

Central Unitarian News

Newsletter of Central Unitarian Church, Paramus, New Jersey



February 2012

Worship Services

10:30 am

February 5, 2012

Second Smooth Stone: *The Golden Rule*

Rev. Dr. Matt Tittle

February 12, 2012

Third Smooth Stone: *Creating Beloved Community*

Rev. Dr. Matt Tittle

February 19, 2012

It Sounds Along the Ages

Intergenerational Service

Glenn Farley, Intern Minister

February 26, 2012

Fourth Smooth Stone: *Faith with Works*

Rev. Dr. Matt Tittle

Our Mission

Central Unitarian Church welcomes all into a home of spiritual diversity that challenges us to become our best selves, to minister to one another in love, and to serve the greater community.

Minister's Message

- Rev. Dr. Matt Tittle

Welcome to the new Central Unitarian News! We have reformatted our newsletter for a variety of reasons. Our primary goal is to improve communications about congregational events and from CUC's leaders. Communicating well is not only common sense for any organization, it is fundamental to our theology as Unitarian Universalists. Founded in the intentionally covenantal congregations of 17th and 18th century New England, we have gathered for hundreds of years in caring agreement of how we will be with one another. Our religious ancestors made explicit and direct communications (individually and collectively) a core part of liberal religion.

So, our new format will include more regular information from the congregational leadership, including the Board of Trustees, Threshold Team, Membership Committee, Pastoral Care Team, and others. There will also be more room for congregational events and announcements, and community events of interest. We hope the new layout will also make it easier to read and use. Finally, the newsletter is now a monthly publication instead of bi-weekly, and will be physically mailed to homes rather than being available for pickup at Sunday service. There will still be an online version available as a download from the church website.

The new newsletter format is just one part of an overall strategy to improve communications at CUC. You have already been using our new Sunday order of service for several months. It serves as a weekly bulletin of events. We will also be upgrading the CUC website soon, and will begin a new weekly email about the CUC calendar, and will continue to send emails about special events and announcements.

We understand that some of these changes will take some getting used to, and welcome feedback as we work to improve how we communicate with each other. I believe these changes will help us to fulfill our mission of becoming our best selves, ministering to one another in love, and serving the greater community.

Blessings

Lifespan Faith Development

- Merrin Clough

February... it's already February. This means that we have just a few more months until my contract is up in June. I arrived a year and a half ago on the coat tails of major change; a new minister, the retirement of your longtime Director of Religious Education, and the potential of a new program model. The work in front of us then was substantial. I recall the perplexed and overwhelmed looks on your faces. *Lifespan Faith Development*, what?

My work with you has been to navigate the uncertain waters of this transition and prepare you to look toward the future with curiosity and hope. To hold yourselves open to new possibilities and dream of a cohesive faith development program for people of all ages. During our time together I have watched your confusion about *Lifespan Faith Development* grow into enthusiasm.

Now that we are moving toward the end of our journey together it is time to begin wrapping up loose ends. If you still have questions about the direction of the new *Lifespan Faith Development program*, now's the time to ask. If you are unclear about how this new model is different from Religious Education, give me a call or send me an email.

The future is coming at us fast. Soon your new Director of *Lifespan Faith Development* will be here to begin a new chapter at Central Unitarian Church. You all are well prepared for his or her arrival.

We all know how time flies, so let's make the best of these last few months!

Valentines Family Fun-Night

Saturday, February 11th at 6:00 pm

Join us for an evening of lovable fun. We'll play Bunco, a simple yet entertaining game for all ages; make crafts and valentine cards for those who could use some extra love this winter. Bring a snack to share.

Faith Development Leaders Retreat

Faith Development Leaders are invited to a retreat on **February 11th from 1 – 5 pm** in the Sanctuary. The purpose is to strengthen relationships between the varied groups that do Faith Development work, and to begin thinking about next year's program in context of the vision that was cast at the last retreat in October.

If you are attending please RSVP soon so that Merrin can ensure that key programs and people of varied ages are part of the conversation.

Youth Group Events

- Amy Panetta

It has been an exciting year for CUC Youth Group thus far! In the Fall, we spent time forming our group, building community and setting the norms. We explored each of the six components of a balanced youth program and brainstormed how successfully carry out each component.

We have already been active in the Metro-NY youth scene. Some of the youth attended the Cluster Con in Pomona, NY and the UU-UNO Con in Brooklyn, NY. After the UU-UNO Con, two of our youth were interested in becoming Youth Envoys for the UU-UNO. Our cookie-making during the Holiday Craft Day was a success: not only did many of us learn how to make cookies from scratch but we sold the cookies at service the next morning and raised \$220 for the *Holley Child Care and Development Center* in Hackensack. In addition, we hosted an engaging film and discussion night, with youth-facilitated discussion as well as a Bowling social night.

At the beginning of 2012, the youth led a worship that centered around new year's resolutions. As we cast our gaze for the upcoming months, we are in the midst of planning more youth-led worship, film discussions, open-mic coffee houses, youth-led meetings, social justice and service opportunities, social events and a lock-in.



Open Mic-Coffee House

February 11th, 8:00pm-10:00pm

The youth invite the congregation to participate in a youth-led open-mic night after Valentine's Day Family Fun Night.

Do you have a song, piece of music, poetry, or even comedy to share? Please contact Ali Plutnicki at aliplutnicki@gmail.com to be a performer.

Desserts, chocolate, and other snacks will be available for a donation. Money raised will go directly to youth group events and projects.

Dinner & Movie Night

Saturday, February 24th, 6:30pm

Bring \$10 to enjoy a dinner, movie (tba) and a discussion afterwards. This event is open to youth, their friends, and youth advisors.

Notes from Nominating



Inspirations for leadership:

"Imagine how your work for the congregation might be transformed if you approached it primarily as your spiritual practice, and secondarily as helping the church fulfill its mission."

"Serving With Grace" by Erik Walker Wikstrom

From your nominating committee: Lisa Horton (chair), Cecelia Bistrim, Lynda Fritsch, Andy Hirschfeld and Jen Kelemen

Inspired? Call us.



SUSAN SPRINGSTEAD Leadership, because I was very invested in the future of CUC it transformed me

My husband, Harold, and I first came to this congregation in 1969 with our 3-1/2-year-old daughter, Lauren. Harold and I hailed from Dutch Reformed and Presbyterian backgrounds respectively. His had been mostly a youth group and

Easter Sunday experience. Mine had been a church-every-Sunday-with-involved-parents and youth group experience. My beliefs began to deviate from Presbyterian dogma during my teens, and although I did not disassociate myself (I was married in my childhood church), I no longer attended. Nevertheless, I took away the belief that religious education was as basic to childhood as elementary education. It was at Central Unitarian that I found a program I could endorse for my children and a spiritual home that challenged and inspired me personally. We have stayed at Central Unitarian under the guidance of six very different installed ministers, through times of change, times of exhilaration and times of discouragement. And I would be nowhere else.

Over the years my involvement at CUC followed a natural progression. It began with teaching (I was, after all a teacher) and morphed into several years of involvement with the religious education committee. This was a natural role for me because I understood curriculums and wanted CUC to take advantage of (or create) the best possible. As our kids got older, I was asked to try on different "hats" at different times -- as treasurer (that hat didn't fit so well), secretary (because writing came easily, although minutes do not always) and trustee (because I had become very invested in the future of CUC). The first time I was approached to serve as president of the Board, I was shocked that anyone would believe me capable of that job, and frightened that I would not do it well. Encouraged to accept the challenge, I learned more about congregational (and personal) strengths and weaknesses than I had ever known. Because I had to listen, I heard voices and ideas I had never heard before. It was a stimulating, strengthening, eye-opening experience that forever changed my commitment to Central Unitarian Church.

Twenty years later, because I was totally invested in the future of CUC after leading a ministerial search committee, I again agreed to serve as president. Both presidential experiences bolstered my belief in the power of coming together in religious community and the enormous potential we have to wreak good beyond our own walls. My current involvement with the membership ministry gives me the opportunity to learn about religious hospitality, find new ways to reach people who do not know we are here, people who -- like myself so many years ago -- are looking for a religious home that acknowledges more than one truth and welcomes people as they are into a faith community

whose only demand is that they commit to our mission and actively support it in great and small ways.

Here at Central Unitarian, I have met people who have quietly “made a difference” in this world. Their dedication and intention have inspired me to attempt things I might never have otherwise considered.....in other words, changed me for the better (or, as they say in church speak, *transformed* me) and continue to do so.

Pastoral Care Team

The CUC Pastoral Care Team is available to you when you are in need of care and support. Contact us when you need a listening ear during a time of crisis, a visit while you're in the hospital, a call from one of the ministers or care team members, or would like the congregation to know what about a joy or concern in your life.

The Care Team Members are: Rev. Matt, Sue Pearly, Eileen & Ramon Gil, Phyllis Quickel, Betty Buffington, Martha Gros, Laura Hirschfeld and Glenn Farley. In addition to talking with any one of us, you may contact us by email at careteam@cucparamus.org or by leaving a phone message for Rev. Matt at the church office.

Stewardship Committee

Fellowship Workshop

With Rev. Matt Tittle on Saturday, **February 4th** from **10:00 am** till 12 noon and on **Sunday, February 12th** from **12 noon** till 2:00 pm. Both orientations are in the Assembly Room. Please RSVP to Sally Keen.

Thanks from Outreach Auction

Happy New Year From The Outreach Auction Committee

As we ring in the New Year, the Outreach Auction Committee wanted to share the good news about the final tally from the 2011 Auction. We are proud to let you know that we raised \$36,500 for the following 7 charities:

Bergen County Sanctuary Committee
Center for Food Action
Family Promise of Bergen County
Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County
Holley Childcare & Development Center
Outreach Angels
Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative

For all those who donated time and treasure, we thank you for making the 2011 Outreach Auction so special. It was a magical night full of warmth and generosity. Follow this link for a story from Patch.com from Matt Owen, former CUC graduate!

<http://paramus.patch.com/articles/video-central-unitarian-church-holds-11th-annual-outreach-auction#video-8500457>

Community Events

Center for Food Action

Food donations have decreased dramatically since Thanksgiving. The number of people coming for food has increased dramatically. A list of most needed items will be on the table in the rear of the sanctuary each Sunday, along with stickers to put on your calendar the first Sunday of each month as a reminder. If you do not attend church service on the first Sunday of each month, please feel free to leave your food donations in the basket in the hallway. If you prefer to donate supermarket gift cards, CFA can use those to purchase eggs, cheese, margarine, and fresh fruit. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thelma Fedele

Homeless Shelter

Tuesday, February 7th

We will be hosting 4 Homeless Families at Good Shepard Church in Glenn Rock for which we need 2 overnighters, 2 hosts and people to cook.

Please contact Helen Brender as soon as possible if you can help.

Thanks

Spring Fling Events

Spring-Fling Kickoff Meeting

Sunday, February 5th

We are having our first planning meeting after the

service for our fun fundraiser of the year in which all of the proceeds go to CUC's Operating Fund. This meeting is open to everyone – it takes many hands and minds to create a successful event, so bring your ideas, your talents, and your enthusiasm to this meeting. Please consider joining our Spring Fling Committee this year.

Save the date:
SPRING FLING 2012 is on SATURDAY, MAY 5th!

Your co-chairs,
Sue Pearly & Diana Adams



Pasta Dinner & Movie Night
Saturday, February 4th at 6:30 pm

The Welcoming Congregation Committee is hosting its annual Pasta Dinner with all the trimmings, including watching – “Prayers for Bobby” on big screen in the Assembly Room.

Don't miss Chef Leonardo's famous sauce!

The cost for this Spring Fling event is **\$20/person**.



Super Bowl Party
Sunday, February 5th at 6:00 pm

Watch the game on CUC's big screen with your friends in the Assembly Room. Chef Nico will be in charge so bring your appetite!

The cost for this Spring Fling event is **\$20/person**.

Laugh at Winter Nine - Movie Night
Saturday, February 25th at 7:00 pm

In the cold winter night – sit inside next to a TV and fireplace... Well, we can definitely provide big screen TV and portable room heaters. Watch “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” starring Zero Mostel, Phil Silver and Buster Keaton. Pizza, salad, snack and soda will be provided.

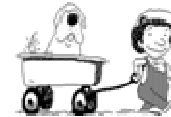
The cost for this Spring Fling event is **\$15/person**.

**Women's Alliance Tour –
Hermitage Mansion**

Tour of Historic Hermitage Mansion
On **Wednesday, February 15th**

The Women's Alliance group is going on a tour to historic *Hermitage Mansion* in Ho-Ho-Kus and then to *Nellie's Place* in Waldwick. You can enjoy famous pizza or if you prefer, hamburger or salad, coffee, tea, soda and dessert.

The total cost is **\$22**/per person. There will be a carpool from CUC at 10:30 am for an **11 o'clock tour**.



To make reservation call Jean Wandelmaier at 201-666-5990 or email wandy3@optonline.net no later than Tuesday, February 7th.

How to Reach Us

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201-262-6300 x 202
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Newsletter editor: Shailja Rastogi



Publications & Deadlines

Publication of Central Unitarian Church
(Newsletter: Volume 133, Issue 138)

Next Deadlines:

Newsletter: **March 15th 2012**
Order of Service: **Tuesdays**

Note from CUC Office

Newsletter

2012 started with many changes; change in how we communicate with each other; a strong fellowship orientation program; empowering members and leaders with necessary tools for creating a bold vision for CUC.

In order to reach all of you, we have changed the frequency of our publication and will be snail mailing everyone starting February 1st 2012.

If you don't wish to get a paper copy of the Newsletter, please inform the office by email or phone.
We hope that you like the new Newsletter format.

February Calendar

Board of Trustees Meeting: February 28

7:30 pm – Assembly Room

Thursday, February 2

7:30 pm – Covenant Group [SP] – Offsite
7:30 pm – Social Justice Action Com. meeting –
Annex

Saturday, February 4

9:30 am – Finance & CUC Com. mtg. – Assembly
Room
6:30 pm – Pasta Dinner & Movie Night: *Prayers for
Bobby* – Assembly Room

Sunday, February 5

10:30 am – Crib Room Care
10:30 pm – Youth Group – Lounge/Youth Room
10:30 am – Sunday Service – Sanctuary
10:30 pm – Sunday Classes
12 noon – Bible study: *The Pastoral Epistles* –
Assembly Room
12 noon – Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
12 noon – Physical Space Task Force Com. mtg. –
Lounge
12 noon – *Our Whole Lives: Session IX* –
Classroom 12 & 7
6:00 pm – Super Bowl Party – Assembly Room

Monday, February 6

7:30 pm – Adult RE mtg. – Annex

7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 7

7:00 pm – RE (Children & Youth) Com. mtg. –
Annex

Wednesday, February 8

7:00 pm – *Building the World We Dream About* –
Assembly Room
7:30 pm – Pastoral Care Com. mtg. – Annex

Thursday, February 9

7:30 pm – Threshold Team Leaders Com. mtg. –
Lounge

Saturday, February 11

1:00 pm – Retreat for Faith Development Leaders –
Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Family Fun Night – Assembly Room
Snow date is February 18th
7:30 pm – Covenant Group [LH] – Lounge
8:00 pm – Youth led *Open Mic-Coffee House* –
Assembly Room

Sunday, February 12

9:00 am – ETF Com. mtg. – Lounge
10:30 am – Crib Room Care
10:30 pm – Youth Group – Lounge/Youth Room
10:30 am – Sunday Service – Sanctuary
10:30 pm – Sunday Classes
12 noon – Covenant Group [JF] – Lounge
12 noon – Fellowship Training – Assembly Room

Monday, February 13

12:30 pm – Women's Alliance mtg. – Annex
6:00 pm – *Our Whole Lives* – Lounge/Class Room
12 & 7
7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
7:30 pm – Covenant Group – Annex

Tuesday, February 14

7:30 pm – Covenant Facilitators mtg. [LH] –
Lounge

Thursday, February 16

3:30 pm – Meditation Group – Lounge

Saturday, February 18

9:00 am – Free Yoga class – Assembly Room

Sunday, February 19

10:30 am – Crib Room Care
10:30 am – Sunday Service – Sanctuary
12 noon – Famous UUs: *Clara Barton* –
Assembly Room

Monday, February 20 - Presidents Day Celebrated –
Office is closed!

Wednesday, February 22

7:00 pm – *Building the World We Dream About* –
Assembly Room

Thursday, February 23

7:30 pm – Covenant Group [PZ] – Lounge

Friday, February 24

6:30 pm – Youth Group Dinner & Movie Night –
Assembly Room

Saturday, February 25

10:00 am – Stewardship Workshop – Assembly
Room

7:00 pm – Winter Nine Movie Night: “*A Funny
Thing Happened on the Way to the
Forum*” – Assembly Room

Sunday, February 26

10:30 am – Crib Room Care
10:30 pm – Youth Group – Lounge/Youth Room
10:30 am – Sunday Service – Sanctuary
10:30 pm – Sunday Classes
12 noon – *Our Whole Lives: Session XVII* –
Lounge/Class Room 12 & 7
12 noon – *What is Justice?* – Assembly Room

Monday, February 27

6:00 pm – Support Group – Annex
7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 28

7:30 pm – Covenant Group mtg. [RC] – Lounge

What is Coming in March

Thursday, March 1

7:30 pm – Covenant Group [SP] – offsite
7:30 pm – Social Justice Action Com. meeting –
Annex

Sunday, March 4

10:30 am – Crib Room Care
10:30 pm – Youth Group – Lounge/Youth Room
10:30 am – Sunday Service – Sanctuary
10:30 pm – Sunday Classes
12 noon – Bible Study: *The Book of Hebrews & The
Rise of Christian Anti-Sinicism* –
Assembly Room
12 noon – Physical Space Task Force Com. mtg. –
Lounge
12 noon – *Our Whole Lives: Session* –
Classroom 12 & 7
3:30 pm – *All Seasons Chamber Players* –
Sanctuary



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(USPS #0016-093)

**Second Class
Periodical Postage
Paramus, NJ**

Is published monthly
Central Unitarian Church
156 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

Postmaster: Send address changes to
CENTRAL UNITARIAN NEWS
Central Unitarian Church
156 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652