



## ❄ January Services

❄ January 6, 10:30 am  
— *Emily Quarles-Mowrer*

### “Let It Be A Dance”

When I think of “grace,” I imagine a ballet dancer, poised on one toe, twirling around and around and around. When it comes to dance, “grace” is often defined as making the impossible look effortless. In religious terms, “grace” is the universal love that effortlessly surrounds us. Martha Graham, the founder of modern dance, called dance the “hidden language of the soul.” If we are surrounded by the language of our souls, why is it so difficult for us to feel grace in our daily lives? Join us as we think about the effort that creates grace.

*Emily Quarles-Mowrer is a child of a Unitarian Universalist minister and has been preaching sermons of her own since 2006. A life-long UU, Emily is an active member of the UU Fellowship of Pottstown. She currently lives in Gilbertsville, PA with her husband, two daughters, four cats and one very outnumbered dog.*

❄ January 13, 10:30 am — *Rev. Libby Smith*  
“Grace & Creativity”

In theological terms, “grace” is blessing that comes to us unearned, whether we deserve it or not. In the creative process, those moments of grace may be what we call inspiration. We can’t control it, but we can create the conditions that invite it to enter, and pay attention when it shows up.

*The Rev. Libby Smith, M.Div., is delighted to come back to UUFLB where she had the honor of serving as minister from 2007–2013. Ordained in 1992, she also served congregations in Rockport, MA and Warrington, PA, and spent five years as chaplain at the UU House retirement home in Philadelphia. Now retired from congregational service, she does occasional adjunct work for the Central East Region of the UUA and enjoys the chance to do pulpit supply and rites of passage on request.*

❄ January 20, 10:30 am — *Dr. William Mottolese*  
“Journeying with Dr. King”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. articulated a non-violent philosophy based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and Mohandas Gandhi. His “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” is a complex and beautiful text that is not just about non-violence. It also unambiguously defines justice, diagnoses the passivity of the mainstream church, and advocates confronting institutional evil through direct action. Dr. Mottolese will talk about his own journey in coming to better know the legacy of Dr. King. Two years ago, he started a “Letter from Birmingham Jail” reading group in his parish in Norwalk, Connecticut. The group meets once a month and reads the “Letter” out loud, communally, prayerfully, and in the spirit of resistance. Dr. Mottolese will talk about the role that Dr. King’s “Letter” has played in his own faith journey and his life as a contemplative, activist, and educator.

*Dr. William Mottolese is Chair of the English Department at Sacred Heart Greenwich in Connecticut and has taught at Fordham University and St. Joseph’s College in Indiana. Bill is a leader in his men’s spirituality group at his parish and a Catholic contemplative group in his diocese. At Sacred Heart, Bill is actively involved in school retreats, social justice issues and teaches a senior capstone course that explores deep philosophical and spiritual questions through the study of literature, theology, philosophy, and science.*

❄ January 27, 10:30 am — *Angela Konin and*  
*Coming of Age and Bridging Youth*

### “Grace In Service”

**Multi-Gen Service**

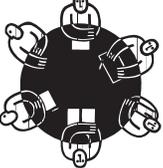
Join us for this Community Sunday which explores our monthly worship theme of grace through the lens of serving others. With a community activity designed, organized, and executed by our Coming of Age and Bridging youth, we will work together to create kits of much-needed personal supplies for local folks in need.

*Angela Konin has been a UU for about 5 years and is in her second church year at UUFLB as Director of Religious Exploration. In addition to running the RE program, Angela has been instrumental in creating wonderful, multi-generational community services for us once each month since September. She puts forth great effort to make each of these events a positive experience for old and young alike. Angela is a wonderful addition to our UUFLB family.*

## Our Vision



UUFLB supports spiritual, intellectual and emotional growth in a diverse congregation of all ages and beliefs. We reach out to everyone with love and acceptance to better ourselves and the world.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>January 2019</h1>		1	2	3	4	5
		<b>6</b> "Let It Be A Dance" Emily Quarles-Mowrer  Family Services Breakfast 7-8:30 am	7	<b>8</b>  7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting	9	10
<b>13</b> "Grace and Creativity" Rev. Libby Smith  Leaders Council Meeting at FC  Family Services Breakfast 7-8:30 am	<b>14</b> 7:30-9 pm Board Meeting  	<b>15</b> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>FEBRUARY Newsletter DEADLINE</b></div>	16	17	<b>18</b>  7:30 pm Book Discussion "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout	19
<b>20</b> "Journeying with Dr. King" Dr. William Mottolese	<b>21</b> 9 am MLK Day of Service @ Libertae   FULL MOON MLK DAY OF SERVICE	22	23	24	25	26
<b>27</b> "Grace In Service" Angela Konin & RE Coming of Age and Bridging Youth!  Family Services Breakfast 7-8:30 am	28	29	30	31	<h2>Snowstorm?</h2> <p>Find out if we are having Sunday Service by calling the Fellowship Center at <b>215-752-5689</b> <b>after 9 am</b> on Sunday.  If we are canceling the service there will be a message saying so.</p>	

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lower Bucks

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**Worship Services**  
Pen Ryn School  
235 South Olds Blvd.  
Fairless Hills, PA 19030  
10:30am Sunday  
Sept. to mid-June



## What's Up With Worship?

Happy New Year! We will continue with the monthly Touchstones. This year's overarching theme is "Let Your Life Speak", and our monthly themes will encourage you to listen to your life as a way of shaping your days and guiding your personal journey.

We are excited to share the January sermon topic of "Grace" which is the next building block on top of December's subject of Peace and November's subject of Gratitude. Grace is a gift that comes to us unexpectedly and unbidden. It is the gift of life itself as well as the surprising gifts that bless our lives.

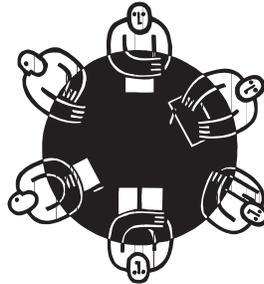
*Sherri Crisenbery, Worship Team Leader*

## December Board Highlights

The Board is seeking budget ranges for the 2019-20 church year from each team. Team leaders, please provide your board liaison with a budget range soon.

The Board and Leaders Council is joining to do a common read this January and February.

The text is "Upcycle Your Congregation." Look for a congregational Dream Cafe with the State of the UUnion in late February. Please plan to participate!



## Adult Enrichment



**Book Discussion: Friday, Jan. 18, 7:30 pm**  
*Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout



**Book Discussion: Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 pm**  
*My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman

## All activities take place at the Fellowship Center unless otherwise noted.

Important: Call the host/hostess or the Fellowship Center to be included in the above activities. Remember that each host, hostess, or activity coordinator has taken time preparing for these events. If your plans change and you cannot attend, please call as early as you can to cancel. Thank you.

## We welcome your newsletter submissions!

**The February Fellowship News deadline is Saturday, January 15.** If you'd like your article, announcement, or other written work to appear in the February newsletter, please e-mail your submission by Saturday, January 15. If you have any questions, please see Priscilla Applegate or e-mail: [newsletter@uufbl.org](mailto:newsletter@uufbl.org)

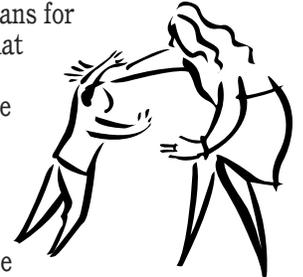


## Focus on RE Town Hall Meetings Recap

In November and December, I held a pair of "town hall"-style meetings, inviting members of the UUFLB community to share their needs, ideas, and hopes for our religious exploration program.

While we can discuss these things one on one at any time, I wanted to allow for a more formal exchange, as it can be hard to really dig in deep to a conversation on a busy Sunday morning.

These meetings were developed with the goal of creating some concrete plans for programs and offerings that have some pre-existing interest, so as to maximize my and the RE Team's efforts across the board – at the program development level as well as through streamlining some existing efforts and procedures.



One significant outcome of the meetings has been the creation of a closed Facebook group for RE Families, where we will post, and can communicate about upcoming events. Our hope is that the Facebook group will become the primary mode of communicating RSVPs and other info regarding programs and events, though I will also continue to email as well for those without Facebook or who prefer to communicate through email.

An important aim of the meetings was figuring out where to start with adult RE, following a few unsuccessful attempts this past fall, and I am hopeful and enthusiastic about rolling out a few (importantly) low-commitment options in the coming months. Some things to look forward to include a movie series for adult audiences, chalice circles incorporating our Touchstones worship resources, and a one-time general/overview session about Unitarian Universalism.

Many thanks to those of you who participated in these chats. Please know that I always welcome your thoughts and ideas, as my aim is to provide programming that is interesting, meaningful, and relevant to you and your families.

*Angela Konin, DRE*



## We Care and the Caring Committee

**Once Again, We Did It!**  
We were able to come up with all the gift wishes that came our way for the Bucks County Housing Group with the We Care Giving Tree. Thanks

immensely for being a part of this effort. Kathleen Dorian dropped off the gifts during the second week of December. These gifts and toys were handed out at the Community Toy Day event at the Penndel location later in the month. That is a warm Ho Ho Ho!



THE Giving TREE

### Jan. 21 Libertae Trip – MLK Jr. Service Day. Come One, Come All!

In January we are going to have our annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day at Libertae. Come help us by helping them. We always have a good time together. This is when our UUFLB family comes to the aid of others and we enjoy each other's company at the same time. We will meet at Libertae at 9 am on Monday, January 21. Be sure to wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. We will have a list of activities soon. Don't be shy, give a hand. Children are welcome. Everyone is welcome.



Libertae, a word that symbolizes freedom, is also one that describes a place, a home, and in Bensalem, has taken on the challenge of freeing women

from a variety of addictions. These addictions not only imprison those who have them but also their families. Libertae accepts this challenge and strives to bring hope to women. <https://libertae.org>



### Split Plate for January

The split plate for January will be *Welcoming the Stranger*. *Welcoming the Stranger* is an educational 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has taught over 4,000 students from 104 different countries since 1999.

They provide free English, computer skills, and citizenship preparation classes serving students from Bucks County, Montgomery County, Philadelphia, and New Jersey. *Welcoming the Stranger* connects students to resources needed to start a new life in a new country, such as: jobs, housing, social supports, and childcare.

*Welcoming the Stranger* is a grassroots social justice organization that mostly operates on volunteer labor and strives to build community to help people become self sufficient, productive members of society.

### Aid For Friends Adventure this February 17!

We need an army of volunteers to help create and package meals for Aid For Friends. Plan for a family volunteer experience. Just like our trip to Libertae all ages are welcome. This will take place after services on Sunday, February 17. We plan to be there 1 – 3 pm.



Aid For Friends is a community organization committed to helping those who are in need of extra care, including elderly shut-ins throughout the Delaware Valley. .

### Heifer International

Remember that split plate collection for Heifer International we had? We collected throughout the month of November, ending with a survey of which options you preferred. Heifer International works with communities to encourage local development by providing animals not for food but for lasting sustainability. We also had a challenge from one our members. The challenge? If we could exceed last year's goal of \$290.00 then she would add another \$100.



Well, the total collected this year turned out to be a whopping \$326!!! If you add the \$100 challenge, that becomes \$426. WOW! So our contributions went toward the purchase of some animal(s) that can produce food. Although we did not get enough to buy a Heifer (\$500, we did have enough to fulfill the top four contenders from our survey. This included (in order of popular vote percentage): 2 hope baskets (chicks, rabbits, and training), one goat, 3 flocks (1 flock each of geese, chicks and ducks), and even a llama. Thanks to everyone especially the mystery challenger who made us up our game. This will make a difference in a number of people's and animal's lives.

### Food Bank – SOUPS, SOUPS, SOUPS!!!!

Because of the winter weather, we thought that it would be great to focus on SOUPS for the Food Bank this month. Please bring in one can (or more)of SOUP. It promises (threatens) to be a cold, cold January. What could be better to give to the hungry in our area than some delicious hot soup?



Please think of others when you go shopping and buy some soup for the hungry souls that go to the Bristol Borough Community Action Group aka Bristol Food Bank. If you don't have soup, we will happily accept any nonperishable food items; anything is a blessing for those who have nothing!

Put a reminder, an alarm if needed, in your phone to bring in a can. What a great habit to develop! It is important to teach your kids to help others. Every Sunday, everyone bring in at least one can!

*(Continued on page 5)*

## We Care and the Caring Committee

(Continued from page 4)

### First and Third Sundays at the Homeless Shelter is “The Breakfast Club”!

The Breakfast Club continues to provide delicious breakfast cuisine on the first and third Sunday each month for people staying there. Usually, four UUFLB volunteers come in to do one shift a month. This allows us to make two delicious breakfasts a month. Each meal includes pancakes, breakfast meat, and two types of eggs. Fresh fruit is also available. Come join the crew. Our meals are always appreciated!



Interested in becoming a volunteer? See Bernie Griga or Rich Kelly for more information. The homeless shelter is run by Family Services of Bucks County. <http://www.fsabc.org/>

### The We Care Team:

Kathleen Dorian, Bill Appleton, Bernie Griga, Janet Kelly (Board Liason), Amanda Geiss, and Rich Kelly.

Have an idea or a cause to pursue or just want to attend our meetings? Contact Rich Kelly or Bernie Griga to volunteer or if you have questions or comments, or contact them if you wish to come to a meeting. New participants are always welcome.

*Rich Kelly, We Care Team Leader*



## The Greater Philly UU Cluster (GPC)

The Greater Philly UU Cluster (GPC) is comprised of 14 nearby UU congregations and is actively connecting these congregations to share our message, grow our faith and strengthen congregations. Check out our GPC google calendar [www.greaterphillyuu.org/calendar](http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/calendar) to attend events at the other cluster congregations.

### GPC Meeting January 12, 9:30 – 11:30am

Come at 9 am for meet and greet at UUC of the Restoration. We'll debrief the Missa Gaia concert, discuss upcoming Jubilee, & much more. All welcome!

### GPC is on Facebook!

Please “follow” us on the Facebook page, “Greater Philly Unitarian Universalist Cluster”. It is a “closed” group, so find “Greater Philly UUs” on Facebook and click the button to join..

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

## Brick by Brick

This article is due exactly ten days before Christmas! I love the season, but I'm like most other people. I plan to do more than can possibly be done during this hectic time. Of course, everyone else is also trying to get lots of things done before the holiday.



Monday was a typical day. I was going to make a quick trip to the mall when not once, but twice, my day was brought to a halt by road construction – and the mall is only seven miles away from my home. I realized that even the road construction crews were trying to meet a holiday deadline! While I waited on a neighborhood road or crawled along a four-lane highway, I didn't waste any time. I used the time to make a mental list of all the things I still needed to do.

On that list was making sure that I pay my pledge to the Fellowship and pay my subscription to Deepening Our Roots. Because my husband and I are over seventy years old we are required to take a “minimum required distribution” from our savings each year. If we do this by having the check paid directly to the Fellowship, we do not pay federal income tax on this amount. I highly recommend this to others in our age group! If you would like to do this and have questions please call or see Bill Stroup or me.

All of us are trying to get the best deal we can when we are spending a lot of money. Even if you are not over seventy, this is still a good time to make a donation to the building fund to be included in your charitable donations when you file your income tax for this year. Every little bit helps – both you and the Fellowship.

This is the time to put the Building Fund on your holiday list – even if it is a little after the holidays! You can do this by enrolling in the Deepening Our Roots program, by making a one-time donation in memory of someone or commemorating a special occasion. Just put your cash in one of the envelopes provided at the greeters table or write “building fund” on the memo line of your check. Remember to buy one or more bricks on the Brick by Brick wall hanging.

*Nancy Lesh, Building Team*

## December 16 Peace & Refuge

The Annual Winter Pageant with RE Youth and friends.





Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lower Bucks  
Penn's Square, Suite 308  
404 Middletown Blvd.  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
[www.uuflb.org](http://www.uuflb.org)

Sunday Service is 10:30 a.m.  
at Pen Ryn School  
235 South Olds Blvd.  
Fairless Hills, PA

For address corrections, additions or deletions,  
please call the Fellowship Center: 215-752-5689

January to June

Childcare and Youth Religious  
Education are provided.

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## Our Mission

UUFBLB provides dynamic services, relevant lifespan  
Religious Education, and effective and focused  
community outreach in an atmosphere that respects  
the individual and supports the community at large.

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