
September 2017

Uniter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
10309 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903
301-434-4050 • Fax 301-434-4051
www.uucss.org



Worship Services

Sunday, September 3—10:30 AM

Fruits of Our Labor Rev. Evan Keely

For what do we work?

Sunday, September 10—9:30 & 11:30 AM

Living Waters Rev. Evan Keely

Ingathering and Water Communion: We return to two Sunday morning services with our annual ceremony of Water Communion. Please bring your real or virtual water from your summer and let's celebrate reunion and renewal as we gather in and begin this new church year together.

Sunday, September 17—9:30 & 11:30 AM

Look for sermon topic in your weekly all-church email.

Sunday, September 24—9:30 & 11:30 AM

The Time for Turning Rev. Evan Keely

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement in the liturgical calendar of Judaism, falls on September 29 this year. What can this ancient custom teach us?

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Nursery Care and Religious Education for children through grade 12 are offered during worship services. ASL interpreting is also offered during worship services.

Frequently Asked Questions

Things that people often ask the Rev. Evan Keely, our new Interim Minister.

What made you want to be a minister?

I want to help people make sense out of life. I want to empower people to discover and strengthen their gifts and share them with the world. I want to help people organize themselves to be of compassionate service to the world. I want to help create nurturing spaces where people can be challenged and emboldened to think about matters of ultimate importance.

I enjoy doing interim ministry because a time of transition can open up extraordinary possibilities for revitalization and self-discovery in a congregation, presenting a particularly ripe opportunity to build on existing strengths and to face challenges with renewed vigor. UUCSS is the eighth congregation I've served as an interim minister, and I'm always learning new things about how to do this very special and exciting kind of ministry.

I'm currently working on a second graduate degree, an M.S. in Organization Development and Knowledge Management at George Mason University; I plan to graduate in May. This program has provided enormously helpful insights for me into myself and into the marvelously complicated phenomena of human beings organizing themselves to accomplish their goals—which is one of the most important things that church (as well as many other human endeavors) is all about.

What made you want to be the Interim Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring?

UUCSS faces challenges and opportunities at the present time that interest me intensely, and I have some experience working with other congregations on similar issues, including capital projects and changes in staffing. I've been impressed with the insight and dedication of the UUCSS members and friends that I've met so far, and I am hopeful that we can work together to build on the congregation's strengths and address matters that have been cause for anxiety and hurt.

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When you're not ministering, what else do you like to do with your time?

I enjoy composing and arranging music. I've been known to do some singing in choruses and quartets. I enjoy playing chess; someday I hope to figure out how to get halfway decent at it.

How did you become a Unitarian Universalist?

Though I can't claim to be a "birthright UU," I was raised in this faith: when I was 7 years old, my parents joined the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, New York. I actually didn't participate much in the Fellowship as a child or in my teen years, but being exposed to our religion early in life had a lasting impact. In particular, seeing my parents' deep devotion to our faith and how it enriched their lives made a deep impression on me.

What do you like to be called?

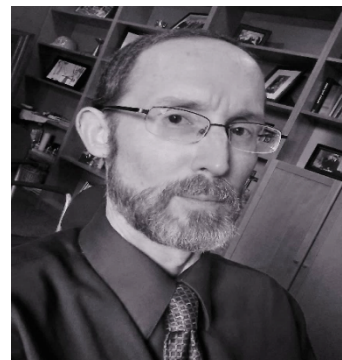
I'm not particular. Most folks just call me Evan, though I've learned over the years that some people prefer to call their minister "Reverend" and I've long since trained myself not to "correct" those who do so.

Do you have a family?

My wife Sarah and I have been together for 20 years, and we have two teen sons. She and I met at the First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the mid-1990s—our first encounter was at a music committee meeting. We were married at that church in 2000. Sarah is a psychotherapist and, like me, grew up in a home where she was exposed to Unitarian Universalism—in fact, one of the things that drew us to one another when we first met was a shared devotion to this faith. She and our sons actively attend the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Virginia.

What are your office hours?

After keeping office hours faithfully for the first 10 or so years of my ministry, I finally figured out that no one just comes over to the church in the hopes of chatting with the minister. In 2017, we have amazing tools at our disposal that enable us to connect. Email me at interimminister@uucss.org, or better yet, call my mobile phone at (703) 864-5551, and I'll be very glad to compare calendars and find a time for us to meet face to face.



Letter from the Board President

John Henderson

This is an exciting time at UUCSS! We have already taken several important steps forward in this period of transition, and members of this community are doing great work on other projects to move us along this path together. We had a wonderful farewell event for Rev. Liz and Sarah Gonzalez to honor and celebrate our time together, thank them for their service, and wish them the best in their next positions. Rev. Evan started on August 1 and immediately jumped into learning about our church community and its strengths and challenges. I hope you all get a chance to meet with him in the coming months to share your experiences and perspectives regarding UUCSS. And Catherine Boyle started on August 15 as Director of Religious Education, and has begun working with Michael Knaapen, our RE Assistant, and Gregg Harry and the rest of the RE Committee to embark on a great year of religious education.

...working together, we will take advantage of the opportunities we have now to reevaluate our identity and reinvigorate our community...

The Dream Builders have been working hard to keep us on track to begin the work on the first phase of our capital improvements, addressing our emergent issues, such as the heating and cooling in the Sanctuary and the leaking roof, and preparing for the upcoming discourse with the congregation about other improvements to make to our buildings and grounds. The Board is working to ensure that we implement these improvements in a fiscally responsible and sustainable way, while maximizing the changes we are able to make with the resources we have. And I am heartened by the other ways the people of this community have stepped up in the last several months, on everything from serving on the Transition Team, to fixing issues with our buildings, to reviving the *Uniter*.

I know that, working together, we will take advantage of the opportunities we have now to reevaluate our identity and reinvigorate our community!

John

FROM OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Catherine Boyle

WELCOME FROM DRE



I am excited to join the great ship UUCSS as Director of Religious Education. I served as an RE teacher for the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It was this crucial crucible of exploring and teaching faith that led me to eventually attend Meadville Lombard Theological School. I served as intern minister for 2 years at First Unitarian Universalist of Richmond. I graduated in May with an MDiv and plan on interweaving religious education and ministry together once ordained in the future. This year will be the 65th anniversary of UUCSS. We will be diving in fully to Unitarian and Universalist history from all around the world and from our own

church with our theme of *We are Unitarian Universalists Exploring... Who We Are and Where We Come From* this year. Together, we'll investigate and wonder about the riddles and mysteries of who and what we are, as well as envision the beloved community to come. I want to hear about what RE means to you as a parent, a youth, a congregant, as well as any questions or concerns. Please reach out to me at dre@uucss.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTINUED

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

UUCSS Lifespan Religious Education provides multigenerational and age-appropriate opportunities to explore life's questions within our safe and sacred community.

What's Happening at UUCSS—The Fall edition is in production and should be available in late September. If you have events, programs, or groups you would like to include or update in the upcoming edition, please email Catherine at dre@uucss.org.

CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Volunteer with RE Next Year—The RE program has begun recruiting for the 2017–2018 church year, and we are looking for volunteers! We have many different volunteer opportunities from RE teachers to children's worship assistants to substitutes. Our theme for next year is *We Are Unitarian Universalists Exploring... Who We Are and Where We Come From*. If you would like more information or to volunteer, please contact Catherine at dre@uucss.org.

Register for RE in 2017–2018—It is time to register for RE for the 2017–2018 RE year. Registering your child is so important each and every year, as it helps us keep our information accurate and up to date. Paper registration forms are available on Sunday mornings at the bottom of the stairs in the Sanctuary Building, or you can access the online registration form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STD9Z9Y>.

RE-minder: The first floors of all of our building are nut-free. Please do not bring any nuts into these spaces.

SEPTEMBER RE CALENDAR

9/3—Summer RE

Kindergarten thru 5th grade children and youth will meet in the Chapel Room (10:30).

Middle and high school youth are welcome to assist with summer RE classes or attend worship (10:30).

Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers (10:30).

Preschoolers are invited to participate in summer RE classes or attend the Nursery, their preference!

9/10—Multigenerational Worship: *Water Communion*

All children and youth will meet in the Sanctuary for worship (9:30 and 11:30).

Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers (9:30 and 11:30).

9/17—First Day of RE Classes!

Preschoolers through middle school children and youth will meet in their classrooms (9:30).

COA will meet in the Dolan lounge (9:30).

All ages will meet in the Chapel Room (11:30).

YRUU will meet in the Fellowship House (11:30).

Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers (9:30 and 11:30).

9/24—RE Classes

Preschoolers thru middle school children and youth will meet in their classrooms (9:30).

COA will meet in the Dolan lounge (9:30).

All ages will meet in the Chapel Room (11:30).

YRUU will meet in the Fellowship House (11:30).

Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers (9:30 and 11:30).

FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Michael Holmes

The Coming Musical Year At a Glance

As I face a new church year (my 14th at UUCSS), I've become aware of our new shift in focus, both at the church and within the UU movement. In many ways, the work that we have been doing is just now more vitalized, and as the refrain of Holly Near's song "We Are Gentle Angry People" says, we appear to be "singing for our lives." As music at UUCSS did last church year, we will continue that mantra, with renewed focus, new ministry, and "plenty of work to do."

In February, I will be in the planning stages with Strathmore Hall and the Peoples Community Baptist Church of Silver Spring for an event to honor Black History Month called "Remembering Selma" on Sunday, February 25th. This collaboration is part of our ongoing effort to make connections with our diverse community outside of the UUCSS walls. Strathmore Hall has been sponsoring their Montgomery East County Initiative to strengthen a network of schools and places of worship in the eastern part of the county through the arts. Diversity and social justice figure prominently into our contribution to this initiative. At the "Remembering Selma" event, the two churches will tell the story of the march in Selma, Alabama, from the perspective of both an African American congregation and a UU congregation whose denominations intersected at the march. As many UUs know, several UU ministers went on the march, and one of them, Rev. James Reeb, was murdered by white supremacists while on the march. The event will be one of healing, story-telling, and uplifting music.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Water Communion, and I cannot wait to see what this year will bring with the new chapter of our church! See you soon!



UUCSS CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

FOSTER A CARING COMMUNITY

We will act with kindness, empathy, and compassion. This means we will:

- Be considerate of others' feelings;
- Use humor to unite us, not divide us;
- Assume people mean well;
- Understand and forgive our own limitations and the limitations of others;
- Be friendly and welcome newcomers by reaching out to them, inviting them to participate, and providing them with information.

CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES

We will set aside our individual agendas and look for common ground so as to find the "we" in our journey together. This means we will:

- Listen with an open heart and mind across differences;
- Relate in an honest, respectful manner and listen carefully to each other's viewpoints;
- Seek to learn from our differences rather than acting negatively upon judgments we make about others.

SUPPORT OUR COMMITTEES & LEADERSHIP

We will participate in and provide support to our community as well as our committees and leaders.

We will share the work of advancing community goals.

This means we will:

- Recognize that being in community is hard work;
- Share the work of the community as we are able, taking on responsibilities or delegating them as necessary;
- Give information accurately and thoroughly;
- Honor and follow through on commitments and communicate promptly if we are unable to do so;
- Express appreciation for each other's contributions and their willingness to serve our community;
- Encourage people who routinely contribute large amounts of volunteer time to take care of and replenish themselves;
- Honor the covenant before the task, and honor the person before the work.

The congregation and leadership will work together to implement the Vision and Mission of the church.

- The congregation will empower our leadership with information
- Our leadership will engage the congregation in dialogue about the direction of the church;
- We will take responsibility for our concerns and needs and consider them in relation to those of the community.
- We will look for opportunities for healthy evolution of the community.

ENCOURAGE TRUST & RESPECT

We will nurture a safe and supportive atmosphere, respectfully address concerns, seek productive resolution of conflict when it arises, and help others in that process.

We will strive to create an atmosphere of trust and respect.

This means we will:

- Set clear boundaries and respect those of others;
- Be loyal to the absent and refrain from criticizing those who are not present;
- Respect confidentiality by keeping confidences and not asking others to break them.

We will address concerns productively while striving to remain in community.

This means we will:

- Raise issues directly, promptly and bravely and recognize that we are asking others to do the same with us;
- Address conflict in person when possible, avoid hasty responses, and make time if someone approaches us with a concern;
- Communicate gently and respectfully; listen openly;
- Focus on resolution within the context of our community's principles;
- Seek support from leadership if we need assistance in resolving conflict or if the conflict is escalating;
- Strive to restore the relationship through forgiveness and letting go.

We will offer support to those in conflict.

This means we will:

- Provide support and caring to all parties engaged in conflict resolution;
- Encourage others to confront issues directly, commit to resolving them, and strive to remain in community.

UNITER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submissions to *The Uniter* are due by the 20th of the prior month. Send information and visuals to uniter@uucss.org.

MEMBERSHIP

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

The Membership Committee is gearing up for a busy fall! We would love to have more UUCSS members join us in welcoming visitors who are looking for a new faith community.

Did you know that UUCSS attracts hundreds of visitors a year? The UUCSS Sunday Support teams do a terrific job of welcoming those visitors at the door each week and helping them find their way into our services.

The Membership Committee then welcomes visitors during coffee hour each Sunday by staffing a welcome table to answer questions about the UUCSS community and Unitarian Universalism. About once a month we offer an information session called UUCSS 101.

UUCSS attracts visitors from all backgrounds, and most are looking for many of the same things UUCSS members seek—a warm and welcoming community where we can share our common values in our search for meaning and truth. Sometimes visitors come after a significant loss or changes in their lives, so reaching out and welcoming with sensitivity can make a tremendous difference. We had numerous inquiries over the summer and are planning our next *Pathways to Membership* class on October 21.

We would love to have you join us in connecting with our visitors. The Committee meets about once every other month, usually on Sundays before the first service. Join us! Help us grow our faith and our community. Contact one of the committee members (Linda Barrett, Dorothy Hale, Emily Harris, Maggie Hayes, Patti Poss, or Jean Snell), or send an email to membership@uucss.org, if you are interested.

JOIN THE COMMITTEE

INVITE VISITORS TO THE
PATHWAYS TO
MEMBERSHIP CLASS ON
OCTOBER 21ST



EVENTS

Catoctin, September 22–24

Save the Date



This year's **UUCSS Catoctin Mountain Fall Retreat** is happening the weekend of September 22–24.

Church members and friends gather for games, hikes, shared meals, music, and fellowship. If you are new to UUCSS, it's a great way to get to know many members of our community. Everyone, young and old, singles, couples, and families, comes for the fun.

Accommodations are rustic, unheated cabins that sleep up to 10 people. Heated bathhouses with hot showers are a short walk from the cabins. Online registration begins Sunday, August 27, and will end Sunday, September 17.

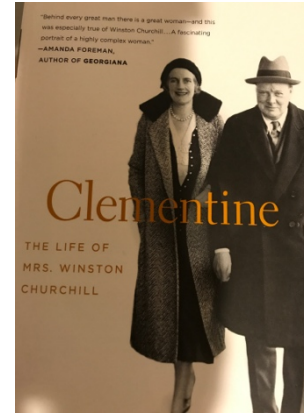
If you have questions, many church members can tell you about this fantastic weekend, or feel free to contact Catoctin Retreat coordinator Nicole Levesque at nlevesque@verizon.net or 240-687-3323.

Women's Book Group

We meet the fourth Monday of each month (except August and December) to discuss books suggested by participants in the group. For more information, contact Deborah Weiner, dweiner04@gmail.com.

Our book for September 25 is
Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill
by Sonia Purnell.

Please join us! This is a fun drop-in group.



Church Auction News

Save the Date for the Day of the Dead Auction!
November 4th, 2017, 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM



Plan Your Auction Donations!

The annual UUCSS Auction is one of the church's most enjoyable events, as well as a terrific fundraiser. It is an evening of great fun and fellowship, at which donations made by UUCSS Members and Friends are auctioned off to others within the church family.

You will find everything from terrific things such as paintings, pottery, and other artistic creations to homemade baked goods made for sale the night of the Auction or promised for a later date. Many Members and Friends offer special dinners or outings, or offer services or lessons. Each donated event provides more opportunities to get to know fellow Members and Friends better.

Donation Suggestions & Submission Form

Know what you'd like to donate? Enter your donations using our online form at <http://uucss.org/auction>.

Not sure what to give? Think about what events, outings, meals, or services you would like to bid on, and ones you would enjoy hosting. Be creative. Here's a list of suggestions, including items from members' wish lists:

Donation Suggestions

- Meals
- Ethnic Dinners
- Activities/Events
- Trips/Groups/Family Outings
- Services
- Workshops/How To
- Seasonal Events
- Yardwork/Gardening
- Childcare
- Pet Sitting
- Personal Organizing

Members' Wish Lists

- Handyman/room painting
- In-home computer help (slow computer, Word/Excel, social media)
- Shelving installation
- Jewelry making/repair
- Learn massage
- Learn basic bike repair/riding
- Class in basic estate planning
- Learn UUCSS secret history
- Past life regression

Auction Continued

See last year's catalog for more ideas.

The donation deadline is *September 24*, but don't wait until the last minute.

Submit your donation(s) today. <http://uucss.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Catalog-Fall-2016.pdf>

Childcare Is Available

Reserve Your Spot Today

Reserve a space via e-mail to childcare@uucss.org by October 21.

Be sure to include:

- Names and ages of children
- Information on allergies or other special needs.

We need volunteers to set up for, run, and clean up after the Auction. With enough volunteers, everyone will have plenty of opportunity to participate in and enjoy a well-run event. Let us know if you can help with an email to auction@uucss.org.

Dress up for the Day of the Dead!

Theme-related clothing/costumes are encouraged, and are part of what makes this such a special event. Come as a skeleton, zombie or in your favorite Hallowe'en costume! Be creative!

Questions?

For more information and answers to any questions about this year's auction, or for a copy of last year's auction catalogue, please contact the Auction Committee at auction@uucss.org.



Join UUA, UUSC and UUSJ at Immigrant Rights' Vigil

Sunday, September 3, Lafayette Park, D.C.

For 24 hours, Sunday, Sept. 3, UUs will be participating in a DREAM vigil to defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (aka DACA) and Temporary Protected Status determinations for Haitians and other immigrants from troubled nations. Join other area UUs to show our solidarity with the immigrant community under the banner of the [Love Resists campaign](#). UU clergy will share special prayers and reflections at 8:30am and 5:30 p.m. The UUA, UU Service Committee, and UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ) are hosting this one day of the 22-day vigil being held Aug. 15-Sept. 5. Join the UU presence anytime on Sept. 3 to show that Love Resists the criminalization and deportation of our communities and neighbors. The DREAM vigil is organized by the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC).

Call for Nominations! 2017 UUSJ Social Justice Awards

There are many worthy individuals and groups in our congregation who are doing wonderful things to make the world a better place. Please nominate them for a 2017 UUSJ Social Justice Award! Reach out to our minister and social justice leaders for nomination suggestions, or nominate someone yourself.

Award categories, award criteria, and eligibility requirements: <http://bit.ly/2x9AZIF>. Make a nomination: <http://bit.ly/2017SocialJusticeNominations>

Deadline: 1:00pm, Wednesday, September 6

The UUSJ Social Justice Awards will be presented at a celebration on Sunday, October 29, 5:30 pm at Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda, MD. This year's theme is *Building a Better World*. Please save the date, plan to attend, and bring friends.

Contact: Elizabeth, info@uusj.org or 202-600-9132



Administrative Office Update

Melinda Yalom will be on vacation this fall from September 8 to October 9. Information about what to do in her absence to keep church administration functioning will be posted in the All-Church emails as well as in the October *Uniter*.



Thanks to the former editors of the *Uniter*, Sandra Dwiggins and Kathy Wright, for their advice about editing the church newsletter. Also, our thanks to Melinda Yalom and Sharon Snyder for their guidance in starting up the church newsletter. We welcome your ideas and articles and can be reached at uniter@uucss.org.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

10309 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903

FIRST CLASS

Rev. Evan Keely

Interim Minister

interimminister@uucss.org

Catherine Boyle

Religious Education Director

dre@uucss.org

Michael Holmes

Music Director

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Melinda Yalom

Church Administrator

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Patti Poss

Membership Coordinator

membershipcoordinator@uucss.org

John Henderson

Board President

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Submissions to the **Uniter** are due by the 20th of the prior month. Send information and visuals to uniter@uucss.org. The newsletter is published September –June by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring. Co-editors are Jane Larrick and Stephanie McConachie.

To receive a PDF email version of the newsletter, contact the church office at administrator@uucss.org.

To receive a mailed copy of the **Uniter** for the year, please send **\$24 to UUCSS, Attention: Collector.**

Church Office Hours

Monday: 3–6 pm

Tuesdays–Thursdays: 9 am–6 pm

Church Website: www.uucss.org