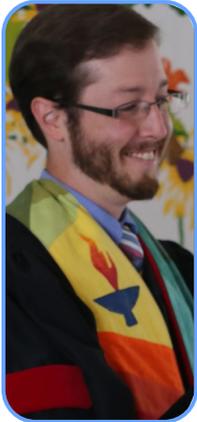


UNITARIAN



Published by the UU Congregation of Frederick, MD (www.frederickuu.org) ◇ **March 2015**

A Welcoming Congregation



Installation Ceremony for the Reverend Dr. J. Carl Gregg as the Settled Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick

UUCF Sanctuary
Sunday, March 29 at 4pm

The installation service will include guest speakers, special music and a reception catered by Canapes.

All are invited.

The Rev. Dr. J. Carl Gregg (D.Min., D.A.S.D., M.Div., B.A.) has been the minister of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick](http://www.frederickuu.org), Maryland since July 2012.

A native of Florence, South Carolina, Carl is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy in 2000. In 2003, he graduated from Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas, having earned a Master of Divinity. For the next seven years, Carl served as the associate pastor at Northminster Church in Monroe, Louisiana. Then for two years he served as the pastor of Broadview Church in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, an inclusive, open-minded congregation with progressive values.

In 2009, he completed his training as a spiritual director through the Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction program at San Francisco Theological Seminary. And in 2012, he graduated with a Doctor of Ministry from the same institution. He is currently in the process of revising his dissertation, "Practicing Communion in Progressive, Free Church Congregations," into a popularized form for publication. He has also taught "Introduction to the Hebrew Bible" as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Carl lives with his wife, the writer and Frederick County Community College lecturer Magin LaSov Gregg. They have two cats (Kol Nidre and Shamash Chaim) and two dogs (Dobby Templeton and Scout "Boo Radley").

From <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlgregg/>

Community News

Adopt-a-Road day is March 14 at 9am. We will clean up Elmer Derr Road before the Installation. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring a grabber if you have one. Everything else will be provided. Ages 14 and up welcome.

Full-moon Labyrinth Walk, indoor, March 4, 7-9pm. Walk barefoot, in socks or clean slippers to protect the indoor labyrinth.

Spring Equinox observance is March 21 at 8pm at the church.

Labyrinth Spring Clean-up March 28 beginning 9am. Bring garden tools if you have them.

Retired UU Men Eating Out dates are March 11 and 25, 8am at Denny's on the Golden Mile.

Chronologically Gifted lunch Friday, March 20 at noon Outback Steakhouse. More on p.6.

And last, Dave Hutchins is using a cane and should be home from rehab now after knee and abdominal surgery and a case of pneumonia! We're glad you are back. Stay warm, Dave.



Intrepid members of our choir made it to worship service following one of our February storms. The full choir will sing at the installation ceremony for Rev. Carl. We deeply appreciate the time and dedication of choir members who attend weekly practice sessions and add so much to our services. Special thanks to choir director Deb IntVeldt and accompanist Nick IntVeldt.

Nourish our Roots



Grow our Future

2015 ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE

Why do I have a suggested pledge amount in my letter this year?

For 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, our invitation and challenge is to fully integrate the Three-year Full-time Minister Fund into our ongoing Operating Budget. To complete this process, which allowed us to hire Rev. Carl three years ago, our estimates suggest that we need a total of approximately \$300,000 to \$310,000 in Pledges to the Operating Fund. That estimate does not include needs that have become critical since that time, such as hiring a Facilities Manager. So please be as generous as you can. If all UUCF Member and Pledging Friend households pledge the calculated amount written onto your personalized pledge letters and pledge cards, we would reach approximately \$310,000 in Pledges. Where possible, we hope that you'll pledge more than the "calculated" amount.

How was my suggested pledge determined?

To "Nourish Our Roots and Grow Our Future," we are inviting UUCF members and friends to take the "10% Challenge":
If you made a pledge last year to *both the Operating Fund and the Full-time Minister Fund*, your "calculated" pledge equals your Operating Fund pledge from last year, plus one-third of your Three-year Full-time Minister Fund Pledge, increased by 10%.
If you made a pledge or contribution last year *only to the Operating Fund*, your "calculated" pledge equals last year's pledge increased by 10%.
If you did not make a pledge last year, we are asking you to consider pledging \$10/month or more, as you are able.

How does the Pledge Drive Raffle work?

(The prize is a \$150 gift certificate to any of the Voltaggio restaurants.)

Turn in your Pledge Card by Sunday, March 1...and receive *3 tickets* for the raffle
March 8...and receive *2 tickets* for the raffle
March 15...and receive *1 ticket* for the raffle

The drawing will be held after the 11:15 a.m. service on Sunday, March 22. You do not need to be present to win.

How Can I Turn in My Pledge?

Visit frederickuu.org/pledge, fill in the online form, then click the button at the bottom labeled, "Click Here to Submit Your 2015/2016 Pledge."

Pledge cards may be also placed in the offering basket on Sunday, or given to our Treasurer, Janice Schlepp, who is usually in the office on Sundays. Or you can mail your form to: Treasurer, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, 4880 Elmer Derr Road, Frederick, MD 21703.

Thank you for your support!

Pledge Early for Chances to Win a \$150 Gift Certificate to any Voltaggio Restaurant

Get your pledges in early to receive chances to win this year's Pledge Drive raffle prize, a \$150 "Bryan Voltaggio gift certificate" valid at any of his 6 restaurants.

You'll receive three raffle tickets if you return your pledge by Sunday, March 1, two tickets if by March 8, and one ticket if by March 15. We'll draw the winning raffle ticket after the 11:15 a.m. service on March 22.

VOLT

Seasonal entrees showcase classic flavor combinations prepared with fresh, local ingredients.

FREDERICK, MD

AGGIO

Upscale Italian cuisine served in a romantic and modern setting.

BALTIMORE, MD WASHINGTON, DC

FAMILY MEAL

Family favorites with high quality ingredients and recipes reminiscent of your family table.

FREDERICK, MD ASHBURN, VA RICHMOND, VA

RANGE

Seasonal ingredients from the Mid-Atlantic region prepared with classic and progressive techniques.

WASHINGTON, DC

LUNCH BOX

Takes on both homey and sophisticated sandwiches, from meatloaf to banh mi, plus soups, salads and soft serve.

WASHINGTON, DC

I hope you and yours are safe and warm amidst the snow and cold. Here at UUCF, our Facilities Management Team, especially Stan Schlepp, has been hard at work monitoring our building closely and preparing us as much as possible for the recent extreme cold.

Thank you also for your understanding and patience with inclement weather on Sunday mornings. As a reminder, our website homepage (frederickuu.org) is the first place we post the latest information about any delays or closings. For the Early Service, we try to make the call no later than 7:00 a.m. and for the Middle Hour and Late Service by 8:00 a.m. During the week, we follow the closing schedule of Frederick County Public Schools.

**CARL'S
COLUMN**
Rev. Carl Gregg

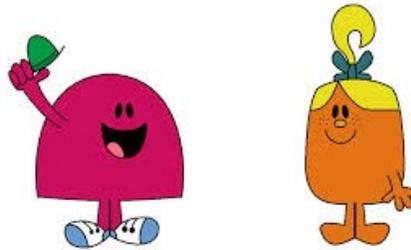


Looking toward the (hopefully warmer!) coming month, March includes our annual Pledge Drive. I am so grateful to all of you who gave generously three years ago to make the leap from a half-time minister to a full-time minister, which made it possible for you to call me. Now our invitation and opportunity is to take the next step and fully integrate our soon-to-end Three-year Minister Fund into our ongoing Operating budget. Accordingly, where possible, our Stewardship Team is inviting us to take the "10% Challenge" to increase pledges ten percent or more for our next fiscal year. You can pledge by mail, in person, or online (frederickuu.org/pledge/). Regardless, many thanks are in order for all the generosity of time, talent, and treasure in the past and future, all of which make possible our mission and ministry here at UUCF.

And on the other side of the pledge drive, I look forward to celebrating with you at my formal Installation as your Settled Minister on **Sunday, March 29 at 4:00 p.m. in the UUCF Sanctuary** to be followed by a catered reception. Please mark your calendars, and save the date.

Peace to you,

Carl
<minister@frederickuu.org>



A Welcoming Place

Would you like to help assure that UUCF is a warm and welcoming place to visitors? Consider becoming a Welcome Ambassador. It's an easy but important job. You would agree to hang around in the atrium for 15 minutes or so after a service once a month and intentionally seek out visitors, those with red or blue name tags, and talk with them for a few minutes.

We know that typically visitors make up their minds about a new church within a very short time of entering the building. We feel our greeters are doing a good job welcoming visitors when they first arrive. We'd like our Welcome Ambassadors to extend that hospitality to the interval of time after the service and before they leave the building. Coffee hour can seem lonely when everyone is talking to someone else and no one is talking to you!

If you would like to explore the possibility of becoming a Welcome Ambassador, please attend a brief meeting on March 8th at 12:30 in the sanctuary. At that time we'll give you some tips, answer your questions, and, if it seems right to you, sign you up.

Please contact Ann Foard for more information.
anndfoard@yahoo.com

SUNDAYS AT UUCF

Sunday Services

Sundays at 9:15 and 11:15am

March 1: *The Generosity Path*, the Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg

March 8: *Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism*, the Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg

March 15: *The Transient and the Permanent: Theodore Parker & Transcendentalism*, the Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg

March 22: *Emerson*, the Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg

March 29: *Brook Farm: The Dark Side of Utopia*, the Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg

Friendly Forum

Sundays at 10:15-11:05am
in room 113

March 1: UUCF's Pagan History (Cosette Blackmer)

March 8: Able & Willing (Our March Split-Plate)

March 15: Discussion: Elected Officials — How Responsive? (Stan Schlepp)

March 22: Discussion about the Installation of Rev. Carl Gregg as our Settled Minister

March 29: Religious Education Director Lora Powell-Haney: What is she reading and why?



UU PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

UU Progressive Christian Fellowship meets on the **first Sunday of the month at 10:15am** for Christian worship that is grounded in progressive Christian theology. We are followers, not worshipers of Jesus; we explore in worship the meaning of a Cosmic Christ that embodies the UU principles and respects the fourth source of Unitarian Universalism.

On March 1 we will consider the meaning of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. Led by Sea Raven, D. Min.

Communion will be served. All are welcome.

Communion will be served. All are welcome.



EARTH-CENTERED SPIRITUALITY

Our Earth-centered Spirituality Group meets on the **3rd Sunday of each month at 10:15 a.m. in the Chapel.**

This time provides an opportunity to focus on the Sixth Source of Unitarian Universalism: "Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature."

Brightest Blessings,

~~ Cosette Blackmer



UUCF BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

The UUCF Buddhist Fellowship invites you to join us at 9:30 am in the chapel for meditation and at 10:15 am for sharing and discussion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. You may attend either or both parts of the program.

Various members of our group will be leading the sessions, which are currently discussions of *Wise Heart: A Guide to the Universal Teachings of Buddhist Psychology* by Jack Kornfield, which we began in January. On March 8, we will base our discussion on chapters 5 and 6, facilitated by Brian King, and will focus on chapters 7 and 8 on March 22. Reading the material is encouraged, and you are welcome whether or not you have done so.

The Bi-annual meeting of the UU Buddhist Fellowship (national) is at the Garrison Institute in Garrison, New York over the weekend of March 20 - 22. If you would like more information about this, please contact Nancy Hutchins.



ATHEISTS, HUMANISTS, AGNOSTICS

AHA meets at 12:30pm on the following dates:

March 1: Rae Wiseman, with Critical Thinking topics such as Inherent Biases, Questioning Authorities, Logical Fallacies,

March 15: Current Events: What is *your* factor of analysis? Historical? Ethical? Practical? Remote? Personal? Emotional? Let's talk about it.

~~Phyllis Liddell

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

This past month has seen a number of ASE offerings. Both the Transcendental Poetry class and Letters to the Editor classes were well attended, despite the challenges of winter weather.

The Ethical Will class produced some noteworthy original poetry and much contemplation from the 15 participants about what it is that we really want to pass on from our lives. Last month's *Unison* published a remarkable poem by one of the participants, Ronald Moore. Everyone also wanted to recall the following poem that spoke to how we may want to be remembered:

When I die if you need to weep
Cry for your brother or sister
Walking the street beside you
And when you need me put your arms around anyone
And give them what you need to give me.

I want to leave you something
Something better than words or sounds.

Look for me in the people I've known or loved
And if you cannot give me away
At least let me live in your eyes and not on your mind.

You can love me most by letting hands touch hands
By letting bodies touch bodies
And by letting go of children that need to be free.

Love doesn't die, people do
So when all that's left of me is love
Give me away.

Anonymous

In honor of Earth Day, ASE will be sponsoring an award winning film (Sundance Film Festival), *Earth and the American Dream*. This beautiful and disturbing film recounts America's story from the environment's point of view. From the arrival of Columbus to the simple wilderness living of the 16th and 17th centuries, through the agrarian lifestyle of the 18th century, the changes from the Industrial Revolution, to the 20th century when most of the planet's resources have been depleted -- this film examines the North American landscape and all the wildlife destruction, deforestation, soil depletion and pollution that have been wrought to make the American Dream come true. Hopefully, it will give us the context, information, and inspiration we need to fully live out our 7th Principle. It will be shown after the 11:15 service on April 19th and a light lunch will be served.

May is Mental Health Awareness month. UUCF is considering hosting a Mental Health First Aid class this spring, which is an in-person training that teaches individuals how to help people developing a mental illness or in a crisis. (More information about the program is available at <http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/>.) We have had some members express an interest in this class already, but before we go forward with making a commitment to obtain and pay an instructor, we want to make sure there is enough interest within our congregation to host the class and cover the cost. (We would also open the class to the public for a fee after first offering it for a limited time to UUCF members and friends.) Please fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/37FRJQY> or let the ASE Committee know at education@frederickuu.org if you would be interested in taking such a class for a \$60 fee. Some scholarship monies may be available for those who are interested, but cannot manage the fee.

The ASE Committee is charged with bringing to the congregation issues, opportunities, and information that make us more informed, conscious, and involved members of our congregation, our community, and our planet. Please join us.

In a beloved community, the enrichment of one is the enrichment of all.

~ Penny McDougal



RE World

Lora Powell-Haney
Director of Religious Education
education@frederickuu.org

Looking forward to spring

April's religious education mini-mester will offer opportunities for exploring art, music, and movement. Sign-ups for each activity will be available mid-March.

April 5 is Easter Sunday and our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We'll hold the hunt during the 10:15 hour this year, so early and late worship attendees may all participate in the middle hour fun!

JPD Assembly, April 10-11, Lafayette Hill, PA

I'll be attending the religious educators/ministers joint professional day before the Assembly (as vice president of the Joseph Priestley District Liberal Religious Educators Association) and facilitating a religious educators' discussion before the Assembly begins. I thought I'd stay for the whole event this year; won't you join me? Meet other UUs from our home district and learn more about the future of regionalization, governance, and other UU matters.

Of interest: an article on the "why" of religious education. And why regular attendance is important.

neighborhooduu.org/why-religious-education/

Blanche Ames
Gallery

**March Youth
Art Show**

You are invited to a reception following the 11:15 worship service on March 1.

Partake of a light lunch (a fund raiser for our own Circle of Life Cooperative preschool) and admire the justice art created by our young people.



**Circle of Life
Cooperative**

Circle of Life Cooperative (CLC) Preschool is now accepting enrollment for the fall. The CLC philosophy weaves the affirmations of Unitarian Universalism into a developmentally-appropriate and cooperative environment that promotes healthy, happy children.

In a cooperative program, each family participates in the operation of the school. Families also take turns assisting the lead teacher in the classroom. A cooperative school setting allows each family to be an active and meaningful part of their child's preschool experience. Each child gains a positive introduction to school and a sense of belonging to a larger community.

Circle of Life offers:

- Small classes
 - Beautiful rural setting
 - Environmentally conscious
 - Healthy organic snacks
 - Allergy friendly
 - Curriculum and classroom environment inspired by Montessori, Waldorf, and Spirit Play
- 2-day, 3-day, and 5-day programs offered

For more information or to schedule a tour, call 301-473-7680 or email us at

circleoflife@frederickuu.org. You can also find more information online at www.frederickuu.org/circleoflife.



Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed

**author, *The Selma Awakening:
How the Civil Rights Movement***

Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism

The foremost scholar of African-American Unitarian Universalist history speaks in the historic sanctuary of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore as part of a national tour in preparation for the 50th Anniversary commemoration of the 1965 events in Selma, Alabama.

Selma represented a turning point for our nation, including its Unitarian Universalists. Answering Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to action, they shifted from passing earnest resolutions about racial justice to putting their lives on the line for the cause. Morrison-Reed traces the long history of race relations among the Unitarians and the Universalists leading up to 1965, exploring events and practices of the late nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century. He reveals the disparity between their espoused values on race and their values in practice. And yet, in 1965 their activism in Selma involving hundreds of ministers and the violent deaths of Unitarian Universalists Rev. James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo at last put them in authentic relationship with their proclaimed beliefs. With rigorous scholarship and unflinching frankness, *The Selma Awakening* provides a new way of understanding Unitarian Universalist engagement with race and offers an indispensable new resource.

sponsoring congregations (list in formation)

St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Union Baptist Church - St. Matthew Catholic Church
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County - Unitarian Universalists of Fallston
The Faith Communities of Baltimore with Pride

First Unitarian Church of Baltimore

Tuesday • March 3, 2015 • 7:00 p.m.

10 W Franklin Street
(corner of N Charles)

Parking at 11 W Franklin \$5

A lecture honoring
the civic engagement
and public theology
of Robert & Jean Zuerheide

admission free
an offering will be received

www.firstunitarian.net

Note to clergy: there will also be a clergy breakfast on Wednesday, March 4 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cathedral House of the Cathedral of the Incarnation (Episcopal), 4 E University Parkway, Baltimore.

The Chronologically Gifted will meet on Friday, March 20, at Outback Steakhouse on 144 at noon. This is earlier than usual but seems to be more convenient for some people. Outback has chicken and fish as well as steaks. So don't feel limited. Their cheesecake is grrreat! Come have lunch with old friends or, if you are new to UUCF, come meet new friends. Contact Marj Mansfield at 301-693-6195 or Phyllis Liddell if you have questions. I hope to see you there.

~~Marj

The **Frederick School of Religion** classes continue Mondays and Tuesdays in March. Dozens of participants are coming to our church to enjoy a variety of options to learn.

Rev. Carl is teaching a packed "Banned Questions of the Bible" class on Monday afternoons.

FISCAL NOTES as of January 31, 2014

General Operating Fund	Month of January 2015	Fiscal Year To Date July through January 2015	% of Annual Budget – 58 % through the year
Contributions:	\$18,884.54	\$206,272.99	63%
All Other Income:	\$ 3,209.59	\$ 77,834.72	92%
Total Income:	\$22,094.13	\$284,107.71	69%
Employee/Staff Expense:	\$19,853.70	\$114,242.28	59%
Facilities Expense:	\$12,422.61	\$ 85,517.46	52%
All other Expenses:	\$ 3,806.86	\$ 27,954.39	51%
Total Expenses	\$36,083.17	\$227,714.13	55%
Difference (Net):	(\$13,989.04)	\$ 56,393.58	

Did you know?

For the month of January, we spent \$13,989.04 more than we took in, a relatively normal trend for the first month of the calendar year. There were no unusual expenses, other than it was a “3 payroll” month, just not a lot of income.

Our available cash in the General (Operating) Fund is **\$116,620.14** as of January 31, 2015.

We are looking forward to the installation of Rev. Carl as our called minister on March 29th! For those of you who spoke with Bob Ladner or me about contributing toward the reception, we are collecting that money now. Please make your check out to UUCF with a note in the memo line “Minister’s Installation,” or you can contribute online with a note that the money is to be used for the “Minister’s Installation.” For those of you to whom we didn’t speak, your contributions are most welcome (and needed). Thank you so much.

~~Janice

Board of Trustees Notes

TIME FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL UUCF AWARDS

by Nancy Hutchins, BOT Secretary

It is time for you to submit your nominations to the Board of Trustees Secretary Nancy Hutchins for any of the following awards:

- **Distinguished Service Award.** Presented to those who have exemplified what Unitarian Universalism stands for through service and commitment to the congregation and the community.
- **St. UUFFs Award.** Presented to that angel who has demonstrated a compassionate and caring ministry to those in our congregation.
- **Unsung Hero Award.** Presented to those who have gone beyond the call of duty in serving our congregation with great love.
- **Lifespan Religious Education Distinguished Service Award.** Honoring those who bring knowledge and the spirit of light to people of all ages.

Any voting member or anyone who was a voting member during the prior two years is eligible to receive an award, with the exception of members of the Board.

Please email your nomination which must include your written justification for the nomination to BOT Secretary Nancy Hutchins: nhutchins471@comcast.net by April 12. You may also give Nancy a hardcopy nomination in person or by snail mail if you do not have email. Awards will be made later in the spring. Isn't it inspiring to think of all the deserving people you could nominate! Take a look at the plaques in the entry way for former recipients.



Split-Plate for March

ABLE AND WILLING

Giving back to Katanga Province and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Our split-plate recipient for March 15 will be *Able and Willing*, whose founder/director is our own Mbuyu WaMbuyu, or Puma, as we know him. Puma is recently back from the Democratic Republic of Congo and will be joining us that day. The school Puma began now offers education from preschool through high school and technical school with two campuses and is rated the best in the Katanga Province based on national exams and evaluation by the Belgium Technical Cooperative. Impact on the community has been tremendous. The once backward village without electricity, wells, toilets or literate people is now completely transformed. Our work was accomplished on an average revenue of just \$35,000 per year over 20 years. Major success factors are low overhead (over 95% of revenue goes to projects), efficient use of local resources and community involvement, especially from parents, students and staff.

As impressive as this may sound, there is much work to do in DRC. We have ambitious plans to expand the school, add a clinic and nursing school, improve the quality of education, and continue aid programs for orphans and needy families.

A display in the atrium will explain how Puma's original program has expanded to several additional projects in other parts of Africa.



Photo by Sandi Smith-Gill

Our Help Makes a World of Difference in One Young Woman's Life

On February 10 Jane and Bob Ladner, Sandi Smith-Gill, and I had dinner at Kericho Tea Hotel with Lilian Ochieng, the young woman UUCF supported during high school through Kenya Self-Help Project. Since Kenya provides schooling only through grade 8, outside help is crucial if a young person is to receive a quality education.

Lilian traveled two hours via bus and a "motorcycle taxi" from Moi University in Eldoret, where she has begun her third year of a six-year program in medicine.

We presented her with shillings equal to \$720.00 from friends and UUCF members. Lilian beamed because she has been reading required textbooks in the library and now has the funds to download them on her new computer, a gift from Mary Fletcher. She buzzed off on another motorcycle taxi after breakfast to return to Moi for classes.



Lilian in 2011

Hallow ,I hope you are fairing on well. I am also fine and very happy at the moment. I was able to meet Mrs. Mary B.K, Sandra Smith and The Ladners.I got the gift you and the other church members sent me. I am so grateful and I promise I will use most of the cash to buy some essential books. I promise to always maintain a good performance. I know some day I will come visit all of you in the States. Thank you so much.

Fondly
Lillian

Hear ye!



Hear ye!

**WE CAN ALSO HELP PEOPLE HERE AT HOME
at the Frederick Soup Kitchen**

The Social Action Committee voted to prepare and serve dinners at the Frederick Soup Kitchen on several selected dates during the coming year. Michael Stockman volunteered to organize this effort, which meshes with our efforts to support the shelter for transitional families. More information when the first meal is scheduled.

If you're interested in helping and learning more as this initiative unfolds, contact Mike Stockman or e-mail SAC@frederickuu.org.

Social Action Committee

JUSTice + ACTion = JustAct
<http://uusocialjustice.org/news>

Mary Kruhm, Chair

The Maryland Legislature is in Session. As an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland, we use their guidance, information, and organization to make our voice for compassion, reason, and justice heard as bills are discussed and passed.

We are focusing on politics in this issue of the *Unison*.

WORKING
MATTERS

MARYLAND CAMPAIGN FOR PAID SICK DAYS



Sick Leave for Low-wage Workers

More than 80% of low-wage workers are unable to earn paid sick days, causing them to have to forego much needed income or go to work sick, send their children to school sick, or risk job loss.

This creates an economic and health crisis for these workers as well as a public health crisis for everyone.

UULM-MD has joined with the Working Matters Coalition in support of [SB40/HB385, The Maryland Healthy Working Families Act](#), which will create a process for these workers to acquire paid sick leave.

Death with Dignity

Although members will individually pursue particular areas of interest (e.g., UU UNO, Frederick Peace & Justice Network), the Social Action Committee (SAC) decided to focus on supporting the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) in carrying out their identified priorities. Our goal is to learn how to be more conversant with legislators and develop a core of expertise within the SAC and UUCF on how to make systemic change.

Our first trip to Annapolis will be Wednesday, March 4th for *Death with Dignity* rally. Please join us! If you volunteer your van, we'll fill it! Contact SAC@frederickuu.org. After coffee, the day will start with a speaker and distribution of materials at 10:30am, meetings with our legislators from 11am-1pm, lunch, and then additional meetings with legislators from 2-3.

We hope to learn a lot about lobbying and let our legislators know our position on the *Death with Dignity* bill sponsored by Frederick Senator Ron Young (SB0676, cross-filed with HB1021).

While talking with our legislators we can also indicate support for a concomitant bill that Penny McDougal has asked for help in gaining passage:

Please support HB-491, sponsored by Del. Dr. Dan Morhaim. The hearing is on March 9th. It's about "Green Cemeteries" and is totally consistent with our 7th principle. I'm hoping to be there for the hearing to testify with a few family members. Dan Morhaim is a dear friend (I worked as his Legislative Aide for 16 years) and he helped with my husband's "green" burial.

Criminal Justice System Reform

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



UULM-MD is working with the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) to develop legislation that will address some of the problems of mass incarceration in Maryland.

This week, bills are being heard by the [Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee](#), 2 East, Miller Senate Bldg. If your senator is on the Committee, please contact him/her and let them know your position on these bills. You can find the names of the Committee members [here](#).

The Green Corner

The UU Legislative Ministry of MD (UULM-MD) is supporting a bill that would continue until 2023 the moratorium on "fracking" to extract natural gas from the earth.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) is pressuring EPA to bring fracking practices under public scrutiny, beginning with requiring fracking companies to at least tell the public what chemicals they're using.

More information on this dangerous process from the UCS at [<action@UCSUSA.org>](mailto:action@UCSUSA.org). (UCS has received a 4-star rating by Charity Navigator.)

For more information about UULM-MD priority issues, visit <http://www.uulmmd.org>. Also, you can search for any bill before the legislature at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>.

Reporting on the Dedication



Pictures from the Trip

Making the World a Better Place

Our February trip proved to Bob and Jane Ladner, Sandi Smith-Gill, and me that Kenya truly is a magical place. Wildebeests and zebras as far as the eye could see. So many lions we lost count. High in a tree, tail slowly swishing, a leopard surveyed the open plain to decide what was for dinner that night. And much more.

Kenya is also a place where electricity and toilets don't always exist, people trudge miles for chocolate-colored water from a stream animals frequent, and children play with a ball made from rags. Over the past six years UUCF, working with Maryland Rotary clubs, has supported digging a well to serve about 800 people in the village of Oltorotua (O-tor-oh-twa'). Our trip was primarily to attend the dedication of this well and turning it over to the villagers; you can find the full story at <http://digthiswell.com>. As Sandi said, "The success of this project and its obvious impact upon an entire community shows that a few people working together can achieve social justice that transcends borders and moves us closer to world peace. We were blessed to be a part of it."

On February 14th, after an early morning game drive, we drove from our camp to Oltorotua. Maasai villages are made up of six to eight homesteads that stretch over the countryside and are separated by about a half-mile. Each homestead has circles of small dung and mud homes with kraals (corrals) for nighttime protection of their cattle, sheep, and goats. We toured the homestead of Jackson Liarum, who visited us in 2013. Happy children crowded around us. They were thrilled with our gifts, especially a soccer ball, and began to play immediately.



Inset shows soccer "ball" the children had used before our gift.

On to the well site for an explanation of the tank and the installation of the solar panels and pipes that carry water to all the homesteads. A water commission committee has been set up to collect user fees and maintain the well. Kenyan and U.S. Rotary clubs presented banners as gifts and we distributed ruler/magnifying glasses. These turned out to be popular because, when Living Water conducted hygiene training for the villagers, most of them had never seen a magnifying glass. Now they owned one!

The well dedication program took most of the afternoon, since everything was spoken sentence by sentence in either Swahili or English and then translated into the other language. Bob and I spoke briefly for UUCF.

During the ceremony, the clapping and smiles, especially on the women's faces, were amazing. We were thrilled when several speakers stressed they want the well to be sustained for years to come. Jackson told us that the women are already using the time they walked for water to make bead jewelry, whose sale will improve the village economy. This well truly has changed their lives!

The ceremony ended with joyful singing, picture taking, and mingling of all of us who attended. Then Bob, Jane, Sandi, Jackson, and I were joined by two Maasai villagers who offered short prayers while we sprinkled some of Carl Kruhm's ashes around the base of the sign. Carl was previously named a member of the village and worked to get the well built.

We know the importance of projects local to Frederick, but Jane expressed the feelings of all of us when she said, "To advocate a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all directly implies that our efforts in social action must extend beyond any local boundaries." I hope all UUCF members feel the joy this well brings to the people in a small village deep in Kenya's bush and the women it empowers.

Mary Bowman-Kruhm, SAC@frederickuu.org



The huge well, which supplies fresh water, is a focal edifice in the village..

Square Dancing is Coming

Save the Dates! Your Social Events Committee hopes you will mark these on your calendar: **Sunday morning, April 12, 10:15-11am.** Slim Garrison, our Square Dance Caller, will teach kids (and interested adults) how to do the square dance steps and how to play the instruments in the Jug Band.

On **Saturday, April 18, at 7 to 8:30 or 9**, everyone will be welcome at this exciting square dance in the Sanctuary. Children who want to play in the Jug Band will accompany Slim's banjo and fiddle. Come for Fun and Fellowship!

~~ Nancy Roblin, Social Events Chair

JESUS SEMINAR ON THE ROAD (JSOR)



Westar Institute — home of the Jesus Seminar — is dedicated to fostering and communicating the results of cutting-edge scholarship on the history and evolution of the Christian tradition, thereby raising the level of public discourse about questions that matter in society and culture. As part of that communication, scholars set out on the road to bring the latest Biblical scholarship to interested folk nation-wide.

The Annual Washington, D.C. JSOR will be May 1-2, with David Galveston & Brandon Scott. Advance pre-registration by April 17. Please contact Sea Raven (searaven.morse@gmail.com) for additional details.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



3rd – Phillip Kolb; 5th – Laurel Ady; 6th – David Hutchins; 8th – Jasmine Whims; 11th – Kathy Sargent, Peter Singley; 12th – Rick Mead; 17th – Ivy O’Keefe; 18th – Michael Askounes; 20th – Elaine Lynch; 21st – Gary Hays; 23rd – Karen Butler, Lila Grace; 24th – Megan John; 27th – Jim Bryant, Alexa Gleaton, Nadia Remaley, Ed Sorensen; 28th – Patricia Spicer; and 29th – Sam Norris.

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Publications

Unison Deadline: submissions by the 24th; web posting on the 28th
Mid-Week Announcements: submissions by Wednesday, noon; e-mailed on Thursdays
Submission address: frederickuu.org/announce

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Worship Service 10:15am UU Christians (Chapel) 10:15am Friendly Forum (113) 10:15am RE Classes 11:15am Worship Service 12:30pm AHA Discussion 12:30pm Art Reception	2 12pm The Frederick School of Religion 7pm The Frederick School of Religion	3 12pm The Frederick School of Religion 7pm The Frederick School of Religion	4 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 1pm Social Action Comm. Bag Lunch 2pm SAC Meeting	6 12:30pm Level One Prana Flow Yoga Class	7 9am -1pm UUCF 101: Pathways to Membership
8 9:15am Worship Service 9:30am Buddhist Fellowship (Chapel) 10:15am Friendly Forum (113) 10:15am UU Parenting Forum 10:15am RE Classes 11:15am Worship Service 12:30pm Welcome Ambassador Orientation	9 12pm The Frederick School of Religion 7pm The Frederick School of Religion	10 12pm The Frederick School of Religion 7pm The Frederick School of Religion	11 8am RUUMEO (Denny's on the "Golden Mile") 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13 12:30pm Level One Prana Flow Yoga Class	14 Daylight Savings goes into effect tonight. 
15 9:15am Worship Service 10:15am Earth-Centered Service (Chapel) 10:15am Friendly Forum (113) 10:15am RE Classes 11:15am Worship Service 12:30pm AHA Discussion	16 12pm The Frederick School of Religion 7pm The Frederick School of Religion	17  12pm The Frederick School of Religion 7pm The Frederick School of Religion	18 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg.	20 12:30pm Level One Prana Flow Yoga Class 12pm CG's Lunch at Out-back 7pm Ostara Ritual (CUUPS)	21 9am - 1pm Water System Maintenance — No running Water 8pm Spring Equinox/Ostara (CUUPS)
22 9:15am Worship Service 9:30am Buddhist Fellowship (Chapel) 10:15am Friendly Forum (113) 10:15am RE Classes 11:15am Worship Service 12:30pm New Member Reception	23 12pm The Frederick School of Religion 7pm The Frederick School of Religion (Snow Date)	24 12pm The Frederick School of Religion 7pm The Frederick School of Religion (Snow Date)	25 8am RUUMEO (Denny's on the "Golden Mile") 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27 12:30pm Level One Prana Flow Yoga Class	28
29 9:15am Worship Service 10:15am Friendly Forum (113) 10:15am RE Classes 11:15am Worship Service 12:30pm New Member Reception 4pm Installation of the Rev. Dr. J. Carl Gregg as the Settled Minister of UUCF	30	31	<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> ** This calendar is not all-inclusive of UUCF'S building use. Please go to http://frederickuu.org/calendar/ for a complete schedule. </div>			

