

THE LIGHTED CHALICE



Unitarian Universalist Church

West Lafayette, Indiana

August 2008

*Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.
Childcare provided*

August 3

“Peace Day Celebration”

Worship Leader: Kim Harden
Worship Associate: Martha Gipson
Pianist: Peg Black
Sound: Noemi Ybarra

August 10

“Raising Our Voice in Blog”

Worship Leader: Gale Kvam
Worship Associate: Janice Thiel
Pianist: Peg Black
Sound: TBA

August 17

“Tuneful Treasures: Exploring the UU Hymnal”

Special Music: Michael Lewis, Denise Wilson
Speaker: Kaye McSpadden
Worship Associate: Gale Kvam
Pianist: Kaye McSpadden
Sound: Chap Flack

August 24

Topic: TBA

Guest Speaker: Rev. Deanna Brown
Worship Associate: Kat Braz
Pianist: Kaye McSpadden
Sound: Gary Fowler

August 31

“Ch . . . Ch . . . Changes”

Worship Leader: Gale Kvam
Pianist: Kaye McSpadden
Sound: Michael Lewis

The Makings of Peace



On August 3, the worship service will be “The Makings of Peace,” with worship leader Kim Harden assisted by Noemi Ybarra, Chap Flack, and Dianna & Robin Poindexter.

The group will be drawing on the work currently being carried out by Dianna, Robin, Noemi, Chap and Kim to draft our *Covenant for a Healthy Congregation and Guidelines and Procedures for Managing Conflict*.

This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about conflict, the many ways it surfaces, how to manage it constructively, and what to do when unresolved conflict becomes destructive.

**Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday, August 31 at Noon
Covering September 2008**

Place items in newsletter mailbox or email
lightedchalice@yahoo.com.

*This issue was prepared and printed by
Celia Hartley.*

Minister's Musings

Dear Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church,

It is with many mixed feelings that I say goodbye to you now. Finally. After all the preparation, it's really time to leave.

It's funny – when I first typed “leave,” the word I typed by accident was “love.” This has been eight years of amazing love for me. Not always easy, it's true, but the course of true love seldom runs smooth.

I have, again, to thank you for so much. For allowing me to grow in this position and for recognizing that, in spite of all there is to learn, I had brought with me a wealth of experience and knowledge to share.

Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your creativity. I will put my goodbye sermon online so that you read all the thank yous that I have already written.

As I write this, the office is packed at church, nearly done at home. I have been clearing files from my home computer that should be held by the church and making sure that the new ministers – interim and settled – will be able to learn all they can, easily.

The minister that was, is no more the minister that is. We leave – you remain. So, I am no longer the minister of this congregation. This practice makes it possible for a new minister to settle in later and for the interim to serve you now. It makes it possible for me to move forward and serve another congregation.

If I see you at General Assembly, I will enthusiastically greet you. I will want to know about your health and your family. But I will not want to communicate about church matters. Board decisions, hiring, Program Council, who's doing what, who's complaining about whom, even what new program is happening. The future of this congregation will be shaped in partnership between you and your future ministers.

I am excited for you as a congregation. I wish I could watch every little new step and every great accomplishment but that's exactly what I don't want.

I won't avoid you if our paths cross. I will greet you with enthusiasm and a desire to know how you are! But it will be different. I cannot be preacher, pastor, counselor, advisor, or resource for this congregation.

I won't be back to visit – not to church. Chava has some friends here and she will remain in contact with those friends. And the same rules will apply to them. I will be Chava's mom, but the minister of another church.

I want to offer some parting thoughts. Your transition continues. You have a chance to be a truly great congregation. You are brilliant, talented, amazing. Find your niche and be amazing in it. Find your calling and let the congregation as a whole tune the church to answer your shared calling.

It's not policy that matters, but whether that policy makes way for the mission of the congregation. It's not procedure that matters, but that things work as smoothly as they can for the flourishing of the mission and vision.

I hope that you focus on the big picture – the overarching hopes and visions of this congregation and of the larger movement.

As I let go, I observe various folks – no doubt out of concern and even anxiety – latch onto one issue or another. People spring into action as though their “idea” is, truly, new.

Fact is, if everyone tightens their grip on the church, it will strangle. No one gets work done when fifty other people are pushing ideas – all various – of how it should be done.

As I let go – I suggest that you let go a little. Let committees do their work, let the staff work. Don't take staff time up with constant explanation and self-defense; it leads to burnout.

Let the Board act as a Board; let the Program Council empower the committees of the church. In other words, continue to “Raise the Roof.”

Thank you again and again. I love you.

Hilary Landau Krivchenia

Blessed to be your minister for eight years

And Another Message from Hilary . . .

Hearing of the tragic news from one of our congregations – the Tennessee Valley UU church, I thought of the Lafayette Congregation and the impact that the shooting might have on it.

The shooting happened on Sunday morning, July 27, as you gathered at your church and I was preaching at Unity Chapel in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

A man with no apparent connection to the church opened fire in the service, wounding more than ten people, and some have died from their wounds.

Although the service was a children's service, no children were injured as they were all quickly whisked to safety nearby.

While such a tragedy hits us harder because it seems closer to home, the truth is more truly that violence has infected this society, and that our churches really hold out the greatest hope for reversing that violence.

The West Lafayette Church is no more in danger after that shooting than before. But we did learn some important things from the response of the congregation.

One was that the members of the congregation acted to stop the gunman and were successful, and that the primary person to stop him was both unarmed and uninjured.

Another was that the members of the congregation remained protective of one another and the children, and minimized the harm that could have been done by responding quickly and caringly.

This is a time to be compassionately mindful of the TVUUC members. This is a time to be compassionate with ourselves and one another as we respond from individual histories of pain and loss.

This is a tragedy that will have an impact on that congregation and the other churches in the area, as well as our association.

A UU trauma response team was on its ways – even before the day was done. While each person may

want to help, there are skilled people able to intervene effectively and each person can help best by waiting for word and for requests for help.

This is a time to remind ourselves and the children of our congregations that Unitarian Universalists gather in religious community in hope and in the intention of helping to create a society in which compassion and respect can lead.

Our congregations may draw some anger at times because we take progressive positions. But it is only a few unbalanced persons who enact their anger with such violence.

We do have a positive impact on the world around us. The radical teaching of Jesus, the compassionate path of the Buddha, the cry of the prophets, the hope of Muhammad for a less tribal world – we are called to stand for love and in reverence for life.

We are invited to be a community that speaks both ancient and new truth so that the world can move forward. As our congregations grow more visible, many people will be drawn to Unitarian Universalism because of our message of love, hope, and inclusiveness. We have the strength and love we need to hold one another in hope and stand together for a better world.

Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, said in a press release: "I know that many people, both in Knoxville and around the country, are struggling with shock and grief right now.

I pray that those so affected will find strength and comfort... Unitarian Universalists around the world are sending love and prayers to the Tennessee Valley congregation to tell them they are not alone on this dark day."

May each of us find peace in the wake of this violence. May all our congregations have such a positive and powerful influence in the world that acts of mindless violence become more and more unthinkable.

Peace and healing to you all,

Hilary

UU Choir As Spiritual Practice: Rehearsals begin August 13



Singing in the UU Choir is more than just “singin’ a song.” Spiritual nourishment comes from the discipline of being part of a performing ensemble.

Unlike playing an instrument, singing comes straight from our physical being, making the sounds we produce all the more precious.

Singing on Wednesday nights relieves us, for an hour-and-a-half, of all the stressors we have accumulated in our lives.

Participating in a singing ensemble gives us the chance to shed all the differences we have with one another, to join together as one for the purpose of a common good.

Rehearsals are on **Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary beginning on August 13.

As choir commences once again for another fulfilling year, we would like to invite anyone who would be interested to contact our director,

If you are feeling insecure about participation, you should know this.... Our rehearsals happen within a framework of love and guidance for one another. We will help take care of your voice and your spirit.

“Singing soothes the mind and gives it rest... feeds the heart and makes it whole . . . flows from heaven to the soul.”

Summer MUUsic Camp Wraps Up

Our Summer MUUsic Camp has been great fun. We've had a great time singing and playing chimes, recorders, drums and other instruments.

The program is held during the regular R.E. hour in the Forum Room, and it is for children in first through sixth grade (including kids who are entering first grade this fall.)

August schedule:

Aug 3 – No MUUsic camp (intergenerational Peace Day service)

Aug 10 – Denise Wilson & Meg Howlett

Aug 17 – Larry Guentert (helper: Lisa Pantea)

An Inconvenient Truth

All members and friends of the congregation (and ~~their friends and their friends~~ as well!) are invited to attend the first film in the Social Justice Film Festival on the Environment.

As you know, the Social Justice Change for Change collection is focusing on agencies concerned about environmental issues this year, so our film series will reflect that theme.

To start off, we will show Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth” on **Sunday, August 10 at 6:30 p.m.** in Room 101/103. This is a compelling documentary about the impact of global warming; we will have discussion following the film.

Bring your own snacks and we will supply drinks.

Look forward to seeing you on August 10!

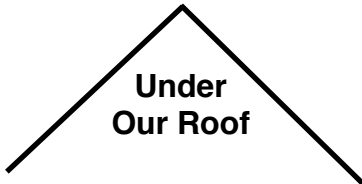
Jean Tyner, Kyler Laird, Joan Marshall
On behalf of the Social Justice Committee

Change For Change

Change for Change, which is focusing on environmental groups this year, has selected the **Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance** as our **July/August recipient**.

The Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance is a partnership of concerned citizens dedicated to developing and implementing successful watershed plans to improve and protect the water resources in the Wildcat Creek Watershed. Membership of WCWA includes individual and groups representing local government, industry, agriculture, development, environmental, and concerned citizens.

For more information about Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance, visit their website at <http://www.wildcatalliance.org>.



Church Leadership: Secrets for Success



Feeling overwhelmed? Under-appreciated? And if someone asks you to do one more thing for the church you are going to scream?

If any of these feelings apply to you, then please plan to attend the Program Council meeting on **Tuesday, August 5** to hear **Lisa Pantea** share with us her advice for avoiding burn out.

Lisa, a very active member of the congregation, has held many leadership positions in the church and always approaches her tasks with energy and a positive spirit.

Come listen to her secrets for success. We meet at 6:30 p.m. in Room 106.

Lisa's talk is the third in our Summer Leadership Series. In June, we heard Robin Poindexter describe how to lead effective meetings. Those present received helpful tips and several of us are implementing them in our own committee meetings.

In May, Barny Dunning explained our church organizational structure and answered questions about how and why we are organized the way we are.

As a reminder, committee chairs are expected to attend Program Council meetings; all members and friends of the congregation are welcomed.

Look forward to seeing you on August 6,

Joan Marshall
Coordinator, Program Council

AUGUST FORUM

The Sunday Morning Forum meets at 9 a.m. in Room 101/103. We are using the back entrance to the building. Drive around the church to the right until you reach the parking places at the rear. We will meet you at the door and show you to the Forum room. Everyone is welcome!

A special note to young adults with children: Child-care is always provided.

August 3. Martin Sennett, “City Bus”

I like the City Bus with its picturesque trolley and free rides for students. It is responsive to the community, expanding its service as the city expands to the south and west.

It also was one of the first municipal transportation systems to incorporate electric hybrid buses into its fleet.

But there are unseen problems as well as unrealized opportunities for City Bus. Martin Sennett, Director, grapples with the problems and works to keep the opportunities open.

August 10. Joe Krause, “The Time Machine”

Each year, the Libraries select “One Great Read” and suggests that all members of the community read the book and join various discussion groups to exchange ideas and reactions.

This year the selection is H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*. Published in 1895, this short book, only 71 pages, takes a time traveler into the future where astonishing discoveries are made and implicit questions are raised about what our society is, or might be, coming to.

Joe Krause is a retired teacher of social studies and has been leading discussions on this book throughout the summer.

August 17. TBA

August 24. Jim Elicker, “Measuring the Quality of Child Care”

Places where childcare is offered range from wonderful to conditions that are so bad that they may well be illegal.

Still, there is no objective way of putting a number on the quality of childcare offered across the community or across the country.

All this may change as a consequence of work being initiated by Jim Elicker, a professor in Child Development and Family Studies at Purdue.

August 31. TBA

Freethinkers Discussion Group

The Atheism Discussion Group is evolving into the Lafayette Freethinkers.

Rather than limiting itself to what not to discuss, the group is now going to focus on applying the principles of freethinking to all topics.

Anyone wishing to shed habits of dogmatic, unreasoned thinking is encouraged to attend its meetings every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Room 106.

August topics will be “What is freethinking?” on August 14 and “Are faith in science and faith in religion the same thing?” on August 28.

Go to www.lafayettefreethinkers.org for more information and to participate in our online discussions.

Todd Barton

Social Justice Outreach for 2008

The Social Justice Committee, on behalf of the UU Church, supports the work of many organizations each year. Money comes from the UU budget, special collections, and a work project at Purdue's Ford Dining Court each summer.

Because the church budget cannot fund all the work the committee does, we are grateful to all UU members and friends who help with the Purdue work project. This year we will work **August 18-31**.

Please consider volunteering to work a shift or two. See Sue Robinson, Mary Ann Foley, or Jean Tyner for more information.

Thank you!

Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination	\$ 100
Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice	\$ 100
Lafayette Urban Ministry	
General Fund	\$ 600
Food Pantry	\$ 500 (plus donated food)
After School Program	\$ 100
Homeless Shelter	\$ 100
Christmas Jubilee	\$1,000 (plus toys/clothing)
Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Program	\$ 200 (plus donations)
Cary Home	\$ 100
Goodwill Clothing Drive	\$1,235 in vouchers
Lafayette Area Peace Coalition (2 projects)	\$ 70
UU Fiber Arts baby quilt project	\$ 400
UU Green Sanctuary Committee seed money	\$ 500
Darfur Peace and Development Organization Schools Project	\$ 805
Guest at Your Table (UUSC)	\$ 667.50
UUSC Myanmar Cyclone Relief	\$ 400
Change for Change	Ongoing Collection

CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEWCOMERS

The members of the Connections Committee are happy to welcome three new members to our group: **JoAnn Darling**, **Jennie Higginbottom**, and **Hunt Wiley**. As we grow we'll be better able to offer new activities and events to help build connections between our members and friends, new and old.

If you would like to explore the many opportunities which exist to get to know people better and become more involved in the community life of the church, please email Denise Wilson

Other members of the committee who would be happy to talk with you are: Cheryl Fowler, Lisa Pantea, Meg Howlett, and Alanna Steffen.

Work Week

The Building arm of the Building and Grounds Committee announces a work opportunity!

Show the congregation and our new interim minister how much we care about our new building by volunteering your time and efforts to spiff it up!

August 18-24, we will be organizing volunteer groups to:

- install new lights above the platform in the Sanctuary
- clean the beams in the Sanctuary
- clean or replace the fabric panels at the front of the Sanctuary
- wash windows (and windows and WINDOWS) and sanctuary lights
- replace light bulbs
- replace fan switch in an RE room
- weatherize doors
- repair or replace a door closer on a front door
- dust & polish pews and other sanctuary furniture after all the high work is done
- spiff up the minister's and DRE's offices
- repair the sliding doors under the stairwell in the fellowship hall
- check and adjust water fountains

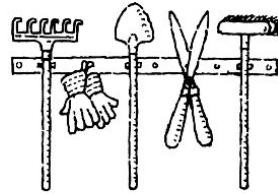
If there are other suggestions or needed repairs you have noted, please pass those along to the Building and Grounds Committee via their box in Room 106, through our Administrative Assistant, Karin, or directly to one of the members of the committee (Ed Bowen, Larry Guentert, KayeMcSpadden, Noemi Ybarra).

Please note that there is a new form you can fill out in the Building and Grounds mailbox to report problems you see at any time.

You may sign up to help during this special work week by calling or emailing Noemi Ybarra or any of us on the committee or putting your name on the sign-up sheet to be found in the library.

We will also be circulating those sign-up sheets after services for the next few weeks. Sign up early and have your pick of jobs!

Yours in fellowship and hard work,
The Building and Grounds Committee



Thank you!!!

Thank you to all of you who helped with the mulching, weeding, planting, tilling, and tree-removing extravaganza on July 23.

The church grounds look lovely and it is all thanks to you.

Michael Lewis,
Exterior Committee Chairman

EMPOWERING THE GIRLS OF SRI LANKA



Ellen Sojka, the daughter of Janice Kritchevsky, has been associated with the Greater Lafayette UU church for fifteen years. She would like to invite all members of the church community to “Desserts, Jewelry, and Community,” a fundraiser for Emerge Global, a non-profit that she has helped form and will be leading as the Sri Lanka Country Director this year. Ellen has helped determine the strategic direction for Emerge Global.

Ellen graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June and will be moving to Sri Lanka in August to continue her role with this organization. Emerge Global empowers girls who have survived abuse to rediscover a sense of hope, build a strong community, and fulfill their own visions of the future. Through the creation and sale of jewelry, Emerge generates economic opportunities, fosters self-confidence, and inspires these persevering women to become leaders within their own communities.

Through the creation of art, Emerge helps women develop their sense of inner-beauty, self-worth, and confidence. Through the sale of their work, Emerge supplies them with the opportunity for economic independence. Through community, Emerge gives them a source of social support. And through education, Emerge provides them with a chance to build a future.

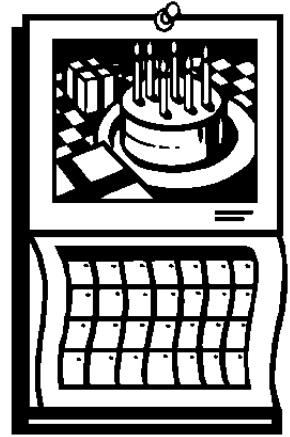
Because Emerge Global is a young organization, Ellen is responsible for raising a large percentage of her living expenses. Ellen would like to invite all members of the UU community to a fundraiser and informational session about her work next year. The event will be on **Thursday, August 7 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**, and desserts will be served.

Emerge jewelry will also be on display for purchase, and any direct donations would also be greatly appreciated. Ellen would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout her time in West Lafayette, and would love to have you at her event.

And for those who cannot attend the August 7 event, Ellen will also be showing and selling her jewelry after **Sunday Service on August 10** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring all your friends!



Please contact Gale Kvam (galekvam@comcast.net) **immediately** if you would like to share your writings (blog or journal) during the August 10 morning service or if you would like more information about this opportunity!



Unitarian Universalist Symposium

UUS is a group that meets at 7:00 p.m. each Friday for food, fellowship, and fun at a different location each week.

All ages are welcome. Our schedule this month is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August 1 | Noodles & Company, 102 N. Chauncey Ave., WL |
| August 8 | Great Wall, 700 N. Sagamore Pkwy., L |
| August 15 | Essential Thai Restaurant, 1334 Win Hentschel Dr., WL |
| August 22 | Red Seven Bar and Grill, 225 N. 2nd St., L |
| August 29 | Labor Day Weekend (no meeting) |

For listings, call 1-877-882-8871 (UUC-UUS1).

The Rummage Sale is Back!

The Big Day will be Saturday, **August 23** in conjunction with the Chauncey Neighborhood Yard Sale.

We will set up Thursday and Friday in the Fellowship Hall. Please leave donations there. We are not taking clothes this year.

The sale will be from **8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Saturday. Keep an eye out for volunteer sign up sheets.

For more information contact Beth Misner

Get your stuff ready!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL ENJOYED BY ALL!

It's the day after our first ice cream social and I'm still walking around with a perpetual smile on my face.

Many members of the Connections Committee worked hard to prepare for the event, and we weren't at all sure how things would go or if enough people would turn out to make the event worth the effort.

I worried that even if people did come it might be so brutally hot that no one would want to go outside. But . . . the weather was perfect and it was a joyful experience to watch so many people, young and old together, laughing and having fun playing simple outdoor games!

Later in the afternoon when Michael and I were taking a walk with our dog Ruby, I kept remembering various scenes from the morning church service, pot luck, and ice cream social, and I wouldn't be exaggerating to say that my heart was spilling over with joy and gratefulness. As happens so often, I am feeling very lucky to be part of such an incredible community of people.

I want to recognize several people who helped make the day a success. Sincere thanks go to: **Fritz Smith** for coming up with the idea and picking up the Silver Dipper ice cream; all **members of the Connections Committee** for help planning the event; **Christine Schertz** for making up the bags of treats which were given as prizes (and everyone got a prize!); **Alanna Steffen** for donating the leis as prizes; **JoAnn Darling** for capturing the activities and spirit of the day on film; **Suzan Windnagel** for taking charge of the "water bucket" race; **Lisa Pantea** for bringing the eggs and organizing the "egg on a spoon" relay race, and every adult who stepped out of their comfort zone in the chairs under the shade tree to join in the games!

In addition, thanks to **Mary Ann Foley** and all **her helpers** who (as always) worked tirelessly—and cheerfully—in the kitchen preparing for and cleaning up after the pot luck; **Cheryl and Gary Fowler, Lisa Pantea, and Michael Lewis** for helping set up and tear down the outdoor seating. Also **Cheryl** for all the ice cream toppings!

And thank you to the many people who worked hard weeding, planting, and mulching on the Wednesday before the event to beautify the church grounds. What a transformation!

Denise Wilson

The Lighted Chalice

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last Sunday of month. Send items to lightedchalice@yahoo.com or put in newsletter mailbox at church.

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Rev. Marlene Walker

Phone: 765-743-8812

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Office hours: Monday, Tuesday,

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Wednesday: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Board President: Fritz Smith;

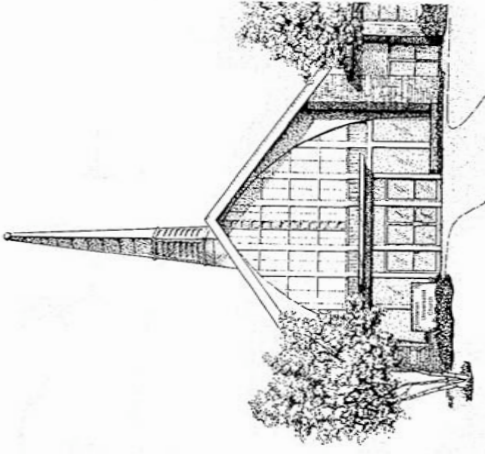
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