Sunday Worship Schedule
10:00 AM

May 1st
Title: Enough
By Bev Feldt
In a world where we’re encouraged to grab all we can, does "enough" still have meaning?

May 8th
Title: “A Community of Mothers”
By Leanne Roth
A Mother’s Day message for all.

May 15th
Title: “Humans Wrote the Bible, God Wrote Life - The Teachings of John Shelby Spong”
By February Sky
(Susan Urban & Phil Cooper)
The word “God” can be a hot-button for many Unitarian Universalists. But maverick retired Episcopal bishop John Shelby Spong, whose best known book is “Why Christianity Must Change or Die,” gives us some new ways of looking at the concept. We will explore the ideas of this courageous and far-sighted man.

May 22nd
Title: “Goodness”
By Rev. Denise Tracy
According to some religions we are born in sin. How about if we turn this around to say we are born in blessing. Is our human nature living out a promise of evil or of good? This service we will explore a different view of our life’s purpose from a positive viewpoint.

May 29th
Title: Religious and Character Education - Exploring Faiths
By The RCE kids
We visited many different religions during this past year -- Paganism, Judaism, Christian, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Come join us! We’d like to share what we learned, celebrate, and thank you for your support.

The President’s Column by Bruce Swiecicki

The Rites of Spring

Springtime is here and with it come the rituals that we all are familiar with, including activities like gardening and baseball, as well as the events that we celebrate at UUCC. Consider the Fellowship Dinner. This year Laurene suggested something new: Thai cuisine. Continuing our exploration of the world’s great religions, Thai food is perhaps best associated with the Buddhist traditions from the Far East. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the evening as we kicked off our Pledge Drive, the results of which will be determined over the next couple weeks as our congregation gears up for its annual meeting on May 15th. Please plan to attend that meeting and exercise your vote as the congregation decides its priorities and approves a budget for the coming church year, which begins July 1.

The UUCC community has demonstrated once again that our capacity for serving the extended community knows no limits. As an example, there was no hesitation on our volunteers’ part to step up and fill the need to provide meals for the entire PADS year once it became known that our partner church was no longer able to fulfill that need. And anyone who visits our church on Sundays would be impressed not only with the good attendance but also the increased participation of young families and their children. The energy that accompanies their presence is palpable and stimulating for us all and leaves one with the assurance that the UU message will continue to be passed on to succeeding generations. Congratulations and gratitude to Melissa Schwartz, this year’s UUCC Unsung Hero, for the time and effort she and all the other supporters put in to revitalizing the youth program at our church.

The time we spend in church is just a small part of our week, but the potential for personal and communal growth that results from our being there can be much greater. There is still much to be done. There always will be. So this Spring, here’s to hoping that we continue to blossom and fulfill our greatest potential.

~Bruce
We have begun distributing a member information survey.

It will include a request for contact information and an interest checklist. The purpose of the survey is to correct and update member and friend information and facilitate bringing people with similar interests together. Copies of the survey will be in the Gathering Room at UUCC; we’ll put the survey online soon. We hope to have 100% participation. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Feldt at dfeldt@gmail.com

Michigan Mosque Takes in Homeless Unitarian Church

(RNS) The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Lansing is getting a new church this spring — but not quite soon enough. Hearing of construction lags and its neighbor’s need for a temporary home, a mosque in East Lansing offered up its worship space — for free. “No charge whatsoever,” said the Rev. Kathryn Bert. “It’s been a lovely story to live. It has been a beautiful relationship.”

Since April 3, the church has been gathering at the mosque. The offer from the Islamic Society of Greater Lansing came with no strings attached, but in thanks the church decided to dedicate its plate offering one Sunday this month to the mosque. The mosque, in turn, plans to donate all or part of the offering to Islamic Relief USA, which locally is helping victims of the Flint water crisis and to resettle refugees.

The arrangement is particularly practical because the church gathers on Sundays, and the mosque’s main prayer day is Friday. “It worked out well for us both,” Sohail Chaudhry, the imam of the Islamic Society, told the Lansing State Journal. He said he hoped the arrangement would “provide an example to other faith-based communities around the nation.” The mosque welcomed the church with coffee when it held its first service there this month. The church expects to be in its new home in May.

Lauren Markoe

(Lauren Markoe has been a national reporter for RNS since 2011. Previously she covered government and politics as a daily reporter at the Charlotte Observer and The State (Columbia, S.C.))

April was a very busy month in the Religious and Character Education classes. We went to a Hindu temple where we learned how many gods help us see the divine in all of us.

We rehearsed for the RCE service coming on May 29. Please come and help us celebrate a wonderful year of discovery.

On April 22, many of us attended a Seder. We found out what each of the items on the Seder plate represent.

We took our class outside and enjoyed our beautiful woods.

Whew! April was a busy month. Time to take a break.
Fellowship Dinner Success!! – We had a wonderful event this year with lots of good food, good friends and great entertainment! Thanks go out to everyone who made this event possible. Special recognition goes to the Siam Thai restaurant in Flossmoor for the excellent catering. We hope you will visit them in the future.

Services & Soirees Raffle Winners – If you won a service at the raffle, please be in touch with the donor. Unfortunately, the winners of the various services were not recorded, so we must leave it up to you to let your donor know that you have won their service. The service donation is valid for one year. The slips you received mistakenly indicated services must be claimed by the end of April 2016. . . . That should have indicated services must be claimed by the end of April 2017. However, in the meantime please let your donors know who won their services. Thank you! Sorry for the miscommunication.
May 1st: No Forum—Pot Luck Community Sunday

May 8th: Care of the Earth

May 15th: No Forum—Annual Congregational Meeting

May 22nd: Who Is Meher Baba?
Jonathan Bader & Fereshteh Azad will share their personal stories of coming to know of and follow the Indian spiritual master Avatar Meher Baba. The presentation will include a 30-minute biographical film. Jonathan and Fereshteh, who have had contact with many of His closest disciples, will also share key messages and guidance from Meher Baba on attaining the aim of life. The presentation will be followed by a Question and Answer session.

May 29th: No Forum—Memorial Day Weekend

Pastoral Care: Listening Hearts
Two Listening Hearts, or members of the Lay Pastoral Care team, are on hand each month to serve your needs. They are not acting as professional counselors, but rather a source for listening, support and resources. Listening Hearts will soon have a ribbon on their name tags to identify them. If you do not spot one of them at church, or if you wish to talk to one of them in particular, please contact the office.
This Month: Barb Morris & Darlene Obejda

Leaf Clean-up
We are still looking for volunteers to help remove leaves from around the church building. Rakes, wheelbarrows and a leaf blower are all available for your use. Please contact the church office (708-481-5339) to get the combination for the lock on the shed or contact Nancy Irons (708-712-3228) for more information.

The Future in Our Hands

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled to be held on May 15th. Our 2016-17 Annual Operating Fund Budget will be discussed and voted upon. Members will be elected to the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee.
Rainbow Café

Rainbow Café is a social event that provides a safe and welcoming environment for single or partnered gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adults and their allies, by creating a space where they are able to socialize outside of the usual bars. The Café is open every 3rd Friday of the month from 6:30-10:30 pm.

The Café will meet on May 20th at 6:30pm. Movie: “Pride”

https://youtu.be/kZfFvsKDuUU

Sacred Communication Workshops
May Dates: TBA

These Transformative Workshops will help you in identifying and dissolving mental and emotional blockages, learning to use your authentic voice, defining authentic friendships, and more.

For Information Call
Rev. Henrietta Byrd:
312-593-4732

A Moment in Balance

Yoga Classes by Karen Nielsen
Monday and Thurs
9:30am – 11am
Wednesday evenings
7:00pm – 8:30pm

No reservations needed. Drop-in fee is $10 per class and the 6th one is FREE.

Buddhist Meditation

Learn and enjoy the simple, straight-forward practice of meditation. Please join us for sitting and walking meditation in the Zen and Theravadan Buddhist traditions. This is an ongoing event led by Steve McCabe and Beverly Feldt.

When: Saturdays at 9am to 10:30am
Location: UUCC
Cost: Free Will offering, (proceeds go to UUCC)
Contact: For questions, contact Steve McCabe (708) 465-3116 or Beverly Feldt - bevfeldt@gmail.com

Dances of Universal Peace: Family Passover Seder

3rd Sunday of the month. (Sept-June)

Dances of Universal Peace are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 2-4pm at UUCC. We join our voices in singing sacred phrases and Divine Names from many spiritual traditions while moving in circle dances and walking meditations. For more information contact certified dance leader, Pat Segner, at 708-748-2217.

DUP will meet May 15th

Love to Sing??

Join the UUCC Choir! The Choir sings on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, with rehearsals on those days at 8:30am and one weekday evening per month. No experience required. If interested email our choir director Bev Feldt at bevfeldt@gmail.com.

The Medical Cannabis Education Association meets every month on the First Sunday at 12 noon

May 1st Topic: The Role of the Dispensary

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DUP will meet May 15th
I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I just lived the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well.

Diane Ackerman

https://midwest.breakfree2016.org/

May 2016: We’re mobilizing to shut down the world’s most dangerous fossil fuel projects and support the most ambitious climate solutions.

When you sit around the fire in 10 or 20 years what will you say you did? Standing up to the faceless corporations destroying our communities and planet is the Moral Challenge of our time! Will you answer the call? Will you stand up? Sign up for the historic May 15th Action at the BP Refinery outside of Chicago where we will Break Free from Fossil Fuels!

Andy Stevens has rallied to bring everyone that can go to this demonstration. I encourage all that can go to go. We become a part of the solution to a society that needs nudging to make this important change. Bring me pictures or better yet someone can write about it in the newsletter for Green Sanctuary.

Global Warming Talk
Speaker: Seth Darling
May 17, 2016
McCormick Building, Tribune Auditorium

This is an excellent speaker. I hope you will put this on your calendar and attend.
Barb Morris, Melinda Elliot, Jeff Green, Pat Coffey

When you take action for climate you become a climate leader. Melinda was our excellent driver to Springfield for the clean jobs bill. I really had a great time with these fellow climate leaders reaching out to our senators and representatives.
Anne Hills has become one of the better known voices of the contemporary folk music scene, receiving award and recognition for her live performances, her unique solo and collaborative recording projects, and her overall artistry and benefit work. Her song “Follow That Road” was the title cut of the Martha’s Vinyard Songwriter Retreat and has enchanted audiences for over a decade. Though collaborative work is the keystone in Anne’s Career, it is her singing and interpretive gifts that have received the most attention. 1998 saw the release of Anne’s performances on two of the most talked about compilations of the year, placing her voice along side Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne and The Indigo Girls. http://www.annehills.com/

Free Movie and Discussion Night
Friday, May 27th - 7pm
“Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot”

This film tells the story of a courageous group of students and teachers who, along with other activists, fought a nonviolent battle to win voting rights for African Americans in the South. Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot is a powerful film that educates about the struggle for voting rights and the power of each person to bring about social change. Join in the lively discussion following the film. Free tea, coffee, and snacks.

Medical Cannabis Education Association presents
an evening of cannabis education and advocacy training co-hosted by Illinois Women in Cannabis. Illinois Women in Cannabis is a non-profit organization encouraging medical cannabis advocacy, empowerment, and education for women (and men) in Illinois. This free educational event is open to the public. Tuesday May 17, 2016 from 6-8pm.
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**MCEA Meeting — Sunday, May 1st, Noon till 1pm:**
Steve Weisman CEO of Windy City Cannabis will discuss the role of the dispensary and the IL Medical Cannabis Program.
Church Information
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL  60466
PHONE: 708-481-5339
E-Mail: churchadmin@uuccpf.org
Web: www.uuccpf.org

Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month
This newsletter is designed and published by Diane O’Connor

*You can help save a tree and a stamp by simply picking up your newsletter or receiving it electronically via email.

Visit us on the web @ www.uuccpf.org