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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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## Sunday Services

- Sep 4** *End of Summer Service* Pot Luck to wrap up the summer.
- Sep 11** *Welcome Back and Water Ceremony* Our start of Fall Season. Bring a small bit of water and a short explanation of what makes it meaningful.
- Sep 18** Malcolm Miller *Zorba the Greek*
- Sep 25** Sharon van Abbema *How Shall We Keep from Singing* Sharon will speak about the lay chaplaincy.
- Oct 16** *Eastern Fall Regional Gathering* In the spirit of one of the themes of the gathering, lay developed worship, the service will be organized by the local committee. The Reverend Ray Drennan has agreed to deliver the homily.

## Women's Pot Luck

The next monthly women's pot luck dinner will be held September 23rd.. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Joan B. will host the evening at her home, 31 Ridgewell Place. Discussion topic is "fathers and daughters". What is your father - daughter story? For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or [jebrewer@rogers.co](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.co)

## Home Hospitality Needed

Our congregation is hosting the Eastern Regional Fall Gathering October 14-16. Many Unitarians from the Maritimes, Quebec and Kingston, Ontario will be attending this event which takes place at the Hugh John Flemming Centre. Most will probably be accommodated at the Forestry School, but some may require "Home Hospitality" from members of our congregation.

If you would be interested in making new friends and being a "night-time host" for 2 nights, please call Sheila Moore 363-2480 or e-mail [smoore@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:smoore@nbnet.nb.ca).

## LeaderFULL Congregations

### - Eastern Regional Gathering

The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton will have the honour of being the host congregation to the 2011 Eastern Regional Gathering. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our members and friends to partake in a denominational gathering without having to travel. Meet and greet fellow Unitarians, Universalists and U\*Us and CUC representatives from the Eastern Region. The Eastern region encompasses Fellowships and Churches from Kingston, Ontario, East.



The dates will be October 14 through 16 and the gathering will take place at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre, at 1350 Regent St. (opposite the Regent Mall).

Mid-October can show New Brunswick at peak fall colours and the day time temperatures can be quite pleasant. Take a look at the program schedule below which is just for the Saturday workshops. Realize that there will be activities over and above the workshops. Then tell all your friends to "come on down" and enjoy Maritime hospitality and the chance to develop new skills with engaging people.

In addition to the Regional Gathering, there will be a "Youth-Con" taking place in the Fellowship building for the weekend and a Basic Training for Lay Chaplains at the Forestry Centre. The Sunday service for the 16th will be combined with the Regional Gathering and held in the Irving Theatre of the Forestry Complex. There will be

no regular service at 874 York Street, the Youth will be having their own service.

As I write this, the official brochure for the Gathering appears to be complete and a mailing will go out to congregations tomorrow (September 2nd) advising people of the web site for registration and details for registration by Canada Post. I will try to print off a few brochures to place with copies of the newsletter in the Fellowship library.

I don't want to take up space in this news letter to repeat information that is presented so well in the brochure for the event. If you wish to register online, use the web site:

<http://erg2011.eventbrite.com/>

If you're reading this online, the above web site also has the schedule, however, as I write this, I'm unable to find the full brochure on either the registration or the CUC web sites.

Just in case I can not find a link to an electronic copy of the brochure for our readers, I will "borrow" the descriptions of the workshops on the Saturday.

### **Plenary Session**

*keynote speaker:* Rev. Monte Peters was ordained as a priest in the Diocese of Saint John in 1970, appointed Catholic Campus Minister at UNBF. from 1971-94, and has since been pastor to three Fredericton churches. He holds a Certificate in Family Violence Issues from the Muriel McQueen Centre.

### **Leadership Stream**

#### **Workshop #1 – Adaptive Leadership**

Rev. Kathy Sage

Facing change and growing our congregations would be easy if we knew exactly how it could be done. "Adaptive Change" is the dynamic process of making change when the "how," "why," "is this the time," and "what's holding us back" require us to make new discoveries and enter the unknown. This brief overview of Adaptive Change offers a fresh view for UUs who are puzzled by why such bright folks get stumped working on organizational change.

#### **Workshop #2 – Interweaving Leadership and Spirituality**

Nicky Duenkel

How can we come to see volunteer leadership as a significant element in our spiritual journeys? As leaders we can be served by finding ways to engage our core values and beliefs, and those of others, in times of turmoil as well as when dealing with the most mundane tasks. In this workshop we'll touch on educator Parker Palmer's work on living an undivided life as well as how to make lay leadership "more life-giving for all concerned."

#### **Workshop #3 – Approaching Leadership from a Place of Mindfulness**

Nicky Duenkel

Making and sustaining the connections between mind and heart requires doing our inner work. Bringing mindfulness

to all that we do everyday communications, meetings, experiences of conflict, involvement with children and youth can help address tendencies towards judgment, frustration, and fatigue. In this workshop we'll explore the potential in every moment, to learn, deepen, and grow through leadership.

### **Worship Stream**

Rev. Frances Dearman

#### **Workshop #1 – Worship Development: The Structure of a Service**

In this workshop we consider the elements that make up a service, how to order them into an appropriate flow with thematic unity, and what resources might be available. You are invited to bring two or three orders of service from your own congregation that you felt worked well, and tell us briefly why you chose them.

#### **Workshop #2 – Worship Development: The Preparation of a Sermon**

In this workshop we consider how a sermon differs from other modes of speech, how certain basic structures can support an effective sermon, and a step-by-step method for preparing an effective sermon. You are invited to bring to mind one or two sermons that stick with you, and tell us briefly why you remember them.

#### **Workshop #3 – Worship Development: The Presentation of a Sermon**

In this workshop we undertake some simple, un-pressured steps to explore sermon presentation in a service setting. No preparation is necessary. You will be invited to read aloud, and to draft an outline for a brief homily.

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### **Active Democracy Session**

Rev. John Marsh

Come and discuss the important work of CUC's Active Democracy Task Force. How do we elect our representatives ? Decide what we want to achieve together ? What are your concerns about a new way of doing democracy?



## **Fredericton Choral Society**

If you love to sing and can carry a tune, come join the Fredericton Choral Society on September 6th at 7 pm. We meet at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on Smythe St. in Fredericton every Tuesday and this fall will be rehearsing Handel's Messiah for December performances. For more information call 488-9894.



## **The Heretic's Tool**

Ken Moore suggests that the following article, which appeared on uuworld.org, might prove interesting:

Social media, 'the heretic's tool'

*'If we do not embrace social media we're essentially putting a nail in our own coffin.'*

By Peter Bowden

More details at:

<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/183472.shtml>

or just type "Peter Bowden the heretics tool" into your web search engine.



## Unitarian Travel

Travel with Unitarians to experience our historic roots and explore this fascinating part of Europe - Transylvania and Hungary, June 4-18, 2012

How about travelling to a place where a Unitarianism was founded 450 years ago? That's Transylvania! One fourth of all Unitarians live here. Their beautiful, unique churches are a joy to behold.

We'll have a 3-day stay in a Transylvanian Unitarian village - attending church, sharing a relaxed picnic and experiencing rural village life. We'll explore castles and other cultural places, enjoy the food and art and the beautiful landscapes. Cost is \$2075 plus airfare. From Cluj-Napoca, Romania to Budapest, Hungary, includes 9 nights in Transylvania and 5 in Hungary, private coach, most meals, 3 and 4-star hotels, as well as staying with a family or in a guest house when we are in the rural village.

This specially designed tour will be facilitated by the UU Partner Church Council Pilgrimage Service that has more than a decade of experience facilitating UU visits to this part of Europe.

For all details see [www.nuuc.ca](http://www.nuuc.ca)  
Contact Beverly Carr, [bgcarr@rogers.com](mailto:bgcarr@rogers.com)  
Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto



## Correspondence from Larry Lacey

### Jodi Picoult, Jesus and Death Row

Good novels or movies can take us to where we have never been before in place, time or emotions. Recently some prominent writers in USA have written themes of murder conviction, the tricks and lies in a murder trial, the conditions on death row, mind of the convicted and the execution. Also we read the viewpoints of survivors and various persons in the legal system

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### The Fifth Witness by Michael Connelly

Mickey Haller, the Lincoln Lawyer, with changes in the economy has shifted law practice to foreclosure. One of

his clients is accused of killing the banker she blames for trying to foreclose on her home. The novel builds up an indictment of banks, mortgage processors, police, prosecutors, defense lawyers, judges, and unscrupulous business people. The defendant is cranky. The trial is full of twists and new events.

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### John Grisham's 2006 non-fiction book The Innocent Man

In 1982 in a small town Ada, Oklahoma, the murdered body of a 21 year old woman was found. After five years of shoddy police work, Ron Williamson and Dennis Fritz were charged, tried and convicted of the rape and murder charges in 1988. Williamson was sentenced to death, Fritz a life sentence. The prosecutor used forced confessions, unreliable witnesses and flimsy evidence. A death row conviction sets in motion a series of appeals. A retrial was ordered. After suffering through a conviction and 11 years on death row, Williamson and Fritz were exonerated by DNA evidence. Ron Williamson suffered deep emotional scars during jail and the wait on death row. The story includes accounts of the false convictions of others from the area for crimes of murder.

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### The Confession: A Novel by John Grisham

A White multiple sex offender, confesses to a church minister that he's guilty of the murder of a high school girl. The minister tells the condemned man's attorney. An Afro-American student has been charged, convicted and sentenced to death based on a false witness and a forced confession after hours of ruthless interrogation. The judicial action progresses and the confession and request for appeal are ignored.

Nearly all the villains in this book work for the system: from the detective, the prosecutor, the judge, uncaring appeals courts to the state governor. Grisham's novel is actually a condemnation of the Texas judicial system, prosecution practices and the high rate of death penalty. Grisham works with the Innocence Project.

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### Change of Heart by Jodi Picoult 2008

A death row inmate, Shay Bourne, convicted of a double homicide, decides that to redeem himself, he must donate his heart post-execution to the sister of one of his victims - a little girl who needs a heart transplant.

Shay's request attracts a lot of attention - priest arrives just as Shay begins performing miracles, the priest decides to listen. What Shay says comes verbatim from the Gospel of Thomas, a gospel that was rejected as heresy by the Church. The priest begins to think: People are always finding God in prison - but what if He was already there?

**Research for this book by Jodi Picoult was two-**

## pronged

Learning about the death penalty, a tour of Death Row, and to talk to a death row inmate. She saw the execution chamber, instructions for doing run throughs of the execution. It's not right to execute an innocent man; but what about one who's guilty? 38 states have capital punishment on their law books. Is it a deterrent? An FBI Report in 2004 showed that the South had the highest murder rate, even though it accounts for 80% of all executions.

Second branch of research ..the history of religion and the Gnostic Gospels.

They believe that to truly reach spiritual enlightenment, you had to find a secret knowledge -that there is a little bit of divinity in all of us—and that you had to find your own path to spiritual fulfillment. They followed multiple gospels

“Well, when I read that, I knew exactly how Shay Bourne, my character on death row, would interpret it - he'd want to donate his heart.”

“If I could ask people to take away one thing from my book it would be this: to stop thinking of beliefs as absolutes—and to see them instead as an invitation to have a conversation, and maybe learn something from someone else's point of view.”

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As I was lying on a motel bed, reading this book, I turned and saw wads of my computer printouts, Two sheets were about Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Discipleship of the Cross.

I pondered about the stories of Jesus Christ and suffering for what is right. Bonhoeffer added that we must also accept rejection by others as well as the suffering.

That makes things easier for me that in trying to do what is right, I may have to accept suffering and even the pain of rejection.



## World Accord in Honduras

*“Life is a do-it-for-others. Do-it-yourself project.”*

Denis Waitley

The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, in partnership with World Accord, invites you to help build a school in the mountains of Honduras. This is a hands-on opportunity to make a difference in the lives of subsistence farmers and their families. Please join a two-week trip, beginning: January 14, February 11 or March 10, 2012. Construction and Spanish language skills are not required but would be welcomed.

For more information contact Richard Kirsh (416-767-5837 or richardkirsh@sympatico.ca)



## CLF Courses

The Church of the Larger Fellowship, a unique UU congregation without walls, is offering online courses for all. Some courses are free, some courses have a \$40 fee.

For information about all online courses, try this link:

[www.clfuu.org/learn/](http://www.clfuu.org/learn/)

The Church of the Larger Fellowship's mission is to provide a ministry to isolated religious liberals, promote the understanding and growth of Unitarian Universalism and institute programs to that end. Learn more about the CLF at [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org).



## Food Bank Sunday

Just a short reminder that the last Sunday of each month is “Food Bank Sunday” and non-perishable goods brought to the Fellowship for the Food Bank will be taken during the week.

This space wants your material!