



TJMC Bulletin

Unitarian Universalist October 2015

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Words of Wikstrom

From The Board

From the CoM

It's Five O'Clock

Find Your Kin!

Words by Jim Scott

Letting Go

IMPACT News



This month we look at the importance of ...

LETTING GO

Religious Education & Worship
Sundays ~ 9:15 & 11:15 am

Join us!

Words of Wikstrom

Worship Services

**Two services:
9:15 & 11:15AM**



Unitarian Universalist preachers don't get a lot of opportunities to talk about "resurrection," but I don't really know any other frame for the story I have to tell. It also has to do with this month's theme of "letting go," I suppose, but I'll get back to that in a moment.



Rev. Wikstrom

Since I was ordained twenty years ago I've preached somewhere around 1,500 sermons; spent nearly one-and-a-half years in Board meetings; and made a truly incalculable number of visits to people in the hospital,

- Oct. 4 What's So Great About Letting Go?**
- Oct. 11 Letting Go of Ego**
- Oct. 18 Letting Go and Moving Forward**
- Oct. 25 What Do We Need to Let Go of If We're Going to Join Hands?**

Click [HERE](#) for 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. Contact: pastoral@uucharlottesville.org

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.

Clear Spring Buddhist Fellowship Meditation

Wednesdays, 7 PM, Blue Room
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

Christian Fellowship

uucf@uucharlottesville.org

in their homes, and in my office. In and through all of that I've developed a "way" of performing my ministerial duties, a "way" of being a minister. Toward the end of the last church year, though, it became increasingly clear to me that over the years I had gotten stuck in my habits and had, for want of a better description, "lost my way."

Nor have I been alone in recognizing that something just wasn't right. Over the past four years some of you have expressed confusion, discontent, and disappointment with the way you've experienced me doing things (or not doing things). I can see clearly, now, that I haven't been performing my ministerial duties as well I would have liked -- as well as I know I am capable of -- and I know that some of you have seen and felt this, too.

And this is where the element of resurrection comes into this story. This past May was the twentieth anniversary of my ordination, and that got me thinking about what it was like -- what I was like -- when all of this was new to me. Alex's ordination deepened these reflections.

[Read more](#)

From The Board

By Laura Horn

As I write this, your Board of Trustees, along with Erik, Leia and Christina, have just emerged from a Saturday retreat, setting about the work of helping to lead and govern our church, as we all agreed to do. This year's work involves a special challenge and promise, and I now bring that work to you in this shared, sacred space.

[As preface, let me acknowledge the unusual nature of this conversation. If you are from my management tradition, you favor praise in public and correction in private. Instead, I am about to place a performance issue in our public square. I mean to do so in a way that honors our shared UU principles, values and covenants. I mean to do so in a way that honors the truth and transparency you expect from me and from your board. I mean to do so in a way that honors and supports the talented, gifted, honorable minister that our church called with such joy.]

UUCF is a welcoming place to explore your spirituality within a liberal Christian context. Gatherings may include, music, sermons, discussion, readings from the Bible, meditation, movement, sharing of joys and sorrows, food and drink, and they always include compassionate fellowship. All are welcome!

Midweek Worship Service

Wednesdays at 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM led by Leia Durland-Jones. This is 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 or 293-8179 Ext. 3#).

Resources for "Letting Go"

By RevWik

Each month the folks involved in the Soul Matters program create a packet of resources to support both individual and congregation engagement with the month's theme question beyond the Sunday services. As part of that packet they generate a number of questions, which individuals are encouraged to read through to see if there are any with which they particularly resonate. These questions can be used as a focus in Covenant Groups, family dinner table conversation, and even in Coffee Hour! Here are this month's:

As always, don't treat these questions like "homework." Instead, simply pick the one that "hooks" you

As Wik's beautiful letter, in this same bulletin, describes, the Board (and the one before it) and the church leadership team have been doing the hard work of naming what we all want from our lead minister and weren't getting, for some time. And as Wik was and is, I need to be clear: This isn't a fuss about some people's superficial preferences not being met. Nor is it about some people's "perceptions" of shortcoming. It isn't that we expect the impossible from our minister (although of course we do.) This is about underperformance that has hurt the congregation and gotten in the way of what we all want to be and do.

So for the good of our beloved church, we are undergoing a year of transformation in the way the role of the lead minister is fulfilled. We have engaged a consultant from the UUA who is practiced and accomplished at guiding this kind of restorative work. (Our annual gifts to the UUA entitle us to these services without cost to us, except for travel expenses.)

[Read more](#)

From the CoM

By The Committee on the Ministry

Last month we told you a bit about the work of the Committee on the Ministry (CoM). Our charge is to be both the clearinghouse and the conduit for people's questions, comments, concerns, and appreciations for the many ministries in which our community is engaged. You might have something to say about our Lead Minister, or our Religious Education program, our Choir, or the way our Social Justice Collections are introduced each month. In short, if you've ever had some feedback that you weren't quite sure what to do with, we're where you should go.

The CoM meets monthly to consider the input it receives. When appropriate, solutions are brainstormed. Often we consider which person or committee needs to hear your comment. Sometimes the feedback is filed away to see if a trend develops - personal preferences are particularly difficult to address, so we try to pay attention to the balance of

most and let it lead you where you need to go.

- Are you living in (and holding on to) a story about yourself that isn't letting you grow?
- Are you looking at (and holding on to) a story about others that isn't letting them grow? A story that is blinding you to the wholeness and complexity of who they really are? That is putting them in a box that they don't deserve? That is putting up an unnecessary wall between you and them?

[Read more](#)

October Art Show

Artist: Romney Brand



Click [HERE](#) for Artist Statement
More information: 434-979-1476

October Social Action Collection

TJMC Food Pantry
By Elizabeth Breeden

people who say they don't like some particular thing and those who say they love it. (And for most issues of preference there usually are both of these opinions, as well as those who've never really thought much about it.)

[Read more](#)

It's Five O'Clock Right Here...Sunday Evenings

By RevWik

Over the past few years I have detected through surveys as well as discussions via email and facebook that some of you are looking for a different kind of worship experience. Nothing against what happens in the sanctuary every Sunday morning. Many people are well-served spiritually there and we work hard to make those services as heart-touching and thought-provoking as possible. That said, some people have expressed an interest in other options at other times.

Working with Worship Weaver emeritus, Mike Ludwick, we have developed a concept for a once-a-month 5pm Sunday service we're calling a "Sundown Celebration." It would occur every 3rd Sunday at 5pm in the sanctuary starting in October. Like our Sunday morning services, the time together will be spent celebrating the fact that we are here, alive on this earth, with our joys and sorrows, trying to make our way the best we can, yet standing together to help each other and help improve the world.

[Read more](#)

Find Your Kin October 10 !

By Tyler Rines, Leadership Development

This Lively Community: Finding Your Kin!
RSVP by October 5 [HERE](#)

Fall is the time when the humidity lifts, the air cools, and we come back to church with renewed energy after our summer travels. We introduce new themes for worship and religious education, we set new goals for our committee work, and we bring back to

The Food Pantry at TJMC has given out between two and three tons of food each first Friday of the month this year to folks who realize they will not make it without a little help. On the first Friday about 20 church volunteers, along with the help from the people who have arrived to receive food, unload the truck from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and distribute the cases into bags. An average of 143 people receive food (46 of them children.)

[Read more](#)

Sundown Celebration

By Mike Ludwick

The idea of a Sunday evening Celebration takes me back to my roots. As a college student, I was part of a group that played at the Sunday evening Catholic Campus Ministry Mass. We were a disparate band of guitarists, instrumentalists and singers who energetically, joyfully, and far from perfectly, led the musical portion of the services. Those evening services were a time when students and the wider community came together and generated a warmth that I'll never forget.

As such, this Celebration is not targeted at any particular demographic. Everyone is welcome, and if you attend and think it worthwhile, I hope you'll consider inviting your friends to discover or rediscover what Unitarian Universalism can sound like and feel like.

community the new ideas we've encountered along our way. We reconnect with old friends, and we reach out to new ones.

The Leadership Development Committee has planned a morning's worth of activities to help us do all these things on Saturday, October 10. Come join us! Whether you've been here a long time or you are brand new to our church, this workshop is an opportunity to reassess your goals, your involvement, and your interests-and to get us all started on a great church year.

Many of TJMC's committees, councils, and groups will be at church to showcase what they have to offer and hope to accomplish this year -- making this event an ideal time for you to explore how you want to structure your church year for personal growth, connection, service, and involvement.

[Read more](#)

Words from Jim Scott UU Composer & Musician

Submitted by Scott DeVeaux, Director of Music

Did you forget to sing?
When you were young, did you forget to sing?
Perhaps after Third Grade, when the peer pressure set in.

Perhaps someone picked out the "Gifted and Talented" - and it wasn't you.
The Nuns made you sing "God Bless America" in Third Grade and Michael Henderson laughed.
You were one of the "Blue Birds" - you can move your mouth but don't make any sound.

Or did you sing beautifully in that Elementary School play?
Was it the Middle School chorus, where the boys were thrown out and it ended up a Girls Club that made a sound in three parts, so beautiful nothing to this day has extinguished that feeling?
Or were you one of the guys who made harmony, in the reverb of the Boys Room,
or in the audience at the concert, or the sports stadium,

[Read more](#)



2015-16 Board of Trustees

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Marlene Jones

Ann Salamini, Secretary

Walt Megonigal

Laura Horn, President

Breck Gastinger

Amy Davis, Treasurer

Katharine Maus

David Mick

Anita Holmes

IMPACT News

IMPACT Will Tackle Substance Abuse Again in 2016 and Choose A Second Issue in October. Help Us Decide.

By Sarah Peaslee

The tenth IMPACT year is off to a great start at TJMC. I am excited to be working with Charlottesville's interfaith, multi-congregational, social justice organizing group again this year, and particularly excited to be working for solutions to a justice issue that is so important to me personally.

We now have a Team of Leaders who may be inviting you to their Listening Groups or just a 1-1 talk . Leaders are

or in the shower?

[Read more](#)

The TJMCUU choir meets on Thursdays at 7:15 PM, in the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Scott DeVeaux, deveaux@virginia.edu.

"The world's best reformers are those who begin on themselves."

~ George Bernard Shaw

Sarah Peaslee, Beth Jaeger-Landis, Renee Brett, Greta Dershimer, Sallie Kate Park, and Mark Goldberg. In these Listening Groups and 1-1's we want to hear from you about the personal and community-wide social justice issues that affect you, your friends, and your family.

[Read more](#)

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Please send submissions for the monthly bulletin to office@uucharlottesville.org by the 3rd Friday of the prior month.



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Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church | 717 Rugby Rd | Charlottesville | VA | 22903

Worship for October 2015

This month we will be considering the theme: “What does it mean to be a person of LETTING GO?”

October 4th: What’s So Great About Letting Go?

Everybody keeps saying that it’s important to be able to “let go.” “Let go and let God,” the 12 Step movement counsels. “Live free from attachment,” is advised in every major religion (and many “minor” ones as well). But what’s so great about it? What good does (can) it do us? And why would we want to make it a defining feature of our living? RevWik and Arthur Rashap will lead an exploration of these questions. [Note: the choir will be singing.]

October 11th: Letting Go of Ego

Letting go of ego is a state that we learn again and again in the stages of spiritual maturity. Join us in reflecting with Rev. Alex McGee and Cypress Walker.

October 18th: Letting Go and Moving Forward

It is so easy to get “stuck in the mud” of our lives, trapped in our anger, our pain, resentments, our wounds. To move freely forward into our future we must learn how to let go of our past. But isn’t it important to remember the past? How can we know what to let go of and what we should “keep”? And how would we go about doing it, anyway? RevWik and Jeanine Braithwaite will offer some reflections. [Note: the TJMC Choir will be singing, and the Social Justice Collection will go to supporting the TJMC Food Pantry.]

October 25th: What Do We Need to Let Go of If We’re Going to Join Hands?

This morning we will be recognizing those who have recently decided to formalize their membership with this community. As we take on a new identity – whatever it may be – must we shed our old identity? In what way(s) do we – should we, need we – do this when joining together in community? RevWik and Adam Slate will facilitate our exploring.

Words of Wikstrom for October 2015

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Since I was ordained twenty years ago I've preached somewhere around 1,500 sermons; spent nearly one-and-a-half years in Board meetings; and made a truly incalculable number of visits to people in the hospital, in their homes, and in my office. In and through all of that I've developed a "way" of performing my ministerial duties, a "way" of *being* a minister. Toward the end of the last church year, though, it became increasingly clear to me that over the years I had gotten stuck in my habits and had, for want of a better description, "lost my way."

Nor have I been alone in recognizing that something just wasn't right. Over the past four years some of you have expressed confusion, discontent, and disappointment with the way you've experienced me doing things (or not doing things). I can see clearly, now, that I haven't been performing my ministerial duties as well I would have liked -- as well as I know I am capable of -- and I know that some of you have seen and felt this, too.

And this is where the element of resurrection comes into this story. This past May was the twentieth anniversary of my ordination, and that got me thinking about what it was like -- what *I* was like -- when all of this was new to me. Alex's ordination deepened these reflections. The results of the Pulse Survey also gave me much to mull over. And so, this summer I spent a great deal of time in prayer and reflection; I consulted with trusted colleagues, friends, and family; and I sought to remember the fire that once burned so brightly in me and called me to ordained ministry. I am happy to say that I believe I have not only remembered it -- I've been able to rekindle and reclaim it. It feels to me as though my ministry has experienced resurrection. It may not be too much to say that I have, too. From the beginning I have been committed to the idea of shared ministry. I believe down to my core that each and every one of us -- ordained or lay -- is called to a ministry of one kind or another. (After all, "minister" comes from the Latin for "to serve," and aren't we all called to be of service to some one at some time in some place?) I also believe, just as foundationally, that your ministry as lay people is no less "real" than mine; that the term "minister" should not be reserved only for the clergy nor should it be considered an analogy or a metaphor when referring to lay people. This is decidedly not the way most religious communities operate, so I have spent a lot of time and energy "defending" our right to share that title ... and to mean it.

What I've come to realize, though, is that with this nearly single-minded focus I have lost sight of my own role as this congregation's Lead Minister. Yes ... your ministries are no less important and no more real than mine, yet mine is no less important than yours. Lay ministry and ordained ministry are not more nor less important than each other, yet neither are they the same. I come back to this church year once again committed to answering my own deep call which, in many ways, I have only just begun to hear clearly once again.

TJMC is full of some truly wonderful people -- strong, gifted, funny, smart, dedicated people -- and we are doing some really important things here. As your Lead Minister it is my role to help make and deepen connections between and among you, and between our congregation and the wider community. This calls on me to "show up" in ways that I haven't been, yet which I find a renewed energy for doing. It is not enough for me to affirm you as you discover, develop, and deepen your ministries in the world. My ministry includes taking an active role in supporting, nurturing, and offering you guidance as well.

I have often said that the ordained minister should not be the "captain of the ship" but, rather, its "navigator" -- helping the congregation get to the destination it has chosen for itself. I still believe this, yet I now see again that when the navigator is passive the ship is imperilled. I have studied the ancient charts, if you will, and have an understanding of how their wisdom might be of service to us. I have been taught how to read the signs of the sun and the sky, if you will, so I have an idea of how the currents are running today and what kind of "weather" we might encounter. Perhaps most significantly, I have the time to contemplate these things and to try to make sense of them. A "Lead Minister" should lead -- not demand, not dictate, yet the approach of "leading from behind," which I am inclined toward, still calls for leadership.

This looks to be a year of resurrection and rebirth. That means it will be a year of "letting go" as well. I need to be willing to let go of the patterns and habits I've developed which have obscured my original call. I have to let go of my own guilt and shame, to wipe clean my life's "sands of forgiveness and atonement." I must be able to let go of my own belief that how I've done things before is how I should do things now and, instead, be open to discovering something new. This won't always be easy of course, but it certainly does feel exciting!

If I am to succeed, however, it will need to be a year of letting go and of discovery for you, as well. Just as I have, over the decades, developed a pattern, a "way" of being a minister, so, too, over the past four years you have developed a "way" of seeing me. Some of you have seen me in a bright light while others see me through a dark cloud. Most of you are no doubt somewhere in between. I am hoping that you will be willing to try to let go of your picture of who (and how) I've been so that we might discover together who I am now and who I am becoming and what this means for our mutual ministry.

If we can each do this for one another, I feel certain that this year will see us actively, collaboratively, and creatively deepening our mutual ministries in and through this beloved community.

Pax tecum,
RevWik

October Bulletin President's Column

By Laura Horn

As I write this, your Board of Trustees, along with Erik, Leia and Christina, have just emerged from a Saturday retreat, setting about the work of helping to lead and govern our church, as we all agreed to do. This year's work involves a special challenge and promise, and I now bring that work to you in this shared, sacred space.

[As preface, let me acknowledge the unusual nature of this conversation. If you are from my management tradition, you favor praise in public and correction in private. Instead, I am about to place a performance issue in our public square. I mean to do so in a way that honors our shared UU principles, values and covenants. I mean to do so in a way that honors the truth and transparency you expect from me and from your board. I mean to do so in a way that honors and supports the talented, gifted, honorable minister that our church called with such joy.]

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So for the good of our beloved church, we are undergoing a year of transformation in the way the role of the lead minister is fulfilled. We have engaged a consultant from the UUA who is practiced and accomplished at guiding this kind of restorative work. (Our annual gifts to the UUA entitle us to these services without cost to us, except for travel expenses.)

You might wonder why we need an outsider to help us. What I saw is that our best leaders—people far more suited to the task than I--have done their best to address the issues and still we felt we had to and could do so much better. I came to this office with no illusion that I would be more adept, artful and successful. I came with no illusion that we could all keep doing what we had been doing, with the same systems and habits and approaches, and get the kind of change we imagine can be ours. I am grateful for the UUA's promise of guidance.

I am grateful too for the grace, leadership, radical honesty, and promise of resurrection that our minister has brought to us. It has been liberating. It makes our goals possible; our work, exciting. In retreat together, your board and church leadership team practiced the spirit-lifting work of speaking directly and truthfully to each other, acknowledging disappointments and betrayals, and working to rebuild our deep and strong connections.

So as we do the work you normally expect of us, we'll be doing this work too, because the world needs what we have at this church.

Board Biographies for October:



Breck Gastinger, At-large

Serving this community over the past year as an at-large member of the board has been a fulfilling experience. My wife Lara and I have been members of the church since 2001 and continue to enjoy the incredible community and spiritual sustenance to be found here at TJMC. As long-time volunteers in the RE program and later as parents ourselves we also know the importance of supporting the next generation.

Over the past couple of years I've been active in the preparation and implementation of the Strategic Plan. One of my responsibilities on the Board is to review progress, suggest changes, and to help report to the Board and congregation.

My experience professionally in architecture and landscape has been useful as a member of the Facilities Task Force in our work on Summit House and the Lower Hall. It will be an exciting year at TJMC as these projects are completed and can be enjoyed by all! Please feel free to talk to

me more about anything that might be on your mind to help us further strengthen this community.



Ann Salamini, Secretary

I moved to Charlottesville to pursue a career in clock restoration in 1981. When I found TJMC a year or two later, I knew for sure that Charlottesville could be my home. Much of my personal development is directly related to experiences within this community: Undoing Racism, Welcoming Congregation Task Force, covenant groups, Ministerial Search Committee, Women's Retreat, Committee on Ministry, the Board of Trustees. I love the "democracy in action" aspect of our work together, each voice adding to the shape of our considerations. As Board secretary, I try to capture the discussions which lead up to Board decisions. It is very satisfying work for me.

What Does It Mean To Be a Person of Letting Go? By RevWik

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As always, don't treat these questions like "homework." Instead, simply pick the one that "hooks" you most and let it lead you where you need to go.

1. Are you living in (and holding on to) a story about yourself that isn't letting you grow?
2. Are you looking at (and holding on to) a story about others that isn't letting them grow? A story that is blinding you to the wholeness and complexity of who they really are? That is putting them in a box that they don't deserve? That is putting up an unnecessary wall between you and them?
3. Are you allowing yourself to be dragged? One of our Soul Matters participants writes, *"It took me 10 years of repression and 2 years of rumination before I forgave my ex-husband as a gift to myself for my birthday this year, and when I did, I realized how much lighter I felt. ... I'm now exercising my "forgiveness muscle"... because letting go feels so much better than being dragged."* How does your forgiveness muscle need a bit more exercising?
4. Are you writing hurts in stone and kindness in sand? The parable of Mussa and Nagib (that Leia told a few years ago and which gave rise to our Sands of Forgiveness and Atonement) reminds us that when someone hurts us, we should write it in the sand so the winds of forgiveness can blow it away; but when someone is kind to us, we should write it in stone so we will never forget. Do you follow this wisdom or do you have it backwards?
5. Has letting go of "God" numbed you to "the love that never lets us go?"
6. Do you judge or celebrate those who have let go of God? Has your holding on to God led you to honor or look down upon those who have let God go?
7. Is doing your duty driving you farther and farther from yourself?
8. Is staying in control controlling you? Is it time to let go of always being in charge?
9. Is trying to look a certain way stopping you from seeing yourself?
10. Are you ready to forgive yourself? Sometimes the kind of mercy most needed is mercy for oneself. Is it time to let go of being so hard on yourself?
11. What's your question? Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it.

From the Committee on the Ministry – October 2015

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In general it is always best to bring your feedback directly to the person or committee it involves – direct, personal contact is almost always the healthiest way of addressing any issue, and the one most in keeping with our covenant. When you want to bring your comments to the CoM, however, we are always available to you. For the 2015-2016 church year our Committee on the Ministry consists of Doug Webbink, Ruth Douglas, Katharine Maus, Lisa Shutt, Beth Jaeger-Landis, and Cathey Polly. You can speak to any of us when you see us, and you can also reach us all via CoM@uucharlottesville.org. (RevWik is an ex officio member of the Committee but does not receive email that goes to that address.)

"This Lively Community: Finding your Kin"

By Tyler Rines, Leadership Development Committee

Fall is the time when the humidity lifts, the air cools, and we come back to church with renewed energy after our summer travels. We introduce new themes for worship and religious education, we set new goals for our committee work, and we bring back to community the new ideas we've encountered along our way. We reconnect with old friends, and we reach out to new ones.

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Many of TJMC's committees, councils, and groups will be at church to showcase what they have to offer and hope to accomplish this year -- making this event an ideal time for you to explore how you want to structure your church year for personal growth, connection, service, and involvement.

Explore answers to questions like: What is really going on here? What are we doing well, and what initiatives need new energy (or maybe to be tabled for a while)? What does it take to keep the church running? Where are the opportunities to connect with other people, to reach out to our wider community, to live our church mission? What are the opportunities that speak the loudest to you?

The event will kick off with a continental breakfast beginning at 8:30 AM and opening words from RevWik at 9:00 AM, so plan on arriving a little early if you can. We'll also give you a taco lunch featuring a presentation by RevWik entitled "Soul Matters," a lively question and answer session with Board Vice President, Sally Taylor, and all the food for thought you can cram into four hours. Oh, and did we say door prizes?

An E-Vite went out recently requesting an RSVP (and asking if you will need child care for kids 6 and under) by October 5. For more information about the workshop, contact LDC Chair Bob Brett (leadership@uucharlotteville.org) and see information on our website at: <http://www.uucharlotteville.org/announcements/this-lively-community>

Hope to see you there!

It's Five O'Clock...right here! A new Sunday evening worship option **by RevWik**

Over the past few years I have detected through surveys as well as discussions via email and facebook that some of you are looking for a different kind of worship experience. Nothing against what happens in the sanctuary every Sunday morning. Many people are well-served spiritually there and we work hard to make those services as heart-touching and thought-provoking as possible. That said, some people have expressed an interest in other options at other times.

Working with Worship Weaver emeritus, Mike Ludwick, we have developed a concept for a once-a-month 5pm Sunday service we're calling a "Sundown Celebration." It would occur every 3rd Sunday at 5pm in the sanctuary starting in October. Like our Sunday morning services, the time together will be spent celebrating the fact that we are here, alive on this earth, with our joys and sorrows, trying to make our way the best we can, yet standing together to help each other and help improve the world. The difference is that the format of the "Sundown Celebration" will be more flexible and experimental than our typical Sunday morning service. The music will likely be guitar-centered folk/rock. There will likely be no hard copy order of services; all information needed to participate in the Celebration will be projected. There will likely be a time of silence for meditation or prayer or whatever you want to call it. Since the overall idea is to create a Beloved Community, the sharing of Joys and Sorrows will likely be included so that we can rejoice with and support one another. It will likely be led by lay "weavers" and not necessarily the worship weavers from Sunday morning. Other aspects of our morning service may or may not be present. I've used the word "likely" purposefully because innovation requires flexibility and we don't want to lock anything down just yet... probably ever, actually. Perhaps there will be food and time for fellowship afterward. There are so many ways this Sundown Celebration can be implemented that it invigorates and boggles my mind!

What I can say is that we will deliberately not be using language to describe ourselves as "Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church" or "TJMC". We will simply be a "Beloved Community of spiritual seekers who choose to affirm the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, gathered in Charlottesville." No "TJ" and no "C". Some people want to "try on" this type of language and see if it works, see how it feels. I say it's worth a try, too.

Mike Ludwick will be providing more information about the logistics of this Celebration in this bulletin and in other media. He will be looking for people to help with music and other aspects of the Celebration, so please be on the look-out for his appeals.

UUA President Peter Morales recently noted that "there is a huge spiritual hunger, and that millions upon millions of unaffiliated people constitute a breathtaking opportunity." He challenged us by saying, "In order to seize this historic opportunity, we are going to have to innovate and try a number of ideas. When we try a number of ideas, many will fail. Probably most of them will. The important thing is to learn from our little failures in order to build toward a huge success."

This "Sundown Celebration" may work well. It may not work well. Some people may like it. Some people may not. I ask for your patience and to allow us to fail and learn, tweak or overhaul. Morales encouraged us to "Release preconceptions. Play. Be bold and passionate....What amazing possibilities lay before us. Let's fail joyfully together. If we do, we will build the foundations for spectacular success." May it be so.

Sundown Celebration

by Mike Ludwick

The idea of a Sunday evening Celebration takes me back to my roots. As a college student, I was part of a group that played at the Sunday evening Catholic Campus Ministry Mass. We were a disparate band of guitarists, instrumentalists and singers who energetically, joyfully, and far from perfectly, led the musical portion of the services. Those evening services were a time when students and the wider community came together and generated a warmth that I'll never forget. As such, this Celebration is not targeted at any particular demographic. Everyone is welcome, and if you attend and think it worthwhile, I hope you'll consider inviting your friends to discover or rediscover what Unitarian Universalism can sound like and feel like.

Some religious communities have a set "house band". That's not what I have in mind, at least not for now. My vision is for a "Plastic UU Band" (a play on John Lennon's "Plastic Ono Band")—one in which people flow in and out as they are able. I'm looking for musicians and singers of all sorts to come together and create an organic synergy. I want to create an open space and see what happens. The theme for the month of October is "Letting Go," a perfect time to think about what it would mean to "let go" of some of the ways we do "worship" and try some new ideas, as well as ideas that are just new to us but others have done elsewhere.

To this end, I am looking for people interested in helping with such a Celebration. We are trying to keep things simple, but with more help, of course, we can do more. My main focus initially is to form this "Plastic UU Band" that can provide music for the Sundown Celebrations. We will gather in the sanctuary on Tuesday 10/6 and 10/13 at 7pm to play music and sing songs in preparation for the 10/18 Celebration. If you want to give it a try, just show up. No experience necessary. If anyone feels moved to be part of this ministry as a greeter or usher or food provider, please let me know at mikeludwick13@gmail.com or 757-719-5138.

I look forward to celebrating with you and helping to expand our Beloved Community in ways we haven't even yet imagined.

Excitedly yours,
Mike

TJMCUU Food Pantry – by Elizabeth Breeden

The Food Pantry at TJMC has given out between two and three tons of food each **first Friday of the month** this year to folks who realize they will not make it without a little help. On the first Friday about 20 church volunteers, along with the help from the people who have arrived to receive food, unload the truck from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and distribute the cases into bags. An average of 143 people receive food (46 of them children.)

The core of the food is USDA cans and packages but we usually also have fresh vegetables both from USDA and farmers' gleanings like potatoes, carrots, onions, cabbages and last month, radishes. We also buy food from the Food Bank, that has been donated by producers or the public, for 11 cents a pound (considered the processing cost by the Food Bank). We also will get milk and frozen chicken or blueberries. We think of this as "pantry food" or supplements to groceries that tide our folks over: security.

Because we encourage our clients to participate in the work, we feel we are building relationships and opening ourselves to knowing the larger neighborhood where we live. Giving away food is not fixing anything but we haven't imagined not doing it. The church is our only source of income for this work (we are budgeting ourselves \$250/month). If you would like to help please contact Lois Brown, Edith Good, Rosalie Simari, Carol Saliba or Elizabeth Breeden brs@cstone.net . We appreciate your continued generosity to those in need.

October Art Show: Romney Brand

I have painted since I was a child. My Grandmother, Francis Brand, helped teach me. I work with visual pathways which are sub-patterns of the painting directing the viewer's attention. I love paint strokes with multiple colors. I combine colors on the brush both along the width of the brush and layers of paint. This gives a sculptural feel to the work. My family attended TJMC-UU more than 50 years ago, before I was born and for many years after.

Romney Brand
434-979-1476

With special thanks to MS. Elizabeth Breeden and to you all for the opportunity to show my art.

IMPACT Will Tackle Substance Abuse Again in 2016 and Choose A Second Issue in October. Help Us Decide.

By Sarah Peaslee

The tenth IMPACT year is off to a great start at TJMC. I am excited to be working with Charlottesville's interfaith, multi-congregational, social justice organizing group again this year, and particularly excited to be working for solutions to a justice issue that is so important to me personally.

We now have a Team of Leaders who may be inviting you to their Listening Groups or just a 1-1 talk. Leaders are Sarah Peaslee, Beth Jaeger-Landis, Renee Brett, Greta Dersheimer, Sallie Kate Park, and Mark Goldberg. In these Listening Groups and 1-1's we want to hear from you about the personal and community-wide social justice issues that affect you, your friends, and your family.

This year, IMPACT will be advocating for two social justice issues. First, we will continue working on last year's plan to create a local residential substance abuse treatment program. This plan has some support from the City and County Governments and is Region Ten's #1 Priority. With community support from IMPACT, this plan can become a reality.

Second, we will choose a new issue based on the concerns that are raised in the Listening Groups being held in all 26 churches that are a part of IMPACT this year. Your concern could become the social justice goal for the Nehemiah Action next spring where we urge community leaders to take action for justice in our community.

All the concerns that our TJMC team leaders hear from their listening groups and conversations with members of the congregation will be passed on (anonymously) to the IMPACT leaders in the first week of October. We need to hear from as many people at TJMC as possible before then.

On Oct. 12, the Team Leaders from all the 26 churches will meet to discuss and vote on all the issues and to pick the top three. These will be presented to all those interested in IMPACT at a meeting on Oct. 26th at 6:30 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. After that, we vote to choose a new issue for 2016.

If you're not invited to a listening group or 1-1 with these Team Leaders, feel free to approach them about your local justice concerns and to find out about becoming a Network Member who supports this cause by bringing three people to join in the Nehemiah Action.