



The Heartland Herald

Upcoming Services:

Dec. 6: **Guest Speaker Amy Kindred: "Four Agreements to a More Peaceful Existence"** Finding calm resolve from within leads to a more balanced personal well-being and, in turn, manifests itself in greater peaceful relationships with others. 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 13: **"My Spiritual Path ... Maybe"** Heartland Member Dick Guernsey will talk openly about his personal spiritual path-to-date. He continues on a wonder-filled journey that, more and more, includes everything and everybody. 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 20: **"A Heart-Land Christmas"** We'll celebrate the season with songs and stories from Christmas, Winter Solstice and Hanukkah. Please bring a gift for the Julian Center. For a list of the items they need, visit www.juliancenter.org/wish_list.html. Also, bring an ornament to help decorate the HUUC tree and a treat to share after the service. 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 27: **Chalice Circle Service, subject TBA** 10:30 a.m.

Practice gratitude, giving

Holidays. Multi-layers of joy, obligation, excitement, worry, busy-ness, "baggage," and so on. How do we find our way to true spiritual practice?

Some of my Facebook friends have been posting daily thanks. They range from "got the kids off to school on time" to "family and friends" to "joy on a child's face." Each day I challenge myself to think of something real that I am thankful for. Something that I maybe find easy to overlook. Something that reminds me of the interconnected web of life. This is becoming a spiritual practice, a time to pause and reflect. Because I want to remember that, no matter what, there are a multitude of things to be thankful for.

I am particularly thankful for the many gifts that we at Heartland give to each other. Wouldn't it be interesting to add up all the minutes we give teaching religious education classes, reading stories for all ages, preparing services, buying coffee and toilet paper, washing dishes, hanging art work, moving chairs, planning agendas, greeting visitors, listening to each other, We are all blessed by the many gifts we receive and by the giving of gifts.

One of our goals for this year is to fully support our religious education program. The Board is asking that each person find a way to do this. The RE Committee is asking for volunteers to teach and to be in the nursery on Sunday mornings. If this is a gift you can give, please talk with Rich Thies (RE) or Helen Mozzi (nursery) to schedule a time. The gift is

From the Board Chair



Photo by Tamara Smith

Chalice unveiled

Our own Charlie Granger made the beautiful wooden chalice seen behind him here. It was unveiled at the Nov. 8 service.

for the children who are eager to learn, the church community that thrives when everyone participates, for the teachers who will enjoy a Sunday off to participate in the service, and, ultimately, for you as you deepen your relationship with our youth.

This holiday season, practice gratitude and giving, bedrocks of religious community.

Happy Holidays,

Becky

We thank all who make RE strong

Thanksgiving helps us to slow down and remember what we are grateful for in our lives. What a positive and powerful blessing it is to carry this joy in our hearts as we move into the busy holiday season and wrap up 2009! Our religious education program has evolved quite a bit this year and we have much to be thankful for: two classrooms, a nursery, a dedicated RE committee, classroom volunteers, supportive parents, a fun Reusable Bag Campaign, a successful OWL program and so much more. Most of all, I am grateful for our children and the creative, fresh energy they share with our church!

We are happy to share that the recently completed OWL program was a big success! The diversity of faith within the group was a real plus, and the youth were all respectful of one another's beliefs. Parents of participants enjoyed a follow-up meeting with the facilitators, which provided an insightful debriefing and a good discussion. Some of us are already thinking about the next OWL class! Thank you again to OWL parents for supporting this program, providing meals for our youth, and helping to recruit participants.

Our children will have lots of variety this month! We'll start by gathering all ages for a spirit circle on the cultural celebration of Kwanzaa and end the month with everyone

RE UPDATE

Practice for Children's Choir Dec. 6

R.J. Snyder will hold a Children's Choir rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, for any child interested in performing in the choir at the Dec. 20 service.

unleashing their creativity as they continue their scrapbooking project. In between, they'll have their regular curricula and join everyone for an inter-generational Christmas service.



Our committee is planning for the beginning of 2010 and invites anyone interested in being a part of our program to our meeting on Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. It takes a congregation to nurture our children and everyone has a role to play, whether that is directly or indirectly. We will be scheduling classroom volunteers

soon, so please consider supporting our program.

We recently shared a book during spirit circle called *The Secret of Saying Thanks* by Douglas Wood. Here is a beautiful message from this Story: "We don't give thanks because we are happy, we are happy because we give thanks."

Peace & Blessings,

Laura Bobeck and the RE Committee

Join Heartland Yahoo! Listserve to stay informed

For the latest communication of news and announcements about the Heartland Church Community, join our moderated Yahoo! Group:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Heartland_UU_Church/

Worship service training to be Sunday, Dec. 6

Anyone who is interested in leading a worship service is encouraged to stay after the Dec. 6 service as Len Mozzi leads a training session on Speaking and Staging.

Please consider becoming a UU Chalice Lighter

All members of HUUC are encouraged to join the UU Chalice Lighters Program.

Chalice Lighters give a helping hand by pledging specific contributions (as little as \$30 a year) to foster

new congregations and help district congregations grow and flourish.

To learn more about becoming a Chalice Lighter, go to www.heartlanduu.org/chalice_lighters.htm

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Board Members

Chair: Becky Elliott
Vice Chair: Irene Wegner
Secretary: Kris Barksdale
Treasurer: Kelly Masoncup
Len Mozzi

Committee Chairs

RE: Laura Bobeck
Worship: Len Mozzi
Communications: Kathy Maeglin
Membership: Connie Cousins-Leatherman

Highlights of Oct. HUUC board meeting

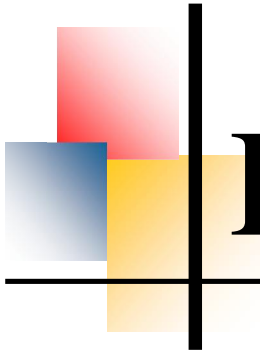
At its regular October meeting, the Heartland UU Church Board decided to:

Spend money on a sign for the front door and a quote for the wall of the sanctuary



Spend up to \$180 to purchase a wall-mountable changing table

Discussions were held regarding whether there is a need to file a tax return, committee meeting dates, options for outside signage, keys, auction, goals for June 2010, paid positions, and Association Sunday.

Kris Barksdale, Secretary



December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	Kwanzaa begins 
27	28	29	30	31		

Deadline for the January Herald: Wednesday, Jan. 6. Questions? E-mail kmaeglin@aol.com