

**Subject:** UU News 12/17/2017

**From:** "Dennis J. Darland" <thethinker@dennisdarland.com>

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1868 – 2018



**UUCQC**

Celebrating 150 years  
Many beliefs. One faith.

## UU News 17 December, 2017

Your weekly UU News lets you see at a glance upcoming events at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities.

(Note: This is only a partial list of upcoming events at UUCQC. A full calendar can be found at [uucqc.org](http://uucqc.org).)

**This Sunday**

**Next Sunday**

**Special December Services**

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**Thank you!!!**

**Equal Exchange**

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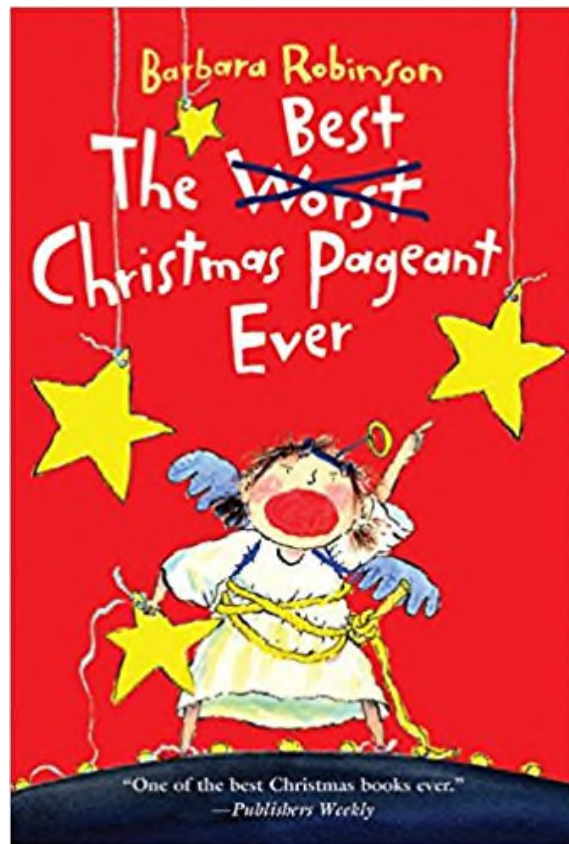
## This Sunday

### Youth Holiday Program Dec. 17 @ 10 a.m.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! By Barbara Robinson Laughs abound in this bestselling Christmas classic by Barbara Robinson! The Best Christmas Pageant Ever follows the outrageous shenanigans of the Herdman siblings, or "the worst kids in the history of the world." The siblings take over the annual Christmas pageant in a hilarious yet heartwarming tale involving the Three Wise Men, a ham, scared shepherds, and six rowdy kids.

Ralph, Imogene, Leroy, Claude, Ollie, and Gladys Herdman are an awful bunch. They set fire to Fred Shoemaker's toolshed, blackmailed Wanda Pierce to get her charm bracelet, and smacked Alice Wendelken across the head. And that's just the start! When the Herdmans show up at church for the free snacks and suddenly take over the Christmas pageant, the other kids are shocked. It's obvious that they're up to no good. But Christmas magic is all around and the Herdmans, who have never heard the Christmas story before, start to reimagine it in their own way.

This year's pageant is definitely like no other, but maybe that's exactly what makes it so special.



# Wednesday, December 20



## Winter Solstice Service December 20, 5:30 p.m.

The Music Team is proud to announce that both Chimes and Singers have beautiful pieces prepared for the Winter Solstice Service. Chimes will be playing "In the Bleak Midwinter" and the UU Singers will perform "Winter Lullaby."

# Next Sunday

## December 24

10 a.m.  
Service  
Question Box  
*Reverend Jay Wolin*

Join Reverend Jay for this informal questions & answers event! When you enter the sanctuary, you will be given a pen & note card. Write down questions for Jay to draw from during the service. This is always a fun and insightful experience!



Annual  
Traditional  
Christmas Eve  
Service  
Sunday, Dec. 24  
@ 5 p.m.



Each Christmas Eve we gather in the sanctuary and light candles, sing together, and celebrate! The Board of Trustees is the hospitality team for the service.



This year, as you may have noticed, Christmas eve falls on a Sunday. **We will still be having service Sunday morning at 10 a.m.** Jay is preparing an informal Question Box Service. **We are in need of volunteers for hospitality Sunday morning. If you can help, please contact Amanda!**

**Amanda's Favorite Christmas Song!**

**Jay's Selection!**

## Notes From the Office

### From the Heart of the Minister Cycles of Holiday Life

Life is full of cycles and each cycle can bring us new meaning and understanding. The holiday season also can have different meanings to us at different cycles in our lives. When I was young, I was just happy that I was off from school and could just hang out with my family without any pressure. Growing up Jewish, we celebrated Hanukah in my house. Hanukah lasted 8 days and with a certain amount of unwarranted pride; I would boast to my Christian friends that we received a present each day, and not just one day like they did on Christmas. I of course failed to mention that for the first seven days, my present was something along the lines of a new pair of socks. Not growing up Christian my family had its own tradition on Christmas day starting with going to the movies and then we would go out to eat Chinese food.

Once I was married, Christmas was an important holiday for my wife Jan, and so we put up a tree and would decorate it. When our children were young, we would light the menorah during Hanukah, say the prayers, and talk about the meaning of holiday. I remember the gleeful joy we all had opening presents on Christmas morning. Once the children were older, we took a more low-key approach to Christmas and the holidays, again, reverting to my childhood, just being happy I was off work, and could just hang out with my family without any pressure.

Once I became a Unitarian Universalist, I was introduced to the Solstice, and it became a meaningful tradition in my religious life. If you have never attended a Solstice Service, I encourage you to attend the one we have at the Congregation on **Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**. We will gather around the fireplace in the sanctuary and welcome the peace that darkness can bring and the ever-increasing light to follow as we celebrate the

longest night of the year.

As a minister, the holiday season has become a busy part of my life. Through this cycle of my life, I have come to appreciate our Christian Sources that focus on the joy and wonder of life, and the teachings of Jesus, which promote love and justice. People tend to be a little nicer and more forgiving this time of year. It would be my hope that people could embody these qualities, and live this way every day, all year long. Let this time of year be a touchstone for how our inter-actions could rebuild the world anew.

I often find this time of year, from Thanksgiving to Christmas, to be a frenetic time. Between shopping and parties, and other community and Congregational events, I encourage you to stop periodically and take time to reflect about your life. I invite you to be intentional in considering actions you can take that will give you joy, and will cultivate a healthy mind and body in the upcoming year. Let this time of year also be a touchstone for us to remember to slow down and to take time to reflect on how we live our lives and rebuild our lives anew.

I also want to recognize that for many this can be a difficult time of year. While some are celebrating with family and friends, others are not. Some people are alone and this can be a time of great difficulty. For some people this time of year can bring up negative memories of losses they have sustained in their life, and can trigger negative feelings. The constant messaging we hear through the media to be joyful can also exacerbate the negative feelings. Being joyful is not just a button you push on a certain day. Recognizing that, I ask you to consider what actions you can take that can help you build up resilience during this time. I also encourage you to remember that if you are part of our community, you are not alone. You have people who care about and love you. **If you are struggling during this time of year, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or one of our pastoral care associates.**

Each person makes meaning of this time of year differently. Even if you don't celebrate a particular holiday, it is hard to avoid the holiday season. My hope for everyone this holiday season is for you to find joy and peace in their lives. Let us remember to be grateful for whatever good we have in our lives, and let us forgive others who in our mind have wronged us. Let us lighten the weight of the world from our shoulders and let us share the challenges of the day with each other. Let us remember that whatever cycle of life you find yourself in, love is a sustaining force that can carry you forward.  
with a grateful heart,  
Rev. Jay

[Email Jay](#)

## Holiday Gift-Giving Made Simple!





## Equal Exchange

In anticipation of holiday gift giving and usage, we have just made a massive order from Equal Exchange.

These make great additions to your special meals, wonderful hostess/host gifts, great gifts for teachers or coworkers, great stocking stuffers....

Nothing says "Goodwill to all" quite like fairly traded items!

We sell these as a service project, not as a fundraiser--so prices are much lower than you'll find elsewhere.

Come see us during coffee hour after service on Sunday.

Jim and Julie Ross

[Learn More about the Equal Exchange Products You Love!](#)

# Thank You's!

## Thank you!

To everyone who donated to making our Stocking Stuffers drive a success! Special thanks to Mac McDonald for coordinating this year's drive! It's a lot more work that it looks like :)

## Thank you!

To everyone who came out for UUCQC Trivia Night! We raised money, had fun, and learned a lot of trivial knowledge! Thank you!

## Thank you!

November's Share the Plate collection raised \$553.75 for the Quad City Food Forest! The Food Forest, Green Sanctuary Project's selected recipient, is a locally owned and operated community garden in Davenport. The Food Forest is run by volunteers from the community.

The QC Food Forest Mission: To design, grow, and maintain an edible landscape that will produce healthy food for the community, foster education, and support the environment.

The QC Food Forest Project Goals:

- #1 Promote quality of life in the Quad Cities
- #2 Provide opportunities for the community to grow together
- #3 Provide free food for the community
- #4 Teach about native wild food and plants
- #5 Provide a habitat for wildlife

[Learn More HERE](#)

???MysteryLink???

## Happy Human Book Club

**Thursday, December 14**  
**7 p.m. Board Room**

The Happy Human Book Club discusses printed materials and videos from the non-theist worldview.

At this meeting, we will watch a video. Looking ahead to January, we will discuss the book "After the Bloody Mary Game" by David Breeden. The book is available in paperback and Kindle. FOR JANUARY ONLY, we will meet at Ridgecrest Terrace in a meeting room hosted by the Eriksons.

For the meeting, RSVPs are not required, but appreciated. Karen Fowler's contact information is in the directory, or contact the office at [office@uucqc.org](mailto:office@uucqc.org). Anyone who is on FaceBook is welcome to join the private FaceBook group "Happy Human Book Club of the Quad Cities." To join, (1) send a Friend request to Karen Fowler, then (2) message Karen that you want to join.

[Buy the book HERE](#)



## Family Friendly Game Night



**Friday, December 15**  
**6 p.m.**

Take a break from Holiday chaos! Join us for family-friendly games every other Friday night in the social hall! Bring your own game, or choose one from our collection :) Snacks are welcome!

**Trouble! Commercial with Kirsten Dunst!**

## Lesbian Book Club

**Saturday, December 16**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Movie Night!!! Bring some dinner or snacks and join us in watching Carol! All women are welcome!

[Watch the trailer HERE](#)





# Green Sanctuary Project



## DEC. 16, 2017 POLITICAL FIELD TEAM

### Training Workshop

Join the Sierra Club Eagle View Group Political Field Team to get environmental candidates elected in Illinois and Iowa. The December 16<sup>th</sup> workshop will teach participants how to build teams, recruit volunteers, reach voters and manage databases.



Moline Public  
Library Silver  
Room

9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Lunch Provided

Learn critical  
political skills

Bring your friends

SIERRA CLUB EAGLE  
VIEW GROUP

RSVP online at

[www.sierraclub.org/  
illinois/eagle-view](http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/eagle-view)

## Non-Believers Unite! Humanist Team Meeting



**Humanist Team Meeting**  
**Thursday Dec. 21, 6-7 p.m.**  
*Board Room*

The Humanist Team of the UUCQC is dedicated to providing a welcoming home for Humanists, Non-believers, Atheists, Skeptics, and questioners, within the greater Quad Cities. Humanism embraces a progressive philosophy of life without super-naturalism. We will provide education opportunities, resources, and support. Please join us on **in the UUCQC Boardroom** to help plan events, meetings, and programming for

the 2018 calendar. Let's make UUCQC an OFFICIAL **"Free-thinker Friendly"** congregation. Seasonal refreshments will be served. See you there! For questions about the Humanist Team contact Matthew Toland, [mctoland@gmail.com](mailto:mctoland@gmail.com) .

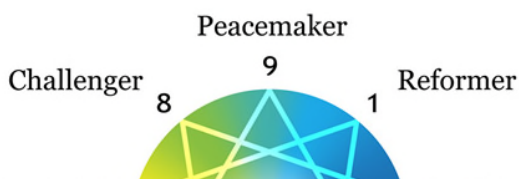
## Adult Religious Education Team Meeting

**Adult RE Team Meeting**  
**All are welcome!!!**  
**Thursday, Dec. 21, 7-8 p.m.**  
*Board Room*

Our congregation has a long tradition of offering thought-provoking classes, workshops, and programming. Join the Adult Religious Education Team and help develop or lead classes that will inspire others to learn and grow. Seasonal refreshments will be served. See you there! For questions about ARE contact Matthew Toland, [mctoland@gmail.com](mailto:mctoland@gmail.com).



## Save the Date



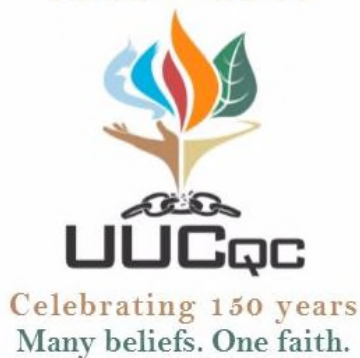


**Enneagram Workshop**  
**Saturday, January 20 @ 9 a.m.**

The enneagram is a personality system that describes nine patterns of thinking, feeling, and acting. You will have an experiential introduction to these nine personalities and the lens through which each sees the world. Through exploration of the characteristics of each type and in this process we may discover our own type and possibly others'. May this discovery help move us toward greater understand and acceptance of all.

# Sesquicentennial Fund

1868 – 2018



**Sesquicentennial Fundraising Drive Starts Now!**

This is an exciting time to be a part of this Congregation! We are celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> year of being the home for free religious thought in the Quad Cities. Our Congregation has been here to create an environment where people can come together and explore the meaning of life and community without dogma. Our Congregation and members have positively influenced life in the

Quad Cities with our principles and values. On a monthly basis the Board and I discern how the Congregation is progressing in fulfilling its vision and mission. Our objective is to create deeply meaningful programs and to ensure that this Congregation will continue to be a strong voice for liberal religious values in the Quad Cities for generations to come. Our theme for this year is Remember, Reflect, and Re-dedicate. As part of rededicating

ourselves to the future health of the Congregation, we are looking to fund the following projects:

- 1) One of the programs that has consistently been meaningful, and which draws visitors to our Congregation is our Children and Youth Religious Education Program. We want to add resources to this program by increasing the hours for Director of Religious Education position to full time for a minimum of two years
- 2) Our beloved 1972 Steinway Piano, which was a gift to us from a former member, is in need of major structural repair
- 3) We are looking to replace our sign on Eastern Ave with a digital sign which will have the actual name of our Congregation, which we have changed
- 4) We have consolidated our administrative positions to one full time position. We would like to extend that position at full time hours for an extra year
- 5) Marketing to inform the Community about the Congregation and its programs.

The leadership of the Congregation has created our Sesquicentennial Fund to raise money for all these projects. The financial goal to accomplish all of this is \$75,000. As of today, we have received pledges or donations totaling \$60,000. This includes pledges and donations from the Memorial Fund, the Ministers Discretionary Fund, Quad Cities Chamber Music, and lead donors from within the Congregation. **As you are considering what donations to make this coming holiday season and year, we ask you to consider to pledge or donate to this fund.** We ask that this be in addition to your regular financial contribution to the Congregation. This is a long-term project. Pledges can be paid over a two-year period; from June 2018-June 2020.

To donate or pledge:

- o Write a check made out to "UUCQC" and put "150 fund" in the description line.
- o Pay via PayPal. At the bottom of our website [uucqc.org](http://uucqc.org) click the donate button
- o Fill out a yellow pledge card that can be found on the table as you enter the Sanctuary
- o Email our Administrator, Amanda, at [office@uucqc.org](mailto:office@uucqc.org) with your

pledge amount for the fund.

Thank you for considering donating to this fund. If you have any question please do not hesitate to ask me.

With a grateful heart

Rev. Jay Wolin

## Office Hours

### UUCQC Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - noon (or by appointment)

Amanda ([office@uucqc.org](mailto:office@uucqc.org))

563-359-0816

### Rev. Jay Office Hours:

Monday Off, Tuesday 2-5, Wednesday 2-5, Thursday 2-5,  
Friday Writing Day

Call 563-359-0816 or email [minister@uucqc.org](mailto:minister@uucqc.org).

UU News submission deadline:

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Email [office@uucqc.org](mailto:office@uucqc.org)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities

[uucqc.org](http://uucqc.org) | [563-359-0816](tel:563-359-0816) | [office@uucqc.org](mailto:office@uucqc.org)

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