
May 2018

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

May 6—10:30 AM

Taxonomies—Rev. Evan Keely
Reflections on clergy leadership.

May 13—10:30 AM

Circle of Life—Rev. Evan Keely & Director of Religious
Education Catherine Boyle

May 20—10:30 AM

A Social Action Legacy—John Barker
John Barker, who created and led the Legislative Committee of
Unitarian Universalists of Maryland (LegiCUUM), will discuss the
group's social action legacy.

May 27—10:30 AM

The Binding of Isaac—Rev. Evan Keely
Memorial Day is a time to ponder sacrifices that are made
in the name of that which is most sacred.

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Nursery Care and Religious Education for children through grade 12 are offered during the worship service.
ASL interpreting is provided during the service. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m.
Coffee hour will take place after the service.

Message From Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister

We are people of all ages, people of many backgrounds, and people of many beliefs. We are brave, curious and compassionate thinkers and doers. We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world.

from the UUA

Some religious people in various traditions make great sacrifices for their faith. Some people fast, for hours or even days at a time. Some dedicate themselves to long hours of prayer or meditation. Some make long journeys. Some give a great deal of money to organizations. Some even give up their lives.

These measures of intense devotion are by no means unknown among Unitarian Universalists. Over the years, I have known people who give a lot of their time and energy in our congregations; I've known some who tithe to their UU congregations (yes, that means giving 10 percent of their income); And even our faith has its martyrs. Viola Liuzzo and Norbert Čapek are among those who risked and eventually lost their lives for our faith.

A common assumption is that people who give a lot for their religious beliefs do so out of fear and guilt. From time to time, I hear slight variations on a theme that sounds like this: "Well, we UUs aren't good at raising money, because we can't threaten people with damnation if they don't give generously." I have never found this persuasive. The idea that the absence of the prospect of punishment leads to lack of motivation doesn't bear up. I've known way too many deeply devoted UUs and other religious liberals who gave freely and fully with nary a thought of hellfire to prompt them. While guilt and fear are perhaps factors for some, I think that most people of any faith (including ours) who give generously of their time, energy, or money do so because they really believe in what their faith represents and what it does in the world. Joy and gratitude are generally better motivators than guilt and fear.

What really matters to us? Every day we must make choices. We do not have an infinitude of time, energy, money, or attention, so we have to choose how to spend these things.

May each of us look within and discover the wisdom that helps us devote our lives to what really matters to us. May our devotion be expressed in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

Message From John Henderson, Board President

Seeking a called minister is a major step in the life of a church, and it is clear there is substantial interest, and some anxiety, about embarking on a search. So, I thought I would use my article this month to preview the process. I have discussed various aspects of this before, but I thought it would be good to revisit it, to help people understand the process and the multiple upcoming opportunities for the congregation to engage on questions relating to the search.

Under our church constitution, the Board nominates seven members to serve on the search committee, and the congregation will vote on whether to elect the nominees to serve on the committee at the annual meeting on June 10. After the election of a search committee, the members will begin the preparatory work of self-study, familiarizing themselves with the process and planning how to engage with the congregation about the search. The UUA will make available a Transitions Coach, to help the committee plan and carry out its activities.

The search committee will then begin gathering information from the congregation and working on the materials and decisions necessary for the process. The search committee will determine what process makes sense for UUCSS to express its needs and wishes for the direction our church will take. The search is not a secret process, although it requires confidentiality. The search committee will establish how to publicize to the congregation the process it is following, while preserving confidentiality regarding the identity of candidates.

In early January, the search committee may begin reviewing packets and interviewing potential candidates. The committee will then select ministers to pre-candidate in February and March, where the ministers will have extensive interviews with the committee and preach at neighboring churches. From these pre-candidates, the search committee will determine whether to select a minister to candidate with the congregation in April.

If you are interested in learning more about the search process, there is a wealth of information on the UUA's [Transitions Website](#). They have a Settlement Handbook, with a comprehensive discussion of the search and call process, suggested calendars for the search committee's activities, and background materials on best practices for a search and staffing.

Message from Catherine Boyle, Director of Religious Education

Creativity as Spiritual Practice

When most folks hear the word "spiritual practice," they may think of a monk sitting lotus style and meditating or hands clasped together in prayer or our sanctuary on Sunday morning. These are all fine ways to grow spiritually, but for a child (and those young at heart), a stick of glue, a story, or watercolors is another way. Utilizing the powers of the arts is a way to actively engage children with the universe around them.

Spiritual Practice is what engages our hearts to the reality around us. This is an urge that is in our human nature. One only has to look at Lascaux Caves in France with its ethereal drawings of beasts and humans millennia ago to see that this is a trait we share with our ancestors. To create is to be human.

This month, try these suggestions with your family to practice creativity as a spiritual practice.

Draw

Pick your family's favorite story—it could be a fairytale or a cherished family memory or myth. Divide the story in parts and together draw illustrations, making your storybook. Afterwards, you'll have a special book to read, one that is unique to the whole world!

Create

In the Old Testament, God shapes humanity out of clay. Clay is great fun for its versatility and the multitude of forms it can take. Clay is an object lesson in impermanence. Watch it shift and change, just as life does.

Storytelling

One of the most popular activities we do at UUCSS RE is the One Sentence Game. Children gather in a circle and take turns telling a story sentence by sentence. They get very silly sometimes! This also gives the children space to think about problem-solving in an open space. Storytelling opens hearts to the myriad different ways of thinking, the possibilities of imagination, and life beyond archetypes. You may want to play this around the dinner table or at bedtime.

Whatever your family decides to create together, it is time well spent in not only cultivating your own spirituality but relationships as well. Remember, your art doesn't have to look like it belongs on Pinterest. Perfection is not the goal here; creation is.

Blessed be, Catherine

UPDATES AND REPORTS

CATOCTIN MEMORIES by Jo Paoletti

Last month's history article was about the UUCSS women's retreat, now in its third decade. But this fall we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our fall retreat, also known as Catoctin. The name is derived from [Catoctin Mountain National Park](#) in Thurmont, where it is held every year. My first experience with Catoctin consisted of showing up for church for my second visit in October of 1982, only to find a lay-led service and a handful of



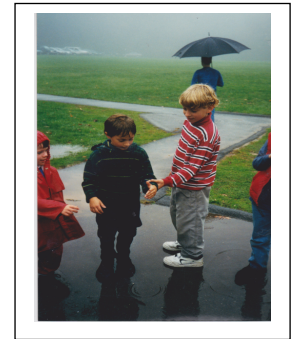
worshippers, because that was the weekend of the “all-church retreat.” In those days, everyone who wanted to attend could be accommodated at Camp Greentop (capacity 140).



By 1982, Catoctin was just 5 years old, but already a solid church tradition. The first retreat had been scheduled for October 14–16, 1977, under the leadership of Janet and John Coffin, but had to be cancelled due to a water shortage and dry conditions in the forest. Undaunted, the Coffins announced “Catoctin Lives” in 1978. This first retreat took place at the smallest campsite in the park, Misty Mount, the last weekend in October (brrrrr!). By the time our family attended our first Catoctin in 1984, we filled Camp Greentop. (This was Jim’s first real experience with the church; ask him how it went.)

Since then, the retreat has only been cancelled once: during the government shutdown in 2013; Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay hosted an all-day picnic at her house instead. We nearly had to cancel in 2001, when the security perimeter around nearby Camp David was expanded and journalists were housed at Camp Greentop. I was the coordinator that year and wasn’t notified of the change until about 10 days before our retreat. Fortunately, we were able to arrange to be relocated to Camp Round Meadow. It is smaller than Greentop, but we could accommodate everyone by identifying Friday- and Saturday-only attendees.

This year’s Catoctin Retreat is scheduled for September 21–23. Rain or shine, hot, or cold, it’s a great experience!



PROGRAM OF THE MONTH

UUCSS Memorial Day Barbecue at Wheaton Regional Park

Get ready to kick off the summer with the Memorial Day barbecue! Everyone is welcome!

The barbecue will begin at 12 p.m. on May 28 at Wheaton Regional Park Picnic Grounds, Pavilion A. We can enjoy the afternoon, because we’ve got the pavilion all day.



If the Halloween party epitomized the spirit of the winter harvest, this Memorial Day barbecue is meant to capture the spirit of early summer. The glowing coals beneath spitting meats and veggies prepares us for the scorching months ahead. Wheaton Regional Park is a great location for the church barbecue. It has pavilions to protect against the weather. It’s relatively close to our church, making it convenient for congregants. There are activities for everyone. Kids will love the huge playground, the carousel, and the train, all surrounding the picnic area. Adults can hike the trails or take the 10-minute walk to Brookside Gardens. This will be a potluck, so bring food for the grills and a variety of sides and desserts. See you all there!

Hosted by FLUUV and the RE Program. Questions? Contact **Michael LeBlanc** at mlebl001@gmail.com or Catherine Boyle at DRE@uucss.org.

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Interested in working to defend democracy in these troubled times? Come join us. The Defending Democracy Working Group meets on the third Monday of each month.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 21, 7:30–8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

We will study, discuss, and take action to preserve, protect, and advance democracy in line with our Unitarian Universalist Fifth Principle. At this moment in our country's history, living out our Fifth Principle requires vigilance and action to defend free and fair elections, freedom of speech and the press, and the rule of law that we once took for granted. At our first two meetings, we discussed possible issues and initiatives and began a discussion of *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder. We could use your ideas and energy, so please come join us. For questions or more information, please contact **Bob Geiger at 301-593-3319 or bobandcath@prodigy.net**.

We will also be sharing information and action opportunities on a regular basis:

- The Maryland General Assembly passed two important bills this session that are related to voter registration:
 - Secure and Accessible Registration Act (SARA):
SARA will streamline the voting registration process, seamlessly registering voters or updating voter registrations when they interact with certain state agencies. This process also increases security, ensuring cleaner voting rolls when residents move within Maryland.
 - Action: Encourage the Governor to sign the bill (<http://governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governors-office/>).
 - Election-Day Voter Registration Amendment (EDR)
The Maryland Election-Day Voter Registration Amendment is on the ballot in Maryland as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment.
A "yes" vote supports amending the state constitution to authorize the state legislature to enact a process for registering qualified individuals to vote at a precinct polling place on election day. A "no" vote opposes amending the state constitution to allow election-day voter registration, thereby leaving in place same-day voter registration during the early voting period but not on election day.
 - Action: Inform yourself about the issue and encourage a "yes" vote on the ballot ([https://ballotpedia.org/Maryland_Election-Day_Voter_Registration_Amendment_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Maryland_Election-Day_Voter_Registration_Amendment_(2018))).
- Voter registration
 - There are many opportunities to help register voters for the upcoming primary and general elections. These vary by county; for statewide opportunities; the League of Women Voters is an excellent resource (<https://www.lwvmd.org/>).
 - Action: The Montgomery County Board of Elections holds voter registration training every Tuesday and Thursday (10 a.m. and 3 p.m.). "Future Votes" engages students in grades 6 to 12 as Student Election Aides who can earn Student Service Learning Credits (SSL) for election day service (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/index2.html>).
 - The Prince George's County Board of Elections offers Election Judge and Certified Voter Registration Volunteer training on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday. High school students aged 16 and up may take the election judge training and receive payment or SSL credits for election-day service (<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/559/Board-of-Elections>).
- Voter education
 - Do you know your local and statewide candidates? Want to be better informed about issues and ballot items? The Defending Democracy Working Group is exploring the possibility of hosting a voter education event before the general election. In the meantime, look for candidate forums and other public events, and don't be afraid to venture outside your usual political "home."
 - Upcoming free political events in Montgomery County
<http://www.paulbessel.com/upcoming-free-events/>

- Connecting UU values
 - Our Fifth Principle affirms “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” The UUA website offers a wealth of information and insight into to put the Fifth Principle into action (<https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles/5th>).
- Rapid response in the event Robert Mueller is fired
 This link will take you to local organizers poised to respond:
<https://act.moveon.org/event/mueller-firing-rapid-response/search/?source=MFT>

jazz@uucss presents

Celebrating Lee Morgan & June Birthdays

Saturday, June 2 * 4 to 5:30 p.m. * Suggested donation \$10; \$5 students/seniors

Join us in the UUCSS Sanctuary on Saturday, June 2, for the summer edition of **jazz@uucss**. The program will feature Alisha Coleman on sax and Donvonte McCoy on trumpet in a tribute to trumpeter Lee Morgan, who would have turned 80 on July 10. We'll also celebrate the joint birthday (June 9) of Alisha, Donvonte, and our collaborative partner, Bertrand Uberall.

A Philadelphia native, Lee Morgan was leading a group by the time he was 15. He subbed with Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers after high school before joining the Dizzy Gillespie Orchestra at the age of 18. He also began to record as a leader for Blue Note and had many dates as a sideman. Morgan joined the Jazz Messengers in 1958 and remained with them until 1961, sharing the bandstand with Benny Golson, then Hank Mobley, and finally Wayne Shorter. His late 1963 recording, *The Sidewinder*, became his greatest commercial success and one of Blue Note's biggest hits. Morgan rejoined Art Blakey in 1963; two years later he left to lead his own bands. Lee Morgan was a leader of the Jazz and People's Movement in 1970 and 1971, which protested the poor representation of jazz on talk shows. His music evolved from the “hard-bop” of the mid-sixties into more modal jazz. Sadly, he was killed in a domestic argument at the age of 33, leaving an extensive discography as a leader and sideman as well as a body of approximately 160 compositions, many of which were copyrighted but never recorded.

***jazz@uucss** is a quarterly concert series produced by the UUCSS Music Committee and jazz scholar Bertrand Uberall. Our vision is to create an affordable, listener-friendly performance venue for jazz in the DC area, create new audiences for outstanding young jazz musicians, and foster connections between UUCSS and the local jazz community.*

ART FOR SOCIAL IMPACT EARLY BIRD TICKETS!

"The celebration was a monumental creative expression."

We're thrilled to announce our Art for Social Impact Training Program Summit, with a variety of engaging workshops on how to use the arts for social change, as well as an arts-based, spirit-filled celebration of the graduation artists.

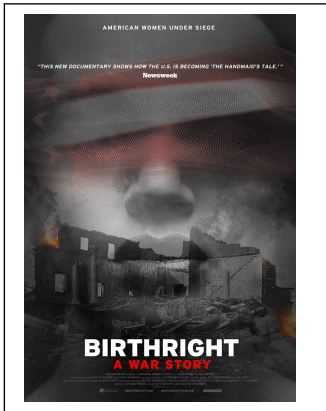
Saturday, May 19th 2:00 PM Workshops 6:00 PM Ceremony
 The Festival Center, 1640 Columbia Rd NW, Washington, DC

ONLY 75 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

REGISTER TODAY!

SPACE IS LIMITED!

BIRTHRIGHT: A WAR STORY



You are invited to join the Accotink UU Church Social Justice Committee and NARAL for a documentary showing and discussion of *Birthright: A War Story* on Saturday, May 19, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Birthright: A War Story is a feature-length documentary that examines how women are being jailed, physically violated, and even put at risk of dying as a radical movement tightens its grip across America.

Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by May 11 if you need childcare. If you have any questions, please contact Erica Steele at ericalsteele@gmail.com.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, Virginia. Parking and childcare are free.

Call for Entries!

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church Juried Art Show

Any media hangable in a public space between 12 inches and 6 feet will be accepted. Send a photograph for consideration and contact information to artscouncil@pbuuc.org by May 31 for the show to hang in late August. The theme is any of the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism:

- ❖ Inherent worth and dignity
- ❖ Justice, equity, and compassion
- ❖ Acceptance and spiritual growth
- ❖ Responsible search for truth and meaning
- ❖ Right of conscience and democratic process
- ❖ Goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice
- ❖ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

SAVE THE DATE! Come Camping June 1–3!

Want to get your summer off to a great start with UUCSS friends at beautiful Elk Neck State Park? Come camping with us June 1–3. It's a great place get to know each other while swimming, hiking, boating, playing capture the flag, or just relaxing. The trip is sponsored by UUCSS Families Living our UU Values (FLUUV), but all church members and friends—singles, couples, triples, tribes, dynasties, hordes—are welcome!

If you have not been on one of these trips before, you'll need basic camping gear, but all food is organized by meal coordinators. Each person helps out with setup or cleanup on a meal or two and helps with some other tasks (such as fetching water, building the fire, or keeping the kids from eating all the chocolate bars before s'more time).

Watch for an announcement about costs and registration, but mark your calendars now!

UPDATE ON BOOKS FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (MCCF)

Paperbacks are of particular interest for incoming inmates whose determination is pending because they do not have access to the library. Denise Habib, the MCCF librarian, reported she gave out 50 paperbacks in 1 day alone and says urban literature and nonfiction on the topic of incarceration are of particular interest.

There is now a box at church marked Montgomery County Correctional Facility Donations near the visitor table in the front entryway, where you can leave books that **Pat Hulsebosch** will box, label, and deliver to a local library for shipping to the MCCF. If you have questions, contact pathuls@icloud.com or call 240-543-2976

EVENTS

MAY 12 Are you interested in becoming a member of UUCSS? Our next Pathways class will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon May 12 in the Dolan Lounge. Reverend Keely and Catherine Boyle, our Director of Religious Education, will be joining us. The Pathways class provides an opportunity to learn more about the history and principles of the UU faith and about UUCSS in particular. You will also learn about the privileges and responsibilities becoming a member entails. You can find more information on the UUCSS website and in the order of service, or contact co-chairs **Maggie Hayes** and **Jean Snell** at membership@uucss.org.

MAY 12

UUSJ's Immigration Task Group invites you to help shape our immigration and refugee work for the next year from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland (entry on Whittier—Fireside Room). [REGISTER](#) and review the draft agenda (http://bit.ly/UUSJ_Regis_ImmigrationMay12).

MAY 19 Art for Social Impact Training Summit

A variety of engaging workshops on how to use the arts for social change, as well as an arts-based, spirit-filled celebration of the graduating artists; the Festival Center, 1640 Columbia Road N.W., Washington, DC. Workshops begin at 2:00 p.m.; ceremony begins at 6:00 p.m.

MAY 19 Showing and discussion of "Birthright: A War Story," from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Accotink UU church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, Virginia.

MAY 20 UUCSS 101 for UUCSS visitors

UU 101s are informal gatherings for visitors to our church who would like to learn a bit more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCSS in particular. We meet following the service in the Triangle Room, which is adjacent to the Community Hall where coffee hour is underway. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and bring your questions. We look forward to meeting you!

MAY 28 UUCSS Memorial Day barbecue

Get ready to kick off the summer with the Memorial Day barbecue hosted by UUCSS Families Living Our UU Values (FLUUV) and the RE Program. Everyone is welcome! The barbecue will begin at 12 noon on May 28 at Wheaton Regional Park Picnic Grounds, Pavilion A. Contact **Michael LeBlanc** at mlebl001@gmail.com or **Catherine Boyle** at DRE@uucss.org if you have questions.

JUNE 1–3 Camping trip sponsored by FLUUV: Save the date!

All church members are welcome to join the fun at beautiful Elk Neck State Park. Cost and registration information to come.

JUNE 2 Summer edition of jazz@uucss, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

The program will feature Alisha Coleman on sax and Donvonte McCoy on trumpet in a tribute to trumpeter Lee Morgan.

JUNE 20–24 UUA General Assembly, Kansas City, Missouri

Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. Housing reservations are at <https://www.uuaorg/ga/travel>; registration is at <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>; and general information can be found at <https://www.uua.org>.

JULY 8–14 UUMAC Summer Institute

Come to the UU Mid-Atlantic Community to recharge and relax with UUs from New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and beyond. You'll spend a week on a beautiful university campus in southeast Pennsylvania. To learn more about our small-scale community and get a newcomer discount, register at uumac.org or call **Doug Belling** for details at 202-420-1969.

CONNECT WITH UUCSS

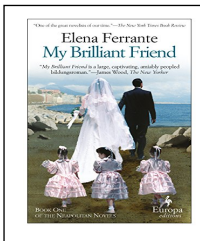
MAY VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH PRESTON MEARS

Preston Mears is the Volunteer of the Month for May. Preston is an ordained and licensed Episcopalian priest, but his wife **Laurie** was born and raised Unitarian. Although they spent many years in the Episcopal church pursuing their common mission of social justice, after they moved to Maryland, they joined a Unitarian-Universalist church because it was more accepting of their gay daughter. They came to UUCSS looking for a church that would meet the needs of their whole family, including their three grandchildren. At church, worship is where Preston's greatest involvement lies, because he feels that his skills and training allow him to contribute meaningfully to the life of

UUCSS. Preston fills in the pulpit on short notice, as necessary. He also enjoys working with visiting ministers, encouraging them to be creative with what they bring to our pulpit and to work with **Michael Holmes** to supplement the message through the music. Preston also follows and sometimes participates in the work of the Social Justice Taskforce. When meeting new members at UUCSS, Preston tries to get to know them and see what their interests or needs are. He notes that we have a lot to offer at UUCSS.

ONGOING

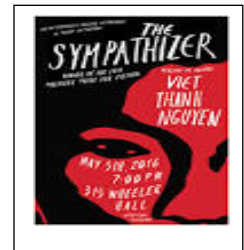
WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



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 will be on May 28, Memorial Day. We will have our customary Memorial Day potluck at 6:00 followed by discussion of *My Brilliant Friend*, by Elena Ferrante, at 7:30.

MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

We are reading *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen. The next meeting will be at 7:00 on Sunday, May 6, at the home of Bill Wolf, 519 Dartmouth Avenue, Silver Spring 20910. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Richard Lorr** (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and come to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!



Administrative Update Melinda Yalom UUCSS Church Administrator

Thursday, May 24, will be the deadline for Board members, UUCSS committee chairs, and staff members to send me your 2017–2018 Annual Reports. Please let me know if you would like to see your Annual Report from the previous year. And, by the way—the reports can be sent before the deadline! Thank you very much for your attention to this request.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring
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FIRST CLASS

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Melinda Yalom

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John Henderson

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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.

Format Guidelines for Submissions: Text must be in a form that it can be edited, either in a Microsoft Word file or in the body of an email that can be copied and pasted. Graphics must be in a format in which they can be repositioned and resized—jpeg is greatly preferred.

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: 1-4 pm

Tuesday–Thursday: 9 am–5 pm

Church Website: www.uucss.org