United Church of Christ
2015 Southern Region Women’s Retreat
October 16-18, 2015
Sumatanga Conference Center
Gallant, AL

Come celebrate the LORD of the DANCE!

“Praise the LORD!
Praise God in the sanctuary;
praise God in God’s mighty firmament!
Praise God with tambourine and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe!
Praise God with clanging cymbals;
praise God with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!”

Psalm 150:1, 4-6
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Dear UCC Sisters and Friends,

Welcome! You are now here to dance with us at this year’s Southern Region Women’s Retreat. This includes the United Church of Christ Conferences: Southeast, South Central, Southern and Florida. This fun and meaningful event is planned just for you to participate amidst the beautiful fall foliage of Sumatanga Conference Center here in Gallant, Alabama.

During our time together we will experience a time of relaxation, refreshment and renewal as all of us, in our own way, Celebrate the Lord of the Dance. You will have times of fellowship with old friends and new, as well as receive some great “take aways” for your own sacred dance and also that of your church.

Of course, your burning question may be: “Are we really going to dance?” Well, you never know; we ARE the UCC but that means we also respect the fact that we all dance with the Divine every day—in our hearts and spirits, each in our own individual way. Some of us may even use our feet! As clergy and lay women from across the region come together, we will embrace and enjoy the Lord of the Dance as we fellowship, worship, learn, serve and flow with the movement of the Holy Spirit. However you do it, you don’t want to miss out on this exciting event as we joyfully Celebrate the Lord of the Dance.

In God’s Service,

2015 Southern Region UCC Women’s Retreat Planning Team:

UCC Women from Southeast Conference Area:

Clara Benson, Charleston SC; Circular Congregational UCC
Marsha Brown, Nashville TN; Phoenix Christian UCC
Jean Clark, 2015 Registrar, Pleasant Hill TN; Pleasant Hill Community UCC
Leslie Etheredge, Knoxville TN; Church of the Savior UCC
Amber Kirkendoll, Byram MS; Safe Harbor Family UCC, Flowood
Mary Ruth, 2015 Coordinator, Pleasant Hill TN; Pleasant Hill Community UCC
Nancy Sales, Birmingham AL; First Congregational UCC
Patricia Shropshire, Nashville TN; Holy Trinity Community UCC

UCC Women from Other Conferences:

Representative from UCC Women in the Florida Conference:
Laverne Goforth, West Palm Beach, FL; Community UCC, Lake Park FL
Representative from UCC Women in the Southern Conference:
Gwen Mitchell, Suffolk, VA, Laurel Hill UCC, Suffolk VA
Representative from UCC Women in the South Central Conference:
Charlotte Albert, Thrall, TX; St. Peter’s UCC, Coupland TX
RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

Scripture: Psalm 150

Worship, morning watch devotions, and vesper services will celebrate the Lord of the Dance

Music leadership will be from C. A. Black, Flowood MS, Safe Harbor Family Church UCC

Danceshops (replacing workshops) will seek to inspire and involve participants in groups of about 20:
Rising from the Ashes, New Members: Moving Forward, Practicing Intimacy with God, Dancing with the Stranger, Making a Joyful Move, Stories in Black and White, Caring for Ourselves,
Dancing Liturgically, Learning to Heal Ourselves, Holy Humor,
Crossing Borders, Boogieing with the Bible Babes.

Service Project: “Literacy: Learning through Rhythm” with Eunice Carrasco-Hill from Franklin Center at Bricks. Gather to sort and box books brought for Birmingham preschool, Pre-School Partners.

Preview a documentary film “Sacred Sound”

Sunday Morning Communion Worship led by Rev. June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister, Southeast

Facility:
Sumatanga Conference Retreat Center details are featured at www.sumatanga.org

Wireless internet is available in several places throughout the Retreat Center plus Eva Walker building.

Limited Verizon and Sprint Cell service is available in the Main Office; general cell phone coverage is minimal. Buildings are one level except McKinney-Atkins which has an elevator.

Five ‘houses’ provide a total of 62 rooms which include 2 full beds, private bathroom, linens and towels. (No pets or alcohol are allowed on site. No smoking in any building.)

Rooms have a telephone and all long distance is complimentary. A TV is in the Registration area.

Transportation between buildings is available via golf cart for those appreciating assistance.
CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE DANCE RETREAT PROGRAM AGENDA

Friday October 16, 2015

3:00 pm  Registration               McKinney-Atkins, Lower Level Lobby
5:00pm  Extravagant Welcome           House Hospitality Areas
6:00 pm  Dinner                       Dining Hall
7:00 pm  Welcome/Music/Introductions  McKinney-Atkins, Upper Level
8:00 pm  Opening Worship              McKinney-Atkins, Upper Level
9:00 pm  Community Building           House Hospitality Areas

Saturday October 17, 2015

7:30 am  Morning Watch                Chapel
8:00 am  Breakfast                    Dining Hall
9:15 am  Program                      McKinney-Atkins, Upper Level
10:00 am Morning Danceshops          House Meeting Spaces
11:30 am Sojourns Fair Trade Shopping Dining Hall
12:00 pm Lunch                        Dining Hall
1:30 pm  Afternoon Danceshops        House Hospitality Areas
3:00 pm  Free Dance (aka Free Time) or Outside/inside
3:00 pm  Literacy Service Project     McKinney-Atkins, Upper Level
5:00 pm  Preview, “Sacred Sound” Film McKinney-Atkins, Upper Level
CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE DANCE
RETREAT PROGRAM AGENDA

Cont: Saturday October 17, 2015

6:00 pm Dinner Dining Hall
7:30 pm Vesper Worship McKinney-Atkins, Upper Level
8:30 pm Silent Auction McKinney-Atkins, Upper Level
8:45 pm Karaoke McKinney-Atkins, Upper Level

Sunday October 18, 2015

7:30 am Morning Watch Chapel
8:00 am Breakfast Dining Hall
9:15 am Conference Gatherings TBD
9:45 am Closing Worship & Communion; Eva Walker
11:00 am Check Out Houses
Celebrate the Lord of the Dance

United Church of Christ
2015 Southern Region Women’s Retreat

October 16, 17, 18, 2015

Worship

Order of Services
The world and time are the dance of the Lord in emptiness.

The silence of the spheres is the music of a wedding feast.

The more we persist in misunderstanding the phenomena of life.

The more we analyze them out into strange finalities and complex purposes of our own, the more we involve ourselves in sadness, absurdity and despair.

But it does not matter much, because no despair of ours can alter the reality of things, or stain the joy of the cosmic dance which is always there.

Indeed we are in the midst of it, and it is in the midst of us, for it beats in our very blood, whether we want it to or not.

Yet the fact remains that we are invited to forget ourselves on purpose, cast our awful solemnity to the winds and join in the dance. Amen.
Praise for God’s Surpassing Greatness

1 Praise the LORD!
   Praise God in his sanctuary;
   praise God in his mighty firmament!
2 Praise God for his mighty deeds;
   praise God according to his surpassing greatness!
3 Praise God with trumpet sound;
   praise God with lute and harp!
4 Praise God with tambourine and dance;
   praise God with strings and pipe!
5 Praise God with clanging cymbals;
   praise God with loud clashing cymbals!
6 Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
   Praise the LORD!

INVITATION

CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE DANCE!
Reverend Leslie Etheredge

PRAYER

SONG: DANCING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD

BENEDICTION
Music for Quieting

OPENING WORDS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP        Rev. Clara Benson

One: We have danced, this day, before God and one another
Many: moving our bodies and lifting our hearts in praise.
One: We have danced, this day, before God and one another
Many: with laughter and with tears.
One: We have danced, this day,
Many: around the lake and up the hill, through meals and conversations.
We have danced and danced and now —
One: And now, now,
Many: We will cease our dancing, we will slow down, and we will let God’s Spirit
dance in, and through, us.

*Hymn “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Time of Meditation and Reflection        Rev. Clara Benson

Taize “Come and Fill” (sung 4 times)
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy,
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!

Psalm 42:1
“Where did you experience God’s presence today?”
Time of Silence and Reflection

Taize “Bless the Lord” (sung 4 times)
“Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1&4
“What did you hear, see, or experience today that challenged you?”

Time of Silence and Reflection

Taize “Nothing Can Trouble” (sung 4 times)
“Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten, Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.”

John 14 Selected verses
“What did you hear, see, or experience today that has planted a seed of transformation in your soul, or has renewed your commitment to faithful living?”

Time of Silence and Reflection

PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN “Now the Day is Over”

*UNISON PRAYER
God of the night,
now we turn toward the dark
in which all things
have their beginning
and find their form.
Bless the seeds
and tend what grows
in the dark of the womb
in the dark of the earth
in the dark of the soul.
Be with us,
dream in us,
create us anew
in the hours of the night.
(In the Sanctuary of women-A Companion for Reflection and Prayer, Jan L. Richardson)

(Please leave quietly so not to disturb those remaining in prayer. Thank you!)
GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Sun Dance Song from the Dakota Peoples, sung as the day-sun peeps over the horizon
The light of the Great Spirit is upon my people; it is making the whole earth bright.
My people are now happy! All beings that move are rejoicing!

SONG

Come, All You People (#22 in Sing! Prayer and Praise)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

People: But only say the word and your servant will be healed.

PRAYER (unison)

God of all mercy, we confess before you and each other that we have been unfaithful to you. We lack love for our neighbors, we waste opportunities to do good, and we look the other way when you cry out to us in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need. We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us. We pray for your forgiveness and pray for strength that we may follow in your way and love all your people with that perfect love which casts out all fear; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Anyone in Christ become a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7  Colossians 3:12-17

Song

Spirit Dancing  (#388 in Voices United, Hymnal of the United Church of Canada)

Message

June Boutwell

Movement Anthem:

Jean Ring and dancers

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father and Mother, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Faithful Women (A Litany of Witness and Remembrance)

Song:

As We Gather at Your Table  (#332 New Century Hymnal)

Communion

Prayer
Breaking Bread and Pouring the Cup
Sharing the Elements
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Song:

One More Step Along the World I Go  (#639 in Voices United, Hymnal of the United Church of Canada)

Benediction
The music for our retreat will be a mix of contemporary tunes and traditional hymns; along the same vein, we will be using both a projector screen to follow along with the songs as well as a booklet.

As we explore the value of dance in worship, we will draw from old styles as well as new ideas about how to incorporate movement into worship services and personal devotion.

Dance is the body's natural reaction to music, though we often are pressured by societal norms to keep still. For this retreat, it is time to let it go! Freeing your body to move allows your spirit a certain kind of freedom that no other type of worship can provide. As we celebrate the Lord of the Dance this weekend, allow yourself to find that freedom.

*Move with the music, and set your spirit free!*
Our offering received at Sunday Oct 18 Closing Communion Worship will be contributed to UCC OCWM through the UCC Southeast Conference

What does Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) support?

In the national setting of the United Church of Christ there are four Covenanted Ministry partners who are supported by gifts Our Church’s Wider Mission. We work together to change lives!

The Office of General Ministries houses the President and General Minister who serves in many ways. One strategic role of the President is convening leaders in conversations on what it means to be a faithful, vital, and healthy church. These conversations take place in many and various settings of conference boards, local churches, seminary trustees and Mission Planning Council. The aim is to collaboratively develop new forms of cross setting resourcing, engagement and sharing.

Wider Church Ministries is most widely known for the mission outreach work of the UCC because of our disaster ministries. This arm of the church also serves congregations and other settings of the church who strive to be inclusive whether it is multicultural/multiracial, open and affirming, global or accessible to all.

The vision of Justice and Witness Ministries is of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world that honors all of God’s creation but leaders are needed throughout our churches and communities to help share, pursue and achieve this vision. Justice LED training program for church members teaches leadership skills to support justice work in local churches and UCC Conferences. Very exciting work! Justice and Peach Action Network is a UCC grassroots advocacy effort to educate and engage church members and friends to shape public policy. Last year we’ve emailed over 600,000 “Action Alerts”! And over 35,000 letters, emails and faxes went to Congress and the President. Immersion centers like Centro Romero, Franklinton Center at Bricks, UCC Environmental Justice Center facilitate educational, transformational issue based seminars on issue of globalization, environmental justice, economic policies, immigration and community empowerment. The work of Justice and Witness Ministries is guided by the pronouncements and resolutions approved by the UCC at General Synod.
UCC 2015 Southern Region Women’s Retreat October 16-18, 2015

Morning DANCESHOPS
Numbers 1-3 offered Saturday, 10 - 11:30 am

1 Rising from the Ashes
   Dian Griffin Jackson
   Trumpet House

Exodus 15:20 (NLT) Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine and led all the women as they played their tambourines and danced.

Dance your way into boldly accepting your sexuality! In her book, Scarred by Struggle Transformed by Hope, Jean Chittister attests to the urgent need to deal with the struggle in order to offer and accept hope. Dancing, like music, is a universal language that offers ways to struggle and hope as individuals rise from ashes that at first seem insurmountable. Come—dance together as we engage the real struggle of female sexuality and freedom.

2 Stories in Black & White
   Glenna Shepherd & Patricia Shropshire
   Harp House B

Galatians 3:28 (NRSV) There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Using story, film, role-play and honest conversation, this danceshop will generate conversation around justice issues of race, especially new manifestations of racism and political and civil unrest in America. Dorothee Soelle said that “the personal is political is pastoral.” We’ll share personal stories and consider how race is a personal/political/pastoral issue for us all.

3 Dancing Liturgically
   Rebecca Kilmer & Jean Ring
   Cymbal House

Ecclesiastes 3:4 (NIV) …a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance…"

Ever felt like dancing in praise and adoration of God? Or dancing in delight at being in this physical body? Or expressing your joy with rhythmic music or sacred verse? Join us as we express ourselves through creative, spontaneous movement. All are welcome, including those experiencing disabilities or pain, needing to stay seated, or using an assistive device. Wear comfortable clothes that allow you to move easily.
4 Practicing Intimacy with God  
Clara Benson  
Violin House

Psalm 42:1 (NRSV) As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

Are you longing for a deepening relationship with the Divine? If so, come and experience several daily practices that will help you become more open to God’s loving presence. Bring something to write on and a desire to simply be!

5 Dancing with the Stranger  
Ginny Brown Daniel  
Harp House A

Matthew 25:35 (NRSV) I was a stranger and you welcomed me…

Most faith communities claim they are welcoming, but guests among us say that they feel less than welcomed. Why? What makes for a welcoming community? Who are the strangers of today? What does the Bible say? What role does the Spirit play? Come discover what “welcoming the stranger” truly means.

6 Holy Humor  
Deborah Douglas  
Tambourine House

Psalm 126:2 (NRSV) Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

In the Bible, donkeys talk, trees clap, and Leviathan frolics in the sea. Big fish swallow prophets and prophets walk naked. King David dances shamelessly and prostitutes begat ancestors of kings. You can’t convince me that God doesn’t have a sense of humor. Besides, God created me…and you. What other evidence do we need? Oh, yeah, God played a joke on death. Humor is holy! Humor is our sacred duty. Let’s laugh our way to grace.
7 Learning to Heal Ourselves
   Laverne Goforth
   Harp House B

John 14:14 (NIV) You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Without healing, losses in our lives can create further loss – of our health, our spirits, our very connection to God. We will explore the actions we need to take to bring us to total healing and learn how to focus our energy not on what’s missing but on what we want and need in order to move forward in emotional and spiritual health.

8 Crossing Borders
   Angie Wright, Evelyn Servin, Mayra Rangel
   Harp House A

Genesis 12 (NRSV) Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”

Participate in a bewildering maze of ins-and-outs to be ‘legal’ that come with a broken immigration system. Hear first-hand stories about the hopes and fears that fuel massive migration of families and unaccompanied minors from Central America to the U.S. and explore faith-rooted responses to the social and political challenges faced by our immigrant brothers and sisters.

9 Making a Joyful Move
   Jessica Kirkendoll
   Cymbal House

Psalm 30:11-12 (NLT) You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing…

Feeling you need to reconnect with God? Curious about creative ways to express yourself? Worshiping God through dance is both inspirational and a lot of fun. Let no fear come between you and a new idea of experiencing God – make a joyful move!
10  Caring for Ourselves  
    Janeen Carrell  
    Violin House  
Luke 10:27 (NIV) …You shall love…God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

Anne Lamott writes, “Radical self-care is what we have been longing for, desperate for, our entire lives, and friendship with our own hearts.” Are you way down on your list of needy persons? Feeling overwhelmed, stressed, out of balance? It may not be other people or situations; it may be you just aren’t taking care of yourself. This workshop will include a questionnaire to provide you with effective practices to create a sustainable, lifelong self-care routine – a personal self-care tool-kit!

11  New Members: Moving Forward  
    Linda Brown & Dennie Kelley  
    Tambourine House  
Romans 12:6-8 (NIV) We have different gifts according to the grace given us…

So someone joined your church, now what? Our own experiences when we were new members can tell us a lot about the feelings and needs of others. Looking back, what or who was it that compelled you to keep coming back? What made you feel comfortable or uncomfortable? How do we blend past traditions and new understandings to encourage church growth.

12  Boogieing with the Bible Babes  
    June Boutwell  
    Trumpet House  
Proverbs 31:30 (NRSV) Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

There are many stories about women in the Bible. How many do you know? Share and hear stories about well-known and more obscure women in the Bible. Their shocking, scandalous, painful, tender, strong stories can inform our own faith journeys and provide models for ministry to be emulated and to be avoided.
We live in a world of gross social and economic inequalities which is leaving millions of people without basic necessities such as food, water, housing, education, and health-care. Millions are being dramatically affected by globalization, international trade policies, third-world debt, and are losing their farms, livelihoods and are unable to feed their families or provide for other basic necessities of life.

Fair trade, also known as alternative trade, plays by a different set of rules than normal commerce. Instead of exchanging goods or services based on clout and driving hard bargains, fair trade is based on economic and social justice. The key goals of fair trade are to empower low-income, disadvantaged artisans, laborers and farmers around the globe, and to promote understanding between them and industrialized nations. Fair trade advocates for a fair and living wage to artists, artisans and producers and provides revenue to promote social and economic development for communities.

Fair trade advocates for democratic management of artist cooperatives

Fair trade advocates for environmentally friendly and sustainable products

Fair trade does not support forced or child labor

There are almost 200 fair trade stores around the country and Sojourns is proud to be the first wholly fair trade store in Alabama.(but not the only one anymore--check out Trade Fair Marketplace in Huntsville)

For more information on fair trade visit www.FairTradeFederation.org

www.adventureartpeace.com/about-fair-trade.html
The Starfish Story: This sums up our philosophy

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, “Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can’t save all these starfish. You can’t begin to make a difference!” The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, “Well, I made a difference to that one!” The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved. — adapted from the Star Thrower by Loren C. Eiseley

The understanding that we hold in our hands the power to change a life, a mind, or a circumstance today – right now – is a powerful insight and motivator. At the same time, idealistic acts, even highly symbolic ones, have the power to inspire others to act, and sometimes in numbers significant enough to make a major or even complete impact on the problem at hand. We believe fair trade is a catalyst for change— even if it is tantamount to saving one starfish at a time. Sojourns, A Fair Trade Store

2017 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203
205.323.5680
www.AdventureArtPeace.com
Franklinton Center has taken a different approach by partnering with schools in Edgecombe, Halifax, and Nash introduce children to “Literacy: Learning through Rhythm” we invite the children to take a magical trip with us, where they learn about heritage, culture, music, dance, rhythm story tellers and even second language. The presentation we bring to the different schools increases the curiosity among children to learn and read more about different countries. Studies indicate that young children seem to be naturally “wired” for sound and rhythm. Besides providing enjoyment, music can play an important role in language and literacy development. Strong social bonds are encouraged through music and sons beginning in preschool.

The United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, and the Franklinton Center at Bricks are working with community partners on an aggressive literacy project to address the alarming disparity affecting children and youth who are overlooked because of racial and economic marginalization.

Eunice Carrasco Hill
Project Coordinator, Franklinton Center at Bricks
Southern Region Women’s Retreat  
Literacy Service Project  
October 16-18, 2015  
“PreSchool Partners” Book Wish List

Every Girl Needs Dancing Boots and Every Cowgirl Needs a Horse  
by Rebecca Janni

Little Red Cowboy Hat by Susan Lowell  
Watermelon Wishes by Lisa Moser

Cowboys Can Be Kind by Timothy Knapman  
Volcanoes: Mountains That Blow Their Tops by Nicholas Nirgiotis

The Ugly Vegetables by Grace Lin  
Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

The Hello Goodbye Window by Norton Juser  
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst  
Pancakes for Breakfast and The Popcorn Book by Tomie dePaola

Bread and Jam for Frances by Russell Hoban  
George and Martha by James Marshall

Olivia’s Tea Party and other Olivia books by Ian Falconer

Interrupting Chicken by David Ezra Stein  
Jamberry by Bruce Degen

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold


Pinkalicious by Victoria Kann  
Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts  
The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas  
Elmer books by David McKee

Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young by Jack Prelutsky

Me and My Dragon by David Bierzycki  
Dreaming with Rousseau by Julie Merberg

How Rocket Learned to Read by Tad Hills

Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzburg  
No Bears by Meg McKinlay

The Dot by Peter Reynolds

Light Up the Sky by Shel Silverstein

A Friend for All Seasons by Julia Hubris

One by Kathryn Otoshi

The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl

Jack and the Beanstalk by Joy Schleh

The Juice Box Bully by Bob Sornson

My Mouth is a Volcano by Julia Cook

What if Everybody Did That? by Ellen Javernick
Free dance is all about ‘free time’ for you to enjoy the grounds and campus with others or choose to enjoy silence.

If you’d like to create an informal small group there are all sorts of opportunities to lead or participate in:

- Hike around the lake.
- Walk the labyrinth.
- Practice yoga.
- Lead line dancing.
- Visit on the patio.
- Take a map.
- Sit in silence.
- Visit with a new friend.
You are invited and all are welcome
to attend a FREE PREVIEW showing of
Sacred Sound
A 65 minute documentary film of great sacred music

5 PM Saturday October 17, 2015
McKinney-Atkins, Sumatanga Conference Center

Follow 50 American girl choristers who, for one summer week, learn to sing great sacred music.

“This film confirms that good still happens in our world.” John Rutter

General information: Robin Arcus, 919-683-3013; robinarc@aol.com

www.sacredsoundmovie.com
(Mary Ruth, Coordinator, 2015 SRW event, has more information)
Here’s how our Silent Auction works:

A minimum bid will be set, and then we’ll all have an opportunity to bid on paper for the items we want, “upping” the bid based on who has already bid on your must-have items.

BIDDING CLOSES Saturday 18th AT 8:30

Please collect the items for which you had the highest bid and make your payment between 8:45 – 9:00 pm.

All proceeds will go towards the 2017 Southern Region Women’s event.
Clara Benson is a retired UCC pastor who returned “home” to the South. As a member of Circular Congregational in Charleston, SC, she continues to pursue opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal and actively supports the justice ministries of the church. As an avid reader herself, she enjoys volunteer opportunities that support literacy.

C.A. Black presently serves as worship leader at Safe Harbor Family Church in Flowood, MS. Alan began playing piano and singing when he was five years old and has led worship in some capacity for the past thirty years. He enjoys singing traditional hymns as well as contemporary songs. He also teaches private piano and vocal lessons, tutors struggling English students, and edits stories and books for authors.

June Boutwell is the Designated Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference UCC, a six-state region that serves 55 churches. She was previously on the Maine Conference staff and National staff of the UCC in Cleveland and has served churches in Maine, Vermont, Oregon, Ohio, California, and Nevada. She is of Japanese-American ancestry and the mother of two adult sons.

Linda Brown is a Pathways Level 1 graduate and serves as Deacon for Hospitality at Church of the Savior (UCC) in Knoxville, TN. “Baptist born and Baptist bred and when I am gone, I won’t be a Baptist dead” is one of her favorite sayings. She is a retired Physical Education and Instructional Technology teacher and consultant who loves gardening and cooking.

Eunice Carrasco-Hill, born and raised in Puerto Rico, holds a Master in Organizational Management and Public Administration from Ashford University. She serves as Project Coordinator at Franklinton Center’s Bricks/Justice and Witness Ministries in Whitakers, NC, where she runs literacy, leadership development and educational programs, and has twice been the recipient of the Latino Professional Award.

Janeen Carrell, a retired clinical psychologist, university and seminary professor, and co-chair of the FL Conference Church & Ministry committee, is a real ‘Type A’ personality. When she retired to Uplands Village in Pleasant Hill, TN, it took her six months just to learn to sit in silence. She has a labyrinth in her yard for walking meditation and is learning to live with Fibromyalgia through Tai Chi and Gentle Yoga.

Ginny Brown Daniel is president of Divine Sparks Ministry, providing workshops and spiritual retreats to ministers of local churches. She recently ended her 12-year ministry as pastor of Plymouth United Church, UCC, in Spring, TX. In 2013 Plymouth was named one of the top 10 most welcoming churches in Houston. Ginny currently chairs the Southern Region of UCC Conferences Task Force.
Deborah Douglas is pastor of First United Church, UCC in Belvidere, TN. A second-career pastor, she graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in 2011. She introduced the old tradition of Bright Sunday or Holy Humor Sunday to her congregation and before they could stop laughing they unanimously decided to make it a tradition. Debbie loves hiking, brain games, gardening, and grandchildren.

Laverne Goforth has been active in women’s ministry for over 25 years, and believes that losses she has suffered in her life have helped equip her for her ministry. She attended Christian International Bible College and was ordained in the CME church. She has been active in the UCC for seven years, and currently serves as second vice president on the Florida UCC Women Board.

Dian Griffin Jackson, Sr. Minister of Mt. Zion UCC in Rockingham, NC, feels a call to women and children's ministry, with a focus on abuse and violence. The author of "The Phoenix-Rising from the Ashes," she serves as a consultant and motivational speaker in her company, 1PHOEN1X. Dian earned her M.Div. from Duke Divinity School and is completing a D.Min. at Hood Theological Seminary.

Dennie Kelley is a peace and justice advocate who serves on several SEC committees and is on the Board of Directors of the Oak Ridge Environmental & Peace Alliance (OREPA). She is a former deacon and vice-moderator at Church of the Savior in Knoxville, TN, and is a Pathways Level 1 graduate. She also loves eating the food that Linda Brown grows and prepares.

Melissa Kendrick served as US delegate to a UNESCO task force and consulted for the International Ecotourism Society. She now owns Sojourns, a fair trade store in Birmingham. Specializing in international art and artisan products imported from around the world, Sojourns also serves the community by providing cultural education and interaction through a partnership with the Birmingham Multicultural Association.

Rebecca Kilmer has worked on women’s, peace and environmental issues since 1970, when she and her father helped organize the first Earth Day event in Greenville, TX. She loves celebrating women’s passages, and considers herself a Christian Buddhist Wiccan. She is a social worker, massage therapist, gardener, poet, dancer and drum circle leader.

Jessica Kirkendoll is the lead choreographer for Free Spirit, the dance and drama team at Safe Harbor Family Church, UCC, in Flowood, MS. During the week, she attends and works at Jackson State University, pursuing a degree in civil engineering.
Mayra Rangel chairs the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice and is a founding leader of the Northeast Alabama Alliance for Justice, a grassroots group devoted to “ending the criminalization of our immigrant communities and eliminating unjust penalties for immigrants.” She helped lead the fight against Alabama’s harsh anti-immigrant law, HB56, and for comprehensive federal immigration reform.

Jean Ring studied various dance forms at the University of South Florida and has been dancing through most of her life. She is an Episcopal Lay Eucharistic Minister and an associate member of Pleasant Hill Community Church, TN. She is active in her church choirs, handbell choir, outreach missions, fundraising and assistance for low income families in both TN and FL.

Evelyn Servin is a community organizer for the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice and a founding leader of NAHCER, a community organization that advocates for immigrant rights in Alabama and helps empower immigrant communities. She helped lead the fight against Alabama’s harsh anti-immigrant law, HB56, and for comprehensive federal immigration reform.

Glenna Shepherd, author of Out on a Limb: Sermons of Risk and Revolution, is pastor at Pleasant Hill Community Church – UCC in TN and a consultant for the Center for Progressive Renewal. She has received numerous awards for her social justice work, including the Social Justice Award for leadership toward marriage equality and the Pride Preaching Award from the Oregon Metropolitan Community Churches.

Patricia Shropshire chose the UCC as her denomination in 2007. Shortly thereafter she accepted the call into Ministry and completed her M.Div. at Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2013. She served as a Pastoral Intern at Holy Trinity Community Church in Nashville while in seminary and then as Pastor for Outreach and Welcome until June of this year. She also completed Chaplain Residency at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System in May of this year. Patricia currently spends half of her week in Nashville and half in Atlanta, GA.

Angie Wright, Assoc. Director for Greater Birmingham Ministries and founding pastor of Beloved Community UCC, received her M.Div. from Duke Divinity School. She is former chair and current treasurer of the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice and a community and faith-based organizer for racial and economic justice. In 2003 she was named Outstanding Woman in the Community by the Univ. of Alabama.
Charlotte Albert has been a passionate and dedicated member of the UCC for 50 years, 35 of those at St. Peter’s Church of Coupland, TX. She is a licensed minister and has been active in the wider church serving the Brazos Association, South Central Conference and UCC National on various committees and boards. She loves mission work, women’s issues, justice issues and Christian Education.

Clara Benson is a retired UCC pastor who returned “home” to the South. As a member of Circular Congregational in Charleston, SC, she continues to pursue opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal and actively supports the justice ministries of the church. As an avid reader herself, she enjoys volunteer opportunities that support literacy.

Marsha Brown was called in 2014 to be the senior pastor at Phoenix Christian Church in Wildersville, TN. She participated in the UCC’s Theology among the People Program from 2008 – 2012 and is currently enrolled in Pathways. She is a licensed minister continuing her education.

Jean Clark is a retired educator who lives at Uplands Village in Pleasant Hill, TN. She has been active in the UCC for over 50 years at the Local, Association, Conference, and National levels. Jean writes about Pleasant Hill activities in a weekly county newspaper column and runs the Fair Trade Room at the local church.

Leslie Etheredge is the Western Regional Minister for the Florida Conference and is passionate about worship, spirituality, women's issues and education. Having discovered the UCC in 2005, she loves the diverse population and the covenantal relationships shared within the denomination that she now calls home.

Laverne Goforth has been active in women’s ministry for over 25 years, and believes that losses she has suffered in her life have helped equip her for her ministry. She attended Christian International Bible College and was ordained in the CME church. She has been active in the UCC for seven years, and currently serves as second vice president on the Florida UCC Women Board.
Amber Kirkendoll presently serves as pastor at Safe Harbor Family Church in Flowood, MS. During the week, she also works as a crisis prevention and intervention training coordinator at a facility for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Gwen Mitchell currently serves as second vice president of the Southern Women’s Conference for Eastern-Western NC, Eastern VA, after serving for two years as second vice president for Eastern VA. She is now retired from the military and civil service employment. A member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority, she graduated from NSU in 1978 with a B.A. in English.

Mary Ruth has dedicated much of her time since 2003 in the UCC Volunteer Ministries “Partners in Service” program, working at UCC camps, conference centers and the national office. At General Synod in 2007 she was formally recognized for her “commitment to service.” At Uplands Village, the continuing care retirement community in TN where she resides, Mary serves as Volunteer Team Leader.

Nancy Sales has been a long-time adult educator, providing adult instruction in Girl Scouting and in Christian Education, and served for a time as a UCC missionary in Botswana and Zambia. As an Adult Basic Education instructor, she now tutors students in basic reading and math skills and helps them in preparation for the GED exam or further education.

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Technical Director, Amber Kirkendoll
T-Shirts, Amber Kirkendoll
Musician, C. A. Black
Worship Leaders: Leslie Etheredge, Clara Benson, June Boutwell
Prayer Partners: Marsha Brown, Patricia Shropshire, Amber Kirkendoll, Charlotte Albert
Silent Auction, Patricia Boyer and Florida women
Funds Manager, Ginny Nixon
Flyer Design, Amber Kirkendoll
Program Booklet: Laverne Goforth
Community Building, Mary Ruth
Fair Trade, Melissa Kendrick
Morning Watch, Gwen Mitchell, Betty Griffin
Photographer/Slide Show, Amber Kirkendoll
Nurses: Nurse/CPR/AED/First Aid: Cindy Crocker, Valerie Coe Lowder, Marsha Brown
Jessica Kirkendoll, Amber Kirkendoll
House Hospitality Hosts: Carolyn Haverland, Judy Fryant, Patsy McDowell, Yvette Scales, Rebecca Seldomridge, Maureen Coe, Bunny Gruntler.
Program Booklet: Laverne Goforth
Karaoke, Amber Kirkendoll
Airport Transportation: Nancy Sales
Table Decorations: Southern Conference
Bunny Gruntler, Dian Jackson, Leslie Etheredge, Jean Ring, Eunice CarrascoHill, Charlotte Albert
Menu Consultant: Clara Benson
Registration: Jean Clark
Hospitality: Patricia Shropshire
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