

SERMON
TOPICS:

- Oct 4—Animal Blessings
- Oct 11—Ethical Eating
- Oct 18—The Ghosts of Yesterday & Today
- Oct 25—Día de los Muertos

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The Compass

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 5

Reflections on Water

As I pack my bags for a short trip to Bethany Beach, DE, it is easy to travel a few days into the future and experience everything that is the ocean side. I love to sit or walk on the beach and watch the waves. They are full of thunder and lustiness when they first break and begin to run, screaming toward the shore. Then they become mischievous and frolicsome as they sneak in those last few feet, perhaps a little further in than previously, perhaps a few feet less. Then they scurry back out toward the ocean chortling about the good joke they just played.

Water, it seems, plays these same games in our lives. Sometimes it is forceful and aggressive, sometimes playful and fun, and sometimes it sneaks away so that we can no longer reach it at all.

Following the UUCE Water Communion Sunday this year, I was left thinking about the stories that we shared, but also about the lovely multigenerational play that Suzanne Perrey found for us. In the play, the townspeople learned if they were to enjoy the wine they must also share it. Isn't the message also true for water? Do we appreciate it, honor it and share it with those who do

not have enough? Or instead, do we hoard it, waste it and pollute it? How differently might we respond if we did not have enough to meet our needs?

Recently, I was speaking with my sister who lives in a small mountain village in New Mexico. She had visited a UU church and experienced her first water communion. She described a traditional ceremony in which participants each put a little water in a large communal bowl and spoke a little about where their water was from or what it symbolized. Her water, she said, represented all of the rivers that she crossed on a recent road trip to the East Coast. She was struck by the number of rivers and the number of towns clinging to their banks... towns dependent on the water from the rivers for their existence.

The village that she lives in is also centered around a river. The name of the village means noisy river although, in truth, most of the year the river is really a babbling brook, easily crossed by foot. In the spring, however, when the snow melts on the mountaintop the river becomes fierce. It becomes loud and ferocious. It overflows its banks and often takes with it property and

even lives.

Tina Sizemore experienced a very different water communion ceremony. She was visiting in Montana in an area consumed by drought. Instead of asking participants to bring water in to the church, the church had a bowl of communal water to begin the ceremony, and distributed small amounts to each of the participants. As they each received their share of the precious water, they were asked to write out a sentence or two about what water means to them. Their responses were often different than they might be in an area where water was not so scarce. There were those who spoke of cruises and swimming but there were also several who spoke of lack, of farmers struggling to water crops, and of a need for more water so that our food can grow.

In literature classes I was taught that water symbolizes life. What an appropriate symbol it is. It is sometimes viscous and threatening, and sometimes so scarce as to affect our land and our food. Always, though, it is needed to sustain us and deserving of our care, our respect and our appreciation. Water is very truly, the source of life.

-Sharon Dennis



Sermon Topics

Oct 4—Animal Blessings—multigen service Tom Moor worship leader. If you like, bring your animal companion or photographs for our annual Animal Blessing service. October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis (1182-1226) was a monk who founded the contemporary order of Franciscans. He was known for his vow of poverty and his special connection to animals.

October 11 – Ethical Eating – Courtney Nalin will speak; Brian Sturgill worship leader

October 18 – The Ghosts of Yesterday and Today – Rev. Doddie Stone returns to speak; Ed Howard worship associate. Plate share will be collected for the CROP Walk.

October 25 – Día de los Muertos – Tom Moor worship leader. **Potluck following service.**

Fall Festival-Visit us at Booth#13 Oct 5-10!

As I write this, we are less than two weeks away from our church's biggest fundraiser of the year – the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. Autumn is in the air, and excitement is mounting down on Franklin Street. Our booth is being painted, our hanging signs are being updated, and the work schedule is slowly being filled in. But don't think we can rest easy and don't think any of us are off the hook! Even though the food is cooked and packaged, there is still so much to do.

So many church members and friends have already put in so much time and energy to get

us this far. Now it's your turn. We need you to step up and help our church be all that it can be. The work schedule has been passed around twice during Sunday services and many people have already signed up to help in the booth. We are trying to schedule three people in the booth at all times. We also need a day captain for each day shift and one for each evening shift. The booth must be cleaned and stocked before it goes to Franklin Street; it will also need to be emptied and cleaned when it is returned to the church.

As of September 22, we still have 19 slots to fill with booth

workers; we need two more day captains, three or four people to clean and stock the booth, and three or four to empty and re-clean the booth. This is a great way to get to know each other better as we raise much-needed funds for our church. It's also a fun way to let the community know more about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville and its principles.

Please contact Chris Norrington (812-491-0091) or Tina Sizemore (812-483-9213) to add your name to our list of helpers.



UUCE participating in CROP Walk

The CROP Walk is a local sponsored walk to raise funds for world hunger relief. It is an interfaith community event, with walkers from many different churches in the area participating. We'd like for some UUCE folks to walk. This event is appropriate for everyone in your family, including four-legged members of the family. The walk takes place beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday Oct. 31st. It begins at Simpson United Methodist Church (2201 W. Illinois St.) and lasts about 2 ½ miles. If you are interested in walking or sponsoring, please see David Fentress (812-473-0314, df27@evansville.edu).





Church Restroom Fundraiser

Here is your chance to see a memorable film and help UUCE at the same time! On **Wednesday, October 21 at 7 PM** there will be an exclusive screening of "A Wedding Like That" at the church, and proceeds from ticket sales will be used to help fund the church's restroom renovations. In addition, there will be a wine and cheese reception, with Marla playing the cello.

The film, which was shot in Evansville and showcases much local talent (all persons involved are from the tri-state area), is the story of two college roommates

who come home one weekend, when one of the girls announces to her surprised parents that not only is she getting married the next week, but also that she is marrying her female roommate! The reaction of the girls' families make for a humorous but poignant look at a sensitive--and topical-- subject. One critic noted that the film "will entertain you and in the end have a smile on your face." This will be the first showing in Evansville outside of several film festivals, where the film won many accolades.

Those attending will also be able

to meet and chat with the film's author, several of the production staff, and some of the actors--one of whom is our own Sharon Dennis.

Tickets for the evening are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, and they may be obtained now from any UUCE board member, or purchased at the church from 6 to 8 PM October 6, 13, and 20 or from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 17.

Please plan to join us for a wonderful and enjoyable event!

Halloween Party!

Attention, all ghosts and goblins! It's time for the fourth annual UUCE Halloween party, which is sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee and will be held on Saturday, October 24 from 4 to 6 PM at the church. All ages are welcome, and you may come in costume if you like (not mandatory!) There will be refreshments, games, activities, spooky music, and a scary--not too scary!--story. If your child would like to decorate a pumpkin, please bring one, as they won't be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer, where you can indicate how many children and how many adults will be in your group. We'll all have a spooktacular time!



Pictured above: Mollie Pharo working on the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee is off to a great start! Thanks for your ideas at our congregational meeting!

Upcoming Events & Activities

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| Thurs., Oct. 1: 4pm Girl Scouts | Mon., Oct. 19: 6pm Down to Earth |
| Fri., Oct. 2: 7pm Drum Circle | Mon., Oct. 19: 6pm Congregational Life Committee meeting |
| Sun., Oct. 4: 9am Adult Discussion Group | Tues., Oct. 20: COMPASS submissions due |
| Mon., Oct. 5-Sat., Oct. 10: Visit us at Booth #13 at the Fall Festival on Franklin Street | Wed., Oct. 21: 7pm "A Wedding Like That" Fundraiser |
| Mon., Oct. 5: 6pm Down to Earth addiction recovery support group | Thurs., Oct. 22: 4pm Girl Scouts |
| Wed., Oct. 7: 7pm Worship committee meeting | Sat., Oct. 24: 4pm Halloween Party |
| Thurs., Oct. 8: 4pm Girl Scouts | Sun., Oct. 25: Potluck following service |
| Fri., Oct. 9: 6pm Church rental | Sun., Oct. 25: RE Committee meeting following potluck |
| Sun., Oct. 11: 3pm OWL | Sun., Oct. 25: 12:30pm Pagan Study Group |
| Mon., Oct. 12: 6pm Down to Earth | Mon., Oct. 26: 6pm Down to Earth |
| Mon., Oct. 12: 7pm Board meeting | Mon., Oct. 26: 7pm Strategic Planning Committee |
| Thurs., Oct. 15: 4pm Girl Scouts | Tues., Oct. 27: 11:30am Brown Bag Book Club |
| Fri., Oct. 16: 3:30pm United Caring Shelter Dinner (sign-up in foyer) | Thurs., Oct. 29: 4pm Girl Scouts |
| Sun., Oct. 18: 9am Adult Discussion Group | Sat., Oct. 31: CROP Walk (see David Fentress) |
| Sun., Oct. 18: 3pm Goddess Circle | |

Important Note: The UUCE parking lot is scheduled to be repaired, resealed, and restriped on Tuesday, October 13 and Wednesday, October 14, 2015.



Fair Trade for the Holidays

Need Chocolate? Coffee? Tea? Don't forget about Equal Exchange Products for holiday gifts or entertaining! By purchasing fair trade products, a portion of the proceeds goes to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Fair Trade is a way of doing business that ultimately aims to keep small farmers an active part of the world marketplace, and aims to empower consumers to make purchases that support their values. See Chris Norrington for a catalog and buy some "Coffee for a Cause!"



Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville

2910 East Morgan Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711
812-474-1704

Service on Sundays at 10:00am
Youth RE on Sundays at 10:30am



Board of Directors:

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