

# Calendar – April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  5pm Bradley audio preservation group	2 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>  <i>P.C. auditorium:</i> 6pm <b>Tenebrae svc</b>	3
4 <b>EASTER</b> 9am Breakfast 10am Service	5	6	7	8	9  <i>Molly's Café:</i> 6pm Taizé svc, 7pm Coffeehouse, "Broken Hip Unplugged"	10
11 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees, <i>in Molly's Café</i>	12	13	14	15  7pm Book Group at <b>Borders: Three Cups of Tea</b> , by Greg Mortenson	16	17  7pm – Joseph Bures piano recital <i>Dinner-dance benefit for 2 Li'l Fishes at the White Eagle, Niles, 6pm</i>
18 10am Service	19	20	21	22	23  <i>P.C. auditorium:</i> 6pm – Film Night "Lean on Me"	24
25 10am Service	26	27	28	29	30  UUA Central Midwest District Annual Meeting	1 <b>MAY</b>  UUA Central Midwest District Annual Meeting

**The Peoples Church of Chicago**

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## Minister's Notes, cont'd

The Easter message is that of renewal of hope and reassurance that the world is not really turned upside down, that the Universe is ultimately ruled by love.

Christians speak of the Resurrection as central to their faith, the idea that Christ's death was an atonement for all people, for all time – a blood sacrifice that need never be made again; and that his release from death represents a release for all people from death into everlasting life with God.

Just as my UCC colleague Rev. Bob Ford has interpreted Unitarian Universalist theology in his sermons, I will try turning the tables, and interpreting Christian theology on Easter Sunday. Unitarian Universalists are sometimes accused of doing "Easter lite" – all about bunnies and eggs. I will describe some of the various interpretations of the meaning of the Resurrection, and attempt to make sense of this very complex theology in a modern context.

Still thinking of the idea of change and loss and how we humans deal with it, consider the Buddhist approach: as a way of helping people to not cling to the present, which quickly becomes past, they speak of the impermanence of things. Today's crisis is meaningless, in the long run. In short, dust to dust, ashes to ashes.

I was talking with one of our very old members, who is currently in the hospital – she may be facing her own death, in the near future. "I don't know where I'll be next week," she said, "if I'll be back in the nursing home, or if I'll even be alive." I asked her if she was afraid. "No, I'm not afraid," she said immediately. "God knows what is in store – I don't know. I just leave it all in God's hands."

"Yup," I said, half in jest, "None of us gets out of life alive." "That's right," she agreed, "None of us gets out of life alive. But it's all right."

She was celebrating the wild ride that life itself is – the sorrows and joys of living. And for her, God has been the ground of her being, the steady presence, the steadfast support and solace through all the tragedy – and the blessings – of her long life.

We each have our own understanding of our place in the Universe, and how we relate to the Divine, how we even conceive of God, or "that which is bigger than us." Some of us believe in an afterlife, others don't.

But all of us rejoice in the signs and symbols of new life, of the revival of hope, whether it is in the context of Easter and its annual mystical Resurrection, or in passage of long-awaited legislation, or in the Earth reviving, reawakening, in the spring.

peace, *Jean*

## Coffeehouse

This month the Coffeehouse moves to Second Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The group "Broken Hip Unplugged," which includes some of our regulars, will be playing at 7pm, following the 6pm Taizé service. Broken Hip plays rock at clubs around the Chicago area, and "Unplugged" is their acoustic incarnation. This foursome will be playing well-known songs we can sing along to.



## Haiti Benefit

Last month we held a benefit for children of Haiti at which we had three top-flight folk and jazz artists: singer-songwriters Joe Jencks and

Kristin Lems, and jazz violinist Samuel Williams. They wowed us with their playing and singing on the stage, light-bedecked and festooned with Haitian flag colored streamers.

We collected 400-500 pounds of clothing, diapers and other items, which we delivered to the Haitian American Community Association, plus cash totaling \$110.50, which we sent to the Doctors Without Borders Haiti project.

The event was the brainchild of Jennifer Wolfe, whose work and dedication made it happen. Thanks also to Isaac Barrantine and the whole staff – Michael, Will and Jeff – for collecting and moving bags and boxes of stuff for the little ones.



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# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for April, 2010

*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

### CALENDAR

#### Film/Movie Night –

**Fri, Apr 23, 6pm: "Lean On Me"**  
– students of a besieged high sch. principal help him save his school, starring **Morgan Freeman**. With popcorn, followed by discussion.

#### Upcoming Services

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, **Rev. Jean Darling** preaching, with stories and poetry and music.
- **Fri, Apr 2, 6pm:** Good Friday **Tenebrae** service.
- **Sun, Apr 4, 9am:** **Easter** potluck breakfast, Easter service at 10.
- **Sun, Apr 25, 10am:** **Rev. David Safeblade** preaching.

#### Other Events

- **"Second Fri," Apr 9, 6pm:** **Taizé service**, followed by **"Broken Hip Unplugged"** at the **Coffeehouse**, great sing-along music, with coffee & Ludie's yummy cake.
- **Sat, Apr 17, 7pm, Piano Recital:** Joseph Bures plays **Chopin and Beethoven**.

#### 2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

If you would like to help, phone Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, 773-754-6102.

#### Minister's Notes:

#### "Spring Has Sprung"

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

We had a taste of spring a week ago – the air soft, the sun warming our faces, new bird song just audible through the storm windows, the grass starting to green up. The fact that it snowed on the Spring Equinox – the first day of spring – doesn't discourage us. We know winter is down for the count.

The Easter season is a time for thinking of new life, of fresh starts, of the resurrection of old projects lying around in our basements...or in our attics: Peoples Church has lots of rooms upstairs where things are tucked away, and we've started investigating. Even though a lot has been lost since the great orator's retirement in 1978, it's a treasure trove of Preston Bradley material: we've found photos, sermon and lecture collections, and last but not least, some old reel-to-reel tapes of Dr. Bradley's sermons dating as far back as the 1930's.

Seminarian Joe Cherry is helping us figure out how to handle and preserve these audio treasures – so watch our web page for news of some of these sermons becoming available to the public...



#### Easter Season at Peoples Church

*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

- **Palm Sunday, 3/28:** 10 am service, with a joyful procession of the palms.
- **Good Friday, 4/2, 6pm:** **Tenebrae service** – candles, readings, music – to grieve the darkness in the world.
- **Easter Sunday, 4/4, 9am:** Potluck **Easter Breakfast**; followed by celebration of **Easter** at 10am.

*Where mystical humanism meets the emerging Christian church.*

Easter is also a time to reflect on change – what a wild ride of ups and downs! If we contemplate the Easter story as experienced by Jesus' followers 2000 years ago – his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, hailed as the Messiah, followed by the horror of his execution, we experience what must have been their roller-coaster of elation and hope and then despair, and then, joy.

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