



April Worship Theme

What Does It Mean to be a Person of Creativity?

“All the arts we practice are apprenticeship. The big art is our life.”

-M.C. Richards

Creativity is central to the spiritual life. That sentence probably doesn't sound radical to you, but it is. Creativity is arguably the dividing line between progressive and conservative religion, especially among the three great Abrahamic faiths—Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Whereas conservative traditions tend to reinforce the values of obedience, conformity and discipline, progressive religious strains affirm the creative values of individuality, personal authority, innovation and change. We Unitarian Universalists stand firmly in this latter camp. Along side many others, we've repeatedly found creativity to be one of the primary means to an encounter with the sacred—and one of the primary means by which the sacred “enters” the world.

But what that means differs widely among us. In other words, the sentence, “Creativity is central to the spiritual life,” can mean a hundred different things to a hundred different UUs. For some in our tradition, creativity is associated with God itself. Indeed, this is how our most famous UU theologians, Charles Hartshorne and Henry Nelson Wieman, distinguished themselves with Hartshorne speaking of God not as a supernatural being but as “the creative becoming and possibility in every moment” and with Wieman defining God as “creative interchange—that part of the creative exchange between people that is not you or them but the third mysterious thing.” Others may not associate creativity with the idea of God, but they

would certainly link it with transformation and healing. For instance, we all know people who have creatively responded to tragedy, somehow using their experience of loss or devastation as a source to help others or radically refashion their lives. I think of parents who've lost their child to a drunk driver and then used that experience as motivation to work for legal reforms. Still others see the power of creativity, not in its relationship to God or healing, but in its connection to self-expression. Who of us hasn't felt “most fully ourselves” after producing a creation that was uniquely ours—whether that creation came in the form of a painting, gourmet dish, turn of a phrase, act of parenting or even a management decision. Indeed, I have a friend who calls working with excel sheets his “art”!

So how about you? How does creativity show up in your life? No, more importantly, how does it show up in your spiritual life? How does creativity transform or heal you? Enable you to feel more whole, even more “holy”—closer to the sacred?

And maybe most importantly, are you dancing with the force of creativity enough? If you were accused for using creativity to further your spiritual life, could you actually be convicted?! Again, this isn't just about finding a pottery class to take. As the quote above says, the biggest art is our life. So what new story is life inviting you to create with your choices? What new way of looking at things or interacting with others is asking for your help? How is life calling you to be creative for the sake of something sacred?

And are you ready to respond? I can't wait to hear your answers. With gratitude for the many ways creativity disrupts, heals and surprises our lives,

Scott

**April 4, Rev. Kaaren Anderson
Why Choose to Stay in A Tomb?: A Theology of Creative Transformation**

On this Easter Sunday, we will take the resurrection story as a challenge. Not all tombs are forced on us. Some we choose for ourselves. Maybe that's what the bible wanted most of all: to ask us, "Why not step out of the tomb?"

**April 11 Rev. Scott Tayler
God's Paintbrush**

Is God Creative? Or is God Creativity? And what difference might it make in our lives?

**April 18 Rev. Scott Tayler
Is Mother Earth Crying Wolf?**

Doubting the tree huggers is in. Headlines are saying that maybe mother earth isn't in such bad shape as we thought. Both sides say the other is twisting the facts. Both claim that science is on their side. What are we to think? More importantly, what are we to do?

**April 25, Tim Weider
America's Apocalypse: What will survive?**

America is a set of values, principles, and beliefs, enshrined and celebrated. As the major social institutions of US society - educational, health care, economic, political - undermine our future, what will survive? Is "In God We Trust" just another opiate?

Tim Weider, MSW, M.Div, teaches Graduate Adolescent Inclusive Education and Sociology at Nazareth College, and Sociology and Service Learning at Monroe Community College's urban campus. He provides community development for the City of Rochester's most challenged neighborhoods, and coordinates SNUG, the anti-violence gang replacement program of Pathways to Peace, the City's street level gang intervention program. He is providing leadership in reforming the NY State Juvenile Justice system from a punitive correctional model to that of a trauma-informed therapeutic community paradigm. He holds a Masters degree in Macro Social Work from the University of Buffalo and a Masters in Divinity from Colgate Rochester/St. Bernard's Institute.

Green Sanctuary Committee

Congratulations to Rita Carey and the Committee! From the UUA Green sanctuary accreditation: Congratulations! With this letter, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, Office of Congregational Stewardship Services is honored to formally recognize the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua as an Accredited Green Sanctuary.

We appreciate your thorough documentation of your Green Sanctuary activities. Descriptions of each activity helped us to understand how much you have accomplished. You have succeeded in integrating the Green Sanctuary program goals into the ongoing life of your congregation through the many projects you have carried out. Your application offers strong evidence of the positive environmental consciousness that has developed in your congregation, resulting in new behaviors and new lifestyle choices by members individually and by the congregation as a whole. We were especially inspired your work in developing a Community Supported Agriculture program; you clearly faced some hurdles but stuck with the idea and were able to build a successful program and completed successful outreach in your community. The environmental justice work you did with Herb Haven is also a commendable solid project that makes a difference in people's lives. We were excited to see you get involved in the Congregational Study Action Issue – Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice for 2008-2012 through your worship and celebration projects. You now have a great foundation for continuing action in the future.

We know you are looking forward to celebrating your accomplishments with your congregation. Your Green Sanctuary certificate is being sent under a separate cover for you to display in a prominent place. You will be recognized as an Accredited Green Sanctuary at General Assembly 2010 in Minneapolis, as that time nears I will send you more information.

I do hope you are proud of your accomplishments. You have truly taken the goals of the Green Sanctuary Program to heart. Again,

congratulations on successfully becoming an Accredited Green Sanctuary. Your accomplishments serve as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that we can all make a difference!

The UUCC CSA will be holding a Orientation meetings April 9th at 7 p.m. at the church. Plan to attend to turn in your contract, ask questions and to sign up for distribution shifts.

ENCORE, ENCORE!!!

The Board of Trustees would like to announce that Scott Tayler has accepted our invitation to serve our congregation as Consulting Minister for a second year. Having Scott serve a second year will provide stability and continuity for the congregation as well as the Board. Scott has been an invaluable source of leadership, both spiritual and organizationally. We look forward with great anticipation to our deepening relationship.

Knitting Group

The UUCC knitting group plans to meet following Sunday service on March 28. Yarn has been donated so if you would like to join us but need supplies this will be a chance to pick up some yarn. The agenda will be to discuss our knit donations and where best to send them. There will be time to chat and welcome newcomers. Everyone is welcome. All ages and genders!

A CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY REMINDER:

When you or a family member enters the hospital, needs emergency meals, needs transportation to church, or wants home visits; please contact our Caring Ministry Leader Donna Brigham @ 585-394-3939 or brigdo@rochester.rr.com.

Welcome To Our Newest Members!

On Sunday, March 21st, Tim and Kim Casselman signed the Membership Book and became official members of our congregation. Tim worked as a manager for Tops Markets until he retired due to health issues; his hobby and passion is photography. Kim works as a child care provider at the Canandaigua Early Childhood Center and is very interested in environmental issues. They live in Canandaigua and have been married 2 1/2 years; they were married by our very own Peggy Meeker!! Please welcome Tim and Kim to our beloved church family.

St. Lawrence District Assembly: Visions of hope & promise

On Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24th the annual St. Lawrence District Assembly will take place in Syracuse. Some of the exciting and enriching workshops that will be presented include:

- A Faith for the Future: Creating Authentic Multi generational Community
- The Internet - the Newest Part of the Interdependent Web
- Institutional Values/Nurturing Multiculturalism
- The Rites (and Wrongs) of Passage: How to Retain Your Members and Visitors

Opening and closing worship sessions will be held; children' programming and home hospitality are available. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and mingle with UU's from other local congregations. Some financial support is available. For more information, contact Ellie Syverud or any Board Member.

UUCC Announcements

If you would like to know more about what's going on, I invite you to join **UUCC announcements**. In addition to knowing what's going on, you can post your own announcements.

To join the list, go to Yahoo.com.

1. Establish a Yahoo identity and/or log in.
2. Once logged into, select Groups on the left side.
3. Search groups for "UUCC"
4. Look down the list and select uucc_ announcements
5. Select "Join the group".

Call me if you have a problem

Rick Yurick 585 396 3012.

The Liberal Religious Hour

Each Wednesday night at 7 PM, The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua sponsors "The Liberal Religious Hour" on FLTV-Cable 12, the public access channel on Finger Lakes Cablevision. FL Cablevision is available to subscribers in Ontario, Wayne, Seneca and Yates counties. The show is a good way to catch up on sermons you've missed.

Engage Our Worship Themes More Deeply

A number of our members are in Soul Matters small groups, which meet monthly to explore our worship themes in more depth. Those groups use a packet of reading materials and spiritual exercises for their discussion. These packets are now available to all church members. Of course, the best way to engage the material in the packets is to join a Soul Matters group of your own, but this is a great alternative if your life just won't allow it at this time. E-mail Reverend Tayler at uuminister@frontiernet.net to get on the list of those who receive the packet by e-mail each month.

Bake Sale April 25th Benefit Unirondack Campership Fund

Please plan to attend and as you are able please bring baked goods to sell during hospitality hour; or just plan to help out and/or purchase items.

Thanks in advance for making this program a success! Our church created a Unirondack Campership fund three years ago to help send interested UUC youth to Unirondack our Unitarian Universalist camp in the Adirondacks. Our Campership Fund line item in the budget was not included in the current budget. Therefore we are doing a little fund raising to give the Campership a boost. All proceeds go to the Unirondack Campership fund.

Religious Education Events and Classes YRUU can & bottle collection resumes

The youth group is once again collecting your cans and bottles for their \$0.05 redemption. Please bring your washed returnables and deposit them in the bin outside; it is located on the south side of the parking lot next to the Shed. Thanks in advance for helping to fund our Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Tree planting

Sunday April 18th RE classes will be giving away free *Pinus strobus* (eastern white pine) seedlings as part of RE's continuing commitment to our Green Sanctuary Program. Member's are encouraged to plant the native pines on Earth Day!

Photo-Documentary Project

The Teen RE class is engaged in a religious education program that is all about exploring the

diverse forms, functions, and meanings of families. As part of this program, called Families, the youth are preparing a photo-documentary project that will feature families in our congregation. They are taking photographs and interviewing families. Later they will show the photographs to the families and ask for their perspectives on them. The photo-documentary project will end with a final project event, which will be a representation of families in our congregation.

We warmly invite you to participate in this program. The youth and their leaders will host two Family Events – one will be an Ice Cream Social. During the event we will share food and conversation about families. At that time youth will also photograph families and interview them about their lives together. Families are welcome to bring whomever they consider part of their family (you are welcome to include pets however you will have to provide a picture as pets cannot come to the ice cream social). Families may bring things from home that remind them of family members who are important to them, but are unable to be present at the Family Event.

The youth and their leaders will host a second Family Event and at this event, you will be able to view the prints of your family photographs) and record your comments for inclusion in the photo-documentary project.

These should be fun events! If you would like to participate please contact Scarlett Miles, DRE for more information.

RE Class Schedule

April 4th

RE Scavenger Hunt for Food Faith in Action; Religious Education classes will have a scavenger hunt for food collected to donate to Herb Haven (and for a few goodies for the kids too!) Bring your donated food items to church for the scavenger hunt!

April 11

RE Classes explore our Monthly Worship Theme "What Does It Mean to be a Person of Creativity?"

April 18 and April 25

Regular RE classes: OWL, Toolbox of Faith and Families

Newsletter Submission

You are welcome to submit news/photos for the newsletter. The deadline is the 15th of each month and the articles should be submitted through the church website by going to www.uucc.us/, logging in as a user, clicking on “post to site,” and then submitting your article under “story/chalice article.” If you have any problems, you can also send your articles directly to 4chalice@gmail.com

Invitation to membership

If you are looking for a religious community in which to seek spiritual growth... If you are eager to consider religious questions with others who are not always certain they have all the answers, but who are determined to keep searching with an open mind, and acceptance of other peoples' beliefs... If you would like the fellowship of others for celebration and worship, discussion and education, friendship and mutual support... If you want children to be helped to develop their own religious beliefs... If you wish to preserve and extend the traditions of personal freedom and human dignity against the dangers they face, you may find this church fills your spiritual and human needs... If you wish to know more about us as you consider membership, talk to our minister Scott Tayler.
Minister:

Contact

Scarlett S. Miles Director of Religious Education Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua DREUCC@gmail.com. 315 235-1545

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Music Director: Bill Mehls 585.396.1032 MehlsFamily@aol.com