



Island Passages

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND
 20103 State Route 525 • P.O. Box 1076, Freeland, WA 98249 • 360-321-8656 • www.uucwi.org

September 2013

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am UU Worship 11:30 am Music Ctte 4 pm Quaker Worship	2 9:30 am WIN /Kitchen	3 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6 pm Meditation 7 pm Choir Practice (offsite)	4 10 am UU Men's Group 4 pm Piano Tuning	5 8:30 am WIN 10 am Quaker Mtg 6:30 pm Book Group	6	7 10 am VAC
8 9:30 am Choir 10 am UU Worship 11:30 am Salmon Potluck Lunch 4 pm Quaker Worship	9 9:30 am WIN /Kitchen 6:30 pm PFLAG	10 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 2 pm SRC Steering Ctte	11 7:20 pm Evensong	12	13 9 am Worship Ctte	14 9 am Leadership Council 7 pm Auditions
15 10 am UU Worship 11:30 am Mtg to Form New Women's Grps 1 pm Auditions 4 pm Quaker Worship 5 pm Quaker Business Meeting	16 9:30 am WIN /Kitchen	17 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6 pm Meditation 7 pm Choir Practice (offsite)	18 10 am UU Men's Group 4 pm MAGIC	19 6 pm North End Group	20 10 am Ctte on Ministry Newsletter Deadline	21 9 am Work Party hosted by Membership Ctte 1 pm Whidbey Giving Circle Event
22 10 am UU Worship 11:30 am CCC Mtg 4 pm Quaker Worship	23 9:30 am WIN /Kitchen	24 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6 pm Film presented by the Orca Network: "Salmon Confidential"	25	26	27 7 pm SRC Movie- "Bidder 70"	28
29 10 am UU Worship 4 pm Quaker Worship 7 pm Dances of Universal Peace	30 9:30 am WIN /Kitchen 7 pm Concert Rehearsal	Oct 1 1 pm Dennis' Office Hours 6pm Meditation	Oct 2 10 am UU Men's Group 7 pm Concert Rehearsal	Oct 3 8:30 am WIN 10 am Quaker Mtg 6:30 pm Book Group 7 pm Concert Rehearsal	Oct 4 7:30 pm Concert: Island Consort	Oct 5 10 am VAC 7:30 pm Concert: Island Consort

Worship Services

Sept. 1: Labor Day

For Unitarians who believe in the need for justice and equity for all, but especially for the working poor who are so often taken for granted and taken advantage of, Labor Day is an important day for reflection. Today, using the voices of four members of the congregation we will also explore what is my work in the world, what was I or am I called to do with “this one wild and precious life.”
Worship Leader: Mark Brown

Sept. 8: Ingathering

At this annual service to begin a new church year, we bring together the waters of our life journeys into the shared flow of community. We will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of a Unitarian Universalist community here on Whidbey Island. Please bring a splash of water from your your family’s - life journey to add to our common bowl. With Rev Dennis Reynolds
Worship Leader: Sandy Welch
Frank Allen and the Choir will offer Special Music

Sept. 8 In-Gathering Salmon Luncheon

We’ll gather after the service for a potluck salmon luncheon to welcome our new church year. Salmon, desserts, and drinks will be provided by UUCWI for \$5 per person or \$10 per family. If possible, please sign up ahead of time to help us plan the day. Bring a dish to share for eight persons (again, please no desserts).
Many thanks! Committee: Jean McIntosh, Donita Crosby, Eileen Soskin, Gene Berg

Wed., Sept. 11: EvenSong, 7:20 pm (Prelude)

EvenSong is a quiet, candlelit service of readings, silent meditation and simple songs accompanied by harp. It is the second Wednesday evening of the month. This month’s theme is **Community**. All are welcome.



“There can be no vulnerability without risk; there can be no community without vulnerability; there can be no peace, and ultimately no life, without community.”

~ M. Scott Peck

September 15:

Music and Stories in Honor of All

A classically trained violinist, native storyteller and actor, Swil Kanim is a member of the Lummi Tribe. Experiences growing up in a predominantly white community help him reach across cultural differences to facilitate healing between races. He offers his unique music and storytelling to strengthen community and to facilitate self-worth, personal growth, integrity, and joy in children and adults.



Worship Leader: Glo Sherman

September 22 : Autumnal Equinox

This year the fall equinox falls on this Sunday. An equinox occurs twice each year when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are approximately equal length everywhere on earth. The fall equinox is celebrated in many cultures. It is called Mabon in Wicca tradition and the Moon Festival in China, while in the Southern hemisphere it is the celebration of Spring. Let us come together to celebrate the day and the season in word, in ritual and in song.

Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Worship Leader: Janella Riegel

September 29 : The Promise of Paradox: Holding the Tensions of Self and Community

Guest speaker Jeanne Strong will consider the questions we as human beings ask in gently holding the tensions of honoring self while valuing community. Our promise - our affirmation - is to dwell together in peace and to seek truth in love. How do we practice honoring both self and community? Jeanne’s work as a facilitator for the Center for Courage & Renewal brings together many aspects of her personal and professional commitment to create healthy learning environments based on integrity and respect. In retirement she has traveled extensively, and is bringing about social change and peaceful solutions through the education of young children in remote regions of East Africa. Jeanne is a Whidbey Island resident and a member of its Quaker community.

Worship Leader: Joann Roomes

September Events

Sept. 1: First Sunday Lunch Bunch, 11:45

The monthly First Sunday After Church Lunch will once again be held at China City in Freeland, at 11:45, give or take.

We, as group, chose several meals that will suit our palates and then share the cost including tip. Members, friends and guests are all invited to participate. There is lively conversation on multiple topics. Here is a nice opportunity to get to know one another in an informal way. The food is good, the price is right and the fellowship is great.

Sept. 5: UUCWI Book Group, 6:30 pm

The Book Group will gather at UUCWI to discuss *The Greater Journey* by David McCullough. All are welcome. If you want to plan ahead, the book for the Oct 3 meeting is *Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan

Sept. 15: Women's Groups Current and Future

There are still women out there who don't have a group to call their own. We'd like to change that in the best way possible. If you are looking for a group or if you already have one, please join us for a short meeting on Sunday morning, September 15, right after Service. We'll meet up front in the Sanctuary at about 11:15 a.m. Come share your experiences and your proposals. If you are looking for a group but cannot come that day, please contact Mary Goolsby (goolsbyonwhidbey@yahoo.com) and you will be provided with a questionnaire. If you already have one, come and share your best ideas.

Sergeant Pepper's Band ..

Ministerial Musings

“It was twenty years ago today,
Sgt. Pepper taught the band to play
They've been going in and out of style
But they're guaranteed to raise a smile
So may I introduce to you
The act you've known for all these years
Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band”

It was 20 years ago this month that a band of forward thinking individuals who had been meeting together since early that spring of 1993 sought and received official recognition as a

member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. In becoming a member Congregation they sought to assure that the ideas and ideals, the values and the commitment to action that had brought them together would never go out of style. It is important to celebrate such an anniversary. Anniversaries offer opportunities to reflect on and to honor what has been.

I have been reading again the brief history of this congregation that Malcolm Ferrier put together a few years back. It often raises a smile as I look at photos of many of you diligently working to make the present possible.

Anniversaries also offer an opportunity to look ahead and to broaden our visions of what might be. I find myself wondering what a similar volume of UUCWI history might look like 20 years from now.

Will it be filled with photos of all of us with even more grey or, for some of us, little or no hair at all? Or will it be filled with images of us intermingled with new faces -- faces of those whom we have not met and even some young ones who have not yet been born?

Will such a history continue to speak of our vision, hopes and longings of what we hope to become? Or will it report on the growth we have achieved in numbers, in social justice work completed, in deepened and expanded connection to each other and to the broader communities of the Island and beyond? Will it chronicle what we have become?

I hope this anniversary helps us all to deeply appreciate what so many have done to bring into being this place we call home and this beloved circle of people we call community. I hope it helps us, too, to look years ahead and to focus not just on this next month's programs and meetings and things to do, but to also keep in mind the longer sweep of a history that we shape each day.

Let's hope that

“20 years from today.

This UU band will still play.

We'll affirm values that are always in style.

And we'll continue to raise a heartfelt smile.

UU Whidbey's Open Hearts Club Band”

~ Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Terra's Tales

Last month I began to explore how we might imagine making decisions effectively at UUCWI. I shared the following stages of church development. Most small churches begin to function through the strong leadership of a matriarch/patriarch. Everyone knows what is going on, has a voice in decisions, and seems relatively comfortable with the patriarch/matriarch adjudicating disagreements. The next stage tends to be minister centric. As the church population grows, eventually only the minister knows every face and name. Consequently s/he becomes the hub of information flow, negotiating compromises when disagreement arises. In the third stage as the church continues to grow, committees focus on various aspects of church life: art, music, education, worship, social justice, etc. Typically a Board of Directors approves most decisions because in theory only they see the whole.

UUCWI certainly went through the matriarch/patriarch stage. I'm not so sure we went through a minister-centric stage because we never hired a minister full time. Today we are clearly in a variation of the 3rd phase. We have a Board of Trustees who have fiduciary responsibility and set policy to support the long term goals of the congregation. We have a LOT of committees: adult programs, auction, building and grounds, caring connections, committee on ministry, communications, concerts, finance, hospitality, library, membership, music, nominating, religious explorations, social responsibility, stewardship, visual arts, worship. In concert they keep UUCWI humming. That's a lot of meetings, and a lot of groups where decisions are made. How ever can we ensure that one group making a decision doesn't interfere with the plans of another committee? None of us always knows who else might be affected by our ideas/plans.

Enter our ***Leadership Council***. The Leadership Council is comprised of all committee chairs, church employees (minister, administrator, director of religious exploration, etc) and all board members. Council means to gather for consultation, deliberation and advice. Two other words come to mind with the Leadership Council: collaboration and coordination. Collaborate means to work together, to set a context for well

informed decisions. Coordinate means to order things and to set priorities. So our Leadership Council provides the formal forum to enable committee plans to be reviewed by other folks who surely have a different view of the congregation (think of the 3 blind men and the elephant ☺), consider long-term building implications and financial constraints, identify synergistic opportunities, and enable each committee to make the most appropriate decisions on behalf of the entire congregation. While we are still learning how to function effectively with this model, the promise of success is certainly worth the learning curve.

~ Terra Anderson, President of the Board

Greening Congregations of Whidbey Island

The Greening Congregations of Whidbey Island will kick off a film and discussion series entitled, ***Moral Ground: Our Earth in Crisis*** on Friday, September 27, 2013 at 7pm in the UUCWI sanctuary with the film ***Bidder 70***.

Bidder 70 features the efforts and trial of University of Utah student and Unitarian Universalist Tim DeChristopher, who put his liberty on the line to challenge an illegal sale of public land for gas and petroleum exploitation by bidding on it himself. We will follow Tim's odyssey as he faces down the Federal Government on ethical grounds and inspires a movement of civil disobedience called "Peaceful Uprising". Tim was released from jail on April 21, 2013 and will continue his education at Harvard Divinity School in September. The film will be followed by a panel discussion.

Other films in this series include: ***Do the Math***, ***Carbon Nation*** and ***Gasland II***.

"If you want to shift the balance, if you want to tilt that scale, you have to go to the edge and push. You have to go beyond what people consider reasonable, and push." ~ Tim DeChristopher

This series is co-sponsored by 350.org, The Citizen's Climate Lobby, The Climate Reality Project, and the Climate Reality Education and Advocacy Team.

Shift in Minister's Schedule

As the new church year begins and the season changes there will be a shift in Dennis' schedule. Regularly scheduled office hours will move to Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Though he is also available by appointment at other times, he has set this time aside to be available to meet with individuals in our UUCWI community. Pre-scheduling for this Tuesday time assures that the time slot will be yours. Appointments can be made with Dennis via email at minister@uucwi.org or phone at 541-517-7325.

SRC Committee: In the Know

Mother Mentors—Our Dedicated Offering Recipient on Sept. 22nd

Mother Mentors is an amazing community program developed to help the mothers of young children on the island. Volunteers from the community are trained to help families who are finding it difficult to manage all their responsibilities. Perhaps the parent of a premature baby is confused about the issues of caring for an extra-tiny infant. Then there's the mother of three children under five who has to figure out how to fit in working and daycare and just getting dinner on the table. The next mother lives in a house that is not in a neighborhood and she and the kids are isolated on some of our long, rainy days.

A volunteer is assigned to a family and can help provide ranging from doing the laundry, playing with a child and reading stories, getting a family in touch with needed help and just tea and sympathy. There is also the Playscape at the former primary school on Maxwellton which has toys and games for infant learning, an indoor jungle gym for active toddlers, a dress up area for creative play and an arts area for small motor development and fun. The mothers attend with their children and learn about the developmental stages of play and make connections with each other.

Supporting Mother Mentors is an opportunity for us to reach out to a broad range of families on the island.



"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community." ~ Dorothy Day

Caring Connections Committee (CCC)

The CCC will meet on September 22nd right after the service in one of the classrooms or outside on our lawn. Bring nibbles to share. We'll be catching up with all of our news as well as discussing our successes and plans for a helpful new year. New members are always welcome. (The CCC is seeking a new chair. Could you help by filling this role?)

UUCWI is a Scent-Free Zone

Please remember, and remind visiting friends too, that UUCWI is a scent free zone. This is an important part of assuring that our sanctuary is fully accessible to those with significant chemical sensitivities. This means that all are requested to avoid wearing cologne, perfume, aftershave, etc. to services and other gatherings at the church.

Circle Dinners

September is the beginning of our monthly Circle Dinners. Circle Dinners are monthly pot-lucks held on the third Saturday in homes of members/friends of the congregation. Usually a person or couple will host 3 couples/6 guests for the evening. Some people would like to host but have a smaller dining area so only two to four guests can come. That's ok, usually there is another host who can seat more that month. Please volunteer anyway. It gives you a chance, in an informal manner, to get to know others in the congregation better.

HOSTS ARE NEEDED for October thru May for this coming year. It's very easy. Clear off the junk accumulated on the table and open the door to (new) friends for one enjoyable evening. Please contact Jelcy Romberg to volunteer or ask questions: jelcy@jelcy.com

Whidbey Island Peace Group meets every Saturday at the Bayview Park and Ride from 10 to 11 am. We have extra peace signs.

Women in Black meet the first Friday of each month from 4 to 5 pm on the grass just above Bayview Park and Ride.



"Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."

~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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of Whidbey Island**

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If you wish to contact any of the Board members, call
UUCWI voice mail at 360-321-8656.

Minister: Dennis Reynolds 541-517-7325
minister@uucwi.org

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314
chaplain@uucwi.org

Our minister and chaplains are available for rites of
passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

Administrator:
Mavis Cauffman admin@uucwi.org

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Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
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Items submitted after press time will appear in the
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Look for us on Facebook ... search for UUCWI

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