
October 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



Sunday Worship Services

October 1—9:30 & 11:30 AM

The Ultimate Consciousness Rev. Evan Keely

Unitarian Universalism encourages a breadth of theological perspectives. But just how broad are our theologies?

October 8—9:30 & 11:30 AM

Voyages Rev. Evan Keely

Columbus Day is always fraught with the pain of remembering that encounters between Europeans and the native peoples of this hemisphere have included profound injustices. In 2017, confronting these tensions is as important as ever.

October 15—9:30 & 11:30 AM

The Next Sixty-Five Years Rev. Evan Keely

2017 is the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

October 22 —9:30 & 11:30 AM

RE Director Catherine Boyle

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

October 29—9:30 & 11:30 AM

Spirit and Gifts Rev. Evan Keely

Martin Luther's presentation of his 95 Theses at the end of October 1517 is traditionally understood as the dawn of the Protestant Reformation. Five hundred years later, what have we learned, and what might the future hold?

Inside this issue:

Rev Evan Keely	2
Religious Ed	2
Board President	3
Reports & Updates	3-6
Help Wanted	7
Events	7-9
Admin Update	9



Nursery Care and Religious Education for children through grade 12 are offered during worship services. ASL interpreting is offered during the 9:30 service.

Message from Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister



The ancient Roman deity Janus is invoked not infrequently by congregations going through the experience of intentional transition. Usually depicted with two faces, one looking back and the other forward, he is a suitable metaphor for the experience of coming to terms with history that is a vital aspect of interim ministry.

Beginning in October and continuing through the year, we will be taking the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the founding of UUCSS to remember the church's past while we think about the next chapter in the life of this faith community. Autumn seems an especially fitting time to begin this in earnest, as we look back on another summer gone, enjoy the spectacular displays of color in the trees, and look to both the delights and the burdens of the coming winter.

When a community remembers its past, it's not that difficult to focus mainly or even solely on triumphs and accomplishments, or even to engage in a bit of revisionism to obscure or rewrite painful memories. The responsible work of looking back means embracing a willingness to live with the ambiguities, contradictions, and disappointments that are inescapable features of any human story; with that willingness must come the humility to engage in learning and reimagining.

A music teacher I admired when I was a teenager used to say that a musical performance has no present—that any given moment in a performance is only meaningful inasmuch as it relates to what has come before and what is coming after. Life is like that too. As we look at the church's past, we recognize ourselves in the present as a learning community that is seeking to understand what the past can teach us as we face the future.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE Registration for 2017–18: RE classes started officially on October 1st!

Please register online or by filling in and leaving a green sheet on the RE table on the first floor. There are two online forms for registration. The first is our full registration form for anyone registering for the first time or anyone with changes in their information that they need to update. The second form is an abbreviated version for anyone who registered last year, and all of their information remains the same. Accurate registration numbers are crucially important to our RE program, so please register today!

New or updated registrations: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QGJ59NF>

Recurring registrations: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QF3CD5>

Letter from the Board President

September is always a busy time at UUCSS, but also presents wonderful opportunities to reengage with our church community and find new ways to continue our path of spiritual growth or to serve our church and the larger community! We had our annual Water Communion service, welcoming us back from our summer sojourns and celebrating our coming together again. Our children and youth have begun a new year of religious education, under the direction of our new DRE, Catherine Boyle. Our 39th annual retreat at Catoctin is such a great opportunity to reconnect with friends or get to know new ones. And the list of events and opportunities in the weekly emails offer myriad ways to deepen our involvement. I hope everyone can find something that calls to them!



The Board of Trustees is continuing to work on a range of projects, from financial logistics to strategic planning. We have been working toward finalizing a contract under which we would begin the work on our pressing building needs, such as replacing the heating and cooling systems in the Sanctuary and fixing the roof of the Sanctuary. We have formed a post-Capital-Campaign finance team to help with managing the funds being received under the Capital Campaign and paying for the work we will have performed. And we have been in serious discussions with Rev. Keely to set goals for this year for the Board—we anticipate being able to report on those goals in the near future.

In faith, John Henderson

REPORTS & UPDATES

DreamBuilders Committee

Hello! This is the first of what I hope will be a semi-regular article to bring the congregation up to date with the work of your DreamBuilders Committee, as we strive to make the best possible use of your generous Capital Campaign gifts. For this first report I will cover just two topics, but as the months pass we will have much more news.

First, we would like to thank all the members and friends who responded to the survey that was distributed this summer. We had a very high rate of return, especially considering the season of the year. We have already distributed the results of the survey by our all-church email list. Thanks to Doneby Smith for her work on sorting, tabulating, and reporting on the survey, and to Rob Dahlstrom for distributing it to the congregation. This survey, while important for itself, is just the beginning of a much larger conversation that will engage with all who wish to give input into our process. We will be announcing more opportunities to talk to us—watch this space and others.

Second, we are working with the Board to finalize a construction management contract for the building work to go forward. All of the improvements to the Sanctuary Building that were identified as phase 1A of the original master plan are ready to be priced out and implemented, including all new HVAC units for the Sanctuary, as well as other necessary structural repairs. Won't it be nice to have reliable heat and air conditioning in the Sanctuary year-round? Once this work is under way, the Board will give us a budget for the next phase, which, along with input from you, our construction management, and our original plan, will determine our next phase work.

We look forward to implementing the most beautiful, efficient, and usable spaces that we can. Much more lies ahead!

Jim Paoletti for the DreamBuilders Committee

REPORT ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY

What could be more exhilarating than singing your favorite hymn in a large convention hall with thousands of your fellow UU's? Or participating in informative and stimulating workshops? Or hearing prominent speakers such as Krista Tippett ("On Being"), Cornel West ("Race Matters"), Sister Simone Campbell ("Nun on the Bus"), or Maria Hinojosa (NPR's Latino USA) at the annual UUA Ware Lecture? These are part of the experiences of attending the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly (GA), held annually in June.

The June 2017 GA in New Orleans was attended by several UUCSS members, including Jim Paoletti, Marty Atias, Tina Borrer, Olivia Pickett, and Cindy Scharf.

Marty Atias commented: "I had a much deeper, indeed transformative, experience beyond attendance. Being amongst more than 4,092 UU's from 638 congregations, in this particular year, gave me a feeling of connection to our movement and to our faith in a more powerful way than I have ever felt. Being a delegate added a sense of importance to my experience. There were a number of important issues being decided, such as the new UUA President, modifying our values and principles statements, adding an 8th principle, and more. I was there to represent and to vote on behalf of our congregation."

The 2018 General Assembly will be held June 20–24 in Kansas City, Missouri. Will this be one that you will attend?

Topics covered include:

- Electing the new UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray;
- Forming a study commission to consider adding an 8th principle: "Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions";
- Workshops on cross-cultural engagement; congregational health; environmental, racial and social justice; faith formation; local experiences; music; church staffing; stewardship; and youth;
- Statements of conscience;
- Accomplishments of UUA departments and projects, including Black Lives UU, UU World magazine, UU Service Committee, UU Women's Federation, and others;
- Worship services and sermons;
- Social witness;
- A fellowship ceremony for new ministers and religious educators;

- Robust youth and children's programs.

Recommendations for UUCSS from GA attendees include:

- Actively reengage with the UUA and all of its resources and working groups, which have many programs that we could participate in;
- Engage the membership to redefine our church mission;
- Actively reinforce mission language in all communications;
- Actively promote General and Regional Assembly attendance with advance agenda meetings and post-event debriefs;
- Review resources provided to attendees for use by UUCSS, such as whiteprivilege.info;
- Open active dialogs and develop working relationships with the UUA Central East Region, other local UU congregations, and regional groups such as the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland;
- Keep better records of our social justice activities, including a list of special collections donation organizations, and focus on a theme for the year rather than a rather random selection of special collection recipients;
- Promote the next GA in advance so congregants can plan their involvement in it.

The 2018 GA will be held June 20–24 in Kansas City, Missouri. Will this be one that you will attend? Check it out at <http://www.uua.org/ga>. For those unable to travel to GA, off-site participation is available, including being able to vote as a delegate in real time. If you are interested in being a delegate, contact John Henderson at president@uucss.org. To view videos and other materials from past GA general sessions, lectures, workshops, and other materials, see <http://www.uua.org/ga/past>.

Olivia Pickett

FOUNDING OF UUCSS AND PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

Imagine a time when there was no Beltway, and New Hampshire Avenue was a two-lane road through farmland. David MacPherson, a recently ordained minister, was contacted by a friend from the Universalist Church of America (UCA) and invited to come to Silver Spring, Maryland, to help form a church. The Rev. Seth Brooks of the Universalist Memorial Church in DC, she told him, had 90 people ready to plant a new congregation in the suburbs. David and his wife Dotty drove down from Massachusetts and stayed overnight at the Tabard Inn before meeting with Rev. Brooks and a few of the key members of the new church. He soon saw that the claim of 90 members was “a fantasy,” but also realized that the 13 actual pioneers were absolutely committed to the project, so he decided to stay. The church was officially founded on September 18, 1952.

Their financial situation was precarious—they had a pledge of a few years of support from Universalist Memorial Church and a loan from the UCA office to purchase some farmland on New Hampshire Avenue. (Max Miller had to drive to Boston and back overnight to pick up the check and get it to the bank on time.) But on October 12, 1952, the minister and a small group of adults and children gathered for worship at Hillandale Elementary School (now CHI), and the story of our congregation began. The newly acquired property featured a small stable that was soon remodeled to serve as a meeting space—including a small office for the minister in the loft.

Jo Paoletti



Who were we in 1952? We were not yet Unitarian Universalists—the merger was nearly a decade in the future—but the original founders were already moving away from the Christian Universalism of the “mother” church in DC. Rev. McPherson describes the members as a mix of “humanists, naturalistic theists, and agnostics,” which matched his own brand of Universalism well. From the beginning, the Takoma Park–Silver Spring Universalist Fellowship was theologically diverse, a fact that made a few of the founding members uncomfortable enough that they resigned their membership and returned to Universalist Memorial. The earliest membership list, from spring 1953, lists 30 names, who among them held 34 different offices and committee assignments. In my next article, I will introduce you to a few of the people whose names are on our quilts.

For more pictures of the early years, visit the UUCSS 1950s folder on [Dropbox](#)

Interested in UUCSS history? Contact Jo Paoletti (jo.paoletti@gmail.com) if you would like to help us scan, organize, and preserve our archive.

MORE ABOUT THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF UUCSS FOUNDRING

Hello from the Worship Committee. This is the 65th anniversary of UUCSS, and we want to celebrate it throughout the coming year, starting October 15th, our 65th birthday service!

We'd love to have help from our fellow congregants with two things in particular:

1. To find members—especially from some decades ago—who started ministries or good works at UUCSS. This means initiatives like our work with deaf persons, becoming a Welcoming Congregation for LGBTQ people, forays into racial justice work and becoming a more diverse church, and Green Sanctuary efforts. These are some of our most visible works, but there will be many others. Join our detective squad as we seek out and gather a speakers' bureau of congregants, past and current, who'd be willing to help us shine a spotlight on the large and small ministry themes of our church throughout our history.

2. Also, we want to bring out of archives the people, moments, and momentos of the church. We have a lot, and need help sorting through, identifying, and displaying these at various times through the year. We have a likely committee leader for this already, so step up if your inner amateur historian is itching for expression!

If you're interested, please email clschneids@gmail.com, or catch Carey Schneider, Worship Committee Chair, at a worship service.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



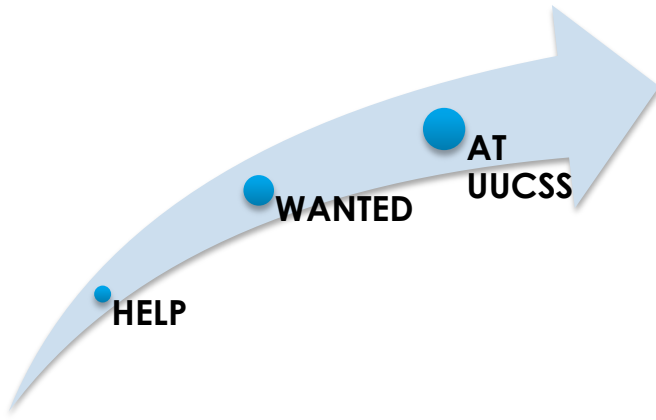
Did you know that there are three main ways new members find UUCSS? One of the most obvious ways is through our church website. Those looking for a new church home or a new spiritual experience often seek us out by searching the internet, finding our website, and deciding to come to services. The Membership Committee also hears from a surprising number of visitors who say they drove by our church and decided to check it out. Finally, many visitors come to our church because they have been invited by a member or friend. Do you know someone who may be interested in coming to our services? Turns out, many of our members started as "invited visitors." They found something meaningful and stayed.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know that Brian Beard painted the lower level of the sanctuary building (halls and restrooms) just before the Paint Branch Montessori school opened this fall? They look great!

Did You Know that Bob McGaughy keeps watch over the humidity level inside the sanctuary piano every week and waters it when necessary? Bet you didn't know that pianos need to be watered! Ask him about it.

This new "Did You Know" column is contributed by Beverly McGaughy.



WANTED Audio Visual Team Members

Audio visual (AV) services is an essential part of every service and event at UUCSS—from Sunday services to family celebrations and memorials, to dinners and parties, and for Sanctuary rentals that provide important income.

The AV team is in dire need of additional people to cover church events and rentals. (BTW, rental work is paid.) Training will be provided, and anyone, from teens to seniors with good hearing, is welcome. Contact Marty Atlas, audio@uucss.org, 301-754-2871.

The Deaf Access Committee (DAC) of UUCSS has a mission to reach out to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to offer access to our Sunday services and special events by providing ASL interpreters and assistive listening devices. DAC does **not** require previous skill with sign language nor deep knowledge of deaf culture. We would welcome people to provide administrative and outreach efforts; coordinating with the RE program to plan for Deaf/HH children who may attend RE classes, and assisting DAC with new initiatives. If you are interested, please respond to deafaccess@uucss.org. Angela Conant.

WANTED Eco Cops

Eco Cops are needed to keep recycling on track at UUCSS by monitoring blue bins and recycling dumpster. They can be any age, but must be dedicated and able to read (or paired with someone who can). Several positions are open. Badges will be issued. Please apply to Doneby Smith, donebys@gmail.com, Chair of Green Sanctuary, for details.

EVENTS

October Charity of the Month

Our October Charity of the Month is the local charity Comfort Cases. Comfort Cases was founded on a mission to provide comfort and support to children entering the foster care system. This charity believes that children have the right to a more humane experience in foster care, and that starts by providing them with cases to pack their belongings in instead of a trash bags. Through the amazing support of the community, Comfort Cases has been able to expand its mission to include children who are facing crises.

Every child deserves to know that she matters. When Comfort Cases provides cases to children in need, it not only offers them new items that they can keep during their journeys, it also provides them with dignity and the notion that someone cares about what they are going through.

Comfort Cases is committed to engaging our community to learn about the issues facing children in foster care and to take action to alleviate the suffering of children in need. It also believes in the importance of engaging our youth to lead by example and encourage their peers to become involved with community support for kids in care. Volunteer opportunities are provided for all ages so that the entire community can truly be involved together. **Please be generous and donate to Comfort Cases during the service on October 22, 2017.**

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

If you identify as a "Lady," you are invited to Ladies' Night Out the second Friday of each month for wine, fun, and conversation. Ladies' Night Out is usually **in** people's homes. Please contact Elissa Webber at elissansteve@gmail.com for more information.

Church Auction News

Day of the Dead Auction is November 4th, 2017, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Submit your auction donations today—deadline has been extended to **October 1!**



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 services or lessons. Each donated event offers more opportunities to get to know fellow Members and Friends better.

Donation Suggestions & Submission Form

Enter your donation using our online form at <http://uucss.org/auction/donate/>

Not sure what to give? Think about what events, outings, meals or services you would like to bid on, and would enjoy hosting. Be creative.

See [last year's catalog](#) for more ideas.

Childcare is available; reserve your spot today via email to childcare@uucss.org by October 21.

Be sure to include:

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

Volunteers needed! 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, please contact the Auction Committee at auction@uucss.org.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Women's Book Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month. We are an informal group that has been meeting since 2000, and we are open to interested readers; there is no long-term obligation. Please contact dweiner04@gmail.com for additional details.

Our next meeting is October 23; the book is *One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd*, A Novel, by Jim Fergus.



...from the book's back cover:

"A most impressive novel that melds the physical world with the spiritual. But it is more than a

UU United Nations Fall Reception

October 21, 2017

The UU United Nations Office (UU-UNO) invites you to celebrate the UU-UNO's important work supporting human rights around the world, including LGBTQ equality, gender equality, climate justice, and racial justice for all on Saturday, October 21, from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. Maryland State Senator—and Cedar Lane member—Rich Madaleno will deliver keynote remarks, including presentation of the UU-UNO human rights award on behalf of this year's recipients: former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (MD).

The fall reception will be held at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, [9601 Cedar Lane Bethesda, MD](#). Individual tickets are \$75. Benefactor tickets, which include donor recognition listing, are \$175 per person. Order tickets online and get more information at www.uua.org/international-justice/events-listing/fall-fundraiser

For more than 20 years, the **Senior Connection** has been the leader in escorted transportation for seniors in Montgomery County. Our Senior Rides program has given more than 280,000 free rides since our founding, and we need your help now more than ever. Please contact Susan Girard at susan.girard@seniorconnectionmc.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

UUCSS Member Dropbox Link

In order to provide ready access to documents that help everyone stay engaged and informed about church matters, the UUCSS Board of Trustees created folders in Dropbox at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6m0pncsiskos8f4/AACRaDMaJy8kua--iMJ0zHRNa?dl=0>

Click on the link, or copy/paste it into your browser, and it will take you to "UUCSS Member Dropbox". There you can view minutes from board meetings, congregational meetings, and annual meetings, as well as copies of the UUCSS constitution and policies and other resources. New folders and documents will be added over time.

Questions about the Dropbox may be sent to: boardsecretary@uucss.org. Emails to the Board of Trustees may be sent to: board@uucss.org.

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.

It Takes a Village

While our Office Administrator is away for a month, many UUCSS volunteers are pitching in to cover her responsibilities. Thanks to the following for giving of their time generously: Catherine Buckler, Rob Dahlstrom, Craig Flaherty, Dorothy Hale, Ken Iobst, Marcia Joiner, Jane Larrick, Esther McBride, Olivia Pickett, Sally Porter, Carolyn Savadkin, and Rachel Vanarsdall.



UUCSS

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
musicdirector@uucss.org

Melinda Yalom

Church Administrator
administrator@uucss.org

John Henderson

Board President
president@uucss.org

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