

June 2010
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June's Monthly Worship Theme is Joy!

Friends, what better theme to end the year on than joy! I look forward to an entire month of worship and conversations in which we wrestle together with the question: "What does it mean to be a person of joy?" To get that conversation started, here's a reflection of my own.

-Scott

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"Every day, I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight,...It was what I was born for - to look, to listen, to lose myself inside this soft world - to instruct myself over and over in joy, and acclamation. Nor am I talking about the exceptional,..."

--Mary Oliver, *from her poem Mindful*

Everyday indeed; If only we have eyes to see.

Delight. Acclamation. Joy. They offer themselves to us each day—no matter what. The challenge is to notice the offer--as Oliver says, to look and listen closely enough that we are aware of the instruction.

And it won't be exceptional instruction. About this, Oliver is also right on the mark. Maybe that's why invitations to joy can be so easy to miss: they involve everyday stuff. The smell of coffee. The taste of really great strawberry-rhubarb pie. Your kid jumping full force into a puddle. Your lover laughing. Someone looking you in the eye and saying "Thanks. No. *Really, I mean it.* Thanks!" Ending the day knowing that you mattered, that you made a difference. A sunset whose colors you can't name because you're not sure you've ever seen that color before. The feel of water on your body as you swim. Ordinary stuff. Nothing exceptional. No wonder more dramatic things--like stress about work or worries about bills or illness--can drown it out.

Indeed, it's never seemed a fair fight to me. Joy verses worry. Joy verses fear. Joy verses doubt. I imagine that's why every great religion and every sage worth their salt says that being a person of joy involves paying attention. In other words, joy can't win without us; it is just not flashy enough to draw attention to itself. We've got to notice it.

And the pay-off for noticing is grand. The feeling of joy surely differs from person to person, but I think Oliver puts her finger on the one quality common to us all when she says that the world becomes "soft." Despite all the hard edges and scary twists and turns, joy makes life feel soft--safe, loving, open, welcoming, even "on our side."

With all that said, a new definition comes to mind: "Joy is the experience of life shifting from foe to friend." I know it's not the usual definition, but, right now, it feels right to me.

How about you? What's your definition? And maybe more importantly, how are you being invited to experience the joy of life's friendship right now?!

Joyful about getting to be on this journey with others,

Scott

Sermon Schedule

Stepping Outside of Our Lives And into Joy

June 6, 2010—David Messner

This sermon will explore the way in which intentional departures from the ordinary have, through courage and grace, the power of unlocking everyday joy and meaning.

David Messner is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist now preparing for the UU ministry. He served this year as the Ministerial Intern at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester and is continuing his studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He lives with his wife and two children in Honeoye Falls.

theme of joy as it's been a joyful year full of new experiences and meaningful spiritual exploration. Rev. Tayler will be preaching and leading us in the "Flower Communion" ritual. If you've not experienced the flower communion ritual before, you won't want to miss it. It is a simple, but beautiful means of honoring the many gifts that we give and receive in our common life together as a church! But for it to work, you need to bring one of your favorite flowers or an entire bouquet of flowers with you to church.

After the service, there will be a brief congregational meeting followed by a grand, all-ages picnic.

Flower Communion and Celebration Sunday

June 13, 2010—Rev. Scott Tayler

Think of this service—and the entire day—as an end-of-year celebration! A perfect match with our monthly

I Brought My Father with Me

June 20, 2010—Tom Taylor

This service will include musical reflections of parenthood and time. Tom is a long-time member of our church and well-know for his song writing and other musical talents.

UUCC Datebook and Announcements

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 13th**. After the Service, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. All members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend; official UUCC members (those who have signed the Membership Book and made a contribution of record) are allowed to vote. At the meeting, we will vote for 4 new board members and our budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. A letter with details will be in the mail shortly. After the meeting, we will hold a picnic with many fun activities for the kids - and the adults!! Hope to see everyone there!

Congregational Picnic on Sunday, June 13th

LET'S PARTY! June 13th End of the year celebration!

Right after the Congregational Meeting, join us for a picnic to celebrate the end of the church year.

Bring a dish to pass - there will be a sign up sheet at church. You don't want to miss this... rumor has it that Scott and Scarlett are cooking up something big! Come find out what they have planned!

Scott Serving Another Year as Consulting Minister

At the May meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to invite Scott Tayler to continue as our Consulting Minister for a second year (2010-2011) and he has happily accepted our invitation. The Board is very pleased with the support & guidance we have recieved from Scott and the congregation, according to general consensus, is very pleased with his ministry as well. After the new fiscal year begins (July 1st), the Board will begin to consider options for ministerial service for the following year (2011-2012) and beyond. This process will involve input from the entire congregation. Please join the Board in celebrating our continuing connection with Scott!

Alternatives to War Study Group Forming

A few months ago I gave a sermon about the military budget and how our lack of alternatives to war was trapping us in "a box of our own making." Since then, a number of church members and friends have expressed interest in working together on the issues of peace and alternatives to war. The first step is to identify the 2-3 issues/actions where we as a

congregation can make the most difference. I am forming a study group to work on this over the summer. If you are interested in joining in the summer study group effort or in the actions that follow, let me know (uuminister@frontiernet.net or 585-709-9120).

In peace, Scott

Check Out The Newest UU Radio Show: LifeNow Radio

As most of us know, our founding minister, Carl Thitchener, and a few committed members created the first UU radio show in upstate New York. Those programs can be found on our website under “online services.” And now, in the spirit of The Liberal Religious Hour, we have a new radio program: LifeNow Radio. This online podcast show is a creation of our sister congregation, First Unitarian of Rochester. The idea is simple: LifeNow Radio sends UU “reporters” out into the world to find compelling stories of “people living well in this life rather than preparing for the next.” Many of the shows also engage our monthly worship themes, for instance the newest program tells personal story of courage. Another recent show explores spirituality found in the most unlikely of places: women’s roller derby—not to be missed! The entire selection of shows can be found at <http://www.lifenowradio.org/>. You can also link to it through our church webpage under the “online services” section. By the way, this is a great way to get your friends, neighbors and co-workers interested in our faith!!

What should be done about IMMIGRATION?

The Living Wage Task Force of First Unitarian has recruited Lew Papenfuse, head of Farmworker Legal Services of NY, to bring us up to speed on what the current immigration law is, and what changes are being considered. You are invited to the talk and Q+A which will start at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, June 8th, in room 110, and will likely answer “Why did Arizona do that?”

John Keevert, chair Social Justice Council First Unitarian 585 473 0295

Interim District Executive Named

The St. Lawrence District board is pleased to announce that Connie Goodbread has been named the Interim District Executive for the St. Lawrence District. She will assume these responsibilities beginning August 15th.

For the past 4 years Connie has been the Education Director for Mid-South District and Program Consultant for Florida District. For the past year she has been the Interim Program Consultant for Northern New England – a mostly virtual position. Connie is one of the developers of the leadership model used at the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience in the Southwestern Conference and the Southland Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience in the Southland Region. She continues to teach at these Leadership Experiences. Connie has studied congregationally applied Systems Theory with Dr. Peter Steinke for 9 years. She has written “The Smart Church,” a Unitarian Universalist supplement to Dr. Steinke’s “Healthy Congregations” process.

Connie is trained as a “Bridgebuilder” consultant, which focuses on coaching leaders during times of conflict. She was a Healthy Congregations Consultant and a Bridgebuilder Consultant prior to joining District Staff. Connie is the co-author of “The Chrysalis Way,” an emerging congregation program. Connie is a Credentialed Religious Educator and served 20 years in two different congregations. Connie lives in Tampa, Florida with her husband, Bob. Her grandchildren are the light of her life. Please join us in congratulating Connie in her new role.

A Reflection of This Month's Worship Theme: Joy

Welcome Morning

Anne Sexton

There is joy in all; she writes.
In the hair I brush each morning,
in the Cannon towel, newly washed,
that I rub my body with each morning,
in the chapel of eggs I cook each morning,
in the outcry from the kettle
that heats my coffee each morning,
in the spoon and the chair
that cry "hello there, Anne"
each morning,
in the godhead of the table
that I set my silver, plate, cup upon each morning
All this is God,
right here in my pea-green house
each morning and I mean,
though often forget, to give thanks,
to faint down by the kitchen table
in a prayer of rejoicing
as the holy birds at the kitchen window
peck into their marriage of seeds.
So while I think of it,
let me paint a thank-you on my palm
for this God, this laughter in the morning,
lest it go unspoken.
The Joy that isn't shared, I've heard dies young.

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: Scott Tayler

President: Ellie Syverud,
585.394.2722, ellie7349@yahoo.com

Director of Religious Education: Scarlett Miles, 315.235.1545, DREUCC@gmail.com

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