



# What's with UUS

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



## Minister's Message



### What Do We Do Now?

Personally, I have been listening to a lot more bluegrass! The other day I turned

the dial of my car radio from NPR to CD and put in a favorite bluegrass anthology. I wake up to the news, and I often fall asleep to the melodious voices on NPR late night. I figured my ears and my heart needed a new daytime focus.

I can't even begin to express the uncertainty that wells up in my heart and likely in all our hearts when we consider the present economic crisis. Memories flood my mind of the freezer from my childhood. My Bubby (Jewish for Grandmother) lived with us and was in charge of our shopping. She lived through the great depression and wouldn't make a trip to the store without stocking up on enough food for long-term survival. She had lived through the terror of scarcity and feared another such crisis. A bull market did not placate her. She likened a strong economy to a movie set – it looks good from the front, but when you sneack around the back all you see is smoke and mirrors.

In a way, I feel her actions have been vindicated. Her strange and seemingly egregious efforts of days past finally make sense. Maybe I too should stock up on necessities.

But what are my necessities? I have been calling my friends with more consistency – reaching out and making sure they are well. I have been meditating, or thinking that I really

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Message



### Fun Times!

Last month, UUS held a congregational retreat and I am happy to report that it was a great success. The retreat's theme was

“Nourish Your Soul,” and I truly felt that it accomplished that for me. I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to spend time contemplating deeper spiritual issues in place of addressing more administrative work such as Board and committee meetings. And, as an added joy, I had a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of the newer members and friends whom I have not had the opportunity to speak with before. For those of you who attended, I hope you feel the way I do. And, for those of you who were unable to attend, you missed a great opportunity. I hope you will plan to attend next year's retreat.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the annual UUS auction will be held this month, on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The auction is an important fundraising event for UUS and a great chance to enjoy a social outing with members and friends. There will be plenty of food from the potluck dinner and plenty of opportunities to get good deals on the many treasures on which you can bid. There will be many items that need to find a new home, hand-crafted items donated by many of the very talented artists and craftsmen in our congregation, and many auction dinners and events to provide fun throughout the year. I hope you all will come and have a great time, get a head start on your holiday shopping, and support UUS.

*-Dave*

## Worship Calendar



### November 2<sup>nd</sup>

“Did Someone Say That There Would Be An End?” Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael leads a service in the spirit of All Souls Day. We will consider the often-challenging topic of Death and invite soft remembrance and reflection of lost loved ones. We will begin at 10:20 with a hymn sing. An inquirer's class will follow at noon.

November 9<sup>th</sup> “Veterans Day in a Time of War” Guest Community Minister and Military Chaplain Rebekah Montgomery leads our service and invites us to consider the meaning of military service.

November 16<sup>th</sup> “Newton's Imagination” James Stafford, with Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, invite us to celebrate and reflect on the completion of our Analemma. The Analemma on the wall of our sanctuary is a focal point with a wealth of symbolic meaning. It was begun on November 4, 2007, and has mapped the position of the sun for one year.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> “Guest at Your Table” Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael leads this all ages service of thanksgiving. We will consider both the myth and the reality of abundance while we listen to our world's needs.

November 30<sup>th</sup> – “Finding Spirituality” In a lay-lead service we will explore the meaning of and quest for spirituality through poetry and music. What enables you to find a spiritual place? Bring a poem or song to share.



(Minister, continued from page 1)

should. I have been worrying, a heck of a lot more than I used to. And I have been listening to a lot more bluegrass.

I love bluegrass music. I grew up in the northeast where no one listened to bluegrass unless someone fooled them by saying it was the new chi-chi form of improvisational jazz. Then I attended a college in Tennessee. I remember the first time I heard the local bluegrass band playing their foreign twangy music. I was mesmerized by the feeling it encouraged. A big smile grew on my face – a simple smile. This was happy music - music that didn't care to be high class, music that grew from the roots of family and lived in the culture. This was music that wouldn't exist had sons and daughters not deemed it necessary to learn the craft from their mothers and fathers. This was music that people played standing in a small circle, often facing one another rather than the crowd. This was music that seemed to come from a need to create joy rather than a need to be heard, seen, or found impressive. This was music that to my ears sounded real and necessary.

In this time of uncertainty we need to stock up on necessities – some that come to mind for me are joy, friends, family, compassion, and bluegrass. The changes affecting our world are profound but we are not powerless. It may be difficult to protect ourselves from every loss, but we can surround ourselves with those things that are, for us, both beautiful and holy.

-Rev. Anya

## UUA Marketing Campaign

Unitarian Universalism is the best kept secret around! Do you feel this way about our faith? Our leaders in Boston agree and have embarked on a marketing campaign to change that. The national marketing effort uses bold ads in major media like *Time* magazine and *The New York Times*; it is designed to increase "brand awareness." See examples in our entry foyer.

The Baltimore/Washington DC UUA Marketing Campaign, however, will be designed to invite seekers to our local congregations. It will be built around our needs and our media outlets; the professional marketing staff will work with our regional marketing group to select the right media mix which may include buses, metro, radio, and direct mail.

Our market is definitely an expensive one and fundraising is an important part of this marketing campaign. Attend our Town Hall meeting after services on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and learn more about this project and how it will be funded.

Bonnie Lepoff  
blepoff@cox.net

## 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."



## Alternative Gift Fair

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. 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 e-mailing or calling Rev. Anya: [minister@uusterling.org](mailto:minister@uusterling.org), 703-406-3068.

## Sound Board Operator Training

November 2, 2008

12:00 Noon with Al Swett.

Support our community by running our sound system during a worship service once monthly or as an alternate. This is a great way to volunteer without having to miss a single worship service!

## Out and About

2008 Kiplinger Lecture At Cedar Lane UU Church -- November 8, 2008 at 2 p.m.: Timothy Fort, "How Ethical Business Practices Can Contribute to World Peace"

Timothy L. Fort, Ph.D., J.D., Executive Director, Institute for Corporate Responsibility, and Lindner-Gambal Professor of Business Ethics, George Washington University School of Business will discuss the concept of "Peace Through Commerce," the role of ethical business practices in fostering international understanding. Dr. Fort's areas of expertise are business ethics; peace through commerce; building ethical corporate cultures via total integrity management; spirituality, religion, and business; and business law.

Pre-registration is encouraged but not required (cost--\$10; students free). Contact Glenis Bellais, Cedar Lane UU Church, 301-493-8300.

## NoVa Legislative UU Preview

To learn about what's expected to happen in the 2009 Virginia General Assembly Legislative session. We'll hear from legislators and advocates – you'll be able to ask questions, hear what we can do – in what areas we can be most effective.

Sat. Nov. 15, 2008; 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Light breakfast and lunch included.) at the [Mount Vernon Unitarian Church](#), 1900 Windmill Lane Alexandria, VA 22307

Register at the UUSJ.org web site. Fee: \$10.

**Northern VA, Legislative [ISSUES SURVEY](#):** All NoVa UUs should take the 1-Minute "In the LUUP" ISSUES SURVEY to structure what legislation the LUUP will advocate for and against.

Visit UUSJ.org. Find the NoVA LUUP announcement in the center of the home page. Click "[Click Here to Take Survey](#)" within announcement – it will take you directly to the In the LUUP ISSUES SURVEY. Choose three issues from the list or write in an issue you care about that somehow wasn't included.

Click Submit. That's it!

## WEBS

The Women's Earth Based Spirituality ("WEBS") circle meets the 4th Friday of every month. Within this circle of diverse women, we explore the UUA sixth source of wisdom - "Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." Varying in number from 3 to 18, the group meets monthly to expand our collective spiritual experience by partaking in earth based or Pagan traditions. In the 6 or so years that we've been meeting, we've shared in seasonal rituals surrounding the Solstices and Equinoxes, the sowing and harvesting seasons. We've participated in healing rituals, "blessed" a medicine wheel, and drummed around many a fire circle. We've experienced Reiki, healing rituals, guided meditations, and we honored the elders in our community with a Croning ceremony a few years ago. We've learned more about the healing properties of herbs and crystals, the Mayan Calendar 2012, and the festivals and celebrations of the ancient Celts.

We come from disparate religious backgrounds, to share and honor each other's search for the spiritually meaningful. We respect the differences that each brings to the whole, and are enriched by the new energy that each new participant brings to the group.

To find out more about WEBS, please contact the facilitator, Kim Fitzgerald at (703) 628-0325 or [kfitzget99@aol.com](mailto:kfitzget99@aol.com).



## Fundraising News

**Auction:** Reserve Saturday, November 15 for our annual Auction and chili dinner. This yearly event is always loads of fun and generates a sizable amount of income. We have just begun planning the Auction, but you can count on finding many delicious dinners and fabulous social events, vacation spots, services (handyman, computer, gardening, etc), and an array of awesome "worldly goods." Some items will be a part of a live auction while others will be silent. The dinner is a marvelous spread of different chili recipes, all the sides, desserts, and salads. This is also a time to enjoy each others' company in a relaxed and fun space.

**Grocery Certificates:** If you shop at Giant, Safeway, Food Lion, Bloom, or Shopper's Food Warehouse, your purchases can benefit UUS! I sell grocery certificates for all of the above stores except Safeway. For Safeway, I register the number on your red card and UUS gets a percentage. This is a very easy way to support UUS because we get 4-5 percent from the stores!

**Equal Exchange Coffee, Chocolate, Cocoa:** For the last few years, we have participated in the Interfaith Program of Equal Exchange. This program pays a fair price to small farmers for their products, as well as offers affordable credit for these farmers and supports sustainable agriculture. The products are delicious and are very popular - especially the chocolate! UUS collects a small amount from each sale for fundraising. Come see the back table for a selection of products for sale!

*Nancy McCormick*

# Nurturing Spirit and Community

Linda Weaver, UUS RE Director

We are in the midst of uncertain times. You may or may not be sharing information about the economy or politics with your children. However, they may be hearing discussions about these topics or noticing tensions in the environment around them. Keep this in mind as you interact with your children and as you deal with your own reactions. In days like these it is especially important to make time for family, find time for spirituality, and reach out for support if you need it.

Without the experiences we have gained through living, children and youth may misinterpret what they see or hear, or they may worry more than we intend. The 12 year old daughter of one Unitarian Universalist Association staff member came to her parents in tears and asked them if they would still be able to afford to send her to college. On the political side, I had to explain to a youth in our congregation that not everyone in Northern Virginia or everyone who is young, or even everyone in his high school agrees with his views on the candidates. I also explained that there are people who back other candidates for well thought out reasons and with concern for the well being of all Americans. In the coming days we need to be especially diligent in living out our Unitarian Universalist beliefs. We must work to create calming practices and environments for ourselves and our families, respect people despite differing beliefs, and come together to support each other.

The children's Religious Exploration (RE) activities this month can help meet these goals, and all adults are invited to join in the discoveries. Adults and families will be encouraged to consider their own spiritual practices and theological beliefs, develop family rituals, and learn about the diversity of theological belief at UUS.

The kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> graders will explore what church means to Unitarian Universalists, and they will discover ways to take church experiences home. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> they will make chalices and a booklet of chalice lighting words to use at home. The next week, they will recognize church as a place of reflection, and they will explore a variety of spiritual practices. Later in November, they will experience church as a place where they can celebrate passages of life, have fun, care for others, and share ideas.

The 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will find out more about the variety of beliefs at UUS, and they will explore how Unitarian Universalists come together in their diversity. To help them understand the many theological ideas at UUS, this group will prepare and carry out a poll of the congregation on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Near the end of the month, they will present the results of the poll to the congregation. In churches that have done this, the adults found it to be a valuable learning experience for themselves. So make sure to encourage the group and participate in the poll.

## Meetings and Special Events

**Nov. 2 – 12 PM - Parent / RE Leader Meeting** – Parents and RE Leaders for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade classes meet for information and discussion.

**Nov. 9 – Congregational Poll** – After the worship service, take part in the Middle School group's poll of theological beliefs.

**Nov. 23 – 12 PM - RE Committee Meeting** – Everyone interested is invited to meet with the committee on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.



## RE Schedule

### Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Nov. 2 – Church and Home

Nov. 9 – Reflection

Nov. 16 – Celebrating Passages of Life and Having Fun Together

Nov. 23 – Guest at Your Table Intergenerational Service

Nov. 30 – Sharing Ideas and Learning

Dec. 7 – Holidays of Hope and Light

Dec. 14 – Birth Stories

Dec. 28 – Kwanzaa (combined class)

### Middle School Youth:

Nov. 2 – Images of the Divine

Nov. 9 – Where Does Our Congregation Stand?

Nov. 16 – The Diversity that Unites Us

Nov. 23 – Guest at Your Table Intergenerational Service

Nov. 30 – Our Living Tradition

Dec. 7 – Sacred Texts

Dec. 14 – Wise Guys

Dec. 21 – Intergenerational Service

Dec. 28 – Kwanzaa (combined class)

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 at [redirector@uusterling.org](mailto:redirector@uusterling.org).

# Sponsor a Student in Kut

## UUS Partner Church

*Help create the bonds of friendship that create new global communities.*

Kordor is a 19-year-old living in a small village in the Himalayan foothills of NE India. Instead of attending school, he teaches school for the young children of Kut. Instead of going to youth group meetings at his church, he leads the church services at the Unitarian church in Kut. He earns \$12.50 a month – low, even for this region where most live by subsistence farming on less than one dollar a day.

Kordor plays a prominent role in both the educational and spiritual life of this community. His dedication and leadership at such a young age are remarkable – and worthy of support.

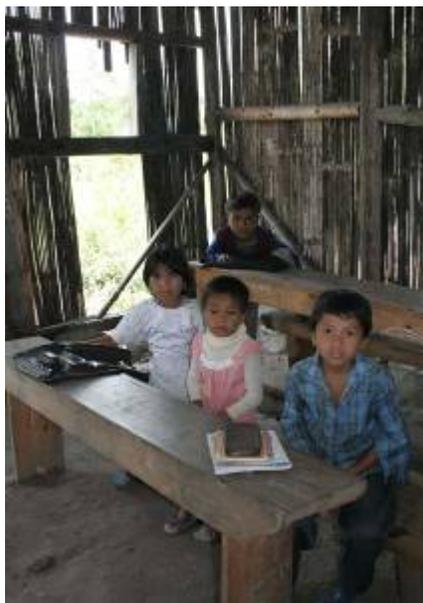
**In the weeks ahead, you will hear more about how you can sponsor a student at the Unitarian school in Kut.** You will learn more about the 35 students (pre-K through Grade 4) and two teachers and their lives...about the bamboo structure which houses their school and is ravaged by the monsoon winds and rain each year (see photo at right)...about the new block building being built as a replacement...about their hopes to extend school hours beyond the current two hours a day and provide nutritious food.



*Students with teacher in front of church (Note chalice window at top of church)*

Each of us has the opportunity to share in the vision of better education for the children of Kut. **A mere \$50 will pay for a year of schooling for one child.**

This money will be used for items like books, slates to write on (they don't have paper), benches (they don't have desks), completion and maintenance of the new school, teacher salaries, nutritional food, and warm sweaters for the winter months (there is no heat).



**Pre-K Students at Kut Unitarian School**

That is an impressive list of benefits for such a modest sum of money! Think about it – that's less than one dollar a week! As a sponsor, you will be able to learn first-hand how your generosity is impacting lives by means of letter exchanges with the students.



**Old school – Kordor (the teacher) is on the left**

Why sponsor a student? In the words of one of our Unitarian friends in India, who wrote to us in an email:

*This is one way to build more bridges of understanding between us and remove some walls of separation... in our endeavor to create a loving and caring global family.*  
- Khlor Mukhim



**New school building in Kut**

**To learn more about sponsoring a student, please contact a member of the UUS Partner Church Circle:** Mike Berger, Rosalie Clavez, E.B. Kirkbride, Linda Reeder, Susan Rose, Al Swett, or Shelley Tamres.



**A message to UUS from the teachers (on left) and parents in front of Kut Unitarian church.**





# UUS Board Meeting Highlights

October 1, 2008

## Finance (Paul Roche and Alyssa Lum)

Things continue to go well financially. Expenses are running right in line. Our new credit card process continues to work well.

## Minister (Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael)

Pastoral Care Associates: Yeah! We have Cyndi McCrea as the leader, Deb Rose, Karen Painter, and EB Kirkbride as members. They are off to a great start and will provide and serve the cake at the retreat (as a way to say “hello and here we are ... your new Pastoral Care Associates”). They plan to be fully operational by November.

Youth Group: The youth have begun meeting at noon after Sunday services three times a month. Advisers are Dave Scher, Bob Brown, and Allie Roche. Sora attended the Revival on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September and has been elected the Youth Group president. This may be a good year for the Board to consider creating a Youth position on the Board of Trustees as we have a strong Youth Group with many born leaders.

## Music (Scott Findley and Mary Matheny)

Kris Rector has been hired as the new choir director. We feel good about this new director and look forward to her tenure.

## Religious Education (Linda Weaver)

Congregation very supportive of RE. Many families are members because of it. This year we have a number of volunteers in RE who have been doing it a while, missing services, etc. Informal recognition by Board members as individuals would not hurt. New people are being asked to volunteer in RE.

45 children are registered in nursery through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; 23 volunteers in RE

Needs are 1 more volunteer for nursery to assist paid staff (Amy); 3 spots for elementary assistants; 2 spots for middle school assistants.

We may be more successful in getting volunteers if they knew more about what the job consists of. They will not be “thrown to the wolves”; it is really very organized. Successful churches treat RE as a ministry and present it this way to potential volunteers.

Sound in Nursery: It may possibly be easier to attract nursery volunteers if the service could be heard there. People to check out wireless were solicited, possibly Brian George, Bob Brown, and Mark McMullen

RE Space: We are at the limit in the two smaller rooms; middle school is full. About half the registered children attend. Trend is upward on population.

## Social Action (Linda Reeder)

Partner Church Council: Self portraits drawn by the children in RE were sent to our partners in Kut, along with a world almanac and a “Who We Are” package with short bios and photos of UUS Partner Church Circle members. They

will be delivered by Dee Idnani who leaves September 30 for the Khasi Hills with a pilgrimage group from the UU Partner Church Council. The Sponsor-a-Student program will be rolled out to the congregation in the coming months.

**New Business: Marketing Campaign:** The campaign is done on a metropolitan area basis; has been run 4-6 times before. Its purpose is to increase membership/raise awareness of UU in communities. Involves fundraising, planning, and executing the program.

First up is the fundraising to pay for the campaign. The UUS board voted to give membership rolls to UUA to use to request funds from members. Members will receive a couple letters. While the fundraising is occurring, the planning will include getting congregations aware of what will happen and ready to accommodate the increased awareness, if not potential membership. Metrics from success and means to collect data for measures are part of this. Will not be just increase in number of visitors, new people, but tracking of how many new people become members, how many visitors attend more than once, how many are still attending/becoming members after six months etc.

Part of the campaign execution is identification of an advocacy issue(s) that resonates with the community to generate media coverage/attention. Because the cost of all purchased media would be prohibitive, coverage as news is fundamental to campaign success. Issues of environmental stewardship (i.e., Greenness) with associated economic issues has been mooted as the possible front runner, but is undefined.

Of 29 Washington/Baltimore congregations, 13 have signed up for the first step of fundraising. Plans for the effort are for fundraising to start in October 2008 through April 2009 and the campaign to start in Fall 2009.

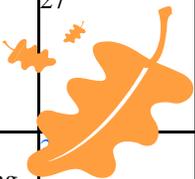
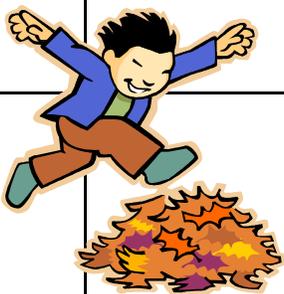
Question is how to proceed: **ACTION:** Identify people to work this and collect information and other metrics (Greater Washington Area Growth Committee liaison and other membership and growth points of contact in the congregation will be contacted/solicited); awareness of the campaign and that members will be contacted; provide for opting out.

## November/December Artists

Judy Gruner and Elise Nicely, members of UUS, will display their watercolor paintings at UUS during November and December. Judy has been painting watercolors for the past several years thanks to Elise, who introduced her to her painting group and teacher at the Loudoun Art Institute. She paints mainly landscapes and is happy to be commissioned by anyone wishing to have a favorite photo copied. Elise began her love for art at the age of seven, when Santa Claus brought her a “Learn to Draw” kit for Christmas! She has continued to draw and paint for over thirty years. “I think of my paintings as memory windows where I have tried to capture moments in life that have had an emotional effect on me,” says Elise about her art. “The challenge for me as a painter is to convey my feelings in the painting and to strike an emotional chord with my viewers.” Her work is exhibited in local art shows and fairs. Elise has completed several commissioned landscapes and flower paintings. She has paintings in private collections in the Mid-Atlantic states and is a member of the Loudoun Arts Council.

# November 2008

For further information, please go to  
<http://www.uusterling.org/ Keeping In Touch/UUS Calendar>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	<a href="#">1</a> 5:00pm AAFCJ
<a href="#">2</a> 10:20 am Hymn Sing 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am RE 12:00 pm Inquirer's Class		<a href="#">4</a> <b>Don't forget to vote!</b> 	<a href="#">5</a> 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	<a href="#">6</a> 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">8</a> <a href="#">6:00am AAFCJ</a> <a href="#">5:00pm AAFCJ</a>
<a href="#">9</a> 8:30 am Elder Care Support Breakfast 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am RE 11:45 am Town Hall Meeting	<a href="#">10</a> 7:00 pm Monday night Covenant Group	<a href="#">11</a> 7:00 pm Covenant Group	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">13</a> 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<a href="#">14</a> 7:30 pm UUS Men's Group	<a href="#">15</a> Living by Heart 10:00 am—12:00 Noon Auction 6:00 pm
<a href="#">16</a> 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am RE 3:30pm AAFCJ	<a href="#">17</a>	<a href="#">18</a> 7:00 pm Sterling Gable HOA Meeting	<a href="#">19</a>	<a href="#">20</a> 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<a href="#">21</a>	<a href="#">22</a> 5:00 pm AAFCJ
<a href="#">23</a> 10:30 am Worship Service 12:00 pm RE Committee Meeting 3:30pm AAFCJ		<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	<a href="#">27</a>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	<a href="#">28</a> 7:00 pm WEBS Group	<a href="#">29</a> 5:00 pm AAFCJ
<a href="#">30</a> 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am RE 3:30pm AAFCJ						

**Unitarian Universalists of Sterling**  
PO Box 1632  
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<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**

11/21 for December

12/19 for January

1/23 for February