

Calendar – Sept-Oct 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 10am Service	13	14	15 10-11:30 – PBC Board meeting	16	17	18 7pm – Joseph Bures piano recital
19 10am Service	20	21	22	23 1:30 – 2 Li'l Fishes Development Comm	24 6pm – Film Night “Lean on Me” <i>P.C. auditorium</i>	25 PC Board of Trustees retreat
26 10am Service 2pm – Treasures of Uptown Interfaith at Temple Shalom	27	28	29	30	1 OCTOBER	2
3 communion 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees	4	5	6	7	8 6pm Taizé svc, 7pm Coffeehouse <i>Molly's Café</i>	9
10 10am Service	11	12 6:30pm Worship Committee	13 10am PBC Board	14	15	16 7pm Joseph Bures classical piano <i>P.C. auditorium</i>
17 10am Service	18	19 6:30pm Treasures planning mtg	20	21	22 6pm – Film Night	23
24 10am Service 11:30am Potluck	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10am Service						

Minister's Notes, cont'd

I don't blame people for being afraid of terrorists. No one wants to live in fear. But responding with hate – Molotov cocktails against synagogue walls, graffiti scrawled on religious institutions, not to mention physical assaults, like the turbaned Sikhs who have been beaten – themselves are a kind of terrorism.

That's not the message I want to send the world about America.

I'd much rather we communicated our concern for people's lives – for children getting enough to eat, and being able to go to school. I'd rather we let people know we cared about women being able to earn a living and go to college and speak freely in their countries. I would wish we would do what we can to support entrepreneurs and teachers and social workers and people who know how to run a government agency – the people who can make a modern society work.

Americans have done that – expressed our compassion – over and over. When the earthquakes hit Haiti and then Chile, Americans send millions of dollars in small donations to help.

The Qur'an burning (proposal) was just one instance of the anti-Muslim furor that has been stirred up in the past months. We hope our religious and political leaders will begin to address the root causes of this unease.

One of the outcomes of the fear and anti-Muslim sentiment of late is that in the face of the incredible devastation of the monsoon floods in Pakistan, the compassionate response has been only lukewarm.

Who deserves our compassion?

We may have distaste for the military government of Pakistan, or anger at the involvement of some of its citizens in anti-American actions. I hope we don't allow those feelings to stop us from seeing the very real need of literally millions of its people, or to stop us from feeling compassion for people who are suddenly homeless, hungry, whose lives have been devastated by this natural disaster.

If you want to reaffirm the American heart, to show the world what we are really about, you can give to Pakistan flood relief – through many different organizations, including the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: <http://www.uusc.org/>.

We believe in religious tolerance – it is one of our foundational beliefs because our own early proponents were persecuted. We also believe in free speech – but burning books as an expression of free speech? Sorry, too much cognitive dissonance for me. I love books – let's read them, not burn them. Let's argue about what's in them, but not kill each other over them.

peace, *Jean*

Sing, sing, sing!

Beginning this Wednesday, folksinger **Kristin Lems** will be holding an open sing for children ages 7-14 each week from 3-4pm. She's also going to run a pick-up choir on Sunday mornings – come at 9 and sing your heart out!

Interfaith Celebration – what does “shelter” mean to you?

You're invited to an Interfaith gathering to celebrate SHELTER, on Sunday, September 26, 2-4pm, at Temple Shalom, 3480 North Lake Shore Dr.



Rabbi Taron Tachman will lead us in sharing our own experiences of shelter, and exploring what our various faith communities have to say about it.

RSVP: admin@peopleschurchchicago.org, or call 773-784-6633.



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ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for Sept-October, 2010

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience "

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night

- ? **Fri, Sept 24, 6pm:** Movie Night resumes with **"Lean On Me,"** starring Morgan Freeman. With popcorn, followed by discussion.

Upcoming Services

- ? **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, **Rev. Jean Darling** preaching.

Other Events

- ? **Sat, Sept 18, 7pm, Piano Recital:** Joseph Bures plays Busoni, Brahms, and Poulenc.
- ? **Sun, Sept 26, 2-4pm, at Temple Sholom:** Treasures of Uptown **interfaith gathering** to reflect on "Shelter" during the Jewish festival of Sukkot –What does our faith say about shelter?
- ? **"Second Friday," Oct 8, 6pm:** Taizé service, Coffeehouse at 7pm with guest artist singer-songwriter **Lee Murdock**. Freewill offering; coffee and Ludie's delicious cake cheap!

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:

"Who Deserves Compassion?"

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

We are in a moment of deep distrust, fear, and anxiety, showing itself in acts of lashing out, masked as "strength" – like the misguided call to burn Qur'ans on September 11, last Saturday. Or, if you are feeling especially cynical, you are reminded that we are in election season, and elections, like newspapers, sell better when people get excited.

We're grateful that this incendiary invitation mostly fizzled.

Quietly, in other settings, people are doing things to stand in solidarity with our Muslim brethren. The American Islamic College, right down the way from us on Irving Park, held an interfaith Iftar dinner last week during Ramadan, with speakers including a rabbi, a Catholic priest, and other religious leaders.

And we have been gathering interfaith supporters in the **Treasures of Uptown** group, which includes some from our congregation, as well as representatives from the Buddhist, Jewish, and Islamic faiths. We are holding our next event on Sunday, September 26th at Temple Sholom, 3480 N. Lake Shore Drive, at 2pm. Everyone is welcome. You can pick up a flier on-line at www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org/events.

Because it is happening during Sukkot, the Jewish Festival of Booths, we will be reflecting together – whoever shows up – on what shelter means to us, and what our faith has to say about it. If you are interested, please contact us for more information or to let us know you're coming.

Our last gathering (in May), though small, was very satisfying to everyone there, and people were eager for more interfaith dialog and learning together.

We've only just begun. We don't really know each other very well, and are still learning about one another's religion. We may yet hit some rough spots, but we hope we will trust enough to stay at the table together. In November, we plan to focus on Islam and in February, on Buddhism.

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