



Newsletter of the
Idaho Falls
Unitarian Universalist
Church



All Services
10:30 a.m.

Meeting Place
555 "E" Street

Address
P.O. Box 50376
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83405-0376
Web Site: www.idahofallsuu.org

Minister
Rev. Lyn Stangland Cameron

Office Administrator
Theresa Gerstner
522-8269 or by appointment
office @idahofallsuu.org

Religious Education &
Exploration Administrator
Diane Harding
709-4128 or by appointment
Rebuild4RChildren@gmail.com

Executive Board
President: Alan Jines
Past President: Kristi Brower
President Elect: Debu Majumdar
Secretary: Robin Hunt
Treasurer: John Lym
Members-at-large:
Jeff Leuschen
Ron Allen

For more information,
leave a message at 522-8269
or contact us via e-mail at
minister@idahofallsuu.org



Sunday Services 10:30 am

August 1

The Power of Music, The Transformational Power of Music

Three members of our UU community will share how music affects them and their a short piece of their favorite music. Lay led by Molly Brinkerhoff and Ryan Terry.

August 8

Alternative Healing

Ronda Knudsen and Family

August 15

Making Peace with Our Imperfections

Summertime is perfect for pondering the "blessings" and spiritual strength that come from living with awareness of our limitations and imperfections.

August 22

Drifting and Determining

A recent Pew study suggests that many Americans identify as "religious drifters" and "samplers." How do we nurture depth of character and meaningful direction in a religious faith?

August 29

Good Humor—It's Not Just an Ice Cream Treat

Some philosophers teach that there is a deeply spiritual side to discovering humor in the world around us. Perhaps we nurture truth and harmony when we accept that life is sometimes just plain funny!

September 5

Listening for a Call

Though one may sometimes feel worn down and wearied by toil, there is still a thrill in discovering that deep pure joy can come from finding and doing "good work."

September 12

Just Add Water! — Re-Constituting Community

All are welcome to this yearly ritual of reconnection. Join us for our beloved annual In-gathering Water Ceremony. September is when we bring ourselves and our families back together in UU community; when we return from the good weather, gardening and appreciating the out of doors, from enjoying our own backyards, or from our distant travels. All are invited to bring small amounts of water from favorite summer places—from our own backyards or from foreign sources (or feel free to use the "virtual" water provided) for this ritual of re-connection. Please bring food to share and plan to stay after the service for a Second Sunday Potluck.



Riverside Rev-flections

by Lyn Stangland Cameron



Minister's Hours

This is a general guideline. The nature of ministry means that I may be called away for meetings and pastoral visits and may not be in the office even during announced times. Please know that I can be reached by phone message or email and that I will respond as soon as possible. In event of an emergency you may call my home phone, 523-1531 or Richard Wilde of the Committee on Ministry who will nearly always know how to reach me.

For August the hours will be irregular. Please call or email before coming by to be sure someone is here.

The IFJUF Website is:
www.idahofallsuu.org/
*Take a look and
checkout the links!*

Questioning What Ought to Be?

Here in Indiana, the corn leaves are curling, lawns, roadsides and ditch banks bake in long days of bright sun, and the steamy hot nights are only occasionally punctuated by dramatic thunder storms. If this is mid-July, I find myself wondering what the dog days of August will bring. My reasoning about weather makes me question if we humans may have evolved an inner innate "evaluator" self that constantly measures the real against some internal sense of what ought to be?

Perhaps this is related to the fact that this year my "beach novel" reading has been replaced by an examination of some novel ideas; David Korten contrasting "real" wealth (Main Street) with the phantom wealth created and manipulated by Wall Street, and conservative linguist John McWorter who posits that some Americans are caught within a social time warp and that liberals and Black Americans need to move beyond letting "race" define them. I struggle with theories that require me to dig deep to discover my own logical incongruities and cognitive dissonance. I am challenged to understand and consider ideas that counter what I believe are my already established values and views.

Unitarian Universalists are often accused of thinking and theorizing too much, and it is a Garrison Keillor caricature that we UU's become bogged down in theory and argument and are unable or unwilling to follow through with meaningful action. Since August is when we plan our program year, it is also when we are challenged to decide how we want our community to develop. We need to decide if we are satisfied to remain a safe and somewhat isolated haven for theoretical conversations with like-minded people, or if we are willing to risk working to create a more accepting society for all? Is this a place where we dare to consider ideas that challenge us? How do we want to reach out to welcome others who share our dreams of religious, personal and social liberties, peace and justice?

As part of getting ready for a new church program year, Diane and I and the Religious Education and Exploration Committee will be planning and making decisions about programming for our children and youth and adults. The governing board will set some new congregational goals and the worship associates and I will plan our worship season. Our congregation leaders and committees will begin to plan the year's activities and events. This church community welcomes each one of us to participate in this time of planning.


As September slips into view and summer days shorten, a congregation like ours must also accept transitions that may be joy-filled and painful. We are happy that some of our favorite people will be moving on in their own life journeys – but sad at their leaving our circles of friendship and care. These are occasions for both celebration and sorrow!

May we devote this month – this August to being fully present with the challenges, changes and prospects present in this place and time. May we appreciate these last days of the summer of 2010 for these are the fibers of our lives and community. Summer blessings all! Lyn

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On the Calendar for August

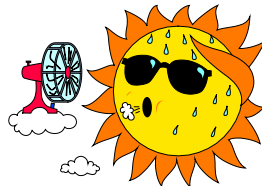
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm	3	4 Hatha Yoga 11:30-12:45 pm	5 Spirit Book, 3:00 pm	6 Hatha Yoga 8:30-9:45 am Woman's Lunch Group Blue Hashi on S. Hitt 1:15	7 Summer Day Hike
8 Service, 10:30 am	9 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm	10	11 Hatha Yoga 11:30-12:45 pm	12 EITC Concert & UU Potluck, Freeman Park 6:00 pm	13 Hatha Yoga 8:30-9:45 am Women's & Men's Groups, 5:30 pm	14 Summer Day Hike
15 Service, 10:30 am	16 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm	17 Humanist Discussion Group Library Dedication 7:00 pm	18 Hatha Yoga 11:30-12:45 pm	19 Spirit Book, 3:00 pm EITC Concert & UU Potluck, Freeman Park 6:00 pm 	20 Hatha Yoga 8:30-9:45 am	21 Soup Kitchen, 11:30 am Summer Day Hike
22 Service, 10:30 am Soup Kitchen 11:30 am	23 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm	24	25 Hatha Yoga 11:30-12:45 pm	26 EITC Concert & UU Potluck, Freeman Park 6:00 pm	27 Hatha Yoga 8:30-9:45 am RE Campout at Hank Boland's	28 Summer Day Hike
29 Service, 10:30 am	30 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm	31				

Calendar "Highlights" for August

- 5 Spirit Book Discussion, 3:00 pm
- 6 Women's Lunch Group, 1:15
- 7 Summer Day Hike
- 12 EITC Concert/ UU Potluck, Freeman Park, 6:00 pm
- 13 Men's & Women's Discussion Groups, 5:30 pm
- 14 Summer Day Hike
- 17 Humanist Discussion Group, 7:00 pm
- 19 EITC Concert/ UU Potluck, Freeman Park, 6:00 pm
- 21 Soup Kitchen, 11:30 am
Summer Day Hike
- 22 Soup Kitchen, 11:30 am
- 26 EITC Concert/ UU Potluck, Freeman Park, 6:00 pm
- 27 RE Campout at Hank Borland's
- 28 Summer Day Hike

Ongoing — See Calendar for details

- Hatha Yoga Mondays 5:00 - 6:15 pm
Wednesdays. 11:30 am - 12:45 pm
Fridays 8:30-9:45 am
- Recorder Practice Mondays from 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- Meditation Group No Meditation Group during August
- Women's Lunch Group 1st Friday of the month



FEATHER REMINDER: When you see the "feather" displayed on the calendar, it is a reminder to send in your Horizon news by the end of the weekend.

The next newsletter deadline is **August 20th**
Please send your items to kpschaef@datawav.net

Watch for changes or additions to this schedule in the Sunday Orders of Service



Gathering Together

from the President . . .

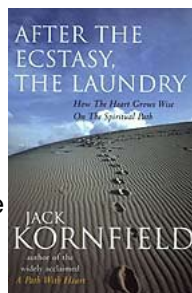
The Summer Day Hike Series continues each Saturday through August. You can find the latest information on hikes on the bulletin board in the Willard Room, or by looking at the events tab on the UUCIF Outdoor Activities Facebook Page. Try this link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Idaho-Falls-ID/Unitarian-Universalist-Church-in-Idaho-Falls-Outdoor-Activity-Event-Page/301529784171?v=wall>

I wish you all the best during our wonderful, though often short, Idaho Falls summer!

Alan Jines, President

Spirit Book Discussion

Thursday, August 5, and August 19, 3:00 pm, Spirit Book discussion of *After the Ecstasy—the Laundry* continues with chapter 6. This a wonderful book available locally. Join us for in-depth conversation and spirit-centered community.



Humanist Meeting

The Humanist meeting is the 3rd Tuesday, the 17th of August in the Jefferson room

The Humanist Group will be dedicating it's new library at the August 17th meeting. Over 240 books have been donated by Lloyd Pickett. The books have various topics related to Humanism. The books are located on 2 shelves in the church near the stairwells and can be checked out by anyone interested. We will have a small ceremony with refreshments thanking Lloyd for his generous donation.

Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Group will meet Friday, August 13th, 5:30 pm at Bonnie Anderson's home. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome.

Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Group will meet Friday, August 13th, 5:30 pm at Doug Gerstner's home. Refreshments will be provided. Please come and bring a church friend who has not attended before. For more information, call Richard Wilde at 522-6910.

Social Justice Committee News

What is the Social Justice committee? We identify areas of social injustice and ways in which we can help rectify those injustices. That may sound daunting, but our actions are all taken in the spirit of 'every little bit helps. Each individual action may seem tiny, but tiny actions can add up to big results. Contact Elizabeth Cogliati to help out.

Musical Evenings at Freeman Park Bandshell

On Thursday evenings this summer the volunteer band from Eastern Idaho Technical College will be playing music at 7:00 pm. Our own Sue Wilde and Bob Schaefer are members who have faithfully been preparing for the evenings. Come at 6:00 pm for a potluck UU picnic beforehand and stay to listen. Bring a chair to relax in, and wear a hat to keep out the rays from the setting sun, and maybe wear some bug repellent in case the wind stops blowing. They play even when rain showers are predicted. It sounds great. Talk to Karen or Richard who have been loyal listeners.

Soup Kitchen

There were 95 and 96 people who ate a noon meal at the soup kitchen thanks to our faithful crew and cooks. There were 2-3 children each day as well. There was no air conditioning running so it got fairly warm for the cooks and the dishwashers. Thanks to Vic Allen, Joe Plum, Marian & Bob Murry, Marion Morgan, Steve and Marilyn Watts, Catherine Nelson, Pam Lilburn, Bill & Alex Kohn, and Tom & Rae Eddy.

The next soup kitchen is August 21 & 22. We can always use help. We will need two days of effort of about eleven people each day: One on Saturday, and a second on Sunday. Robin Hunt and Bob Murphy will be the cooks. Please call to volunteer ahead of time to ease the stress of our leaders and the cooks: Marilyn Watts 523-0488.

Simplicity Tip

When brushing your teeth, don't have the faucet running water. Use a glassful and save a gallon.

Lala Chambers
Intermountain West Citizens for Sustainability
<http://citizensforsustainability.wordpress.com/>



Religious Education

Religious Education

Summer has flown by, hope everyone has enjoyed it.

We are having a **campout on August 27th at Hank Boland's**, 6150 West 33rd Street. We will share dinner so bring a side dish and your own main course, there will be a fire to cook on. This is close to town so those who do not want to sleep out can go home to their bed. If you are in need of a tent or sleeping bag, let me know and we'll find you one to borrow. After dinner will be our 1st annual Talent Show. So what will you do? sing, dance, tell a story or joke? Be creative and let's have fun together.

The annual **Water/Incoming ceremony will be September 12, 10:30 am**. Remember to collect water from somewhere you go this summer.

3rd Friday Family Fun Night will resume September 17, 5:00-8:00 pm in fellowship hall (downstairs where we have potluck.)

Fall Religious Education and Exploration classes will begin September 19! Come ready to meet new and old friends. This year we will have attendance recognition, monthly Children's Chapel focusing on the 7 Principles, Winter Pageant (probably a musical), Spring Program (with a skit), and Friday Family Fun Night.

Children's Chapel will once again be the **1st Sunday** of each month.

We are planning to have classes divided by age. These ages are flexible and parents should speak with me if adjustments are needed.

Rainbow: infant – 3 yrs. free play

Yellowstone: 3-5 yrs. Chalice Children is designed to help young children learn about their church and congregation through concrete experiences with it's people and places.

Snake River: 6- 9/10 yrs. Tapestry of Faith program, Moral Tales, provides children with spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values.

Teton: 9/10-11/12 yrs. Tapestry of Faith program, Love Connects Us, celebrates important ways Unitarian Universalists live our faith in covenanted community. Moved by love and gathered in spirit, we embrace our responsibility toward one another and the world at large. We encourage one another's search for truth and meaning. We strive to be active in peace-making and other efforts to improve our world.

Borah: 12 + yrs. Community building and discovering what each of the 7 principles means to them personally.

If you would like more information concerning our program or Volunteer opportunities please contact Diane Harding 528-8779, Rebuild4RChildren@gmail.com

General Assembly

New Statement of Conscience, "Creating Peace" Adopted

The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association adopted at the annual meeting a **Statement of Conscience** called **Creating Peace** after several years of study and cooperation among the various member bodies. As a delegate last year, I worked during GA in one of 3 groups giving input (from their own study or from their memberships' direction) in an effort to improve the draft. I am pleased to see the addition of support for **PeaceBuilding** added to the statement as this is a fairly new and effective process the United Nations is using in countries with disputes with their neighbors. This statement was expected to be accepted at the Salt Lake City Assembly, but there were still too many concerns and it was referred back to committee for refining by the Commission on Social Witness. We should study this statement and embrace it as we can as individuals, and as a church whole. Below are a few words I copied from the UUA site explaining the process.

Karen Schaefer, Delegate 2009

(General Assembly continues on page 6)

(General Assembly continued from page 5)

About the Social Witness Process

The Fifth Principle of Unitarian Universalism affirms and promotes the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process. In keeping with this, the way in which our denomination arrives at consensus on various social issues is by a democratically agreed upon process called the Social Witness Process, named as such because we bear witness to social inequity.

The Social Witness Process is facilitated by the Commission on Social Witness. It currently generates two types of consensus statements, Statements of Conscience, which result from study and action on a selected issue, (and Actions of Immediate Witness/ more next month). For more information, see the Social Witness Process page.

Creating Peace

2010 Statement of Conscience

We believe all people share a moral responsibility to create peace. Mindful of both our rich heritage and our past failures to prevent war, and enriched by our present diversity of experience and perspective, we commit ourselves to a radically inclusive and transformative approach to peace.

1. Our commitment to creating peace calls us to the work of peacebuilding, peacemaking, and peacekeeping.
Peacebuilding is the creation and support of institutions and structures that address the roots of conflict, including economic exploitation, political marginalization, the violation of human rights, and a lack of accountability to law.
Peacemaking is the negotiation of equitable and sustainable peace agreements, mediation between hostile parties, and post-conflict rebuilding and reconciliation.
Peacekeeping is early intervention to prevent war, stop genocide, and monitor ceasefires. Peacekeeping creates the space for diplomatic efforts, humanitarian aid, and nonviolent conflict prevention through the protection of civilians and the disarmament and separation of those involved in violent conflict.
2. We advocate a culture of peace through a transformation of public policies, religious consciousness, and individual lifestyles. At the heart of this transformation is the readiness to honor the truths of multiple voices from a theology of covenant grounded in love.
3. We all agree that our initial response to conflict should be the use of nonviolent methods. Yet, we bear witness to the right of individuals and nations to defend themselves, and acknowledge our responsibility to be in solidarity with others in countering aggression. Many of us believe force is sometimes necessary as a last resort, while others of us believe in the consistent practice of nonviolence.
4. We repudiate aggressive and preventive wars, the disproportionate use of force, covert wars, and targeting that includes a high risk to civilians. We support international efforts to curtail the vast world trade in armaments and call for nuclear disarmament and abolition of other weapons of mass destruction. We repudiate unilateral interventions and extended military occupations as dangerous new forms of imperialism. In an interdependent world, true peace requires the cooperation of all nations and peoples.
5. For Unitarian Universalists, the exercise of individual conscience is holy work. Conscientious discernment leads us to engage in the creation of peace in different ways. We affirm a range of individual choices, including military service and conscientious objection (whether to all wars or particular wars), as fully compatible with Unitarian Universalism. For those among us who make a formal commitment to military service, we will honor their commitment, welcome them home, and offer pastoral support. For those among us who make a formal commitment as conscientious objectors, we will offer documented certification, honor their commitment, and offer pastoral support.
6. Our faith calls us to create peace, yet we confess that we have not done all we could to prevent the spread of armed conflict throughout the world. At times we have lacked the courage to speak and act against violence and injustice; at times we have lacked the creativity to speak and act in constructive ways; at times we have condemned the violence of others without acknowledging our own complicity in violence. We affirm a responsibility to speak truth to power, especially when unjust power is exercised by our own nation. Too often we have allowed our disagreements to distract us from all that we can do together. This Statement of Conscience challenges individual Unitarian Universalists, as well as our congregations and Association, to engage with more depth, persistence, and creativity in the complex task of creating peace.

II. Historical and Theological Context

Our Universalist faith in the oneness of the whole human family teaches us that peace is necessary; our Unitarian faith in the sacred potential of each person teaches us that peace is possible.

A. Historical Practices

For two hundred years, Unitarians and Universalists have worked to build peace by removing the underlying causes of war. As early as 1790, Universalists gathered in Philadelphia declared, "Although a defensive war may be considered lawful, yet we believe there is a time coming, when the light and universal love of the gospel shall put an end to all wars." The Massachusetts Peace Society,

founded by Unitarians Noah Worcester and William Ellery Channing during the War of 1812, helped launch the first peace movement to include both those repudiating all violence and those supporting defensive wars, to welcome members of all religious persuasions, and to affirm that nonviolence is humanly possible as well as divinely commanded. Since that time, Unitarian and Universalist peace efforts have continued to be informed by those principles. Though we have always held diverse views on the justification of defensive and humanitarian wars, at our best we have worked together to end the violence of slavery, to promote international law, to liberate Jews and others from Nazi tyranny, and to build the United Nations and other institutions of international cooperation. This Statement of Conscience builds on this tradition by challenging individual Unitarian Universalists, as well as our congregations and Association, to engage in a variety of nonviolent and peace building practices.

B. Theological Principles

This Statement of Conscience is grounded in the following Unitarian Universalist theological principles:

The fundamental unity and interdependence of all existence. The interdependence we have long affirmed has become the daily reality of our globalized world. Our interdependence makes it both possible and necessary that we see the peoples of the world as one community in which the security of each nation is entwined with the security of all others.

The transforming power of love. We affirm the reality of love as a dynamic power within and among us. This power moves us to create relationships of compassion, respect, mutuality, and forgiveness; to love our neighbor; and to recognize everyone as our neighbor. We stand on the side of love when we work for peace.

The inherent worth and dignity of all persons. All human beings have the right to a meaningful and fulfilling life, including physical safety and economic and social well being. All have the responsibility to work on behalf of the dignity of others.

Human freedom. Most human beings are free moral agents with the capacity to make choices and are accountable for these choices. Human freedom may be used creatively or destructively. These possibilities are expressed not only in our individual choices and actions, but also in the institutions and social structures we create. Peace is the product of human choices that empower human agency and extend the possibilities for human freedom.

Rejection of moral dualism. We reject as false the sharp separation of good and evil, refusing to assign individuals and nations into one category or the other. Moral dualism can blind us to our own and our nation's capacity for evil and to the inherent worth and dignity of those whom our nation labels as enemies. In the midst of ambiguity we can build peace by cultivating the goodness in ourselves and others.

Cooperative power. Power is created and expressed in complex networks of human relationships. Power can be used to create or destroy, to liberate or oppress. Preventing war and creating nonviolent alternatives require the use of cooperative power—power with, not power over. Cooperative power is grounded in a commitment to mutual persuasion rather than coercion.

Justice and peace. Justice concerns the fair ordering of human relationships, including social and political relationships. War signals the breakdown of fairly ordered human relations. Peace is an attribute of relationship; it is a process, not a stagnant state. Peace emerges as our social and political institutions become more cooperative and more just. Lasting peace rests on just relationships.

Humility and open-mindedness. We affirm an open-mindedness that makes us suspicious of all claims of finality, including our own. Humility allows us to take strong stands while remaining open to the possibility that we are wrong or that future circumstances may call for a different position.

III. Calls to Action

Creating peace calls for action at all levels of human interaction. To be effective, our actions must be incorporated into existing structures and institutions, and new systems must be created. We support the Unitarian Universalist Peace Ministry Network in its work of identifying resources, disseminating information, and evaluating methods to create a culture of peace on all levels.

Creating Peace in Our World

We covenant to advocate vigorously for policies and participate in practices that move our nation toward collaborative leadership in building a peaceful, just, and sustainable world, including:

- supporting the Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Office in advancing the United Nations' efforts in promoting peace, and its implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in ending the use of torture and addressing institutional violence in all its forms; supporting the Unitarian Universalist Association and our congregations in influencing public policy decisions made by the U.S. Congress and Administration; and participating in international civilian peace building, peacemaking, and unarmed peacekeeping teams.

Creating Peace in Our Society

We covenant to act in the wider community in reducing the causes of institutional and structural violence by:

supporting Association and congregational initiatives aimed at eradicating all forms of cultural, political, and economic oppression; supporting the socially responsible investment of our Association and congregational assets; and supporting Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth in advocating lifestyles and policies that promote harmony with our natural environment.

General Assembly

Creating Peace in Our Congregations

We covenant to create peace through worship, religious education, and social action by:

- developing Peace Teams to provide training in compassionate communication and conflict resolution, and to engage each congregation in multi-level action toward a culture of peace;
working through congregational governing bodies to develop and honor behavioral covenants in all aspects of congregational life;
working through our lifespan religious education structures to provide workshops on conflict resolution and compassionate communication, to encourage understanding and participation in social justice ventures, and to utilize Unitarian Universalist resources such as "Peacemaking in Congregations: A Guide to Learning Opportunities for All Ages";
becoming a resource for creating peace within our communities in cooperation with other faith traditions and community organizations;
working toward the reduction of violence in our communities by supporting community policing, economic development, and conflict resolution;
supporting veterans, military service members, conscientious objectors, and their families, and providing them with opportunities to share what they have learned; and
supporting nonviolent resisters and their families, and providing them with opportunities to share what they have learned.

Creating Peace in Our Relationships

As individuals we covenant to:

- learn and practice the skills of compassionate communication; honor the behavioral covenants of our congregations; and adopt lifestyle changes that reflect reverence for the interdependent web of all existence.

Creating Peace within Ourselves

We recognize that peace begins with each person and covenant to: develop for ourselves and our congregations spiritual practices that cultivate inner peace; sustain these practices as foundational to wholeness, forgiveness, and reconciliation; and practice loving-kindness and compassion toward ourselves, and pay attention to the ethical insights that follow.

In reverence for all life, we covenant to practice peace at all levels of human interaction.



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