

Preaching By Parishioners

A Guide For Setting Up
A Program To Create
Better Lay Led Services



Background



- UUCA was either closed for the summer or services were lay led
- Summer Services were sparsely attended and hit or miss
- Carl and Maureen Thitchener began a course for “Preaching By Parishioners”
- Chris & Marlana Barry have run the program for the past dozen years and it now includes members of nearby congregations

Benefits:



- Better Sermons
- More “Professional” Services
- More Congregation Members able to Run or Take Part in Services
- Ready Made Services for Nearby Congregations
- A Joyful Experience for Participants in the Program

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- What resources do I need?
- Who should be involved?
- What is the Time Commitment?
- What about our Minister?



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The Program:



- Weekly for at least 10 Weeks
- Write a Title & Descriptive “Blurb” & Present Them for Group Critique
- Join in Critiquing Others’ Blurbs
- Present the 1st 10 minutes of Sermon from the pulpit for Group Reaction
- Decide on Readings, Hymn, etc to Complete the Service

Cooperative Critiquing



- Everyone in the Course should Participate
- Keep it Brief
- Give Feedback on Style Issues like Eye Contact, Delivery & Clarity
- When Critiquing Substance, say something positive in addition to the Critique
- Offer suggestions of additional ideas or sources



UUCA Preaching by Parishioners

2008 schedule & topics:

- June 22, *Buddha, Peace Pilgrim & the Missing Piece*
Gemma Lanthier

June 29, *The U.U. Clout*
Mehdi Kizilbash, with music by Kathy Moriarty

July 6, *Christianity Without God*
This may seem like music without sound; actually it is more like astronomy without astrology. Recent scholarship describes an exciting, historical Jesus who is relevant today.
Peter Diachun, Niagara UU
- July 13, *Can UU Hear Me Now?*
Should we be allowed to proselytize on PBS? How do we balance the Constitution with our Principles?
Jerry Kent

July 20, *The Cats of Jerusalem* In Jerusalem, free roaming cats mean there are not rats. Here unattached cats are frequently euthanized. How do we know which is the 'right way'?
Michele George

July 27, *Crossroads for Truth* There are infinite possible views for any event; I naturally see only one. Come explore how the perception of others has affected my search for truth.
Yvonne Stocker, Niagara UU
- August 3, *Learning to Share*
As good citizens we give to help those who have less. Redistribution is an idealistic aim, but truly -- how much is enough?
Chris Barry

August 10, *Principled Dancing*
When I first read the Unitarian Universalist principles I felt they were too global to practice in my daily life. I have since found that there is a simple beauty in the way principles can be applied to my personal life. Join me as I share stories of my life's dance.
Paula Mumm, with music by Kathy Moriarty
- August 17, *The Ghosts of the Past are Calling You!*
We owe a great debt to those who came before. I'd like to share how certain acts of creativity connect to the UU principles and timelessness.
Jake Marek, with music by Kathy Moriarty & Jake Marek ([audio](#) 1.58MB)
- August 24, *UU Evangelism*
Many think that 'UU Evangelism' is an oxymoron. Critics think UUs don't believe in anything worth evangelizing about and UUs don't evangelize people into our faith. Come find out if these words can ever make sense together and whether you can become a UU evangelist without becoming a moron, oxy- or otherwise.
Scott Harrigan ([audio](#) 2.39MB)