

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida
Reverend Tom Schmidt, Minister

May 2018

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

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

Fellowship services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

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>

In This Issue

From Your President.....	2
Minister's Musings	3
Sunday Programs	4-5
Game Night.....	6
Annual Meeting	6
Budget.....	7-8
Children and Youth	9-10
Calendar.....	11
Announcements, Teams & Repeating Events	11-14
Beyond Our Congregation	15-16

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Materials for the May issue are due by May 18.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlie West and Rosi Angeli for proofreading.

From Your President

Greetings,

What is the lens through which you view your world? Are you seeing the world through rose colored glasses? Is your glass half full, or half empty?

I recount for you the ancient Buddhist story of the elephant and the five blind men. They heard that a new animal had been brought into town, but none of them knew what it looked like. Curious, they went to where the elephant was, and inspected it by the only means at their disposal: touch. The first man felt its trunk, and determined that it was like a snake. The second touched the ear, and insisted that it was like a fan. The third felt the leg, and declared it was certainly like a tree trunk. The fourth felt its tail, and announced that it was like a rope. The last man, feeling the tusk, proclaimed that it was like a spear. Each made their determination of the reality of the elephant based on the small bit of information they had.

Based on our own preconceived notions, assumptions and perceptions, such ideas block our view of the world and pervert reality. Abraham Maslow said, "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail." Your mind actively constructs how you see your piece of the world, and we see no more than we expect to see.



Nobel Prize winning physicist Max Planck stated: "When you change how you look at things, the things you look at change." Vincent Van Gogh told his brother that he could see 27 different shades of gray. Can you?

Studies have shown that just a few moments of positive thinking can prime you to perform better at both mental and physical tasks. You can even lessen physical pain by changing your perspective. Some of the genius of Sigmund Freud was his technique of "reframing", literally transforming the meaning of an emotional event by changing the framework or context through which it was previously perceived.

Stop walking the tightrope, separating good from bad, get all the information., Keep a healthy perspective to bring balance into your life.

In the words of Lao Tzu, "When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be."

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.

Minister's Musings



As this is my penultimate newsletter article, it seems relevant to let everyone know about what's next for me. I moved here from Texas three years ago to be closer to my son, William, who is graduating high school on June 1 and will begin his college career at either Emory or the University of Chicago. His graduation and the termination of my contact here in St. Augustine gave me the freedom to make a few changes in my life. The first big change is that I will be living with my partner, Rita Chamblin, who has visited the Fellowship several times over the past few years. We will be living on ten acres of woods near Bemidji, MN, just one hundred miles south of the Canadian border. Yes, it does get cold up there but I'm glad to trade the occasional blizzard for the occasional hurricane.

Professionally, I will no longer be serving Unitarian Universalism as a minister. A mentor early in my seminary experience told me, "You should pursue professional ministry only if you can't not do anything else." I took the advice very seriously and at every significant decision point on my path to ministry, I considered all my options and always chose ministry. I literally could not imagine myself doing anything else. Now, twenty years later, I again asked myself if ministry is something I "can't not do" and this time I came to a different conclusion. I will, of course, continue writing and hope to produce some books that will serve our movement and our world in other ways.

Our Unitarian Universalist principles, as I see them, call us to a life of service. The word minister has its roots in the Latin word for servant. Based on our modern use of the word, many people might believe that a minister is a leader since we use it to define people who work for the government or a church. The term servant-leadership was developed to help define the role. According to the Center of Servant-Leadership, "A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. . . . The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible." I have tried to live up to this ideal throughout my career, to varying degrees of success. Even as I leave professional ministry, I take this commitment with me and the many lessons and friendship I have received from all of you. Thank you all for this opportunity to serve you and our Unitarian Universalist faith

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Rev. Thomas Schmidt

Phone: 432-559-2411

E-mail: uurev@icloud.com

Office Hours

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

By appointment anytime.

Sunday, May 6, 10:30 a.m.

“Pondering the Soul”

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader: Palmer Short

Many religions teach of something we call the soul. Prominent Transcendentalist and onetime Unitarian Minister Ralph Waldo Emerson speculated about something he called the “oversoul,” and we are each a part of it. Buddhism, of course, was built on the absence of the soul. How might we re-imagine the idea of soul through the lens of modernity.

Sunday, May 13, 10:30 a.m.

“Improve Your Life via Improv”

Amy Angelilli

Service Leader: John Porter

This I Believe – Charlie West



When someone says to you, “I do Improv,” what’s your first reaction? Is it, “I could never do that!” Nonsense! We all Improvise every day because life is unscripted. Forget the comedy part of Improv comedy and instead embrace being and reacting in the moment, accepting gifts from others, and using failure to thrive in an unscripted environment. How? By utilizing Improv’s magic mindset. Join seasoned Improviser Amy Angelilli, Chief Adventure Officer of The Adventure Project, as she shares how bringing Improv onto the stage of life changed everything for her. Then, participate in an interactive experience where you just may jump-start your own Improv journey.

As Chief Adventure Officer of The Adventure Project, and as a certified laughter yoga leader, Amy Angelilli combines the art of play with mindfulness exercises and laughter to help others discover their own life adventures. She has facilitated playshops for summer camps (for kids and grown-ups!), after school programs, spiritual centers, yoga communities, business leaders, college students, active senior centers and women’s retreats. Her immersive play-work focuses on self-discovery and meaningful connections ... and, of course, fun! Currently she heads up an Improv training center at Limelight Theatre in St. Augustine. Since arriving in Florida, she has facilitated play experiences for people from 9 to 92 and every age in between. When not playing or planning adventures, she’s usually enjoying meaningful travel or improvisational theater. Her greatest performance is as herself in “It’s All About Amy” – the Improvised story of her life. She also created, produces and directs the theater experience “3 Blind Dates” – an unscripted romantic comedy that showcases the phenomenon of modern dating. Follow her adventures at www.adventure-project.com and you just might find your own adventure!

Sunday, May 20, 10:30 a.m.

“The G.O.D. Sermon”

Rev. Tom Schmidt

Service Leader: Megan Porter

There will be a children and youth food collection.

Plate Donation to K-9s for Warriors

The idea of God is problematic for many of us because of the centuries of baggage that comes with it. At the same time, many of us have found meaning in the word that is very different from the historical roots of the term. Is there a way of understanding God that is consistent with the findings of modern science?

Sunday, May 27, 10:30 a.m.

“Travel to the Beat of a Different Drum”

Michael “Derm” Dermody

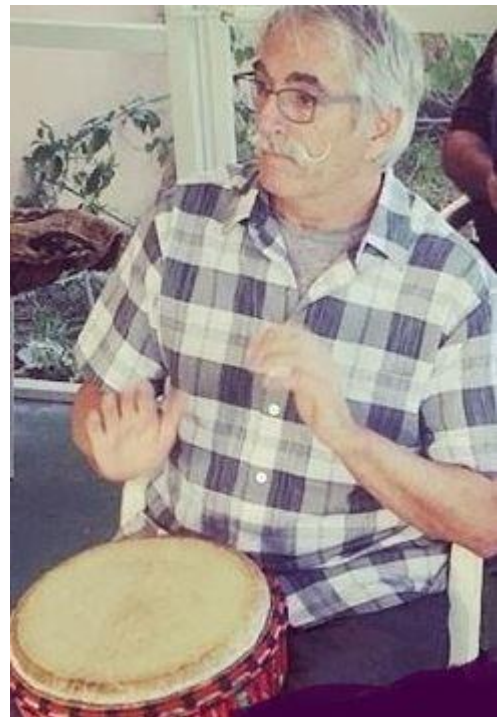
Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.”
~Psalm 98~

Yes!! We all have rhythm!

One of the most profound things we can do in life is to make music with other people. Hand drumming offers us the chance to do just that at the simplest level. Studies show the positive effects that rhythm and drumming can have on our health. This will be an introduction to rhythm and music making. From meditation to traditional rhythms, we will explore how rhythm can affect your body and mind... and we get to have fun, laugh, smile, and enjoy some stress relief along the way. Drums and other percussion instruments will be provided.

Michael “Derm” Dermody - Is a Cyber Security Auditor for a large financial institution and has been facilitating drum circles for years. He especially enjoys leading people through their first experiences with hands on rhythm. “Hand drumming brought back the kind of creativity I hadn’t seen in years, and I want to share that with as many people as possible!” He moved to Ormond Beach from Syracuse, NY almost 2 years ago and is absolutely in love with Florida. He was so impressed with the effects that drumming had in his personal life, he went out and bought 20 drums and got certified as a facilitator to help bring rhythm to people. Derm has a great sense of playfulness and mixes music making with fun.





UUFSA Game Night Saturday, May 19, 4:00 p.m.

The Game is afoot! Back by popular demand, and for the same ticket price, 3rd year in a row: Bring your board games to the UU café on May 19, 4 pm. Food will again be provided by the African Love Kitchen Food Truck, and wine and beer will be available for a donation. Tickets are on sale for \$26. A 50/50 raffle also is being held. Mark the date in **Red**: May 19!!!! See Pat Maguire (505)879-1868 maguire-p@hotmail.com or Mary Kellough (904) 217-9837 lkellough@comcast.net



Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 20

at noon following brief refreshments after the Sunday service

Please mark your calendars for this very important meeting where we will vote for our 2018-2019 slate of officers as presented by our Nominating Committee.

We also will review and vote to approve the budget proposed by the Finance Committee and the Board, and vote on a number of other issues related to our membership in the larger UUA family that are critical to the ongoing operation of our Fellowship. We hope to see you there!

The New Budget

April 20, 2018

The Budget for next year (July 2018-June 2019) will be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Fellowship on May 20th. At the time of the April 9th Board Meeting, the Pledge Drive had raised about \$58,000 for next year. Those who attended the Budget Workshops or have looked at the Tentative Budget adopted by the Board two months ago will recall that we hoped for Pledges of \$71,000. While we hope for some additional Pledges to come in yet, we will be well short of the amount we had hoped for.

The April 9th Board Meeting was the last Board Meeting prior to sending out the notice for the Annual Meeting. Therefore, The Board adopted a Budget at that Meeting to present to the Fellowship. A copy of that Budget is included in this Quest. It is based on Pledges of about \$58,000. It is a balanced Budget.

The Board debated many approaches to the needed Budget cuts. The Budget shown here and as will be presented to the Fellowship at the Annual Meeting is a collection of compromises and choices that the Board hopes reflects the many voices we heard at the Budget Workshops and in the many discussions we all have had on priorities for the Fellowship as we move back into a lay-led Fellowship again. The Members attending the Annual Meeting will have an opportunity to debate the Budget, offer amendments, and ultimately to vote to accept a Budget for next year.

The changes made to the Tentative Budget presented and discussed at the Budget Workshops are summarized as follows:

- The proposed Administrative Assistant position has been eliminated saving \$5,200
- The Music Budget has been reduced by \$5,000. Details regarding the implementation of this cut are yet to be finalized.
- Leadership Training has been reduced by \$2,000
- Stewardship and Endowment Development have been reduced by \$1,000 and moved into Administration

The remainder of the Budget is as presented in the Tentative Budget on the following page. Note that Website Design work was moved to this year's Budget and we hope to be underway on that project shortly. Rev. Tom Schmidt will be performing that task under a separate contract. Also, note that the line items for Publicity and Website Design have been combined into a new category of Communications for next year.



Proposed FY 2019 Budget

INCOME

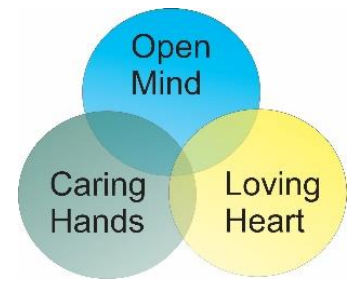
	Proposed 2019	2018 Budget
Plate (cash)	4,000	4,000
Donations (not cash)	6,000	6,000
Pledges	58,000	54,725
Fundraising Income - gross	5,200	5,200
Building Use Donation	300	300
Interest - Checking	25	25
TOTAL INCOME	73,525	70,250

EXPENSES

	Proposed 2019	2018 Budget
Administrative	4,250	6,000
Audio/Visual	800	800
Building & Grounds	13,800	12,300
Care Connect	300	300
Communications	5,000	2,500
Dining With Dignity	550	0
Fundraising Expense	400	0
Green Team	400	400
Hospitality	1,200	1,200
Insurance	5,800	5,000
Leadership Training	500	2,500
Lifelong Learning	4,900	11,100
Membership	300	300
Music	8,250	12,200
Payroll	1,200	1,200
Program	12,000	5,900
Social Justice/UU Legis.Ministry	350	350
UUA Fair Share	4,550	4,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	64,550	66,050
Capital Reserve	8,600	8,500
Solar Reserve	350	350
TOTAL RESERVE FUNDS	8,950	8,850
TOTAL EXPENSES	73,500	74,900

Programs for Children and Youth

Ariana and Ellie Marks-Marie with their parents Melissa and Nicholas were our April Chalice Lighters, and Easter Sunday brought us new friends who had a wonderful time decorating Easter Eggs.



Our children also celebrated April Poetry Month, and, at this writing, we are anticipating an exciting Earth Day activity.

Our big news, and sad news, is that Jennifer De La Rosa, our wonderful lead teacher for the past two and a half years, will leave us at the end of May. She has graduated from Flagler College as an Education major and has taken on a full-time teaching position in Jacksonville. We will miss the joy and enthusiasm she has shared with all of us, but especially our children, and wish her well as she embarks on her new teaching career.



The good news is that Maggie McElhaney has agreed to take over the lead teaching position. Maggie has worked with Jennifer during the past two and a half years. Maggie and Jennifer have worked exceedingly well together, and our children love Maggie, so we look forward to a smooth transition and a successful continuation of our Programs for Children and Youth.

Because Maggie will become our lead teacher, we are looking to fill the position of Childcare Provider. You will find a copy of the ad for this position elsewhere in the Quest. If you know people who might be interested and appropriate for this position, please encourage them to apply. They can contact Barbara Battelle (battellebarbara@gmail.com or 904-540-3720) if they would like more information. We very much want to fill the position before the end of May, the beginning of the summer school break.

During the summer school break, from May 27 to August 5, Maggie and the new child-care provider will be on hand each Sunday to provide fun summer activities. Regular classes will begin again August 12. We look forward to having many of our children with us during the summer and again when the regular school year begins.

Childcare Provider Position Open

The UUFSA has a position open for a childcare provider

Position: Childcare Provider

Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA)
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, Florida 32080

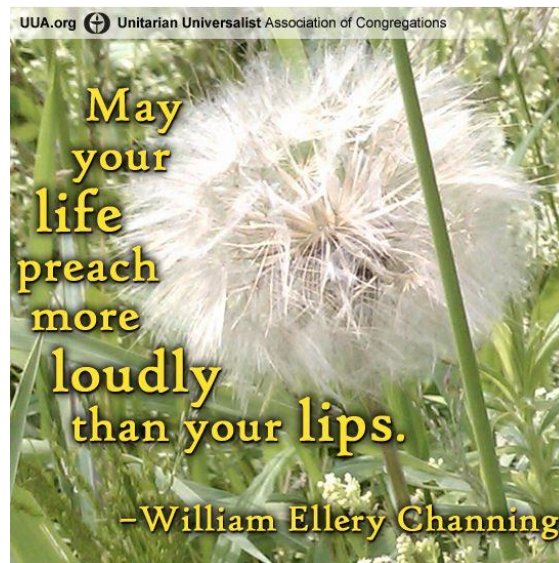
When: For two hours every Sunday from 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM
Beginning as early as May 1 through August 5, 2018 with the possibility of an extension through June 30, 2019

Compensation: ... \$25/Sunday

Brief job description:

- Provide safe and nurturing care for children from infants to age 4.
- Collaborate with a lead teacher or the Children/Youth Program Team to design and present age-appropriate engaging activities for these children.
- Knowledge of (or a willingness to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions.
- Experience or training in early childhood development highly desirable but not required.

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 Barbara Battelle (battellebarbara@gmail.com) with the subject line “Childcare application”. All attachments should include the applicant’s last name in the file name. Contact Barbara Battelle if you would like more information about this position (904-540-3720). To learn more about our Fellowship check out our website: <http://UUFSA.org>.



Drum Circle

Tuesday, May 8, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

We will gather in the sanctuary from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. to play some rhythms. Drums are provided or you may bring your own if you like. Michael “Derm” Dermody will facilitate. Beginners welcome. Friends welcome. Children welcome!

This is the last drum circle for this meeting year. Don’t miss it!



April UUFSA Treasurer's Report

The April Treasurer's Report and a summary of that report are posted on the UUFSA News bulletin board downstairs.

May Calendar



- 3 – PFLAG 7:15 p.m.
- 4 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 6 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Drum Circle 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 11 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 a.m.
- 14 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 15 – Book Group 1:00 p.m.
- 17 – Indivisible 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 18 – Deadline for May Quest contributions
- 18 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 21 – Great Decisions 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
- 25 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 25 – Movie, Steve McQueen double feature 6:30 p.m.



Great Decisions

"Media and Foreign Policy"

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

Please join us downstairs in the UU (2487 A1A S, St Augustine, FL 32080 (See map at uufsa.org.)

The topic for discussion will be "Media and Foreign Policy."

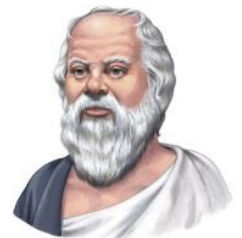
State and non-state actors today must maneuver a complex and rapidly evolving media landscape. Conventional journalism now competes with user-generated content. Official channels of communication can be circumvented through social media. Foreign policy is tweeted from the White House and "fake news" has entered the zeitgeist. Cyberwarfare, hacking and misinformation pose complex security threats. How are actors using media to pursue and defend their interests in the international arena? What are the implications for U.S. policy?

The discussion will be led by Stuart Bicknell. Please join us, and consider bringing a friend! For more information contact Yosi at 904-461-3175 or jomcintire@bellsouth.net.

Downstairs Dialogue

"Socrates Café" – Open Discussion

Sunday, May 13, 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 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, May 13, 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
Co-chair, Adult Learning

Food Pantry



It is that time of year when a couple of our snowbird Food Pantry volunteers head north for the summer. And other volunteers take vacations. If you have the time to volunteer at the Pantry only over the summer, for one Friday afternoon a month, please contact me. Or if you would like to see what it is like to work at the Pantry and want to commit to only one Friday summer afternoon, please contact me.

To our snowbird volunteers, thank you for your good and consistent work this past year in helping to feed families in need in St. Johns County. Enjoy the summer at your other homes and we look forward to seeing you back in the fall!

Cherie Dolgin
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, May 6, 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 Tuesday, May 17 at 1:00 p.m.



May's book is *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. Contact **Barbara Brenner** at barbbren25@gmail.com for more information.

May 15 - *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann,
June 19 (date subject to change) - Member lunch at a local restaurant

Palmer's Pics Steve McQueen Double Feature! May 25, 6:30 p.m.

The Thomas Crown Affair and Bullitt



We are having an old fashion double feature starring Steve McQueen. The first movie will be *The Thomas Crown Affair*. The second movie is *Bullitt*. Remember the great car chase through the streets of San Francisco. And, we may have John (a film Maker) from Apopka telling about meeting Steve McQueen and Ali McGraw while McQueen was filming *Bullitt*.

Friday Darts Nights May 14, and 18, 7:00 p.m.



Darts nights are held at the Pub UU (downstairs at UUFSa) or occasionally at a real local pub, at **7:00 p.m.** on the first and third Friday of each month and the fifth Friday if there is one. Contact Palmer Short, palshort@gmail.com, for details.

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/>

General Assembly 2018 June 20-24, Kansas City, MO



Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we delve deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. For more information: <https://www.uua.org/ga>



Spring 2018 Webinars May 22 and May 30 The Yearly Stewardship Calendar.

The S4US team asked for your suggestions and priorities for the next round of webinars and you provided a terrific list of topics. As many of these suggestions as possible have been put into a series of coherently themed webinars.

Just What Does a Stewardship Team Do the Rest of the Year, Outside that 4-6-Week Annual Campaign? Learn more and register here:

<http://stewardshipforus.com/spring-2018-webinars-are-set/>

Our Shared Future: Legacy Giving in UU Congregations



Would you like to learn how to encourage your members, friends, and supporters to shape the future of Unitarian Universalism and to make a difference through legacy giving? Join us for an upcoming webinar!

Jay Pacitti, UUA Legacy Gifts Officer will present the basics of legacy giving and best practices for building a healthy legacy giving program in your congregation, and Laura Randall, Legacy Campaign Director, will discuss the Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge. This free webinar will be held on the following Saturdays:

- May 12, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT
- June 9, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT

The material presented will be the same at each webinar; this is not a series. Each workshop will consist of a presentation followed by Q&A.

Learn more about these webinars, including how to sign-up, here: <https://goo.gl/5f1RrJ>

To learn more about legacy giving, visit www.uualegacy.org, where you will find helpful information and tools. To learn more about the Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge, visit <http://www.wakenowourvision.org>.

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!

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

May 20-25, 2018 From Sustainability to Climate Justice

Featured presenters include Rev. Fred Small, a UU minister for climate justice and former environmental lawyer; the musical team, Friction Farm, with Christine Stay and Aidan Quinn; and Rick Crume, who helped write the Clean Power Plan at the EPA. A wide variety of workshops and activities provide opportunities to learn about climate justice.

For more information: <http://themountainrlc.org/> or call The Mountain 828-526-5838 or contact Beverly Cree at UUFSA.



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