June 5th
Title: A Meditation on Psalm 23
By Rev. Denise Tracy
Psalm 23 has become a Psalm at many funerals. Was it created for this? What other ways might we see this Psalm?

June 12th
Title: LGBTQ Pride & Justice
By Don Bell
This discussion will center on the intersection of sexual orientation and gender identity as impacted by race in experience and perception in American society. Questions and comments are welcome.

June 19th
Title: Saying Goodbye to My Father
By Leanne Roth
A lighthearted service for anyone who has ever cared for anyone else.

June 26th
Title: Tree of Life
By Jennifer Cottrill
World mythologies abound with stories and images of trees. This sermon explores the gifts trees give us, symbolically and literally—and encourage us to look at how we can more mindfully coexist with what Thomas Moore has called “humankind’s closest companions in nature.”

The President’s Column by Bruce Swiecicki

The new church year is soon to be upon us and it’s time for me to sign off as UUCC’s president. Four years have gone by and during that time we’ve celebrated the lives of several longtime members who’ve passed away. We’ve also welcomed new faces who began to not only appear in church regularly, but who’ve also taken on leadership roles in our church community. It’s a beautiful thing, every bit of it.

When I came on board as president we had just lost our half-time minister, Yielbonzie Johnson, and many in the church were understandably concerned about the future of UUCC without a minister. We soon found out, however, that the future really was in our own hands and that we have proven to have the resources and energy needed to make it work. The results have shown that was indeed the case.

Since my term on the Board of Trustees has come to an end, I’d like to thank all the people that have served on the Board since I began serving in 2007 after John LaBotz passed away. There have been several who have served since then and all have helped me learn the process. My thanks to Pat Segner and Bev Feldt for demonstrating the skills that are needed to lead a group of volunteers who bring their individual talents and ideas to the table. Of course, my thanks to Darlene Obejda and Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo, both of whom served as vice presidents during my two terms and both who contributed so much in other ways to making UUCC work for us all. Finally, my gratitude to Rich Treptow for his nine years of continuous service as treasurer. The treasurer’s job is so important to keeping UUCC healthy and Rich has performed remarkably while watching over the church’s finances.

My best wishes to Jerome Rowley, Jeff Fields and the entire Board of Trustees. I am thrilled with the work of the Nominations Committee and look forward to the future of UUCC over the next few years. As for me, I plan to stay involved with the church and explore new ways of contributing to its well-being. I’ve taken on the role of assigning speakers for our Sunday Services, which is a pleasurable task since we have so many talented individuals within our own church who are willing to step up and lead us. But I will also continue to look for a variety of viewpoints to present to the members of UUCC as we continue on our journey together.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!
~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 ddfeldt@gmail.com

Church member Angela Denk has written an essay about her family's search for an inclusive church and how that journey brought them to Park Forest UUCC.

The essay was published on May 9 at SheKnows.com.

“I finally found a church that loves my lesbian daughter as much as I do”
by Angela Denk

My 11-year-old daughter is gay. Lesbian. She is lesbian. A lesbian. Is it an adjective or a noun? This is how much I don’t know, because this is new terrain not only in our personal lives but within the context of the broader culture.

You see, my daughter is part of this new crew that is blowing the hinges off of everything — the doors, the windows, the churches and schools — removing the ceilings and smashing the floors. America has never had a junior high generation that doesn’t believe in binary identifiers until now. Straight, gay, boy, girl? Whatever. They don’t want our limits. They reject our definitions. They are superhero children floating in space. They are who they are, and they are phenomenal.

To view the essay in its entirety, click here:
http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/1120377/child-is-gay

Ice Cream Social
July 17 (after Worship)

You know that Unitarian Universalists made many contributions to the Christmas holiday but did you know that the ice cream Sundae was invented by a UU Minister? Yup, it was!

On July 17 we will celebrate this liberal religious invention by having our post worship social hour be an ice cream social.

Bring your favorite topping to share. We will enjoy a cool treat on a Sunday/Sundae summer day.
Religious and Character Education
by Dan Feldt

Our RCE school year will soon come to an end. It’s been a terrific year of amazing growth. The children visited a synagogue, a mosque and a Hindu temple. They’ve had a fun time in the classroom with Melissa Schwartz, Angela Denk and our amazing group of parents. Melissa’s receiving of the Unsung Hero Award was richly deserved.

Plans are in the works for next year. “Spirit Play” is the leading contender for the curriculum.

The Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer, MRE says, “The program tends to engage children where they are and helps them live into their own answers to the abiding questions. The environment, the multi-sensory approach, the wondering questions, the learning centers, the stories, and the community of children and teachers (and parents) are absolutely appropriate for UU children and RE.”

I recently went to a meeting sponsored by CAUUC. I met with other Directors of Religious Education in the area to share ideas about enriching our RE programs. We talked about the challenges and successes of Our Whole Life and Coming of Age curricula, to name a few. We also talked about combining our groups to make the presentation of the programs more efficient.

Finally, I want to thank the congregation for your support of Religious and Character Education. I’m looking forward to an exciting next year and years beyond.
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.

**Listening Hearts schedule for June, July, & August:**

**June:** Colin Kirchner & Joyce Semmler  
**July:** Pat Segner & Darlene Obejda  
**August:** Bev Feldt & Monica Regan

Forum does not meet in June, July and August.

(Please make note of our NEW office email address)  
churchadmin@uuccpf.org

Day change: The UUCC Men’s Group is now scheduled to meet every other Monday at 7:00pm.  
June Dates: 6th and 20th

For more information, contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com

A Day Without Pronouns
From UUWorld  
(The magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association)  
Summer 2016

When we say “She drew that herself” or “He lives on my street” instead of referring to someone by name, we are using PRONOUNS. In English, we have different pronouns for females and males. But these pronouns do not work for everyone. Using a pronoun that doesn’t fit someone’s gender can hurt their feelings or make them feel invisible.

We can learn to use pronouns carefully to show that we respect everyone. We can say “they” instead of “he” or “she” or, use a new-ish English word “ze” (pronounced zee) to refer to anyone of any gender. When we say “ze” we avoid putting a gender label on anyone.

Try this challenge with your family: For one day, use NO PRONOUNS. Always use the person’s name instead. For example, instead of, “I talked with Tyler and he said he would set the table,” say “I talked with Tyler and Tyler said Tyler would set the table.” It’s awkward at first, but once you get the hang of it, you have a great way to honor every person, whoever they are, without assuming their gender.
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 June 17th and the movie shown will be: Big Eden

Henry Hart is a successful gay artist from New York City who returns to his rural hometown in Montana to care for his ailing grandfather. Henry is welcomed back by the townsfolk, all of whom are aware of his sexuality and are highly accepting and even supportive towards him. However, during the months he stays in the town, Henry is forced to confront his unresolved feelings for his high school friend Dean Stewart, while simultaneously being oblivious to the feelings of Pike Dexter the shy Native American owner of the town's general store.

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.

Sacred Communication Workshops
June 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

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:
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 June 19th

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.

Did you know…..?
That just putting your hands (or your feet) on grass or soil is "grounding." And when life feels like you're moving so fast your feet are barely touching the earth, being “grounded” can help relieve physical and mental stress.
Another term for grounding is “Earthing.”
Carbon Countdown: How many years of current emissions would use up the IPCC’s carbon budgets for different levels of warming?

Analysis: Only five years left before 1.5°C carbon budget is blown

If you look at the blue 1.5°C rings. The darkest blue is a 66% chance we stay in under 1.5°C. This gives us 5.2 years to go to zero carbon dioxide emissions. Not a chance at the 66% chance of staying under. How about the 50% of staying under 1.5°C. The letters may be a little bit small, but it says 8.9 years. In 8.9 years the United States court system will have worked out most of its resistance to changing to lower emissions. If we are on track with the next elections to reduce climate emissions, we may have reduced ghg’s by 15 to 20% by then. How about the 33% chance of making 1.5°C in 16.9 years? If Barak Obama’s program is successful, the United States will have reduced emissions by 32%. To even have a 33% chance of staying under 1.5°C, we would need a congress willing to accelerate our planned rate of decarbonization by 3 times. Zero carbon emissions by 2033.

This is just the United States to reach its own goals. I am not talking about that the rest of the world which must do the same.

Let’s jump up to the 2°C rings in the purple at 33% chance of staying under or even. We would have 32.9 years to reach zero carbon emissions. 16 plus 33 = 49. So by 2049 we should be at no carbon emissions. There is a lot of goal talk of 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. That will more than likely put the earth at above 2°C warming.

33% chance at 3°C gives us 77 years taking us to 2091. We will just need to work harder than we have plans for and a congress willing to do so. If the IPCC is conservative, reduce those years above in the picture.
Do you like working outdoors? Do you love being in nature? Do you enjoy planting flowers? We are looking for volunteers to pick an outdoor project they want to work on and let Nancy Irons know that they are interested in helping. Also let her know what day that you are available to come to the church to work on it.

This is a list of tasks that need to be done, along with the number of hours each task is expected to take.

- Remove leaves from around the building (~12 tarp loads, 3-4 hours)
- Remove leaves from the perimeter of the parking lot (3 hours)
- Weed, trim dead materials, tidy the grounds & flower beds (1-2 hours)
- Spray poison ivy & weeds close to the building and in gazebo circle (2 hours)
- Replace 2 dead memorial trees, add fencing to one of those (2-3 hours)
- Spread top coat of wood chips on public areas, i.e. front, gazebo circle, patio (8-10 hours)
- Re-channel drainage from front downspout away from patio (3 hours)
- Touch up paint on front walkway and front door (2 hours)
- Touch up paint on flower boxes off deck and patio (2-4 hours)

You can contact Nancy Irons at irons.nancy@gmail.com.

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**Summer Solstice Celebration**

Join us for a family friendly ritual and drum circle to welcome High Summer!

**Saturday June 18th**
Gather 5:30 pm
Ritual 6:00 pm

*Community Potluck to follow*
*Please bring a dish to share*
*Drums of all types welcome*
*$5 Donation requested*

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466
www.uuccpf.org

*Presented by: Four Winds CUUPs*
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<td>4 9am Buddhist Meditation</td>
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*Free Movie and Discussion Night has been cancelled for the month of June. The next Free Movie & Discussion Night will be Friday, July 22nd, 7:00 p.m., showing "Happy"*
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.