



# TJMC Bulletin

## Unitarian Universalist

### February 2014

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#### Religious Education & Worship

Services 9:15 & 11:15am

9:15 and 11:15

#### In February Ask Yourself:



FMI: <http://www.uucharlottesville.org>

## Worship Services

Sunday 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.



## Words of Wikstrom

I will begin with a confession: every time I think about this month's theme - devotion - I hear in my head the honey-voiced Olivia Newton-John singing, "hopelessly devoted to you." (It's said that if you can pass your earworm on to someone else it will cease to haunt you. So to those who are now singing this 1970's classic, thank you. And, I'm sorry.)

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, devotion means:

1. Ardent, often selfless affection and dedication, as to a person or principle. See Synonyms at love.
2. Religious ardor or zeal; piety.
3. a) An act of religious observance or prayer, especially when private.

**February 2nd:** I Can Only Do What I Can Do: the story of Gavin Newsom

**February 9th:** Devotions and Commitment

**February 16th:** Supporting What We Love

**February 23rd:** UU Devotions

[Click to read worship descriptions](#)

## A Life in Faith

### Pastoral Visitors

#### Year-Round Program

The Pastoral Visitors Program has been designed to complement the roles of the minister and the CareNet program, in providing a comprehensive ministry of pastoral care. It is a lay ministry of support and hope, offered by trained volunteers who offer a sustained caring presence for those who are members of the TJMC community (and their primary caregivers) who are experiencing crisis or stressful transitions.

### NatureSpirit - Second Sundays

Exploring Nature in spirituality. We are an open group, drop-ins are welcome. Check the Weekly Email and the This Sunday insert for updates. For more information:  
[naturespirit@uucharlottesville.org](mailto:naturespirit@uucharlottesville.org).

### Clear Spring Buddhist Fellowship Meditation

Wednesdays, 7 PM, Blue Room  
[meditation@uucharlottesville.org](mailto:meditation@uucharlottesville.org)

### CareNet

#### Year-Round Program

CareNet is our church's organized effort to help out with meals, rides, and other assistance for church members.  
Contact: [carenet@uucharlottesville.org](mailto:carenet@uucharlottesville.org)

### Christian Fellowship

**UUCF** is open to all, especially those wishing to meet with others who are interested in exploring their faith within a liberal Christian context, and to learn from each other. For more information:  
[uucf@uucharlottesville.org](mailto:uucf@uucharlottesville.org)

### Midweek Worship Service

Wednesdays at 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM led by Leia Durland-Jones. This is

Often used in the plural.

- b) devotions Prayers or religious texts: a book of devotions.
4. The act of devoting or the state of being devoted.

[Read more](#)

## From The Board

*by Amy Wissekerke*

At our Board meeting on 1/20/14, the Committee on Ministry (COM) presented a plan for conducting ministerial evaluation initiatives this spring. They were authorized to proceed by the Board. According to our Bylaws, the COM is tasked with monitoring, supporting, and interpreting the ministries of the church. In addition, yearly evaluations are part of the commitment we make as a congregation to our staff, and we have found that we lack a clear policy or process to use in conducting the evaluation of our Lead Minister. Thus, the COM has used materials from the UUA and done extensive research to find a path for us. We are extremely grateful to them for their hard work in designing an evaluation process. These evaluation initiatives will cover nine different areas of ministry, including worship, officiating rites of passage, providing pastoral care, encouraging spiritual development, witnessing to social justice in the public square, leading administration, pursuing personal renewal and professional development, serving the larger UU Faith, and leading the faith into the future.

[read more](#)

## New Way to Give to TJMCUU!

*by Steve Sellers, Finance Committee*

Those among our congregation who find yourselves in the pews without wallet or purse or checkbook (and anyone else wanting to give), take heart! Our website now allows you to go home, log on and give online!

As of January 1, TJMCUU's website began sporting a new, blue "Make an Online Pledge Payment" button on the site's first page. Simply click on this button and you'll be taken to a couple more pages where you can enter your credit card information. This is a great service and we're delighted to be able to make it available. Right now we are using the online payment system for pledge payments, but we hope to expand it so that we can use it for other purposes or events, including the Spring Auction. So, donate early, and donate often - you can do it from any computer, anywhere!

[read more](#)

## Putting the Theme Into Practice

This month the theme is Devotion, and as always there is a lot contained in that one little word. Here are some ways that you can explore this concept in your own home.

1. Make a list of every love song, every song about devotion, that you've ever heard. Do this with family or friends, and then discuss your lists looking for both positive aspects of this kind of "devotion" along with more negative ones. Try to come up with a working definition of what devotion should look like.
2. Ask yourself, and any significant people in your life, "To what am I devoted?"

[read more](#)

a simple, contemplative time incorporating our monthly ministry theme. Please join us and let your soul be nourished. We meet on the outdoor labyrinth (weather permitting) or in the sanctuary. All are welcome. For more information, contact Leia ([redirector@uucharlottesville.org](mailto:redirector@uucharlottesville.org) or 293-8179 Ext. 3#).

## February Art Show

### "Femininity"

by Joan Dark

This series of drawings is an exploration of the varied aspects of femininity - human or otherwise. My inspiration for these pieces was to



challenge our tendency to assume that a creature is male unless some obvious feminine trappings are included. While I appreciate curves and curls and did not avoid them, I want to promote the idea that they are not always necessary when creating a female character. I hope to encourage my audience to look for the female in images where these embellishments don't exist

## SHARE OUR VISION FOR A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

by Al Reynolds

TJMC's Peace Action-United Nations (PAUN) urges TJMC members to envision A World without Nuclear Weapons. Why be concerned now about a vision for something seemingly so far off? Because the goal is so important; and it will require many steps; and the American people need to support each step along the way. The vision is held by Charlottesville's Mayor Satyendra Singh Huja (and regular TJMC attendee), President Ronald Reagan, President Barack Obama, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and the UN Security Council. Read more about steps now underway to get us there.

## Walking The Spiral Path

by **Leia Durland-Jones**  
**Director of Religious Education**

*Stand by this faith. Work for it and sacrifice for it. There is nothing in all the world so important as to be loyal to this faith which has placed before us the loftiest of ideals. Which has comforted us in sorrow, strengthened us for noble duty and made the world beautiful. Do not demand immediate results but rejoice that we are worthy to be entrusted with this great message. That you are strong enough to work for a great true principle without counting the cost. Go on finding ever new applications for these truths and new enjoyments of their contemplation, always trusting in the one God which ever lives and loves.*  
Olympia Brown (January 5, 1835 - October 23, 1926)



Photo by Dr. Ewald Judt.

Olympia Brown is said to be the first woman to graduate from a theological school as well as the first full-time ordained minister. She was a Universalist and I am proud to think of her as one of my UU ancestors. As a young adult, I visited Racine, Wisconsin and the congregation that she served there during part of her ministry. It was inspiring to imagine her preaching from that pulpit and proclaiming our faith's profound and lifesaving message. I am pleased that in 1989 the church changed its name to "The Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church."

[read more](#)

## Pledge Drive Potluck All Church Dinner, Feb. 22, 5PM to 7:30PM

by **Sheri Edgecombs**, *Canvass Committee Chair*

### A Pledge Story

I'm working on our pledge drive (February 15 - March 16) for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015. Our church's pledge theme this year is "Supporting What We Love." For me, it comes down to this: I pledge to our faith community because being in community with you-and here at TJMC--is my source of energy and confidence to try to do good works in the world, to be a better person, and to live the Seven Principles. I figure if this church does that for me it must do it for those extraordinary givers whose impact is far greater than mine. But whatever I give to sustain TJMC is a priority in my budget, too. Pledging is showing up, and putting my money where my mouth is.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has a Fair Share Guide that recommends pledging based on percentage of income and level of commitment. I looked at it and found that last year I wasn't even on the chart. And that's not okay with me.

[read more](#)

To make your pledge now, click here:

Supporting  
what we  
love

[read more](#)

## IMPACT UPDATE

*By Jen Larimer*

Who are we? IMPACT is a direct action coalition of 26 congregations in Charlottesville and Albemarle County that represents over 15,000 people from many different racial, faith and economic backgrounds. IMPACT is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that incorporated in 2006. Over the years we have precipitated significant, positive improvements in the community's response in public transportation, mental and dental healthcare, preschool education, housing and homelessness.

What are we working on this year? This year we have decided to continue our work from last year on youth unemployment, and have also voted to work on an additional issue involving mental health. Here is a comprehensive update on what is happening with each of these issues.

[read more](#)

## Remembering Gordon McKeeman

*By RevWik*

In December, the Rev. Dr. Gordon McKeeman died. Gordon, and his wife Phyllis, retired to Charlottesville and became active members of our church. While not officially serving in a "ministerial" capacity, Gordon was a minister to many. His wit and his wisdom continue to echo in our halls, and many, many lives were deeply touched by his presence.

About three years ago Gordon and Phyllis moved to Rochester, Minnesota to be closer to family. His memorial service was held there just before New Years. We, too, held a service of remembrance at that time. Some said that we should wait - that the time between Christmas and New Year's is one when a lot of people go out of town or are otherwise engaged. Not the best time to try to schedule something last minute (as memorials often are). At the time, though, the challenge of the calendar had to be weighed against people's need to have a way to respond in the moment. For those who were able to attend the service, it was important; for those who were not, it leaves a lack of closure.

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Please send submissions for the monthly bulletin to [office@uucharlotteville.org](mailto:office@uucharlotteville.org) by the 3rd Friday of the prior month.

