

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County

December 10th, 2017

Hope In the Dark

"Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope."
~ Maya Angelou

**Please enter our sanctuary with reverence:
silence your cell phone, greet one another warmly,
listen to the music, discover Joy and seek Peace.**

Today we will hear three Mazurkas from Opus 6, by Fredric Chopin

Welcome and Announcements Laura Paligo

Ringing of the Bells - Let there be silence at the sound of the bells.

Prelude #1. (*Allegretto*)

Call to Worship *Sometimes* Rev. María McCabe
by Alice Walker

Opening Hymn* *Come Sing A Song With Me* #346
Words & Music: Carolyn McDade

Chalice Lighting

Candles of Sharing Laura Paligo

Meditation *Holding Hope for One Another* Rev. María McCabe
by Rev. Erika Hewitt

Special Music *Down to the River to Pray* UUFHC Choir

Offering Laura Paligo
Today's collection will support the Helping Hand Fund.

Offertory #2. *Sotto voce*

Reading *Learning to Dance* Rev. María McCabe
by Alice Walker

Sermon *Hope In the Dark* Rev. María McCabe

Closing Hymn* *There Is More Love Somewhere* #95
Words & Music: African American hymn

Benediction *This Room* Rev. María McCabe
by Alice Walker

Postlude #3. *Vivace*

* Please rise in body or spirit

Thank you to today's support team
Greeter – Marlene Lieb and Diana Rudolph
Board Representative – Allison Ehrman
Worship Associate – Laura Paligo
Sound – Marc Petrequin
Musician – Richard Schroeder
Flowers – JoAnn Macdonald – December Blessings

A warm welcome to our visitors.

A Potluck Luncheon follows the Service.

Today is the January Newsletter Deadline.

Contact us: office@uufhc.net

Website: www.uufhc.net Phone: 410-734-7122

Our Staff

Reverend María McCabe minister@uufhc.net

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday - 11-3pm,

Thursday - 12-4pm,

for private messages & emergencies - 443-390-6013

Stephanie Kalka, Director of Religious Education dre@uufhc.net

Office hours: Tues. – Thurs. 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Karen Kurrle, Administrative Assistant office@uufhc.net

Office hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Nursery Care Attendants – Kaeli MacDonald and Sierra Smith

Musician, Richard Schroeder

Choir Director, Brenna Kupferman

Our Board (Executive Leadership) board@uufhc.net

Diana Rudolph, President

Marla Posey-Moss, Member at Large

Ed Roberts Jr., Vice President

Emily Knowles, Member at Large

Rob Lieb, Treasurer

Paul North, Member at Large

Allison Erhman, Rec. Sec.

Natalie Gallagher, Corr. Sec.

Committee on Ministry (Providing care for the Ministry of UUFHC)

Beth Wood-Roig, Lisa Nickerson Bucklin and Nelson Fritts

Lay Care Committee (Pastoral Support and Care of Members)

April Fritts, Jeff Matthews, Jean McKendry, and Gina Van Dusen

NEXT WEEK –

Tuesday, Dec. 12th

OWLS Circle, 9:30am

Kadampa Buddhism, 7:00pm

Exploring Membership, 7:00pm

HOMELESS SHELTER DAY

QiGong, 9:00am

RYA, 7:00pm

Wednesday, Dec. 13th

QiGong, 5:00pm

Security Comm. Mtg., 6:00pm

Emergency Training, 7:00pm

Journaling, 7:00pm

Thursday, Dec. 14th

Tai Chi, 9:00am

Gentle Yoga, 10:00am

NEXT SUNDAY – *A Time for Miracles* - Rev. María McCabe

The season of holiday miracle stories calls us to re-imagine our future through the lens of hope. As Unitarian Universalists we honor the rituals and traditions of cultures across the world. In this service we will take a deep collective breath and appreciate the mystery and wonder of the stories of the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

* **VISITOR WELCOME** – We're so glad you're here! Feel free to inquire further about our faith community with our greeters, minister or other members. Coffee is served after services to provide a fellwosh.

* **SERVICE COVERS** – We do try to re-use our blue Order of Service covers. Please place them back in the basket in the lobby.

* **EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP** - The first class of the winter session for "Exploring Membership" is this Sunday, December 10th! If you are curious about becoming a member of UUFHC and would like to learn more, please join us after service at 12noon in the Library. This is also Potluck Sunday, so be sure to go through the line and pick up lunch before coming into the meeting. If you would like to join us, please let Hazel Hopkins and Beth Wood-Roig know by emailing membership@uufhc.net.

* **CRITICAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - January 7th after service Now that the Search Committee has selected a candidate, it is up to the members of UUFHC to vote on extending a call to ministry to Rev. María McCabe. It is very important that you plan on attending to cast your vote. Questions? See Glenn Rogers or Diana Rudolph president@uufhc.net.

* **QUIET DAY RETREATS AT UUFHC** - Dates: January 6th and March 3rd, 2018 Time: 10am-1pm Contact: Jacqueline Cunningham at jcunni13@gmail.com or Laura Paligo at lauramypal@yahoo.com No Cost. This is a self-care practice retreat! Make time for you.

Following Yonder Star - Rev. María McCabe

Sunday, December 24, 4:30 pm

This family-oriented, multigenerational service tells the story of Azadeh, Lilya and Tehmina, the wives of the famous Three Kings. These intrepid and compassionate ladies decide to follow their husbands to Bethlehem and give the newborn Jesus and his family the gifts they really need. (Hint: it's not frankincense and myrrh!) Join us for a refreshing interpretation of this ancient miracle story.

There will be a social gathering between services. Please bring a sweet or savory treat to share during that time of fellowship.

Silent Night, Holy Night - Rev. María McCabe

Sunday, December 24, 6:30 pm

The second service will be a contemplative service of stories, songs, and the space to experience the spiritual gifts of the season. With the light of candles to inspire us and guide us, we will honor together the return of the light to our world.

Your Question – Soul Matters for December 2017

As always, don't treat these questions like "homework" or a list that needs to be covered in its entirety. Instead, simply pick the one question that speaks to you most and let it lead you where you need to go. The goal of these questions is not to help you analyze what hope means in the abstract, but to figure out what being "a person of hope" means for you and your daily living. So, which question is calling to you? Which one contains "your work," and Life's invitation?

1. What if your darkness is not the darkness of the tomb, but instead the darkness of the womb? What if this pain of yours is not about death and loss, but new life trying to be born? Could it be that Life - like any good midwife - is calling you to "breathe and push"?
2. Who is hope for you? Whose way of being in the world helps you believe that tomorrow will be better? What are you doing to ensure that their inspiration remains front-and-center rather than faded and far away?
3. What might it mean for you to "be hope"? It's one thing to believe in hope; it's quite another to become it.
4. Are you bringing more hope into the world than you realize? Are you sure that your everyday commitments and work can't be seen as "bringing hope into the world"? If you don't think of your work and commitments in that way, how might life look different if you did?

5. Are you hopeless? Or have you let someone *take away* your hope? Have you allowed someone's betrayal to convince you that the world is darker than it really is?
6. Are you sure hope abandoned you? Or did your *preferred* dream just not occur? What if hope is waiting for you in a new and unexpected form?
7. Why are you keeping your hopes so small? Are you really going to let that past disappointment dictate the size of your dreams?
8. Are you calling yourself a cynic, but really a disappointed idealist underneath? Is your cynicism making you feel sane or suffocated?
9. Is hope trying to sooth your heart or disturb it? Is there a holy impatience inside you that is tired of waiting? Is hope itself telling you, "Stop hoping; Start acting, demanding, doing!"
10. Are you clear about the responsibility we have for our grandchildren's' hopes?
11. What if hope doesn't swoop in and wipe away all the pain? What if hope is you standing squarely inside the pain and saying to it, "You are not the full story"?

12. What's your question?

Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it.