



# What's with UUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling  
A Welcoming Congregation  
Sterling, Virginia



## Minister's Message



### The Hope inherent in our free Faith

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

The No-Hellers were a small scattering of early American Universalist congregations. They met mostly in rural communities throughout the southern states, including Virginia, and had the largest following about 150 years ago. They believed that all the children of earth were held in the hands of a "happy God" who would not forsake anyone to eternal hell and damnation. Their faith grew up in pockets surrounded by fundamentalist strongholds. When the fundamentalist pulpits pronounced our inherent sinfulness and depravity, the No-Hellers proclaimed human potential and eternal love. When fundamentalists rallied against non-believers, No-Hellers assumed that God's message reached all humans, across the panoply of this diverse earth.

One of the most striking of the No-Hellers rituals was the annual foot washing where each member of the congregation would carefully wash the feet of another member. This practice, with scriptural roots, begs a deep humility, but without any semblance of a human hierarchy. Each person that had his or her feet washed reciprocated by washing the feet of another. In this way they shared humility as well as "respect or honor". This practice affirmed what present day Unitarian Universalists hold as their first and seventh principles: 1: "The inherent worth and dignity of all

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## President's Message



### Space: The Next Frontier

Dave Miller

In this month's column I would like to let you know about what

I think is an exciting possibility for the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling. Many of you are aware that we have been experiencing overcrowding in our worship space, and especially in our Religious Exploration areas. While this can be considered a problem, it is a welcome problem because it indicates that we are a growing and thriving community.

We have recently learned that our next-door neighbor in the building, Capitol Cable, is planning to move to a new facility. Their current plans are to move out of their present location around mid May 2009, but it is expected that this may get delayed by a few months. Consequently, the rental space they currently occupy will become available for lease.

In light of this development, your Board of Trustees is looking into possibly expanding UUS by adding that additional space to what we are currently leasing. The Board has appointed a task force to investigate all of the issues associated with this possibility. The task force is looking at the financial issues involved in such a move, how we might modify the new space and our existing space to meet our needs, as well as other considerations. It is also looking at ensuring that adding this additional space would give us ample room to meet our projected future needs.

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## Worship Calendar

**December 7th** - "Poking Holes in the Darkness" A service on this month's liturgical theme "Hope," with the UUS Choir and Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael. Our worship will fittingly include a multi-family child-dedication ceremony. We will begin at 10:20 with a hymn sing and an inquirer's class will follow the service.

**December 14th** - "Humanism and Theism" Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael reflects on these two diverse belief systems that co-exist in Unitarian Universalist congregations as well as in our faith's history.

**December 21st** - "All Ages Holiday Pageant," adapted by our Director of Religious Exploration Linda Weaver, narrated by Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, and intertwined with the music of Dave Scher. Children, youth and adults are welcome to share in the blessing of this season by celebrating in song and performance, "The Trees of the Dancing Goats", a tale of compassion and community that honors both Hanukkah and Christmas.

**December 22nd** - Winter Solstice 2008. To recognize the first day of winter, the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling will celebrate its 6th annual Winter Solstice service with a ceremony at 7:00pm on Monday, December 22, 2008. In this rich and reverential service, stories, songs, and rituals from the past will help us recall the importance of the changing seasons on the lives of our early ancestors. By including elements from Eastern, European and Native American tradition, this service is a hearty and meaningful expression of the less commercialized side of the Holiday season.

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(Minister, continued from page 1)

people” and 7: “The interdependent web of which we are a part.”

The No-Hellers and later Unitarians and Universalists proclaimed: “Give them hope, not hell!” believing that salvation was possible if and only if we believed in our capacity for good and transformation. This message of hope is just as necessary a balm as ever. A recent news article spoke of the practices of the Sterling Calvary Temple, where the pastor Star R. Scott teaches that his fold is scripturally superior to others and lauds the importance of expelling anyone who is not in harmony with its or his message. Many who have left or were shamed and thereby pushed out of his church claim serious emotional abuse and repercussions. Many have found homes in other local congregations. Some are likely still bruised and searching.

I pray that they will find a message of hope – a balm of acceptance, and an opportunity to reconnect with a community that will affirm their inherent worth and dignity. It is not so important to me that our community receive all those hurt by cult-like churches, as I know there are many wonderful religious homes that promote health and acceptance, but it is terribly important that we broadcast a message of hope that is clear and effective, to make certain that anyone who yearns for a community like ours, knows that our doors are open and that they are welcome.

I say this because I firmly believe that there *is* a message of hope inherent in our free faith. This hope lives in our refusal to demand creedal requirements while asking our willingness to authentically live the beliefs that our consciences demand. It is a faith in the dignity of our differences as well as our unity.

Edward Schemppe, plaintiff in 1963 Supreme Court case that declared mandatory Bible reading in public schools unconstitutional, announced: “Unitarian Universalism is cooperation with a universe that created us. It is a celebration of life. It is being in love with goodness and justice. It is a sense of humor about

(President, continued from page 1)

Obviously, a decision of this magnitude will require the full participation and support of the congregation. At this point, many more questions remain to be answered; few answers have been developed. This expansion is intended to help us with our current and near-term crowding and does not interfere with our Building Fund and our vision for a permanent place “so that we may have a greater impact on the world.” However, we may need to borrow against the fund in the event of a money shortfall.

If all goes well and we proceed with this expansion plan, we could be in our new space and enjoying extra breathing room by next Thanksgiving. Over the next few months, expect to hear many more announcements, see articles in the newsletter, and participate in discussions at town hall meetings. Please be looking for further information and be ready to be engaged in the process. I think that this is an exciting time for UUS, and that exciting opportunities lie in our future.



absolutes. Unitarian Universalism is faith in people, hope for tomorrow’s child, confidence in a continuity that spans all time. It looks not to a perfect heaven, but toward a good earth. It is respectful of the past, but not limited to it. It is trust in growing.”

Through the month of December we will study the depths of this hopeful message. Than in January we will turn to the topic of Justice. There have never been two better-paired themes – as it is the role of justice to make manifest the potential of hope that we see in this, our great and interconnected universe. And as we share in these themes together, it is our task to vigilantly hold the doors of this faith open for all who yearn.

## Roving Reporter

Susan Rose

Thinking about Halloween, Thanksgiving and all the December holidays, which one is your favorite and why?

**Luke** (6) Christmas. I’m thankful for all the presents!

**Maggie** (4) Halloween, I was a cheerleader

**Maddie** (8) Christmas. I like to visit family (and I like the presents).

**Logan** (5) Christmas because of the presents!

**Maddie** (11) I like Christmas because I spend a lot of time with family!



(Worship Calendar, continued from page 1)

**December 24th** – Christmas Eve, two services with a reception of seasonal treats and warming beverages in between.

“Lessons and Carols” an all ages, intentionally intergenerational, family service from 5 till 5:30 with Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael. Reception to follow.

“Candlelight Reflections” a meditative celebration of the season from 6 till 6:45PM with the UUS choir and Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael. Come early and enjoy a reception from 5:30 to 6.

December 28th – Worship Associate-Led Service: “In This Season of Lights, What Light Do You Shine to the World” led by our guest minister Karen Rasmussen. Karen is a Wesley seminarian, preparing for the Unitarian Universalist ministry, and a member of the Unitarian Universalist congregation of Fairfax.

# Religious Exploration

Linda Weaver

## Season of Hope

*"Each night that a child is born is a holy night." - Sophia Lyon Fahs*

As Unitarian Universalists many of us join Sophia Lyon Fahs, a leading religious education innovator from the 20th century, in celebrating the birth and development of each child as a miracle and a source of hope. The theme at UUS this month is hope, so it is very appropriate that the December 7th worship service includes a child dedication that all ages will be encouraged to witness.

Hope is also an appropriate theme for the month of December since it is a time for celebrating hope in many cultures. We look forward to the lengthening hours that begin with the Solstice and make plans for the longer days. We may celebrate the miracle of a small lamp of oil lasting for seven days and share the traditions that gave a people hope through thousands of years of hardship. We may rejoice at the birth of a Messiah who has provided hope to many around the world. Some may choose to light Kwanzaa candles signifying principles such as unity, self-determination, cooperation, purpose, creativity, and faith. Doing so, they celebrate the hope that helped people survive despite unfair laws and prejudices and that gives them the courage to work toward an even brighter future. Then, at the end of the month of December we begin contemplating what the New Year will bring.

As we experience the hope of the winter season, it is good to remember that to Unitarian Universalists hope is not just a passive emotion. It must be acted on and at times even created. This year an energetic and imaginative set of Religious Exploration (RE) volunteers are doing their part to spread hope at UUS. Each Sunday they make sure that the children and youth are engaged in building community with their peers and in developing a greater understanding of Unitarian Universalism, themselves, and their world. Please make sure to thank these volunteers. Their time and talent

are truly important gifts to the congregation and to the children of UUS.

RE Committee: Kim Fitzgerald, Nikki George, Deb Rose, and Karen Saifer-Ward.

Nursery: Michelle James, Wendi Manuel-Scott, Karen Saifer-Ward and Ken Ward, Karen and Chris Houck, and Mary Stafford.

Elementary: Celinda Chandler, Sonya Connors, Nikki George, Alyssa Lum, Mike Masiak, Nancy McCormick, and Kaari Baluja.

5th-8th Grade: Joan Confoy, Gus Douoguih, Kim Fitzgerald, Judy Gruner, Suzi McMullen, Diana Menefee, Bill Roman, and James Stafford.

High School Youth Advisors: Bob Brown, Allie Roche, and Dave Scher.

High School Youth Parent: Susan Rose

Yes, that is 30 volunteers! My apologies if I missed anyone. Their work and the work of others who have stepped in at times have been crucial to the program. Without substitutes the nursery or an RE class would not have been available on a Sunday or needed childcare would not be available during a meeting or event. Do not forget to thank all volunteers you see working in Religious Exploration.

The best gesture of appreciation and a great way to get to know more about Unitarian Universalism and Religious Exploration is to help out. If you would like to lend a hand once or twice this year or if you would like to do even more, let Linda Weaver or a member of the RE Committee know.



# Religious Exploration Schedule

## Kindergarten-4th Grade:

Dec. 7 – Holidays of Hope and Light - Birth Stories

Dec. 14 – Holidays of Hope and Light

Dec. 21 – Intergenerational Service

Dec. 28 – Holidays of Hope and Light (combined class)

Jan. 4 – Intergenerational Service

Jan. 11- Search for God

Jan. 18 – Justice and Service

Jan. 25 – Used-to-Think

Feb. 1 – Valentines for Vets (combined class)

Feb. 8 – Intergenerational Service

Feb. 15 – Unitarianism & Universalism

Feb. 22 – The Two Become One

## Middle School Youth:

Dec. 7 – Sacred Texts

Dec. 14 – Wise Guys

Dec. 21 – Intergenerational Service

Dec. 28 – Holidays of Hope and Light (combined class)

Jan. 4 – Intergenerational Service

Jan. 11 – Transitions

Jan. 18 – The Final Destination

Jan. 25 – Life is What We Make of It

Feb. 1 – Valentines for Vets (combined class)

Feb. 8 – Intergenerational Service

Feb. 15 – From Protestors to Pilgrims

Feb. 22 – From Calvinism to Channing

To find the names of the leaders and assistants for each session, go to the calendar at <http://www.uusterling.org/>, find the correct month, and then click on the RE class session you would like to view.

To find out more about the RE program, contact Linda Weaver.

[re-director@uusterling.org](mailto:re-director@uusterling.org)

# ADULT ENRICHMENT

**Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael**

Sign up for any Adult Enrichment  
Opportunity by emailing or calling

Rev. Anya:

minister@uusterling.org (703)408-3068

**Church and State** – What is the relationship between religion and politics? What did our founding fathers mean for it to be? What do we think it should be?

A course based on two books by the scholar and theologian Forrest Church – “So Help me God – The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle Over Church and State” (Read before class) and “The Separation of Church and State – Writings on a Fundamental Freedom.” (Read during class)

Second and Fourth Thursdays in January, February and March from 6:30 to 8:30. (Join us from 6:30 to 7:30 if you want to attend choir at 7:30.) Books are available for purchase from the UUS “Bookstore” in the wooden and glass cabinet just inside our front door.

**Alternative Gift Fair and Forum on “The Holidays for Us”** - Do you get frustrated each year because the holiday season has become extremely commercial? Would you like to bring the spirit of giving, rather than buying back to the holidays and teach your children about the value of helping others?

Alternative Gift Fairs offer an alternative to the commercial holiday shopping experience. Rather than purchasing more “stuff” that your friends, family members, colleagues and others might not need, alternative gift fairs offer attendees the opportunity to honor special people in their lives by making donations in their names to local charities. Alternative gifts range in price from \$10-\$50 and include things like immunizations for an uninsured child, an overnight stay in a homeless shelter or transportation for a senior citizen to a medical appointment. All donations go directly to the charities and purchasers are given a holiday card, along with a description of the donation, to present as a “gift” to the recipient.

St Gabriel’s Episcopal Church has organized an Alternative Gift Fair in Leesburg for a number of years. This year they will share this profound program directly with our community. We will have an Alternative Gift Fair on Saturday December 6th from noon till 4. The day will begin with a potluck lunch. A forum will follow, with focused reflection on the meaning of the rituals and practices that grip our hearts and minds in the winter months. Throughout the day, the Alternative Gift Fair table will be open for your consideration and purchases.

Please RSVP for this event by emailing or calling Rev. Anya

minister@uusterling.org (703)408-3068

## **Ethics at the Movies – “CRASH”**

December 13th at 6PM, discussion to follow.

2005, Runtime 107Min, Rated R: Roger Ebert’s review states “crash” tells interlocking stories of whites, blacks, Latinos, Koreans, Iranians, cops and criminals, the rich and the poor, the powerful and powerless, all defined in one way or another by racism. All are victims of it, and all are guilty it. Sometimes, yes, they rise above it, although it is never that simple. ...The result is a movie of intense fascination.”

Part of the Second Saturday movie series of contemporary films followed by facilitated discussions, 6PM - through April.

**The Spirituality of Food** – A hands-on and reflective class that begins with the premise “we are what we eat,” and investigates its ethical, philosophical, and religious ramifications.

Built over three years, this class received high praise at a district UU event in Connecticut. We will engage topics that range from food-based religious rituals, to the ethics of consumption, to the spirituality of cooking. Come hungry for food, fellowship and learning! 5 sessions on the third Wednesdays beginning January 21st, from 7-9 PM.

# OUT AND ABOUT

**Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael**

**Celebrate Rev. Amy Kulesza  
DeBeck’s Installation**

Sunday December 7th, 4PM, 1732  
Garden Street, IN 46514

Rev. Amy served this congregation as a student minister, and then visited from time to time as a guest, when she was able to leave her pulpit at the Loudoun UU congregation in Leesburg. She has taken a full time position in Elkhart Indiana and sent a card to UUS, inviting us to celebrate her installation (in body or spirit). Go to [www.uufe.org](http://www.uufe.org) to find out more or to drop Rev. Amy a congratulatory email.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

### Statement of Conscience – Peacemaking

Each Year the Commission on Social Witness, of the Unitarian Universalist Association, releases a statement of conscience and begins a process of congregational polling to get our feedback. This year's topic is Peacemaking. Find information and respond by visiting [www.uua.org/csw](http://www.uua.org/csw)

### International Resources for Unitarian Universalists Congregations

... Will help us keep up to date on the latest news and resources for UU international engagement. If you want to read "breaking news", hear success stories from UU congregations engaging internationally, seek resources to help your congregation be effective in international engagement, make sure you receive the latest materials for including international elements in worship and religious exploration ... Join the IRO's email list by visiting [www.tinyurl.com/UUAInews](http://www.tinyurl.com/UUAInews), and you will receive an email message twice each month with news and practical resources.

### Rabbis for Human Rights - conference on "Judaism and Human Rights."

Open to the public. Sunday Dec. 7th –  
Tuesday Dec. 9th – 2850 Quebec Street,  
NW, DC

For more information, and to register, go  
to [http://www.rhr-na.org/story/  
registration-is-now-open-for-the-second-  
north-american-conf](http://www.rhr-na.org/story/registration-is-now-open-for-the-second-north-american-conf)

### Breaking the Silence: Torture Survivors Speak Out

Film Screening- December 7 11:45 am  
Bull Run Unitarian Universalists - 9350  
Main St, Manassas, VA 2011

This inspiring and touching film is based  
on more than 40 interviews with  
members of TASSC -- survivors of  
torture from around the world. Torture  
survivors will join us for this screening  
and discussion afterwards. TASSC is the  
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support  
Coalition International and is the only  
organization founded by and for torture

survivors. This film does not show  
actual torture, but the content is at times  
very moving and emotional. It is not  
suitable for children under age 12.

Social Justice committee will provide  
pizza and drinks specifically for  
moviegoers during coffee hour! The  
move screen

### UU Civil Rights Living Legacy Pilgrimage, February 11-18, 2009

The 2009 Living Legacy Civil Rights  
Pilgrimage is more than a civil rights  
tour. Visiting the sites of civil rights  
activity forty to fifty years ago and  
talking with veterans of that Movement  
affects one's thoughts and feelings. It  
could be a superb preparation for  
deepening one's understanding and  
commitment for work on the issues of  
race, oppression, and injustice.

This Living Legacy Pilgrimage is  
intended to bring together people who  
can create a vision that will connect our  
Unitarian Universalist legacy of work in  
the Civil Rights Movement to the  
UUA's current commitment to  
becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive,  
multicultural institution and to  
understanding the responsibility of the  
UUA and our congregations in doing the  
important work of racial reconciliation  
Trip Details: [http://  
www.uulivinglegacy.org/?page\\_id=4](http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/?page_id=4)

For more information, contact: Rev.  
Gordon Gibson: [gjgibson@juno.com](mailto:gjgibson@juno.com)

### The 2009 Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

February 4-6, Marriott Wardman Park  
Hotel, Washington, DC.

Save the Date! If you would like updates  
about this important event, join the  
mailing list. [http://  
www.greenjobsconference.org/site/  
c.krLVJ9PHKoG/b.4448775](http://www.greenjobsconference.org/site/c.krLVJ9PHKoG/b.4448775)

## UUA Marketing Campaign

Bonnie Lepoff

Second in a series. At our town hall  
meeting last month, we talked about the  
marketing campaign, the plan for  
funding, and the plan for  
implementation. The multi-media  
advertising will begin in August 2009 to  
reach those looking for a church home at  
the start of the school year. The planning  
work begins now to make that happen.

On November 8th, the Washington Area  
Growth Committee met with the UUA  
marketing team to share and gather  
information about the campaign and the  
planning process.

There are two parts – advertising and the  
fund raising that makes it possible. The  
advertising part hasn't changed from the  
description in last month's newsletter  
but we have learned more about the fund  
-raising. The UUA marketing team will  
assist each congregation in one of two  
ways. They can prepare the fund-raising  
letter and give it to a congregation to  
mail themselves. Or they can mail this  
letter to the congregation's mailing list.  
For these congregations, they will  
collect the responses and track the  
pledges. UUS will be in this second  
group, taking advantage of their  
assistance. (If you asked us not to  
include your name, you will receive this  
letter from us.) Before the letters are  
mailed, I will post an announcement to  
UUS-announce to let you know they are  
on their way. Expect this to happen in  
mid-February. To all of us who agree to  
pledge in support of this campaign, they  
will make a phone call in mid-March to  
confirm it. By mid-April, they will have  
a tally and know what kind of campaign  
we will have. Your pledge will be due  
the first of June.

Next month, more details about the time  
line and more specifics about the  
campaign.

Bonnie Lepoff [blepoff@cox.net](mailto:blepoff@cox.net)



# UUS Board Meeting Highlights

November 5, 2008

## Facilitators (Scott Findley)

I went to Home Depot and checked out options for visitor parking signage and reported the findings to the Membership Committee.

I reviewed submissions to Writes of Passage

## Finance (Paul Roche)

Alyssa Lum)

Things continue to go well financially for UUS. We are ahead of our budget for pledge income so far this fiscal year. Similar to last year, some of biggest pledges have come in early. Expenses are basically in line.

We intend to run an analysis in the next few weeks regarding our printing expenses. With the purchase of a new printer for our office, we have seen a steep decline in printing costs from outside vendors, but our office supplies (paper, ink, etc) expenses have gone up significantly. We will keep an eye on these offsets to make sure they are coming in as expected.

## Minister

(Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael)

The New OOS has received both praise and critique. It has been altered in a number of ways since its 'premier.' In general I see the format as more professional and easier to work with. It gives us enough space to print out new hymns and add responsive readings. I welcome your thoughts.

## Social Justice:

We are turning a corner in our hope to build a social justice initiative. In the past I have heard: "we really need to do ... but I am just too busy." Now I am beginning to hear: "I am interested in being involved in...". This is coming from new visitors/friends as well as a few long time members. I do not sense that we should jump to building a committee but we may need to consider that, in the future. In the mean time I have reached out to individuals to help work on specific events – like the "End

the Occupation" talk.

## Adult Ed:

The two classes running presently are well attended! The Building Your Own Theology class has 11 Participants and the Living by Heart class has 12. 8 folks attended the first movie night and we concluded with an animated conversation.

Interfaith: I continue to work with the Loudoun Interfaith Bridges group. They are very interested in pursuing an interfaith world religions course that would begin in the spring. They are also working on a youth initiative to bring youth of diverse cultures and faiths together for fun and fellowship.

## Denomination:

Maureen Burns has accepted the responsibility of congregational representative to the UU Marketing Campaign. She is well suited for the role with her marketing experience. Bonnie will attend the Growth Committee meeting on the 8th where Valerie Holton, from the campaign will speak. We will have a town hall meeting on the 9th to discuss the campaign. Please attend if at all possible.

## Ministry (Dave Miller)

Addition Space Rental: The Task force to look at this issue has been formed. Layout drawings of the additional space as it is now configured have been received from our landlord and distributed to the group. The Finance committee has generated an initial draft budget. This initial budget is currently being reviewed and revised. Judy Gruner is preparing an analysis of commercial real estate in our area to help give information on current rental rates and occupancy rates.

## Religious Education

(Linda Weaver)

Meetings attended by DRE:

Board meeting, GWAREC meeting, RE Committee meeting, Parent/RE Leader meeting.

## RE Classes:

Nursery Assistants, RE Leaders, and RE Assistants are scheduled for every Sunday through May. The 3rd-4th graders are meeting separately most

Sundays. This helps with space issues and allows the kindergarten-2nd and 3rd-4th grade groups to explore the day's topic in more depth. Do not forget to thank the RE volunteers for the amazing work they do with the children of UUS.

## RE Committee:

Hosted Game Night on Oct. 17th.

Met on Oct. 26. The next meeting will be after the service on Nov. 23rd.

Everyone who is interested is encouraged to attend.

Providing activities for children during the Auction on Nov. 15th.

Special Needs Task Force (Deb Rose):

Provided photographs for a picture schedule.



# DECEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7 PM Covenant Group	2 12 Noon Covenant Group	3 6 PM Strategic Planning Task Force Session 7 PM Board Meeting	4	5 6 PM Parent's Night Out	6 12 Noon Alternative Gift Fair 5 PM AAFCJ
7 10:30 AM Worship Service 12 Noon -Inquirer's Class - RE Committee Meeting 3:30 PM AAFCJ	8	9 7 PM Covenant Group	10	11 6 PM Strategic Planning Task Force Session 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 7:30 PM UUS Men's Group	13 6 AM AAFCJ
14 8:30 AM Elder Care Support Breakfast 10:30 AM Worship Service 3:30 PM AAFCJ	15	16	17	18 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	19	20 10 AM Living by Heart 5 PM AAFCJ
21 10:30 AM Worship Service 3:30 PM AAFCJ	22 7 PM Winter Solstice Service	23	24 5 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas	26	27 5 PM AAFCJ
28 10:30 AM Worship Service 3:30 PM AAFCJ	29	30	31			

Please visit [uusterling.org](http://uusterling.org) for current and additional calendar information.

**Unitarian Universalists of Sterling**  
PO Box 1632  
Sterling, VA 20167  
(703) 406-3068  
<http://uusterling.org>



### ***Your Church Leadership***

**Minister:** Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

**Director of Religious Exploration:** Linda Weaver; **Music Director:** Kris Rector

**Board of Trustees:** *President* - Dave Miller; *Vice President* - Bonnie Lepoff; *Secretary* - Jeff Chandler;  
*Co-Treasurers* - Alyssa Lum and Paul Roche; *At-large* - Scott Findley, Ken Ward, Linda Reeder, Belinda Bullock

### ***UUS Mission Covenant Statement***

The Unitarian Universalists of Sterling offer a place where reason and spirituality converge. We welcome members of the community who are seeking such a religious home. Our mission is to make the community a better place to live by promoting a variety of religious expressions, working toward social justice, and fostering diversity. In order to carry out this mission, we covenant to listen to each other, encourage the exchange of creative thought, and respect our differences.

### ***UUS Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.***

**Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** meets at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center Sterling, a handicapped-accessible 24-7 facility, located on 22135 Davis Drive near Route 28 and Church Road in Sterling, Virginia. Child care and children's religious education are both provided during worship services. Dress is casual. Children are encouraged to wear play clothes.

From Northbound Route 28: Take Route 28 North exit from the Dulles Toll Road. Turn right at Church Road. Turn right on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

From Southbound Route 28: Take Route 28 south from Route 7. Turn left at Church Road. Turn right on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

From Westbound Route 7: Turn left at Sterling Boulevard. Turn right at Church Road. Go three miles. Turn left on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

### ***What's with UUS***

**Communications Committee Chair:** Terry Dick; **Editor:** Linda Reeder

**Production:** Jeff Chandler, Susan Miller

**Board Liaison:** Jeff Chandler

To submit material for publication, send by email to [newsletter@uusterling.org](mailto:newsletter@uusterling.org)

### **Submission Deadlines**

12/19 for January

1/23 for February

2/20 for March

3/20 for April