

**UMPQUEST**  
**UMPQUA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**  
**March, 2009**

“I Found A Piece of My Authentic Self At The DMV”

**Reverend’s Riffs**

Yes, you read that correctly, the DMV. So, let me explain. Bille’ and I, being of practical natures, and not wanting to take the annoying knowledge test that Oregon requires of people who move here for somewhere else, have put off getting our Oregon driver’s license until ours from Wisconsin, expired. You guessed it, this year on our birthdays both licenses expired. We sighed a lot, we whined a lot, and finally went and got the drivers manual.



We both studied, me with more whining and sighing. You see, I am dyslexic, terribly so, in some situations, and testing like this one, is the worst for someone like me. With great trepidation and fear we entered the DMV on the day we decided to take the test. Having so many forms it took a forklift to bring them all in, we were finally deemed American born, non-terrorist and eligible for testing. Bille’ took the test as I did on the computer. I listened with the headphones

as the man droned on, thinking that might help. It didn’t. I got 8 answers wrong. Bille’ whizzed through the test, passing beautifully. As I watched her get her picture taken, I was feeling all the old feelings of inadequacy and stupidity that I had felt almost every time I had taken a test in school.

When one reaches the ripe old age of 60, they feel pretty confident that they will not be put into the situations of their childhood anymore, where they felt less than adequate to meet the demands of the test. But that is exactly what happened to me in the DMV. I was no longer almost 60, I was 10 and unable to answer the questions on the test and the intensity of the feelings that hit me square in the chest were amazing to me and a surprise.

So what was I to do? I had to have a license and clearly I could not, not take the test. Time was running out. I was

*(Continued on page 3)*

**UU MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation is to create and maintain a diverse, caring community that encourages ethical, intellectual, and spiritual growth. To accomplish this mission, we covenant to welcome individuals and families; to share the joys and sorrows of life’s passages; to educate children and adults in our UU Principles values and heritage, and to act personally and collectively on our UU principles and values in a larger world.

Web site: [umpquauuchurch.org](http://umpquauuchurch.org)  
 (541) 672-2250

e-mail: [umquauu@cmspan.net](mailto:umquauu@cmspan.net)  
 Minister: [aholmes78@cmspan.net](mailto:aholmes78@cmspan.net)  
 cell: (541) 733-4017

**Minister**.....**Rev. Annie Holmes**  
 Director of Religious Education.....Kandie Kato  
 Music Director.....Roberta Hall

**Church Officers**  
 President.....Gary Pischke  
 Vice President.....Anna Slemmer  
 Treasurer.....Doris Heyman  
 Secretary.....Lucy Harrington  
 Member At Large.....Jan Fritz  
 Member at Large.....Gail Spitze  
 Member at Large.....June Ervin

**Committee Chairs**  
 Adult Enrichment .....Paul Zegers & Lucy Harrington  
 Art.....Lucille Alfred  
 Cares & Concerns...Lorrie Agost-Caley & Pat Zemlin  
 Building.....Mel Watts  
 Green Sanctuary.....open.....  
 Membership.....Lori Farmer  
 Ministry.....Jim Pratt  
 Music.....Elizabeth Herbert  
 Office.....Gail Spitze  
 Community Action.....Jim Terry  
 Sunday Services.....Jim Pratt  
 Volunteer Coordinator.....Judy Robertson  
 Webmaster.....Bernie Fox



## **March Sunday Services**

### **Sunday, March 1, 2009**

"Take It To Heart"

Rev. Holmes

A journey from science to woo-woo and back again.

### **Sunday, March 8, 2009**

"A Service of Reconciliation and Healing"

Rev. Holmes

This service will be a time that a church community we will be able to let go of obstacles that may have been in our way and stopping us from being truly happy.

### **Sunday, March 15, 2009**

"Do UU's Have a Prayer?"

Rev. Theresa Kime

What does it mean to pray? How does it help or hinder us? How might it support our spiritual lives? This Sunday, we'll explore answers to these questions.

A graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, Rev. Theresa Kime celebrates twenty years in the UU ministry this year. She has served congregations in Pennsylvania, California and New York.

### **Sunday, March 22, 2009**

"Metaphorical Religion: Or As You Like It"

Rev. Holmes

All religion is metaphor, but a metaphor for what? Come and hear what I came up with.

### **Sunday, March 29, 2009**

"Looking Back at the People Who Made Us."

James Walker

In this sermon in his on-going series, The Commandments for Now, James Gibbons Walker looks at commandment five "honor your father and your mother" and wonders: How can we bless people who have hurt us? How can we break away from people who have given us life itself? Please come ready to share, if you wish, your memories of parents and parent-hood as part of the service.

**WANTED:** We are looking for some cooks who will make chili for our April Celebration Dinner. We are planning a Chili Cook-off so we need about six volunteers. Yes, there will be a prize for the best chili chef! Please call Dana or Connie if you are willing to make a chili dish.

A Big thank you to the Wine Tasting Committee (Jim Pratt, Connie, Kathy V, Dana, Bonnie and Sandie) for a very successful event! And special thanks to Elizabeth Herbert, Vikki Canarte, June Ervin, Patrice Glasscock and Diana Wales for the additional help. The committee is looking for someone who can help us put together a little recipe book with wine pairings. Please call Connie if you are able to help us!

## **BEING A UNITARIAN**

When someone asks why I am a Unitarian I find there is so much to say I have to stop and formulate my thoughts about the many facets and personal benefits one derives from this way of life. Yes, Unitarianism is not so much a religion as a way of life, due to the fact that we share the world wide web of existence with every other human on the planet, and best of all, happy to do so.

Ask yourself how you felt the first time you walked up the steps and opened our church door. Did you feel like you found a spiritual home with like-minded, smiling people who welcomed you, and were so aware of today's world, aware of our country's problems, aware of our small microcosm in Roseburg, and yes, so anxious to talk and work together?

How did you feel after one of Reverend Annie's sermons? Did she inspire you? Did she add a confidence to your personal being that might have fallen out of place due to a hardship? Did she strengthen your being by telling you that instead of putting your faith in an exclusive God, better yet, to put faith in yourself and all those who surround you? Are you proud of what you've become because of this church? Do you look forward to Sunday morning sermons and chatting with your fellow Unitarians?

If your answers are yes, yes, yes, then there is no question but to go forward and be as generous as you can with your donations so that generations to come, will grow into the beautiful people that we are today.

Sheila Lawrence

## COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE (CAC)

MARCH 2009

Our committee will meet at UUC on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. Meetings are open to all interested persons, plus membership in the Committee is welcomed. The March meeting is scheduled for Saturday the 21st.

The First Sunday collection will benefit the Douglas County Library System. Max Leek, Executive Director of DCLS, spoke at the (CAC) candle lighting for Sunday, February first. The collection was \$266.00 which will be used to purchase books for the Library. A book plate will be in each book citing it as a gift from our UUU congregation. If you would like to suggest a title to be considered, please contact any Committee member or Jim Terry, Hope Lindsay, Kasha Claire, Anna Slemmer, Phyllis Zegers & Patti Zachary.

The First Sunday collection for March 1, will benefit Project Literacy. The Executive Director, Eva Reynolds, will speak at the CAC candle. Also, VISTA volunteer, Erica Woodmansee, will attend.

CAC members and volunteers will again have a booth at the Earth Day and Energy Faire, this year on Saturday, April 25, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at Douglas County Fairgrounds. Again we will have seed planting activities for young people and families. 4H and other groups gave credit for this activity last year. Our booth was very busy but all of us had a great day volunteering. WANT TO HELP? Talk to any CAC members. We will be polishing our plans at our committee meeting on March 21.

JIM TERRY

"The Path of Least Resistance-- Learning to Become the Creative Force in Your Own Life" by Robert Fritz

This little book offers an amazingly powerful and useful way to choose the course of your life. Let's discuss Fritz's ideas some day or evening in March. Please contact Jacie Pratt to set the time and place for this sharing of thoughts and ideas stimulated by this book.

**The Cares and Concerns Committee** is conducting a survey of equipment which members may have and no longer use and which could be made available to members who are in need of such equipment. If you have any stored or unused items please let us know so that those who could use them don't have to buy similar equipment which is often expensive. Some of the items are: wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, bath seats, long-handled scissors and flashlights, portable exercise equipment and anything

(Continued from page 1)

given all sorts of terrible scenarios, like if I failed 4 times I would have to wait 90 days before taking the test again, and I didn't have 90 days, I only had 30 days before my birthday. So the pain, and the anxiety were mounting. I had to take drastic measures.

I knew I had to reach deep inside me and find a different way to study and do this test if I was going to pass. I went on line and found two sample tests that helped a lot. One thing dyslexic's are good at is memorizing, so I memorized. And I remembered when I had to study for my orals to be a UU minister. I made colored charts and wrote everything out in long hand and how much that helped. So, I went to work, in my own way, as I knew I needed to, in order for me to meet this challenge. I felt the power beginning to come back into my soul as I took charge and stopped being embarrassed about how I had to learn how many feet to park from a fire hydrant.

I took the test the second time and passed with only two wrong. And one of those I should have gotten but the terror of taking the test actually stopped me from seeing the answer I already knew.

What is the wisdom of this experience and why am I telling you all this you may be asking? That's easy. I saw, after the panic

attack, that my authentic self told me how I needed to answer this dilemma, but I didn't want to listen. I wanted to waltz in there like Bille' sit down, do the test and walk out with a license. But I couldn't do that and had to go through the pain of failure to teach me once again I am an amazing woman, true, but I have my limits and one of them is testing. When I answered my need, in the way I knew I had to, I was successful, and better than successful, I was fulfilled as a person.

Everyone has an Achilles' heel. Everyone has their particular foible that mocks them, stops them, demands of them some attention. The better part of finding and being our authentic selves is being honest about the need and ask for help and do what has to be done to get the job done.

I am the proud owner of an Oregon license and finished with this testing nonsense for another 7 years. But there will be other challenges I can't even imagine yet and I have the DMV to thank for helping me get in touch with that authentic self. Every time we find that place of courage and ability to be more than we think we can be, we are more aware of the gift that life has given us.

See you in church, Annie



March 2009

## Musings

Gary Pischke  
Church President

Ok. I missed last month's newsletter by being busy with work and with the board meeting. Such is life, and such is work. Writing these articles is a bit hard with all the latest events. A new president of the country, new senators, and an economy that has headed further in the wrong direction.

As Doris has informed us all, our budget for the church has been keeping up with our committee expenses and building operating costs. We no longer have a renter, as of the beginning of the month. But that gives the church an opportunity to use the rental house in a different approach. We can continue to rent the house out, which covers a portion of operating budget. We can use the house for nonprofits who need a physical location. The church can use a part of the house for committee meetings or other uses.

Some of our past goals have included "Making the Peace House an outreach resource". The meeting on February 15th is the start of the process of where and how we want the physical church. We have had many ideas and now we should look at all those ideas to make a decision at the May meeting.

We have six ministers from other congregations who are interested in the Sunday Services during Annie's sabbatical. We are looking for more help during the four months in 2010 that Annie is away. We have the funds to support Annie while she is gone, and will have funds to cover the costs of outside help during that time.

## RESULTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE PART 2 – THE CONGREGATION & IT'S ATTITUDES

In February's Newsletter, I reported the conclusions of the Questionnaire with respect to ministerial priorities and Annie's effectiveness. Our congregation has not changed in the last 4 years. As James Walker wrote in May, 2005, "The average respondent to the questionnaire is a woman, over 60, who has been a UU for more than six years. Her only experience of Unitarian Universalism has been as a member of UUU. She attends Church 3 or 4 times per month. 'She is married. She does not have any children living at home.'"

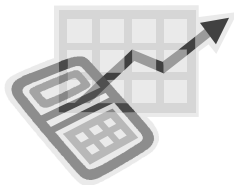
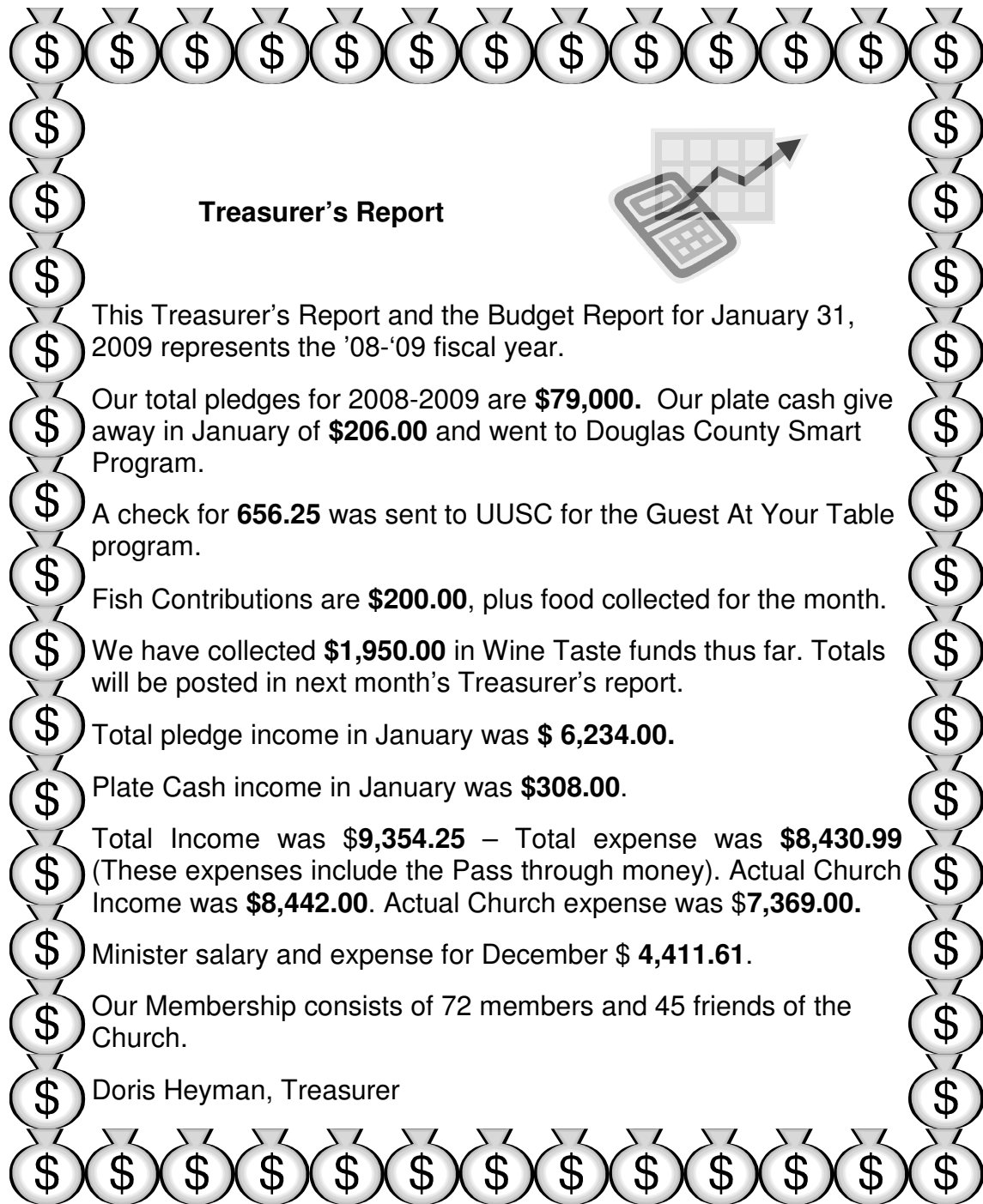
When asked about "statements that reflect your religious orientation", 66% considered their orientation as "eclectic" and either "Ethical Christians" or "Earth Centered". Note that you could check more than one orientation. Ethical Religion, Natural Theism, Humanism, and Buddhism all had at least 30% of the responses.

In regards to the question of church growth, The Congregation's attitude is either "enthusiastic" or "positive". On the question of a new building, 14 feel the purchase of a new building is important, 14 felt the purchase is not important, and 9 think it is somewhat important.

Our congregation feels that the Sunday Service and the minister are the most important aspects of our church followed closely by building community, music, intellectual stimulation, and social action. The responders all indicated that they like our Church.

The Committee on Ministry is composed of Jim Pratt, Chairman, Mary Ann Wilcox, and Paul Zegers. Please feel free to discuss the Questionnaire with any member of the Committee. Contact Jim Pratt if you would like to see the raw tallies. Our thanks to the 37 respondents for taking the time to answer all those questions.

**Please note:** Patrice Glasscock, our Friday Church Administrator, will be gone from March 18<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. She will be traveling with a group from her church to Guatemala. We wish her well and Kara Lomprey, our Wednesday Church Administrator, will be filling in for Patrice.



### Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report and the Budget Report for January 31, 2009 represents the '08-'09 fiscal year.

Our total pledges for 2008-2009 are **\$79,000**. Our plate cash give away in January of **\$206.00** and went to Douglas County Smart Program.

A check for **656.25** was sent to UUSC for the Guest At Your Table program.

Fish Contributions are **\$200.00**, plus food collected for the month.

We have collected **\$1,950.00** in Wine Taste funds thus far. Totals will be posted in next month's Treasurer's report.

Total pledge income in January was **\$ 6,234.00**.

Plate Cash income in January was **\$308.00**.

Total Income was **\$9,354.25** – Total expense was **\$8,430.99** (These expenses include the Pass through money). Actual Church Income was **\$8,442.00**. Actual Church expense was **\$7,369.00**.

Minister salary and expense for December **\$ 4,411.61**.

Our Membership consists of 72 members and 45 friends of the Church.

Doris Heyman, Treasurer

### New and Not-So-New Member Bio



#### Meet Jemma Crae

By: Sheila Lawrence

Born in St. Louis, Mo, Jemma, along with her parents and older sister moved to Denver, Co. when she was just two years of age. Sadly, her father past away when she was eleven, so devastating to her mother, that Jemma and her sister became heads of the family.

Yearning to attend a small college, Jemma chose Louis and Clark in Portland where she received her degree in biology, and then onto the University of Oregon, where she studied Health Sciences and became a lab technician, working at it for two years, and teaching some of the time.

In graduate school at Arizona State, a masters degree awaited her in zoology and where Jemma met J.T. one of the loves of her life. In 1971, the two decided to purchase a piece of forestland, the same land Jemma resides on today. They worked in labs in San Francisco in order to pay for the land and stayed together until 1979.

Alone now, Jemma built a combination carport and woodshed with an apartment above with her own hands using hand-tools, and doing without electricity for two years. She lived in that structure for 16 years, when in 1995, she contracted with two women who owned a construction company to build her present home, an A-frame with huge windows that overlooks her property.

Along the way, she found the Unitarian Church in 1987 when she learned how accepting Unitarians were toward Lesbians and gays. Once there, she says, "I began to feel like a whole person once again."

Jemma is an artist, some of her paintings are displayed in our church and holds lesbian feminist concerts at her home for individual singers, musicians, plays and readings. Her partner, Dana MacDonald and she have been together for ten years, and in 2003, Jemma became President of our Church for a two year term.

At present, she serves on the Sunday Services Committee.

Our little church continues to gain important ground by harnessing the energy of our most successful and talented members. Is that the luck of the ages?



## UUU Church Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the UUUC Board of Directors

February 3, 2009

Members present: Rev. Annie Holmes, Gary Pischke, Anna Slemmer, Doris Heyman, Lucy Harrington, Gail Spitze, June Ervin, Jan Fritz

Guests: Mel Watts, Kathleen A. Priem

### **Item: Building Committee preliminary report**

Action: Mel Watts presented the findings of the Building Committee (Mel Watts, Jim Pratt, Earnie Alvis, Bernie Fox) regarding the rental property. Carpeting, painting and minor repairs are indicated. A more comprehensive report covering both the rental and church property will be presented at the February 15th Congregational Meeting.

### **Item: Discussion of program for February 15 Congregational Meeting**

Action: Gary will present a comprehensive agenda with assistance from all members of the Board. We will have a timekeeper and speakers will be limited to two minute presentations. Congregants will be asked to jot down ideas/suggestions/comments on paper to be given to the Board for consideration.

### **Item: Rev. Annie's Sabbatical discussion**

Action: More information will be presented at a later date. A preliminary invitation to the ministerial community to share our pulpit during the sabbatical has yielded 6 responses from ministers in our region. Further follow-up is indicated.

### **Item: Policy for conflicts of meetings and events**

Action: Gary will draft a proposed policy, distribute to members of the Board, and voting will take place at the next meeting.

### **Item: Office Committee update**

Action: Reorganization and 'purging' is ongoing; office is functioning well. The Mac

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

computer in DRE Kandie Kato's office is inoperative. Requests for a donated computer have been issued, and the search for an acceptable replacement is underway. Patrice Glasscock will be out of the office from March 19th - 31st.

### **Item: Update from Canvass Team**

Action: The plans for the congregational canvassing were presented to the Board, and the date for the Celebration Evening was set for Friday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the church.

### **Item: New Committee - Social Events**

Action: Guest Kathleen A. Priem presented a proposal to the Board to form a new committee to initiate social events for members of the church, friends and the community. A motion to accept this new committee was made by Lucy Harrington, seconded by Jan Fritz and voted unanimously by the Board. The first event will be a Valentine's Day party and dance. See Kathleen A. Priem for further information and to volunteer for this committee. Members of the Social Events Committee are: Chair: Kathleen A. Priem, Penny Wallace, Sara Byers, Elizabeth Herbert, Gary Pischke, Mary Garvey, Janet Ranyard.

**NEXT MEETING: COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE MEETING WITH BOARD MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS** is scheduled for March 3 at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. Lucy Harrington will notify all committee chairs of the meeting date and will call the week before to provide a head-count for the dinner.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

February 14 ~ Valentine's Day Party and Dance

February 15 ~ INFORMATIONAL Congregational Meeting following Sunday Service. Snacks will be provided. There will be NO votes taken on any issue at this meeting.

February 20-22 ~ PNWD Annual Meeting in Salem, OR.

Next Board Meeting ~ March 3 (see notice above)

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Harrington

Secretary



# March 2009

## Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

2167 NW Watters Roseburg, Oregon 97471 (541) 672-2250

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>5:30pm-</b> Committee on Committees meeting with dinner Board Meeting to follow	<b>4</b> <b>Noon -</b> Mindfulness Meditation <b>6:30pm-Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> BYOT- "Individualism and Community: What is the Role of the Church?" Rev. Holmes	<b>5</b> <b>6:00pm -</b> Choir - all are welcome!	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Noon -</b> Mindfulness Meditation <b>6:30pm - Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> Covenant Groups	<b>12</b> <b>6:00pm -</b> Choir - all are welcome!	<b>13</b> Newsletter articles due!	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Noon -</b> Committee on Ministry	<b>18</b> <b>Noon -</b> Mindfulness Meditation <b>6:30pm - Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> Odyssey - Jim Terry	<b>19</b> <b>6:00pm -</b> Choir - all are welcome!	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Noon -</b> Mindfulness Meditation <b>6:30pm - Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> "History of Christianity and the Bible" Rev. Holmes	<b>26</b> <b>6:00pm -</b> Choir - all are welcome!	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				