

## RE-FORMATION

(Our program theme)

**Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge**  
**Many Beliefs . . . One Community . . . A Better World**

9:30 and 11:15 AM Sunday Worship

**Classes & nursery for our children provided at the 9:30 & 11:15am Services**  
**Classes for Middle and Senior Youth provided at the 11:15am Service**

Our newsletter can now be found online at [www.unitarianchurchbr.com](http://www.unitarianchurchbr.com). Printed copies are available for pickup at the Welcome Table.



# March 2018



## March 4, Sunday Morning Worship Services **#WakandaForever**

Join us as we explore what the cinematic phenomenon Black Panther means for us as Unitarian Universalists.

**Town Hall meeting today, 12:45pm, on Ministerial Transition Process.** (See President's Column, pg 3.)

**Move your clocks up 1 hour Saturday night, Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11.**



## March 11, Sunday Morning Worship Services **Dudes in a Broken Land**

Comedian Michael Ian Black says boys are broken and that the old models of masculinity are killing men. One of the early controversial sermons preached from this pulpit when Steve Crump arrived was a sermon on the new masculinity which gets a 2018 update. Set your alarm clocks, and join us for an auction winning choral anthem. Invite a dude to church.

**Also on March 11: Bylaw Information Sessions** after each service, church office. (See insert.)

## March 18, Sunday Morning Worship Services

## **Sign My Cast**

Join us for this auction winning service as we use *Dear Evan Hansen* as the text for an exploration of isolation, connection and transformation.

**March 18, 12:45pm: Conversation about Interim Ministry with The Reverend Janet Newman,** office.

## March 25, Sunday Morning Worship Services

## **The Impatient Jesus**

Palm Sunday breaks in our lives with an image of a fellow on a colt, not a stallion, slowly moving into a crowd of well-wishers. With impatience and an intolerance for intolerance, where does he belong in the Unitarian Universalist movement? On what committee does he serve?

**Also on March 25: Bylaw Information Sessions** after each service, church office. (See insert.)

## Thursday, March 29

## **Tenebrae Service, 7pm** (one service only)

A service of reflection and utter darkness recognizes the very human death of Jesus. A communion of bread and juice, a hymn, and homily are offered in this reflective hour. Note about communion in this service: Officiates at this evening's service make no claim for transubstantiation; rather, in the tradition of the Free Church, we regard our communion as a commemoration of love and a symbol of the triumph of good.



## Sunday, April 1

## **Easter Morning Worship Services**

Bring a flower for our flower ceremony. Bring a friend. Come celebrate rebirth. Come celebrate the resurrection of justice and kindness and love. Easter Egg Hunt after both services. All ages together in worship. Nursery care provided.

Office Hours are Monday - Friday 8 AM – 4:30 PM  
8470 Goodwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
www.unitarianchurchbr.com  
225-926-2291

**Welcome to our smoke and firearm free campus.**

CHURCH STAFF including Volunteers –

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**The Reverend Dr. Steve J. Crump**  
(Off Mondays) [minister@unitarianchurchbr.com](mailto:minister@unitarianchurchbr.com)

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TEAM LEADERS -

**Leslie Grover** - Worship Guild

**Art Scarbrough** - Adult Growth & Learning

**Becky Cureau** - Outreach

**Jane Webb and Bobby Thompson** - Social Justice

**Donna Yelverton** - Congregational Care

**Sandy Hubbard** - Fun & Fellowship

**Find Us  
On**



- 2: Day for Girls 6:30pm
- 4: Children's Choir Practice 10:45am,  
Town Hall Meeting 12:45pm
- 5: Tai Chi 6pm,  
Nar-Anon Open Group 7pm
- 6: CCC Team & Special Funds Team 6:30pm
- 7: Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm
- 8: Roots 6:30pm
- 9: Day for Girls 6:30pm
- 11: Bylaw Info Sessions 10:30am & 12:45pm,  
Social Justice Team 12:45pm,  
Open Circle Book Club 7pm
- 12: Tai Chi 6pm, Nar-Anon Open Group &  
Women's Book Club 7pm
- 14: Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm
- 15: Roots 6:30pm
- 16: Day for Girls 6:30pm
- 17: Caregivers of Alzheimers/Dementia Patients  
Support Group 12:30pm
- 18: Children's Choir Practice 10:45am  
Rev. Janet Newman Guest Speaker 12:45pm
- 19: Tai Chi 6pm,  
Nar-Anon Open Group 7pm
- 20: Church Board 6:30pm
- 21: Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm
- 22: Roots 6:30pm,  
Non Fiction Book Club 7pm
- 25: Bylaw Info Sessions 10:30am & 12:45pm,  
Day for Girls 6:30pm
- 26: Tai Chi 6pm,  
Nar-Anon Open Group 7pm
- 28: Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm
- 29: Tenebrae Service 7pm
- 30: Day for Girls 6:30pm

-a column from **The Reverend Steve J. Crump**

**Spring jumps** at us for too brief a moment in southern Louisiana. "Here am I. Briefly," says spring. Poet e. e. cummings noticed *the leafing greenly spirits of trees* and so should we. Paying attention and staying awake are dual spiritual practices.

**Easter Bet** ~ If I made bets, I'd bet that virtually every preacher in the land will mention *fool* in Easter homilies, owing to the fact that Easter in the west occurs on April 1. The calendar inspires me to get an early start on a homily: *If the world says that it is smart to be cruel, then let us be fools for truth, compassion, non-violence, and justice.*

**Blast from the Past** ~ I delivered the following prayer on an opening day at the State Legislature back in 1985, published in our church newsletter in May of that year, under the column entitled, *Crump's Concerns*: "We might come here this morning to pray asking God to do this, that, and the other, but should we pray for that which is well within our power to change and to do? What is our business in asking God for help in balancing budgets when we already know how to make just calculations? What is our business in asking God to forgive us for regressive taxation, when we know already what it is when we see it? What is our business in asking God to protect the poor of our state when we already know that it is well within our power this day to make and administer just laws? What is our business in asking God to protect the rights of prisoners, the elderly, the disadvantaged . . . This morning, I offer an un-prayer as we come to do our serious work involving the public trust, asking from God not one iota for that which we can do ourselves . . ."

**Another Blast from the Past** ~ Within the first 50 days of my ministry here, the late Ed Driedger, well known for being direct, said, in so many words, "It is time you knew of our plans for a fund drive to replace the roof of our church building. We need you to support the effort." This would become the first of the five capital drives in which I was engaged on this campus. I came up with a plan. I would search the scriptures and with the help of a handy concordance, I shared how biblically based a roof drive was because I found roof-proofs throughout my bible, some of these landed in the church newsletters in 1983: "Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy." (Ps. 137:6) "But she had brought them up to the roof, and hid them with the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof." (Joshua 2:6) "It happened late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking upon the roof on the King's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful." (2 Samuel 11:2) Yes, we raised the money for the new roof.

**Plan Ahead!**

Church potluck with our middle youth class, May 5, 6pm.  
Break bread with some awesome youth and stay to play Peek - a game that mixes cards, dice, and white elephant prizes.

**Associate Minister**

by **The Reverend Nathan A. Ryan**

I am not ignoring you. That is to say, I am not intentionally ignoring you. This year for Lent I'm giving up phone notifications. I know, I know, it sounds like a pretty lame thing to give up. Well, it does to me anyway.

Usually for Lent I try to give something up or take something on that helps me see the world differently. For a few years I did a random act of kindness for each of the 40 days. More recently I've tried saying yes to anyone who asks and giving up purchasing plastic. I do this because I want to take on practices that allow me to see the world differently and with more clarity.

I decided to give up phone notifications precisely because I never really agreed to get them (or at least not knowingly). They were just part of the smart phone package. Recently I read an article about the effects our phones are having on our attention and temperament. The studies conclusions were both stunning and paradoxically not at all surprising: as long as the phone (on or off, it doesn't matter) is in our presence we are more distracted and irritable.

Following the advice of this study, I have turned off my notifications. Now I only get emails or Facebook notifications if/when I remember to check them. It's already shocking to me how different this type of engagement is.

Until Easter, if you need to get in touch with me it will probably take more time (until I get used to what life was like for most of human history, that is). Or, you could just give me a call. I left calls and text notifications on.

Hope your Lenten practices are going well. I would love to hear about them.

**President's Column**

Holley Haymaker, Board President

"It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." Yogi Berra, (...or maybe Niels Bohr, the famous physicist). And so we have it – an unknown future, a change. Some people hate change, and have told me so. Yes, Steve well deserves to retire, they say, but I'm still not happy about it.

Tomes have been written about how to personally deal with change, how best to face the unknown. I'll just start with this - change is easier to face if you feel you have some understanding and control over the process. So the board intends to help you understand the process and where you may participate if you wish. How are we going to do that? Well, we have already started with those of you who attended last November's Town Hall meeting. At that gathering you discussed the question: What is our brand? How do we wish to be known by others in our city?

Your answers fell into some of the following themes: We are known for action. People come for the programming – music, branches, RE, etc. We have many challenging issues – among them is that it is difficult to clarify our values. We have them but they can be hard to express. (Continued page 5.)

# Family Ministry

by **Kathy E. Smith, Director of Family Ministry**

*Words to Live By*

*"Justice is what love looks like in public."*

*Dr. Cornel West*

## Love in Action = Justice in Progress

Unitarian Universalists believe that our faith calls us to work for justice – to create a world that is fair and peaceful for everyone. We believe that justice can only happen when we plant ourselves firmly on the side of love – when we ask ourselves, “what would the highest calling of love for my fellow human being or for humankind require me to do in this instance?” and act accordingly.

Asking “what does love call me to do right now for someone else?” doesn’t necessarily come naturally, although with practice it can become second nature to us. (To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, “That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives and our character ... what we are worshipping, we are becoming.”)

It isn’t just about the dramatic moment – the opportunity to rescue a trapped animal or step up to a schoolyard bully – although those things are often what we think of when we think about justice. Love in action can be the small everyday actions that create small moments of justice. Love in action can be seeing someone standing alone in the cafeteria (or the church sanctuary) and patting the seat next to you. Love in action can be learning to pronounce someone’s name correctly. It can be speaking up to correct a negative stereotype in a joke someone just told, or it can be speaking your feelings of discomfort at hearing the joke at all. It is these small moments of love for our fellow human beings that move individuals and therefore the world, ever so slightly, towards justice.

And what about the larger picture? Love for humanity certainly motivates us to work for a better world by carefully considering the propositions we will vote for, whether we will join a protest march, or how we will vacation. But it motivates us to countless small actions as well. Love in action can be choosing to buy – and use – a water filter and a stainless steel water bottle, because draining aquifers and producing an endless supply of plastic bottles affects us all. Love in action can be writing a letter or making a phone call to a public official about a policy that unfairly impacts transgender individuals, because public policy is in part guided by public response. Love in action can be staying compassionately engaged with a conversation about Black Lives Matter on social media even when it gets difficult, because it is only in relationship and community that minds and hearts can change. It is in these small moments of love for humanity that the world can move, ever so slightly, towards justice for all.

By the way, if you are interested in doing some further reading on some of the topics lifted up in this article, check out one or more of these links:

<https://sidewithlove.org/lgbtq-equity/>

[www.kennywiley.com/2015/03/26/a-unitarian-universalist-black-lives-matter-theology/](http://www.kennywiley.com/2015/03/26/a-unitarian-universalist-black-lives-matter-theology/)

<https://www.uumfe.org/news-stories/>

# Social Justice

**Bobby Thompson, Director of Social Justice**

**Jane Webb, co Chair**

Our shared offering for March is **Days for Girls EBRLA Team**, the UCBR team developed in late 2017. DfG is a grassroots nonprofit creating a more dignified, humane and sustainable world for girls through advocacy, reproductive health awareness, education and sustainable feminine hygiene. The solutions are a simple and effective way to enable girls to go to school and women to go to work without interruption each month. The UCBR DfG is starting up this spring and is in need of sewing machines, materials, sergers and other items to facilitate their work.

The "Next Step" Chronology Committee will begin posting its revision work on the Chronology of Social Justice Issues and Events for UCBR in late February and throughout March, a focus batch at a time, for the congregation to review and offer any additional edits as needed. These will be posted in time for the Sunday services on large sheets in the fellowship hall and in the book area of the main kitchen. Please take time to review and offer comments to next step group, **Dave Comeaux, Mary Ellyn Hale, Janet Moulder, Bobby Thompson, Mija Thompson, and Jane Webb.**

The **Days for Girls EBR LA** team will begin meeting regularly Friday, March 2, from 6:30-8:30pm, room 5. **Marcia Shannon** reported to SJT that a sewing machine, cotton fabric and small bars of soap have been donated. She is purchasing additional machines, a serger, materials needed for the work and the shared offering will help provide those additional necessities. Please contact Marcia if you can help locate further donations for this cause. The official Facebook page is Days for Girls East Baton Rouge LA Team. Our team hopes to make connections with the Department of Corrections so that our materials may be given to women in Louisiana prisons. She is also trying to contact local women's shelters for the same purpose. The book *Periods Gone Public* by Jennifer Weiss-Wolf is the recommended book to understanding the issues which are fueling this project.

UCBR cooked a lasagne dinner for the **St. Vincent de Paul Women's Shelter** February 27. **Becky Cureau** coordinated the team of women who cooked the meal and served it.

After meeting with Justin Zyla of the YWCA, **Bobby Thompson** and **Jane Webb** are interested in our congregation becoming involved with a project to help fund and support people in need of bail funds. Research shows that a disproportionate number of the poor end up in prison when they are unable to produce the funds needed for bail. A training session occurred in February sponsored by LEAN to teach attendees how to develop social movement/advocacy groups. **Krista Bordelon** of UCBR attended and will present ideas to the SJT as we work to best support this YWCA initiative.

The next Social Justice Team meeting will be Sunday, March 11, 12:45pm, church office. The group has agreed to a BYOF policy should anyone be unable to grab a bite before.

## OUTREACH

Becky Cureau, Director of Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) will convene in Kansas City, Missouri, June 20-24, 2018. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Each year thousands of attendees from congregations in the United States gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Last year a record number of members from our church attended the historic first-time GA in New Orleans, including our largest number of official delegates. If considering repeating the experience or attending for the first time, it's a good idea to secure your hotel room when housing reservations open at 10am EST on March 1. Early registration is the best opportunity to choose hotel accommodations based on lower rates and proximity to the Kansas City Convention Center, where sessions will be held. The cost of attending GA can be reduced by being a volunteer, for which financial aid toward registration is available. Click on <https://www.uua.org/ga> for more information about GA 2018, and scroll down for links to [volunteer opportunities](#) and [economic accessibility](#). Look for more information about GA 2018 in forthcoming newsletters and the spring issue of UU World.

Save the date. The Annual Sounds of CommUNITY Concert, presented by the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, will be held at Broadmoor United Methodist Church at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 29. More information about the concert will be carried in the April newsletter and weekend announcements and on the bulletin board in the Coffee Room.

## Music Updates

Leah Hartman, Music Program Director  
Trey Davis, Choral Director

On March 11, the choir will present the anthem purchased at the annual auction last year. Our generous donor chose the uplifting song *You Will Be Found*, from the contemporary Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.



On Palm Sunday, the choir will sing a bluesy arrangement of *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen*.

On Easter Sunday, we will have our traditional string trio with us: **Dan Cassin**, **Jennifer Cassin**, and **Kelly Scott Toney** will return to help us celebrate spring. The choir will sing a fun anthem by Kenyan composer Boniface Mganga. We'll be joined by guest percussionist **Julius Kyakuwa** on this exciting anthem.

### Find a Rock, Hide a Rock

Children in our Picture Book UU and Connections classes recently painted rocks and hid them around the church to brighten someone's day. If you find one and it makes you smile, take it home! If you find one and want to make someone else smile, hide it in a different place and pass along the happiness.

*President's Column continued from page 3.*

We want to be better at expressing them, at bringing in the larger community, at connecting with our youth. Your thoughtful list is long and I have posted it on the Board's bulletin board for your perusal.

So, I invite you to attend our next Town Hall Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> after the second service. In large group, we will discuss a draft timeline and the congregational process advised by the UUA. One thing the transition advisors at the UUA strongly suggest is that we have an interim minister. (See below). We will also look at some tough issues such as: "What about Nathan?" In smaller groups, we will take on the issue of "I'm really upset."

One way I personally deal with upset is to get out my guitar and sing those flamenco songs of sorrow I learned long ago when I studied in Spain. Of the 18 of us in our group in Spain, one became a professional interim minister of the UUA. And by luck, my friend, Rev. Janet Newman, will visit me the weekend of March 17<sup>th</sup>. She has agreed to speak with anyone interested in the role of interim ministers after church on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. So, we will meet in the sanctuary after the second service. Bring your questions and concerns. I promise I won't bring my guitar.

So -- Town Hall on March 4 and discussion with an experienced interim minister on March 18. Come along.

## Congregational Meeting, April 8, 12:45pm To vote on proposed Bylaw changes, and new Board and Nominating Committee Members

**Slate of Officers**  
**6/1/18 – 6/1/19 (or 3 years)**

*Members At Large:*  
**MiJa Thompson & Ed Allums**

*Nominating Committee:*  
**Kristie Boudreaux (Chair) – Serving 1 year**  
**Leslie Grover – Serving 1 year**  
**Kathy Judy & Andrea Hansen – Serving 2 years**  
**Byron McCaughey & Kerry Hebert – Serving 3 years**

The Board presents proposed bylaw changes (see insert) after months of study and discussion. When reviewing the proposed changes note that underlined words are proposed additions to the Church's bylaws and words ~~struck out~~ are proposed deletions. The proposed changes are aimed at increasing inclusivity in church governance, enhancing satisfaction of the quorum requirement, and clarifying the terms "active" and "inactive" members. These proposed bylaw changes will be voted on at the April 8, 2018 membership meeting. Informational sessions to discuss the proposed bylaw changes will be hosted by the Board after both church services on March 11 and March 25.

# LUNCH BUNCH

Everyone is welcome to join us at 1PM each Sunday. It's a great way for new members and guests to get to know some of us UU's and/or for older members to reconnect with our church community.

March 4: **TJ Ribs**, 2324 S. Acadian  
[tjribs.com](http://tjribs.com)

March 11: **La Contea**, 7970 Jefferson Hwy  
[laconteabr.com](http://laconteabr.com)

March 18: **Boil & Roux**, 11777 Coursey Blvd.  
[boilandroux.com](http://boilandroux.com)

March 25: **Mestizo's**, 2323 S. Acadian  
[mestizorestaurant.com](http://mestizorestaurant.com)

A **Circle Supper** will be held on **Saturday, March 24, 6:30pm**, at the home of **Donna Yelverton**. Sign up on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall or contact Sandy at [sandrahu401@gmail.com](mailto:sandrahu401@gmail.com) or Donna at [donnakareny@gmail.com](mailto:donnakareny@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending.



## Saturday, March 3, 9am Planting Day!

Bring gloves, comfortable shoes, work clothes, shovels, and wheelbarrows for planting of 8 trees near the peace stones.

### *Paths to Engagement*

- **Roots** is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and our church led by one of our ministers. Sign up at the book table for our Thursday, March 8, 15 & 22, 6:30pm class. Childcare is available with advance notice.
- **Branches:** If you are a church member or Roots graduate, join a small group, register at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact **Suzanne Besse** at [suzanne.besse@aol.com](mailto:suzanne.besse@aol.com) or **Mark Gilbert** at [mgilbert35@gmail.com](mailto:mgilbert35@gmail.com).
- **Gen UU:** Open to all young adults (aged 18-35ish). Contact [christyrhoward@gmail.com](mailto:christyrhoward@gmail.com).

### Things are happening in R.E.

If you're in Room 5, check out the poster our 2nd-5th graders made about what it takes to be a leader! Four of the attributes they think are important: listener, principled, perseverance, not power-hungry.

### Continuing Activities

*Everyone is welcome to attend & newcomers are encouraged.*

- **Caregivers of Alzheimer's and Dementia Patients Support Group:** Third Saturday of each month, 12:30pm, R1.
- **Open Circle Book Club:** Sunday, March 11, 7pm, church office. The book is Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin by Marion Meade
- **Children's Choir:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd Sundays, 10:45am, R3.
- **Tai Chi:** Mondays, 6pm, Fellowship Hall
- **Women's Book Club:** Monday, March 12, 7pm, R6. The book is Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman.
- **Church Board:** Tuesday, March 20, 6:30pm, church office.
- **Congregational Care Team:** Tuesday, March 6, 6:30pm, church office
- **Adult Choir:** Wednesdays, 6:30pm, choir room.
- **Recorders:** Wednesdays, 6:30pm, R3 (Advanced Group, First Wed.)
- **Non-Fiction Book Club:** Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm. The book is The Trip to Echo Springs: On Writers and Drinking by Olivia Lang
- **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG):** Third Thursday, 7pm
- **UCBR Day for Girls:** will begin meeting weekly on Friday, March 2, 6:30pm, R5. A light meal will be provided for participants, beginning at 6pm. Cleanup will be from 8:30-9 for those who can stay & help.

### Our Budding Artists

Kudos to our children and youth for the beautiful journal covers they created in February for our Beloved Conversations class. If you're the lucky recipient of one of these journals, make an inter-generational connection - find the artist and say thank you!