

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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SERMON: “Unitarian Summertime”

In the rhythms of our lives we need summer moments of respite, noticed and appreciated. Let’s prepare for a time of appreciative awareness that only summer can bring to our lives. And on this Father’s Day Sunday let us also recognize fathers—biologic or others—who have influenced and molded our lives.

Dr. Lisa Jennings will deliver the sermon at the eleven o’clock service.

Church of the River Calendar Quotation of the Week

“Let the pulpit resound with the doctrines and sentiments of religious liberty.” — John Adams, 1765

Sunday, June 20

9:30 a.m. The Quest Group will meet in the Beacon Room to consider “The Bible—Down & Dirty”

10:00 a.m. Questions of Faith will be discussing Questions for the Soul, subtitled “If You’re Searching for the Answers, Here Are the Questions.” For further information, contact Josie Crane @ 572-7337.

Childcare for infants and preschoolers.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Childcare for Infants and Preschoolers.

Kindergarten will meet in their classroom.

Grades 1-5 will meet in the Chalice Room.

noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.

12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at El Porton Mexican Restaurant in the Poplar Plaza shopping center.

Wednesday, June 23

7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, June 24

7:00 p.m. River Readers will meet at the of Tuck Dickerson for a discussion of ***The Second Coming*** by Walker Percy.

To All Newsletter Contributors:

The last weekly newsletter before the summer months will be published **next Monday**—June 21. It will cover events from June 23 through July 27.

The Midsummer Newsletter will be published July 26 and will cover events between July 28 and August 31.

The first weekly newsletter of the fall will be published August 30.

Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

School may be out, but Children’s Ministry continues year round.

Every Sunday, childcare will be available beginning at 10 o’clock in the nursery and pre-school with Mary Park and Elizabeth Turner.

At 11 o’clock June 20, the kindergarten will meet with Brenda Lanier in their classroom. Children in grades 1-5 will meet in the Chalice Room with Katy Spurlock for the second session of our monthly focus on Outreach. This week we will focus on the work of The Heifer Project.

On June 27 we’ll hear about UNICEF. Middle and High School students are invited to these outreach sessions or to worship in the sanctuary.

Our Summer of Faith programming for children is entitled “Poetic Creations: Reflections on Our World through Art and Poetry”. These workshops led by Katie Jones and Amanda Cook Myers begin July 11 and run through August 22 on Sunday mornings at 11 o’clock.

COR’s Advertising and PR committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to staff a booth at the Cooper-Young Festival Saturday, September 18, to hand out information and answer questions from festival-goers who might be interested in visiting or joining the church. Volunteers would work in 2 to 4 hour shifts.

The committee is also looking for volunteers who might be interested in spearheading and planning a fun, new social event for one afternoon or evening in late summer/early fall, aimed at attracting visitors and new members. If interested in either opportunity, please call or email committee chair Rod Starns (821-9194, rstarns@runningpony.com) by June 30th.

Katy Spurlock will be the Care Coordinator in June.
You can reach Katy at 276-9502

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



The July/August “ideas” issue of *the Atlantic* arrived and on the front cover was the symbol for the human male but with the suggestive arrow limply bending in a downward position. In bold black is the startling claim: **THE END OF MEN**. Then comes the punch line: “How women are taking control—of everything.” Of course, to get anyone to read much today about anything so lame in entertainment value as “ideas,” requires a little vaudeville type attention getting. I grew up in a time when the feminist movement was making history rather than talked about as a part of history. It was not uncommon to hear some folks speak unkindly of that tension filled time as the “gender wars.” The magazine title brought back those memories.

From the 1960’s to 2010 there has been a remarkable change in the flexibility of gender roles, how a family is defined, and the how one thinks about the good mother or the good father. When I see young couples preparing for their wedding I ask them to reflect on the structure of marriage and the family from their grandparents or great-grandparents point of view. I point out the women who went to work in the Second World War effort enjoyed their new economic power and continued to work after the “boys” came home. Now women serve in the military in combat situations. I point out how the advent of the “pill” changed everything and that next to the printing press may be the second most prominent social change agent in human history. All this introduces the question of what marriage and family means to the couple.

In *the Atlantic* article we are told that women have become the majority of the workforce for the first time in U.S. history. We learn how most managers are now women, and that for every two men who get a college degree this year, three women will do the same. The author of the article, Hanna Rosin, reports that dozens of women she interview assumed that they very well might be the ones working while their husbands stayed at home. A college senior said that guys “are the new ball and chain.” This shift from the alpha male to the alpha female comes with a price. Rates of violence committed by middle-aged women have steeply risen since the 1980’s.

The role of the father is further complicated by how studies tend to compare what dads do and provide on contrasts between married-couple parents and single-female parents. This conflates gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and biogenetic relationships so that it is difficult to get a clear picture of the contribution of fathers to the quality of parenting.

Then I think about that the murder of Neda Agha-Soltan during the street protests in Iran’s presidential election. Her image captured international interest and as her story unfolded the oppression of women by a fundamentalist regime illustrates how the role of women in various cultures is still dominated by male religious and political perspectives.

So we come to Father’s Day in this confused social atmosphere where the only thing for sure is change. We live our lives between the story of Neda and the story of the end of men. As always our need is to understand the fathers we are related to, the story we are in. However they fit into they larger story of the social evolution of how men and women relate to each other, we must seek to appreciate their strengths and forgive their weaknesses. This part of human relationships has not changed. We could call it love. bc

Thanks

for gifts to the Endowment/
Memorial Fund from [Helen Jaseph](#)
and [Lynn Jaseph Jones](#) in mem-
ory of **Carrie and Larry Jaseph**.

Thanks, also to [Bobby and Nancy Walton](#) for a gift to the Endowment/Memorial Fund in honor of **Lisa Nezwazky** on her birthday.

Many of you will remember Elaine Blanchard and her captivating story telling ability as a guest speaker at COR.

You won’t want to miss her performance of her play “**For Goodness Sake**” as part of Playhouse on the Square’s summer solo performance series. Her show will be on July 1 and 2 at TheatreWorks at 2085 Monroe. You can get tickets through the POTS box office at 901 726-4656.

Writer’s Workshop

Turning Memories into Memoirs:
Publishing and Distributing
Saturday, June 19th, 2010
1-3:30 p.m.

It’s Free. It’s fun

Tunica Museum
Tunica, MS 38676

COME WRITE WITH US!

Contact Dr. Rachell Anderson
Rander5022@wildblue.net

Keys, Keys, Keys

If you are holding a set of church keys and you are no longer using them would you please return them to the office.

I have need of more sets of keys to a) give on a temporary basis or b) someone new to a job, now needs a set of keys.

Margaret Park

A Summer of Faith

Summer of Faith will begin on Sunday, July 11, 2010. Our theme this year is Faith and Justice. We ask the question: If God is just, why is there so much injustice in the world? Our speakers will try to answer that question. They are:

Jamey Lee: Pastor of Jacobs Well a new church in Memphis catering to those in 12 step recovery programs.

John Gilmore: A member of the adjunct faculty in the Anthropology Department at the University of Memphis and Senior Minister and Director of Spiritual Development at Open Heart Spiritual Center.

The Rev. Dr. Cossette Garrett: A member of the faculty of Memphis Theological Seminary.

Maxie Dunham: Former pastor of Christ United Methodist Church.

Ellen Klyce: A member of this church since birth, a graduate of Harvard and Memphis Theological Seminary where she is a member of the faculty.

Micah Greenstein: Rabbi of Temple Israel

John McQuiston: Local lawyer and author of books on religion and spirituality.

Jarad Bingham: Pastor of Shady Grove Presbyterian

Brochures are available on the Welcoming table.

Leadership Retreat for the 2010—11 Church Year September 18th at the church from 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

This year the usual August retreat for the board of trustees, committee/ministry chairs and staff will be Saturday, September 18th. Please put this important meeting on your calendar.