell that son?
'Life is hard; be steel; be a rock.'
And this might stand him for the storms
and serve him for humdrum and monotony
and guide him amid sudden betrayals
and tighten him for slack moments.
'Life is a soft loam; be gentle; go easy.'
And this too might serve him.
Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.
The growth of a frail flower in a path up
has sometimes shattered and split a rock.
A tough will counts. So does desire.
So does a rich soft wanting.
Without rich wanting nothing arrives.
Tell him too much money has killed men
And left them dead years before burial:
The quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs
Has twisted good enough men
Sometimes into dry thwarted worms.
Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.
Tell him to be a fool every so often
and to have no shame over having been a fool
yet learning something out of every folly
hoping to repeat none of the cheap follies
thus arriving at intimate understanding
of a world numbering many fools.

Tell him to be alone often and get at himself
and above all tell himself no lies about himself
whatever the white lies and protective fronts
he may use amongst other people.
Tell him solitude is creative if he is strong
and the final decisions are made in silent rooms.
Tell him to be different from other people
if it comes natural and easy being different.
Let him have lazy days seeking his deeper motives.
Let him seek deep for where he is a born natural.
Then he may understand Shakespeare
and the Wright brothers, Pasteur, Pavlov,
Michael Faraday and free imaginations
Bringing changes into a world resenting change.
He will be lonely enough
to have time for the work
he knows as his own.

Perry's Ponderings ...

In early 2003 while I was living in New London, CT, my mother mailed me an article she thought I would find interesting titled "Buddhism, My Religion of Choice." It was about a personal struggle with the negative effects of religion and a positive life-changing encounter with Mahayana Buddhism. The article mirrored some of my own struggles and philosophies. I was surprised to see it was written by a minister and had no idea what Unitarian Universalism really was, so this began my discovery of our faith. The author of the article was Frank Hall.

It was later in 2003 that I was on my path as a Religious Educator. Carolyn Patierno, the UU minister in New London, saw something in me that she knew connected with the heart of this work and with her vision brought me to my calling. This past Friday, I attended Carolyn's ten-year anniversary celebration in that congregation. It was a chance to express my appreciation for her and reconnect with the people who first taught me what it means to love in a congregation.

My UU journey came full circle when I began working with Frank in 2007. In the article that started it all, Frank mentions his Buddhist yoga teacher who spoke of the four things you need to do in life: show up, speak the truth, do what you do with intensity, and don't get attached to outcomes. Then he explains that "showing up" means to be fully present to another person or a sunset, to be fully awake. Although I practice this myself, I discover greater depths of being in the moment from watching and experiencing Frank's presence.

This past weekend, the 9th graders had their Coming of Age graduation. After a journey of learning, thinking, discerning, and uncovering more of themselves, they vocalized gratitude to their family members and articulated their beliefs. Last year, Alex changed her belief statement after she was deeply affected by Frank's reflection just before. This year, Frank was struck by Sophia's poem and completely changed his sermon in the moment. Frank described God as "creative interchange" and showed us what it meant.

In his belief statement, Coming of Ager Michael expressed his hopes of fulfilling Confucius's words, "Choose a job you love and you will never have to

RE CALENDAR

Sunday, Nov. 13 ...

12:30 pm: OWL Parent Group, East Wing

Sunday, Nov. 20 ...

9 & 11am Family Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, Nov. 27...

No RE, childcare available



Debbie & Diane, with other Bell Choir members taught the children to play chimes.

work a day in your life." Although Frank works very hard at his job, it is obvious that this saying has held true for him and it brings an element of joy to all of us around him. After RE Sunday last year, Frank used Robert Frost's words to appreciate what he saw happening for me, "My object in living is to unite my avocation and my vocation, as my two eyes make one in sight. Only where love and need are one, and the work is play for mortal stakes, is the deed ever really done for Heaven and the future's sakes."

Now that Frank has announced his retirement date, there is a great deal of talk about our future and being in a time of transition. There is a process in Unitarian Universalism for ministerial transition and, in time, we will have an interim minister to lead us through the process of looking forward. Then we will welcome our new settled minister, who does not necessarily fit the bill for all of our checkmarks, but is the right person to speak to our minds and hearts, while caring for them. In the meantime, we have a minister who has been doing this in a very human way that helps us touch our own humanity and accept ourselves as we wrestle with showing up, speaking the truth, putting forth intensity, and letting go. I hope we treasure the gift of time we have with Frank as our senior minister and remain fully present to this moment in our journey together.

YOUTH OUTREACH/ Jamie Forbes

15 members of the 2011 Coming of Age class participated in the Youth Services Opportunities work camp in New York City on October 14-15. Lindy Hennessy, Tanya Smith, Carrie Wittenstein and Rob Laug accompanied the group and participated as well. They reported back that, although sleeping on a cold hard floor is not optimum sleeping conditions, the weekend was a wonderful opportunity to experience first-hand the plight of the homeless in the city and to watch our COAers as they confront some harsh truths. The youth served dinner and dine with men from a local shelter.

The men from the shelter and our youth always show a generosity of spirit as they engage each other in conversation and play cards or board games together. Our youth come away wide eyed and eager to tell others about the stories the men have told them. The men head back to the shelter grateful to have spent the evening with young people who have shown an interest in their lives and treated them with respect and dignity.

YOUTH OUTREACH CALENDAR

Friday, Nov 11

Avery's Appalachian Trail presentation & celebration, 7 pm EW.

Saturday, Nov 12

Westbridge Coalition workday

Sunday, Nov 13

Soup lunch hosted by Shawl Ministry

Saturday, Nov 19

Westbridge Coalition workday



She did it!!!

The Beardsley Committee presents:

Avery's Appalachian Trail Adventure!

Come hear stories of Avery Forbes' 6 1/2 month, 2,182.00 trek on the Appalachian Trail.

All are welcome!

Friday, November 11 - 7pm - East Wing

Dessert, Coffee, Tea and hot cider



Yes, that's Veteran's Day and from 1.11.11 until 12.11.11 we'll be collecting cell phones as part of the Cell Phones for Soldiers program. Cell Phones for Soldiers was started in 2004 by a brother and sister (12 and 13) in Massachusetts with \$21.00 from their piggy bank!

Donated cell phones are sold to a company that recycles them. The money received from recycling the cell phones is used to purchase calling cards that are sent to troops in need. While deployed soldiers are usually given 15 minutes of free talk time per week, an average cell phone sold will provide 100 minutes of talk time.

Since 2004 through the recycling of used mobile phones and cash donations, the organization has raised more than \$7 million, collected more than 7.5 million cell phones and provided troops overseas with more than 90 million minutes of free talk time.

Canvassers Needed

Stamford State Senator Carlo Leone is a crucial vote in our effort to abolish the death penalty in Connecticut. In the last General Assembly we missed by 2 votes in the Senate. On Monday, November 21 the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty (CNADP) will be holding a press conference in Stamford and going door-to-door talking with Stamford residents about the death penalty. Our UCW committee to Abolish the Death Penalty works closely with CNADP and will be assisting in Stamford. We will also be doing some phone banking from a prepared script.

If you would like to join us for either of these actions please contact Marjolijn de Jager (marjolijn36@gmail.com) or David Vita (david@uuwestport.org, 203.227.7205 x14). With your help we can replace the death penalty with life without parole in the 2012 General Assembly, and it begins right now.

UPCOMING SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETINGS

- **Rainbow Task Force Sunday**, November 13 at 12:45 in the Chapel...
- **UU-UNO** (UU United Nations Office) Committee Sunday, November 13 at 12:30 in the Library.
- **Committee to Abolish the Death Penalty** - Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 in the Fellowship Room

Friends of Beardsley,

First, a big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who attended our Citywide Read Aloud Day on October 20. We had a great time and look forward to some of our readers coming back regularly!



Now, we've already told you about our Box Tops (coupons) and Stop and Shop effort (sign up for the A+ program at their website) to raise money for our adopted school from the purchases we make. Well, you can now add Campbell soup labels and Coke bottle tops to that. If you save them and bring them into our box by the Angel Tree, we will process them to get cash returns for Beardsley.

And lastly, our Angel Tree returns are, understandably, a little slow this year, so don't forget to check out the new leaves to see what our teachers currently need for their classrooms. Many thanks to the hundreds of congregants who have already done so!

On Sunday November 13, we can give others in our community an extra reason for giving thanks by helping Wilton's Food Pantry.

Just stop by the social justice table in the church foyer and donate one or more of the items listed below. Your gift will truly make a difference for those who are less fortunate - please be generous. You could also leave a check made out to the Unitarian Church with Wilton Food Pantry in the subject line and we will purchase the products in bulk.

According to Wilton Social Services' Lauren Hughes, "what would be the most useful are paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, Kleenex) laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, personal care items (toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotion).

These items cannot be purchased with food stamps so we run out quickly. If people want to donate food, we can always use coffee and cereal."

Explore Your Whole Wuurld!

If you have any questions, contact Elaine McMillan: mcmillane@yahoo.com

Free Webinars On Demand...

...are available on your own time and schedule. Consider these possibilities:

- Congregational Polity for the Indifferent Lay Leader
- Drawing the Line: Disruptive Behavior Policies and Procedures
- Basic Safety Policies & Tips
- Creating Meetings That Matter
- Rethinking the Committee: "Doing Church" in the 21st Century
- Committees on Ministry: An Overview
- Introducing a Multi-Site Church Model
- Powerful Pathways to Membership

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, the CERG (Central East Regional Group) Leadership Development Consultant presents several of the courses.



Go to: www.cerguua.org/moodle/ for more information. To participate, you will need to register and log-in. There is no fee for any of the webinars. The services and the programs are provided through the generous support of the UUA and the Metro New York District (as well as the other districts in CERG.)

Job Opportunities at UU Churches

Not all of the jobs listed are local, and some would require specific backgrounds—but hey! One might be just for you! For a listing of jobs around our district, go to: <http://uumetrony.org/district/jobs.htm>. For example, the Unitarian Society of New Haven, in Hamden is searching for

a DRE. For information, go to: <http://bit.ly/usnh-dre-wanted> or write to dresearch@usnh.org. They compensate at UUA Fair Compensation Guidelines:

UUA President Rev. Peter Morales' Statement on Occupy Wall Street

"Last Sunday, I had the opportunity to join the Occupy Boston protesters in this city's financial district. [UU] ministers from several of our Massachusetts congregations came together to organize an evening vespers service at the Occupy Boston encampment, offering spiritual support and encouragement to the hundreds of souls gathered there.



"I was honored to bear witness to this historic event, and grateful for the chance to stand side by side with [UU] ministers showing such passionate devotion to our Fourth Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

"[UUism] embodies a long tradition of working for economic justice and workers' rights. . .I reach out to [UUs] everywhere to consider how you might be of service to any among us who are struggling. . . Let the world see the power of our faith in action.

"And if these protests are truly planting the seeds of a reformation - even a revolution - may those seeds be nurtured by love. May the change come from a place of compassion and good will. . ."

You're Hired!

This new column about the NLDC (Nominating and Leadership Development Committee) hopes to answer your questions about its responsibilities and to offer ways for you to develop a deeper relationship with your UCW community.

Among the first tasks of the NLDC is to develop a 5-person slate of candidates for the Committee on Ministries, or COM. The slate then has to meet with the approval of the BOT (Board of Trustees) and staff.

Probably the point on which there was the most confusion at the Annual Meeting was the COM. The UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) has prepared a very comprehensive and helpful pdf file: "Assessing Our Leadership: for Professional and Lay Leaders of UU Congregations Promoting Effectiveness in Congregational Leadership."

The introduction begins with a quote from The Rev. Robert T. Latham: "Ministry is anything a congregation does in pursuit of its religious mission to its own membership and the wider community." The introduction continues:

Ministry is the central activity of any religious congregation. Anything so fundamental needs to be assessed regularly and carefully so that the members of a congregation may ensure

that they are doing the job they think they are, deepening their understanding of ministry, developing resources for supporting their mission, and setting goals for carrying out that work more effectively.

Our mission statement is:

WE INSPIRE and support individual spiritual growth.

WE CONNECT through worship, music, learning, and caring ministries.

WE ACT in the service of peace and justice.

The goal of the COM is to help us know if we are carrying out our mission.

If you would like to better understand the purpose and goals of this vital committee, we invite you to read the booklet in its entirety: www.uua.org/documents/mpl/assessing_leadership.pdf If you would like to mention yourself or someone else as a possible candidate for the COM (or other elected positions: BOT, Audit, or Endowment Committees) please reach out to anyone on the NLDC: Marianne Barber, Tom Hamilton, Jackie LeMeur, Carl Serbell, or Elaine McMillan (Chair).

Our next issue will focus on leadership development opportunities for you!

Thanks to so many

kind efforts of good people like you at UCW, Dorothy and I have survived our year of Hell. We are actually working toward a homecoming date of Thanksgiving. However, the house has been stripped bare by locusts, so we don't even have a refrigerator. And our joint accounts, and my mother's IRA, etc., have been wiped out. If you have a refrigerator to donate, please contact David Vita at the Church, or me at 212.420.9187.

Mucho thanks & love ~ *Marjorie Partch.*



Flowers for October

October 2

In loving memory of Joseph Gabriel – we miss you Dad & Papa.

Given by Maryellen, Jim & Casey

October 9

In celebration of Sarah & Perry.

October 23

In celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary

Given by John & Joanne Turmelle

October 30

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of my ordination here.

With ongoing gratitude, Peggy Block, Chaplain, Bridgeport Hospital; Community Minister, UU Danbury.

UU Movie Discussion Group Friday, Nov. 25



The UU Movie Discussion Group will meet again on Friday, November 25th to discuss 2 films: “*Margin Call*” and “*The Way*”, both currently playing at the Garden Cinema in Norwalk. Potluck dessert at 7:30; Discussion at 8. At the Meeting House. All are welcome.

Come and Witness CONNECT

CONNECT (Congregations Organized for a new CT) is a non-partisan, interfaith organization of over 30 diverse congregations in Southern CT, who have organized as one community, to effect change in the areas of social and economic justice and policies for the common good.
We are one of the 30.

We practice the art of public life, to give power to our voices and create strong congregations and community partnership.



Candidate for Governor Malloy speaking to 1,100 CONECT members. (2011)

Our founding assembly,
Wednesday November 30, 7-9 pm
at **The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit,**
729 Union Avenue, Bridgeport,
will be both a celebration and a bold assertion of our voice in the public life of the region.

We invite you to attend this historic gathering!

For more information please speak with Kathy Roberts, Ron Taylor or David Vita (david@uuwestport.org), 203.227.7205 x14



Four Songs by Four Singers

Last weekend, at the Coming of Age Service, Reece Armstrong, Rachel Campbell and Tim Jones were among the Coming of Age group who volunteered to sing a song at their ceremony. Reece sang a piece called The Kids Don't Stand a Chance, a song about what children inherit from the preceding generation. Sometimes it is negative, a burden, troublesome. Sometimes it is positive, supportive, healthy. The song happens to paint a somewhat negative picture because the youth of some third-world countries face an impossible future. But Reece sings it because these Coming of Agers face a difficult future. Rachel Campbell sang a song called Alice, written by Avril Lavigne. It is a song about the challenges that Alice faced in Wonderland. In part it says "when the world's crashing down, when I fall and hit the ground, I will turn myself around, don't you try to stop me!" It is an affirmation about inner strength in the face of adversity. Tim Jones sang What a Wonderful World, a song that is a reminder about the inherent goodness of people, and the capability each person has to create a better world.

On Sunday morning, one of the COA graduates, Zoe Apoian, returned to sing Stop This Train, a song by John Mayer. It is a piece about the fear of getting older, assuming more responsibility, and the need for greater understanding. In part the song says "stop this train [life], I want to get off and go home again." The songwriter then has a conversation with his parents who tell him "don't for a minute change the place you're in." By the end of the song, Mayer sings "I'll never stop this train."

All of these songs are reminders about the responsibility that each person has to create a better world. Thanks to our singers! And so may it be!

Church Staff

- Frank Hall Senior Minister
frank@uuwestport.org
- Edward Thompson Minister of Music
ed@uuwestport.org
- John Carroll..... Church Administrator/
Business Manager
john@uuwestport.org
- Jan Braunle Administrative Associate
jan@uuwestport.org
- Perry Montrose..... RE Director
perry@uuwestport.org
- Jamie Forbes Youth Outreach Dir.
jamie@uuwestport.org
- Lily Rappaport Youth Program Dir.
lily@uuwestport.org
- David Vita Social Justice Director
david@uuwestport.org
- Robert Santiago Sexton
bobby@uuwestport.org

Endorsed Community Minister

Rev. Debra Haffner ...debra@uuwestport.org

Board of Trustees

- Chuck Colletti Chair
- Randy Burnham Vice Chair
- Ken Vogel Treasurer
- Denny Davidoff Clerk
- Steve Axthelm
- Michelle Garvey
- Lyn Hamilton
- Sherry Jagerson
- Kristen Leddy
- John Mason
- Sal Mollica

SOUNDINGS Staff

Carol Porter Editor/Design

visit our website at
www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is Friday, Nov. 18, at noon (or before). Please e-mail your copy to: carpo@optonline.net

SAVE THE DATE!



Build a holiday memory by decorating gingerbread houses, a sweet and spicy tradition for all ages. Come with the holiday spirit, share a potluck meal, sing a few traditional holiday carols and go home with a decorated gingerbread house! What a fun activity to look forward to this year!

**Holiday Gingerbread House-Making,
Potluck & Caroling
Saturday, December 10, 2011
5 PM**

Further your UU values by becoming a member of the

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

November 20, right after the Thanksgiving Service



- Promote economic rights
- Advance environmental justice
- Defend civil liberties
- Preserve the rights of people in humanitarian crisis

Support social justice in the U.S. and around the world with [your membership donation](#) (paid by check, cash, or credit card):

\$10 Student/Youth

\$20 Senior

\$40 Senior (dual)

\$40 Individual

\$75 Individual (dual)

\$100 or more contributions will be matched \$ for \$

In addition, on Nov. 20 you will receive a container to help
"Change the World"

Keep the container as a *Guest At Your Table* and simply [collect your spare change](#) and pour it into our **"Change the World"** jug on the Social Justice table.



=

