



Domelight



Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
Rev. Sara Zimmerman, Minister

December 2007
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

Minister's Musings

Rev. Sara Zimmerman

Here in Florida, despite the absence of snow, the holiday season has unmistakably arrived with Santa Claus setting up shop at the malls after Halloween. At UUCT, we offer The Mall Alternative, a place for reflection and renewal in community.

I'm looking forward to being in community with you during the UUCT traditional December events: the Holiday Kick-Off Party that DRE Katie Culbert and the RE Committee are planning for after the service on December 2nd. Then, the following Sunday, on December 9th, the Auction takes place after the service.

Do you find rest and renewal in hearing and singing the beloved carols of the season? In our services, we will celebrate the winter solstice at the Sunday Service on December 23rd. Our traditional Christmas Eve service is scheduled for 6:30PM on the 24th when we will sing Christmas carols and read the traditional texts.

For the sermon on December 2nd, I'm developing a sermon about Hanukkah from a new angle. For these first three months that I have been your settled minister, the Music Committee and I have chosen hymns based on sermon themes. In a turn-about from the usual, hymn #223, *Rock of Ages, Let Our Song*, inspires my sermon about Hanukkah. This is not the *Rock of Ages* that comes immediately to mind, but is another song altogether, to the tune of a German synagogue melody.

I think it helps more than ever to keep things in perspective during the month of December by having a mantra, something that you can turn to when the Magic of the Season becomes a little overwhelming. "Just smile and breathe" is one approach. Or come to Loving Kindness meditation, Tuesdays, 5:30–6:30PM. Or post your favorite poem of the season on your refrigerator. I offer this Howard Thurman poem for that purpose. Happy Holidays, Everyone! ~*Rev. Sara*

The Work of Christmas

When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To make peace among the brothers,
To make music in the heart.

REflections

Katie Templin Culbert

The Elementary and Middle School Religious Education classes will be attending Corpus Christi Catholic Church on **Sunday, December 2nd**, as part of their ongoing World Religions curriculum. Teachers have details & permission forms. Carpools will be leaving from UUCT at 9:30AM, Mass begins at 10:00AM.

"Jingle all the way..." Following service on **Sunday, December 2nd** there will be a **Holiday Kick-off Party**. We will decorate the church for the holidays while enjoying food, crafts, stories, games and festive music.

And don't miss the **Candle light Christmas Eve Service** on **December 24th** at **6:30PM**. This lifespan worship service of music and readings is followed by a hot fudge sundae social. Yum!

It Takes a Village: Volunteer Opportunities! Please support our growing RE program! We have many needs and will find a job that utilizes your gifts. Contact Katie Culbert or a member of the RE Committee to volunteer. Training & curriculum is provided. *All parents with children in the program are expected to volunteer throughout the year.*



Book Sale Ruth Davis



Watch for the UUCT Book Sales on the 1st Sunday, every other month, following services. The schedule is:

December 2nd, 2007
April 6th, 2008

February 3rd, 2008
June 1st, 2008

So bring some extra coins for some good reading and even gifts. If you want more information or want to purchase a book between book sales, contact Ruth Davis at harpsowinds@tampabay.rr.com.



**Congregational Meeting
December 16th after services**

UUA Trustee Tidbits

Joan Lund

Hopefully you enjoyed a blessed Thanksgiving and are not too busy as we approach the holidays. With the exciting and well received national TIME magazine advertising initiative underway perhaps you are experiencing more-than-the-usual Sunday guests at your service. To quote Rev. Bill Sinkford, UUA President, "They will be bringing gifts, and in order to accept these gifts we will need to reconsider what it means to be hospitable. We need to be ready not just to greet visitors, but to welcome them into relationship within our faith community."

There are times for each of us that stand out and are remembered because they mark the beginning of a different direction or path. I remember the birth of my children, graduations, and some of the successes of my career. Most of us clearly remember the first time we were guests of the congregation that ended up becoming our spiritual home. How positively we remember that day depends upon how and whether we were greeted. If you have many visitors you need many greeters available each Sunday.

Greeting practices at UU congregations vary considerably, yet we have some constants including the use of guest name tags or a different colored coffee cup during social hour. But if no one greets the guest in our midst warmly with both initial and social time caring conversation all the pamphlets, bookmarks, newsletters, and information about our faith may not entice a return. I often visit congregations both in our District and elsewhere and sometimes have found myself standing alone until I approach someone or some group already in conversation. Hopefully this does not happen to your guests.

What if each greeter introduced themselves inside the front door and asked the guest to sign the guest book/form then gives her/him a quick orientation to the room where the service will be held, the bathrooms, where RE is held, and invites them to stay for coffee? In addition why not encourage the guest to visit the Sunday service at least three times so that they get a really good picture of the church. What if your congregation had a group of "phantom greeters", a group of regular attendees who like to talk to people and are knowledgeable about the congregation and who do not identify themselves as part of the greeting program, but simply as members? Would that work for your church during the social hour? Remember visitors should be tended to first and faithfully at the social hour.

There is much "greeter" and "retaining visitors" information to be found on the UUA website. Welcoming our guests is very important to all of us. Let me know how I can be of service to you. As always I can be contacted at jlund@uua.org or (813-931-9727). Happy holidays one and all!

Board Bytes

Mary Francis, Secretary

Each month we receive and discuss reports from the Minister, Director of Religious Education, Treasurer, and Board / Committee Liaisons.

Thanks to successful fundraising we are on target with the 2007 budget. The financial report is available upon request; if interested, see Russ Patterson. There will be a **Congregational meeting on December 16th following Sunday services at 12:30** to approve the budget for 2008. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Ara Rogers, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, presented information to the Board and will update everyone at the congregational meeting to be sure the congregation is in agreement with the direction.

The Tampa Bay Area Marketing Campaign that is scheduled for spring of 2008 will be on the agenda for the congregational meeting. The District Best Practices Workshop was well attended by the Board and other members of our congregation; several goals were set to make our church more welcoming. One outcome is the new Task Force for Immediate Space – more specifically discussed was the possibility of a gazebo for classes and meetings.

The funds raised at the UUCT Auction on December 9th will partially go to the Marketing Campaign. Also, don't miss the opportunity to share your thoughts at the "Discussion with the Board" on the fourth Sunday of every month.

The Board has posted the advertisement for a permanent Office Administrator and hopes to have the position filled by the beginning of the year.

2008 promises to be a very active year for us all!

For more information, please see the most recent copy of the minutes, which is posted on a bulletin board in the foyer, or ask any board member.



Missing your Domelight?

A 1-year subscription by mail is still available! Stop by the office with a \$15.00 donation – be sure to mark it **Domelight** and include your name and address.

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Download from <http://www.uutampa.org> free of charge. For a 1 year subscription by mail, please make a \$15.00 donation to the church office. Mark it **DOMELIGHT SUBSCRIPTION**. Domelight deadline is generally the Sunday closest to the 15th of each month. Deadline for the next issue is at the end of service on **December 16th**. Articles may be submitted by e-mail to Domelight@chrisandjamie.net or left in the Domelight box in the church office.

Submissions should include a contact name and phone number. Editor: Chris Hendrickx



Interweave

Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working to end oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past. We are an affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We value and affirm the lives and experience of Queer people of faith of all ages, races, ethnicities, income levels, and abilities. By providing and supporting leadership, and working in collaboration with other organizations of similar vision, we strive to connect and nurture all Queer individuals, communities, groups, and their allies.

The local UUCT Chapter of Interweave will announce their next meeting during Sunday services. Please see the Order of Service for details or questions can be directed to Magda Santos.



Migrant Workers Program

Ollis Hughes, Chair



The Charity Committee would like to remind you that there is a basket for food offerings at the church entrance. The basket is for nonperishable food and personal items, no clothing. Please try to remember to bring something to share with those less fortunate.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
One Place. All Faiths
Creating a caring, justice-seeking community



Green Challenge Brittany Bennett

Make the holidays more personable this year by thinking green for the holidays! This month's "Green Challenge": Choose alternatives to regular wrapping paper!

Most of us probably go out each holiday season and stock up on rolls of wrapping paper for the gifts to be given. Why put money toward wrapping paper that requires valuable resources when there are other choices? Why spend money on paper that's just going to go straight into the trash after it is torn apart by eager hands?

This year the Green Group would like to challenge you to make more environmentally-aware choices when wrapping your gifts. Here are some fun, economic choices for wrapping presents with materials that you might be likely to have on hand at home:

- Newspaper—especially the Comics section!
- Fabric
- Old maps
- Pages from this year's calendar, (which is soon to be thrown out anyhow, right?)
- Magazine pages
- Children's artwork—with their permission, of course!
- Shoe boxes
- Brown paper bags
- Pine cones or other things from nature for "decoration" on presents
- Reuse old wrapping paper or gift bags

If you feel like you must buy wrapping paper this year, try Hemp wrapping paper (http://www.eartheasy.com/shop/gifts_hempwrap.html) or a similar alternative to regular paper.

See these references for more information on these ideas and others, as well as techniques for implementing them:

- http://www.eartheasy.com/gift_wrapping.htm
- <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-are-some-alternatives-to-wrapping-paper.htm>
- <http://www.goodhumans.com/WebLinks/Wrapping-paper-alternatives/>
- http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/196918/fun_giftwrapping_alternatives.html

As an extra challenge, think about pledging to buy handmade gifts this year. Why buy handmade, you ask? "Buying handmade is better for people, better for the environment, and better for giving truly special and well-crafted gifts. The ascendancy of chain store culture and global manufacturing has left us all dressing, furnishing, and decorating alike. The

connection between producer and consumer has been lost. Buying handmade helps them reconnect."

-Information from <http://www.buyhandmade.org/why-buy-handmade>

If the thought of pledging to buy handmade gifts this holiday interests you, check out Etsy at <http://www.etsy.com/> for wonderful handmade presents.

The Green Group meets on Sundays from 9:45AM-10:45AM. We discuss issues of the environment and sustainable living. Every week there is a different facilitator and perhaps a guest speaker. Try to attend even if you cannot be there for the entire hour. Everybody can make a contribution! Come join us. For more information call Betty Kaminker at 246-6568 or Carolyn Hines at 989-0771.

Happy Holidays from the Green Group!



UUCT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President – Diana Stevens	Member – Tempie Taudie
Vice President – Bill Blymiller	Member – Ralph Lehman
Treasurer – Russell Patterson	Member – Felice Richardson
Secretary – Mary Francis	Member – Kathy Hunter
Member – Ed Benedict	



Save the Date
Suzie Siegel



Mark your calendars for 4PM on March 2nd, 2008, when the Reverend Sara Zimmerman will be installed as our minister. Although we called her in June, and she started serving our congregation in September, her installation will be akin to a formal commitment ceremony.

"An installation service is the recognition that a minister is settled in a particular society," according to the UUA, and is normally held months after the minister arrives. The installation "highlights and reaffirms the bond between a minister and a society."

We will invite UU ministers and members of their congregations from all over Florida. These invitations emphasize the connection of Rev. Sara and UUCT to others. The Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, minister of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, will deliver a sermon, followed by a dinner. Let us join together to celebrate the beginning of the Rev. Sara's ministry at UUCT!



The Prez Says

Diana Stevens

November and December are a time of Thanksgiving and Joy. We have plenty to be thankful and joyous about at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. Reverend Sara Zimmerman has brought with her a new sense that WE can do anything together. We are talking about adding new usable space to our grounds as soon as possible. UUCT has a growing Religious Education program and needs additional space. Isn't that wonderful? We have the Long Range Planning Committee giving the church their recommendations about how to add new buildings for the additional space that we need for all our committees and community outreach. There is an air of POSSIBILITIES that creates energy in our church.

Come to the **Congregational Meeting on December 16th at 12:15 PM** and discuss all our possibilities. The Agenda includes the Budget for 2008, the UUA & Tampa Bay Area Marketing Plan for 2008, the Long Range Planning Committee recommendations and other items from the floor.

We have completed our Stewardship Campaign and now the Finance Committee will present a draft budget to the Board of Trustees. The Board will then refine the budget and present a proposed budget for the congregation's approval. This is always a task that involves discussion and questioning. Our commitment to the democratic process is especially important at this time.

Many people of the congregation have been to meetings with the UUA and the Florida District about Best Practices for attracting new visitors and keeping people at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. The Communications, Membership, Worship, and Religious Education Committees with the Board of Trustees have been implementing small changes that make UUCT more welcoming to our members and to visitors. At this congregational meeting, we will discuss what has been going on at those meetings, at our church, and future plans for UUCT.

The Long Range Planning Committee has expended many hours coming up with a proposal for land use and building expansion for the church. There will be discussion as to the direction the church is to take and how to get there. It will be an important presentation and conversation.

I look forward to seeing many of you there!

**Congregational Meeting
December 16th after services**

Friendship Dinners

Martha Robinson

Bud Clough and I are looking forward to seeing you at our home for the next Friendship Dinner December 8th. In January, Joan Lund and Gerhard Hamburg are hosting dinners. As always, you can sign up at the church or call me for more information.

I am still looking for anyone who would like to host a dinner in the future months (February, March, April, May, June, etc.). If you would like to be a host, please call Martha Robinson (985-4777 or email mrobins7@verizon.net). Keep in mind that there may be a special occasion you would like to celebrate with fellow UUers. The Friendship Dinner is a great way to have friends with you for those special occasions. To those people who are new to the area and UUCT, it would be great if you would sign up to attend a dinner. We'd love to get to know you better, and these dinners are a perfect way for us to meet you on a more personal level with good food thrown into the bargain.

The Dinners work like this: They are usually held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, but if that date does not fit into your busy schedule you may choose a date more to your liking. The entrée is usually fixed by the host and the guests bring the rest of the meal, but that is not carved in stone. Hope to see you at the December and January dinners!



SHAAG /SHAFT

Bill Blymiller

The SHAAG (Secularist, Humanist, Atheist, Agnostic [and Free Thinker] Group) now meets on the **second and fourth Wednesdays** of each month to discuss topics of interest from a primarily non-theistic point of view. I say primarily, because the discussions range freely and many different flavors of "Free Thinking" display themselves. Go the Church website and follow the SHAAG link to get more information and links to download the discussion material. Contact Bill Blymiller for questions at bill@blymiller.com or 813-988-6551. The discussions are always open and new people come and go all the time. We would love to have you visit to see if it is something you would be interested in.



Walk in the Park

Patricia McCracken

A group of UUs meet at Lettuce Lake Park Thursday mornings at 8:30AM for a brisk walk on the paved path and good conversation. To find the parking area and meeting place, take the Lettuce Lake Parkway to the end. Turn left and then immediately turn right into the parking lot. We will gather there and begin the walk at 8:30AM. You are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Patricia McCracken at 813-988-6453.

Engaging Our Theological Diversity

Bill Blymiller

We continue to meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00PM to discuss the report of the UUA's Commission on Appraisal on the theological diversity in Unitarian Universalism. You can check out the current month's topic by going to the Church's website www.uutampa.org and following the link to the report.



Your help is needed!

Just a reminder, please help to clean the church. This is not only needed on Building & Grounds day, but also whenever you're there. Make sure all food is picked up and put away. Clean up all of your dishes. Take the garbage out to the dumpster. Just these few simple tips can help make sure that we have a sanctuary that's ready to use when anyone wants to use it, and helps keep the grounds looking beautiful!



UUCT Annual Auction

Russell Patterson



Good food, good fun, and a GREAT Time to buy something special and support our church. Bring your friends, co-workers, and family to join the fun.

The auction is a great time to pick up goods and services from members and friends. This year, half of the auction proceeds will go to the January Media Campaign and half will go to church funds.

We are calling for new or gently used (and clean) items, services or promises. Please contact Russell Patterson (russellpatterson1@earthlink.net 813-333-5315), or Candy Gale (candylgale@earthlink.net 813-333-5325) to donate, or bring your item to church no later than Sunday, December 2nd.

Some items are already on display for our silent auction. Some items will also be on display for a raffle that will go on at the same time as the auction.

Save the date, and plan to spend the morning and afternoon of December 9th at UUCT.



Circles In The Woods CUUPS

Chris Hendrickx



Circles in the Woods CUUPS (Convent of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) is a committee within the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa.

Full Moon Celebrations

We host Full Moon Celebrations on the Saturday closest to the Full Moon at 7:30PM followed by shared feasting. This is an open family event, so yes, children are welcome! However, childcare is **not** provided, so parents **are** responsible for the care of their children. Donations to help pay for the upkeep of the property are welcome! First-time ritual attendees, those interested in Wicca or Paganism, and their families are welcomed and encouraged to attend! You do not have to have ritual experience to be part of the Celebration. We welcome all those who come in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust!!

Upcoming Rituals:

December 22nd: Members of Sacred Oaks Circle bring you a Yule celebration in which you can release that which you no longer need and renew yourself by bringing gifts to this new world.

Upcoming Classes:

Note: All are welcome at meetings and classes. Meetings start at 7:00PM and are followed by a class. There is no cost for the meeting or class, however, love donations are gratefully accepted. All money goes directly to UUCT.

December 3rd: Kitchen Witchery: In this popular class, you will learn different techniques and recipes for brewing a bit of magic in your own kitchen. There will be a potluck to follow. Please bring dishes and recipes to share!

Watch for more information in the January Domelight about our upcoming Wicca 101 series. This year, the classes will be held on the first and third Mondays of January, February and March.



Calling All Elves!

Martha Robinson

Christmas is coming and the Hot Fudge needs to be cooked! Calling all elves who would like to make hot fudge for the Christmas Eve service. I will supply the recipe and all you have to do is bring it to church Christmas Eve night. Call me or let me know by email or in person. Thank you. Martha Robinson (call 985-4777 or email mrobins7@verizon.net.)



Giving to the UU Church of Tampa

There are several ways to give to UUCT. You can fill out a form with our pledge secretary, Joyce Formica to enroll in automatic deductions from your bank. For those of you who would like more control, you can make a one-time or recurring donation online at <http://www.uutampa.org>. You can drop money in the Sunday collection basket (mark it *pledge* if you want it to count toward your pledge – there are envelopes in the basket if you are using cash toward your pledge). Finally, you can drop donations off at the church office anytime someone is there. If you wish to make a gift of stocks or bonds, please see our treasurer, Russ Patterson, for instructions.



H.O.P.E. Happenings

Carol Partington

The HOPE Annual Convention on October 29th had 360 people present. Our church had 29 present. I was extremely proud to have our UUCT Choir open the program with 15 minutes of singing. They were very well received.

Two problem areas were prioritized for 2008: Healthcare and Homelessness/Affordable Housing. Research teams will now develop specific targets within these problems. There will be a Research & Issue Development Training Session on Monday, December 3 from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at the First United Methodist Church of Tampa in Branscomb Hall, 1001 N. Florida Avenue. We will discuss what we need to do to move from problems to solutions.

Doing the research is a short but intensive commitment as our Rally (where committees present researched action recommendations) will be March 10th and our Nehemiah Action (where we confront the leaders who can commit to change) will be April 7th. Please consider participating in this important work!

Remember, our (HOPE's) power is in numbers of people. This is how we effect systemic change. Our goal for the Nehemiah Action is 1,000 people. UUCT's goal is 80. The way we prepare ourselves to reach this goal is by developing a Justice Ministry Team (JMT) who commit to attending the Rally and the Nehemiah Action (and bringing 3 people with them to the latter). We currently have 8 people on the JMT and we need at least 20!. If you know 3 or more people: family, friends, or neighbors, who would attend the Action with you, please join the JMT to help us reach our goal.

And, finally, thanks to all who invested during the HOPE Support Drive. UUCT's total was \$3,740! Our goal was \$4,000.

Adult Religious Education

Ollis Hughes

The Adult RE Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday every other month. The next meeting is on December 19th. There are several events coming up in December to be excited about!

Don't forget about the **Kitchen Witchery workshop** after the CUUPS meeting on December 3rd. See the CUUPS article on page 6 for more details.

UU 101 taught by Rev. Sara Zimmerman Continues this month. The remaining dates are **December 6th** and **December 13th**. All UU101 classes are 7PM – 9PM in the large Dome. UU 101 explores the history and roots of Unitarian Universalism. This class is ideal for those new to the church who may wish to become members. It's also a great refresher for long-time UUs.

Popcorn and Opinions does not have a showing scheduled for this month. In January, we will be at the home of Joyce Formica showing *Antonia Sine*. Suzie Siegel will facilitate the discussion of this Dutch movie, with English subtitles, which won an Academy Award as the Best Foreign Language Film in 1995.

Although it contains brief violence, the film celebrates life, as lived by four generations in a farming community. Bring snacks if you'd like!

The **Engaging Our Theological Diversity** series continues the second Monday of each month. See details in Bill's article on page 6.

Our very own Rev. Sara Zimmerman holds a **Zen Loving Kindness Meditation** every Tuesday evening from 5:30 PM until 6:30PM in the large dome. Note: There will be no meditation Christmas Day.

The **Green Group** welcomes your input on issues concerning our environment. See their article on page 4 for full details.

There is no **book discussion** for December.

We're still looking for hosts for the Popcorn and Opinions series as well as facilitators for book discussions. Contact Ollis Hughes (sunfiresage@juno.com) if interested.



Conversation With The Board

Diana Stevens, Board of Trustees President

Available members of the Board of Trustees will be present for **conversation** after church on the 4th Sunday of the month from 12:15 to 12:45 PM. The purpose of these conversations will be to open communication and share ideas. Come with questions and ideas, but always with an open mind.

Hymnbooks

We can always use more hymnbooks, so if you would like to gift one to the church you can purchase a hymnbook in memory of a loved one or dedicated to a special person. Our hymnbook *Singing the Living Tradition* is available for \$32.00 a copy, this includes a bookplate with the donor's name, shipping & handling fees. When we have five requests, we will order the books. Send your check payable to UUCT, along with a note with information about who is to be memorialized or honored to the church, attention Joyce Formica. You will be notified when the book is available for you to place it in the sanctuary.



Concerts in the Dome Gloria Holloway

December 16th is Christmas Music with tenor Paul Diaz-Cobo (as in Opera) in a double bill with traditional folk musician Susan Boyer Haley (as in old yuletide folk carols and folk instruments). You can find a clip of Paul singing Chella Mi Creda at <http://www.pdiazcobo.freehomepage.com/> Tickets at \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

For advance tickets and other concert news, please visit <http://uutampa.org/Concerts.htm>



Care Committee Joyce Formica

We try to assist members and their families, those that are ill, isolated or bereaved, lending a helping hand. If you know of someone that could use our services, please let Rev. Sara or a member of the CARE committee know.

The Care Committee invites you to explore ways you can assist others who are in need within our church family. There are lots of ways you can help. Perhaps you would be willing to do any of the following that might take just a few minutes or a few hours, on an as need basis. Contact Joyce Formica (988-1907) for more information or fill out the list below and place it in the Sunday collection basket.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companionship visit | <input type="checkbox"/> Run errands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Meal Prep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/doctors or church | <input type="checkbox"/> Child care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial service assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation / hospital |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Record Joys & Sorrows, Sunday mornings. | |

Name: _____

Phone Number _____

Paid Part-Time Position Available

Officer Administrator for the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

10 hours weekly at \$10.00 per hour

Qualifications:

- HS + some college
- Computer Literate
- Good phone presence
- Organizational ability
- Willing to attend unpaid training initially

Please submit a resume with 3 references (with contact information) to the Church office by December 7th, 2007. Interviews will be conducted on December 12th & 13th.



Volunteer Opportunity

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON FROM 2:00 TO 6:00

Needed - volunteer(s) to be at the church the same time Rev Sara Zimmerman is there to answer phones, greet visitors, and help with tasks left by the office administrator. We currently need volunteers for the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Please contact Diana Stevens (tlassie@gmail.com) or Rev. Zimmerman (info@uutampa.org) to apply.



Foster Angels

Foster angels are available again this year! Help a child in need by getting an angel off the tree. Purchase the items listed, wrap them, then securely attach the angel to the package. Angels are **available immediately** and must be returned by **December 16th**. Contact Ollis Hughes for more information.



**Congregational Meeting
December 16th after services**

Campfire USA Jodi Ann Baudean

Camp Fire USA will begin meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10:30AM - 12:00PM starting December 4th at our new location and new sponsor the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa (in the small dome). Camp Fire members will make friends, complete service projects, and have fun. This year each member will have the opportunity to go camping with the Sunshine Council, sell candy, and earn each of the emblems of the five trails: Trail to Community, Trail to the Environment, Trail to Family and Community, Trail to the Future, and Trail to Knowing Me. The members who are 11 and older also have the option to participate in Advanced Camping Experts (ACES) program which teaches leadership, decision-making, teamwork, and self-reliance skills using outdoor education as a medium. We already have two ten year-olds and a twelve year-old committed to the group and two 14 year-olds that are interested. I was in Camp Fire when I was a child and my son has been in Camp Fire for three years already. If you are interested, please contact me ASAP. Below is some information about Camp Fire USA.

Camp Fire USA is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, currently serving 735,000 children and youth age birth to 21 years. Camp Fire USA provides all-inclusive, coeducational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. As the first nonsectarian, interracial organization for girls in the United States, Camp Fire USA takes pride in its long-standing commitment to providing fun programs and services to all children and families in America.

We are inclusive, open to every person in the communities we serve, welcoming children, youth and adults regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity. Camp Fire USA's programs are designed and implemented to reduce sex-role, racial and cultural stereotypes and to foster positive intercultural relationships.

Camp Fire USA's mission is to build caring, confident youth and future leaders.

For more information, call me
Jodi Ann Baudean at (813) 244-4111 or e-mail
CampFireKidsOfTampa@gmail.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CampFireKidsOfTampa>

Or the contact the Sunshine Council
<http://www.campfireusa-sunshine.org>



Calendar of weekly events at UUCT

SUNDAY

- 9:45AM Green Group
- 10AM Current Affairs (Small Dome)
- 11AM Sunday Service
- 11AM (Grades 1-12) Youth R.E. (Small Dome)
- 11AM Child Care for babies in the Nursery

THURSDAY

- 8:30AM Nature Walk in the Park
(info: 813-988-6453)

Calendar of December Events

- Dec 2** – Book Sale 12:15 PM
Holiday Party & Tree Trimming 12:15 PM
- Dec 3** – CUUPS Meeting and Kitchen Witchery Class 7:00 PM
- Dec 4** – Happy Hanukkah
Camp Fire USA 10:30AM - noon
Adult RE: Zen Loving Kindness Meditation 5:30 PM
Worship Committee 7:00 PM
- Dec 5** – Choir 7:00 PM
- Dec 6** – Adult RE: UU 101 7:00 PM
Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM
- Dec 8** – **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS WORKDAY**
- Dec 9** – Annual Church Auction 12:00 PM
- Dec 10** – Adult RE: Embracing our Theological Diversity 7:00 PM
- Dec 11** – Adult RE: Zen Loving Kindness Meditation 5:30 PM
Small Group Ministry 7:00 PM
- Dec 12** – SHAAG/SHAAFT 7:00 PM
Choir 7:00 PM
- Dec 13** – Adult RE: UU 101 7:00 PM
Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM
- Dec 16** – **Domelight Deadline**
Interweave 12:15 PM
Congregational Meeting 12:30 PM
Yuletide Concert 5:00 PM
- Dec 17** – Finance Committee 7:00 PM
- Dec 18** – Camp Fire USA 10:30AM - noon
Adult RE: Zen Loving Kindness Meditation 5:30 PM
- Dec 19** – Youth RE Committee 7:00 PM
Adult RE Committee 7:00 PM
Choir 7:00 PM
- Dec 20** – Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM
Board 7:00 PM
- Dec 22** – Happy Yule!
CUUPS Full Moon Celebration 7:30 PM
- Dec 23** – Conversation with the Board 12:15 PM
- Dec 24** – **Christmas Eve Service 6:30 PM**
- Dec 25** – Merry Christmas!
- Dec 26** – Happy Kwanzaa!
SHAAG/SHAAFT 7:00 PM
Choir 7:00 PM
- Dec 27** – Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM

A Month of Sundays at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Please Note: All Sunday Services start at 11:00 AM and are led by Rev. Sara Zimmerman unless otherwise noted.

Special Service: Christmas Eve at 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 2nd: *Rock of Ages, Let Our Song*

In an in-depth study of the origins and meaning of our opening hymn today (#223), Rev. Zimmerman will reflect on its meaning for Hanukkah which begins this Tuesday, December 4th, at sundown. As our Principles and Purposes say, "The living tradition we share draws from many sources," including "Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us," including "Jewish ... teachings."

Sunday, December 9th: *Small Group Ministry/Covenant Groups*

Rev. Zimmerman will reflect on this growing national movement both in UU churches and other denominations. She will also reflect on ways Covenant Groups could help support the spiritual life of UUCT. Members of UUCT's Covenant group *Evensong* will participate in the service. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no one can seriously help another without helping herself." (adapted)

Sunday, December 16th: *On Sam Harris' The End of Faith*

Sam Harris writes that the sooner we wake up to the fact that the three major faiths are causing all the violence and terrorism, the better off we will be. Rev. Zimmerman will summarize the solutions Harris explores, present one or two of the reviews of the book, (including one that calls Harris a "militant atheist"), and offer an opinion of what to make of all of this! The term "militant atheist" was suggested as a sermon topic by a member of our atheist and agnostic group known as SHAAG. Members of SHAAG will participate in the service.

December 16, A New Member Sunday

If you are interested in becoming a member of this congregation on December 16, please let Rev. Sara know now at 813 988 8188 (leave a message for the minister), or send her an email at revsaraz@aol.com.

Sunday, December 23rd: *Celebrating the Solstice, An Intergenerational Service*

Rev. Zimmerman will reflect on the ancient Celtic Christian and pagan traditions known to early New England. Are you under the impression that this was a stately and dignified time of year? It was more boisterous than you'd think! Our Director of Religious Education Katie Culbert, the RE children, youth and parents, and CUUPS will participate in this joyful winter solstice service.

Monday, December 24th: *A Traditional Christmas Eve Service*

Time: 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 30th: *Guest speaker, TBA*

Want to get this by US mail? Need to contact the church? All the info is on page 3!



Happy Holidays!!

Domelight is a publication of:
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Please Note: The deadline for the January issue of *Domelight* is December 16th at the end of church service. *Domelight* is brought to you by 5 golden rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.