

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

May 2017

2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080
3/4 miles south of State Road 312

Additional parking is available at St. Augustine Beach City Hall,
two blocks north of the Fellowship

uufsamail@gmail.com <http://www.uufsa.org/>

Fellowship services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m., September through June.

A program for youth is provided at 10:30 a.m.

Refreshments are served after the service so all may socialize.

Audio transcripts of most presentations are available online at

<http://www.uufsa.org/2016-2017-sunday-services.html>

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The **Quest** is published monthly from September through July.

Materials for the June issue are due by May 19.

Don Brandes, Editor e-mail: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlie West and Rosi Angeli for proofreading.

From Your President

Namaste my friends!

With another casual flip of the calendar page, we find ourselves in one of my favorite months, May. Just the name alone is full of promise and future orientation. We MAY do this This MAY happen. May is "permission" and "contingency" but it is also "possibility" and "opportunity."

Pulitzer prize winning author and conservationist Edwin Way Teale says, "The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." All one has to do is look around, Nature shows us a world ripe with possibilities.



The April showers have brought the May flowers and we prepare to rush headlong into glorious summer. But stop, take a moment, breathe, look inward, reflect and consider what you want to bloom and bring into fruition in your life. What do you wish to become possible for you? What MAY happen if you set your mind to it? What MAY happen if you don't?

The birds, bees, animals, flowers, plants and trees are all abuzz with activity and life at this time of year. Use their activity to inspire and spur you into flights of imagination, and creativity, and toward pursuing your highest goals. Where MAY you go if you fail to see limitation in your life?

Now, look outward and see the possibilities for our spiritual home. Where are we headed as a covenanting group as we proceed through the year? How MAY we bring our vision to the larger community and the world at large? What MAY we accomplish if we reason and work together? Anything is possible, given enough passion and commitment. Ralph Waldo Emerson noted, "What potent blood hath modest May."

Whether as an individual or as a member of our fellowship, it begins with you. What seed MAY you wish to plant in this fertile ground?

And as I always do, I will use MAY once again, as a wish or a prayer, as I say again~

May you never thirst!
Robin Mahonen, President, UUFSA



Robin welcomes direct communication from any congregation members for feedback and other concerns. If you can't speak with her in person at the fellowship, please feel free to call her at (304) 639-5538 or email her at RRafael2@aol.com.

From Your Minister

This month, members will decide if professional ministry has a future here at UUFSA and will vote on a new mission statement. I am pleased so many people were able to participate in the many conversations about the future of ministry here at UUFSA. Because the decision to move forward with ministry is also a commitment to support it financially, the Board is seeking an 80% approval in order to move forward with ministry past next year. Regardless of what happens, of course, I will be here through next June to help us fulfill our mission in the world. The nature of that mission is also up for your vote on May 7. The new and succinct mission statement was crafted from the values and ideas expressed at our Mission/Vision Workshop earlier this year. The new mission statement, "A spiritual home to serve and enrich the lives of all beings," is a summation of everything Unitarian Universalism is and hopes to be. Because a mission statement serves as the lens through which decisions are made, clarity and a challenge are important elements to consider. The lack of clarity can create confusion and the lack of a challenge can create complacency, both of which can lead to stagnation.



Mission statements and ministers can be helpful factors if the goal is to create a vibrant and inclusive spiritual community but they are not sufficient. The health and vitality of congregation like ours is most influenced by the organizational culture. Our culture, more than our mission or minister, is the determining factor for growth and inclusivity. To become an official "Welcoming Congregation" then, we will expose all the invisible ways we may not be as inclusive to the LGBTQI community as we would like to be. Culture is the proverbial water in which we all swim and so cannot readily perceive. Programs like Welcoming Congregation help us to see what is otherwise invisible and so begin to change them.

A healthy and vital congregation is willing to look at all aspects of its culture to remove any and all blocks to achieve its stated mission and vision. For example, what is our culture around money and giving? As this is also the time of our annual Stewardship drive, it is an important question to be asking. What are our hidden assumptions and biases around the financial health of our congregation? For that matter, what are our personal assumptions and biases about finances? How we choose to spend our money is an expression of values and beliefs, so if we feel the Fellowship is a vital part of life, is that feeling expressed by our giving?

Another invisible aspect of church life includes racial and cultural biases. This notion has come to light recently within the larger Unitarian Universalist movement and we are being asked by Black Lives of UU (BLUU) to look at this important part of our culture and address all the ways we do not live up to our expectations. I will not go into full detail of all that has happened in the past month except to say that Rev. Peter Morales has resigned as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) over issues of hiring practices that clearly result in a culture of white supremacy. I use this term intentionally here because it is the term being used by BLUU and others to describe the culture of Unitarian Universalism. I will be talking about this in more depth in my talk on May 21 as part of *Teach-In* being encouraged by BLUU.

In the meantime, I strongly encourage everyone to explore the issues more completely at the BLUU website, www.blacklivesuu.com/teachin/ and attend the discussions on May 10 and 17 that will inform the May 21 service..

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Rev. Thomas Schmidt

Phone: 432-559-2411

E-mail: uurev@icloud.com

Office Hours

Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

By appointment anytime.

Sunday, May 7, 10:30 a.m.
“Unto the Church Universal”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader – Megan Porter

Our Fellowship is one of over 1000 congregations that are the heart of Unitarian Universalism. Unitarian Universalism is one religion among many, each an expression of the Church Universal, depositories “of all ancient wisdom, and the school of all modern thought.” Let us explore our shared membership in the “Church Universal” as we welcome new members into our Fellowship.

Sunday, May 14, 10:30 a.m.
“A Moving Medley of Meaningful Musical Messages”
Mike Campbell

Service Leader – Robin Mahonen

Chalice lighters – The Rutland Family: Jessie, Larry, Teddy and Marlow

This I believe by Tom May



Singer/songwriter and storyteller Mike Campbell will deliver this alliterative message as we explore our “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality. As UUs, we draw from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. Some of our most profound spiritual and emotional experiences are delivered to us not from the pulpit but from the singer songwriters and poets of our generation.

Mike Campbell is a prolific song writer and story teller who has performed at festivals across the USA and in Great Britain. For the past 20+ years he has been singing and writing songs about Alaska, earthquakes, seafaring, family, beer, fishing and life. His songs are humorous, witty, sorrowful, historic, thoughtful and above all entertaining. His original songs draw from his life, his family and his Celtic heritage. Mike is a familiar figure at festivals around the State of Florida and is best known for his humorous songs and his deep, bass-baritone voice. He has four CD recordings of his original songs, many of which have been sung and recorded by other artists. One of Mike's songs, Salmon Love, was used in a PBS documentary on the life cycle of Pacific Salmon. Even though his CDs have received high acclaim, the best way to experience this great performer is at one of his live shows. In 2010, Mike retired and moved to southwest Florida where he regularly performs at open mics, song circles and music festivals.

More information is available on his website:

<http://www.arctic.net/~mooseman>

Sunday, May 21, 10:30 a.m.
“The Limits of Tolerance”
Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader – Palmer Short
There will be a children and youth food collection.

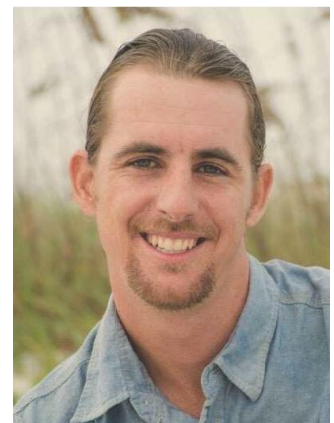
People of color within Unitarian Universalism have been very tolerant of the culture of white supremacy that persists in our movement. Such tolerance, however, comes with limits and it seems that we have reached that breaking point. As part of #UUWhiteSupremacyTeachIn we will explore the issues facing us and how we might choose to move forward. Everyone is strongly encouraged to visit www.blacklivesuu.com/teachin/ to learn more about the issues currently facing our movement.



Sunday, May 28, 10:30 a.m.
“The Ripple Effect of Our Daily Existence”
Adam Morley

Service Leader – Robin Mahonen

Adam Morley is a U.S Coast Guard Licensed Master Captain and Environmental Educator with St. Augustine Eco Tours, Founder of ANJ Recycling Service, a part-time dance instructor and a full time dad to his son Elon (who was named after Elon Musk of Tesla and Space-X). Adam has been recognized by the Public Trust as one of Northeast Florida’s Next Generation of Environmental Leaders and is the recipient of the Florida Wildlife Federation’s “Living Green Award” for 2017. He believes the best example of leadership is leadership by example and it shows in his work and everyday actions as the past president of The Friends of Anastasia State Park, current board member with The Friends of Tomoka Basin State Parks, North Florida Coastal Caretakers where he is the Captain/Chair of the Litter Gitter Committee, and is on the board of The Friends of A1A Scenic and Historic Byway. In his free time he likes to be clever with his ichthyology jokes, he thinks they make him sound “So-fish-ticated”.



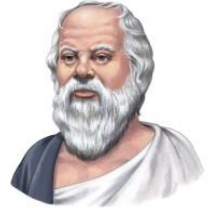
Downstairs Dialogue

“Socrates Café” – Open Discussion

Sunday, May 14, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Downstairs

This month we will again have an open dialogue on topics of the day that interest and concern us. What's going on in religion, politics, economics, security, justice, etc. in the world, nation, state, local community, or even within our own congregation? Would an open-minded sharing and discussion among thoughtful UUs in our traditional safe space be of interest? Maybe even come up with some ideas to make things better? We think so!

We will decide what topic(s) to discuss using the Socrates Café method used successfully at our local Council on Aging and in similar groups all over the world. At the beginning of the session, each attendee will suggest a topic, and we will “vote” on which one(s) to discuss. Topics should be of general interest. And since we are a religious institution, topics would typically have some connection to our UU Principles. Discussion led by Charlie West.



So bring your favorite issue or question and come join us at 9:15am on Sunday, May 14, downstairs.

Meanwhile, we are always soliciting new ideas for our Adult Learning program here at UUFSA. What would be a good topic for a new multi-session course that would attract a following? What smaller topics would make for a good one-hour discussion at a Downstairs Dialogue? Any ideas on interesting presenters we might invite? Contact me by email (westjrcw@gmail.com) or phone call (904-471-0335) with your ideas.

Charlie West

Great Decisions

Monday May 1, 7:00 p.m.

"US – Saudi Relations: Saudi Arabia in Transition"

As Saudi Arabia struggles to adjust to the drastic decline in oil revenue, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman attempts to boldly transform the country and shift more power to the younger generation. At the same time, many countries such as the U.S. point out the lack of democracy, women's rights and human rights in Saudi Arabia, and blame its promotion of Wahhabism, an extremely conservative version of Islam, for creating jihadists. Bipartisan criticism of Saudi Arabia is rising in Congress. Both countries need each other, but they are at a crossroads in bilateral relations.



Read background GD article at <http://bit.ly/2kAdFRL>

For more information, contact Yosi at yosi@acrossthestraits.com or (904) 461 3175.

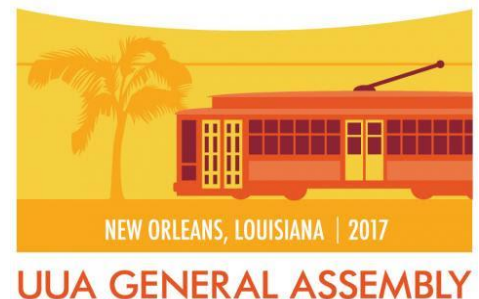
Deepening your Faith (and having fun!): UUA General Assembly

If you would like to discover what it's like to be in a room with 4,000 other UUs, you can do it! The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly is being held in New Orleans this year (June 21-25). If you've never been, it's a not-to-be forgotten experience as you decide what workshops, among many to attend, with inspiring services, music, and keynote speakers. Check it out at <http://www.uua.org/ga>. If you are a leader or an aspiring leader who has been participating in our fellowship's teams, you may be eligible to have your Registration fee (about \$350) covered. Contact Nana Royer (nana@nrpd.net) for an application form. The sooner the better as the Board will be making decisions soon.

In addition, if you would like to attend other conferences, you need only apply to have your registration covered. Think about moving beyond the confines of our fellowship to discover what life is like in the greater UU world!

Robin Mahonen

Resist and Rejoice at General Assembly 2017 June 21-25, 2017 New Orleans, Louisiana

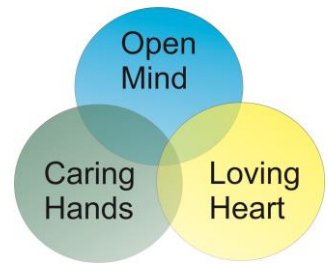


[Registration](#) and [housing reservations](#) for the 2017 UUA General Assembly in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 21-25, are now open! General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the UUA, where attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. This year's theme of GA "Resist and Rejoice!" will awaken and deepen the commitment of Unitarian Universalists to the power and possibility of working in solidarity with those on the margins. Highlights include the 2017 Ware Lecture from Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of Just Mercy, and the UUA presidential election. [Learn more and register today!](#) You'll find additional helpful planning information for your General Assembly experience in the [March 2017 UU Bulletin!](#)

Democracy is a core value of our faith. In June, delegates will vote for our next UUA President and open Board and Committee positions. Delegates may vote at General Assembly or absentee. Learn more about the many opportunities to become familiar with all three UUA presidential candidates *and* review important information about the voting process [here](#) (a one page PDF) and [here](#) (UUA website).

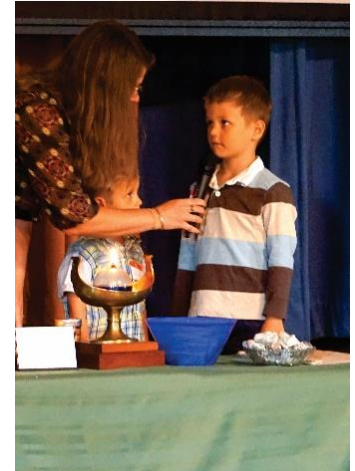
Members of UUFSA who are interested in serving as delegates for our congregation should contact Robin Mahonen, president. Some funding of registration expenses is available.

Programs for Children and Youth



It is SPRING and our children are certainly busy enjoying the season. Anya, Arbor and Rio Dowey-Blank were our family chalice lighters this month.

In their classes, our children developed their own ideas about what a hero is and made their own Hero's Shields! With guidance and plants provided by Jessie Rutland, our children planted a butterfly garden in the UUFSA's backyard, and it didn't take long for the butterflies to find it. Thank-you Jessie! The timing was perfect for Nana Royer's up-coming visit to our children (May 7) when she will introduce them to the life cycle of butterflies. There are butterflies developing at the UUFSA as this up-date is being written! On Easter Sunday, our children decorated eggs and talked about religions traditions and their sometimes very complicated histories. They each took home their beautifully decorated eggs in their own Easter basket.



Our children developed their own ideas about what a hero is, then decorated their own hero's shield. Here Rio and Grace show theirs.

A HERO IS:
Kind BRAVE
SAVES PEOPLE
FLIES
SAVES THE WORLD
BRAVE
WORKS TOGETHER
POLITE
TEACHES



*With expertise and plants provided by Jessie Rutland, our children planted a butterfly garden for all to enjoy. The butterflies found it quickly!
April 2017*



Our big news is that the UUFSA Board has approved a request from the team currently coordinating our Programs for Children and Youth to create a paid position for a person to both teach in and coordinate the programs. This is a big step for our Fellowship that demonstrates the commitment our Fellowship has to our children and their families. You will find our call for applications elsewhere in the Quest. We hope you will help identify people whom you think would be a good fit for the position and encourage them to apply.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA) is accepting applications for a Teacher/Coordinator for our Programs for Children and Youth

This position is designed to help expand our on-going Programs for Children and Youth. The Teacher/Coordinator will teach classes and coordinate programs for our children and youth consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles. The position will require 12 hours per week (average), including Sunday mornings, in-office meetings with the minister and one meeting per month with the team supporting our children/youth programs. The appointment will be for 40 weeks/year with a start date of August 1, 2017.

We are seeking someone who has the following qualifications:

- Knowledge of (or is willing to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Advanced computer skills including word processing, data management and social media.
- Experience with planning and implementing programs and activities.
- A valid driver's license.
- Is 21 years of age or older.
- Some knowledge of child development is highly desirable.

Job Summary

The Teacher/Coordinator for Children/Youth Programs will work independently with the support of members of the Children/Youth Program Team and will report directly to the minister. The Teacher/Coordinator will be responsible for planning and implementing programs for our children and youth and will be expected to teach classes on Sunday morning except for one Sunday per month. Program responsibilities will include:

- Curriculum/activity selection, planning and adaptation.
- Materials and space preparation.
- Implementation of UUFSA policies especially related to child safety.
- Coordination and supervision of childcare.
- Coordination of special events involving children.
- Volunteer recruitment and support.
- Regular communication with parents and support for parents.
- Regular communication with the broader Fellowship to inform them of Children/Youth Program activities.
- General administrative tasks including budget development and monitoring and record keeping.

To apply, please submit a cover letter describing why you are interested in this opportunity and any relevant experience. Also include a resume describing your educational background, work experience and contacts for three professional references. Please submit your application via email to Rev. Thomas Schmidt (uurev@icloud.com) with the subject line "Teacher/Coordinator application". All attachments should include the applicant's last name in the file name. The application deadline is June 1.

Food Pantry



As we approach the Annual Meeting, I would like to offer a sincere thank you to the volunteers who work with me at the St. Johns Food Pantry. The following dedicated individuals help to staff the pantry twice monthly. They are: Jill Cerulli, Lou Cerulli, Dave Forrest, Lee Ann Forrest, Chris Fosaaen, Lenny Gemski, Mary Kellough, Pat Maguire, Cal Marshall, Kathleen Paracer, John Porter, Nana Royer, Ruth Weber and Marsha Williams. Also, Pat and Cal are food purchasers for the pantry, when there is a fifth week in the month.

Special appreciation goes to Lenny Gemski, a long time Food Pantry volunteer, who is moving to Asheville, N.C.. Lenny was the inspiration behind the Empty Bowls fundraiser we did for the pantry a few years ago. She also donated one of her paintings, which is displayed at the pantry. And whenever Lenny had a party, she would ask her guests to bring a can of food or make a donation to the pantry. You will be missed, Lenny! Your thoughtfulness and kindness towards others has been much appreciated.

Cherie Dolgin
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be Sunday, **May 7, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact a member of the Dining with Dignity Team:

Mary Kellough, Nana Royer & Toni Wallace



Care Connection



Our Care Connection group provides short term support and assistance for members of the Fellowship during times of difficulty. We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing. The Care Connection includes everyone in our Fellowship willing to receive and give support at times of

difficulty. Contact ***Elle Barry*** (ellepaper@hotmail.com or 392-5722) if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Team.

Third Tuesday Book Group

May 16, 1:00 p.m.



Increase your E.Q. (Empathy Quotient) this year. Read more good books! The book club selection for May is ***Ragtime***, by E. L. Doctorow. Dianne Battle will lead the discussion. Preview the book and other upcoming fiction and non-fiction reads at www.uufsa.org/book-club-reading-list.html

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month downstairs at 1:00 p.m. Contact Barbara Brenner at barbbren25@gmail.com for more information.

Meditation Group

May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

The UU meditation group will be meeting every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. until further notice. All are welcome. Experience is not necessary but "presence" helps. :-)

Peter Gibbon



May Calendar



- 1 – Great Decisions 7:00 p.m. (downstairs)
- 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 – Meditation 3:00 p.m.
- 5 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 7 – UUFSA Annual Congregational Meeting - Noon
- 7 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 10 & 17 Culture Teach-In 7:00 p.m.
- 12 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Mike Campbell Coffee House 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 14 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 a.m.
- 16 – Book Club 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- 18 – PFLAG 7:00 p.m.
- 19 – Deadline for June Quest materials
- 19 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 26 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 26 – Movie: *Panic in the Streets* 6:30 p.m.

Darts Nights

May 7 and 21, 7:00 p.m.

Darts nights are held at the Pub UU (Basement at the UU) at **7:00 p.m.** on the first and third Friday of each month and the fifth Friday if there is one. This month they will be **May 7 and 21**. Contact Palmer Short, palshort@gmail.com, for details.



Palmer's Pic

Panic In The Streets

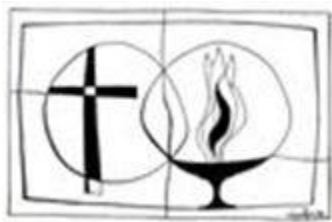
May 26, 6:30 p.m.

Panic In The Streets is directed by newcomer Elia Kazan ("On The Waterfront"). The stars are Richard Widmark, playing a good guy for a change, Paul Douglas and Barbara Bel Geddes. Making his film debut is Jack Palance in a most sinister role. Zero Mostel is Palance's unwilling cohort.

Panic In The Streets could be called film noir, having been filmed entirely in the dark and criminal laden streets of New Orleans where a dead man found on the docks is discovered to be carrying the deadly virus bubonic plague. Now it's up to public health officer Widmark with the skeptical help of a detective played by Paul Douglas to find the men who had contact with the dead man before they spread the virus all over the city. For you Lassie fans, Widmark's son is played by Tommy Rettig. It will keep you on the edge of your seats.



Palmer



Beyond Our Congregation



For information about events beyond our Fellowship, check the UUA Southern Region event calendar at: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/home.html> and the UUA web site <http://www.uua.org/>



June 21-25, General Assembly 2017, New Orleans, LA

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA
<http://www.uua.org/ga>

July 23-28, The Point, a Southern Region All-Ages Retreat, Hulbert, OK

The Point is a customizable Unitarian Universalist retreat for all ages.

Imagine five days of UU covenant and community in a resort-like setting on the shores of Fort Gibson Lake in Oklahoma. The Point offers personal growth, faith renewal, learning opportunities, spiritual practices, community worship, music, excellent cuisine, sustainable practices, social gatherings (concerts, movie night, bingo, talent show), outdoor activities, programming for all ages and interests, and an engaging theme speaker. Each day begins with worship and ends with a fun activity, but how you spend your day is completely up to you!

The theme speaker this year will be Rev. Deanna Vandiver. Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith will offer our Sunset Talks. Small groups and a more relaxing schedule are coming to The Point this year!

For more information: <http://www.thepointuu.org/>

August 6-11, Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience (SUULE), Wirtz, VA

The core pedagogy of the Southern Region Leadership Experience rests on the philosophy that leadership is about discernment, presence, and functioning of the self. Everyone brings their own gifts and talents to the experience, and over the course of the week, each individual gets an opportunity to see how those gifts can manifest as a leader in a spiritual community. To augment this individual discovery and growth, knowledge of systems and group dynamics are taught to shed light on how each individual can play a unique and important role in creating a vibrant religious community.

Sending leaders to a Leadership Experience is an investment in the future of the congregation and in the future of Unitarian Universalism. Leadership Experience Graduates return to their congregations more grounded in Unitarian Universalism and hear a deeper call to serve. They function at a high level and are able to inspire and invite others.

For more information: <http://www.uua.org/southern/leadership-experiences>

Happenings at The Mountain

Come to The Mountain for a great program at an amazing place in the Blue Ridge Mountains – join us and let your spirit soar!



A place. An experience.
A way forward for all ages.

Outdoor activities, entertainment and fellowship, in addition to the individual program are part of the Mountain experience.

Womenspirit – May 17 - 21

Women coming together to learn, worship and commune. A journey through time and place to remember our sacred heritage and revive the rich mysteries of our inner being.

Homecoming at The Mountain May 26 - 29

A program to get to know one another and enjoy the beauty of The Mountain. Beverly Cree is going May 23-29 if anyone would like to ride along for a few extra days of personal retreat.



The view from Meditation Rock is spectacular!

Southern UU Fall Institute (SUUFI)

~ The Best of Us: October 1 - 6

Come for a colorful autumn week as we learn from one another – sharing our thoughts and skills. Typical of SUUFI, the schedule balances mind and body, thought provoking, and heartfelt pursuits.

Thanksgiving -- November 22 - 26

Program provides indoor and outdoor activities for this intergenerational event. This is a great way to enjoy a special feast prepared by The Mountain chef and staff while you enjoy the program.

Thinking Ahead to 2018

Music Week - April 1 - 6

Charlie West and Beverly Cree just returned from this year's Music Week – a remarkable time of workshops about music, private lessons, choral group, instrumental group, song-writing, and jamming on the deck while enjoying the views and evening concerts.

For more information: www.TheMountainRLC.org or 828.526.5838 or contact Beverly Cree, Lyn Klarman or Priscilla Gulliver at UUFSA. Plan now to be part of these or other special programs.