Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist
717 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-8179 * www.uucharlottesville.org
Office hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 1 pm

OUR COVENANT: In order to create the beloved community we all desire for ourselves, we, the Congregation of TJMC Unitarian Universalist covenant to:

- Communicate with compassion and respect, especially when we disagree
- Celebrate diversity and nurture our inclusivity,
- Embrace one another spiritually and emotionally,
- Promote social justice within our congregation and the larger community,
- Generously support the ministries of the church with time, money and enthusiasm, and
- When we have fallen short, lovingly call each other back into covenant.

GETTING STARTED AT TJMC-UU
1. Make Contact. Visit the Greeters in the foyer before our services, and visit our Connections Table in the Social Hall after the services. Let us help you meet someone else.
2. Try us out. Come to several Sunday services and stay for refreshments in the Social Hall; attend a smaller-group event; have a conversation with our minister. Get to know someone!
3. Come to an Orientation. Next Newcomers Orientation is January 31. Sign-up at the Connections Table or contact Jean Newland at jeannewland45@gmail.com.
4. Join us, become a member! If you have been visiting for a while and feel you have found a church home, stop by the Connections Table in the Social Hall after the service or contact one of our Ministers.

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THE GIVING TREE
December 13, 2015
9:15 & 11:15 A.M.
If you have a gift for the Giving Tree, please place at the base of the tree before the service begins.

SOUNDING THE CHIME

WORDS OF WELCOME
Whoever you are
Whomever you love
However you express your identity;
Whatever your situation in life
Whatever your experience of the holy –
Your presence here is a gift.
Whether you are filled with sadness,
overflowing with joy
needing to be alone with yourself
or eager to engage with others
you have a place here.
All are welcome here

LIGHTING THE CHALICE
We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian Universalism –
This is the church of the open mind;
This is the church of the helping hands;
This is the church of the loving heart.

PRELUDE: “Guiding Star”

A STORY FOR ALL

OPENING SONG: “Magic Penny” by Malvina Reynolds
Chorus: Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away …
Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.

1: Love is like a magic penny, hold on tight and you won’t have any,
But lend it, spend it, and you’ll have so many, they’ll roll all over the floor.

2: So let’s go dancing till the break of day, and if there’s a piper, we can pay.
For love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR: (11:15 only)
“Light These Lights,” by Debbie Friedman
“Santa Claus is Coming to Town” by Gillespie and Coots

ADULT CHOIR: “African Noel”

REFLECTIONS

CANDLES OF HOPE & REMEMBRANCE

CELEBRATING OUR GIVING TREE

SONG: O Christmas Tree
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree, / How lovely are your branches! (2x)
In beauty green will always grow / Through summer sun and winter snow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, / How lovely are your branches!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, / What happiness befalls me (2x)
When oft at joyous Christmas-time / Your form inspires my song and rhyme.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, What happiness befalls me

BLESSING OUR GIVING TREE

SONG: O Christmas Tree
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree, / Your beauty green will teach me (2x)
That hope and love will ever be / The way to joy and peace for me.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree, / Your beauty green will teach me.

CLOSING WORDS & POSTLUDE

9:15 AM Ushers: George Maris
1:15 AM Ushers: Dick Somer and Gloria Morgan

Thanks to Scott DeVeaux, Leia Durland-Jones, Wik Wikstrom, the TJMC Adult and Children’s Choirs, and guest drummer Darrell Rose or facilitating this morning’s worship.
Today

The Young Adults - The group is generally people aged 18-35 who share in social gatherings and programming to support spiritual practice and social justice values. Most Sundays after the second service we share lunch outside on the labyrinth or in Summit 1 or 3, depending on weather. If you have questions about the Young Adult program, contact Rev. Alex McGee, ma@uucharlottesville.org.

Today is last chance for special orders for Scrip for the Holidays: Support TJMC by using Scrip GiftCards for all your holiday purchases. We have a variety of small denomination cards suitable for personal gift giving plus Giving Tree and Discretionary Fund donations at the scrip table this month. Check out shopwithscrip.com to view a list of hundreds of participating retailers.

Today, UU Fellowship, 10am, Summit 1. "Extra-terrestrial Jesus" will be the subject of our gathering, to be led by Lou Centore. Remember that the "CP" in UUCE also means "Cred-Pfree." No particular beliefs about Jesus are required. All are welcome! Email uucfe@uucharlottesville.org with any questions.

Today, Nature Spirit, 1 PM, Summit 2. Yule Offering and Spiral Walk. Please join Nature Spirit for an experiential Yule celebration for all ages, facilitated by Dan Spitzner. The program will explore spiritual traditions associated with solstice and the ancient Yule holiday. Have you ever left out treats for a "jolly old elf?" If so, then you have participated in a very old tradition. Participants will explore offering by making "meal plates" for nature, and placing them after traversing an indoor spiral walk, in moving meditation. Following that we will engage in the very traditional Yule activity of feasting. Volunteer help is requested to read, play music, or guide participants through the spiral walk. Lunch will be provided, and will include vegan and gluten-free options. Potluck contributions are welcome, but not required. RSVP is requested, but not required. To contact Nature Spirit, please email naturespirit@uucharlottesville.org.

This Week

UUppities – 7 pm in the Church Parlor, December 15 Cookie exchange – please bring however many cookies you want to exchange in plastic bags of six. Bring an extra six for us to sample. If you have time to type our recipe, that would be great. Questions? Call Donna Baker at 434-971-1171 or Gayle Floyd at 434-409-5607.

Wednesday Worship, 11:45-12:30 PM, outdoor labyrinth and sanctuary, led by Maggie Ober. This service is an opportunity for contemplation with a variety of materials and readings available. You are invited to walk the labyrinth and/or spend time in the sanctuary reading, writing, praying, lighting candles or writing in the sands of atonement and forgiveness. All are welcome. For more information, speak with Leia (Leia@uucharlottesville.org) or 293-8179 ext. 3# or Cindy Mick or Maggie Ober.

Wednesday Wonderings, from 12:15-1:15 PM, Summit 1. Join us for thoughtful readings and discussions in an open-minded and open-hearted atmosphere. We plan to read some sermons from Tony Perrino's book "Holyquest" as well as passages from the UU World magazine and other sources. Take a mid-week break to feed your mind and spirit.

2016 Attraction Coupon Books Available Today in the Social Hall! Support our youth's service trip to Appalachia in June. Attraction Guides are $25 and they make great holiday gifts!
Next Sunday December 20: Special Holiday Feast Food Collection for members of our congregation whose finances are stretched thin this holiday season. Please bring perishable and non-perishable fruits, vegetables and holiday foods and place them on the altar and chancel at the start of the service. Anyone who would like to create a holiday food basket to take home is invited to stay after the second service and choose the foods you would like to have. Questions? Speak with Leia Durland Jones (293-8179 or leia@uucharlottesville.org)

Save the Date

December 20 in Summit 2: Would you like to hear what happened in the most recent board meeting? Or direct the board's attention to an issue? This is for you! A couple of our board members will be available the Sunday following the board meeting (third Wednesdays,) Stop in for a visit, please after the second service.

Christmas Eve Interactive Nativity December 24, 4:30 PM in the sanctuary, potluck cookie reception immediately following! Help is needed with this fun and very special worship service! We need greeters and ushers for the service. If your family would like to play the part of "The Holy Family," please contact Leia no later than Wednesday December 16.

Please join us on New Year's Eve for a walk on the labyrinth, with live music by Suzanne Morris and Blue O'Connell. The labyrinth will be available in the Social Hall for walking from 5-7 p.m., and the Sanctuary will be open for quiet reflection. Walking the labyrinth is a lovely way to end one year and begin the New Year, with an opportunity for contemplation and beautiful music, all within our beloved community, with an open invitation to all to join us.

PACEM Shelter for Women-January 30-February 5. Please sign up for our communal effort to host our guests from PACEM overnight for a week. Sign-up sheets are in the Social Hall after each service this month. Jobs range from providing food, to hosting dinner in the Social Hall, to spending the night – Two work parties are scheduled to make minor repairs, and to clean and paint in both of our church buildings. SAVE THE DATES!! Saturday, Jan. 9th and Saturday, Jan. 23rd from 9:30 am-3:30 pm, lunch provided. Come for an hour or the entire day. Bring your own tools and cleaning materials or use ours. No skills necessary–but let us know if you have them! Kids 6 and up welcomed as workers too. It is YOUR church and we need YOUR help to make the buildings safer and cleaner.

January 10 in the Church Parlor there will be a Congregational Conversation to discuss the Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan proposed by our Staff. A link to an electronic copy of this plan can be found in the November Monthly Bulletin and hard copies are available in the church office. Please bring your comments and suggestions to one of these discussions.

Save the date: TJMC UU’s seventh annual Women’s Dream Quest will be held Friday evening February 26 & Saturday February 27, 2016. Contact Leia at leia@uucharlottesville.org or 293-8179 for more information. Registration coming soon! Space is limited – early registration encouraged!

FYI

Connie Cheetham Award: We are extending the deadline for nominations for the Connie Cheetham award until December 31. This is an honor bestowed on a volunteer from our congregation who has offered distinguished service to the work of the church in one or more areas of church life. More than one individual can be nominated to jointly receive the award (usually, but not necessarily, as a couple). This is a lifetime achievement award and nominees must be church member for a minimum of seven (7) years. Please include a description of the contributions of your nominee and email it to ccheethamaward@uucharlottesville.org or put a written description in the Board Secretary’s mailbox. Our past recipients are not eligible and include the following: Connie Cheetham, Ed Jones, Bonnie Sheppard and Bill Spurgin, Carolyn Silver, Al Reynolds, Edith Good, Waverly Parker, Christa Pierpont, Dell and Tony Smith, Kay and Sandy Peaslee, Phyllis and Gordon McKeeman, Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Margaret Jones, Ruth Nelson, Elizabeth Breeden, Trudy Rohn, Dick and Grezta Dershimer, Sally Taylor, Virginia James, Ruth Douglas, Josie Pipkin, Bob Gross and Jean Shepard, Pam McIntyre, and Shirley Paul.

Would you like to provide the altar decorations on Sunday to mark a special occasion or to honor someone or just to help create beauty in our sanctuary? Contact Leia Durland-Jones (leia@uucharlottesville.org) or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Are you looking for a way to serve in the church community but your schedule is unpredictable? Please volunteer for CareNet. You will receive emails letting you know when we need food for someone who is going through an illness or emergency. Then you can sign up to help for that occasion. Sign up by writing: carenet@uucharlottesville.org. (Submitted by Rev. Alex McGee)

Christmas Eve Services: 4:30pm – Christmas Pageant service; 7:00pm - UUCF Communion Service, 8:00pm - Readings, carols and candle-lighting service.

Please note: there will no child care during the worship service on Sunday December 27—and one service only at 10 AM.