



The Beacon

Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
 www.tpuuf.org • 3424 Ridge Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426 • 610-631-0280

Building Community

This Month's Services

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. ~ Silent meditation in the sanctuary begins at 10:15 a.m.

Date	Service Topic	Speaker/Coordinator
January 1	Fire Along with reminding us of what we hold precious in the new year and letting go, in a blaze, of what we'd rather leave behind, we'll look at vows, promises, and covenants.	Rev. Bryant Brown, TPUUF Minister Announcer: Preston Luitweiler
January 8	Religious Freedom and Tolerance From our Unitarian heritage: It's the 449th anniversary of the edict in Transylvania which you might consider the first legal guarantee of religious freedom in the Europe! The idea still needs our efforts.	Rev. Bryant Brown, TPUUF Minister Announcer: Christine Perry
January 15	Progress and Promises Slavery, segregation, the New Jim Crow – they're all part of our nation's history, and (watch the news) increasingly of our present reality. Can we do more than talk?	Rev. Bryant Brown, TPUUF Minister Announcer: John Sayer
January 22	The Lenape and Their Story Most of us are more familiar with Native American tribes of the Plains and the Southwest than with those originally inhabiting eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and all along the Delaware watershed—the Delawara or Lenni Lenape. They were real people with personal stories, not just footnotes in history books. Who are the Lenape? What changes did they come through to survive after the coming of the new people to their world? Native American historian and lecturer Darius Puff (Silver Wolf) will help answer those questions for us.	Darius Puff (Silver Wolf) Guest Speaker Announcer: Becki Douglas
January 29	Oh Noah He Didn't! Last year, in Kentucky, a \$100 million theme park entitled "Ark Encounter" opened featuring a "life-sized" Ark with animatronic dinosaurs and violent and disturbing images of people dying in a supposed worldwide flood 4,200 years ago. According to Gallup, roughly half of Americans believe that the earth is just 6,000 years old and that evolution is false. These beliefs highlight the formidable challenge to scientific inquiry and science education in our country. These beliefs also influence how we collectively deal with environmental issues affecting our survival. How do we as a faith community stand up for science and education?	Mike Burkheimer, TPUUF Member Announcer: TBD

FUNDRAISING UPDATES



Gamewright Game Night Fundraiser

Our Gamewright Game Night Fundraiser earned \$277 for the Fellowship. We had a good turnout that included some new faces and lots of positive feedback. We will likely repeat this event in either Fall 2017 or 2018.

The Dove Chocolate Discoveries fundraiser was a small-scale fundraiser. With a handful of orders totaling \$408, we earned at the 15% level for a total of \$61.20 for the Fellowship. There was zero cost involved in this fundraiser. If there is strong interest, we can explore the option of repeating this or a similar fundraiser in the future.

My next BIG project will be the 2017 Goods & Services Auction, to be held Saturday May 6th. Please mark your calendars and watch for more info.

-Lizzie Vena, Gamewright Fundraiser organizer

Events



Denominational Affairs

The Greater Philly UU Cluster (GPC) (<http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/>) is comprised of 14 nearby UU congregations and is actively connecting these congregations to share our message, grow our faith and strengthen congregations. Here are some opportunities to get involved:

- 1) New date for GPC meeting, now: Saturday, January 7, at 9:30 - 11:30 am (meet and greet at 9:00), Thomas Paine UU Fellowship. (That's right folks, right in our TPUUF home.)
- 2) SEPTA ad campaign promoting UUism - a GPC Faithify campaign (UU crowdfunding) to raise funds for ads to be placed on rail and subway platforms in February. Please donate and spread the word. The funds need to be raised by Dec 29.

Go to <http://www.faithify.org/projects/spreading-uu-love-and-hope-in-a-hurting-world/>

3) Register for UU Leadership Institute courses for Spring 2017 at <http://www.uuinstitute.org/>.

Check out the Cluster website (<http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/>) for more information and get connected with your fellow UU's!

-Amy Nothelfer, Greater Philly Cluster (GPC) chair



Did You Know?!

In addition to our TPUUF Facebook Page, we offer two groups: TPUUF Discussion Group and TPUUF CFD Families. For those who utilize this social media, please feel free to reach out to Lizzie Vena or Jess Bors to request to be added.

Soup-er Sunday, February 5

On Sunday, February 5, let's celebrate Super Bowl Sunday with our very own TPUUF Soup-er Fundraiser! Here's how you can participate: (1) Make a generous batch of your tastiest soup, stew, chili or gumbo and bring it to the Fellowship on the 5th (containers will be provided to you the last three Sundays in January) -and/or- (2) Buy a quart (or more!) of a homemade culinary creation.

Soup makers: Please sign up on the clipboard in the lobby by January 15. Soup buyers: Purchase soup at \$8 per quart or two quarts for \$15. **All proceeds benefit TPUUF.**

NEW! Soup not your "thing"? There are other ways you can participate in this fundraiser:

- Make a loaf of bread. We will be selling bread in addition to soup this year. Foil pans will be available in starting in January. More details coming soon!
- Bring a can of soup for the food pantry.

Contact Cam or Becki Douglas with questions at cbsdouglas@comcast.net, or 908-307-1704. Thank you for your support!



Reiki Share and Prayer List

Sunday, January 8, 1:30-4:00 pm

Calling all Reiki practitioners! TPUUF hosts monthly Reiki shares in our beautiful sanctuary.

Practitioners are encouraged to bring their loving spirits and healing hearts, crystals optional. We will share the LOVE with one another for the first part of the day, and at 3PM we open the doors to offer Reiki to anyone who is interested in receiving some! In exchange for the use of the space, we will be collecting a Love donation for TPUUF.

We will have our usual prayer list. Everyone has the opportunity to name an individual that they would like prayers or intentions directed to during our reiki and meditation. A request for submissions will be sent out via the Webvine closer to the date.

If you would like to participate, or for more information, please contact Kate Weber at reiki@tpuuf.org.



Nurture Your Spirit: Spiritual Practices Workshops

This month we will begin a series of Spiritual Practices Workshops. The first workshop will be January 15th, beginning at 11:45 AM. The focus this month will be the Journaling. Bring your favorite writing tools, paper will be provided. This workshop is open to all ages and skill levels.

-Kate Weber, Lifespan Faith Development

2016 Membership Anniversaries

Marian Augustine & TPUUF celebrating 50 Golden Years



Roz Wealth ~ 40 Years



Sandy Beckius ~ 25 Years

On November 20th, the congregation celebrated the membership anniversaries of several members of our Thomas Paine U. U. Fellowship. As the Fellowship celebrates fifty years as a congregation this year, Marian Augustine also celebrates fifty years as a member. Marian is the only remaining founding member of TPUUF. Roselyn Wealth is celebrating forty years of membership this year. Sandy Beckius and William Rostosky have been members for twenty-five years. Deb Marotta and Kate Weber celebrate fifteen years this year and, Phil Manos has ten years membership. All were acknowledged with certificates from Thomas Paine for their various years as part of our faith family.



Kate Weber and Deb Marotta ~ 15 Years



The Committee on Ministry – who we are and what we do

More than the Committee on Ministry's name may imply, it exists to address much more than matters involving the minister. Duties consist of addressing problems, concerns and issues of us all ministering to each other.

Members should feel free to talk with any Committee member about our common ministry and/or plan to attend a meeting; the first 15 minutes are open to our members.

Meetings are announced in the Fellowship's calendar.

The Committee consists of Lorraine Lee, Sandy Beckius, Jeanne Henderson, Neil Collier and Dorothy Tarka.

On Sunday February 5 following service, the Committee on Ministry will meet with the congregation to discuss any issues or concerns you may have regarding our common ministry. Please plan to attend and we look forward to seeing you.

-Committee on Ministry

TPUUF Holiday Dinner

Thanks to Sherry Milke for capturing a few pictures from our Holiday Potluck Dinner.



Classified Ads

Services Offered... For Sale... For Hire... Wanted... Help Wanted... *it's all here!*

Due to space limitations, there is a 50-word limit on classified ads. Thank you for your understanding.

Considering buying or selling a home? Holiday Special extended! For all my UU friends and your referrals to me, I will waive your \$300 admin fee and donate \$150 to TPUUF (for all transactions closing by March 31, 2017). -- Christine Perry, PA REALTOR. 484-686-8521; christine@christinewperry.com (Re/max Services, 215-641-2500).

Schedule your Akashic Reading or ThetaHealing Today
An Akashic Reading feels like a conversation with your Spirit Guides. During a reading you can uncover your life's purpose, see what is holding you back in this lifetime, and see how to align with your soul to create the life you want. ThetaHealing is a powerful energy healing technique.
KateWeberReadings@gmail.com

President's Message



The ending of 2016 and start of the new year 2017 brings with them a great deal of uncertainty. The past year seems to have gone by faster than any other. Every new year brings with it some amount of uncertainty, but this one feels completely different. I personally feel much more committed than ever to the causes that we promote and defend at TPUUF. The events since the election have caused many of us to recommit to our UU principles with much more determination than ever.

So that's a positive, and I know from talking to people both within TPUUF and outside, that this renewed energy and commitment is shared by many. The amount of interest in our own Social Action committee, partner organizations calls to action, and other outside groups getting people together to discuss and promote tangible actions that support these principles is another strong positive outcome from the events of the latter half of 2016.

Along those same lines, TPUUF will be hosting the next meeting of the Greater Philadelphia UU Cluster on January 7th. This is a group of 14 UU congregations from southeastern PA, southern NJ and Delaware that meets every other month, giving congregations a forum to share with each other. Look for more details on this in the weeks leading up to the meeting. I'm more convinced than ever that we have to work together with other UU congregations as well as non-UU organizations to promote our UU principles, promote equality and justice.

There's also a bit of uncertainty within TPUUF as relates to our Children's Faith Development programs. This program is a cornerstone of the service we provide to our members, friends and visitors. Everyone involved with this program continues to be committed to the high-quality programs for our children of all ages.

We also gather together to celebrate the holidays, socializing with friends and enjoying all of our diverse backgrounds and experiences. Our Holiday Dinner was a big success, with excellent food, enjoyable company, and good times for people of all ages. Thanks to all who planned, organized, set up and cleaned up and especially to all who contributed their talents and food to make a spectacular event leading into the holidays. Special thanks to Cleo for her holiday tree decorations, available for the price of a gift of gloves, hat, scarf, etc. to help the needy.

A TPUUF tradition, the Christmas Eve candlelight service, is always a popular event, with lots of storytelling, holiday songs and wishes for peace. This year December 24th is also the first night of Hanukkah. Kwanzaa begins on December 26th, so there are several cultural celebrations converging this year, a few days after the Winter Solstice. We will not be holding services on Sunday, December 25th, so stay at home, enjoy family and maybe even some snow to complete the season. Hope to see everyone at these fantastic events.

In the event of inclement weather, notifications regarding the status of services and committee meetings will be posted to the TPUUF website, Facebook page, Twitter feed and email webvine at least 24 hours in advance of the event. Additionally, a message will provide notification for Sunday services on our phone line.

Keep watching for more news of these and other special events in all of the usual places – our Order of Service, the Beacon Newsletter, online locations such as our website (www.tpuuf.org), TPUUF facebook pages and twitter feeds (@tpuuf).

Best regards,

John Sayer
President, Board of Trustees



JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Service 10:30 am Worship Associates 11:45 am-12:45 pm	2 Communications Committee 7:30-9:30 pm	3 Yoga 5:45-6:55 pm Mindful Meditation 7:00-8:00 pm	4	5 OOS announcements due by noon Small Group Ministry 10:30 am-12:30 pm Worship Committee 6:30-8:00 pm Choir 8:00-9:00 pm	6	7
8 Sunday Service 10:30 am Brunch New to UU Class #1 11:15 am-12:15 pm Social Action 11:45 am-12:45 pm Reiki Share 1:30-4:00 pm	9 Membership Team 4:00-6:00 pm	10 Senior Men's Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm Yoga 5:45-6:55 pm Mindful Meditation 7:00-8:00 pm TPUUF Board Mtg 7:00-9:00 pm	11	12 OOS announcements due by noon Choir 7:30-9:00 pm	13 Family Game Night 6:30-9:00 pm	14
15 Sunday Service 10:30 am New to UU Class #2 11:50 am-12:50 pm Finance Meeting 12:00 pm BEACON DEADLINE	16	17 Yoga 5:45-6:55 pm Mindful Meditation 7:00-8:00 pm	18 Women's Group 10:30 am-12:00 pm	19 OOS announcements due by noon Choir 7:30-9:00 pm	20	21
22 Sunday Service 10:30 am	23	24 Senior Men's Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm Yoga 5:45-6:55 pm Mindful Meditation 7:00-8:00 pm	25	26 OOS announcements due by noon Choir 7:30-9:00 pm	27	28
29 Sunday Service 10:30 am	30 Committee on Ministry 2:00 – 3:00 pm	31 Yoga 5:45-6:55 pm Mindful Meditation 7:00-8:00 pm	30			

REMINDER

To be sure your event is included in the Beacon calendar, please make updates to the Fellowship calendar by emailing office@tpuuf.org prior to the 15th of the month. Please include your event, time, location, and contact person.

Minister’s Message

Rev. Bryant Brown

484-854-0105 minister@tpuuf.org

Office hours: By appointment



A Key

January 2017

What a joy it is to have a real, live – and lively! – Director of Lifespan Faith Development – a DLFD – at Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Before I was called to be your minister – back when I was a candidate for the position – I was agitating for the vital addition to the staff. It has come true!

Over the years I have said to anyone who would listen, and a few others, that I think having someone whose responsibilities were to lead and coordinate and organize our religious exploration offerings for children and adults was a key to the congregation’s survival and growth. So, when a couple of years ago the topic was heard more often and grants applications were actually filled in and job descriptions were thrashed out and résumés received and a candidate seriously considered, I was delighted.

That Jess Bors applied to The Fellowship is our great good fortune. She has proven to be so enthusiastic for the position and so good at it. And she obviously loves this congregation.

Think of all the programs which have become part of what faith development is for us all, of all ages, which she has initiated. And look at what projects we have begun and continued, certain of her encouragement and support. If the list in your mind isn’t long, take a look at the DLFD reports in The Beacon and on the WebVine where she has kept us informed about our expanding faith development offerings. We are all enriched by her great ideas, her steady follow-through, and what she has inspired us to accomplish.

So, it is a great sadness we learn that Jess’ time with The Fellowship is short. We give her our gratitude and wish her all kinds of happiness and success in her new undertakings.

In all our looking back / looking forward of this, our 50th Anniversary Year, we will want to consider how we will continue with all we’ve learned from the example of a DLFD. Let’s consider our expectations, the responsibilities, and the authority we want attach to this professional’s position. And may we be as lucky, again, to attract a person so very talented as Jess to be our next DLFD.

Happy 2017 to us all. Happy next 50 years.

Peace,

Bryant



Lifespan Faith Development

Director's Message

Jess Bors

610-533-6015 DLFD@tpuuf.org

Office hours: By appointment



The Next Chapter Begins

Perhaps you have noticed I changed my hair recently. I have heard that when a person changes their hair other big changes are coming; this is true for me. You may have been in service on 11/27/16 when our board president John Sayer announced my giving notice as your DLFD and you have received a letter in the mail as well. This decision did not come easily or lightly and I have struggled with the decision because I cherish being your professional religious educator.

I love the phrase “Every which way to Sunday” mostly because that is how I approach every problem. I want you to know that I tried to find a part time position that would allow me to stay with you but it just wasn't there, or here or anywhere. I have an art degree and a sales background and this new full time position for a private, local to me company sells beads and buttons. It gives me a chance to return to my first love; arts and crafts. When I was a child my family owned a ceramic shop and it was my second home. My first “job” was when I was very small; age three or four and I would help my mom teach classes!



Being a professional religious educator is a wonderfully fulfilling position and it is dear to my heart. I have been able to work on my own faith development as I helped you and your children work on yours. I have felt empowered to make needed changes to our programs. I have come to love each of you. Unfortunately I couldn't have known the effects of the position on my family and our time together.

As of December 1, 2016 I have been working only ten hours a week with a focus on our children's programs. The board is in the process of deciding when I will leave officially. Please know that until that I day I am as committed as always to serving you and your faith development needs.

I made this ornament using the buttons I sell for a contest

Resource of the Month

<http://www.uuworld.org/> Don't wait for the magazine . You can read up anytime on the subjects that you are interested in learning about.

Be a Beacon Production Assistant!

Would you like to be part of our monthly newsletter team? We are looking to add a few motivated people to assist with fun tasks such as finding clip art to accompany articles, helping with layout, and proofreading drafts. Work is done at home, approx. 1-2 hours per month. If interested, please email newsletter@tpuuf.org, or see Becki or Lilia at the Fellowship.

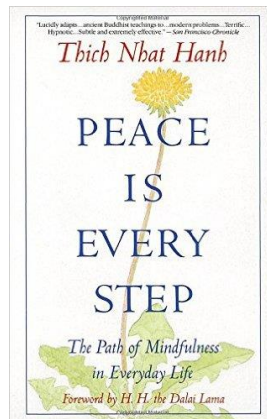




BUDDHA at BRUNCH

A Buddhist Book Discussion Group

Beginning in January, the discussion group will cover one of many core Buddhist texts each month. Please follow basic book club etiquette. During brunch on January 8th, we will discuss Thich Nhat Hahn's classic Peace Is every Step. Please read the book before the meeting and bring one favorite quote and one question you would like to discuss or to get clarification from the discussion. Happy Reading!



Book Club Choice for January 8th

-Kate Weber, Lifespan Development

THOMAS PAINE UU FELLOWSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

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What is this?



This is a QR Code. A QR Code is a smartphone readable image with information embedded in the picture. The above contains contact information for Rev. Bryant Brown and Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Go ahead, point your smartphone QR Reader App at the picture and your phone will automatically have phone numbers and addresses.



WiFi HotSpot at TPUUF

The WiFi Hotspot is called SSID: TPUUF. This is an encrypted link. The key you need will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. The key may change from time to time to keep our network from being abused. Please see the directions posted in the hallway bulletin board to configure your laptop, tablet, or WiFi enabled smartphone.

The Beacon

**Thomas Paine
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship**

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Phone: 610-631-0280

Web: www.tpuuf.org



Deadline for the next issue:

January 15, 2017

Next Publication Date:

Last Sunday of January

Editors: Becki Douglas and Lilia Weber

Email submissions to:

newsletter@tpuuf.org

Please include an appropriate subject line for your submission.

Make updates to the Fellowship

calendar by emailing office@tpuuf.org.

Please include your event, time, location, and contact person.

To subscribe/unsubscribe from the **electronic** version of this newsletter, please e-mail us at

newsletter@tpuuf.org

Sunday Services

10:15 a.m. silent meditation in the sanctuary

10:30 a.m. service begins

Coming this month:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January 1 | Fire
— Rev. Bryant Brown, TPUUF Minister |
| January 8 | Religious Freedom and Tolerance
— Rev. Bryant Brown, TPUUF Minister |
| January 15 | Progress and Promises
— Rev. Bryant Brown, TPUUF Minister |
| January 22 | The Lenape and Their Story
— Darius Puff, Guest Speaker |
| January 29 | Oh Noah He Didn't!
— Mike Burkheimer, TPUUF Congregation Member |