

THE CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALICE

The official newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbus, GA



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SUNDAY SERVICES

December 01 1st Sunday

9:15 Adult Religious Edu: Do I Need a Guru?
9:15 Children's Religious Edu: Winter Celebrations around the World
10:30 Coffee, Conversation, and Donuts
Opener: [donuts]
Greeters: Judy Barnett, Jorge Lopez
11:00 Sunday Service: Music with Ken Sizemore
Service Leader: Rick Spradlin

December 08

9:15 Adult RE: Do I Need a Pilgrimage?
9:15 Children's RE: Winter Celebrations around the World
10:30 Coffee and Conversation
Opener: Robbie Henson
Greeters: Karyann Hull, Jeff Gordon
11:00 Sunday Service: Rick Spradlin presents *That's What Christmas is All About Charlie Brown*
Service Leader: Rick Spradlin
UU Annual Business Meeting Following Sunday Service
Please see Pg. 3 for mor information.



You Are The Holiday Miracle by Gwen Matthews

As December opens up before us, we welcome in the gift of reflection. We turn toward our holiday celebrations and search for common threads of meaning. **We begin with Yule**, the winter solstice, and we are invited to explore duality, cycles, and seasons, and to witness the Holly King being overcome by the Oak King. Yule reminds us that we all partake in the miracle of renewal. **Hanukkah**, the festival of lights, commemorates a time of miracles when the faith of the Jewish people sustained them to reclaim their holy temple and keep the light of the menorah burning for eight days. **Christmas**, the celebration of Jesus' humble birth in a manger, offers us to revisit the miracle of birth and the desire to find saviors to heal the scars of humanity. **Here, in our church**, you are just as much a holiday miracle as the turning of the earth, as persistence and dedication to a faith, as the creation of each new life. We see the love you give to others, the space you create to hold one another's joys and sorrows, and the generosity and spirit you entrust to this community. **You are the holiday miracle. This community is one of miracle-makers.**

December 15 Give Away The Plate

A large box will be provided to collect donation of blankets, socks, and underwear for the mentally ill homeless living on the streets and/or woods rather than shelters.
9:15 Adult RE: Do I Need a Holy Grail?
9:15 Children's RE: Winter Celebrations around the World
10:30 Coffee and Conversation
Opener: Danielle and Jason Neale
Greeters: Chris Nix, Bill Edwards
11:00 Sunday Service: Susan Elder presents *What Spirituality Means to Me*.
Service Leader: Rick Spradlin

December 22

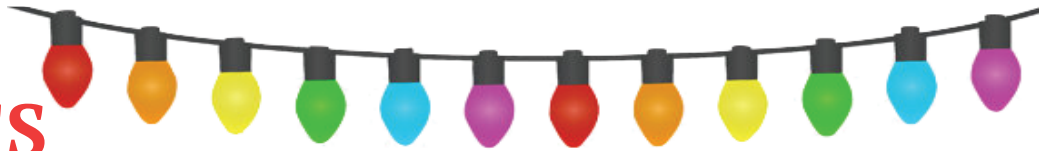
9:15 Adult RE: Do I Need a Holy Day?
9:15 Children's RE: Winter Celebrations around the World
10:30 Coffee and Conversation
Opener: Dori Sterling
Greeters: Orm Burnham, Robert Burnham
11:00 Sunday Service: Rick Spradlin presents *The Story of Hanukkah: A New Temple, the Maccabean Revolt, and the use of the Menorah*.
Service Leader: Rick Spradlin

December 29

9:15 Adult RE: Why Do Superstitions Persist?
9:15 Children's RE: Winter Celebrations around the World
10:30 Coffee and Conversation
Opener: Connie Ussery
Greeters: Emily Timmins-Wilde, Mark Burnham
11:00 Sunday Service: Bill Harlan presents *Grace*
Service Leader: Bill Harlan



OTHER UU EVENTS



Board Meeting 12/17
3rd Tuesdays, 7:00pm

Buddhist Studies*
Saturdays, 10:15-11:15am in the Meeting House; **Calm Abiding Meditation*** 11:15-noon.

Led by Joan Andras. Free and open format (come for some or all sessions). Public welcome.

Mindfulness 301* *Registration closed; must have pre-registered*

Saturdays, 12:30pm

**Will not meet 12/28 due to Christmas*

Cultivating Kindness + Loving-Compassion Meditation 12/16

4th Mondays, 6:30

Children's Ministry Committee 12/15

9:30am Sunday preceding Board Meeting

Earth-Centered Spirituality Study Group

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 7:00pm

12/7 *Spiritual Side of Aliens* By Dori Sterling

12/21 *Winter Solstice* with UU

Exploring Spirituality*

3rd Thursdays **Will not meet again until 2020*

Friday Lunch Group*

Every Friday at Mandarin Café, 12:30pm

Contact President Bill Harlan to join.

Fundraising Committee 12/15*

3rd Sunday after Service this month

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism 12/15

3rd Sunday, 7:00pm

Presented by Rick Spradlin

Social Action Committee 12/04*

Wednesday following Board Meeting, 10:00am

**alternate date this month and new time*

UU Singers Choir Practice*

Wednesdays at 6:00pm & Sundays at 10:00am

**No choir practice 12/25*

Wednesday Night Discussion Group

Every Wednesday, 7:00pm

Women's Book Club*

4th Tuesdays **Will not meet again until 2020*

UU Women's Group*

2nd Thursdays **Will not meet again until 2020*

Yoga for the Holidays with Erika

9:00-10:00am Saturdays, 12/7 & 12/14, \$15/drop-in.

Contact Erika erikabloodworth@gmail.com w/questions.

Citizens' Climate Lobby Local Chapter Represented at Bi-Annual Conference

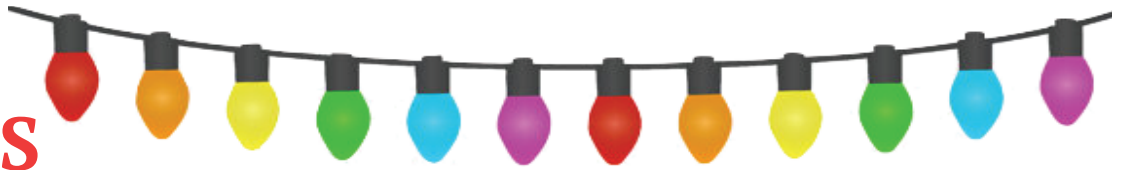
Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), an international non-partisan organization whose goal is creating political will for a more livable world held its bi-annual conference in Washington DC, November 11 and 12. **UUF members Michelle and Hal Midgett** attended as representatives of CCL's Chattahoochee Chapter, founded November 2018 by UUF President Bill Harlan.

Over 800 grassroots volunteers from across America and some from Canada and Mexico participated in the conference which included a full day of training followed by a day of meetings in the offices of Senators and Representatives. The goal was to gain support from members of Congress for H.R. 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act to reduce the effects of fossil fuels on climate. As CCL Liaison for Georgia District 02, Michelle presented constituent letters from many members of our UUF at a meeting with Representative Sanford Bishop, Jr.'s environmental aide, LeVar Armstrong. A few minutes after a meeting in which Michelle, Hal and 4 other delegates explained how H.R.763 would mitigate climate instability, improve health and create new jobs, Representative Bishop signed on as a co-sponsor of the bill.

Many thanks to all who wrote letters. Your voices were heard and made a difference in influencing climate change legislation. If you want to thank Representative Bishop for co-sponsoring H.R. 763, please call his office: 202-225-3631.

For more information about what you can do to combat climate change or to join the Chattahoochee Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, contact Bill Harlan at chattahoocheeccl@gmail.com.

OTHER UU NEWS



UUFC Annual Business Meeting Sunday, December 8

Our annual business meeting will be Sunday, Dec. 8, immediately following the service. If you're a member, you are eligible to vote. (If you are a friend, it's not too late to join!)

Here's the agenda:

1. **New Bylaws Adoption.** Our bylaws were last updated in 2006. The highlights of the new version include increasing Board of Trustee terms from one year to two years and setting the number of trustees at seven. The new bylaws also include specifics about how to hold annual elections, the composition of the Board of Trustees and other items.. The Fellowship will vote to either accept or reject the bylaws as adopted by the board at the November meeting. (Members should have received copies by email this week. Copies also are available at Grace Fellowship Hall.)
2. **The Treasurer's Report.** Ron Ussery will present the financial state of the Fellowship.
3. **A Fellowship vote on the 2020 Board of Trustees.** We have a full slate of candidates with no contested seats, so the vote will be by acclamation. The candidates are:

- Hal Midgette, *President*
- Ron Ussery, *Treasurer*
- Barbara Owens, *Secretary*
- Orm Burnham, *Trustee at Large*
- Joyce Hickson, *Trustee at Large*
- Jorge Lopez, *Trustee at Large*
- Susan Stephenson, *Trustee at Large*



Treasurer's 2019 Report by UUFC Treasurer Ron Ussery

Our Fellowship is about so much more than dollars and cents. But money is important, and we've made great progress this year. We've paid down our \$100,000 mortgage to just below \$10,000, and we have funds to pay it off. That's a remarkable accomplishment in less than five years—thanks to all our members and friends and especially to the extraordinary generosity of several people.

This year we've also invested in new sanctuary lighting, a new Meeting House bathroom, and painting and signage. Just this November we spent \$1,500 on a roof repair that will let the Design Team proceed with upgrades to the children's facilities upstairs. The team has priced floor coverings for the stairwell and the upstairs and for a long-delayed sign for the front of Grace Fellowship Hall. These projects are not yet fully funded, and the Board of Trustees is working on plans to proceed.

Our budget for 2019 was \$104,000. So far this year, Sunday collections are short of our projected income by at least \$1,200. We usually get a bump in donations between Thanksgiving and the end of the year, and we hope that happens this year so we can get to work on some of these projects.

Long term, we'll have to replace all three roofs—the flat roof at the front of Grace Fellowship Hall (about \$7,500), the big gabled metal roof over the sanctuary (about \$23,000), and the Meeting House roof (no estimate yet). The roofs are good for now, but in the not-too-far-off future we'll have to spend something north of \$30,000.

The next visible sign of progress will be painting over the last of the hideous colors, in the stairwell and upstairs, that we inherited from the building's former owner. We hope to begin before the end of the year.

Thank you for all of your contributions. If you have any questions about our budget, please see me.