

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
June 2, 2009

Sunday, June 7

9:15 Service: *Something Greater than Ourselves*

Each Unitarian Universalist congregation is part of a larger movement, seeking to bring the values of life-affirming, justice-seeking, compassionate liberal religion to our society and world. We live in a time of great transition -- politically, economically, and spiritually -- which presents real opportunities, but also real perils for our movement. As people increasingly seek to address the profound spiritual questions of human life, some say the time is right for major growth in our congregations. Others warn that our movement has never been more endangered. Join us for this service which celebrates our successes and sets forth the challenges confronting Unitarian Universalism today.

10:45 Program: *Crucial to our Future: What YOU Urgently Need to Know About the Next President of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Many Unitarian Universalists say that this election for President of the UUA is one of the most critical to our future as any in our history. The race is heating up, with UU leaders, affiliate groups, and congregations officially endorsing one or the other candidate as we approach the time for General Assembly and the final vote. This year our Fellowship will be voting by absentee ballot in order to exercise our voice in this crucial election. Come learn about the two candidates' views on the important issues that confront Unitarian Universalism, watch their respective presentations, and get ready to make your views known.

Wednesday Evening Summer Schedule

Come on June 17 for a cookout with entertainment at UFL.

The dinner runs from 5:30 to 6:30 with a suggested donation of \$5.00 for adults--kids 10 and under eat for free. We will have childcare for toddlers and babies at 6:30. Beginning at 6:30 there will be a concert by the Scandinavian music makers or you can just relax, talk or watch the kids play outdoors. There will be softball practice at that time, also. Come and cheer on our team. Games and cards will be available in the lobby for those wishing to take advantage of the air conditioning. Watch this space and the Sunday announcements for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Message from Jill Jarvis

June 1, 2009

I was stunned and horrified yesterday to learn of Dr. George Tiller's murder. In 1990 I began working with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and in 1993 I was appointed to serve on the

regional board, representing our UU cluster. We worked closely with Dr. Tiller, who even then was one of the only doctors in the country, and the only one in the region, who had the courage to help women who needed late-term abortions. Ministers and religious lay leaders referred women who had no place else to turn in truly desperate situations. There were many doctors who would have done so except for the threats -- to their practices, to their families, and to their lives. Only Dr. Tiller had the courage and compassion to face the threats and intimidation to continue to help these women. I can't say enough about his clinic staff also, who faced daily bomb threats and other confrontations yet were determined to continue to be there for the patients who depended on them.

Since 1968, Unitarian Universalists have been on record as supporting a woman's right to choose. I was very moved to see, in the article in today's Lawrence Journal World, that our Fellowship had members who attended a candlelight vigil last night for Dr. Tiller. I'll be attending one this evening in KC on the Plaza.

It's almost unbearable to know that Dr. Tiller was murdered in his own church, as his wife sang in the choir. He was a truly compassionate and courageous man who will be desperately missed, not only by the family and friends who loved him, but by the women who need him and now will have nowhere to turn.--*Jill*

Women's "Final Friday" Night

The monthly women's group is meeting on a new night! Look for announcements about "Final Fridays." This month all women are invited to UFL for an informal social Friday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. There is no agenda, no theme, just the chance for us to spend some more time together and weave tighter relationships. Leave your cares, children, and significant others at home, and bring a goodie to share. Even if you can't make it this time, mark your calendar for the final Friday of each month

Softball

The UFL Coed softball team had an outstanding opening to their season. We had a stellar turnout of new and experienced players, for a truly diverse intergenerational team. Please join us on Sunday night at 6:30 at the Clinton Lake Softball Complex for a tailgate party before our doubleheader. We will be playing at 8:00 and 9:00 PM on Field 2. Our next practice will be Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 PM.

T-Shirt Order Deadline:

Please place your order for a softball jersey by Monday, June 15. The shirts are \$10 and come in adult sizes S-XXL. Orders can be placed with Amerika Grewal between services, or at the softball game cookout. All orders must be paid in advance.

Founders' Hall Floor Refinished!

Something that has been on our "to do" list for ten years has finally been accomplished. Homestead Hardwoods has repaired, sanded and applied 3 coats of polyurethane to the floor Founders' Hall. Be sure to check out this rejuvenated space.

The Library is looking for a few good books

If you have any books on spiritual or religious topics, from Paganism to Catholicism and everything in between, we welcome them. Just drop them off in the basement. Children's books are also welcome as we're starting a Children's Library. Please also peruse your personal collections for any books from the UFL that you may have had out for over two months. We are missing several. If you would like to recheck them, please simply sign the card again. If you have any books in mind for the UFL to purchase please contact lara@sunflower.com. Finally, if you are a published author, we'd love to have

you donate a copy of your books for a special section in the Library. Any and all topics are welcome to celebrate the creativity of our congregation!

Youth Performance Opportunity

In the 9:15 Spiritual Celebration Services this summer, we will highlight the talents of our UFL children. Contact Susan Harper about performance and scheduling opportunities

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka (UUFT) Building Dedication June 21

Members of the Lawrence Fellowship have been invited to attend UUFT's celebration of their new building addition June 21. There will be a slideshow of the building process at 3:00 p.m., followed by a service of dedication at 3:30 p.m. There will be a reception with cake and hors d'oeuvres following the service. The I-70 choir, including UFL choir members will perform at the service.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

(from the Social Action Committee)

Family Promise:

Host week for First Baptist church is June 28 – July 5. They have asked for our help with supplies for the week and have suggested the following items:

- Graham crackers, chocolate bars, and marshmallows for s'mores
- Inexpensive Tupperware containers for leftovers in lunches
- \$20 for milk
- \$20 for lunch supplies
- Games/puzzles (no small parts)
- Wading pool/outdoor toys
- Balls of any sort (squishy Nerf-type balls especially)
- Small book shelf
- Books suitable for 2nd-5th grade readers

Whatever we can provide would be put to good use and greatly appreciated. Items do not need to be new. If you have something you would like to donate, please bring it to the Fellowship by June 20.

They are also looking for 1 additional volunteer (we have 2 already) who would be willing to prepare a main course/potatoes to serve 15-16 people. Popular meals in the past have included fried chicken, mac & cheese, chicken noodles, ham, pork roast (simple, single-ingredient, comfort food goes over big with kids and adults alike). Meals can be delivered hot and ready to serve, or cold for the church volunteers to heat and serve. One guest has a serious food allergy, so no onions or peppers of any sort, please (including onion powder in ingredients, etc.).

Anyone who is interested in a host shift onsite at First Baptist, please contact Donna Eades to schedule a time. Questions? Contact Donna Eades or Janney Burgess.

Help Needed at the Community Shelter:

Sometime in June, LCS will have a second night shelter for those displaced by the closing of the Salvation Army's night shelter, probably in downtown Lawrence, with capacity for about 45 people. LCS is looking for individuals or groups that could take on the task of preparing dinner for this location. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping, Dianne Huggins, LCS Staff, asks that you/they call her at 766-3357. Though no moving date is set, she'd like to start reserving dates for specific groups. She is grateful for consideration of this request.

Peace Vigil:

Ninth & Massachusetts Street from noon to 1 pm on Saturdays. Lawrencians opposed to war are always welcome to be part of the event.

Deadlines

Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin: Thursday evening at 5:00 p.m. uflooffice@sunflower.com

Articles for the Newsletter: Monday at noon: ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com

FELLOWSHIP DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Wednesday June 10, 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting All members welcome!

Wednesday, June 17, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Cookout Food and fun for all!

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence

A Welcoming Congregation

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