

## WHO WE ARE

We are a fellowship of Unitarian Universalists who meet to express our individual beliefs and religious convictions. We belong to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and are members of the UUA's Prairie Star District.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Unitarian-Universalist Association has no creed, prophet, or sacred book, but we agree on seven principles:

- ✧ *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.*

## MEMBERSHIP

If you are not now a member of our Fellowship, we hope you will consider joining us. To become a member of UUFM, you must be 16 years of age or older, and signify your commitment to the principles of Unitarian Universalism by signing the Membership Book.

It is understood that members support their Fellowship through attendance, service, and/or financial support.

The Membership Book will be available at every service.

Ask **Shirley Hobrock**, our Social and Membership co-chair, at 776-3175 or [welcome@uufm.net](mailto:welcome@uufm.net), or Reverend Michael Nelson to learn more about membership.

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan

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Manhattan KS 66502  
(785) 537-2349 or [office@uufm.net](mailto:office@uufm.net)

### Reverend Michael Nelson

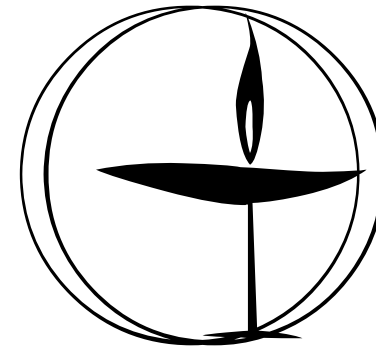
[minister@uufm.net](mailto:minister@uufm.net)

Listen to Sunday services and learn more about UUFM at [www.uufm.net](http://www.uufm.net)

*Welcome to*

## THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MANHATTAN

December 4, 2011



*The Tao is like a well:  
Used but never used up.  
It is like the eternal void:  
Filled with infinite possibilities.*

## UUFM MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to be an evolving religious community where reason and intuition guide our personal journeys of spiritual and moral growth, that call each of us to act for a better world.



*UUFM is a Welcoming Congregation*

**The UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**  
of Manhattan, Kansas  
Sunday, December 4, 2011

**OPENING WORDS**  
Verse 1 from the *Tao Te Ching*

**WELCOMING**

**LIGHTING the CHALICE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN #16** "Tis a Gift to Be Simple"

**PASTORAL CARE**

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION "Tao Bubbles"**  
with Blake Belanger, Michael Nelson, and Cory Zeller

**Children Leave for Religious Education**

*Go now in peace. Go now in peace.*

*May the spirit of love surround you*

*Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.* (Hymn #413)

**OFFERTORY**

Chih-Chen Wei, *Between Stream and Hills*

**SERMON**

**"Venturing Forth: "The Birth of ALL Things"**

with Blake Belanger, Melissa McKee, Laura Lott, Matt Sayre,  
Katie Myhre, Dave Lambert, David McKee,  
Congregation, Ron Parks, and Rev Michael Nelson

**SHARING**

**CLOSING HYMN #323** "Break Not the Circle"

**CLOSING WORDS**

Verse 76 from the *Tao Te Ching*

*The UUFM Tao study group has been meeting at the Fellowship  
to read Lao Tzu's 81 verses of the Tao de Ching.*

*It has been an amazing journey, frustrating, hilarious, sweet,  
yet always turning us toward what can't be named.*

*We share our experience of how 'darkness within darkness'  
can become the 'gateway to all understanding.'*

**GREETING AND REFRESHMENTS**

This morning, **BARBARA HACKER, TERRI FRANZ, GWEN GEISELMAN,** and **SAM LACY** greet visitors. Learn more about coffee and greeting teams from Elke Lorenz at 539-3527 or [ellorenz@uufm.net](mailto:ellorenz@uufm.net)



**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

This morning, 3rd thru 6th graders discuss the role of candle lighting in both Kwanzaa and Hanukkah celebrations. They learn the significance of candle lighting for each holiday and then compare this to our lighting the chalice at the beginning of every service.

K thru 2nd graders explore the Kwanzaa holiday: why it was invented in 1966, what foods are eaten, what gifts are presented, and why it is important to the African American community.

Preschoolers learn about Kwanzaa and other holidays that involve candle lighting as part of their *Chalice Children* curriculum.

In the nursery, infants and toddlers read a book about Kwanzaa and enjoy clementines, as they learn about the meaning of "kwanzaa"--first fruit.

Learn more about youth Religious Education at UUFM from Director of Religious Education Cory Zeller at 537-2349 or [dre@uufm.net](mailto:dre@uufm.net)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **MEN'S LUNCH** meets *every Wednesday*, at 12 noon, in the large RE classroom. Learn more from Jack Warren at 539-4073 or [jomega@ksu.edu](mailto:jomega@ksu.edu)

The UUFM **EXECUTIVE BOARD** meets Thursday, *December 8*, at 7 pm, in the Inez Alsop room. Learn more from Anne Cowan at 537-2025 or [acowan@uufm.net](mailto:acowan@uufm.net)

The UUFM **DRUM CIRCLE** gathers on Friday, *December 9*, at 7 pm, at the Fellowship. Bring your own rhythm instrument, or borrow one of ours. All are invited. Experienced or novice. Learn more from Pat Embers at 539-2819 or [embers1@cox.net](mailto:embers1@cox.net)

The UUFM **PAGAN FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE** gathers on Saturday, *December 10*, in the Fellowship's Inez Alsop room, for the December Full Moon Ritual, led by Morrigan Oran, honoring the Oak Moon. We begin at 5 pm with a potluck meal. Old sage or newly curious, all are warmly welcome. Learn more from Deirdre Greeley at (580) 919-9834 or [saffyrr@gmail.com](mailto:saffyrr@gmail.com)

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**CALLING ALL CHILI COOKS!!!** The theme for our January 14 winter dinner is a "Chili Tasting," and we need members and friends to bring their favorite chili. If you are interested, please submit your name and a description of your chili to Tom Phillips at 405 880-6483 or [twp1@ksu.edu](mailto:twp1@ksu.edu), or Abigail Conrad at 537-0176 or [aconrad@ksu.edu](mailto:aconrad@ksu.edu)

## 67

Some say that my teaching is nonsense.  
Others call it lofty but impractical.  
But to those who have looked inside themselves,  
this nonsense makes perfect sense.  
And to those who put it into practice,  
this loftiness has roots that go deep.

I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures.  
Simple in actions and in thoughts, you return to the source of being. Patient with both friends and enemies, you accord with the way things are.  
Compassionate toward yourself, you reconcile all beings in the world.

## 70

**My teachings are easy to understand and easy to put into practice.**

**Yet your intellect will never grasp them, and if you try to practice them, you'll fail.**

**My teachings are older than the world.**

**How can you grasp their meaning?**

**If you want to know me, look inside your heart.**

## 71

Not-knowing is true knowledge.  
Presuming to know is a disease.  
First realize that you are sick;  
then you can move toward health.

The Master is her own physician.  
She has healed herself of all knowing.  
Thus she is truly whole.

## 73

The Tao is always at ease.  
It overcomes without competing,  
answers without speaking a word,  
arrives without being summoned,  
accomplishes without a plan.

Its net covers the whole universe.  
And though its meshes are wide,  
it doesn't let a thing slip through.

## 76

Men are born soft and supple;  
dead, they are stiff and hard.  
Plants are born tender and pliant;  
dead, they are brittle and dry.

Thus whoever is stiff and inflexible is a disciple of death.  
Whoever is soft and yielding is a disciple of life.

The hard and stiff will be broken.  
The soft and supple will prevail.

## 1

The tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao  
The name that can be named is not the eternal Name.

The unnamable is the eternally real.  
Naming is the origin of all particular things.

Free from desire, you realize the mystery.  
Caught in desire, you see only the manifestations.

Yet mystery and manifestations arise from the same source.  
This source is called darkness.

Darkness within darkness.  
The gateway to all understanding.

## 10

Can you coax your mind from its wandering and keep to the original oneness?

Can you let your body become supple as a newborn child's?  
Can you cleanse your inner vision until you see nothing but the light?  
Can you love people and lead them without imposing your will?  
Can you deal with the most vital matters by letting events take their course?

Can you step back from you own mind and thus understand all things?

Giving birth and nourishing,  
having without possessing,  
acting with no expectations,  
leading and not trying to control:  
this is the supreme virtue.

## 11

We join spokes together in a wheel,  
but it is the center hole that makes the wagon move.

We shape clay into a pot,  
but it is the emptiness inside that holds whatever we want.

We hammer wood for a house,  
but it is the inner space that makes it livable.

We work with being,  
but non-being is what we use.

## 16

Empty your mind of all thoughts.  
Let your heart be at peace.  
Watch the turmoil of beings,  
but contemplate their return.

Each separate being in the universe returns to the common source.  
Returning to the source is serenity.

If you don't realize the source, you stumble in confusion and sorrow.  
When you realize where you come from, you naturally become tolerant, disinterested, amused, kindhearted as a grandmother, dignified as a king.  
Immersed in the wonder of the Tao, you can deal with whatever life brings you, and when death comes, you are ready.

## 23

Express yourself completely,  
then keep quiet.

Be like the forces of nature:  
when it blows, there is only wind;  
when it rains, there is only rain;  
when the clouds pass, the sun  
shines through.

If you open yourself to the Tao,  
you are at one with the Tao  
and you can embody it completely.  
If you open yourself to insight,  
you are at one with insight  
and you can use it completely.  
If you open yourself to loss,  
you are at one with loss  
and you can accept it completely.

Open yourself to the Tao,  
then trust your natural responses;  
and everything will fall into place.

## 25

There was something formless and  
perfect before the universe was  
born.

It is serene. Empty.  
Solitary. Unchanging.  
Infinite. Eternally present.  
It is the mother of the universe.  
For lack of a better name,  
I call it the Tao.

It flows through all things,  
inside and outside, and returns  
to the origin of all things.

The Tao is great.  
The universe is great.  
Earth is great.  
Man is great.  
These are the four great powers.

Man follows the earth.  
Earth follows the universe.  
The universe follows the Tao.  
The Tao follows only itself.

## 31

Weapons are the tools of violence;  
all decent men detest them.

Weapons are the tools of fear;  
a decent man will avoid them  
except in the direst necessity  
and, if compelled, will use them  
only with the utmost restraint.

Peace is his highest value.  
If the peace has been shattered,  
how can he be content?  
His enemies are not demons,  
but human beings like himself.  
He doesn't wish them personal  
harm.  
Nor does he rejoice in victory.  
How could he rejoice in victory  
and delight in the slaughter of  
men?

He enters a battle gravely,  
with sorrow and with great  
compassion, as if he were  
attending a funeral.

## 32

The Tao can't be perceived.  
Smaller than an electron,  
it contains uncountable galaxies.

If powerful men and women  
could remain centered in the Tao,  
all things would be in harmony.  
The world would become a  
paradise.

All people would be at peace,  
and the law would be written in  
their hearts.

When you have names and forms,  
know that they are provisional.  
When you have institutions,  
know where their functions should  
end.  
Knowing when to stop,  
you can avoid any danger.

All things end in the Tao  
as rivers flow into the sea.

## 51

Every being in the universe  
is an expression of the Tao.  
It springs into existence,  
unconscious, perfect, free,  
takes on a physical body,  
lets circumstances complete it.  
That is why every being  
spontaneously honors the Tao.

The Tao gives birth to all beings,  
nourishes them, maintains them,  
cares for them, comforts them,  
protects them,  
takes them back to itself,  
creating without possessing,  
acting without expecting,  
guiding without interfering.  
That is why love of the Tao  
is in the very nature of things.

## 61

When a country obtains great  
power, it becomes like the sea:  
all streams run downward into it.  
The more powerful it grows,  
the greater the need for humility.

Humility means trusting the Tao,  
thus never needing to be  
defensive.

A great nation is like a great man:  
When he makes a mistake, he  
realizes it.  
Having realized it, he admits it.  
Having admitted it, he corrects it.  
He considers those who point out  
his faults as his most benevolent  
teachers.  
He thinks of his enemy  
as the shadow that he himself  
casts.

If a nation is centered in the Tao,  
if it nourishes its own people  
and doesn't meddle in the affairs  
of others, it will be a light to all  
nations in the world.

## 63

Act without doing;  
work without effort.  
Think of the small as large  
and the few as many.  
Confront the difficult  
while it is still easy;  
accomplish the great task  
by a series of small acts.

The Master never reaches for the  
great;  
thus she achieves greatness.  
When she runs into a difficulty,  
she stops and gives herself to it.  
She doesn't cling to her own  
comfort;  
thus problems are no problem for  
her.

Please join us following the morning service on

Sunday, December 11



for a



# Holiday Craft and Bake Sale

benefiting the Fellowship's General Operations Fund



*What a fun way to find the perfect, handcrafted gifts to fill out your Holiday list.*

Please give some consideration to crafts and baked goods that you might want to donate to the sale.

For more information, or to learn how you can help, ask **KATHLEEN OLDFATHER** at 537-3738 or [kjoldfather@gmail.com](mailto:kjoldfather@gmail.com)



Fellowship members Cybil Perkins and Tom Philips invite you to

## Harmony for the Holidays

a joint concert by  
the Wamego Dutch Mill Chorus and the Little Apple Chorus  
on Sunday  
**December 11**

The show, at **2 pm**, and **7 pm**, will be the inaugural event in the new Manhattan Conference Center, 410 South 3rd Street  
A cash bar and light appetizers will be available.

For tickets, see Cybil or Tom,  
or pick them up at the Manhattan Town Center Service Desk.  
Adults \$12; Seniors, Military & Students, \$10; Children 12 and under \$6.

## Child Dedication Ceremony



During the Sunday service on **December 18**, Reverend Michael Nelson will perform a child dedication ceremony. If you would like your child to be formally dedicated and welcomed into our Fellowship family, please contact Cory Zeller at 537-2349 or [dre@uufm.net](mailto:dre@uufm.net), or Michael at 537-2349 or [minister@uufm.net](mailto:minister@uufm.net)



## Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent Information Meeting

This winter, January 8 thru February 26, we host two sections of OWL classes (K-1 and 4-6). If your children will attend, please join us **following this morning's service**. There's time to run home and pack a lunch. We begin at **1 pm**.

Meet the teachers, learn about the curriculum, and get to know other parents. *Childcare will be provided.*

## Holiday Cookie Swap

*Dust off your favorite recipe, and let's make cookies!*

Join us Saturday, **December 17**, from **2 to 4 pm**, for family fun. Bring three dozen holiday cookies and get dozens of different cookies in return. There will be sugar cookies ready for the kids to decorate. It should be sweet holiday fun for all.



## Respect for our Shared Space

*The Fellowship should feel like a second home to our kids, but lately things have been a getting wild and messy. The couches in the Neptune Room (backstage) are not trampolines. Everyone needs to remember to put toys away. And food, drinks, and dirty dishes must be returned to the kitchen.*

*Please remind your children to respect our shared spaces.*

*Let's make this a beautiful and welcoming home for all!*

Learn more from Cory Zeller at 537-2349 or [dre@uufm.net](mailto:dre@uufm.net)