

May 2010  
Uucc.us



### May Asks Us “What Does it Mean to Be a People of Courage?”

A Soul Matters friend gets at it best. She writes:

*“I believe that courage follows love. When I love something I can be very strong in defense of it, or very brave in pursuit of it. And I think my own courage has come from being loved well enough so that I could love myself and others.”*

It’s an important reminder. Hopeful too. We don’t have to be completely fearless to be courageous—just clear about and firmly connected to our loves. So maybe this is the most important task of this month: figuring out which of our loves needs more loyalty from us.

For many of us, this will involve a recommitment to the love of the innocent, the common good or even justice itself. Indeed, this kind of courageous “standing up for the little guy” has a special place in UU circles. But I also hope this month helps us stand up for the other kinds of “little ones” in our lives: your art, reading books to your kids, a date night, exercise, time to be by yourself, laughter. I know our society is labeled selfish, but when I look out I see more people swept up in lives and schedules with which they are not happy than I see people indulging their every wants. So in addition to the “little guy,” how do you need to stand up for *yourself* this month? How do you need to bravely put your foot down and speak up for what you need—for what is starving inside you? And keep in mind, it may not just be the mean boss or bigoted neighbor with which you need to draw the line; it might be with someone you love. “I love you honey, but I really need to do this for myself.” That may be the most courageous thing you say this month.

With gratitude for all the ways this religious community connects us with our courage—and our loves,  
Scott

### Sermon Schedule

#### **The Courage of Giving Up**

May 2, 2010—Rev. Scott Tayler

We’re taught that giving up is a form of cowardice. But sometimes the only way to save ourselves is to walk away.

#### **A Letter to Lisa**

May 9, 2010—Rev. Kaaren Anderson

A lesson of courage, hope and humility for all of us, not just mothers.

#### **Courage of Convictions**

May 16, 2010—Rev. Shelley Page

What does it mean to truly live by our convictions? Let’s explore the possibilities through the inspiration of Margaret Fuller, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Transcendentalist leader and Unitarian ancestor, on the occasion of her 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### **What Do We Owe Our Veterans?**

May 23, 2010—Rev. Scott Tayler

How do we truly honor the courage of our military men and women? Could parades and heroic praise be the opposite of what they need?.

### **Waffle Booth -- Great Summer Fund Raisers**

The UCC Waffle Booth is a perfect traveling unit now and an excellent fund raiser for our church. We have a canope top for protection from weather. Several waffle irons with timers for production. A perfect recipe that works every time. Good homemade jams and a growing reputation of serving a delicious snack. All we need now are fairs and markets to go to.

We are looking for members in each of our towns to contact their local fair or farmer's market to discover the contacts and details needed to set up our booth. We have found that working the booth is fun and easy. Making the contacts and getting permission takes a little time. So spreading this out to those of you who know your towns and already have the contacts will hopefully get us more engagements and more success.

The UCC Waffle Booth could be as rewarding for the church as the Next to New sale, so give please us a hand.

Our church contact for the booth is Judy Cadle, 315.719.4099 or [judy.cadle@gmail.com](mailto:judy.cadle@gmail.com).

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### **We will be providing a designated offering to Herb Haven on May 2 and on the first Sunday of each month thereafter.**

Additionally, we will be moving toward a designated offering model that works on quarters of a year--example: January, February, and March would be designated offerings for, say, Herb Haven. Then April, May, and June would be designated offerings for, maybe, Unirondack, or some other worthwhile cause. Scott is on-board with this model.

The idea here is to offer *more*, and to offer it more consistently, to four of our recipients each year. This model also creates an organizational structure that makes it relatively simple to complete a designated offering schedule for an entire calendar year.

I would like to hear from anyone who feels that this model is not appropriate, so that we can discuss any alternatives you might have for consideration. I can be contacted via email most effectively, but you have my cell number below, and I can usually be found hanging around after church services.

Thanks!

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Jeff Carter

Social Action Coordinator

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The Center for Sustainable Living in partnership with the City of Rochester Green Team and Recreation Department, the Gandhi Institute and the Veterans Green Machine will launch an "EDIBLE ROCHESTER" campaign, including a presence at the Public Market Flower City Sundays from 8 am to 1 pm on May 9, 16 & 23, June 5 & 12 as well as May 28 and 30. We will have information on all forms edible landscapes and companion plantings.

The public is invited and encouraged to join us at any and all of these events.

## 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.

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