**Musings – Feb 2, 2017**

Dear Ones,

I have heard from many of you of this week in conversations of the emotional toll and the encroaching angst in making effort to navigate new and unique ways to keep up with the daily news. For many of us, staying abreast of the daily news is so very important, yet at times also reaching fever pitch moments of emotional overload. Please know that here at Beacon, your spiritual, faith, covenanted community we too are seeking to learn new ways and manners of addressing the daily barrage of difficult news.

Sakenya and I are mindful of how Beacon remain a strong and constant; welcome gathering space for our children and youth. In conversation just last evening with our Worship Associates Committee, we shared in heartfelt conversation the awareness of the fine line with which we endeavor to remain open and truthful to “the other.” We honor that not all UU’s think, believe, act or vote alike. I am always reminded of the quote attributed to Francis David – “We need not think alike to love alike.”

((Place link here for full story))

In these new and unchartered waters of current political events, actions and news, I encourage us all to revisit, honor and lift up our principles as covenanted within Unitarian Universalism.

 We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

This is our community, may these be our guiding cairns on the trail through unknown pathways. When we gather weekly, may it be to welcome and sustain one another, to offer hospitality and welcome to the stranger or the newcomer, may it be a time of respite and restoration for the spirit and soul of our being. May we bring forth in our stewardship of Beacon, a new way, an intention of community built on mutual trust and support. May Beacon be lesson in action and deed for our children that there is opportunity to honor diversity, free thought and to achieve peace, liberty and justice for all.

May it be so,

Rev. Kevin

**Separate Item for this week – Monthly Worship Theme Notes:**

**Monthly Worship Theme Notes**:

Our next three monthly service themes, February, March and April are taken from the artists Paul Gauguin’s statement painted in the piece, “***Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?***  Gauguin inscribed the original French title in the upper left corner: ***D'où Venons Nous / Que Sommes Nous / Où Allons Nous***. The inscription the artist wrote on his canvas has no question mark, no dash, and all words are capitalized. In the upper right corner he signed and dated the painting: *P. Gauguin / 1897*. These words also appear in our hymnal, “Singing the Journey,” within hymn #1003.

During February, we will be exploring our UU, and Beacon Roots, honoring the individuals and events that provide us foundation, acknowledging how we as stewards now tend and care for Beacon. In March, we will explore more of our current lives, we make minor alteration to the statement in the second line, from “What” to “Who” are we. During February and March, you will see that with care and intention, Ministry, Worship Associates, Religious Exploration, Music and Stewardship are working to collaborate and support our Stewardship Campaign 2017 – “Let’s Ignite our Beacon Light!” Culminating in our Celebration Sunday, March 26, a full day of special events within our community, the highlight will be our very special Beacon Installation Service at 4:00pm that afternoon.

Utilizing the last segment of Gaugin’s quote we round out April, “Where Are We Going?” During this month we will celebrate Easter, one of the high holy day of Christendom, the resurrection of Jesus. For many of us UU’s who do not directly follow the Christian path, April is an opportunity for renewal, rebirth, as the sun warms the soil and new life emerges, and the long dormant earth awakens anew. This month will be also hold the Auction sermon purchased by Cassie Dakan, she has selected “What is the future of UUism?” A fitting tie-in to where are we going. We will close out this month and these monthly themes with the very special “Youth Sunday” April 30, 2017. This will be a very special service from RE and Music developed by and presented by our Youth and Children. Where are we going, indeed, let the children teach us and show us the way!

Blessed Be, Rev. Kevin